



Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland

Kirk Newsletter - Spring 2024



The Crossroad

The road was hard, no turning back,
The way ordained by mighty God.
'Your will, not mine' was all He said,
As humbly down that path He trod.

The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die,
They chose Barabbas in his stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

Between two thieves on Calvary's hill
They put to death the Prince of Life
One cried for help, the other cursed.
The first was promised Paradise.

This promise now is for us all:
Christ gave His life to set us free.
The Cross divides, it always will -
The question is: what side are we?

*By Megan Carter
(courtesy of Parish Pump)*

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of the Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland Newsletter.

The Communication & Publications Group has taken onboard the feedback received on the first issue of the newsletter. So you will see a few changes with this issue. The content is evolving, our aim is to inform, communicate, stimulate and inspire.

As always your comments on the style and content of the newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions on a new name for the newsletter.

What a blessing it is to have our full team of Ministers! I believe everyone in the parish appreciates their different styles and enjoy hearing stories and events from their backgrounds at the weekly church services.

Looking back, much has been achieved across the parish, there remains a lot to do but steady progress is being made thanks to the dedicated and skilled people working within and supporting the Local Leadership Teams (LLT's). It is hoped that everyone involved enjoys the journey.

In this edition amongst other articles you'll find:

- A letter from the manse at Monymusk.
- The Old, Old Story – An Easter Reflection by Rev. Neil Meyer
- An interesting tale from one of the residents at Littlewood Court.
- Information on children's activities and upcoming events.
- Details of Holy Week Services across the parish.
- On the back of the newsletter is a map showing the location of the churches within Bennachie Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the contributors and to thank in advance all those involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter.

Newsletter Editor

E-Newsletter: If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail please let us know by contacting the church office on 01467 643883 or by e-mail to office@bennachieparish.church

Online Newsletter: To view this magazine online please go to: <https://www.bennachieparish.church> and click on NEWSLETTER in top banner.



A Letter from the Manse at Monymusk



Dear Parishioners,

At new year many people make resolutions which they hope will change their lives for the better during the year ahead. I often think about going on a diet (obviously never worked!) or doing something amazing or silly and usually after a few days or even a week I have broken my resolution.

This year however, I have made a major change which I am glad to say I am managing not to break. I have decided that I won't be working as hard as I have done in the past. That is not a resolution you may think, that is just him being lazy, but actually, a strange thing has happened. I find that I get through more work because I am more relaxed and not trying to do too much. I allow myself time off from work, sometimes two full days in a week (occasionally), just to recharge my batteries.

As I approach retirement (a maximum of 18 months from now), I decided that I wanted to be able to enjoy my work until I retire and not see it as a chore. Working in the new pattern among all the places of worship and with colleagues in a team ministry is different for me and no doubt for you too. I am enjoying it more than I ever thought I would and it's important that busy though we all are, as we transition into the new parish of Bennachie, that none of us work to burnout.

This is as important for church members as it is for the ministry team. It's taken me too long in my ministry to realise that if God wants something done then the workers will be found. If we can't get people to do things then maybe we look to do something else.

Over the last few years people have been hesitant at times to contact me because they thought I was "too busy". No more! Please feel free at any time to contact any of the ministry team and we will try to help in any way we can. I don't want us to be too busy for our members.

We hope to appoint a church administrator early in the year and she or he will help ease the administration load which will be helpful to all the ministry team.

Why am I telling you all this you may wonder, well sometimes I think our world has gone nuts with the expectations placed on people in work, out

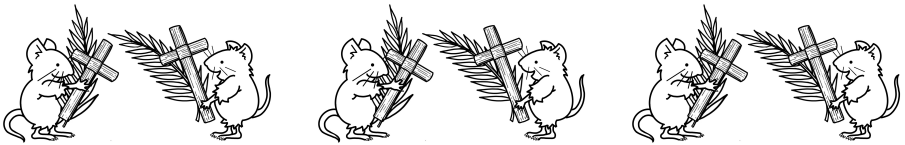
of work and in retirement. We need to be able to slow things down and have time for our families our hobbies and our church.


