Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland

Kirk Newsletter - Spring 2025



On the first day of the week, in the evening
(John 20: 19-23)

Locked in, afraid,
Uncertain, even after Mary's story, even after that
behind closed doors seemed safest,
on the first day of the week,
in the evening.

And then, the world changed.
He was with us!
Suddenly and wonderfully with us.
Jesus, our Lord,
alive and with us
in a new and completing way,
to bless us with His Peace,
to send us out to witness
in the power of His own Spirit breathed into us.
What a day!
The day of our risen Lord.
The first day of the week,
In the evening,
Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching
(courtesy of Parish Pump)

Cover Photo - The Cross at the Church Centre by Alan Gorvett

Dear Reader,



Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland Kirk Newsletter.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held on 16th February for Blairdaff Church, this was a very bitter/sweet occasion two special and memorable moments during the service were the ringing of the bells and switching off of the pulpit light. A very interesting and informative booklet was published entitled 'A History of the Churches at Blairdaff' was made available at the service.

Featured in this edition and linked to the closure of Blairdaff Church you will find an article entitled 'Change' by Stella Gauld, which reflects upon times past and looks forward to the future in the parish. You will also find in this edition:

- An encouraging message from our Ministers.
- Details of activities in the parish for youngsters and the young at heart.
- A schedule of events and church services around Easter.
- An article on the outcomes of the recent Kirk Session Away Day.
- Answers to the Christmas Quiz - no responses were received!

As always your contributions for the newsletter are welcome, as are any comments on the style and content of the newsletter or suggestions on a name for the newsletter.

Finally, a thank you to all of the contributors and thanks in advance to all those involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter.

Newsletter Editor

Newsletter by e-mail: If you do not yet receive notification by e-mail when the newsletter is issued, so that you can access it digitally, please consider doing so instead of having a printed copy as this will save on costs too.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail please let us know - scan this QR code, then complete and submit the online form.

Alternatively contact the church office on 01467 643883 or by e-mail to office@bennachieparish.church

How to use QR code: If you have a smart phone or iPad etc. switch on the Camera App and point the camera at the QR Code. You will be directed to an online form in the church website.



A Message from Our Ministers

Dear Friends,
John Schaar was an American academic and political theorist, and was a presidential advisor to Richard Nixon during the American President's term of office between 1969 and 1974. Schaar is credited with writing the following words:

'The future is not a result of choices among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created – created first in the mind and will, created next in activity. The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them, changes both the maker and the destination.'

On many levels Schaar's words remain as thought-provoking today as they would have been some fifty years ago. And the words, I think, even have resonance with our congregational life: the future is something that we will build together, influence and determine through our discernment of God's will, and through our shared commitment to our faith and to the life of our church community and parish.

We are blessed with a wonderful opportunity to further shape the Church's life and work in the parish of Bennachie over the coming year. Our Easter faith reminds us that the God whom we love and serve is a God of infinite power; a God of resurrection, promise and hope, in whom all things are possible.

As we approach Easter, we will once again revisit some of the darkest chapters of the Christian story. Yet the wonder of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is that out of the darkness came light, and from death arose new life. Because of the miracle of Easter, we can have faith that individually and collectively, we are being led to a new future; a future to which we're looking with confidence; a future in which God promises us life, and life in all it's fulness.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter – and as we continue our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ – may we wish you God's richest blessing and every joy.

All good wishes,
Sheila Mitchell, Neil Meyer and Euan Glen



An Important Notice for Church Members
Data Protection > A Legal Requirement

By now you should all have received, completed and returned to the Church office your personal **Member Information form.** A big **`Thank you'** to those who have managed to do this.

For those folk who have not yet responded, we must stress the importance of this legal requirement under the **Data Protection Act of 2018.** A final trawl will be carried out after which those who can, but have not returned their form, **may have to be removed from the roll.**

We need your permission to store and use your personal information as a member of the congregation. It is not too late to complete and return your Member Information Form. We ask you to please complete your copy and to return it to the Church Office as soon as possible.

If you do not have a form you can request a copy from the Church Office.

Church Lane, Kemnay, AB51 5QP

Tel. 01467 643883

Email: office@bennachieparish.church

Thank you

Bennachie Parish Church Office Hours

Monday to Thursday from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Contact Information

Tel: 01467 643883

Email: office@bennachieparish.church

Address: Church Lane, Kemnay AB51 5QP

F.R.O.M. Scotland

Famine Relief for Orphans in Malawi (SCIO)

Patron: International Singer & Broadcaster Fiona Kennedy OBE

The Age of Miracles Isn't Past

At the Joint Service at Monymusk Rev Sheila Mitchell said that miracles still happen, **The Trustees of FROM Scotland think the following is a miracle.**

Thanks to the generosity of the people in this corner of Scotland we are able to provide around 2500 meals every month to pre school children in Malawi. Many of these children will have walked or been carried several miles to get what is sometimes their only meal of the day - a plate of vitamin fortified maize porridge called Lukini Phala. **£20 provides a child with one meal a day for a whole year.**

Since being formed in 2005 FROM Scotland has built Health posts, a maternity unit, several feeding stations, classrooms, a High Dependency Unit and a hostel to provide safe accommodation for 60 girls attending secondary school. We shipped out 7 containers containing medical equipment, hospital beds and other essential items. These also contained thousands of items of knitted childrens clothes as well as toys. We have also paid for orphans school fees and sponsored 3 students through university. Unfortunately due to the high cost and import problems we no longer send containers but concentrate our resourses on feeding the most vulnerable children.

