

SPOTLIGHT



OCTOBER



LETTER FROM THE MANSE



HARVEST APPEAL



COMMUNION



SHOEBOX APPEAL



KILWHANG RINGERS



HURRICANE EXPERIENCES



..... AND MUCH MORE

Stonehaven Dunnottar Church of Scotland

(Scottish Charity Number (SC013165))

www.dunnottarchurch.net

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLIGHT

Because of the way the days of the week fall in September, you will receive this issue almost a week before October begins. This means that we are able to include a reminder of the Friendship Coffee Group's plans to take part once again in Macmillan Cancer's Greatest coffee morning in the World. So as well as noting all the things there are to do in October, please make a note to come along on Thursday 28th September and support their fundraising event.

Because it will soon be October, the end of October is one of these times when the clocks change so remember to do so before you go to bed on Saturday 28th October. Twice a year, when the clocks change, we have to remember whether to put them forward or back. 'Spring Forward, Fall back' is one way of remembering which way to change it. (It's back if you are still wondering!)

There is the story of a minister who once said to the congregation at a service at the end of October: "For those who habitually show up 15 minutes late to church, allow me to remind you that tonight is the night you set your clock back 45 minutes." We are sure this does not apply to the members of Dunnottar Church!

We hope you enjoy this edition of Spotlight as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Thanks to those who have contributed items for inclusion...we welcome all contributions!

Please send these to jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com by Thursday 12th October for the November magazine.

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clipart from openclipart.org

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE / FAMILY NEWS

LETTER FROM THE MANSE: SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

We are now well into the season of Autumn: that season, in the words of Keats, of mists and mellow fruitfulness. This is a time to gather in the fruits of God's good creation and our human labour; to give thanks for all the gifts we have been given and to put aside what we may need for the darker and colder Winter times ahead when the land will rest and recover until it is ready to bring forth its bounty again the following year.

We are so very fortunate in this beautiful part of the world that the year follows this regular pattern without any drastic variation. There are sadly too many other communities and countries where that is not true. Therefore, as part of our thanksgiving for our plentiful harvest, we also share what we have with those who are less fortunate.

During this season of thanksgiving we will ask for God's blessing on our offerings as follows:

- fresh produce for local care homes and private residents
- tinned/dried goods for the Cyrenians who work with the homeless in the city and the shire
- special monetary collections for the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal 2017 for Malawi.

In addition, we will continue to gather in our small change for the work of Suresh and Roja of India Village Ministries in our wee 'hoosies'. The recipients of our Communion retiring collections at the end of October have not yet been decided but we will advise as soon as possible. There have been so many natural disasters in the form of earthquake, hurricane, flood, landslide in recent months. May each one of us continue to hold those who have suffered loss of home, health and harvest in our prayers.

May God bless you and yours this harvest season. And may all our hearts be filled with thanksgiving and generosity in loving response.

Rosslyn

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

BAPTISMS

Jesus said " Go and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit".

September 10th: Isaac Lewis Craddock
son of James and Laura, Stonehaven

MORE FROM THE MANSE

CHRISTIAN AID HARVEST APPEAL 2017 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

God of all blessings, we give you thanks for the breath that sustains, for the food of this earth, for the love of family and friends, without which there would be no life.

We commit our offerings and our sisters and brothers in Malawi to you. We pray for your blessing on the pigeon pea farmers watching for the harvest.

May we learn the secret joy they know of trusting in your providence and experiencing your constant goodness.

Source of all life, for all who have been sowing seeds, cultivating soil, and harvesting for many years but still find themselves living in dire poverty, we pray.

Grant wisdom and guidance for improved farming methods, for access to profitable markets, for opportunity to move, from stagnation out of poverty.

Christian Aid prayer (adapted) by Robert Thindwa, Programme Officer for the Pigeon Pea Project

OCTOBER COMMUNION SERVICES

The next Communion Sunday falls on the 22nd October.

