

SPOTLIGHT



2017 DECEMBER / JANUARY 2018



LETTER FROM THE MANSE



SHOEBOXES, GIVING TREE and CYRENIANS



INDIA VILLAGE MINISTRIES



NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



A BIT OF HISTORY/MYSTERY!



10 YEARS ON



SIX LITTLE STORIES AND LOTS MORE



Stonehaven Dunnottar Church of Scotland

(Scottish Charity Number (SCO13165))

www.dunnottarchurch.net

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLIGHT

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For many people the John Lewis advert now heralds the start of Christmas – their Christmas ad has become synonymous with the festive season. Other large high street stores, like Marks and Spencer also have their Christmas advert. M&S's festive campaign this year features the accident-prone Paddington mistaking a bearded burglar for Santa Claus. The lovable bear ends up helping the criminal return presents he stole and gives him a marmalade sandwich in a final gesture of generous Christmas spirit.

It's not all about making money for the stores (although undoubtedly they do). Last year's John Lewis advert, featuring Buster the boxer bouncing on a trampoline, helped to raise money for The Wildlife Trusts. M&S has produced a soft toy version of [Paddington](#) and a duffel coat and an expected £200,000 in profits from one of the items – a £3 book – will go to the NSPCC to help fund its Childline service. M&S will host children's book readings in store and encourage staff to carry out "random acts of kindness" such as free marmalade sandwiches in the café.

For Christians, the season of Advent is a period of preparation for Christmas and our Advent and Christmas message leaflet for 2017 with details of all the special services is enclosed in this edition of Spotlight. You will be made very welcome at all of these.

The Spotlight Group wish all of you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year. Please email contributions for the next edition to jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com by Thursday 18th January 2018.

Editorial Group:

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clipart from openclipart.org

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

CHRISTMAS 2017: LETTER FROM THE MANSE 'HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.'

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 KJV

Sandy and I are very fortunate in that the whole manse family plan to be at 'home' here in Stonehaven this Christmas. We are well aware that being with family and friends at this special time is such a blessing. We know that there are so many people who will not make it home for the festivities including those who are caring for others in homes and hospitals; those in the civilian and military services; those living too far away or without the means to travel. There are also those who through fear or anger feel they cannot go home because of past conflicts and broken relationships.

Whether you plan to spend Christmas at home or away, whether you expect to be in company or on your own, it is good to remember that the most familiar characters in the Nativity were actually, for various reasons, away from what we would call home.

Joseph and his heavily-pregnant wife Mary had been forced to leave their home in Nazareth to travel to distant and crowded Bethlehem seeking shelter but finding no room in the inn.

After Jesus was born, their first visitors were the shepherds from the grazing fields outside of the town. Shepherds, in those days, would have been some of the lowest of the low spending their days and nights out in the open with no home to call their own.

Last to arrive were the Magi. Men of status and wealth who had left their own homes far off in the East to search for the new king not knowing where their journey would lead them.

And of course we can think of the infant Jesus: the very Son of God who had left his heavenly home to live as one of us.

However the message of Christmas is that although Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise-men were in their different ways homeless that first Christmas it was in that lowly stable, around the manger, in the presence of the Christ-child, where God in love comes closest to us, that they all found their true home.

Home is where we will always find a welcome whether rich or poor, powerful or vulnerable, confident or desperate. Where we are nurtured, cared for, protected and loved. Where we can truly be ourselves without pain and without fear.

LETTER FROM THE MANSE / FAMILY NEWS

Home is not a physical place however beautiful. Home is not a building however cosy and comfortable. Home is found in communities, congregations and families built on loving and giving relationships between God and us and between us and other people.

This Christmas let us give thanks that God in Christ left his home to bring us home to God. Let us give thanks that we can celebrate this precious gift wherever we are and whoever we are with. And as we give thanks for what we have been given let us open our hearts and our hands to those who need practical help as well as kind and caring words to find themselves a home this Christmas.

May God bless you and yours with love and peace this Christmastime.

Rosslyn

FAMILY NEWS

FUNERALS OF MEMBERS OF DUNNOTTAR CHURCH

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

6th November: Mrs Nina Sharp, Laurencekirk

DIAMOND WEDDING

The Spotlight editorial team wishes a happy Diamond Wedding anniversary to James and Nena Innes of Martin Drive, who celebrated their anniversary on 9th November 2017.