I am sure that God did not make us as some sort of non-stop robot working all the hours he gives us - he told us to have a day of rest after all! He wants more from us than working all the hours that we have. Easy to say but hard to do. I hope that you will be able to find time to be with your family, with your church and in your hobbies in this year ahead.

I wish you and yours every blessing at this time.


Euan


Bennachie Parish Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Tel: 01467 643883
email: office@bennachieparish.church





Bennachie Parish Church Prayer and Praise Chain





If you or someone you know is in need of Prayer support, it is our privilege to help.
Please send an email to : prayerrequest@bennachieparish.church

- Please, if possible, have the consent of those for whom the prayer is requested.
- Please provide the wording of the prayer to ensure that all are praying for the exact same thing.
- People can give as much or as little detail (e.g. name or initials) as they wish.

This is a confidential service. No information will be shared outwith the Prayer Chain members.



Bennachie Parish Church Services



**Services will take place in the parish churches
at 10am each Sunday.**

Some Services are webcast live on the local churches
YouTube channels and/or facebook page.



Access Bennachie Parish Church at Services Live WebCasts

At Kemnay

<https://viewservice.kemnayparish.church>

At Kintore

Zoom Meeting ID: 838 9692 5396 Passcode: 712200

At Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch

<https://www.youtube.com/@blairdaffchapelofgariochch7337/live>

What's on in Bennachie Parish Church?



Scan the QR Code below to play the Bennachie Parish Church 'What's on' Video.

How to use:

If you have a smart phone or iPad etc. switch on the Camera App and point the camera at the QR Code - you should then see a button or link to press to view the current version of the what's on video. The video

is updated on Friday each week.



The Old, Old Story – An Easter Reflection

Tell me the story slowly, That I may take it in - That wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin;

Tell me the story often, For I forget so soon.

- Kate Hankey



And so we reach Easter. It is time to deck the churches with fresh flowers, Easter bonnets and maybe even a chocolate egg or two. Just as the long cold days of winter give way to the longer, lighter days of spring, so the penitent season of Lent – in which we gave up chocolates or social media or, in my case Brussels sprouts – gives way to the dazzling light of Easter Morning. And we'll tell again the "Old, Old Story" of Jesus' Resurrection. Except that we won't.

Instead, we tend to tell cleaned-up stories of Jesus at Easter. Laced in high theology of the wonder of Resurrection we usually try to emphasize the transition from earth to heaven. "If Jesus could make it out alive and become good enough for heaven – you can too!" we seem to say. Depictions of the Resurrected Jesus in art show him aglow with holiness and perfection. We want him to look impressive. It's also the picture we imagine of what we should be like once we are saved / redeemed / become Christian / heaven-bound. It's funny though, because the Bible tells us that Mary, the one person who actually did see him at his Resurrection, mistook Jesus for the gardener. No disrespect to gardeners, but most gardeners are less likely to be resplendent in white robes, attended by hosts of angels, and more likely to have dirt on their overalls and under their nails. Maybe Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener because he was still covered in the dirt from his own tomb.

Lutheran pastor, Nadia Bolz-Weber points out that the Easter story is not about Jesus becoming impressive and shiny, but about him becoming new. Similarly, the Good News of the Resurrection is not about us being made nicer, but about us becoming new. And, as anyone who has ever held a

newborn baby knows, “new” is often messy and fragile. As Bolz-Weber puts it:

“New looks like recovering alcoholics. New looks like reconciliation between two family members - neither of which actually deserve it. New looks like every time I manage to admit I was wrong and every time I manage to not mention when I’m right. New looks like every fresh start and every act of forgiveness and every moment of letting go of what we thought we couldn’t live without and then somehow living without it anyway. New is the thing you never saw coming ...never even hoped for, but ends up being what you needed all along and it happens to all of us. Because God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and pulling us out of the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.”

This Easter may you take the time to hear or read again the old, old story of God’s love in Jesus. And, messy as it may be, may you find a new beginning – however you may be longing for it.

