

connections



the magazine of
Stonehaven Carronside
Church of Scotland

August

September

2022

*Scottish Charity Number SC013165
Connections No. 7*

CONNECT WITH CONNECTIONS

Hello to all—we are so pleased to be back after such a long break—the last edition of **connecTions** was March 2020.

So many things in our lives that we took for granted suddenly had to stop as a result of Covid and the magazine was one of the casualties. We had to get used to using technology to communicate with each other and many discovered that they could use computers and iPads to keep in touch with family and friends.

Church services were recorded and uploaded to YouTube - another new world experience for many. One person who committed a lot of time to recording and getting the service ready to upload was Rosanne Smith's son Warren. We were delighted to learn that Warren had been awarded the George Robbie award for Music in the community at the Mackie Academy Prizegiving. Warren ran Mackie Radio at lunchtimes and was in charge of the sound and lighting system in the Assembly Hall for events. We are so pleased that he helped us out over so many months. His award is well deserved and we wish him success as he moves on to the next stage of his education.

Many of you have been asking when the magazine would restart—we take that as a sign that you missed it when it stopped! We have been planning to restart for some time but had to wait until we had a new photocopier before we could get going.

We have the usual information that used to appear every month to keep you informed and it is good to see so many activities starting up again. The monthly quiz is also back. We are grateful to those who keep us supplied with poems, quotes and articles and will always try to include them.

The 'wee smile' page is back but this month we have also included several Covid one-liners at the foot of some of the pages. During the long months of lockdown, we all looked forward to something to cheer us up and some of these funnies are from that time. We hope they make you smile too!

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of **connecTions** and, as always, welcome any contributions of articles, poems, recipes and the like for inclusion in the magazine.

You can email them to jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com by Thursday 15th September for the October Spotlight.

Editorial Group:

Diane Dart

Elaine Craig

Katherine Mathers

Morag Duncan

Catherine Knox

Jennifer Macdonald

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Rev Sarah Smith writes:

It is hard to believe that I have been the minister of Stonehaven Carronside for over a year now.

I have been thinking about my first year and that it didn't go at all as I wanted it to go. Breaking my ankle and being on sick leave and then later getting COVID really impacted on me getting to know you all more and build relationships.

I am going to really be focusing on building relationships this year and getting to know you better as both a congregation and as individuals.

Relationships are so important to have in our lives. It is so important to be connected with other people and have family and friends who we can spend time with, relax with, share a good laugh with and so much more.

I think about the ministry of Jesus and that he didn't go about sharing the message of the Gospel alone. He had his disciples, women who he had spent time with, including Mary and Martha. He relied on other people to help care for him and to spread the message of the good news to the corners of earth.

The life of faith is not one of solitude. We were created to be in community with other people and work with other people in sharing the good news that all people are loved by God.

This led me to think about how we support each other as members of this Church.

As we move to one building for worship starting in August, how do we make sure that we are welcoming all who walk through our doors and building relationships with the people in the Church? How do we make sure that people feel included and part of the Stonehaven Carronside family?

As we continue to come together as one church, it will be so important that every single member of the church feels included and welcomed no matter what. If there is someone you haven't spoken with, go speak with them.

We are lucky here in Stonehaven to have some wonderful cafes. So go invite someone to join you for a coffee or maybe go for a walk.

If there is someone who used to attend church but you haven't seen them in a while, get in touch with them and ask them how they are, and let them know that you miss seeing them.

You will never know the difference it makes for someone to know that there is a community of people who love them and miss them.

LETTER FROM THE MANSE *cont.*

If you want to get to know me better or ask me questions about anything, even if I might not have an answer, please let me know. I would love to get together with you all for coffees, meals, or walks.

Let us continue to build the family of faith here at Stonehaven Carronside and remember that we are created to be in community, so please never feel like you need to do things alone.

You are loved, you are loved, you are loved.

Sarah

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

BAPTISMS

" baptising them in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit."

