

SPOTLIGHT



FEBRUARY



LETTER FROM THE MANSE



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



WORLD MISSION-THANKS FOR DONATIONS



SHROVE TUESDAY



MOTHERING SUNDAY



...AND MUCH MORE !

Stonehaven Dunnottar Church of Scotland

(Scottish Charity Number (SC013165))

www.dunnottarchurch.net

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLIGHT

Happy February. (It's a bit late to wish you a Happy New Year!) Did you make any new years' resolutions? And, if so, have you kept them? Chances are that the answer is no, as research conducted by Strava, the social network for athletes, has discovered that Friday 12th January is the day when our motivation may begin to falter. By analysing over 31.5 million January activities all over the world, Strava was able to pinpoint the second Friday in January as "Quitters' Day".

So why should a number of us fail to commit to our resolutions at the beginning of the year, especially when they're health or fitness-based? The researcher said that sticking to resolutions is hard and there's a lot of talk and pressure in January about getting fitter and being healthier. A key factor in success is motivation, and, through analysing millions of activity uploads, they have been able to pinpoint the day our motivation is most likely to waver.

There are lots of opportunities in the calendar of events in this month's Spotlight to motivate you to decide to make 2018 the year you continue your involvement in and support for the various activities that are organised .. and perhaps even to resolve to try something new.

You are assured of a warm welcome at all of the events and activities .. all you have to do is go along!

The Spotlight Editorial Group welcomes contributions for inclusion in Spotlight. You can email them to jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com or pass them to one of the Editorial group.

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clipart from openclipart.org

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

LETTER FROM THE MANSE: FEBRUARY 2018

Dear friends

With the New Year stretching before us thoughts of many have turned to planning holidays: seeing new sights, visiting old friends, climbing mountain peaks, lazing by the pool, watching the sun go down with those you love. Such thoughts of times ahead can keep us going through the often grey and dreary months of winter until Spring and sunshine returns to our shores.

Sandy and I don't have to wait too long for our holidays this year. He will be heading off to Australia early in the month to compete in a Bridge tournament. I will be leaving here on the 19th to cheer him on during the final days of the event and then to enjoy some sightseeing together. I have passed through a couple of Australian airports on the way to New Zealand but am looking forward to seeing a lot more on this trip such as the exciting eastern coastline, Sydney with its beautiful harbour and opera house, even Tasmania.

This trip is an early birthday present. God willing, I turn 60 in the Autumn. It is also an early retirement gift as I have advised Session that I plan to leave full time parish ministry on 31st October this year. There are several months to go before then so I plan to keep very busy helping you all to prepare for the forthcoming vacancy as best we can. There is a lot we can do. I expect to return from my Australian trip with the energy and the drive to do this.

Holidays - any decent period of time off - can be both a 'treat' after a really challenging spell of hard work and also an essential part of the physical and emotional preparation when we know a particularly difficult task is on the horizon. We need both and the Church calendar provides both.

When I return from overseas we, as part of the wider Church, will have also entered one of the most challenging times of the year as we journey together through the Season of Lent. Lent is a time to discern what is most important ...what is most fruitful ... what is most spiritually faithful in our lives. Just like a garden clean up it is a time to decide - with honesty and with vision - what needs to be cut back to stimulate growth, what needs to be fed and protected and closely nurtured, what needs to be dug up and thrown out. I hope that we will all have the energy, enthusiasm and determination to do this so that the focus of 2018 is not the end of my ministry with you here but the planning stages of a new and exciting time ahead for us all.

Grace and peace to you and to all whom you love this year and always.

Rosslyn

THANK YOU FROM THE MANSE / FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU

Thank you as always for the cards, gifts and good wishes we at the Manse received over the festive period.

The whole family had a lovely Christmas time here in Stonehaven. Lots of lovely memories to cherish.

Rosslyn

FAMILY NEWS

FUNERALS (members of Dunnottar Church)

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

December 2017

8th Mr Douglas (Doug) Strachan Provost Barclay Drive

January 2018

11th Mr Andrew (Andy) Bruncker Edenholme Care Home

SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding Service

The Church of Scotland is committed to ensuring a safe church for all.