We apologise for listing it last month as your Golden Wedding..the missing 10 years have now been recognised!

NINETY YEARS YOUNG!

Happy 90th birthday from the Spotlight team to George Wood on 6th November.

FLOWERS

Flowers for December and January

- ❖ 10th December - Catherine Sang
- ❖ 24th December - Ruby Still
- ❖ 31st December - Elma Scott - at St Bridget's
- ❖ 14th January - D & C Knox
- ❖ 28th January - Moira Jolly

The flowers will be delivered by Ruby and Joy.

We would like to thank everyone who donated flowers; they are very much appreciated by all who receive them after the service. Thank you also to those who help deliver them. The Flower Calendar for 2018 will be in the vestibule on 10th December.

Contact: Ruby Still, 668 067

DATES FOR THE DIARY - DECEMBER

DECEMBER			
Fri	1	Lunch Club at St Bridget's	12.30pm
Sat	2	9 Lessons & Carols rehearsal- St Bridget's	5-6pm
Sun	3	Sunday Service - South Church with Granite City Brass Ensemble Nine Lessons and Carols - St Bridget's	10.30am 4pm
Tue	5	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Thu	7	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Badminton	10-11.30am 7.30-9.30pm
Sun	10	Sunday Service – Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	11	Bible Appreciation Group – William Mackie Crescent	2pm
Wed	13	Whist – St Bridget's	2-4pm
Fri	15	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Badminton	10-11.30am 7.30-9.30pm
Sun	17	Sunday Service – South Church Kids Praise Nativity Children's Party -South Church Hall	10.30am 4-6pm
Tue	19	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Wed	20	Mowat Court Service	2pm
Thu	21	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	22	St.Bridget's office closed	
Sun	24	Sunday Service – Dunnottar Church Sunday School Nativity Christingle – South Church Carols – Dunnottar Church Watchnight – Dunnottar Church	10.30am 6pm 11pm 11.30pm
Mon	25	Christmas Day Service -South Church	10.00am
Thu	28	St.Bridget's office closed	
Fri	29	St.Bridget's office closed	
Sun	31	Sunday Service - St Bridget's	10.30am

The year end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy.

Charles Dickens

DATES FOR THE DIARY - JANUARY

JANUARY			
Thu	4	St. Bridget's office closed	
Fri	5	St. Bridget's office open	
Sun	7	Sunday Service - Dunnottar Church Sunday School and Kids Praise resume Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	8	Bible Appreciation Group - William Mackie Crescent	2pm
Tue	9	Guild - St Bridget's	7.30pm
Wed	10	Whist - St Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	11	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group resumes - South Conservatory Badminton	10-11.30am 2-4pm tbc 7.30-9.30pm
Sun	14	Sunday Service - South Church	10.30am
Tue	16	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Wed	17	Dunnottar Kirk Session - Upper Room	7pm
Thu	18	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group - South Conservatory Badminton - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am 2-4pm tbc 7.30-10pm
Sun	21	Sunday Service - Dunnottar Church Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Tue	23	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Wed	24	Mowat Court Service	2pm
Thu	25	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group - South Conservatory Badminton - St Bridget's	10-11.30am 2-4pm tbc 7.30-10pm
Sun	28	Sunday Service - St Bridget's	10.30am
Tue	30	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm

Hall Booking – David Macdonald – Tel 764 750

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

Edith Lovejoy Pierce

DUTY ROTA

DUTY ROTA – DECEMBER

3rd	10.30	SOUTH	Bus	D Blacklaw
10th	10.30	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH	Bus	G Coutts
		Sound		D Macdonald
		Duty		M Duncan, C Sang, K Smith
		Reader		M Arthur
		Prayers for others		A Cairnduff
		Flowers		C Sang
		Coffee		R Marshall, H Paterson
17th	10.30	SOUTH	Bus	J Macdonald
24th	10.30	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH		
		Bus		R Still
		Sound		D Hunter
		Duty		D Duncan, G Lawrence, D Begg
		Flowers		R Still
		Coffee		R Duncan, M Whittet
31st	10.30	ST BRIDGETS		
		Bus		M McRae
		Sound		R Marshall
		Duty		R Duncan, A McLeod, E Craig
		Reader		B Sim
		Flowers		E Scott
		Coffee		S Melville, J Houghton

