



Bay Blethers

Autumn 2019



From the Editorial Group: As the nights draw in, and town and country take on the autumn look, we are again starting winter activities in the Charge. We are delighted to have Rev David Whyte among us every Sunday to lead us in worship. At this time, Lynne MacBeth has decided to stand down from the Editorial Group representing Findhorn and Kinloss - ***we hope someone will take her place to gather the articles from that part of the Charge.*** Do let us know if you are available by sending an email to c.i.manson@btinternet.com. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the information and articles in this issue.

REMEMBERING - It was with sadness that the congregation of Kinloss and Findhorn, and the Editorial Group learned of the demise of **Jim Hoseason**. Jim was one of the original members of the Editorial Group; his enthusiasm and expertise in writing were valuable to the work of the group. He was one of the authors the book published about our parishes. He collated the articles for Bay Blethers until his failing health prevented him from so doing. Jim was also a member of the Art Group at Kinloss, and led the exhibition about the war, which was staged in Kinloss Church Hall. The Editorial Group will greatly miss his input, his good humour and his enthusiasm. Jim's memory lives on in his writings. Our thoughts are with Sheila and Jim's family at this time.

The Editorial Group

BURGHEAD CHURCH GUILD

This Session's programme for the Autumn/Winter is:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
8 th October	Author C.S.Lewis	Rev. Geoff McKee
22 nd October	In the Garden	Liz McKnockiter
5 th November	Rescue Search Dogs	Stuart McIntyre
19 th November	Cookery Favourites	Alison Milne
3 rd December	Christmas Meal	
14 th January 2020	Scots Night	Dan Ralph
28 th January	Musical Recital	Brian Smith

ACTIVITIES IN KINLOSS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timings</i>
MONDAYS	Baby Bop	9.30-11.30am
	Slimming World	5-8pm
TUESDAYS	Yoga	9-11am
	Tango Dancing	6.30-9pm
WEDNESDAYS	Pilates	9.30-11am
	Karate	4-5.15pm
	Ballroom Dancing	6-10pm
THURSDAYS	Coffee Morning - Last Thursday each month	10-12 noon
FRIDAYS	Choir	10-11.30am
	Knit and Natter	2-4.30pm

IN THE ANNEXE - Wednesdays and Fridays - Art Group

Some Thoughts

Deuteronomy 24:19 - "When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Isaiah 40:8 – The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

DOES INDIA NEED CHRISTIAN AID?

In response to an appeal for Christian Aid for monies in support of projects in India, Rev Sheila Munro (as have many others) questioned the need for such funds being directed to such a 'wealthy' country especially one which could afford a space programme?.

The following was the Charity's response to her query:

"The UK has reduced aid to India dramatically. Most British aid goes to countries where the average person lives on less than a dollar a day. It also goes to fighting deadly diseases like Ebola and to ensuring that women and the most excluded people in the poorest parts of the world can become permanently independent. The aid that the UK gave to India in the past helped achieve amazing results. E.g. India recently celebrated 4 years of a Polio-free India, meaning 360 million Indian children are no longer at risk from this debilitating disease.

The amount India now spends on its space programme is not enough to lift out of poverty the half a billion people that live on less than £1.50/day. In fact, the space programme is only 0.34% of that country's central government expenditure. However, the space programme itself brought lasting benefits to the country, helping push the development of technologies that benefit wider society. For instance, India's meteorologists derive much of their imagery from indigenous satellites, which help predict the movement of cyclones across the country, saving lives.

Christian Aid still works in India because we go where people are in the most need and where we can make a lasting difference. We don't believe that people should be punished because of where they were born. Those we help are among the most marginalised and disempowered people in the country.

As we know from our tax work, not only is improving tax take within countries difficult, it is only part of the answer when global tax rules need much strengthening. And in some Middle Income Countries (MICs) such as India, it will be difficult to raise sufficient revenue from domestic tax to tackle poverty. So there is still a significant role for aid, but more importantly to support people living in poverty to hold their governments and decision-makers to account to tackle poverty and inequality - exactly the kind of work we do in our programmes, whether officially MICs or not. "

Rev Sheila Munro

BURGHEAD CHURCH GUILD

'Guilds Together' held its Annual Summer Rally at St. Gerardine's Church, Lossiemouth, last June. Helen More and Elizabeth Ogilvie enjoyed the company of Guild members from the area of Moray West - the Speaker was from one of the Guild Projects. The topic - *"Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia"* - was delivered, during which the work of the group was explained, together with how donations are making a great difference to this group. Guilds were thanked for their funding.