To date FROM Scotland has raised close to £750,000. Every penny has been spent on Malawi. All our efforts are carried out free of charge both here and in Malawi.





Bennachie Parish Church Services

ALL ARE WARMLY WELCOMED
Services take place at 10am every Sunday
They may be Minister led or Community led
Joint services are also held, on these occasions there may not be a service at your local Parish Church

For further details of the Bennachie Parish-Wide Services Schedule scan the QR code (instructions below) or contact the church office

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 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.

Change

Sometimes change is so disruptive that we cannot cope with it, whether it's thrust or forced upon you for reasons you can't understand. Sometimes change is for the good, motivated by desire for improvement, streamlining, circumstances, modernisation.

We get resistance to change. As I've sometimes heard, at what point do you apply conservation rules? We would still have gas lights and the chappie going round lighting the lampposts every night if we hadn't embraced electricity and modernising the way we work. Yes, we can reminisce about the pretty lights, but we have something better with efficiency.

So it is with our churches. Sad though it was to see Blairdaff, Cluny and Midmar go, for various reasons, over this last year. When I was preparing the booklet for the Blairdaff closure, I was actually surprised to see how many changes had been made (thrust upon?) that wee kirk and those who worshipped there had gone through. And of course, having not done too much deep research into Cluny and Midmar, perhaps they too have had more than the linkage and union with Monymusk and Echt respectively.

It was interesting to see how the reports showed the reactions in reuniting the folks in the Blairdaff area, which included folks from further afield who had joined the Disruption in 1843, now being asked to rejoin with the established Church of Scotland in 1934, some 91 years later, more than a generation, some folks never having known anything else (I know when I hear a story about the Queen, my first image in my head is Queen Elizabeth II.) These changes do take time to process.

1934 Rev. Dalgliesh, clerk to the Presbytery, said "*both congregations had shown a fine spirit of "give and take". The people were to be congratulated on the fine spirit manifested throughout."*

And in addressing the congregation at the time of the union, the following wise words were shared.

In 1934, Rev. Murray had been called to unite the congregation, and some would say there would be problems to solve, but there were problems in every charge, and those could be overcome by exercising the true spirit. Addressing the congregation he counselled them to faithfully support their minister. Some people spoke of ministers' faults. Only one congregation could get a perfect minister, and that was a perfect congregation.

That just reminded me of John Chapter 8, v7, *"The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone."*

Subsequently to that major reunification, Blairdaff then went through a linkage with Monymusk, then broken. A linkage with Chapel of Garioch, changed to a Union. And then dissolution to become Bennachie Parish Church.

But actually, and it may not be immediately apparent, ALL of the churches in Bennachie Parish were dissolved, ceased to be, passed on! Unlike the dead parrot however, absolutely not "bereft of life". (Monty Python, if you know, you know!)

In your kirk, it may not be obvious that it happened, as it was just words at a service, but a truly monumental change occurred for us all. No one just lost a minister, we gained three. We didn't just lose a congregation, we now have more worshipping communities to join.

We can look backwards and see that we don't have a dedicated minister just in the one parish, or look forward and see we have gained strength and depth in our ministry with the different attributes that Rev. Sheila Mitchell, Rev. Neil Meyer and Rev. Euan Glen have. And they gain by having not just a solitary position but a team of colleagues to spark off.

We can turn our back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or see all the good things that we have in our new parish and be happy for tomorrow because we can bring and share the best of what and how we acted and had in our previous parishes to create the best of Bennachie Parish.

With the closure now of the three churches, and with three ministers about to be two in July, this is as the Presbytery Plan in 2020 was planned and we have met the requirements for 2025. This is the opportunity to take stock of what we have now, as this is as it will be for the immediate future, and put all of our efforts into gaining the best of what we have right now.

We need to work on our communications, have one main Bennachie Parish website, Facebook, Teams, and think like we are one kirk. Personally, our individual quirks in the remaining buildings should not just be kept because "we've always done it like that", but kept or left behind because it works for Bennachie Parish now.