Please remember: "If you suspect or witness harm or abuse, or if it is reported to you, you must immediately report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator, who must then contact the Safeguarding Service for advice."

I am the Safeguarding coordinator for Dunnottar Church.

Contact: David Macdonald, 764 750,

Email davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

I lift mine eyes against the sky,
The clouds are weeping, so am I;
I lift mine eyes again on high,
The sun is smiling, so am I.
Why do I smile? Why do I weep?
I do not know; it lies too deep.
I hear the winds of autumn sigh,
They break my heart, they make me cry;
I hear the birds of lovely spring,
My hopes revive, I help them sing.
Why do I sing? Why do I cry?
It lies so deep, I know not why.
Morris Rosenfeld

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FEBRUARY

Thu	1 st	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group - South Conservatory Badminton - St Bridget's	10-11.30am 2-4pm 7.30-9.30pm
Fri	2 nd	Lunch Club	12.30pm
Sun	4 th	Sunday Service - South Church with Communion Communion - St. Bridget's Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm 2.30pm
Tue	6 th	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Thu	8 th	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group - South Conservatory Badminton - St Bridget's	10-11.30am 2-4pm 7.30-9.30pm
Sun	11 th	Sunday Service - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	12 th	Bible Appreciation Group - William Mackie Crecent	2pm
Tue	13 th	Bowling - St Bridget's Guild - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7.30pm
Wed	14 th	Whist - St Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	15 th	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group - South Conservatory March Spotlight copy due Badminton - St Bridget's	10-11.30am 2-4pm 6pm 7.30-9.30pm
Sun	18 th	Sunday Service - South Church Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Tue	20 th	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Thu	22 nd	Friendship coffee - St. Bridget's Craft Group - South Conservatory Badminton - St Bridget's	10-11.30am 2-4pm 7.30-9.30pm
Sun	25 th	Sunday Service - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Tue	27 th	Bowling - St Bridget's Bowling - St Bridget's	2-4pm 7-9pm
Wed	28 th	Mowat Court	2pm

The Minister will be on annual leave from Mon 19th February to Wed 7th March inclusive.

Hall Booking - David Macdonald - Tel 764 750

WORSHIP THEMES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th **MORNING WORSHIP**
SOUTH **COMMUNION**
10.30am Mark 1:29-39
 (2nd Feb: Luke 2:22-40 *Presentation of the Lord*)

St BRIDGET'S **AFTERNOON WORSHIP**
2pm **COMMUNION**

Sunday 11th **MORNING WORSHIP**
DUNNOTTAR Mark 9:2-9 *Transfiguration*
10.30am

Sunday 18th **MORNING WORSHIP**
SOUTH **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
10.30am Mark 1:9-15 *The temptation of Jesus*

Sunday 25th **MORNING WORSHIP**
DUNNOTTAR **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
10.30am Mark 8:31-38 *Jesus speaks about his suffering and death*

DUTY ROTA

Sun 4th	SOUTH	Bus	M Duncan
Sun 11th	DUNNOTTAR	Bus	J Houghton
		Sound	D Hunter
		Duty	D McRae, D Blacklaw, G Edgar
		Reader	E Sim
		Prayers for others	H Paterson
		Flowers	J Adams
		Coffee	M Cairnduff, K Mathers
Sun 18th	SOUTH	Bus	L Vass
Sun 25th	DUNNOTTAR	Bus	R Duncan
		Sound	B Sim
		Duty	A MacCallum, E Sim, I Allan
		Reader	L Greenwell
		Prayers for others	D Macdonald
		Flowers	The Guild
		Coffee	C Sang, R Marshall

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

-  Sunday 11th - Joy Adams
-  Sunday 25th - The Guild

The flowers in February will be delivered after the service by Sandra McWilliam.

The new flower calendar is in the vestibule if anyone would like to put their name in any of the spaces or give Ruby a call.