27th June 2021 Dwaine Harvey , son of Dwaine Harvey and Paige Forbes

11th July 2021 Amelie Walkden , daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Walkden

10th October 2021 Brooke Begg son of Scott and Lesley Begg -

17th October 2021 Maisie Black son of Chris and Fiona Black -

WEDDINGS

"love one another as I have loved you"

7th May 2022 Iona Grant and Craig Brownhill, currently living in Edinburgh

FUNERALS

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"

As you will see from the next page and as many of you will know from personal experience, we have lost so many of our church family since Covid arrived. Thanks to Margaret Key for sending us this reflective poem which is appropriate to include in our first, post-Covid magazine.

REUNION

Why should we want to see them again?

Because we love them.

Where did we get the capacity to love?

Surely it was the gift of God.

How could God foster within our hearts the capacity to love, letting it grow stronger and more perfect with the years, if at the end He meant to destroy it by death?

That would be futile, cruel and unthinkable.

He gave me the gift of loving

He will give me again my beloved.

Leslie Church

FAMILY NEWS

THOSE TO WHOM WE SAID GOODBYE 2020-2022

June 2020	Jan Brown Alasdair MacCallum junior Florence Gray (nee Leighton)
July 2020	Sheena Brewster Mabel Massie Edith Black Nat Preece
August 2020	Ewan Dawson
October 2020	Vera Lyall
December 2020	Gordon Edgar James Arthur Winnie Duncan Denis Banton
January 2021	Carol Gardner Pat Gordon Jean McConnell George Wood
April 2021	Henry Beveridge Ray MacMillan Helen Robertson Harry Duncan
June 2021	Geoff Lawrence
October 2021	Rev John Whiteford Kath Crabb
January 2022	Margaret Tennant Josephine (Joey) Adams Stuart Mackenzie Charles McHardy Jennifer Fraser
February 2022	Lilian Mair
April 2022	Jennifer Petrie
May 2022	Bill Masson
June 2022	May Taggart James Milton
July 2022	Hilda Beadie

WORSHIP

ALL SERVICES ARE AT 10.30am IN DUNNOTTAR CHURCH

DUTY ROTA FOR AUGUST			
7	Stewards Reader	Roberta Duncan, Isobel Allan Moira McRae	Sound Brian Sim Coffee Jean Houghton Joyce Beaton
14	Stewards Reader	Donald McRae, Moira Marshall David Macdonald	Sound John Balsillie Coffee Roberta Duncan, Jeanette Irvine
21	Stewards Reader	Karen Smith, Rhona Robertson Christine de Jonckheere	Sound David Macdonald Coffee Carol Balsillie, May Arthur
28	Stewards Reader	Allan Cairnduff, Hazel McCartney Hazel McCartney	Sound Derek Hunter Coffee Sam Davidson, Jackie Lawrence
SEPTEMBER			
4	Stewards Reader	Lynn Pollard, Deb Blacklaw Lynn Pollard	Sound Les Anderson Coffee Diane Dart, Stella Melville
11	Stewards Reader	Carol Balsillie, Jean Houghton Carol Balsillie	Sound John Balsillie Coffee Deb Blacklaw, Donald McRae
18	Stewards Reader	Carol Eddie, Ruby Still Carol Eddie	Sound Brian Sim Coffee Roberta Duncan, Jeanette Irvine
25	Stewards Reader	May Arthur, Donald McRae May Arthur	Sound D Macdonald Coffee May Arthur, Jean Houghton

*2020 was a unique leap year.
It had 29 days in February,
300 days in March
and 10 years in April.*

*Being quarantined with a talkative child is like having an insane parrot
glued to your shoulder.*

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

FLOWER CALENDAR

AUGUST	
7 th	Wendy Christie
14 th	Roberta Duncan
21 st	Ros Marshall
28 th	Jennifer Macdonald
SEPTEMBER	
4 th	Jennifer and Morag Paterson
11 th	Maureen Criggie
18 th	Christine de Jonckheere
25 th	Linda Lawson

Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers each week.
Please contact Joyce or Ruby if you would like to add your name to the flower calendar.