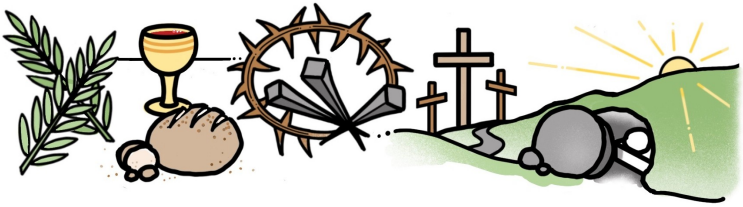
This is an amazing Parish, with some amazing people and we must strive to bring the best out of each and every one of us, whether we worship

together in person, online, share fellowship or just love the Lord quietly without knowing or seeing you. Perhaps the attributes of being willing to change, adapt to this new way of being together will show in so many folks now.



But we do have some incredible talents here and if there is one thing about change, is that something new will come about, because of it or despite it and we have the best future to share in Bennachie Parish.

Stella Gauld



Thursday Drop-in at Kintore

Coffee and bakes, soup served from 11.30 am

Kintore Church Hall from 10 - 2 pm Up to 27 June

Note:
Jul & Aug - Drop-in is on a break
Sept - from 10 to 12pm with tea, coffee and homebakes
Oct onwards back to normal (10 to 2pm)



Food Bank Donations welcome

Our Parish Priorities and another Ministry Post

Introduction

With Euan's retirement in July this year, his post will become redundant and we will not be able to call an additional minister. We will then be down to just two ministry posts to cover the whole parish. The Presbytery Mission Plan does however make provision for us to have an additional half-time post to be filled by a Ministries Development Staff (MDS) worker and paid for by the Church of Scotland. MDS positions can take many forms and it is up to us to decide how we would like to fill this half-time post. With this in mind, the Kirk Session took time away at the start of March to ponder two questions: What are the top priorities of our parish, and what sort of MDS do we want, i.e. what job description should our 0.5 MDS have?

Parish Priorities

The Kirk Session identified the following three priorities for our parish in the medium term future:

Outreach

Various aspects of outreach are included under this heading but they all involved aspects of growth and outreach. These included:

- finding new ways to reach young people and families, which was seen as an important part of this priority area, including all-age worship and activities;
- "Inreach", or seeking to re-engage with members who have become inactive or slipped to the margins;
- engaging with communities' spiritual and social needs through evangelism and service
- Raising the profile of the church across the parish, especially to celebrate the good work that the church does in the community.

Development

There is a particular need to develop new forms of worship and faith "exploration" that will help us to engage in new ways with the unchurched in our communities especially, but not exclusively, with younger generations who are increasingly curious about questions of faith and meaning but who have very little knowledge or experience of the church and its ways.

At the same time there is a need to develop our existing members in

order to equip them as disciples of Christ and to help them develop the skills needed for the various volunteering roles that exist within the church. The immediate need is for more volunteers to become confident in leading aspects of Sunday worship in each of our churches, especially during Community Led Worship.
Prayer, study and education are key aspects of the development of disciples.

Integration

There is still much work to be done in integrating the elders, members and systems of the former parishes into a cohesive union. This includes relationship building, systems amalgamation (e.g. pastoral care, charities and outreach), shared projects, branding and communication (incl. website and social media). A good start has been made but it is a priority for us to push on towards the point where we can see ourselves as a truly united team with shared goals and identity rather than just as five places of worship or eight former parishes.
Integration includes closer collaboration with our ecumenical partners who operate within our parish.

Values

In the course of the discussion on priorities, the following values emerged as desirable:

- Thinking out of the box
- A permissive culture

While there is much to be valued and celebrated in the history and culture of each of our constituent parishes, the time has come for us to be experimental towards the future. The Kirk Session feels that Ministers, Elders and Members should be encouraged to be creative and experimental, and that the Kirk Session, as the gatekeepers, should be permissive both in allowing new experiments to emerge and in being supportive when experiments fail – as many undoubtedly will.
This is particularly important when it comes to the role of the new MDS, who MUST be given the freedom and support to try and fail often.

Ministries Development Staff Position

In the light of the priorities agreed, the Kirk Session proceeded to a discussion about the role we would wish the MDS to play in the parish. Of the three Parish Priorities, Outreach is the most obvious place where an extra staff member could help. Development has already started and the

Ministers feel equipped to do more in this area. Integration is by definition something that must be tackled by everyone together. This leaves Outreach where much more can be done and many experiments can take place.

We are aware of other congregations who have shaped their MDS post as an Outreach Parish Assistant, and this would be the type of position we would seek to fill. A job-description is being developed that will take account of our particular context and priorities, and which is both specific enough do meet our current needs and flexible enough to allow for the role to develop in time.

We hope to be ready to advertise the post before the summer.

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

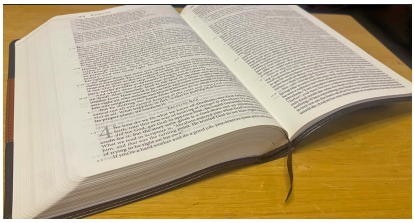
Four freedoms: The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want…. everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear… anywhere in the world.