Rev Neil Meyer



Thursday Drop-in at Kintore

Kintore
Church Hall
from
10 - 2.00pm

Coffee and bakes,
soup served from
11.30am



Food Bank Donations welcome



Bennachie Parish
Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity No. SC014790

Worship for Holy Week 24th - 31st March

Palm Sunday – Sunday 24th March

A joint parish-wide service for the start of Holy Week
Kemnay Church at 10am

Monday of Holy Week – Monday 25th March

Worship with Inverurie and District Churches Together
West Church, Inverurie (West High Street) at 7.30pm

Tuesday of Holy Week – Tuesday 26th March

Worship with Inverurie and District Churches Together
West Church, Inverurie (West High Street) at 7.30pm

Wednesday of Holy Week – Wednesday 27th March

Worship with Inverurie and District Churches Together
West Church, Inverurie (West High Street) at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday – Thursday 28th March

'Walk the Stations of the Cross'
Echt Church from 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm

Good Friday – Friday 29th March

Good Friday 'Procession of Witness' – Starting at 8am from

the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady (114 North Street, Inverurie), the walk will conclude at the Bass. A bacon butty breakfast will then be served at St Andrews Church.

Good Friday – Friday 29th March cont.

A Tenebrae Service to mark the events of Good Friday
Chapel of Garioch Church at 7pm

Easter Sunday

Chapel of Garioch Church:

10am: Family worship for Easter Sunday

Echt Church

9am-9.15am: A short service of Holy Communion
9.20am-10am: Easter Breakfast in Echt Hall
10am: Worship for Easter Sunday

Kemnay Church:

8.30am: A short service in the Easter garden at the Church Centre, followed by bacon rolls, tea and coffee
10am: Worship for Easter Sunday – a service for all ages

Kintore Church:

9am: Service of Holy Communion in the Kintore Church garden
10am: Worship and Holy Communion for Easter Sunday
2.30pm: Easter Mini Messy Church in Kintore Church Hall

Monymusk Church:

10am: Family worship for Easter Sunday



**Children and Family Groups
for all Families in the Parish
- What's on this Easter -**



Kemnay

Sun 17th, 24th and 31st March

Kemnay Kirk Kids do Easter
Kemnay Kirk 10.00 -11.00

Sunday 24th March

Easter Egg Hunt for all ages
11.10

Church Centre Gardens

24th March-21st April

Trueway Kids Easter Trail all ages
in the Church Centre Gardens

Fridays 15 and 22nd March

Little Lambs do Easter Kemnay
Church Centre 9.15-10.30
£2 per family

Cluny and Monymusk

Sunday 17th March

Meeting in Monymusk Hall at
10.00. Beginning the Story of
Easter

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday at Kemnay Kirk

Sunday 31st March

Family Service at Monymusk
Church 10.00 am. Bring your
eggs to roll after the service.

Tuesday 19th March

mainly music Easter in the
Church

Kintore



Sunday 10th March

Messy Church
15.30 -17.30hrs
(Wedding at Cana)

Sunday 31st March

Mini Messy Easter
14.30 - 15.30hrs

**Family Services on Easter
Sunday**

take place at:

Chapel of Garioch Church
Echt Church
Kemnay Church
Kintore Church
Monymusk Church

all at 10.00 am

(See notices for other
services on that day)

Regular Sunday Groups

Kemnay Kirk Kids Weekly in term time 10.00-11.00 - Kemnay Kirk.
Contact Sarah - sarahearley@bennachieparish.church

Cluny and Monymusk Sunday School. For the whole family. We meet monthly in the church and the hall.

Contact Susan - susanreid@bennachieparish.church

Kintore Messy Church Meet monthly.

Contact Meta - metachalmers@bennachieparish.church

Weekday Groups - Babies and Pre-School Children

Monymusk mainly music Tuesday 1.30 -3.15 at Monymusk hall.
Songs, snack and play and cake. £3.00

Contact Susan - susanreid@bennachieparish.church.