Contacts: Joyce Beaton, 07312 092684

Ruby Still, 07753 803449



**SATURDAY 20th AUGUST
SUMMER SALE AND COFFEE MORNING
St BRIDGET'S 10am -12pm**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE STALLS
PLEASE LOOK OUT SOME DONATION FOR US TO SELL**

- **BOOKS:** Contact **Allan Cairnduff 763387**
- **MATCH THE NUMBER** stall: Contact **Donald McRae 762896**
- **£1 stall**--no items of furniture please, but look out jewellery, scarves, stationery, unused toiletries, candles etc to fill up this stall. Contact **Jennifer Macdonald 764750**
- **SILENT AUCTION** – items of more value than those on the £1 stall. Contact **Jennifer Macdonald 764750**
- **HAMPER:** Contact **Karen Smith 763380**
- **PRODUCE:** Contact **Allan Cairnduff 763387**

You can hand donations in at St Bridget's on Thursday 18th August between 10-11.30am and on Friday 19th August from 7-8pm

**The sales are an important source of income for the church so
please support this event with your donations
and your attendance.**

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

AUGUST			
Mon	1	Kilwhang Ringers – St. Bridget’s	10am
Thu	4	Café Carronside - St. Bridget’s	10 - 11.30am
Fri	5	Lunch Club - St Bridget’s	12.30pm
Sun	7	Service at Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	8	Kilwhang Ringers – St. Bridget’s	10am
Thu	11	Café Carronside - St. Bridget’s	10-11.30am
Sun	14	Service at Dunnottar Church Service at Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	15	Kilwhang Ringers – St. Bridget’s	10am
Thu	18	Café Carronside - St. Bridget’s	10-11.30am
Sat	20	Summer Sale /Coffee morning St. Bridget’s	10am-12pm
Sun	21	Service at Dunnottar Church followed by Sarah’s Big Birthday BBQ	10.30am
Mon	22	Kilwhang Ringers – St. Bridget’s	10am
Thu	25	Café Carronside - St. Bridget’s	10-11.30am
Sun	28	service at Dunnottar Church Service at Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	29	Kilwhang Ringers – St. Bridget’s	10am

Hall Bookings : Hazel McCartney - tel 760 619

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER			
Thu	1	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	2	Lunch Club - St Bridget's	12.30pm
Sun	4	Service at Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	5	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's	10am
Thu	8	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	11	Service at Dunnottar Church Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	12	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's	10am
Tue	13	Stonehaven Guild - Fetteresso Church	2-3pm
Thu	15	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's connecTions copy due	10-11.30am 6pm
Sun	18	Service at Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	19	Kilwhang Ringers -St. Bridget's	10am
Tue	20	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	22	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	25	Service at Dunnottar Church Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	26	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's	10am
Tue	27	Bowling - St. Bridget's Stonehaven Guild outing	2-4pm time tbc
Thu	29	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's MacMillan coffee morning	10-11.30am
Fri	30	Concert by Richard Michael Dunnottar Church	7.30pm

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

THE MUNCH BUNCH LUNCH CLUB

new name—same great food and company!

The Lunch Bunch are back and open to all,
And it's good to meet with folk,
Some soup, some pudding, coffee and tea,
And for a fiver, it's not a joke,
We meet the first Friday of every month
And all are welcome to be there,
The time is 12.30, St Bridget's the place,
Come along and pull up a chair.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

CAFÉ CARRONSIDE

another new name – but just as good as it was pre-covid

We meet on a Thursday at St Bridget's Hall
With coffee and homebakes to eat.
The cost is £2, everyone's welcome
We love to see one and all

The tables are up
The baking is done
We start around about 10
So please bring your friends
the more the merrier
Cheapest in town for some fun!

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

STONEHAVEN GUILD

The Stonehaven Guild is enjoying a summer break but the co-ordinators are busy behind the scenes finalising the draft syllabus which was agreed at the AGM in March.

The Guild will continue to meet on a Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm in Fetteresso Church Hall and look forward to welcoming friends from Carronside Church.

Everyone is invited - established or new Guild members and male or female.

They hope to have a member of Stonehaven clergy as their introductory speaker on Tuesday 13th September.

The second meeting on 27th September is a visit to The House of Dun so the more the merrier.

Contact Joan Macdonald c/o Fetteresso Church office

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

BADMINTON

Janice Hailes writes:

Hope all is well with everyone.

Due to low numbers, we were unable to restart this spring. At the moment the badminton group might have come to a natural end.

I have decided to stand down from the running of it but if anyone is interested in restarting or joining the group, I will be happy to pass on any information to them.

Usually, we would restart the beginning of October on a Thursday evening in Bridget's Hall.