– Franklin D Roosevelt

Weekly Bible Study at Bennachie Parish Church

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

HOPE Cafe

Every Tuesday 9 to 11am
At Bennachie Parish Church at Echt

Tea & Toast

Tots & Toddlers

Young or Older

Coffee & Chat

Grandparents

Mums & Dads

Play corner available for children

All welcome - well behaved dogs welcome too!

We hope you will come and join us

Suggested Donation £2.00

Marbeth Ritchie (Kintore) is a Warehouse Volunteer with Aberdeenshire North Foodbank. Marbeth writes:

"On behalf of everyone connected with Aberdeenshire North Food Bank, whether trustees, volunteers or clients, I would like to express very sincere thanks to all members of Bennachie Parish Church for their generous support of our work in the last year. During 2024, you donated 1474.8kg of food and an amazing £2311.55 to enable the work of the Food Bank and we are SO grateful for your support. As you can appreciate, with the cost-of-living crisis continuing to unfold as we watch, we are seeing both an increase in requests for help and, sadly, a reduction in donations because people simply don't have the spare cash to buy extra to give away. We find ourselves regularly having to buy in quantities of stock that we are short of, in order to meet the nutritional requirements for each food parcel going out. None of this comes as a surprise but it makes us appreciate all the more the faithful and generous support that the Food Bank in Inverurie continues to receive from the kind-hearted folk in Bennachie Parish who are more than willing to put their faith into action.

During 2024, across our network of five food banks in Inverurie, Huntly, Ellon, Fraserburgh and Peterhead, we supplied 4595 emergency food parcels, feeding 6305 adults and 2066 children. Of these, our local Inverurie food bank provided 729 parcels, feeding 999 adults and 540 children. We are so dependent on donations of both food and money to be able to give a helping hand to those families who find themselves living in food poverty.

In the first month of 2025, across our network, we took in 3994.08kg of stock but distributed in the same month 5584.12kg of food in emergency parcels across our area. It will obviously be a challenge to sustain this level of discrepancy for long and we truly value all donations of both food and money that come our way. Please continue to look out for our 'wish list' which highlights shortages of particular items as they occur, though we are almost always sort of UHT milk and boxes of long-life fruit juice!

While we remain committed to providing help and support for families who need it, we all pray for the day when there is no need for Food Banks to exist anywhere."

Bennachie Parish Church

Easter Services - April 2025

The Church of Scotland

Sun, 13th	Palm Sunday	10:00	Chapel of Garioch, Kintore, Kemnay, Monymusk
	Palm Sunday Family Service	18:00	Echt
	Christ in the Passover: Talk	19:00	St Andrews, Inverurie
Mon, 14th	IDCT Holy Week	19:30	St Mary's, Inverurie
Tues, 15th	IDCT Holy Week	19:30	St Mary's, Inverurie
Wed, 16th	IDCT Holy Week	19:30	St Mary's, Inverurie
Thu, 17th	Christ in the Passover: Meal	19:00	Kintore Church Halls
	IDCT Holy Week	19:30	St Mary's, Inverurie
Fri, 18th	Good Friday Walk of Witness	08:00	RC Church, Inverurie
	Good Friday Solemn Meditation	12:00	St Anne's, Kemnay
	Good Friday Tenebrae	19:00	Chapel of Garioch
	IDCT Holy Week	19:30	St Mary's, Inverurie
Sun, 20th	Easter Morning Prayers at the Cross	08:30	Kemnay Church Centre
	Easter Morning Communion	08:45	Echt
	Easter Morning Communion	09:00	Kintore
	Easter Morning Services	10:00	Echt, Kemnay, Kintore, Monymusk
	Mini Messy Easter	14:30	Kintore Church Halls

IDCT Holy Week

The Inverurie and District Churches Together have a long history of sharing services during the Easter period. This year the Holy Week Services will take place at 7:30pm Monday – Friday at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Inverurie. The short reflective services will be conducted by representatives of the participant churches and the theme for this year is Reconciliation and Unity.

On Good Friday morning there is a Procession of Witness which begins at the Church of the Immaculate Conception on North Street, Inverurie, at 8am and ends at The Bass, followed by a light breakfast at St Mary's Episcopal Church.

Maundy Thursday – Christ in the Passover Meal
Kintore Church Hall – 7pm

It was at the time of the Passover festival in Jerusalem that the events of Easter took place (Jesus was betrayed, arrested, convicted, crucified and resurrected). Christian's can learn a lot about their own faith by studying and experiencing a Jewish Passover.

- Passover is the Jewish forerunner to the Christian festival of Easter
- The Passover meal is the Jewish forerunner to the Christian meal of Holy Communion.
- The Passover meal gives us a taste for the type of Table Fellowship Worship that was typical among Jesus and his followers, and in the Early Church.