DUTY ROTA – JANUARY

7th	10.30	SOUTH	Bus	M Marshall
14th	10.30	DUNNOTTAR		
		Bus		H Paterson
		Sound		B Sim
		Duty		J MacCallum, K Mathers, J Balsillie
		Reader		J Macdonald
		Prayers for others		Margaret Key
		Flowers		D & C Knox
		Coffee		E Sim, D Dart
21st	10.30	SOUTH	Bus	M Whittet
28th	10.30	DUNNOTTAR		
		Bus		A Swan
		Sound		D Macdonald
		Duty		E Begg, C Sang, J Adams
		Reader		H Paterson
		Prayers for others		L Greenwell
		Flowers		M Jolly
		Coffee		A & J MacCallum

WORSHIP THEMES FOR DECEMBER

Sun 3 rd	SOUTH CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP	FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT Christmas Praise with Granite City Brass Ensemble Mark 13:24-37 – <i>No one knows the date or the time</i>
	ST BRIDGET'S 4pm	SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS	
Sun 10 th	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Mark 1:1-8 <i>The preaching of John the Baptist</i>
Sun 17 th	SOUTH CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP	THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT Nativity with Kids Praise John 1:6-8; 19-28 <i>John the Baptist tells about Jesus</i>
Sun 24 th	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE Nativity with Sunday School Luke 1:26-38 <i>The Annunciation</i>
	SOUTH CHURCH 6pm	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	with Kilwhang Ringers Luke 2: 1-20 - <i>The birth of Jesus</i>
	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH 11pm / 11.30pm	WATCHNIGHT SERVICE	Carols at 11pm Watchnight at 11.30pm Luke 2: 1-20 - <i>The Shepherds and angels</i> John 1:1-14 - <i>The Word</i>
Mon 25 th	SOUTH CHURCH 10am	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	Luke 2: 1-20, John 1:1-14
Sun 31 st	ST BRIDGET'S 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP	Luke 2:22-40 - <i>Simeon and Anna</i>

WORSHIP THEMES FOR JANUARY

Sun 7 th	SOUTH CHURCH	MORNING WORSHIP
	10.30am	Kids Praise resumes
		Mark 1:4-11 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
Sun 14 th	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH	MORNING WORSHIP
	10.30am	Sunday School resumes
		John 1:43-51 <i>Jesus chooses Philip and Nathaniel</i>
Sun 21 st	SOUTH CHURCH	MORNING WORSHIP
	10.30am	Mark 1:14-20 <i>Jesus chooses four fishermen</i>
Sun 28 th	DUNNOTTAR CHURCH	MORNING WORSHIP
	10.30am	Mark 1:21-28 <i>A man with an evil spirit</i>

FREEWILL OFFERING SCHEME

Many thanks to all those who contribute so generously on a regular basis towards the on-going work of the Church.

A reminder that the last pay-in date for 2017 will be Sunday morning, 31st December. Anyone no longer wishing to receive a supply of envelopes should contact me as soon as possible so that the records can be amended.

As always, new participants are welcome so please get in touch for further information.

Contact: Moira Marshall, 765 532

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."

Maya Angelou

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are now thinking about and learning our Nativity songs and parts for the service on Christmas Eve. We will be having extra meetings for preparing for this Service ... please contact Helen for arrangements.

There will be no Sunday school during the school Christmas holidays but normal meetings will resume in January.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and 2018.

Best wishes
Helen.

Contact: Helen Sang, 764 611

GUILD

The Guild met on Tuesday 14th November when our speaker for the evening was Sheila Mann from Hillside, Montrose (a member of the Kilwhang Ringers).

Sheila gave a very informative and interesting talk on the early 19th century novelist and poet, Violet Jacob, who was born and brought up in the House of Dun near Montrose. Violet spent some time with her military husband in India where she produced some beautiful drawings and paintings, especially of flowers. During the talk, Sheila read a number of Violet's poems in the Angus dialect, which went down really well with the audience. An enlightening and entertaining evening!

Our next meeting is our Christmas meal at the Station Hotel on Tuesday 12th December at 6 for 6.30 pm. Please bring along a gift of around £5 in value, which will be handed out on the evening. Anyone wishing to come along will be made most welcome. Please contact Hazel or Eileen for menu.

Season's greetings to all our members and a happy and healthy New Year for 2018.