Contact: Janice Hailes, 07856 556786

BOWLING

To get the ball rolling (is that a pun?) just a wee report from President Allan about the start of the indoor carpet bowling.

He writes:

I contacted our members and have received a positive response from a dozen (mainly) ladies and have recruited three possible new members, so we plan to commence on Tuesday 20th September from 2pm to 4pm in St. Bridget's.

We will have several sets of club bowls for beginners and, I am sure, we will soon get into the swing again.

Let me know if you are interested in trying this gentle sport (with a nice cup of tea and a biscuit at half time.

The membership this year is FREE.

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387

THE KILWHANG RINGERS

We are a group of enthusiastic bell ringers who meet on a Monday morning in St Bridget's Hall.

We recently performed at our Jubilee coffee morning and our next concert is at the Tolbooth Museum on Saturday 20th August (all being well).

If you would like any more details or indeed require us to perform at something, please get in touch.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173864

What did we call the days of the week during the lockdown? This day, that day, other day, some day, yesterday, today and next day!

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group offers on-going prayer support to those who wish it or to those for whom we are requested to pray. We are also supported by prayer recipients. Confidentiality is always respected and if you require prayer support, please speak to one of the following:-

Hazel Hunter, Ros Marshall, Pat Logue, Carol Balsillie or Moira McRae.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

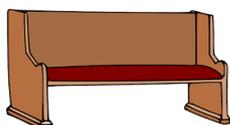
There will be a new Bible Study beginning in the autumn. Sarah will be leading this. She is sorting out an evening that would suit best for this.

She writes:

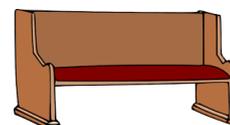
We will gather for a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit at the manse, and then will read over a passage from the Bible, discuss it, and see how to understand it in light of our current context and what it might be saying to us in this day and age. Sometimes, we will switch from studying the Bible to reading a book together and discussing it.

Stay tuned for more details.

Contact: Sarah Smith, 762 166 (manse)



GOOD NEWS ABOUT CUSHIONS!



As you will know if you have been in church, the pew cushions were all removed on the instructions of the Church of Scotland as part of their Covid risk reduction measures.

It was hard work as there were a large number to be removed (around 235!) and they have been stored in the Marischal Aisle where they were dry and not exposed to much direct light.

Many have asked when they are coming back (some have been bringing their own cushion for a bit of comfort on a Sunday morning!).

The good news is that they are back after a team of volunteers hoovered every cushion on both sides before putting it back in its place.

So, if you find you are able to sit on a cushion next time you come to church, be grateful for the work of the volunteers who made it possible. Another good reason to come to church to check them out!

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

WORLD MISSION

WORLD MISSION

We are planning to take part in the Blythswood shoebox appeal and the Salvation Army Christmas giving tree - both of these happen before Christmas.

Cyrenians donations have lapsed during Covid but there are boxes in St Bridget's and Dunnottar Church so perhaps you might think of placing something in the box. Tinned or packet food and toiletries are always welcome.

Contact: Eileen Sim, 762 038

INDIA VILLAGE MINISTRIES

Regrettably, support for IVM over the Covid years has dwindled due to many factors. Demands from other charities, the closure of the Coffee Cafe and St Bridget's and people watching their pennies.

The wee 'hooses' are still being filled by several loyal supporters and I have put out the last of the hooses at St Bridget's, beside the bookstall. Returns from a large selection of new paperbacks have been poor, whether it's the increase of Kindles or a surplus of reading material collected during lockdown, hopefully the returns will improve as the Cafe gets back to normal.

The last two years in India have been horrendous with millions succumbing to Covid. IVM have been spreading Christ's love and compassion among the poorest level in society, the 'untouchables', who have had no chance of vaccination, feeding and clothing them with the support we send to them.

We appreciate that there is a great demand on people's finances these days but any small change you can spare be it coppers, or 20p's, either in a wee hoose or buying a book at the Cafe, please help.

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387

THE CRAFT GROUP

A successful craft group used to be run in the South Church building prior to Covid. Members would like it to start up again.

Is there anyone out there who would like to restart this group? The location would be St Bridget's Hall.