As we share this meal together and follow the order of the Passover we will contemplate these connections and try to imagine new possibilities for our worship as a Christian family.

Join us for supper. No entry fee. Donations to cover costs at the door.

For catering purposes, booking is essential by contacting the Church Office – 01467-643883 or via the online Google Form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aZZl1q77ZAgL9dKF2-kwK6dfO7MdLl3kAhrvszMftmo

Good Friday – Tenebrae
Chapel of Garioch – 7pm

The Office of Tenebrae dates back to the fourth Century. We meditate on events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The gradual extinguishing of the lights is symbolic of the advancing darkness that came over Jesus with the flight of the disciples, the bitter hate of His enemies, and the looming shadow of the Cross. The amount of total darkness recalls the time when He was in the tomb. The relighting of the central candle is a prophecy of

the Easter so soon to dawn. It ends with the relighting of the central candle, after which the Congregation leaves the Church in silence.



Easter Day

For the early-risers on Easter morning, there will be Communion Services at Echt and Kintore and a Prayer Service at the Cross in Kemnay. Bacon Bap Breakfasts will also be served after these services at Echt and Kemnay before the main Easter Sunday services at 10am.

The Easter Morning Service at Monymusk will also be a Family Service.

Hope Café Update

Our Hope Café started in Echt Church in September 2022. We are open every Tuesday (except Christmas and New Year) from 9 till 11 am, serving tea, coffee, toast and shortbread.

Twenty to thirty people attend each week, aged from 2 years upwards, and there is always a happy 'buzz'.

We continue to help pay for the education of children in Tose's home village in Zimbabwe to the tune of £50 every month. Our other outgoings are £25 each to Water Aid and our local Food Bank.

Since February this year we have an anonymous sponsor who is covering the cost of our bread and milk, for which we are very grateful.

I'd like also to say at this time that without my team of willing and able helpers the Café could not function.

Thank you all.
Ruth Williams

Looking back

Memories are wonderful, you can look back, and
for a moment you're back with friends and the one's you love.
Sadly some are not with us now, but in a way they are,
in that wonderful moment in time.
No you can't go back but in your mind, they are there, and
always will be, forever, yes forever.
In the corner of your heart.

- John Barr McCracken



PLANT SALE

24th May



10-12

£5

Coffee Morning!



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



Bennachie Parish Church Children and Family News

It was wonderful to see so many families take part in the Joint Service at Monymusk.

The children played such an important part in the service, baking the bread for communion and serving the bread and wine.

We want to emphasize that all families and children are welcome to attend any of the groups and events across Parish and a warm welcome awaits you. Here is a list of what is happening in the Parish.

Regular Events

Kemnay

Sunday School 10am every week. On the first Sunday of month, we meet at Littlewood Court and other Sundays we meet in Kemnay Church.

Little Lambs of Kemnay is a group for pre-schoolers, their parents and carers, which meets on Friday mornings during term-time, from 9.15 to 10.45am in Kemnay Church Centre, off Kendal Road.

Monymusk and Cluny

The Sunday School families meet once a month in church with the Minister at 10.00am. The Village Hall gives us another space to do activities in smaller age-appropriate groups.

mainly music is for families, babies and preschool children to get together for songs, snack, toys and activities ,tea and cake 1.30 to 3.00pm Tuesdays in Monymusk Hall. £3 entry to cover costs.

Kintore

Messy Church is held once a month at Kintore Church.

April 20th. 2.30 till 3.30pm – Easter

May 11th 3.30 – 5.30pm – Messy Church Goes Wild, Village Trail. Supper provided.

Easter Events

Kemnay

Kemnay Kirk Kids lead Palm Sunday Worship 13th April in Kemnay Church at 10am

Echt and Midmar

Palm Sunday Family Service. 13th April in Echt Church at 6pm.

Monymusk
Easter Family Service. 20th April at 10am in Monymusk Church, please bring your decorated egg to roll after the service.
From Monday March 31st Holiday time Easter Story Activity Trail around Clyans dam in Monymusk.

Other Events

Parish Picnic
June 8th from 12 noon onwards at Monymusk Park. Bring your own picnic and join the fun with organised activities.

Holiday Club
A date for your Diary – 2025 Holiday Club will run from the 11th to the 15th August. More details to follow.

Contact names for the groups

Kemnay Sunday School - Sarah Earley
sarahearley@bennachieparish.church

Kemnay Little Lambs - Rita Custard
ritacustard@bennachieparish.church

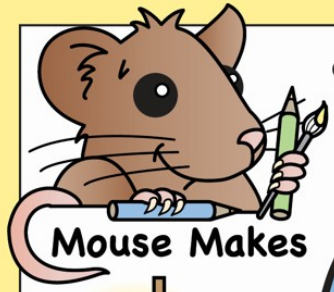
Monymusk and Cluny Sunday School and mainly music - Susan Reid
susanreid@bennachieparish.church

Kintore Messy Church - Meta Chalmers
metachalmers@bennachieparish.church

Echt and Midmar - Elizabeth Watt
ewatt567@aol.com

Chapel and Blairdaff - Stella Gauld
stellagauld@bennachieparish.church





Mouse Makes

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!





Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R
E	A	S	T	E	R	P	I
S	A	V	I	O	U	R	S
U	L	T	I	M	J	A	E
R	I	E	D	E	L	I	N
R	V	J	E	S	U	S	S
E	E	W	B	S	P	E	P
C	C	L	O	I	S	S	N
T	H	O	S	A	N	N	A
I	R	R	O	H	Y	E	U
O	I	D	N	P	P	W	S
N	S	G	O	T	E	L	L
K	T	A	F	O	A	I	O
I	Y	O	G	J	C	F	R
N	U	J	O	Y	E	E	B
G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20







READ the story of the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and ***21:1-14***



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER
HOSANNA • PRAISE
MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD

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The article below was kindly forwarded to me by Christa Markham, editor of the Aboyne & Dinnet Church Magazine. I think it provides a very salutary lesson that could happen to anyone due to the increasingly sophisticated nature of these types of scams.

Shame on you, Simon Watt! by Christa Markham

In October 2024 I had the misfortune of my email account being hacked. The intruder sent out email to all my contacts under my name, so people thought that the messages came from me.

On 21 October I started to get telephone messages from friends and acquaintances who pointed out to me that they had received a suspicious looking email from me and suggested that I may have been hacked. Some very kind people even came to my house to check if I was OK.

The email the intruder sent out in my name looked innocent enough. It read:

> *Catch-up: Hope you are doing well? I need a favour from you, do you've a free moment over email? Looking forward hearing back from you, Christa*

People who responded would get a second email which was more specific:

> *I'm sorry to bother you with this but I've been trying to purchase an "Apple" gift voucher by email via Amazon, unfortunately all my effort purchasing it proved abortive. I intend to buy it for a friend's daughter who is down with cancer of the liver because it's her birthday today. Can you give it a go on Amazon or from any Supermarket closer to you like Sainsbury's, Asda, Aldi, Tesco, Morrisons or any other outlets?? I'll reimburse you the total money spent as soon as possible, please let me know if you can handle this so I can tell you how much I intend to spend and how to get it to her. Christa*

To the best of my knowledge nobody responded to that sob story. People continued to contact me to find out if all was well. That continued for the rest of the week and only fizzled out during the second week after this intrusion. While the whole thing was most annoying, it also had a surprising good outcome. I heard of friends from a long time ago, who I did not know that I still had a contact email for them!

In the meantime I had three intense days of telephone conversations with my internet provider which is BT. They were very helpful and talked me through the process of changing my password. We immediately noticed, that the hacker had replaced my email address with his own, and we could see it as: simon.watt3@hotmail.com

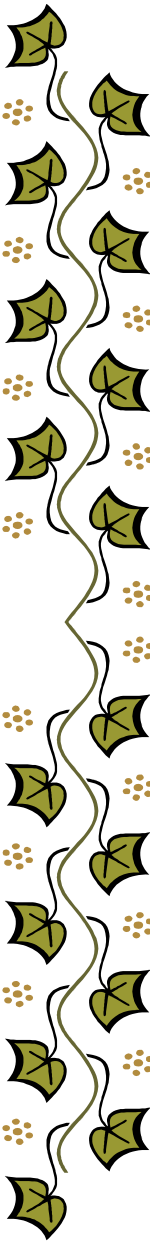
There was also a gmail account in my name which I did not recognise, so BT removed it and replaced Simon Watt's account with my own. Unfortunately, I did not notice that the mobile telephone number to which all password changes were sent, was not my own but the intruder's which meant that each time I changed my password he would be notified and see the new security questions. It took all of three days to get the hacker totally out of my system. Over the course of the three days I spoke to four different agents. All were very knowledgeable and professional. I can't thank them enough for being so patient with me.

I reported the intrusion to the police. One should do so by ringing 101. When I called, the line was busy and an answerphone message referred me to a website which deals with cyber attacks. A few days after I reported the hacking, I received a telephone call from Police Scotland to make an appointment with me. Two PCs came to my house and interviewed me about the incident. They reported it back to their specialist department. The feedback I received was that because there was no financial loss, and thankfully the hacker's efforts had been unsuccessful in parting anyone from their cash, the matter was closed as 'undetected'. I was given a crime reference number to be quoted if anyone should come forward reporting that they had bought gift cards.

Experts now agree that using a long, strong, and unique password generated and stored in a password manager is preferable to frequently changing a password.

- Simply choose three random words. Numbers, symbols and combinations of upper and lower case can be used if you feel you need to create a stronger password, or the account you are creating a password for requires more than just letters.
- Or choose a line of a song that other people would not associate with you.
- Or you could use someone else's mother's maiden name (but definitively not your own mother's maiden name).
- Pick a phrase known to you, for example 'Tramps like us, baby we were born to run'" and take the first character from each word to get 'tlu,bwwbtr'.

