



NOVEMBER 2019

## Congregations charge their minister to ... **Enjoy retirement!**

ON SUNDAY, October 27, the folks of Birnie, Pluscarden and Elgin High gathered in the High for a joint service to mark the retirement of their minister, the Rev Stuart Duff, and give thanks for his ministry.

Before coming to Moray, Mr Duff served as a missionary in the Philippines, and as minister in Easterhouse, Glasgow.

Following the introit, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed and the hymns chosen for the service were some of Stuart and his wife, Irene's, favourites.

After worship, a group photograph was taken before

a light lunch was served in the hall, which looked wonderful with the table covers and fresh flowers adding a bright and welcoming ambiance.

Stuart and Irene gave a warm welcome to everyone in the packed hall as members of the congregations joined in the celebrations, and after grace, sandwiches, hot sausage rolls and an array of 'fancy pieces' were served.

On behalf of the linkage, Alistair Farquhar, session clerk at Birnie and Pluscarden, led the speeches with a testimony to Stuart and Irene for their time with us. A cheque, together with a floral arrangement and retirement cake were presented to the couple.

The cake and floral arrangement were hand-made by two members of the congregations.

Before delivering a personal appreciation of her time working with Stuart, Paula Baker, parish assistant, thanked everyone involved in the



organisation and smooth running of the service and lunch. Mr and Mrs Duff (right) replied with their own vote of thanks for their enjoyable time with us and prayed God's blessing on the charge as it looks to the future.

There were many comments complimenting the whole event. The wonderful singing, the great buzz in the church and hall, the fellowship enjoyed, and, of course, the delicious lunch.

Hazel Dickson, session clerk at Elgin High, said: "Fellowship is what we excel at and, without thinking, we just crack on and do it.

"I would add my own personal thanks to all for the organisation and preparation; to everyone who attended the service and lunch; those who set up and cleared away and the very generous donations received.

"A huge thank you too for all of those who prayed. We take our prayers to heart, we do not see prayer as simply a series of requests that God will change the world



the way we want it. Rather, it is an active way of participating in God's plan.

"1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 NIV - Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

"May God's grace and blessings grant Stuart and Irene an abundance of joy and peace in their retirement."



# Bed down at Bellie and help the homeless!

**BELLIE CHURCH, Fochabers, is inviting folks to sleep under the stars to experience what it is like to be homeless**

The "Big Sleepout" is a global event which was held last year in big cities all over the world but, this year, we are being encouraged to hold more local sleep out events.

The money raised will go to help homeless people via the charity Social Bite. It involves participants experiencing sleeping outdoors and, this year, it will take place on the night of Saturday, December 7.

Church member Isabel MacLeod said: "We invite anyone interested in taking part to come and join the Sleep Out in Bellie Church garden

in Fochabers.

"A 'bedtime story', told by a famous supporter (last year it was delivered by Dame Helen Mirren), will be shown in the church hall during the evening.

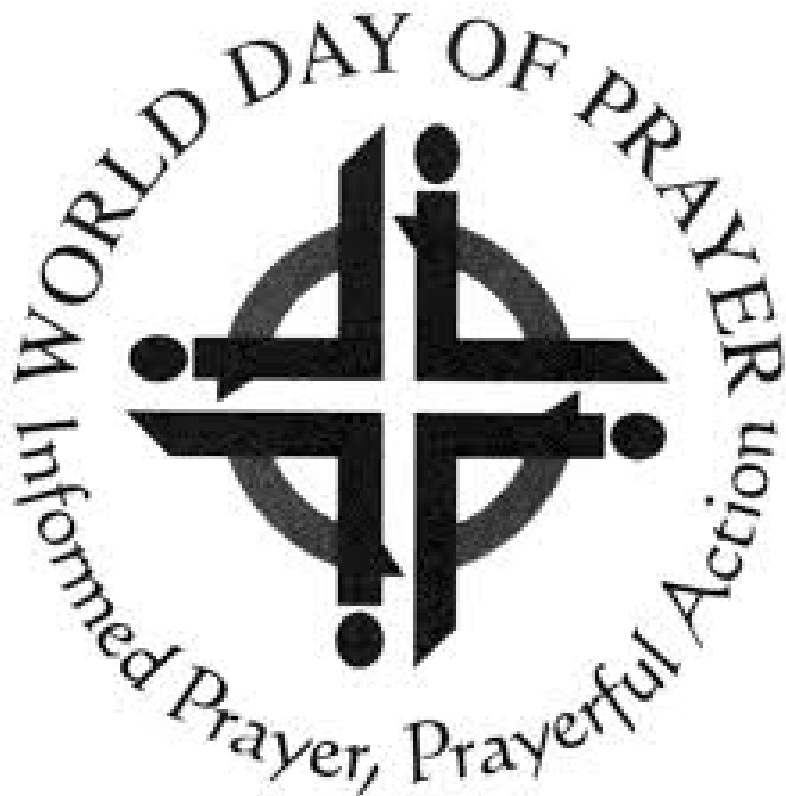
"Hot drinks will be available all night in the hall, where people can come for some heat if being out in the cold gets too much. A hot breakfast roll will be available in the morning."

All who take part are being encouraged to raise sponsorship of £40 or more per person.

Contact [bellieandspeymouth@gmail.com](mailto:bellieandspeymouth@gmail.com) for an information pack if you are up for the challenge and want to join in.