It could be run along the lines of meeting for chat, fellowship and working on any craft that individuals enjoy doing such as knitting, sewing etc. Rather than one leader, it could be run on a rota basis although if there is one talented person out there willing to take this on that would be wonderful.

Anyone up for the challenge? Contact Jennifer in the first instance.

Contact: Jennifer Macdonald, 764 750

SESSION SNIPPETS

SESSION SNIPPETS

August/September 2022

It's great to be back keeping you up to date with what's been happening in the Kirk Session since the last Snippets for February 2020!!

This piece is from Session Snippets for April 2020 – never publicised due to Covid but still very relevant today:

*Another reminder that we now have a main account at the Bank of Scotland in the name of **Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland**. Work is ongoing with the remaining accounts being resolved with the Royal Bank of Scotland. For those who give through Standing Order at the moment, you don't need to do anything as the banks will implement the transfers. If you are starting a new Standing Order, then please contact the Treasurer.*

We need to keep funds coming in since our income has been drastically affected by Covid. **We lost £44k in the trading year 2021 – that's around £900 per week on average** – since we had no hall lets from March 2020 until late 2021. Please review your Christian Giving to Carronside and increase this if possible. I know that isn't easy at this time but we do need help!

A major decision that the Session took was in February 2022 when we had a special meeting to determine the future use of our buildings. This is part of the wider Church of Scotland initiative on the future of its Presbyteries, congregations and buildings – the new Presbytery Mission Plans. All previous Plans were cancelled and new Presbytery Mission Plans have to be compiled, discussed, submitted and approved by the Church of Scotland before 31st December 2022.

The number of Ministry resources in Kincardine & Deeside Presbytery under the previous plan was 16.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) personnel – this reduces to 10.5 FTE in the new Plan.

That doesn't mean that there will be immediate redundancies since most of our Ministers are in Unrestricted Tenure. It just means that that is the target over the next Plan period and any Minister retiring or leaving the present charge will mean some change in the present pattern of ministry.

The new Presbytery Plan will be presented to the September meeting of Presbytery for discussion and, hopefully, approval, before it then goes to Edinburgh for scrutiny and approval.

SESSION SNIPPETS *contd.*

Session decided to dispose of the South Church building complex and this was put to a meeting of the Congregation called on 27th February 2022. A total of 68 Members voted For the disposal and 16 members voted Against.

These decisions were transmitted to Presbytery for review and the relevant committees approved the disposal and the resultant change to our worship pattern on 21st June 2022. The last scheduled service in South Church was held on 31st July 2022. All future worship will be in Dunnottar Church with use of St Bridget's from time to time.

We've had to draw down further funds for our Consolidated Fabric Fund to cover roof repairs at all three properties to keep them wind and watertight and to repair the large West Window framework at South on health and safety grounds. These two categories are the only ones which congregations are allowed to spend money on just now. All other work on buildings has been stopped until decisions are made on their future.

From January 2023, Kincardine & Deeside (K&D) Presbytery itself will cease to exist, becoming a part of the new North East and Northern Isles Presbytery as approved at the General Assembly in May. The new and larger unit takes in the former Presbyteries of Aberdeen and Shetland, Orkney, Gordon, Moray and K&D. Meetings are likely to be held by Zoom! Radical change in the Church of Scotland continues "at pace". More on this as it develops.

I'll keep you updated on the new Plan and Presbytery issues as soon as I can.

We're also looking to review our Communion Roll at Carronside so you can expect some further communications regarding this in the near future.

If you no longer wish to receive the magazine or have any contact with the Session, please let me know.

**Contact: Brian Sim, Session Clerk 762 038
email bsim84@gmail.com)**

*My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said,
"Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when
this pandemic ends."*

Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge

PROPERTY

PROPERTY REPORT

We all remember the first lockdown, where we were unable to leave our homes except for exercise or essential work and Church buildings were ordered to be locked up with "**DO NOT ENTER!**" notices on the door.

As things began to ease, even more regular checks than before were required on all four buildings (including the unoccupied Manse)-security, structure, fire alarms, emergency lighting, water checks (to prevent legionnaires disease) and repairing any damage, not to mention the church mice and the wasp's nest.