Little Lambs Friday 9.15-10.30am at Kemnay Church Centre. Play, snack and a time for music. No waiting lists, just turn up and join the fun! £2 per family.

Contact Rita - ritacustard@bennachieparish.church

Future Dates

Sundays April 21st to June 31st	Kemnay	Topic following Roots material in Church. Sarah will let you know.
Sunday April 21st	Cluny	10.00 am Baptism in Church the miracle story of the man lowered down to see Jesus.
Sunday May 12th	Kintore	15.30-17.30 Messy Church. Crossing the Red Sea
Sunday May 19th	Monymusk	10.00 am Tose tells us about his home village.
Sunday June 9th	Cluny	10.00 am End of session Family Service.
Sunday June 9th 2.30 pm		Monymusk Park - Bennachie Church Family Picnic

Exciting
News for
the summer

HOLIDAY CLUB 2024

WHEN: Monday 12th to
Friday 16th August

WHERE: Monymusk Village Hall,
The Square, Monymusk

TIME: 10am till 12pm

AMPLIFY Promises of God

Songs, Bible Stories, Fun and Games
Challenges, Crafts plus Juice & Snacks

- * For **
- * children
- * ending
- * primary 1
- * to
- * primary 7

FREE

For more info or to book a place at AMPLIFY
Holiday Club please email Carole Horne:
carole_home@yahoo.com

AMPLIFY is organised by BENNACHIE PARISH CHURCH SC014790
and OUT OF THE BOX (SCOTLAND) LTD SC035701



The club will be led and run by the **OUT OF THE BOX COMPANY**, but we are looking for volunteers to help with registration, craft and catering and to work with small groups. Please contact Carol Horne:

carolehorne@bennachieparish.church

** Please note the age criteria

Minutes of Bennachie Parish Kirk Session held on 6th March 2024 at 6.45 for 7pm at Midmar Church. Items shared or discussed with no decision or actions are not included in this summary.

Constitution - Rev. Tose Shayamunda constituted the Kirk Session (Session) of the Bennachie Parish Church (BPC) and read from John Ch. 2 vs 13-17. Rev. Euan Glen led the Session in prayer.

Minutes of Meeting of the 23rd January 2024 were accepted, proposed by Noel Lord, seconded by Rev. Euan Glen, subject to two minor amendments.

Matters Arising

BPC Website – Session agreed that Communication Team were to meet with the representative of each pre-Union Churches website coordinator to start moving content across to a centralised BPC website.

Elders Away Day – Session agreed to leave it to the Ministers to find a date and venue as the current planned date of 27th April cannot be held at the Kemnay Church Centre and alternatives are expensive.

Office Administration Post – Kirk Session ratified the Administration committee's decision to offer the post to one of the applicants.

Water Rates and External Audit Costs – Session agreed that Moderator would continue to raise the issue at Presbytery to lobby Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Rev Tose Shayamunda - Session agreed that Moderator was to ask for a formal reply to Sessions requests to Presbytery to firstly extend TS contract and secondly, to change the requirement that the Church could not use its funds for TS visas.

Items of Interest

IDCT - Session agreed that the Easter and Pentecost events for IDCT would be advertised / included in intimations as each Church required but that BPC churches will not be closed for the IDCT Pentecost event.

Local Leadership Team Reports

Chapel of Garioch – Session agreed that the alterations to the pews would be acceptable, and that the local leadership team could take the property change to Presbytery for approval. Session agreed to the cost to use the village hall for the Joint Service in June. Session agreed to the Plant and Seeds sale to take place.

Cluny and Monymusk – Session agreed to a paid cleaner for the Church.

Roll Changes – The roll was shared. The Session removed by resolution several members from the roll due to either lack of contact information or having moved out of area.

Other Business - Sharing Information – Session agreed to an action on the Ministers that they inform the Session (potentially through the online BPC Calendar) when they are on holiday or unavailable.

Next Meeting - The meeting adjourned with the Grace and a reminder of the wonder of Midmar Church and the cloud of witness that has served the area and the Lord over the last 275 years. Session will next meet on 15th April at Monymusk church at 7pm.