Our services on that day will be held as follows: 10.30am at Dunnottar; 2.30pm at St Bridget's and 6.30pm at the South. Paper invitations will be posted or delivered by elders nearer the time but please note that everyone will be welcome at any or all of these services.

I must however share the news that this will likely be the last Communion Sunday when we have separate services at our three worship locations. There has been a marked drop in attendance and we can no longer justify the increased workload on elders, organists and myself. Nor the use of valuable resources such as lighting and heating in three separate buildings.

No final decision has yet been made so if you wish to share any thoughts or comments about this please get in touch with me, any member of the worship team or your elder.

Rosslyn

DATES FOR THE DIARY

OCTOBER




Sun	1	Harvest Thanksgiving Service – South Church	10.30am
Tues	3	Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm
		Bowling - St Bridget's	7-9pm
Thu	5	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
		Badminton	7.30-9.30pm
Fri	6	Lunch Club – St Bridget's	12.30pm
Sun	8	Sunday Service - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
		no Sunday School or Kids Praise	
		Clashfarquhar	2.30pm
Mon	9	Bible Appreciation Group – William Mackie Crescent	2pm
Tues	10	Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm
		Guild - St Bridget's	7.30pm
Wed	11	Whist –St Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	12	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
		Craft Group - South Conservatory	2-4pm
		Spotlight copy due	6pm
		Badminton	7.30-9.30pm
Sun	15	Sunday Service at the South	10.30am
		no Kids Praise	
Tues	17	Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm
		Bowling - St Bridget's	7-9pm
Thu	19	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
		Craft Group - South Conservatory	2-4pm
		Badminton – St Bridget's	7.30-9.30pm
Sun	22	Communion Sunday	
		- service at Dunnottar Church	10.30am
		- service at St Bridget's	2.30pm
		- service at South Church	6.30pm
		Spotlight distribution	
		Edenholme	2.30pm
Tues	24	Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm
		Bowling - St Bridget's	7-9pm
Wed	25	Mowat Ct service with communion tbc	2pm tbc
Thu	26	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
		Craft Group - South Conservatory	2-4pm
		Badminton - St Bridget's	7.30-9.30pm
Sun	29	Fifth Sunday Service - St Bridget's	10.30am
Tues	31	Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm
		Bowling - St Bridget's	7-9pm

Hall Booking – David Macdonald – Tel 764 750

FLOWERS & DUTY ROTA

FLOWERS

FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

-  8th - Moira Jolly
-  22nd - Winnie Duncan and Liz Kennedy
-  29th - Lesley Vass at St Bridget's

The flowers will be delivered by Ruby and Joy.

Also, if anyone would like to help, just see Ruby after the service.

Contact: Ruby Still, 668 067

DUTY ROTA-OCTOBER

1st	10.30	SOUTH	Bus	A MacCallum
8th	10.30	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH		
		Bus	E Sim	
		Sound	D Macdonald	
		Duty	G Coutts, M Whittet, J Adams	
		Reader	G Lawrence	
		Prayers for others	E Craig	
		Flowers	M Jolly	
		Coffee	M Cairnduff, K Mathers	
15th	10.30	SOUTH	Bus	I Allan
22nd	10.30	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH		
COMMUNION		Bus	J Houghton	
		Sound	D Hunter	
		<i>Duty</i>	<i>To be allocated by Session Clerk</i>	
		Flowers	W Duncan and E Kennedy	
		Coffee	E Sim, M Whittet	
	2.30	ST BRIDGET'S		<i>To be allocated by Session Clerk</i>
29th	10.30	ST BRIDGET'S		
		Bus	D McRae	
		Sound	B Sim	
		Duty	M McRae, M Marshall, G Edgar	
		Flowers	L Vass	
		Coffee	S Melville, C Sang	