The Lockdown Highlight is the refurbishment of the Manse. We had already received the go-ahead and had engaged Perfect Homes to carry out the work, so it was great to report the successful completion of the Manse Project at the first Session Zoom meeting in November 2020!

I also reported on a couple of those jobs that just come at us "out of the blue"! First, an urgent need to replace the heating oil tank at the Manse. Phone calls to our regular plumber and fellow members assisted me to replace the tank within 10 days.

Second, a significant fall of plaster from the roof in Dunnottar Church which took a bit longer to resolve. Our architect identified an experienced company who inspected the roof and repaired both the damaged area and another area of concern. I am happy to report that the insurance company refunded the inspection, the repairs and the architect's fee!

2021 was also eventful with the 5-yearly electrical condition survey requiring the replacement of all the cabling to the Dunnottar Church under-pew heating system in March and a further fall of plaster in April shortly before we were planning to re-start in person services again. It was fixed much faster this time!

Of course, I was less than popular when I said that we had to follow Church of Scotland guidelines and remove all the pew cushions, but **now they're coming back for August!!**

Many thanks for all the help and encouragement I received, especially with regular checks and managing the Manse project!

Contact: David MacDonald, Property Convenor
764 750, mob.07751 195 321
email davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT LOCKDOWN

- > Covid meant I could not meet up with family. Big birthdays held outside in gazebos, no cuddles and travelling put a stop to. Although I did not learn new hobbies. I did manage to finish the jobs I had been putting off. So many unfinished projects 😞 I learnt to use Zoom and Teams for meetings, keep fit and yoga. Walking and cycling became my favourite pastime.
- > A trip to B&Q just before lockdown to stock up with paint meant that we were able to do a lot of overdue decorating around the house.
- > I had to adjust to choral rehearsals via zoom. You can only hear the conductor, the music and your own voice even though there are 35-40 people all tuned in! A very strange experience! Also doing virtual fitness classes got every day off to a good start!
- > Just thought I'd tell you that without our garden we would have become stir crazy during lockdown. It kept us busy and a new selection of plants were grown just to add something of interest on which to concentrate.
On days when the weather did not let us work outside there was always the plants in the greenhouses to look after. Thankfully we could order, and have delivered, the equipment that we needed.
Needless to say, everything was weeded and watered which was a daily pleasure and that kept us busy as opposed to trying to fit those jobs into a busy social calendar. The grass was cut within an inch of its life as there was always one of us willing to spend the time doing it.
I only hope that the neighbours did not think we had taken leave of our senses and enjoyed the fruits of our labours when the flowers appeared in the front garden.
- > To my great surprise, the adults and the children in our family all survived being cooped up together throughout lockdown!
- > I helped out with deliveries from a local foodbank to people in need in our community. It felt good to know that I was helping people in the community who were finding life difficult. They were all so grateful. And they enjoyed the brief contact with the person delivering the parcel as they were not able to go out themselves.
- > The dog enjoyed a lot more walks!

A covid knock knock joke....

Knock-Knock!

Go home, you're supposed to be social distancing !

THE END OF AN ERA

THE END OF AN ERA

Sunday the 31st July 2022 saw the last Sunday Morning Service held in South Church.

Some time ago, South Church and Dunnottar Church united to become Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland.

Church of Scotland decreed that the upkeep of numerous Church Buildings was no longer financially viable. At a Meeting of the Congregation a vote was taken that resulted in the decision to close South Church.

The last morning Service took the form of a 'Songs of Praise' with former South Church members contributing Memories of their time in South and their favourite Hymns, with the reasons for their choices.

The Service was led by John Balsillie and Hazel Paterson, ably assisted by Albert Bil on the Church Organ with Prayers by Rev. Sarah Smith.

It was a poignant and sometimes emotional Service as the members of the congregation recalled the different Ministers from the Rev. Robin Richmond in the late 1970's - early 80's, then Rev. Kenneth Petrie, followed by Rev. David Stewart and most recently Rev. Rosslyn Duncan.

Rev. Kenneth Petrie started an Alpha Group, and they were held initially in the Church Hall and later in the Manse. The Alpha Group continued at the Manse, led by Rev. David Stewart.

Church Services were ably assisted by an enthusiastic if not always pitch perfect Choir.

