



Bay Bletchers

Spring 2020



HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the
Lord has made;
We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV

From The Editorial Group: As we write in the month of February, the season of Lent has started. This is the time starting on Ash Wednesday (26th February this year) to Easter Sunday, a total of 40 days. This is the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. At this time we can give up something in our lives. Fasting also shows how much we depend on things. Fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain from food for medical reasons It might also include abstaining or limiting time watching television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, random acts of kindness or giving more time to prayer and bible study. ***Make Lent count this year!*** As well as Lent, we are noticing signs of Spring: longer daylight, snowdrops and daffodil shoots. We look forward to Spring and the Easter season.

BURGHEAD CHURCH GUILD

This Session's programme for the remainder of this Session is:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
Tuesday - 25 th Feb	'My Job'	Christopher Harris
Friday – 6 th Mar	World Day of Prayer @ Hopeman Church	
Tuesday - 10 th Mar	'My Ministry Pilgrimage'	Jean Forbes
Tuesday – 24 th Mar	AGM & 'Bring and Share' Supper	
Saturday – 18 th Apr	Coffee Morning @ Burghead Church Hall	
Monday – 1 st June	Summer Rally @ Dyke Church	

ACTIVITIES IN KINLOSS

During the week the following activities are held in Kinloss Church. Baby Bop, Slimming World, Tango Dancing, Pilates, Keep Fit, Ballroom Dancing, Singing for Peace, Art Group, Knit and Natter, monthly coffee morning (last Thursday of the month). The church is available for Birthday Parties and rehearsal space for theatre groups. There are no regular bookings for Findhorn Hall at the moment but can be made by contacting Corrinne.

News from Findhorn, Kinloss Parish – 'Ramblings of a Session Clerk'

When I undertook the role of Session Clerk, I did not fully realise the responsibility that came with it. There was a huge amount to learn and it was only with the help and support of a past Session Clerk and also more experienced Elders that I survived and am surviving! Mistakes have been many, things left undone which should have been done but on the whole we muddle through.

Life is never easy when churches are in vacancy. Congregations have to adapt and be prepared to accept changes to the usual routine of things. Congregations have to work together to ensure smooth running of all things connected to the life of the church.

In Kinloss and Findhorn, thanks to great support and unity from all the church community we are adapting and trying to make our situation work for we hope the benefit of all.

Corrinne Davies

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

It is now over a year since we set out on our journey together, when I was asked to take over as interim moderator due to Barry Boyd going off on sick leave.

In that time much has happened in the churches, much in the day to day running and much in the leadership roles.

We have had those who have stepped down or back from roles they have served in and we offer them our thanks for all they have done that has been of benefit to the worship and the witness of the congregation.

And there have been others who have taken on new roles in service, for them we ask God's loving guidance upon them in all they do to serve him in this community.

In ministry we were blessed by the steady ministry of Rev. David Whyte for a large portion of 2019. We were sorry when he found it to be too demanding for him to continue and stood down at the end of the year. We thank him for all his input and wish him well for the future.

Though it all took a while to sort out, for various reasons, we were glad to see the nominating committee formed and take on the role of searching for a new minister to lead us in the years to come. I'm sure you will join with me in wishing them every blessing as they seek to know the will and guidance of God leading them to the right person for the charge.

I fully appreciate that it can at times seem very frustrating, for those not on the committee, as you can see nothing happening outwardly. However, be assured that the committee is working very hard on your behalf as they explore every avenue open to them and follow church procedures in order to ensure things are done properly. They will not, nor are they permitted to, reveal anything in regard to persons who have or have not shown interest in the charge. When the day does come that they are able to present a candidate to the congregations that will be the first time you will hear any true information regarding a potential minister.

What each and every one of us can and should be doing is upholding them in our prayers and asking God to bring his desired leader to us in his time.

During the year it was most gratifying to see the return of the Boys Brigade Company to Burghead Church and we wish them and their leaders every encouragement and blessing in the work they do.

I thank each and every one of you for your continuing support of the church in all it seeks to do locally, with or without a full time minister in place we still have a very important role to play in the worship and witness of this community

May God bless you and keep you safe in all you do and be your one true guide in life always.

Rev John Morrison - Interim Moderator

THREE NEW ELDERS AT ALVES & BURGHEAD



Rev Morrison (Interim Moderator) with Alves & Burghead's three new Elders – from left to right: Eric Towns, Anne Milligan and Janet Ralph.

Dates for your Diary

10th April – Good Friday Service at Kinloss at 7.00pm – Rev John Morrison

12th April – Easter Sunday:

- 8.00am - Service at Carsehill followed by b'fast in Alves Church Hall.
- 10.00am – Service in Kinloss Church.
- 11.30am – Service Burghead Church.

19th April – Communion Service in Burghead Church at 11.30am.

7th June – Communion Service in Alves Church at 11.30am.

Finally, a concert in Findhorn Church is planned for May – more details to be announced in the future.

