



Bay Blethers

Summer 2019

Summer Thoughts from The Bible



"For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah." (Psalm 32:4)

"Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. (Amos 8:1)

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh." (Matthew 24:32)

From the Editorial Group

The editorial group are happy to issue the latest news from the Parish. Everything is moving on and progressing as expected. Our preachers have kept us spiritually uplifted and we are thankful for their support. Our thanks also to all who have contributed to this issue. We hope the sun shines and we wish you an enjoyable summer season. ***Irene Manson & Lynne Macbeth.***

Note: Future contributions may be sent via e-mail to : bayblethers@gmail.com

Kinloss 'Knit & Natter' - *Kinloss Knit and Natter* (K&N) is going from strength to strength. We have our core group of attendees and regularly welcome visitors to the group. Our latest visitor is Marianna from Mozambique. Her son is serving in the Army so Marianna is in Scotland for 6 months to help her daughter in law and granddaughter. K&N has taken her out to various activities: day trips, coffee mornings, theatre and cinema trips to name but a few. Marianna has contributed to our charity blanket donations as well. We have also made jackets and hats for babies. Our group members work on their own projects as well as on charity donations. Some just come for the Natter (not the Knit!) We meet on Friday from 2pm until 4.30pm in the Culbin Room at Kinloss Church.

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Kinloss Church Coffee Mornings - Kinloss Church holds its monthly coffee morning on the last Thursday of each month from 10 until 12. This is a very social morning - lots of chat and sharing of news. Unlimited tea and coffee, scones and home baking are available for a donation of £3. Everyone is welcome.

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The Bible Fellowship Group (The BFG)

Continuing with our study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the Bible Fellowship Group, led by Rev Mary Munro, has been looking at current and relevant matters affecting the Church. What are the standards of behaviour we should expect among ourselves and fellow Christians? How might we learn consideration for the needs and thinking of other people? Over the years what has been on the list of things 'good Christians shouldn't do'? Have our taboos changed over the years and if so, why? In relation to our church's worship, complete the sentence 'I wish they wouldn't ...'. What things annoy us about the way the church worships together?

If you've not attended the BFG up to now, why not give it a try? You may be surprised at the candour of our conversations, all inspired by the Word of God. We don't always agree amongst ourselves, but we always respect each other's views and we listen to what each member of the Group has to say. Whatever is shared in the Group stays in the Group. When we finish our discussion of the evening's topic, we enjoy refreshments (usually cakes!) and catch up with pastoral matters affecting members of our church and the local community. We meet in Burghead, and welcome everyone from the four churches (Alves, Burghead, Findhorn and Kinloss), as well as anyone who might be visiting and who would like to join in the fellowship. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month starting at 7.00pm; we usually finish around 9.30pm. We will, though, take a break for July and August. A new venue for BFG meetings from September will be announced very soon! ***From September, the BFG will meet in Anne Milligan's home, 16 Forest Road, Burghead. Bob Johnson***

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A Summer Thought; For people all over the world, summer is a season filled with blessings. That starts with children, of course, since summer offers a long-dreamed-of break from school. Probably teachers feel the same way! But summer offers countless other blessings for those who know where to find them: summer blockbusters in cinemas, warm sand between your toes, barbecues, on your face - the list goes on and on. As you enjoy the many blessings of the summer season remember that these come from God. Have fun and thank Him, the Source of all good things. ***With apologies to [Sam O'Neal](#).***



The Charge's four Celtic Crosses were brought together again on Carsehill early last Easter Sunday morning.

The weather was kind and everyone was in good singing voice as we celebrated what our Faith was all about. Many thanks to Ian Rae for making the reuniting of our Crosses possible. Also to all who contributed to and who helped with the subsequent breakfast at Alves Church Hall afterward.

BURGHEAD GUILD

The Burghead Guild brought their Winter Session to a close with a greatly enjoyed Bring & Share Buffet. We are so fortunate to have access to such an abundance of choice of food and flavours and thanks must be given to the Catering Coordinators in bringing a successful end to the Guild Year.

The Annual General Meeting followed with the Office Bearers appointed for another year as Convenor & Secretary: E. Ogilvie, Vice-Convenor: A. Stewart, Treasurer: J. Milne, Catering Convenor: H. More, Vice-Catering Convenor: H. Main, Committee: A. Milligan & L. Taylor.

The hard work of members, the community of Burghead and the careful judgement of the Committee continue to provide the Guild with a healthy bank balance whilst still giving an opportunity to financially help others.

The Guild recently held a very successful Coffee Morning raising £483. Thanks to everyone who donated and supported this event. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and enables The Guild to continue to help Projects at home and abroad. This year we donated £400 to Burghead Church, £100 to The Awesome Club, £100 to the Sunday School and £50 to each of the six Guild Projects, namely Malawi Fruits, The Boys Brigade, Seema's Project (Vulnerable Street Children in India), Crossreach and The Sailor's Society. The Guild also makes donations to charities of choice of the Guest Speaker at our Meetings.