I hope that you will never experience the worry of being hacked. My experience, however, shows that there is help. Please do not feel that you have to do it all on your own. My advice is that in the first instance you get in touch with your internet provider, and then you should report it to Police Scotland on 101.



When The Minister Calls

My Paw says that it used to be,
Whenever the minister came for tea,
'At they sat up straight in their chairs at night
An' put all their common things out o' sight,
An' nobody cracked a joke or grinned,
But they talked o' the way that people sinned,
An' the burnin' fires that would cook you sure
When you came to die, if you wasn't pure-
Such a gloomy affair it used to be
Whenever the minister came for tea.

But now when the minister comes to call
I get him out for a game of ball,
And you'd never know if you'd see him bat,
Without any coat or vest or hat,
That he is a minister, no, siree!
He looks like a regular man to me.
An' he knows just how to go down to the dirt
For the grounders hot without gettin' hurt-
An' when they call us, both him an' me
Have to git washed up again for tea.

Our minister says if you'll just play fair
You'll be fit for heaven or anywhere;
An' fun's all right if your hands are clean
An' you never cheat an' you don't get mean.
He says that he never has understood
Why a feller can't play an' still be good.
An' my Paw says that he's just the kind
Of a minister that he likes to find-
So I'm always tickled as I can be
Whenever our minister comes for tea.

Edgar Albert Guest

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 or phone Joyce and Jeff Thomas on 01467 643434.

- 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 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

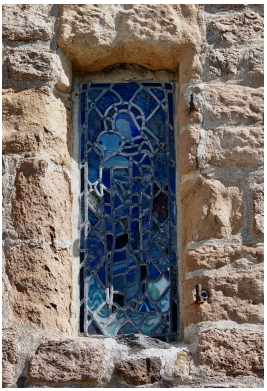
Please include your name and address. The editors reserve the right to edit material to suit the space available.

The DEADLINE for the Summer 2025 edition is **8th June 2025.**

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

Christmas Photo Quiz Answers

Below are the answers to the photo quiz showing the location of each photograph taken within Bennachie Parish.



Monymusk



Echt



C of Garioch



Old Blairdaff



Blairdaff



Kemnay



Echt



Kintore

With thanks to Alan Gorvett for the photos.



Opportunities

Men and Women

As little as 2 hours to 4 hours a week

Or join our Monday shopper team or baking team!

Serve in the café : take orders, serve food, clear tables

Serve in the kitchen : food preparation or wash up / tidy up.

Achieve your Goals

Christian Outreach

Serving Others

Develop New Skills

Expand your Interests

Benefit the Community

Boost your Self Esteem

Be Part of a Team

For more information contact Karen at

Loavesandfishes@bennachieparish.church call in

or phone 01467 643883

Memorable Moments



Christmas gifts delivered to the family centre for distribution to local families.

As always, a huge amount of toys/gifts were donated by kind-hearted Kemnay folks.

Many thanks



The lunch club enjoyed a great Christmas lunch at Loaves and Fishes on 10 December.

Food, company and service were ace!

Many thanks to L&F staff for looking after us so well.

We would be delighted to receive photos of your memorable moments. Please ensure you have permission, from persons appearing in photos, for the images to be published in the newsletter and online. Please send your photos to the Editor:
Newsletter_editor@bennachieparish.church

Thank You

Leslie and I wish to thank the very many kind friends who drove me (Nell) to the Glen O Dee hospital to see Leslie who was a patient there for so many weeks. It was greatly appreciated and we thank you all most sincerely.
with all our love,
N & L McKay

(Nell and Leslie were Elders and gave an amazing contribution to the Kemnay Church family.)

Echt Church Craft Group

Patchwork

Sewing

Cross Stitch

Blether over a cuppa

Felting

Knitting



No Experience Needed

Tuesdays 1 - 3pm

Bennachie Parish Church Hospital Transport Project

This is a project run within Bennachie Parish by volunteers and is for all who meet the criteria shown below and live within parish boundaries, whether church members or not.

We try to ensure those who are elderly, or with a mental health issue/ physical disability, have equal access to health care through the provision of a transport system for medical appointments. We aim to provide transport to and from appointments for those who are unable to use public transport, do not have a car and who have no family or friends able to take them.

Initial requests for transport should be made to THinC on 01467 536111 or by email travel@thinc-hub.org THinC will then source a local driver, if possible, who will make contact to make pick-up arrangements for the trip. If no local volunteer is available, THinC will seek a driver from another organisation.

We currently have funding in place to help with costs but donations are always welcome. (Please note - other organisations have their own set of charges).

We are always on the lookout for more volunteer drivers, so if you have a few spare hours every few weeks and you enjoy driving and meeting new people, this is a good group to work with.