Contact: Ruby Still, 668 067



Thanks for the flowers---

"We would like to express our very grateful thanks for the beautiful bouquet of flowers which we received from Dunnottar Church on 26th November. It was a very pleasant surprise and cheered us both up immensely. "

Grace and Eric Strachan

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School meets upstairs for activities after the Children's address. Upstairs we paint, grow and make things as well do as other activities and sometimes we go outdoors to find out about what is happening in God's World.

We use materials from "Roots" but the children have been asking for Bible Stories such as the creation story, Noah, Daniel in the Lion's Den etc and perhaps we should get to know some of the New Testament miracles and parables. We also find out about Fair Trade and Christian Aid.

We had extra meetings to prepare for the Nativity and although we have some quite timid children they all tried really hard to tell the Christmas story with the help of some of the members of the choir and congregation. A special thanks to Brian Sim and Derek Hunter for their patience and support not only on Christmas Eve but also at our practices.

We had fun at our Christmas Party in St Bridget's and had a lovely surprise when Santa visited.

We have 11 children at the moment who come when they can manage and often friends and other children in the Church join us. We continue to welcome all children of nursery and school age. Everyone is welcome to come along on the Sundays they can manage, as we all know how busy family life is these days.

Contact: Helen Sang, 764 611

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

GUILD

On Tuesday 9th January we held our first meeting of the year and were delighted to welcome Ros Marshall, one of our elders. The title of her talk was 'Three boys, a dream and a farm' and the film she showed followed a family related to her in Australia.

Brendan Collins with his three young sons and some family and friends along the way built a house by moving various parts of buildings from one area to another. In 2001 they started their adventure.

First of all the driveway was planned and then the task started of moving various shells of housing from one part of the district to another while putting the house together. While the building was going on the area they were working in suffered the worst drought for many years between 2001 and 2010!!

Parts of houses, sheds and outhouses were all transferred from one area to another and gradually a beautiful house was created. A garden was laid out with lawns, trees and even a pond. One of the boys built a raft which provided lots of fun and adventures. Over the years the boys – Josh, Tim and Dan gained lots of experience in the world of building and went on to help people in Peru build a Communication Centre and in Kenya build classrooms, roofs for huts, a laundry for a hospital and a swing for local kids. The experience the boys gained by helping their father build a house turned them into very accomplished young men.

Our February get together will be held on Tuesday 13th in St Bridget's when we will be welcoming friends from Fetteresso, St James' and the Baptist Church. We are looking forward to welcoming the Soggy Bottom Stompers for an evening of music and singing. Everyone is welcome to join us on the 13th.

We will also be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th March between 10 and 11.30am in St Bridget's. More details will follow in the next Spotlight.

Contact: Hazel Paterson, 767 589

Eileen Sim, 762 038

A NURSERY RHYME FOR OUR TIMES

Jack Sprat could eat no fat
Could it have possibly been
Fad diets were rife
So that's why his wife
Reportedly ate no lean?

Taken from *Dunnottar Guild Recipes and Reflections Winter 2008*

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

THE LUNCH CLUB

Welcome to 2018 and hope it will be happy and healthy for everyone. Seems ages since the last lunch, but we are back on Friday 2nd February, at 12.30pm in the usual place of St Bridget's Hall.

To those who are not sure what we do..... We meet on the first Friday of the month - so far this year, lunches are planned for February, March, April and May - and we provide 3 soups, 3 hot puddings, several cold sweets, tea, coffee and something sweet... all for the fantastic price of £5.00!!

We look forward to seeing all our "regulars" and would love to see some new faces too. If you are interested in coming along to eat, or even help out, please let me know if I can help with any information. You will be made most welcome.

Also, if anyone has any favourites they would like included in the menus, please also let me know or write them down and hand them in. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw 07796 173864

FRIENDSHIP COFFEE GROUP

Every Thursday morning between 10.00 and 11.30am in St Bridget's Hall we welcome a large number of folks who come along and enjoy a cup/mug of tea/coffee and a 'fine piece' for the princely sum of £1.00. Although we are kept busy there is always room for more people to join us on a weekly basis and enjoy a time of chat and catching up with old and new friends.