One member of the South Church, Irene Lawson, decided we should become eco-friendly and thanks to her leadership, an Eco-group of Irene, Pat Logue, Claire Clouston and Christine Hunter was set up.

In 2015 we received our first Eco Award from the Church of Scotland. South Church went on to receive one further Eco Award and Claire Clouston, (now Claire Turner), with Christine Hunter set up a monthly Fairtrade Sale of goods in the Church Hall.

The Sunday School played a major part in many Members lives, taking part in Christmas Nativity Plays to enjoying the Annual Picnics on a Bus to places like Luthermuir or Fettercairn.

THE END OF AN ERA

Marriages, Christenings, and wonderful pertinent Sermons were recalled along with Social Events, such as a Burns Supper recalled by Pat Logue that was held on the 17th January 1984 when snowy conditions that month meant most social events were cancelled except for the Burns Supper.

On the fellowship side there were Car Treasure Hunts and Meals in local Hotels, BBQs with the Young and the not so Young, Bus trips to the Kings Theatre in Edinburgh, Craft Group, Bible Study Groups, and fundraising Coffee Mornings and much, much more.

The Service was followed by Coffee and fine pieces in the Hall, where the reminiscing continued for well over an hour.

Then sadly it was over, truly the end of an era.

Possibilities

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

Helen Keller

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We move forward as Stonehaven Carronside Church.

All future worship will be in Dunnottar Church with the use of St Bridget's from time to time.

SAFEGUARDING

Our Church should be a place where everyone is safe from harm and abuse.

If you suspect or witness harm or abuse, or if it is reported to you, please report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator (details below), who will then contact the Safeguarding Service for advice.

Contact: Dunnottar Church Safeguarding Coordinator

David Macdonald, 764 750

email: davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

HEALTHY LIVING NETWORK



This is a charity which provides support to empower older people (50+) to maintain physical and mental health, wellbeing, and independence. Their objective is to support those living in their own homes in Kincardine and Mearns, although families, carers and the wider community also benefit.

They facilitate several community-based activities, services and groups promoting social engagement and both support and assist individuals with the practical issues of daily living: whilst promoting inclusion thereby reducing loneliness and isolation.

What we are doing in Stonehaven

Transport Service: Volunteer drivers enable a door-to-door service to medical appointments or other essential trips.

Shopping Service: Escorted shopping trips can be arranged; also deliveries are possible in some circumstances

Health Walks: Every Monday, low level walks led by Volunteer Walk Leaders providing exercise, social contact, and a sense of wellbeing.

Gentle Exercise Classes: Wednesday mornings suitable for older people offering social connection alongside health and mobility support.

Lunch and Social Club; Every Wednesday from 11.15am in Number 44 Hotel. Aberdeenshire Council's A2B Bus Service is also available for bookings thereby supporting people to get to this event.

Starter Level Computer Courses; Thursdays from 18th August 2022. In Stonehaven Library.

Sunshine Club: Planned for September 2022 a social group based around trying new skills and finding new interests. TBC

Older People's Forum: Anyone interested in being involved in this new venture planned for September 2022 please contact us for more information.

Volunteering Opportunities: Volunteering helps promote a sense of belonging, strengthening community bonds and increases mental and physical wellbeing.

The services and activities they provide would not be possible without the army of volunteers who give up their time willingly to support the project and our outcomes. If you are interested in volunteering with MCHLN or would like more information on what they do, contact them on 01561 378130 or email; office@mchln.org.uk

If you are interested in volunteering with MCHLN or would like more information on what they do, contact them on 01561 378130 or email, office@mchln.org.uk

TWO THINGS TO KEEP YOU BUSY

KNIT ONE, PURL ONE...

Many people took to knitting as a way to pass the time during lockdown.

Moira Marshall reports that Tube scarves are fun to knit along with matching hats. They use chunky wool and are cosy to wear as well as being items that charities such as the Cyrenians will welcome for distribution in the colder weather to those in need.

Contact Moira for details of the pattern.

Contact: Moira Marshall, 765 532

QUIZZES

The quiz is back!

So many of you have said you missed both the magazine and the quiz so we hope you will be happy to see its return.

This month's quiz is a link word quiz.

You have to find one word which you can put in front of the three words in the clue to make another word or phrase.