Contact: Hazel Paterson, 767 589

Eileen Sim, 762 038

The first verse of the poem Hogmonay by Violet Jacob

O, It's fine when the New an the Auld Year meet,
An the lads gang roarin i' the lichtit street,
An there's me an there's Alick an the miller's loon,
An Geordie that's the piper oot o Forfar toon.
Geordie Faa! Geordie Faa!
Up wi the chanter, lad, an gie's a blaw!

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

THE LUNCH CLUB

The next lunch club will be on Friday 1st December at 12.30pm in St Bridget's Hall as usual and we are looking forward to seeing everybody there for our Christmas lunch.

This will be the final date for 2017 and with having a break in January, we will be back together on the 2nd February!

I would like to wish everyone at this point a happy, peaceful and healthy time for the festivities and beyond, and thank you all for your support, be it helping or attending the Lunch Club.

Kind Regards to all

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173864

FRIENDSHIP COFFEE GROUP

No matter what the weather is like we are always delighted to welcome a large number of people to our weekly Thursday coffee morning in St Bridget's Hall. It has become a meeting place where folks meet weekly but we are always pleased to welcome new friends. For £1 you have the choice of tea or coffee and a wide selection of baking.

We are still looking for some 'volunteers' who would be able and prepared to give a few hours of their time so that we can continue this very worthwhile time of friendship and fellowship within our Community. We do not want to be in a position where we have to cut down on the number of Thursdays we run the Coffee group so additional helpers will be welcomed! Volunteers do one Thursday in the month, starting at 9.00am with everything cleared away by 11.45am. If anyone would like more information about this venture please speak to any of the folks serving behind the table.

The monies raised go towards providing equipment for the Church when required. We also support two children in India who are looked after by the India Village Ministry.

They say it is a sign of old age when the weeks and months fly by and this certainly seems to have been the case in 2017. Christmas will soon be upon us and, as in previous years, we are having a two-week break over the Festive period. Coffee will be served as usual on Thursday 21st December but we will then be off on Thursday 28th December 2017 and Thursday 4th January 2018 with the doors being open again on Thursday 11th January at 10am welcoming everyone to a new year.

In the meantime we would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Contact: Hazel Paterson, 767 589

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

BADMINTON CLUB

The number of players each week fluctuates but there are always enough for a game or two. We have some good laughs and a bit of chat. Anyone is welcome to join us, no skills necessary.

We will be having a Christmas break from 14th December (last night of play) and resume again on 11th January 2018.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Contact: Eileen Begg, 766 291

BOWLING

Both bowling sessions are in full swing, although numbers in the evenings are down. The names for both the single and pairs competitions in the evening have been drawn and the initial matches will take place shortly.

Cookney Bowling Club will be visiting us on 28th November for the first of our two yearly matches. We look forward, as always, to friendly rivalry and a hard fought battle with the Cookney bowlers.

The members of the club were saddened by the death of Bob Swanson on Saturday 18th November. Bob was a very popular member and will be missed by all.

Please note that there will be no bowling on Tuesday 12th December because of Dunnottar School's Christmas play.

Our last session for 2017 will be at 7pm on Tuesday 19th December. We restart at 2pm on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387 , Eileen Begg, 766 291

RAINBOW WHIST

The last Rainbow Whist of 2017 will be on Wednesday 13th December at 2pm in St. Bridget's Hall.

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.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The first time we meet in 2018 will be on Wednesday 10th January 2018.

Contact: George Coutts, contact through church office

WORLD MISSION

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL 2017

Many thanks to all who contributed and helped in any way with this annual appeal.

This year we gave 130 boxes, our best ever so far, plus extras in bags to the Blythswood van on 9th November. (Just reminds me of the feeding of the 5,000 with the "leftovers").

A magnificent effort again and very much appreciated by the recipients in the countries involved.

SALVATION ARMY GIVING TREE APPEAL

I know I'm always asking for donations but the congregations have never let us down yet, so the next appeal is for our annual Giving Tree for toys for the Salvation Army's appeal for needy children in Aberdeen City and Shire at Christmas.

The appeal will be launched on 3rd December at the South Church and continue for two weeks so please donate a toy book or game in the bag provided.

Bags are available at South Church on the launch day but also at Dunnottar Church and St Bridget's. Toys etc. should be new, for children up to 12 years of age and **left unwrapped** please.

The bags should be brought back to church by Sunday 17th December. We will deliver the toys to the Salvation Army in Aberdeen and they arrange the distribution.