WORSHIP THEMES FOR OCTOBER

OCTOBER

1 st	SOUTH CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP HARVEST THANKSGIVING Matthew 21:23-32 <i>The authority of Jesus</i>
8 th	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP CROSSREACH SUNDAY Sacrament of Baptism Matthew 21:33-46 <i>Tenants of a vineyard</i>
15 th	SOUTH CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP LAUNCH of BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2017 Matthew 22:1-14 <i>The great banquet</i> <i>School holidays: no Sunday School or Kids Praise</i>
22 nd	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP COMMUNION Matthew 22:15-22 <i>Paying taxes</i> <i>School holidays: no Sunday School or Kids Praise</i>
	ST BRIDGET'S 2.30pm	COMMUNION
	SOUTH CHURCH 6.30pm	COMMUNION
29 th	ST BRIDGET'S 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP ALL-AGE SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE Matthew 22:34-46 <i>The most important commandment</i>

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We enjoyed our fun in Dunnottar Woods followed by a BBQ with Kid's Praise in September and we are all thankful the weather was kind to us. We have looked at the stories of Noah's Ark and Adam and Eve and will be thinking about Harvest before the school holidays in October. Due to the school holidays we will not be meeting on Sunday, 15th October.

We have been talking about our Nativity, which will take place in the Church on Sunday, 24th December - a lovely day to share the story of the first Christmas.

As always, all children are welcome to join us whenever they can manage - we all realise how busy family life is and that lots of other activities happen on Sundays but just come along whenever you can manage and enjoy the fun.

Contact: Helen Sang, 764 611

A NEW HYMN TO AN OLD TUNE

The words of this hymn were written by one of our members, Margaret Key, and sung by the choir as an introit on Sunday 2nd September. The words are based on Psalm 139 and the tune was By cool Siloam (Belmont).

The fibre of my being, Lord
You made with love and care.
My thoughts and words and deeds you know;
You are forever near.

From idol, error and from hate,
Lord, please turn me away;
And lead me as in ages past
To worship only thee.

My form so feeble and so frail
was made in purpose thus,
Until the glorious day we meet
In you I place my trust.

You all in all are hid from sight.
You see in darkness and light.
My guide, protector and my friend;
With me until the end.

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

GUILD

The first meeting of the new session of the Guild was held on Tuesday 12th September in St Bridget's Hall. We were delighted to welcome some new members and also our speaker Keith Stewart who is well known and a local historian. His topic for the evening was 'Stonehaven of Old' and he started his talk by showing us a map of 1580 and what Stonehaven looked like at that time. Robert Barclay, an important person in the town at that time had a vision of what Stonehaven should be like and one of the changes he made was by moving Fetteresso Church from Kirktown of Fetteresso to the site where it is now on Bath Street and on land owned by the Ury Estate. He also showed us a picture of what the Old Town looked like at that time portraying a typical working village with shops and houses tightly packed together. This was completely different from the other end of the town, which was the 'posh' part!! He also showed us an advert from 1880 where Dunnottar Church were advertising for a beadle being paid the princely sum of £8 and 10 shillings per annum. He would also be expected to double up as a gravedigger working both at Dunnottar and the Old Fetteresso Cemetery! Keith incorporated his talk with a quiz where we had to guess where various buildings or monuments were to be found. In 1902 a Church bazaar was held over two days in the Town Hall and the amazing sum of £1100 was raised this money going to help with buildings and repairs. All over the town various wells were situated and some can still be found today. Can you name any and do you know where they can be found?? Everyone gathered at the Mercat Cross in the Old Town when an important announcement was to be made. Keith also brought along some old copies of the Stonehaven Leader which gave far more information about local activities than can be found in today's version! Keith gave us a fascinating insight into what the town was like at the beginning of the century and his enthusiasm and knowledge of the topic was amazing.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th October when we hope members of other Guilds in the area will join us to hear of the work being carried out by one of the projects we are supporting during 2017/18 – 'Feed the Minds – Breaking the Cycle of FGM in Kenya'. You are very welcome to come along and join us at what I am sure will be a very thought provoking talk.

We are also holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th November between 10.00 and 11.30am so put the date in your diary and plan to join us for coffee, a blether and a fine piece on that date.