A 'FULL' KIRK AT BURGHEAD!



The Burghead Primary School's Christmas Concert packed the Church last December.

A SHORT PRAYER

There is real wisdom, Lord, in the adage
'It is always Springtime in the heart that loves God.'

Springtime is a season of optimism and hope,
and the Christian lives a faith centred on hope.

Winter, with its cold and dark days has gone,
just as Good Friday will pass to Easter and beyond.

We live a resurrection life
reflected in the new life springing up around us.

Thank you, Lord, for the hope that you bring,
the renewal that you bring,
both to this world and to our hearts and lives.

THE BURGHEAD SINGING GROUP



BURGHEAD GUILD

Burghead Guild continues to thrive with our meetings well attended and we are regularly joined by the ladies from the Free Church. Since November we have appointed a new convenor and treasurer.

In December we were joined in our Christmas meal with the ladies from the Free Church. Thirty nine of us in all enjoyed a great meal, great company, shared fellowship and the evening was rounded off by singing carols. The Guild also hosted a Christmas Carol Concert in our church on the 7th December with music from the 'Culbiners'

Entering into not only the New Year but a new decade we have already enjoyed a Scots Night with entertainment from Dan Ralph and his friends, and a musical evening led by Brian Smith, our organist, supported by the Church Singers. We look forward to hearing a great variety of talks at our future meetings with diverse subjects such as My career in Nursing by Liz Tait, my Ministry Pilgrimage by Jean Forbes and my work in the Police by Chris Harris. Our Guild year will culminate in a shared supper and AGM in March and rounding off with our fundraising Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th April 2020.

Angie Stewart

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Burghhead Sunday School - Our Sunday School bairns have had a great but busy period with their Christmas party - a visit from Santa which was a great success, and also our Nativity. As we have eight great bairns and as they are quite young, our singing was enhanced by the Church Singing Group which was a tremendous help and enjoyed by all.

Starting in our new year we have continued on from Jesus' birth to his life as a child and young boy. We have just covered the story of Jesus in the Temple. This was intriguing as we covered the concept of God's house and our Father's house. We move on to His baptism. With Easter just around the corner, this will be the main focus for our Sunday School for the month of March leading up to the holidays.

Angie Stewart

Awesome Club - At the end of last term, the Awesome Club had learned that it was Jesus who was the promised serpent crusher, but how could this little baby that we celebrate at Christmas crush the serpent, and sin, and death? Well, this term the Awesome Club are looking at Jesus' life in Matthew's gospel. We're seeing that Jesus is an amazing teacher with incredible power over nature, and able to heal the sick. But, most importantly, we have seen that Jesus has the power of forgiving sins and, as we head towards Easter, we're going to see how Jesus crushed the serpent at the cross and dealt with our big problem of sin and death. It is a joy to see the children come week by week to hear these true stories from the Bible and begin to piece together God's big plan for the world. They also get stuck into the games, songs and crafts that help us understand these things and have lots of fun.

The Awesome Team

Boys Brigade - This is a busy time for us all in the Boys' Brigade with many competitions to be attended. We are in the middle of our Bible picture for the Anchor Boys. The Junior Boys have to write an essay. We have attended a Swimming Competition in Lossie, where our lads meet members from other companies. We emphasise it is the taking part, and not the winning, which is important.

Jennifer Walker

SPRINGTIME – A Poem by Harry Dolphin

Springtime – A
Life has returned to the tree again
Just as I hoped it would be.
Leaves have appeared on the branches
Just as I knew that they should.
Birds are nesting in the trees
Singing their own sweet song,
Back from those lands so far away
To the home where they belong.
Flowers are beginning to bloom.
Opening to the light,
Filling the garden with fragrances,
And colours oh so bright.
The buzzing of the bees I hear once more,
And watch butterflies landing on flowers.
The sun shines in a clear blue sky,
And I wonder at God's great powers.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study Group meets on the second Monday of the month at 16, Forest Road Burghead at 7pm. Mary Munro takes the meeting. At present the theme is ways of "*Talking Jesus*". Meetings are informal and friendly. Please come along, join in the discussion and enjoy refreshments.

SING ROUND THE BAY

I have enjoyed greatly playing the organ at Burghead Kirk since August last year, and I thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. A particular pleasure is working with the Singing Group. A dozen or so in number, we meet weekly to sing together, learning new material that we can sing as a musical element in Sunday worship .

Usually the pieces are quiet and reflective, and not overlong. So far, we have learned ten or so pieces (excluding Christmas material), and aim to learn a new piece every week. The presiding minister or leader chooses what to sing, if they so wish.

I was very pleased that the Singing Group joined me on 28th January to take part in a Musical Evening for the Burghead Guild and guests. This gave the Group the opportunity to sing five of their pieces for an appreciative audience. It has been good to see the Group grow in confidence, and this bore fruit at that musical evening.

We meet at 2pm each Friday in Burghead Kirk. New members are very welcome to give us a try!

Brian Smith - Organist Burghead Church