CYRENIANS

Thanks to all who donate items for the Aberdeen Cyrenians.

There's been an excellent response to the appeal for cosy jackets, towels and toiletries appeal. These are always in demand in the colder months of the year.

Collection boxes for produce are located in Dunnottar and St Bridget's so please help where you can with this vital support to these vulnerable people. We can arrange for jackets etc. to be uplifted.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity on behalf of those who struggle at this time of year.

Contact: Eileen Sim, 762 038

Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us - a time when we can look back on the year that has passed and prepare for the year ahead.

David Cameron

INDIA VILLAGE MINISTRIES/ PAPERBACKS

INDIA VILLAGE MINISTRIES

We have now received the **Christmas Gift Catalogue** from Suresh and Roja, listing the various gifts we can buy for the orphanage children, the sewing school and the village pastors.

These gifts can range from

Bed sheets **£4** , a pillow **£5**, a mattress **£15** , a blanket **£8**

or

10 towels and toothbrushes **£10**, A set of new clothes for a child **£10**, school shoes and sandals **£12**, A school uniform **£20**

or

Multivitamins to aid nutrition **£10/ 1000**, Tetanus injections for 3 pregnant women **£18**, Vaccinations for two kids **£20**

or

Pen & paper for a child for a year **£14**, Schoolbooks for a year **£27** per child

or

Pack of 3 books for a village pastor **£20**, Bicycle for a pastor **£40**

or even

Sewing machine and accessories for a young woman in the Sewing School **£70**

The list is endless and even a small gift can help. If you would like to contribute, contact me and I will arrange to have the money transferred. You will receive a Gift Certificate from IVM acknowledging your gift.

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387

DIG OUT THOSE UNWANTED PAPERBACKS!!

Paperback writer, paperback writer.

Dear Sir or Madam, will you read my book?

It took me years to write, will you take a look? Paul McCartney, John Lennon

I also need some help with new paperbacks for the Thursday Coffee Café. Those that I have at the moment are getting a wee bit long in the tooth!! These will be passed to the Episcopal Church for their monthly Book Browse. I can collect – phone me to arrange collection.

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387

SESSION MATTERS

SESSION MATTERS - December 2017 – January 2018

The Kirk Sessions of Dunnottar and South met on Wednesday 15th November at Dunnottar to celebrate 10 years to the date of Rosslyn's Ordination and Induction to the charge in 2007 with some non-alcoholic bubbly and cake.

To mark the occasion, session members and others contributed to a gift from Christian Aid of a Mobile Health Clinic operating in remote areas of Kenya and serving the needs of mothers and small children with vaccinations against various diseases. The balance of the collection was given to Rosslyn for her "personal use only"!!

Following the celebrations, Dunnottar Kirk Session then discussed the "Ordinary Business" and noted that the Emergency Roof Repairs submission to Presbytery had been approved and the work should start in early 2018 as the weather allows. The architect and quantity surveyor will progress the contractor selection and appointment process in the meantime to achieve the programme dates. We are hopeful of receiving some grants for this work from the Church of Scotland but we have to have this work carried out as soon as feasible.

Work on installing the LED lights donated by Dunnottar School in St Bridget's should be complete in time for the start of the rehearsals for this year's P1-3 Nativity during the last week in November. The School held its Halloween Disco on 3rd November when the lights were used extensively.

Matters are progressing behind the scenes on the Union of Dunnottar and South although the emphasis in the next period will be on the Christmas celebrations. Work in earnest will begin in January 2018 when Session meets on Wednesday 18th. Please keep praying for all involved.

Please support the various events over the Christmas period – the 9 Lessons & Carols, Christingle and Watchnight services and particularly the Sunday School Nativity at Dunnottar on 24th December.

Brian Sim, Session Clerk

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is about preventing harm and abuse and making a timely and appropriate response if it occurs. Harm or abuse of children and adults at risk can happen anywhere – even in church communities. If you suspect or witness harm or abuse, or it is reported to you, you must immediately report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator or line manager.

**Contact: David Macdonald 07751 195321
Safeguarding Coordinator**

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

9 LESSONS AND CAROLS-SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

Perhaps the most famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is the one broadcast live from King's College in Cambridge at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve on BBC Radio and all over the world.