We hope you enjoy it. Completed entries to one of the Editorial team by Thursday 15th September. This first post-covid magazine covers 2 months—we will be back to monthly magazines from October.

LIFE IS

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it.

Life is a dream, realise it.

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a duty, complete it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a promise, fulfil it.

Life is a sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a struggle, accept it.

Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it.

Life is precious, do not destroy it.

Life is life, fight for it.

"Life is" - An inspirational poem by Mother Teresa (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

A WEE SMILE - 'SORRY - NO ADMITTANCE!'

SORRY – NO ADMITTANCE!

This is the story of Angus MacPhee,
Whose heart failed to function at 73.
His passing was noted by those near and dear,
With never a harsh word, but many a tear.
Though his future abode was the talk of the town,
Folks were convinced he'd go up – and not down.
And sure enough Angus was happy to wait
For an answer, while knocking on Heaven's huge gate.
St Peter looked out and inquired, with a grin,
'Welcome, my son, but before you come in,
Our rules are quite simple and perfectly clear -
Have you any credentials for residence here?'

'Ah weel', answered Angus, 'Ah've led a guid life.
Hard workin' an' honest, an' kind tae the wife.
Looked efter the weans as weel as Ah could,
An' helped them along just as weel as Ah should.
Ah'm honest enough here an' noo tae concede,
Ah wiz aye a supporter o' keepin' the heid.
Ah gambled nae cash on a horse or a dug,
An' nivver got bit by the fitba' pools' bug.

Whaur drink wiz concerned – if it's ony sin Ah'll
Admit tae a dram that wiz pure medicinal.
Ah went tae the Kirk every Sunday an' tried
Tae mak' the Commandments ma everyday guide.
Ah tried tae be fair, tae be straight, tae be just,
An' never abused a position o' trust.
There noo, St Peter. Ah think that's the lot.
Oh, there's just yin thing mair – ye'll ha'e guessed Ah'm a
Scot.'

St Peter took notes of each point Angus made,
An' seemed quite impressed by his earthly crusade.
'But', said St Peter, 'about your admission
I'll consult with my colleagues about our decision.'
Angus accepted this standard routine,
Then serenely surveyed the celestial scene,
Thinking, perchance, in his own canny way,
'It's no' quite like hame, Ach, but jings, it'll dae'.

But Angus was jerked from his Heavenly Muse,
As St Peter returned with the shattering news,
'Your request for admission's rejected, my son,
As we haven't the time to make porridge for one!'

JMR (extract from 'Scottish Home and Country' magazine June 1980)

PRAYERS

HALLOWED DAYS

May the Lord bless
your recreation days,
your weekends and holidays...

In our busy world
that makes so many demands
on our time and energies,
may the lord grant you
the blessing of inner peace,
hallowed days...

Amid all the pressures
that life imposes,
when we feel drawn,
pulled ever more
into the hurtling rush of life,
may the Lord be gracious to you,
to renew your innermost being,
and help you cope
with all the stresses of life. Amen.

©*The Prayer Trust*

TAKING TIME OUT

Time for loved ones,
time to share,
time just to sit
and time just to stare.

Time for remembering,
time for forgiving,
time for forgetting
and time just for living.

Time for relaxing,
time for fresh air,
time for unwinding
time even for prayer.

Lord, bless my time of ease. Amen.

©*The Prayer Trust*

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MINISTER	Rev Sarah Smith (manse) 762 166 (mobile) 07756-006385
SESSION CLERK	Mr Brian Sim 762 038
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER	contact through Ros Marshall
ROLL KEEPER	contact through Session Clerk
HALL BOOKINGS	Mrs Hazel McCartney 760 619
TREASURER	Mr John Balsillie
ASSISTANT & FWO TREASURER	Mr Les Anderson 764 845
PROPERTY CONVENOR	Mr David Macdonald 764 750
SAFEGUARDING	Mr David Macdonald 764 750
LIFE & WORK CONVENOR	Mrs Margaret Ross 763 316
connecTions	
CLERICAL ASSISTANT	contact through J Macdonald 764 750
EDITORIAL GROUP	See page 2
CHURCH OFFICE	St Bridget's Hall Dunnottar Avenue Stonehaven AB39 2JD