Contact: Hazel Paterson, 767 589

Eileen Sim, 762 038

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

THE LUNCH CLUB

Well it looks like the weather is changing, and this week, has been quite Autumnal... so it must be time for "warm soups and puddings", which can only mean the next Lunch, which will be on Friday 6th October at 12.30pm in St. Bridget's as usual.

We do hope that all you "regulars" will be attending, and please bring your friends too, as we are open to all those who would like to come and have some time of fellowship, friendship and a spot of lunch!

Remember it's soup, pudding, tea/coffee, and homemade biscuit for only £5.00! - We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw 07796173864)

BADMINTON CLUB

We are looking forward to the new session which begins on Thursday 5th October in St. Bridget's hall at 7.30 pm. We hope to see some new faces and of course all the regulars.

Contact: Eileen Begg, 766 291

BOWLING

Just a wee reminder that the new season commences on Tuesday 19th September at 2pm, with the evening session kicking off at 7pm.

New members will be made most welcome, so why not come along and meet the afternoon bowlers and possibly try your hand at a game.

Sadly, we have to announce the death of Kath Low, a long-time member of the afternoon session.

Kath was a great lead and was always a great member to have on your team.

**Contact: Allan Cairnduff (President), 763 387
Eileen Begg (Secretary) 766 291**

RAINBOW WHIST

The next Rainbow Whist will be on Wednesday 11th October at 2pm in St. Bridget's Hall. We had a smaller number than usual at the first whist afternoon of this session in September and hope for a few more this month. A warm welcome is extended to anyone interested in a few hands of whist, played in a friendly atmosphere, with a cuppa at half time. Play begins at 2pm and we are usually finished by 4pm. A modest charge of £2.00 is made to cover prizes.

Contact: George Coutts, via church office

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP COFFEE GROUP

Although this is the October edition of Spotlight, you will receive your copy before the end of September. This gives us a chance to remind you about the special coffee morning on Thursday 28th September.

For many years now, we have taken part in Macmillan Cancer's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. This will take place this year on Thursday 28th September, at the usual time. For the past few years we have managed to increase the money we raise by having some extra stalls that morning. Please do come and join us on that date.

We are always busy on a Thursday morning and always welcome new volunteers to help us out for a few hours on a Thursday morning to continue this very worthwhile activity.

If you would like further information please speak to one of the helpers on a Thursday morning. Help would be very welcome on a regular or on an as and when able basis.

At present our volunteers only 'do' one Thursday in the month, starting at 9.00am until about 11.45am. Coffee is normally served from 10am to 11.30am.

This 'get together' on a Thursday morning provides an important time of fellowship in the life of the church and, from the ever-increasing number of customers, it has become the 'in' place to be on a Thursday morning!

Money raised by the volunteers who run Thursday Coffee is normally donated to the Church to help provide equipment when required. It has also allowed us through our contact with India Village Ministries to assist them in their extremely valuable work looking after children in India. We now sponsor two children in the centre run by IVM and hear regularly from Suresh about the progress both children are making at school.

Contact: Margaret Coutts, via church office

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CANCER SUPPORT**



WORLD MISSION

WORLD MISSION

Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal 2017. The appeal will be launched on Sunday 15th October at Dunnottar and the pick-up from Stonehaven will be on 9th November so time seems to run out very quickly after the summer break! We have plenty of empty shoe boxes looking for people to cover them with Christmas paper and fill them so if you spot any paper at sale prices just now, please offer to help cover these for us.

Please try to cover and fill a shoebox for this worthwhile cause. We will have the usual collection jars for help with the transport costs available.

Checklists will be available soon but you can view the list on the Blythwood website at www.blythwood.org/shoebox but the main features are set out below

Top box items are:

- Toothbrush and Toothpaste;
- Hat, scarf, gloves;
- Soap;
- Small Toy for boys and girls such as cars, dolls, balls. Please only include new shop-bought toys;
- Sweets (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best Before' date no earlier than March 2018 No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets.