This year's 'Guild Week', which is to raise awareness in the community of the work of The Guild is to be held in September. We hope the Guild will continue to flourish in Burghead and we look forward to welcoming new members join us in Burghead Church Hall in September.

Elizabeth Ogilvie



The times

when you only see

One

set of footprints

in the sand

are the times when

He

carried you

The Changing Face of Ministers

To this day I can clearly remember meeting our new Curate; I must have been about 9 years old, it was 1942 or 1943 when Mrs Moore showed him into the room. A fairly tall young man, looking back now I think he must have been in his early twenties, however my two older brothers and myself were shocked as we were introduced to him by our parents. *'This is our new Curate'*, they said, as he stood tall, very thin and beaming at us in delight at our shocked faces, and after a few seconds my brothers started giggling. The reason for the shock and surprise was the mode of dress of the New Curate, long khaki shorts just touching his knees, lace-up sports shoes and ankle socks, plus what we now call a T-shirt .

It seemed that this young man was a wholehearted supporter of The Scout movement and the outdoor life in general. My parents admired him and supported the good works he did, and over the next ten years he became a regular visitor at 'Windyridge' (our home in Western Super Mare). Later, after the war, he would turn up unexpectedly, with bicycle and his sports outfit at 'Ramleh' our bungalow by the beach in Brean; he also he visited my parents at 'Braeside' when they moved to the Polden Hills.

Previously everyone we met who was connected to the church Ministry, had worn a dog collar at all times, and dressed in a black gown. Our new Curate was a very likeable young man and an excellent preacher. He didn't marry until he was sixty and it was only when I read The Daily Telegraph, about fifteen years ago, that I discovered he had died; according to his obituary, although he didn't marry until in his sixties, he had children and enjoyed over thirty years of a happy family life before dying in his nineties, still preaching. At the time he recorded as the longest-serving CofE preacher.

This made me think about preachers, and the changing face and daily dress of the ministry within the church. Quite by accident I discovered that during the 18th & 19th centuries, there were so many churches, each with their own Vicar or Rector. However, in rural areas congregations could be very small; thus, many ministers had a lot of spare time on their hands. Also country ministers at the time of the birth of Queen Victoria, were paid for by the land owners and farmers, many enjoying an excellent salary; therefore, most country vicars of that era had plenty of spare time.

To become a Vicar, you had to have a degree, and very few had a Degree in Divinity; in fact Classics was the most popular degree for a young, healthy man from a good family to study. Classics was a very enlightening and exciting course as it involved the study of Ancient Greek and Roman cultures; you could say it was an academic study of the birds and the bees, definitely nothing to do with being a Vicar or Minister for the Church! It seems these country vicars did not waste their time! For example Edmund Cartwright, rector of a small parish in Lancashire invented the Power Loom at the time of the Industrial Revolution and over 250,000 were in use in England alone at that time.

George Bayloon had a Parish in a remote corner of Yorkshire and converted the rear of his church into a hen house for his many chickens; he also became a self-taught authority in linguistics and compiled the first dictionary of Icelandic (?!!!!). In a parish near York, Laurence Sterne wrote popular novella's; one called *'The Life and Opinions of Tristan Shandy, Gentleman'* became very popular, a best seller of its times. A Dorset Vicar, Octavius Packard Cambridge, became the world's leading authority on Spiders, while not far away Reverend William Shepherd wrote *'A History of Dirty Jokes'*

Perhaps the most amazing of all was William Bayes from Tunbridge Wells; he was a very shy and hopeless preacher, but a very gifted mathematician who lived from about 1701 to 1761. Rev Bayes devised a mathematical equation that has come to be known as the Bayes' Theorem. People who understand the theorem can use it to work out complex problems. He never registered it, but after his death a friend sent it to the Royal Society in London in 1763. Bayes' Theorem was published in the Society's publication *'Philosophical Transactions'* with the title *'An Essay towards solving a problem in the Doctrine of chances.'* Strangely it became a milestone in the History of Mathematics. Today Bayes' theorem is used in modelling climate change, predicting the behaviour of stock markets, fixing carbon dates, plus many other subjects where the interpretation of probabilities is an issue.

William Buckland, who lived near Oxford, wrote the first scientific description of dinosaurs, he also became the world's leading authority on coprolites (fossilized faeces)! Reverend Jack Russell bred the famous terrier that now shares his name. It was not only through their hobbies that these clergymen made their name. All the following are a few of the sons and daughters of a father who decided to tackle a career as a clergyman; Christopher Wren, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Horatio Nelson, the Bronte sisters, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Cecil Rhodes, Jane Austin, and Lewis Carroll (who himself was ordained, but never practiced), To this list we must add our Prime Minister Theresa May who is the daughter of a clergyman.

Whilst Ordination required a University Degree, as we can see, the role of country clergy in the seventeen and eighteen hundred was very undemanding. Piety was not a requirement, even an expectation, and very few knew how to preach, or even offer inspiration or solace at that time! However, this system produced a group of people who were well educated, wealthy, and had a lot of time on their hands – many of whose works left important legacies to our modern world.