The service, which has nine Bible readings (or lessons) that tell the Christmas story, with one or two carols between each lesson, was created and performed in 1880 by Edward Benson, who was the then newly appointed Bishop of Truro in Cornwall. He later became the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Service took place at 10.00pm on Christmas Eve in a large wooden building that was being used as a temporary Cathedral as the main Truro Cathedral was being rebuilt.

The idea travelled around the UK and became quite a popular service to hold on Christmas Eve. However, it was made very famous by the choir from King's College, Cambridge, which was reckoned to be the best church choir in the world at the time.

The Service was first performed at King's College in 1918 as a way of the college celebrating the end of the First World War. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, who had been an Army Chaplain in WWI, wanted a different and more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college.

The BBC first broadcast the service, on the radio, in 1928 and apart from 1930 it's been broadcast every year since - even during WWII. In the early 1930s, the BBC started broadcasting the service overseas.

BUT you don't need to go to Cambridge or wait until Christmas Eve.....

Come along to **ST BRIDGET'S** at **4pm** on **SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER** and enjoy listening to an augmented choir under the leadership of Paul McKay singing the 9 carols, members of the various church organisations reading the 9 lessons and join in the singing of the Christmas hymns. After the service there will be seasonal refreshments.

If not me,
who?
If not here,
where?
If not now,
when?
If not for
the Kingdom,
why?

A BIT OF HISTORY-MYSTERY / 10 YEARS ON ...

A BIT OF HISTORY-MYSTERY!

When the Royal Bank of Scotland closed their Stonehaven branch, on clearing their vault they discovered, on a top shelf, a cardboard box tied with string and a wax seal, which must have been there since the branch opened in 1972.

The box was marked Dunnottar Church and on opening it, there were six vessels inside.

Two pewter flagons with lids engraved 'Dunnotar Church'(sic) and dated 1743, presumably used to fill the Common Cup with communion wine and four silver Communion Cups dated 1814, gifted to the Church by Rev J Walker.

When an inventory was held several years ago, there was some indication that there had been older cups than those used in the present day but no trace could be found and it was presumed they had been disposed of, so it was a great surprise to uncover these forgotten treasures.

Sandy Duncan, Church Treasurer

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN TEN YEARS

As Brian Sim writes in his report, it is 10 years since Rosslyn's Ordination and Induction.

As the title of this article suggests, a lot can change in ten years. Some of what follows may provide food for thought!

Ten years ago, a blackberry was a summer fruit,
Green was just another colour,
you had to load cameras with film,
a tweet was something birds did,
you didn't have to take your shoes off to go through security at the airport/ and you could take liquids through with you.

Now there are apps for everything,
Mobile phones have almost replaced landlines,
Facebook has 300million users across the globe and Internet dating means you don't have to go out to look for a prospective partner.
Words like selfie, bling, chillax, emoji, jeggings, upcycle and unfriend are now entries in the dictionary. Also added in the last 10 years are credit crunch and carbon footprint.

Reading this list makes you think, doesn't it?

And of course

If you want to know something(anything!) you just google it.

A MUSICAL TRIP TO BUDAPEST

In November 1947, Stonehaven and District Choral Society was formed which makes 2017 the 70th anniversary for the Society. In 2016, it was agreed that we needed to do something special to mark this milestone and it was agreed to arrange a tour .. somewhere abroad with the opportunity to perform our music. After consultation with members, 36 singers, including 4 of us from Dunnottar and South Churches, signed up to go, Budapest was selected as our destination and organisation, fundraising and rehearsing for the tour began.

On Sunday 15th October 2017, we flew out to Hungary and when we arrived we were met by Zoltan from the Hungary based travel agency Musikland, which had arranged the tour for us. He was to be our guide for the week and he gave us a potted version of the country's history as we travelled by coach to our hotel. The following day, we began sightseeing with an introduction to old and new Budapest, Buda and Pest, with visits to the Castle area, the Matthias Church, the Royal Castle and Fisherman's Bastion, always making sure we could see Zoltan carrying his guide's flag above his head!

Our first musical performance that afternoon was at the Baroque Church at Piliscsaba, where we had a short rehearsal before the concert. Acoustics were good and we had a sizeable audience who appeared to enjoy what we sang. We then gathered for wine tasting, a 'Welcome to Hungary' dinner and 'serenading' by the resident quartet.