Due to other commitments we are unfortunately losing one of our 'volunteers' so we are on the lookout for someone to step into the breach!! We do not want to reduce the number of Thursdays we are 'open' each month but this may have to happen if we can't find any more help! If there is anyone who enjoys baking and would like to give a few hours of their time to help us continue then we would be delighted to hear from them. If you would like to know more of what is required then please speak to one of our volunteers on duty. At the moment our 'helpers' do one Thursday in the month starting at 9.00 and finishing around 11.45am.

With the money raised each week, we support two children who are looked after by The India Village Ministry and we help provide equipment required for the Church and/or St Bridget's.

We look forward to welcoming you on a Thursday morning.

Contact: Hazel Paterson, 767 589

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

BOWLING

Cookney: The first of our two yearly matches against Cookney took place on 28th November at St Bridget's. We struggled to field a full team but several of the afternoon lady players, thankfully, stepped in to bring our squad up to full strength. We faced a formidable team of 19 Cookney players.

Playing on two carpets with a change of teams after the mid session tea break, we played our socks off!! We won 3 of the 4 games and drew the fourth. A very comprehensive victory, although Eileen reminded me that this was actually the third time we had beaten them at Dunnottar. We look forward, with some trepidation, to our return visit in February or March to the Cookney venue, at which we have not had a great deal of success in the past. We may go down to glorious defeat, as they are out to get revenge.

Thanks to everyone who contributed sandwiches and cakes (and sausage rolls) for the half time meal.

Sadly, two more of our bowlers, Dougie Strachan and Andy Bruncker, passed away recently, Dougie was a faithful member for many years until ill-health curtailed his bowling, although he enjoyed watching the games and having a wee cup of tea at halftime in the afternoon. Andy has been in Edenholme for several years but used to be a keen player.

The competitions are rolling along with many of the first round singles games now played. Stella Melville, Allan Cairnduff and Neil Murray are through to the next round so far. The pairs have still to be started. The championship table shows Ian Duguid in the lead with 16 points closely pursued by Eileen Begg on 12 and Allan Cairnduff on 11.

We commenced the afternoon games on the 9th and those who did not appear missed a rare treat with Jessie Bruce's cloutie dumpling served up with double cream at the interval. The second half was played at a much slower pace!!

We are still looking for some new players to swell the ranks both in the afternoon and evening sessions so anyone interested in trying their hand at this gentle sport is more than welcome to come along. Contact either Eileen or myself for more information.

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

*Just try new things. Don't be afraid. Step out of your comfort zones
and soar, all right?*

Michelle Obama

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

BADMINTON CLUB

We had a great start to the New Year - 10 members attended our first session. Games were well matched and everyone put a lot of effort into their play. There were plenty of games and a bit of chat too, an enjoyable evening all round.

There is always room for new players at St. Bridget's Hall on Thursday evening between 7.30 and 9.30pm.

Contact: Eileen Begg, 766 291

RAINBOW WHIST

A number of the regular players were unable to be with us in January, and I hope that those who have been unwell have now fully recovered.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone interested in a few of 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 next meet on Wednesday 14th February at 2pm in St Bridget's Hall.

Contact: George Coutts, contact through Church office

DIETER'S PRAYER

Strict is my diet I must not want
It maketh me to lie down at night hungry
It leadeth me past the confectioner's
It trieth my will power.
It leadeth me in the paths of starvation
for my figure's sake,
Yea tho' I walk through the aisles of the
pastry department
I will buy no sweet rolls for they are
fattening,
The cakes and the pies they tempt me.
Before me is a table set with green beans
and lettuce
I filleth my stomach with liquids,
My day's quota runneth over.
Surely calories and weight charts will
follow me all the days of my life
And I shall dwell in the fear of scales
forever. Amen

Jay MacDonald, Oban

WORLD MISSION and PROPERTY

WORLD MISSION

Thanks again to all those who contributed to our annual Giving Tree for toys for the Salvation Army's appeal for needy children in Aberdeen City and Shire at Christmas.