Please do try to include the following items highlighted in the top box:

Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER); Shampoo; Face cloth / Moist wipes; Deodorant; Moisturising Cream; Comb /Brush; Sanitary Products; Shaving foam /Razors; Underwear Socks /Tights;

Miscellaneous New Make-up; Sewing Equipment; Household Candles; Screwdrivers / Pliers; Kitchen Utensils; Stationery Pens / Pencils / Sharpener; Notepads / Colouring books; Rulers / Rubbers.

Clothes and other Items eg T-shirts / Pyjamas / Jumpers / Shirts

PLEASE TICK THE BOX NEXT TO WHO THE BOX IS FOR. Please specify the age of the girl or boy you have filled this box for.

Although we concentrate on the Shoeboxes at this time of year, don't forget that we collect all year round for the Aberdeen Cyrenians and we're heading into the colder months of the year. Collection boxes for produce are located in Dunnottar and St Bridget's so please help with this vital support to these vulnerable people.

Contact: Eileen Sim, 762 038

SESSION MATTERS

SESSION MATTERS

The next Kirk Session meeting is on 20th September so the report will miss this edition of Spotlight. The deadline is early to enable the editorial team to have the magazine ready for Communion Sunday on 22nd October. There are 5 Sundays in October again this year so if you are working to the old Dunnottar Communion dates as being the last Sundays in April and October, you will miss this one! Come along to any of the services on the 22nd – you will be made most welcome. Don't worry if it's been some time since you were last at a Communion or other service, the Lord's table is for everyone.

Session supported the Match the Numbers, or "Lucky Stall" as previously known, at the Summer Sale held in St Bridget's on Saturday 19th August and everything went!

Session decided to stop using the Town Hall after the same event in 2016 partly due to the expenses of hiring the Town Hall but also to the lack of suitable catering and kitchen facilities at the Hall. All the urns, tea cups and saucers, plates, kettles etc. had to be moved from St Bridget's to the Town Hall and returned at the end of the event – a massive logistics effort. Also, serving hot teas and coffees from the kitchen behind the stage meant using the rickety stairs from the Hall floor to the stage level and the serving staff are not getting any younger.

Although the overall takings on the day were slightly down on 2016, we saved over £100 by not hiring the Town Hall and everything was cleared away before lunchtime! A sterling effort by all concerned and thanks to Elders Hazel Paterson and Eileen Sim for organising things and all the stallholders, servers and helpers.

No confirmation yet on the extra person for the Stonehaven cluster from the Presbytery Planning Task Group at the Head Office in Edinburgh but work is progressing on the job description for the post.

There's a very heavy workload for Rosslyn right now with little or no pastoral cover available so she's doing virtually every funeral in Stonehaven just now. Please continue to pray for her and help support her whenever you can.

Rosslyn's last acts as Presbytery Moderator were to hand over to the new Moderator, Dr Marshall Halliday, on 5th September and to conduct the sacrament of Holy Communion at that service since Marshall is not a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Rosslyn has already filled any vacant diary space!!

SESSION MATTERS / KILWHANG RINGERS

More departures from Presbytery with the retiral of Rev Alex Wark from Mid Deeside Parish in Torphins so another vacancy arising here. Presbytery has granted permission for the congregation to call another minister in unrestricted tenure as soon as the new Presbytery Plan has been approved in Edinburgh. Rev Tony Stephen of Banchory West will be Interim Moderator during this vacancy.

We continue to work more closely with our sister congregations in South and Fetteresso to maintain progress towards greater cooperation within the Stonehaven Cluster and we will keep you up to date with developments when appropriate.

Brian Sim, Session Clerk



KILWHANG RINGERS



On the 17th September this year the Kilwhang Ringers celebrate ten years as a handbell group.

Started by Catherine Walker, who at the time was our organist at Dunnottar Church, the group has gone from strength to strength. Catherine initially began with around eight or nine novice Ringers, using the set of Old English Handbells belonging to South Church. She wrote music for us and encouraged us to attend workshops and ringing days at Glasgow, Dunblane and other venues.