Bennachie Parish Church Daily Prayers

Volunteer opportunity

An opportunity is now available to assist in creating the daily on_line prayers which are published on the church website, Facebook page, twitter feed and on Teams.

- This is a shared task that can be a bi-monthly commitment assuming we have two or more volunteers.
- Resources available to assist on_line and/or from using your own quiet time devotions and readings.

If you have suggestions, ideas for prayer topics that can be used please also get in touch.

Contact Noel Lord noellord@bennachieparish.church



**Daily prayer available on Facebook:
Bennachie Parish Church**

In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps. Be a rebel and count your blessings instead.



For all pastoral care needs contact a Minister, Care Convenor or any member of the Pastoral Care Team

Contact details are on the church website at
www.kemnayparish.church/wp/contact

Further information is also available here
<https://care.kemnayparish.church>

Irene Reid - IreneReid@BennachieParish.church



Daffodil Tea

**Millbank Hall
Saturday 20th April (2 - 4 pm)**

**Bennachie Parish
(Cluny & Monymusk Churches)**

invite you to

Tea, Coffee, Scones, Pancakes & Cakes

(Suggested minimum donation £5 per adult, £2 per child)





HOPE Cafe

Every Tuesday 9 to 11am

At Bennachie Parish
Church at Echt

Everybody Welcome

Tea & Toast

Coffee & Chat

Tots & Toddlers

Grandparents

Young or Older

Mums & Dads

We hope you will come and join us

Suggested Donation £2.00



Echt Church Craft Group

Patchwork

Cross Stitch

Blether over a cuppa

Knitting

Felting

Sewing

Tuesdays 1-3pm

No Experience Needed



Good Morning Group at Kemnay



Good Morning group meets on the first Tuesday of the month September - June.

We chat have a fly cup, pray together and explore a different theme each month.

Contact Noel Lord for further information



PLANT SALE

25th May

Coffee
Morning!



10-12



£5

Chapel of
Garioch Village
Hall



Bedding plants, garden plants, vegetable plants,
tomato plants, dahlias, gardening books, produce,
bric-a-brac, tools!

In aid of Bennachie Parish Church



BPC Weekly Bible Study

Monday 7.30pm on Teams

Studies are recorded and available to watch again as needed.



Led by David Bale
If you would like to get involved get in touch and we will provide further joining details.



We are all here to collect a moment in life.

My first memories were of gas lamps that lit up the village at night giving off a "Leerie light."

"From a land that had few cars you could look to the sky and see the stars.

A gas lamp gave out its light in the darkness of the night.

Look up and the galaxy was there to see. It was a time to wonder, to look to the future, from out of the darkness of war to a world we all could share.

Just like the gas lamp that gave out its light and lit up the darkness in the still of the night."

Ian McCracken

Big thanks to Suzanne Bunton and her team for the Lunch Club special Xmas menu which was enjoyed by all the Lunch Club folk & volunteers. Irene Reid has continued to organise the Lunch club and its Volunteers throughout the year so a big thanks to Irene and everyone involved. Irene even managed to sort out a Christmas Quiz, although there was some debate on a few of the answers. Great to see that Alan made it to the lunch who has been a faithful attendee each week.

P.S The quizmaster is always right!



Looking for a BPC Rota?

Please note that the rotas can be found on Teams under - BPC All Users - General. Click on the 'Files' tab at the top of the page, then the Rotas folder.

Here you can find the latest rotas for AV, Church Cleaning, Prayer and Reading, Music, Littlewood Court, Tea, Welcome Team and Flowers.

A Tale from Littlewood Court: Nell McKay

In the first edition of the Bennachie Parish Church Newsletter, I introduced Littlewood Court, a Sheltered Housing Unit in Kemnay. Now I plan to introduce some of the residents.