This year the Salvation Army was also looking for warm clothing such as pyjamas etc for these youngsters and many of you helped with this. Since all items had to be with the Salvation Army by 15th December, we had to launch the appeal a week earlier than planned but I'm delighted to say that once again the response was magnificent. We took 7 large black bags of donations in to the Citadel on the 15th and these were very much appreciated.

Thanks to all who continue to donate items for the Aberdeen Cyrenians. There's been an excellent response to the appeal for cosy jackets, towels and toiletries but these are always in demand in the colder months of the year. Please don't forget these people after the Christmas period.

Fairtrade fortnight starts on 26th February and although we don't have a particular contact person in Stonehaven at the moment, we are looking to see how we can support this on-going work. You can order online directly and we do have catalogues available.

Contact: Eileen Sim, 762 038

SPOTLIGHT ON PROPERTY

We start the New Year planning some urgent repairs to the roof at Dunnottar Church, which we hope to carry out before summer.

This affects the decorative features and the coping stones on the oldest part of the roof, which will be removed and then replaced using the necessary conservation techniques.

More information in the March Spotlight.

Contact: David Macdonald, 764 750,
email davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

Helen Keller

SESSION MATTERS

SESSION MATTERS February 2018

The Kirk Session met on Wednesday 17th January at Dunnottar after the Christmas break and noted with sadness the deaths of two elders in the period – Doug Strachan in November and Andy Bruncker at the start of the New Year. Both had been long-standing and very active elders and members of the Board and Session until ill health meant that they had to retire from “active service”. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

The Roof Repairs Project is moving on and Session received an update from Property Convenor David Macdonald on progress, including some very welcome news on grants from the Church of Scotland. The Architect and Quantity Surveyor continue the process of contractor selection and we hope that work should commence around late April/early May when hopefully the weather conditions improve. We should also have a better idea of the overall condition of the various parts of the church roof as this emergency work is carried out and that will enable us to make an informed decision on the future repairs. Major fundraising will be needed for that part but any financial help that we can get for the current emergency repairs would be most welcome.

Work on installing the Dunnottar School donated LED lights in St Bridget’s was completed in time for the P1-3 Nativity dress rehearsal and public performances in December and it all went very well. These can now be used by any of the organisations.

Matters are progressing behind the scenes on the Union of Dunnottar and South and will move on more rapidly once both congregations have their year-end finances cleared by the end of March. Consultations on the Basis of Adjustment (a Church document) with both Sessions will produce a final version that will go before Presbytery and both Congregations in the same way as the Deferred Linkage document discussion was done in 2006 – for those who can remember!

Both congregations will vote on the document and if this vote is “for” the Basis of Adjustment, and Presbytery concurs with this decision, it will arrange for a Service of Union to be held. We know that Rosslyn will leave later in 2018 and it would be great if we can achieve this union before she demits as our Minister.

Thanks for your support for 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. All very enjoyable but hard work for Rosslyn.

Brian Sim, Session Clerk

MOTHERING SUNDAY

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Most of us know that, in the UK, Mothering Sunday comes in March, the fourth Sunday in Lent, but perhaps the reason for this ancient custom is not so widely known. The old custom began long ago when servants and apprentices learning their trades were traditionally given a day off to visit their mothers at this time of year.

Although Sundays were always observed as rest days by the upper classes, they were by no means a day of rest for domestic servants and apprentices. They might be free from most of their household tasks a little earlier than usual, or – in the case of an apprentice – he might not be found in his master's workshop that day but instead would carry out other menial duties for the household to which he was bound.

However, it was customary to allow these young folk a holiday in mid-Lent, so that they might be able to visit their homes and also to take small gifts with them for their mothers. The girls would usually bake a small cake if cook would allow, and the boys gathered posies of wild flowers from hedgerows and fields.

The custom has lingered on over the years. In many parishes nowadays, special services are held for children to come with their mothers, either bringing with them a small posy of flowers for the priest to bless, or to receive a posy at the church door to take home.