Derek Hunter generously donated a set of Malmark American Handbells, which then allowed the group to expand. We now number around sixteen, if all present, which is wonderful. This means we can usually provide enough people to accept invitations to entertain. Margaret Godsman has recently put all our archives in order, in a book, which will be on display during the year ahead. This makes very interesting reading and no secrets are given away in this article.

Our first celebration is planned for rehearsal on Monday 18th September when we will play some of Catherine's original pieces, followed by coffee and cake. More events are planned for the future to include the annual coffee morning at St. Bridget's Hall. Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years and we hope to continue to make music and share fellowship around various venues in times ahead.

Ros Marshall, Honorary Secretary

SPOTLIGHT ON PROPERTY/QUIZZES

SPOTLIGHT ON PROPERTY

I recently attended a training seminar for Property Conveners in Aberdeen. The seminar was organised by the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland and was held in 6 different venues across the country. It was very well attended and it is hoped that it will become a regular event. It is always good to hear what is going on in the wider church and to meet other Property Conveners.

Topics covered included a new folder on Health & Safety, how to apply for grants for improvements and repair, new ideas for heating churches, a review taking place of how we carry out Quinquennial (5-yearly) Inspections of our buildings and also a review of how the Church should provide a manse for our ministers in future.

Altogether a very busy and worthwhile day.

David Macdonald, Property Convener, 764 750
davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

QUICK QUIZ!

The word 'quiz' is an invented one, nearly 200 years old, which incredibly became famous within 24 hours. In 1780, a Dublin theatre manager named Daly laid a wager with a friend that he could introduce a new word, with no meaning, into the language in the space of a single day. That night he got numerous allies and paid boys to chalk up all over that city on walls and buildings, the four mystic letters QUIZ. Next day, all Dublin was conjecturing what the word could mean, arguing and debating its significance, using it freely in the process. Daly won his bet, of course, and the word remains to this day, still with its sense of ????

SEPTEMBER QUIZ

The winner of the September quiz is Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell and a prize is on its way.

The correct answers were as follows:

1.Applecross, 2. Kirkwall, 3. Old Deer, 4. Broadford, 5. Leadhills, 6.Turnberry,7. Poolewe, 8. Fettercairn, 9.Rumbling Bridge,10.Guardbridge, 11. Macduff, 12.Ayr,13. Carrbridge, 14.Crianlarich, 15.Coldstream, 16.Markinch, 17.Catterline, 18. Oban, 19.Cairndow, 20. Dundee, 21.Burntisland, 22.Selkirk, 23. Motherwell, 24.Leven, 25.Campbeltown

OCTOBER QUIZ

This month's quiz is all about proverbs. We have given you the initial letter of each word in well-known proverbs. All you have to do is fill in the rest of each word. Answers to a member of the editorial team by Thursday 12th October please.

TWO HURRICANE EXPERIENCES

Margaret Key writes: The television footage of Hurricane 'Irma' brings back memories of a holiday in Cancun in October 2005 when our time there was extended by the force of Hurricane 'Wilma'.

Here are a few memories, which may give a flavour of what those affected by 'Irma' are experiencing.

We were instructed to meet in the hotel foyer at 10am. "Hurricane Wilma is approaching Cancun, we will stay in cinema one night. Your safety not your comfort is the priority" 1,700 tourists were transported to downtown cinema, which consisted of limited toilet facilities. The sound of the wind all pervading and as we had been warned, very scary – whooshing, swirling, sucking and clattering.

Next morning, Announcement "The hurricane is travelling at 130 miles, we'll be here another night" In the afternoon the ceiling of the salon began to disintegrate. As we moved into the corridor it was very 'breezy', Wilma had disposed of the wall to the end of the corridor. We sat on the floor as instructed. Lights went out, howling winds – this was the scariest part for most detainees.

Instruction "all men stand up". Some were determined to stay with their wives and children, others were reluctantly following instructions. Instructions were quickly forgotten in chaotic conditions created by Wilma. A feeling of panic pervaded. I followed more instructions as I stood up, placed a pillow over my head and a blanket over that. I was unable to move being squashed against a wall by rows of equally squashed people. Unlike other squashed survivors I never once thought I would die; however I did think I could be injured. The summer bombings in London came to mind.