For further information please contact Irene Reid at:

irenereid@bennachieparish.church

Bennachie Parish Church Contacts

Ministers:

Rev Sheila Mitchell smitchell@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Neil Meyer: nmeyer@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Euan Glen: gglen@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Office: office@bennachieparish.church

Session Clerk:

Carole Horne carolehorne@bennachieparish.church

Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch

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

Andrew Ruck - andrewruck@bennachieparish.church

Cluny and Monymusk

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

Echt and Midmar

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

Kemnay

Local Leadership Team: Rota / Church Office - office@bennachieparish.church

Kintore

Local Leadership Team: Graham Ritchie - geritchie@sky.com

BPC Finance: Andrew Radcliffe
andrewradcliffe@bennachieparish.church

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

BPC Free Will Offering & Gift Aid Jeff and Joyce Thomas
jeffthomas@bennachieparish.church

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

Val Reid - Kintore
valeriereid@bennachieparish.church

Suzanne Bunton - Kemnay
suzannebunton@bennachieparish.church

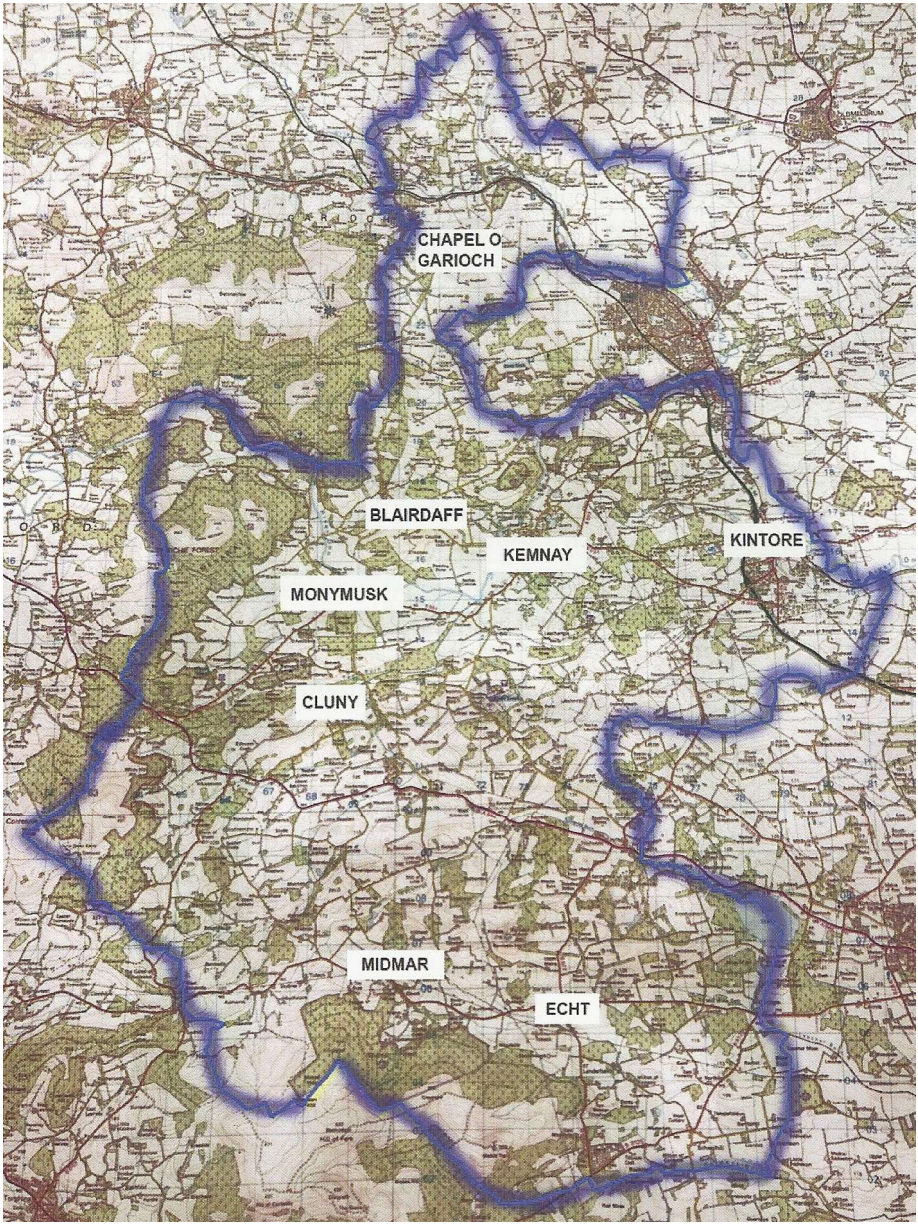
Elaine Percival
elaine_percival10@btinternet.com

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

BPC Data Protection: Jan Guild
janguild@bennachieparish.church

Further contacts can be found on the website: www.bennachieparish.church

Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland



Scottish Charity No SC014790