Tuesday began with a walk around the Margaret Island, named after Hungary's thirteenth century saint, Margaret, and a boat trip on the Danube. We went from there to Pilisvorosvar for a concert in the Culture House then supper and a sightseeing drive home, giving us panoramic views of Budapest by night.

On Wednesday we travelled to the oldest Basilica in Hungary in Esztergom where we were (unofficially!) piped in and out by a busking recorder player. Acoustics were quite amazing there and it was exciting to perform a programme of sacred music in that church. As we left the Basilica, a young teacher with her pupils approached to ask if we could sing something Scottish as she had spent time in Scotland.. We were delighted to oblige with three Scottish pieces - for them, and also for a gathering of appreciative tourists and local residents.

From there we moved on to Dorog for rehearsal and performance in an International Choir Meeting, where we had the opportunity to listen to the other choirs, all Hungarian, as well as to participate. We were full of admiration for our conductor Ralph Jamieson for his arduous work learning enough Hungarian to deliver a speech which was warmly received by our audiences. Our attempts at pronunciation in our Hungarian songs were definitely a struggle! The meal which followed was fun, although we were not able to converse with the other singers.

A MUSICAL TRIP TO BUDAPEST/ QUIZZES

At the end of the evening we were invited to join in singing a piece in Hungarian which we had in our repertoire. Thursday was a day of free time with the first stop Szentendre, or St Andrew, another Scottish link! Afterwards, whilst picnicking by the river, one of our members happened to speak to some ladies who were also relaxing there. Having heard that she was touring from Stonehaven, the women exclaimed they had heard our performance in Esztergom and very much enjoyed it..it's a small world!

We checked out of our hotel on the Friday and then we were off to Heroes' Square, which in 1896 was dedicated as a Millennium Memorial for the foundation of the Hungarian state. After hearing the history of the statues , we performed in Hungarian as a sort of 'flash mob', which was great fun ... and rewarding, since our music brought tears of emotion to the eyes of an elderly woman who was part of our nearest audience.

At Lajosmizse on the Great Hungarian plain, we enjoyed a horse and carriage ride and a display of stampeding horses and stunt riders followed by lunch accompanied by a Gipsy Band. Finally, we were taken back to Budapest airport for our flight home.

Throughout our stay in, we enjoyed the best weather we could have hoped for and we also enjoyed a week, which was packed with so many experiences – for many of the choir, the highlight of which was singing in the Basilica at Esztergom.

We are the first Scottish Choir that Musikland has escorted and we like to think we were good ambassadors for Scotland throughout our trip. jól szórakoztunk! (we had a great time!)

NOVEMBER QUIZ

Last month's quiz tested your knowledge of Scots words—and we think you found it quite a challenge. The winning entry came from Isobel Stephen and a prize is on its way to her.

The correct answers were:

1 shoogly, 2 bauchles, 3 blootered, 4 dunderhead, 5 foosty, 6 stour, 7 cludgie, 8 peely- wally, 9 hallyracket, 10 breenge, 11 oxter, 12 puggled, 13 jeely piece, 14 fankle, 15 dunt, 16 tammy, 17 bourach, 18 dreich, 19 snell, 20 semmit, 21 bampot, 22, breeks, 23 crabbit, 24 glaikit, 25 nyaff

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

This month's quiz is a mixer-maxter of seasonal questions—longer than usual, as you will have all that spare time to fill over Christmas and New Year! Answers to one of the editorial team by Thursday 18th January 2018 please.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE TRAIN JOURNEY OF LIFE / SIX LITTLE STORIES A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

60 million Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe and real trees outsell artificial ones 3-1. 6 million rolls of sellotape are sold each year in the UK, 82% people own a Christmas jumper, Rudolph the red nosed reindeer was invented in 1938 for an American firm's Christmas promotion.

Mince pies, which are now meat free, were made of beef and spices in Victorian times. Christmas pudding was originally a soup made with raisins and wine. 10 million turkeys are cooked in the UK at Christmas. More soberingly, it is estimated that 230,000 tons of Christmas food is thrown away each year.

And finally the popular song "We wish you a merry Christmas" was originally a threat, sung loudly and repeatedly by crowds of lower class rowdy servants demanding booze from their masters.." we wont go until we've got some" being one of the well known lines!