The cakes made by those young girls so long ago were called Simnel cakes and for hundreds of years now they have been associated with Mothering Sunday. Today's Simnel cakes have very little in common with the first original ones which consisted of an outside pastry case which, when cut, revealed a rich plum cake mixture heavy with many different fruits and peel.

Nobody is quite certain how the cake was named Simnel but there is an amusing old legend telling how an old man called Sim and his wife Nell apparently first thought of the mixture and then quarrelled violently as to whether it should be baked or boiled! At last they decided to compromise and use both methods, boiling the cake first and then finishing it off by baking it a short while in the oven. Since they had both shared in its invention they called it a Sim-Nell cake.

We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.

Vince Lombardi

SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday 13th February 2018 is Shrove Tuesday, which is always the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which in turn is the first day of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent. According to Christian tradition, Lent commemorates the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness so observant Christians marked this event by fasting. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them.

In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shroving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday, as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

Pancake races have been held in England for more than 500 years. Some sources suggest that they may have started in 1445. One old English custom associated with Pancake Day was the annual pancake grease at London's Westminster where schoolboys would fight for pancakes to gain monetary awards. Another tradition was Mischief Night, where some people would go into houses in disguise and ask for pancakes.

People who take part in the pancake races carry thin pancakes in frying pans and must race to the finish, flipping pancakes as they go. The winner is the first to the finish line with a pancake that is not burnt. Some people may take time off work to participate in the pancake races.

The Olney Pancake Race is held at Olney in Buckinghamshire on Shrove Tuesday. It is one of the best-known pancake races in the United Kingdom. The course for the Olney Pancake Race is about 415 yards long (about 379 meters). Competitors must wear traditional costumes that include a skirt, apron and head covering to run the race. Official Olney and Liberal prizes are then presented at a Shroving service in the parish church after the race is finished.

Enjoy the pancakes if you make them..and think of their origins as you do!

QUIZZES / DUST IF YOU MUST

QUIZZES

DECEMBER/JANUARY: The winner of the Christmas quiz was Lavinia Hodge. A prize is on its way. The answers are as follows:

1 Green, 2 Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, 3 Away in a Manger, 4 The Nutcracker, 5 A one horse open sleigh, 6 Cranberry, 7 10 Lords a leaping, 8 Blue, 9 Away in a Manger, 10 The ox and the lamb, 11 The first Noel, 12 Boney M, 13 The Christmas Tree, 14 Three French hens, 15 Underneath his beard so snowy white, 16 Above the deep and dreamless sleep, 17 White Christmas, 18 It came upon the midnight clear, 19 The holly tree that will be on your door, 20 On the feast of Stephen, 21 Still the night, holy the night, 22 The Christmas Song, 23 Holly, 24 Let it snow, 25 Deck the Halls, 26 "westward leading still proceeding", 27 Sunday, 28 I saw mummy kissing Santa Claus underneath the mistletoe, 29 Do they know it's Christmas, 30 All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, 31 Santa Baby, 32 O Holy Night, 33 Once in Royal David's City, 34 A pear tree, 35 Jingle Bells, 36 Seven Swans a Swimming, 37 O Tanenbaum, 38 You'll go down in history, 39 Hark the Herald Angels Sing, 40 God rest ye merry gentlemen, 41 Infant holy, infant lowly, 42 When a child is Born, 43 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, 44 O Little town of Bethlehem, 45 Come thou long expected Jesus, 46 See him lying on a bed of straw, 47 Little Drummer Boy, 48 Six types of birds - partridges, French hens, turtle doves, calling birds, geese and swans. 49 Figgy pudding, 50 Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

FEBRUARY: This month's quiz is all about animals. We hope you enjoy it!

DUST IF YOU MUST

Dust if you must but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed
Ponder the difference between want and need.

Dust if you must but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb.
Music to hear and books to read,
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair.
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.
This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go-and go you must-
You yourself will make more dust.

Anon

GEMS OF MISINTERPRETATION

BIBLE STORIES AS SEEN BY CHILDREN-UNEXPURGATED!