Perhaps we should go back to the days when a minister only had one church one parish, not three or four, what a lot of talent we are keeping bottled up, one Minister to one church in future please, we are destroying the real work of the ministry by overworking our ministers.
Angela M Oatridge BSc (Hons) BA.

The Awesome! Club

The Awesome! Club ended the 2018/19 Year with a reflection on Holy Week and Easter. The children became aware of the way the mood had changed in Jerusalem, nearly 2000 years ago, from the 'Hosannas' of Jesus' entry to the City on Palm Sunday, to the shouts of 'Crucify' on Good Friday, followed by the 'Alleluias' from the followers of Jesus at their realisation of Christ's Resurrection on The Third Day. We celebrated the Risen Lord with a special party supper and the children went home with their 'Real Easter Egg' to save for Easter Morning.

As leaders, we have learned so much from the children. On just their third meeting with us, in response to the big question, "*What do you think is great about God?*", our youngest child said, "*He has power over death.*" Such insight from one so young! One of our oldest children, who will be moving on to secondary school in August, told us that what they liked most about the Awesome! Club was that, "*We made learning about Jesus fun.*" Such moments as these provide all the reward we could ever want for the time and energy we have given as part of our ministries with the children of Burghead. With Moira and I moving away, the future of 'The Awesome! Club' now rests in the capable hands of Helen Main, Helen More, Pauline Ingram More, and Roland Dunn. ***The four of them will need help, and that is where you come in.*** First, you can pray for the work of Christ among the children of Burghead and its continuation and growth. Second, you can open your hearts and your minds to new ways the church can become a place of welcome to the children and their families, who no longer answer Christ's call to worship and ministry. ***Third, you can offer yourselves as leaders and supporters to give renewed strength to the leadership team.*** With God's help, we will!

As this will be my last 'Bay Blethers' article for The Awesome! Club, I would like to share a couple of personal memories that will stay with me. When Moira and I first helped in the Autumn of 2009, there were just six girls in 'The Awesome! Club'. For the craft activity, they were making a card to give to someone. I said to one of the girls, "*That's jolly good!*", and she replied, mimicking my obviously-English accent, "*Jolly good show!*" On a later occasion, by when the Club had grown considerably and included several boys as well as girls, we were doing a dramatic Bible reading. I was to be the 'Voice of God', and I positioned myself in the kitchen to speak through the hatch. I delivered my line with stentorian tones (like Brian Blessed!). One of the boys said to his neighbour, "*I'm scared!*" The other boy, to comfort him, said, "*It's just Bob*", in a very Burghead way with an extended vowel sound. And the first boy responded, "*I know it's just Bob, but I'm still scared!*" It's been a lot of fun!
Bob Johnson

CAN ANYONE HELP?

By any chance did Louis Bezuidenhout leave a copy of "***The Birth of the Christian Faith***", written by the Rev James McLeman (a former Minister at Burghead), with anyone when he and Elsie left the Parish for Dumbarton? ***If anyone can help could they please contact Eric Towns on 01343-835491.***

Alves & Burghead Sunday School Report.

At this time we have a lovely group of children, nine girls and one boy, the latter being very happy to be with his sisters and friends. There has been lots of excitement as two of the children have recently become big sisters! Eva, who is in P7, has not been able to help recently but hoping to come back after the summer holidays when she is in High School.

We had fun giving out flowers to all the ladies in church on Mothers' Day. We then discussed what Mothers' day means, making cards and discussing how Mothers' Day started. The children could not believe that working girls got so little time off and had to walk for miles to see their mothers on that special day to spend time in church with them.

The Easter story was also part of our programme. The children spent time learning about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and what happened leading up to the Crucifixion. The story of the woman finding the stone had been rolled away and Jesus was alive again was equated to the rolling of Easter eggs on Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday the children sang in church and Ali said a prayer. The children then handed out Easter eggs to the congregation.

The aim of our next lesson is to experience God's love through the story of David the Shepherd boy. We hope to make sheep which is appropriate to springtime. Moving into the last term before summer, we follow our programme, and look for ideas to round off the year with a picnic. *Helen Main*

VACANCY UPDATE

In last February's issue I advised you that of the progress we had made and the 'first steps' we had to take toward finding a new Minister. By the end of last March we had elected the nine members of our Charge's Nominating Committee. Under the convenership of Rev John Morrison, our Interim Moderator, their work will start soon. In the meantime, both Kirk Sessions are pursuing the possibility of a Locum Minister. If and when this possibility is realised, you will all be informed.

Since the Charge was last vacant, the guidelines for the preparation of our Parish Profile (ie our Charge's brochure, intend to attract potential candidates) have changed markedly. A 'rewrite' of the last version simply 'didn't cut it!' Both Sessions have therefore tasked Derek Thomson and myself with drafting a new one as quickly as possible. To that end, we now need photos of our worship and other church activities asap, preferably by e-mail, to Derek or me at (abcsessionclerk@aol.com). *Barrie Wallace*

Blankets for Overseas –Anne Milligan has advised us that 200 knitted wool blankets have now been sent abroad. However, any donations of wool would still be welcomed – please bring to Burghead Church on a Sunday.