Nell McKay's early years were spent in Ternemny Cottage, near Keith in Banffshire. Her father rented the nearby farm of Knock, before eventually purchasing it. Members of Nell's family still farm there. Nell had 5 siblings all of whom lived into their 90's; she herself is in her mid 90's! I promised not to tell her age.....Nell fondly remembers the horses used on the farm, now of course replaced by tractors.

Nell went to the primary local school which was a mile's walk through muddy woodland. Her journey to Keith Academy was made by train, in the days when trains stopped at Knock Station on their way to Keith. Nell continued her studies at the Training College for teachers in Aberdeen, fondly known as the TC. She taught in local primary schools before meeting her husband to be, Lesley, also a teacher. They celebrate 64 years of marriage this year.

Like most women of that time, Nell stopped work when she married, and soon their daughter Jennifer came along. Lesley worked in Inverurie for a time where Nell founded the playgroup at the West Church and was their first leader. Lesley was promoted to Headmaster in Kemnay and the family moved here in 1972. Nell was named the Dominie's wife for a long time, but quickly established her own identity as she became involved with Kemnay Kirk. She volunteered in the lunch club, notably at the Loaves and Fishes café, and was a committed Elder for very many years, delivering newsletters and supporting the members of her district. She only very recently gave up those roles.

One of the many tasks which Nell undertook was diary keeping for the Church Centre in Kemnay. You dared not use a room there without speaking to Nell first!

So what is Nell's secret of a long life well lived? Her church life, as well as good home cooked food and a happy marriage I am sure. Only very recently did their garden defeat them, and she and Lesley moved into Littlewood Court. She still makes her own soup, but also very much enjoys the friendly, supportive atmosphere in Littlewood Court.

The biggest changes she thinks of in her long life? Computers! None the

less, Nell has her iPad, and has logged in on Teams to Session meetings and services and has been a contributor to an online bible study. What of the future? Nell expects change to continue but does feel the new Church of Bennachie Parish is settling in, and she enjoys the different ministers.

Nell, thank you for letting me (albeit reluctantly!) have a blether and write a little about you. It has been a privilege.

Sheila Simpson



The staff at Kemnay Family Resource Centre are once again very thankful for the generosity shown by members of our local church and wider community.

These gifts always make Christmas that little bit more festive for the families in our local catchment area.

Many thanks to all who donated gifts.

Bennachie Parish Church Newsletter

Your comments, ideas & material are always welcome. Letters and articles should be sent to: The Editor, 'Oxencraig', Bridge Road, Kemnay AB51 5QT or preferably via email to the following address:

newsletter_editor@BennachieParish.Church

Please include your name and address. The editors reserve the right to edit material to suit the space available.

The DEADLINE for the Summer edition is **16th June 2024**.

Please ensure all material is submitted by this date so that we can publish on time. *Thank you*