The warning "Keep pillow on your head, mind the roof, don't panic" was repeated continuously for a very long time. Pillows began flying down the 'tunnel' as a few people attempted to rearrange their 'head gear'. A large number of Mexicans began to say the Lord's Prayer in Spanish, by turns a haunting and a comforting sound.

Next day: Announcement, in English first this time "As yet there is no report on how the hurricane is progressing, we are not safe here and will move to an underground car park which has not been damaged at all by the hurricane. "Are there washrooms?" Two buckets was the answer. We laid out our blanket and 'settled in', having found a kerbed area in the shelter of a Cherokee.

Announcement 3pm "We are going to hotel area and you will be transported back to hotels between 6pm and 8pm tonight. Despite the time, many left their pitches and made their way to ground level. This was to prove a big mistake. Announcement 5pm "we will not be returning you to the hotels – we will spend the night here" The owner of the Cherokee came for his vehicle. He very kindly gifted us his torch. So, lay down to 'sleep' with arm looped into backpack – there was some looting going on.

TWO HURRICANE EXPERIENCES contd.

Awoke next morning at 3am to a whooshing sound – this was not Wilma but the sweeping of wastage from burst pipes. The storm had definitely abated leaving an eerie stillness. We had police permission to take some necessary items from the supermarket and so 1,700 tourists with trolleys trundled and splashed in ankle deep water to the nearby bullring. The utter devastation witnessed as we left the confines of the car park was surreal, strewn around masonry, blown over trees, blown out windows, snapped electricity pylons and flooding. There were many more 'hurdles' before leaving our holiday destination. Throughout it all we were very much aware and humbled by the kindness and care shown towards us. Many of those who were looking after us had lost their homes, some had lost loved ones. The down turn this event may have on the tourist industry could even threaten their livelihood. Poignantly, the President of Mexico spoke to us as we were assembled in the bullring and pleaded with us to re-visit Mexico.

Jennifer Macdonald writes: In October 2012, I was one of two staff in New York with a party of pupils from Mackie Academy for a Mock Trial Competition. We were scheduled to fly home on the Monday evening but by the weekend it was becoming clear that it was unlikely that we would be flying anywhere as the forecasts about the hurricane and the point at which it would make landfall and the associated tidal surge became more detailed. We knew that we were not going to be affected by flooding where we were staying but had to try to organise alternative flights home. All the teams-including the Americans were in the same position as the airports were closed. As the days went on flights did start up again-but with a backlog of thousands of stranded passengers it was going to take time to get everyone rebooked. To complicate matters the New York marathon was scheduled for the Sunday and competitors and their supporters were arriving for their prebooked accommodation. Our hotel was an operations base for members of FEMA the US Federal Emergency Management Agency and staff from the electricity supply company who were working to restore power in other areas of New York. We were all very fortunate-the area we were in suffered very little damage compared to other areas where subways were flooded, a record tidal surge resulted in homes being destroyed, fire completely destroyed 80 homes in Queens, 2 hospitals had to evacuate their patients due to the power outages which left 8 million people without power-imagine living in one of the many residential skyscraper blocks with no lift. The devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy was described as being on an unprecedented scale resulting in a major clean up and much rebuilding. I now have a better understanding of the devastation it can cause to people, to their homes and to their livelihoods.

A WEE SMILE

An old man and his wife were having their first argument after many years of marriage.

He said, "When we got married, you promised to love, honour and obey."
'I know' replied his wife "but I didn't want to start an argument in front of all those people"

Little Mary is at her first wedding. When it was over, she asked her mother "Why did the lady change her mind?"

"What do you mean?" asked her mother.

"Well" said Mary "she went down the aisle with one man and came back with another."

Mr Smith and his wife went into an expensive restaurant in London. "I'm sorry," said the head waiter, "but there are no tables available."