ABOUT MISTLETOE

A folklore expert explains: This whole romantic business of kissing under the mistletoe really has its origins in an old legend that emanates from Scandinavia, the home of so many Christmas – season customs. It's believed to be the kiss of peace under the mistletoe, one that ensures no harm will come between friends.

Mistletoe was prominent in the ceremonies of the ancient Druids. Each year at this time they would present a branch cut off a tree to people who were rated worthy of the honour. The plant became endowed with mystical qualities and people in later times came to associate it with good luck. In fact, any house without a few sprigs of pale white berries was considered to be liable to misfortune.

The rule once was that, should the girl surprise the boy by kissing him first, his forfeit was paid in the shape of a brand new pair of gloves for the girl. The girl's forfeit was usually a pair of socks, preferably hand-knitted to prove her usefulness in the home!

AND ABOUT NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Making a New Year's resolution is a tradition in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behaviour, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life. The earliest recorded resolutions are by Babylonians who made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts.

Popular goals include resolutions to lose weight, exercise more, eat better, drink less alcohol and quit smoking.

Most of those who set New Year resolutions fail despite the fact that they are confident of success at the beginning. Men achieve their goal more often when they set small measurable goals such as lose a pound a week, instead of saying "lose weight", while women succeed more when they make their goals public and get support from their friends.

A WEE SMILE

THE TRAIN JOURNEY OF LIFE

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our train. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train, and they will be significant that is – the love of your life, our siblings, friends, children. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is. We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.

SIX LITTLE STORIES

Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That's TRUST.

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we will set the alarms to wake up. That's HOPE.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE.

We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's LOVE.

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old, I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories. When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.

Elizabeth Mitchell.

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Two year old Maisie and her thirteen year old sister had been fighting a lot this year. Maisie's parents, trying to take advantage of her newfound interest in Santa Claus, reminded the two-year-old that Santa was watching and doesn't like it when children fight. This had little impact. "I'll just have to tell Santa about your misbehaviour," the mother said as she picked up the phone and dialled.

Maisie's eyes grew big as her mother asked "Mrs Claus" (really Maisie's aunt; Santa's real line was busy) if she could put Santa on the line.

Maisie's mouth dropped open as Mum described to Santa (Maisie's uncle) how the two-year-old was acting. But, when Mum said that Santa wanted to talk to her, she reluctantly took the phone. Santa, in a deepened voice, explained to her how there would be no presents Christmas morning to children who fought with their sisters. He would be watching, and he expected things to be better from now on.

Maisie, now even more wide eyed, solemnly nodded to each of Santa's remarks and silently hung the phone up when he was done.

After a long moment, Mum (holding in her chuckles at being so clever) asked, "What did Santa say to you, dear?"

In almost a whisper, Maisie sadly but matter-of-factly stated, "Santa said he won't be bringing toys to my sister this year."

Jimmy and Jock were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch Aberdeen FC. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat, B14, next to them and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together. One half-time Jimmy went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty. Then on Boxing Day, much to Jimmy and Jock's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season. Jimmy could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season'. 'Don't ask' he said. 'My wife bought the season ticket back last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present.'

Reginald was terribly overweight after Christmas, so his doctor placed him on a strict diet. 'I want you to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for two weeks. The next time I see you, you'll have lost at least five pounds,' his doctor assured him.

When Reginald returned he shocked his doctor by having lost almost twenty pounds.

'Why, that's amazing,' the doctor said, greatly impressed, 'You certainly must have followed my instructions.'

Reginald nodded, 'I'll tell you what though, I thought I was going to drop dead on the third day.'

'Why, from hunger?' asked his doctor.

'No, from all that skipping.'

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TWO PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Lord Jesus, please forgive me for being so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this holiday season.

My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and gatherings with family and friends — and I'm running short of time!

Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart and help me to relax each day and make time for You, my one true Source of Joy, whose birth is the true meaning of all my activity.

Amen.

www.dailyprayer.us

Lord Jesus, Wise Men travelled for miles to bring you the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the amazing love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us.

Let me just for a moment, Lord, hold this time in my heart. It is about mysteries and gratitude, unknowing and wrong sizes, snippets of ribbon and screams of delight. Help me to remember the immense love you have for each of us in this room.

With each gift that is opened, no matter how perfect or not, let me feel again the many ways you gift us each day, especially with your presence in our hearts and the presence of each other in our lives.

Amen

www.christmas-day.org

A BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

traditional Gaelic blessing

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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
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