Social Bite is on a mission to bring Scotland together, to build a collaborative movement to end homelessness here. To do that we need to make houses available to the homeless, we need to fund a support resource for people to sustain their tenancies, and we need to integrate these vulnerable and marginalised people back into society – where they belong.



THE WORLD Day of Prayer is not just about one day in March when a service is held using the hymns, prayers and words of the writing country that help us to identify with the struggles of people around the world who suffer abuse, both physical and mental.

It is also about joining together with Christians every day and every year to show fellowship and faith, and that we do not live in isolation unaware of others struggles.

From June 12-19, 2020, the World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee will host an International Meeting with approximately 188 women from around the world.

As hosts, the Committee has agreed to pay for the conference rooms and various activities to show that Scotland is an active participant in support of women's groups universally such as 'Feed the Minds', HIV, Female Genital Mutilation and local charities of the writing country.

Many countries are unable to send a delegate because of the costs of accommodation and meals, but, because we are funding the meeting it enables the International Committee to support up to 40 women to attend.

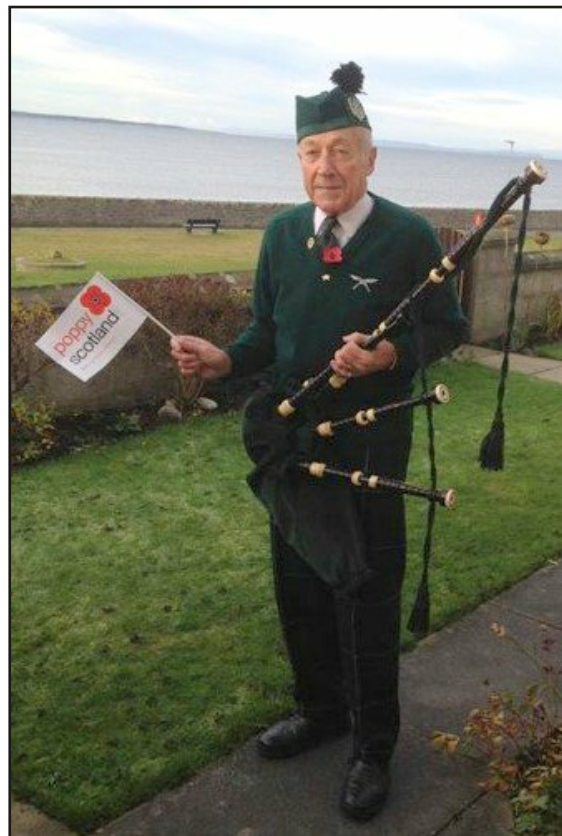
The Scottish Committee has joined with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to raise funds and would ask anyone who buys online to sign into this website and look for World Day of Prayer Scotland.

There are more than 4,000 companies who, when buying from them, will make a donation to WDP Scotland. These include insurance companies, travel, Ebay, etc.

On behalf of the Scottish Committee I would offer our thanks for your support in this venture.

**Suzanne Foster**

*Treasurer World Day of Prayer, Scotland*



A very successful coffee morning to raise funds for Poppy Scotland was held in Burghead Church hall. The event, organised by the church officer, Padraig Glendinning, assisted by the 'wonderful ladies' of the congregation, realised £1100 for the charity.

# *Christmas Praise Concert*

in

**ST JAMES' CHURCH**

**LOSSIEMOUTH**

**SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER 15**

**at 2.30pm**

*Free Admission :: Refreshments*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



*The weather is getting  
colder and there is  
nothing like a bowl of  
hot soup to warm the  
cockles of your heart*



Come along and join us in

# **KNOCKANDO CHURCH**

on the last Wednesdays of November,  
January, February and March from  
12 noon to 2pm for a

# **WINTER WARMER**

*A warm welcome  
awaits you*



**SOUP :: HOME-MADE SCONES  
LOTS OF TEA/COFFEE and BISCUITS**



## Warm welcome awaits Jaco at Portknockie and Findochty

THE REV Dr Jaco Boonzaaier (left) will be inducted to the charge of Port-knockie and Findochty on Friday, November 28, at 7pm, in Portknockie Church.

Dr Boonzaaier originates from South Africa and came to Scotland in January 2014 working as Assistant Minister at St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Stirling for a year. He is married to Moya and they have two daughters, Simone and Monique.

Before his move to Scotland, he spent 18 years as a minister with the Dutch Reformed Church in Namibia and South Africa. He holds a BA from Potchefstroom University in South Africa, a BD from the University of Pretoria and an MDiv. Masters' degree covering the ethics and theology of the New Testament.

Dr Boonzaaier translates to the Moray charge from Broxburn Parish Church.

---

# WANTED

## MISSION

# *praise*

## HYMNBOOKS

To expand its repertoire, **Keith North Church** is looking for used copies of Mission Praise (words edition paperback would be fine) and is asking if any church in the Presbytery has some to spare. Around 75 copies would be good. The church would be more than happy to make a donation for them.

**If you can help with this request, contact the Church Office, 192 Mid Street, Keith AB55 5BQ, Tel: 01542 886390, e-mail: [knnbrchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:knnbrchurch@btconnect.com) or the session clerk, Krista Brown, e-mail: [k80wrn@gmail.com](mailto:k80wrn@gmail.com)**