Guild Week took place in September; this was an opportunity for Guilds to showcase their work in the Church. We celebrated in Burghead with "Reflections" led by Mary Munro and Gospel Music from Ian Campbell. Tea, coffee, pancakes and cakes were greatly enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere.. It was encouraging to hear of new members and think of Guilds throughout the country celebrating the joy and friendship that Guilds share. This was particularly evident at the live-streaming of The Annual General Meeting from Dundee, which some of our members attended.

Guild Meetings restarted on the 24th September at 7pm in Burghead Church Hall. This year's theme is, *"Companions on the Road"*. The speakers chosen will reflect the companions we meet on our journey through life. Hopefully we will see you join us at our fortnightly meetings, coffee morning and carol service – details of these may be found on Page 2. All are welcome to attend.

A VERY GRAVE MATTER

My husband could never understand my fascination with graveyards, especially old ones. *"You've got a warped mind,"* he used to say; he never understood my fascination of graveyards. I think it was all to do with my interest in history and the people who lived, and (naturally) died long ago.

I have found amazing facts from just browsing around graveyards. For example, when we lived in Colombo, I discovered the grave of a Captain Leaowens, who had been the husband of Ann Leaowens (the woman who eventually became the Governess of the children of the King of Siam. Ann kept a diary which eventually was used as the basis of the film 'The King and I.'

In the same graveyard were many graves of British women and children who had died during the nineteenth century. However, what intrigued me was a grave of two little British boys who had died just five years before we moved to Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was then called. Why had they died, I wondered; was it a traffic accident? Were they bitten by a snake? There was no clue on the grave which was in a country area.

When we lived in Malaya I found the grave of the first wife of Raffles of Singapore; because of this I became very interested in Raffles, and read every book I could find about him and his life, which incidentally was very sad in the end.

Graves tell you the story about a place and about the kind of life people lived there; some have interesting sayings on them, like the one in Devon which said, "*Where ever you be let your wind flow free, for keeping it in was the death of me.*" Perhaps the most amusing is the grave of Captain Anthony Wedgwood (date unknown), which reads -

*"Sacred to the memory of Anthony Wedgwood
Accidentally shot by his gamekeeper while out shooting.
Well done thou good and faithful servant."*

I somehow think this is not how it is should be read; the moral of this is ***be careful what and how you have it inscribed on your grave stone!***

When we lived in Malaysia we often went down to Kuala-Lumpur, passing through a small village called Taiping. On the outskirts of the village was a war grave from the 1939-1945 war; it was in a beautiful setting with flowering trees and bushes; tropical birds were singing and it felt like paradise. I would love to have contacted the families of the young servicemen who were buried there to tell them what a beautiful place in which their loved ones had been laid to rest.

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, the grave of those who died on the Titanic, and whose bodies were recovered and laid to rest in graves forming the outline of a large sailing ship. Sadly, some have never been identified; however, it brings one closer to the tragedy of this beautiful liner and her unfortunate passengers. Also in the Halifax graveyard are the hundreds of graves of the townspeople who were killed in 1914 when a ship full of high explosives caught fire in the harbour. This ship should have been carrying a warning flag, which would have prevented her entering the main harbour. Naturally, the Halifax fire brigade went to assist; however, as the firemen boarded, the ship blew up, killing thousands of men, women, and children (who were on their way to school at the time). The whole centre of Halifax was flattened by the explosion.