- In the first book of the Bible, Guinness's, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day but a ball of fire by night.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- The seventh commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery'
- Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- The people who followed the Lord were the 12 decibels.
- St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony which is another name for marriage.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.
- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.

Taken from Dunnottar Guild Mixed Spice. Winter 2004

SPELL CHECK

I have a spelling chequer,
It cane with my pee sea.
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot sea.
Eye strike a quay and right a word,
And weight for it to say
Weather eye am wrong oar wright,
It shows me strait away.
As soon as a mist ache is maid,
It nose bee fore two late,
And eye can put the error rite.
Its rarely, rarely grate.
I've run this poem threw it,
Im shore your pleased to no
Its letter perfect in its weigh,
My chequer tolled me sew!

(Sauce unknown)

A WEE SMILE

Jim asked his friend, Tony, whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day.

'Yes,' came the answer from Tony who was a bit of a chauvinist, 'I've bought her a belt and a bag.'

'That was very kind of you,' Jim added, 'I hope she appreciated the thought.'

Tony smiled as he replied, 'So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.'

The teacher said to Johnny "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny replied "Seven." "No, listen carefully" said the teacher "If I gave you 2 cats, and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" "Seven." said Johnny:

"Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you 2 apples, and another 2 apples and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny said "Six."

"Good." said the teacher. "Now if I gave you 2 cats, and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

"Seven!" said Johnny.

"Johnny" said the teacher "where on earth do you get seven from?" "I've already got a cat!" Johnny replied.

A young man was showing off his new flat to his friends. "What are the big brass gong and the hammer for?" asked one.

'It's a talking clock" said the young man. Saying this he proceeded to give the gong an ear-shattering bang with the hammer. Someone screamed from the other side of the wall. "Knock it off you idiot. It's 2 o'clock in the morning."

Every night a couple were kept awake by the barking of their next-door neighbour's dog. Finally the man had had enough and jumped out of bed. 'Right!" he said. "I'm going to teach them a lesson." So saying he ran downstairs and came back 5 minutes later.' What did you do?" asked his wife. "I've put the dog in *our* garden. Let's see how *they* like it"

Some tourists in the natural history museum were looking at the dinosaur bones. One of them asked the guard "How old are these bones?" "Three million and four years and six months" replied the guard.

"Good heavens" said the tourist. "How do you work out the age so precisely?"

"Well" said the guard, "they were three million years old when I first started working here and that was about four and a half years ago"

PRAYERS

A PRAYER FOR LENT

God, light in the darkness of our lives,
Your presence illuminates our drabness and shadow;
Even in the ordinariness of life
You break in with unrestricted love,
Overturning our cynicism and despair
With the crystal clearness of compassion.
Christ, light of our world,
Your presence brings sight to those whose vision is impaired;
In the cold and desolate places of our lives
you break in with unquenchable warmth,
Overcoming our careless indifference
With the dynamic passion of commitment.
Spirit of God, radiant source of light,
Your presence rekindles the fading flames of hope;
Into the emptiness and tiredness of our churchiness
you pour your invigorating kindness,
Overwhelming our resistance to change
With the winning smile of reassurance.
God of our Lenten journey,
Lighten our path with your brightness,
That the glow of your presence may sustain us to the end,
Becoming in us a beacon of hope for the world.
Through Jesus Christ our friend and saviour we pray,
Amen.

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THE MOTORIST'S PRAYER

Margaret Key found this prayer tucked in to a wallet belonging to her father.

O Lord, help me to drive with a steady hand, a sure eye and a perfect control, so that I might bring no harm to others using the same roads.

Thou art the author of life; therefore, I beseech Thee, permit me not to be the cause of the death of any one of those for whom Thou hast given Thy life.

Protect, O Lord, those who accompany me from every mishap or accident.

Teach me to make use of this machine for my fellowman's welfare and to curb my desire for excessive speed.

May the beauty of this world Thou hast created, together with the joy of Thy Grace, ever accompany me in my travels.

Amen

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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SESSION CLERK	Mr Brian Sim	762 038
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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
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