Mr Smith replied "I bet if the Prime Minister came in and asked for a table, there would be one available." "Yes" admitted the head waiter, "I suppose there would."

"Then I will take that one," said Mr Smith. "The Prime Minister isn't coming."

Tom found it hard to get to sleep, meaning he overslept in the morning and arrived late for work. Eventually his boss threatened to sack him if he didn't do something about it, so Tom went to his doctor. The doctor prescribed a pill for Tom and told him to take it before he went to bed. Tom took the pill and slept very well. He woke up on time, had a leisurely breakfast and drove to work. "That pill the doctor gave me really worked" he said to his boss. "Well that's great" replied the boss "but where were you yesterday?"

The pilot of an aerobatic biplane landed in the recently mown field of Jock, a Scottish farmer, to make a few adjustments to his engine. While he was tinkering with his machine, he noticed Jock and his wife watching with a great deal of curiosity. Jock asked the pilot how much he would charge to give both him and his wife a ride. 'Well', said the pilot, 'Normally I charge £50 each, but if you are both completely quiet throughout the flight, the ride will be free of charge. If I hear the least amount of noise, you will owe the full fare.'

The couple quickly climbed aboard, and the pilot taxied and took off. Immediately, he proceeded to put his plane through all of its paces: barrel rolls, stalls, spins, split S manoeuvres, you name it and he did it. The couple in back were completely silent throughout the thirty-minute flight. Upon landing, the pilot said, 'I really have to hand it to you for keeping quiet through all that!'

'Aye', said Jock, 'but I'll admit, ye almost heard me when the wife fell out.'

PRAYERS

A PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Lord God our loving heavenly father,

May your Holy Spirit move us to pray, to give, and to act when we hear of the injustice suffered by children here and throughout the world through abuse, poverty, disease, hunger and thirst, loss of family life and lack of education. Show us, Lord, how we can play our part in promoting equality and justice for all the children of our world.

We thank you, Lord, for all that we hold dear in our world, for our families, for our homes, for plentiful clean water, for healthy food and for personal security.

Each day in the News we see new areas of the world where these gifts that we take for granted are either denied to our brothers and sisters in less fortunate parts of the world or wrested from their grasp with shocking suddenness, leaving them with nothing but pain and despair.

People dispossessed by floods and storms in Texas, the Caribbean and Florida, and also in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, where the loss is as great but the hope of reconstruction is less certain. Families and communities who have lost loved ones and homes in the earthquake in Mexico.

Dispossessed people in minority groups such as the Rohingya from Myanmar as they endure persecution and flee for their lives, leaving their homes and possessions behind.

People who have lost faith in themselves, or in their God, or in life itself, through poverty, ill health or loss of a loved one.

Amen

A PRAYER FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Lord of the journey,

we ask for your protection on all who have fled their homes.

Give them strength on their journeys and grant that they may find places of compassion at which to rest.

Ease their fear as they throw in their lot with strangers and keep alive their vision of finding a secure and welcoming home.

O God, our refuge and strength,
our help in times of trouble.

Have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way.

Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods.

Prosper those who rebuild houses,
and strengthen those who rebuild hope

so that entire communities
may face the future without fear.

Amen

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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SESSION CLERK	Mr Brian Sim	762 038
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER	Contact through the Minister	
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	Ms Helen Sang	764 611
ROLL KEEPER	Mr George Coutts Contact through church office	
HALL BOOKINGS	Mr David Macdonald	764 750
TREASURER	Mr Sandy Duncan	762 166
ASSISTANT & FWO TREASURER	Miss Moira Marshall	765 532
GIFT AID TREASURER	Mrs Diane Dart	767 588
PROPERTY CONVENOR	Mr David Macdonald	764 750
FLOWER CONVENOR	Mrs Ruby Still	668 067
SAFEGUARDING	Mr David Macdonald	764 750
YOUTH CONVENOR	Mr David Macdonald	764 750
LIFE & WORK CONVENOR	Mrs Margaret Ross	763 316
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