Christmas & Winter Memories



Heavenly Nativity Choir



Children's Nativity Service



Scenic Church Centre



Soup & Sweet Lunch

Bennachie Parish Church Contacts

Church Office: Office@Bennachieparish.church

Session Clerks: Dr Sheila Simpson
sheilasimpson@bennachieparish.church

Stella Gauld (deputy)
stellagauld@bennachieparish.church

Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch

Local Leadership Team: Stella Gauld - stellagauld@bennachieparish.church

Andrew Ruck - awb.ruck@btinternet.com

Cluny and Monymusk

Local Leadership Team: Susan Reid - susanreid@Bennachieparish.com

Anne Harrison - anneharrison@bennachieparish.church

Echt and Midmar

Local Leadership Team: Alistair McRobb - alistair.mcrobb@gmail.com

Kemnay

Local Leadership Team: Jeff Thomas - jeffthomas@bennachieparish.church

Kintore

Local Leadership Team: Carole Horne - carolehorne@bennachieparish.church

BPC Finance: Andrew Radcliffe
andrewradcliffe@bennachieparish.church

BPC Property: Kevin Gilbert (Convener)
kevingilbert@bennachieparish.church

BPC Christian Aid: Elizabeth Watt - Echt
ewatt567@aol.com

Val Reid - Kintore
valeriereid@bennachieparish.church

Suzanne Bunton - Kemnay
suzannebunton@bennachieparish.church

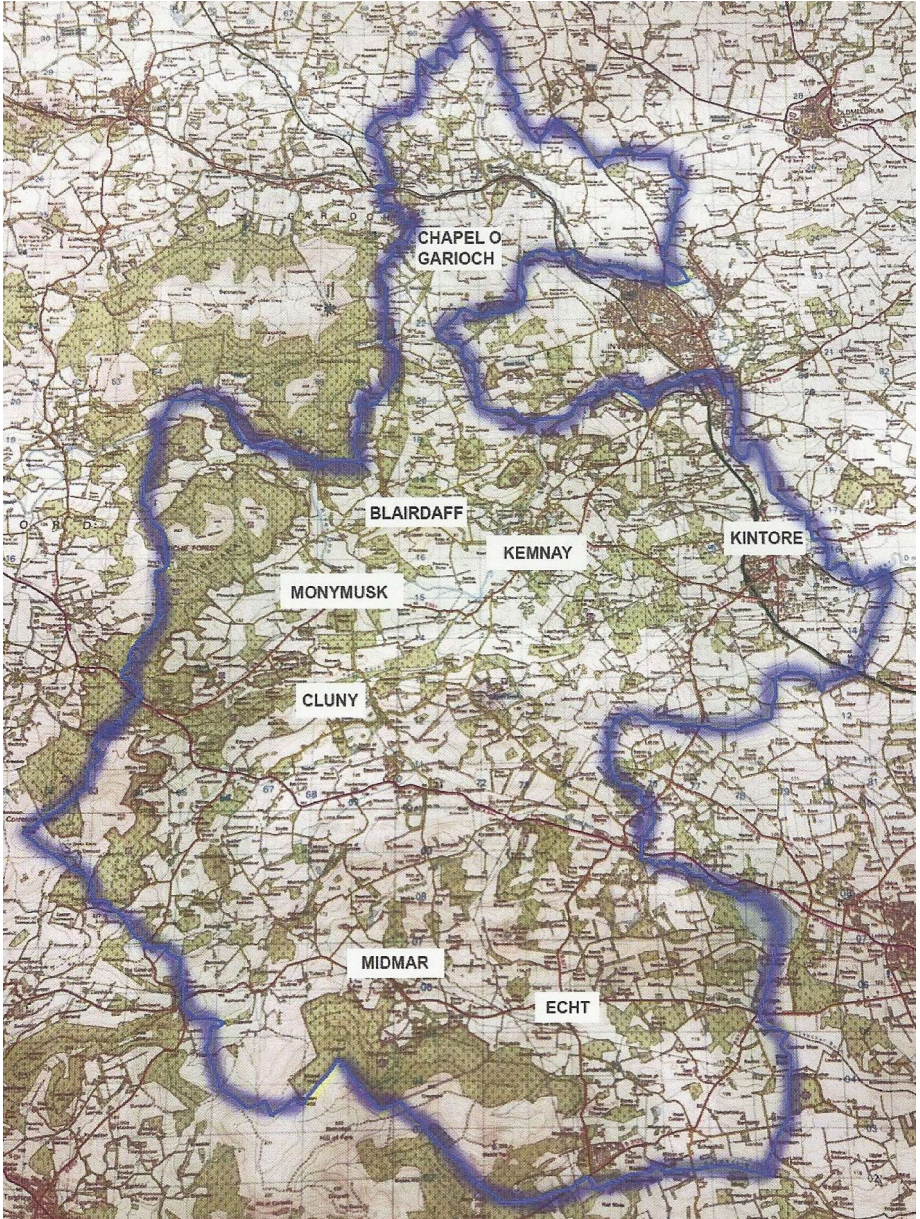
Elaine Percival
elaine_percival10@btinternet.com

BPC Safeguarding: Ruth Radcliffe (Convener)
ruthradcliffe@bennachieparish.church

BPC Care Team: Irene Reid
irenereid@bennachieparish.church



Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland



Scottish Charity No SC014790