Graveyards are the inspiration for writers, the answer to the hundred and one questions a historian might ask, and a reminder that none of us can live forever! Perhaps an appropriate final grave stone to quote is a modern one in Huddersfield cemetery on the grave of Emily White:

*Here lies the body of Emily White
She signalled left and turned right.*

By Angela M. Oatridge



Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch and
brings you in. (John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the
yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling
face. (Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:14)

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Burghead Sunday School - We are back to Sunday School with a small group of very enthusiastic, happy children. We have no new children in the group, but new members are welcome anytime. We continue with the Scripture Union syllabus; this session, our lessons are about King David, who was loved and looked after by God, and the path he followed from being a shepherd boy. Musical instruments are being used to practise for the harvest service. Brian, our organist, is assisting with recording music for our harvest song. We are indebted to Sheila for providing some scrap paper for the group. We are also excited about the beautiful crib, which is being made for the Sunday School Nativity at Christmas.

Helen Main

The 'Awesome Club' – The 'Awesome Club' has now merged with our Free Kirk neighbours into the jointly-run and resourced 'Explore and Awesome Club'. The new group got off to a good start on Monday, 9th September, with a large group of children. The story of Adam and Eve was narrated asking the question, "*Who is the promised serpent crusher?*" (Genesis 3 Verse 15). The answer was that God will rescue us from the promised serpent crusher. This story will be continued each week until December.

Each week a snack is served, followed by a video, some story time, a question and answer session, singing with actions, and finishing with craft, - all great fun! Please remember the children in your prayers, so that they may learn more through the stories in the Bible and come to know about Jesus and his love.

Helen More

Boys' Brigade - The Boys' Brigade has resumed in Burghead Church Hall on Wednesday evenings. There is now one Company comprising 16 Anchor Boys who meet between 5.00pm and 6.00pm, and 6 Juniors, who meet between 6.00pm and 7.30pm.

The Company will welcome any new recruits.

Jennifer Walker

MORAY FOOD PLUS NEEDS YOU!

Last Spring Moray Food Plus helped over 4,400 people. Supported by the local populace in Moray, and many local businesses, Moray Food Plus has been able to make a significant difference to a huge number of lives. The food bank's crisis service has been busier than ever with a **55% increase** in the number of people supported last year. It relies not only on food being donated, but on financial donations, to enable it to purchase foods that have run out as well as fresh produce and specialist foods. These financial donations help the organisation with its overheads. See: <https://morayfoodplus.org.uk/>

'THE CHURCH' - Poem By Harry Dolphin

It's nice to go to Church, when love is everywhere.
That enfolds you like a shawl, whenever you go there.
Where people get such joy, from being there as one.
To give thanks to Our God and Jesus Christ his son.
Sing wonderful songs of praise, in voices loud and clear.
And people passing by outside, will pause a while to hear.
To listen to our Minister and his sermon for today.
His reading from the Good Book and what it has to say.
Our Spirits once more lifted. Our Faith assured once more.
The 'God of Peace' goes with us, as we go out through the door.

BIBLE STUDIES

'The Bible Course' will be held in Findhorn Church Hall, every Saturday from 28th September to 16th November (ie 8 weeks) between 10.15am and 11.45 am. For more information, contact: *Findhorn bible fellowship@gmail.com*.

Bible Study, led by Mary Munro, is held on the second Monday of each month, at 7.00pm, in Anne Milligan's house (16, Forest Road, Burghead). The current topic is **"Talking Jesus"**, ie finding out how the Good News applies to ordinary life. All are welcome

Other Notices

The 'Burghead Singing Group', under the musical direction of Brian Smith (organist) has resumed its activities. The Group meets in Burghead Church on Thursday evenings, between 7.00pm and 8.00pm. All are welcome.

GOOD NEWS! - That which was missing has now been found! Eric Towns thanks the person who found it - the book means a lot to him – he is glad to have it back!

VACANCY UPDATE

After much work, the revised Charge Profile was approved by both Kirk Sessions at a joint meeting in Kinloss on Thursday, 5th September last. The Profile is now posted on each Parish's web site: *abcofs.org.uk* & *kinlossandfindhornchurch.org.uk*

The Vacancy is now posted under Presbytery reference number 35 on the Church of Scotland's own web site at:
https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/vacancies_and_volunteering/docs/vacant_charges.pdf

We now pray that our efforts will soon attract the interest of potential candidates.