Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland

Kirk Newsletter - Winter 2025



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The night began as any other
The world not aware of a special birth,
Prophesied so long ago
That God would come upon our earth.

Shepherds roused by a choir of angels,
Wise men saw a special star,
Gathered round the tiny infant,
Bringing gifts from afar.

God had sent His Son to call us,
Jew and Gentile, bond and free,
All may come to know His presence
Reaching out to you and me.

As we celebrate this Christmas,
Let Jesus come not as a stranger,
But as a friend and loving Saviour –
Not just a baby in a manger.

By Megan Carter
(Courtesy of Parish Pump)

Cover Photo - Northern Lights Over Bennachie by Andrew Glen

Dear Reader,
Welcome to the Winter/Christmas 2025 edition of the Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland Kirk Newsletter.
This edition features the Royal Visit and the Rededication of the Cluny War Memorial, both of which took place in October. As well as these two articles you will also find in this edition:

- A reflective and encouraging message from Neil Meyer.
- "Beasts that fly in our Garden" quiz winner and the answers.
- An update on the Children's and Families activities within Bennachie parish over the winter and Christmas period for youngsters and the young at heart.
- A quick look back at another successful Children's Summer Club.
- An interesting article about a Woman's Guild Tapestry.

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.

Are your e-mail address details correct? If you have elected to receive the newsletter by e-mail but you have not been receiving them, please inform the church office of your current e-mail address.



A message from the Manse

Dear friends,

What a year it has been! I recently attended the opening night of Fiddler on the Roof in Manchester with my daughter, Christine. We listened again to the moving song, "Sunrise, Sunset" with the lyrics, "Sunrise, sunset, Swiftly fly the years. One season following another laden with happiness and tears." As it ever was.

This has been a year laden with both happiness and tears. Working alongside Euan and Sheila until the middle of 2025 has certainly been one of the high points of my entire ministry. Their departure in July and September respectively left a deep sadness in all of our hearts and yet the farewell celebrations we had for each of them were some of the year's highlights. How wonderful to end one's ministry in a place surrounded by such fondness, celebration and love! And both of them thoroughly deserved such a send-off.

Euan, as you may know, remains in the parish and has very kindly offered to continue helping us by leading the occasional services, for which I am very grateful. Sheila and Philip (and Chloe) seem to be settling in well in their new home in South Africa. It is good for me to keep in touch with them from time to time and hear stories from my former home country.

Two memorable moments from the second half of the year were the royal visit by HRH the Princess Royal to our parish and the rededication of the Cluny War Memorial, both in October. You will read more about these elsewhere in the Kirk News.

The biggest joy of the year for me personally however has been you.

Church members across the whole parish have shown their support for their ministers – celebrating Euan's retirement and Sheila's departure, and stepping up to offer support for me in the vacancy. More than that, you have shown your commitment to the work of Christ's church here in this place. The vacancy is likely to last for up to a year and in this time we need to pull together to keep our worship, our mission and our care vibrant and growing. And you are doing just that. I want to thank you all

from the bottom of my heart for the many additional hours folks have put in to preparing and delivering worship, running our café's and drop-ins, ministering to children and families, caring for one another in need, and supporting our charities and fund-raisers. I want to thank all those who have taken on new challenges – doing things for the church they never tried before. And I want to thank you all for being flexible and adventurous as we've experimented with new ways of doing things.

As we enter this festive Christmas period this year, I've been reflecting on the connection between Christmas and Easter. The one gives meaning to the other. Without Christmas, Easter is just the story of a radical Jew who died as a martyr to his cause. The Incarnation at Christmas time reminds us that it was no mere man who died on the Cross, but that God stepped into the world to bear our burdens. Equally, without Easter Christmas is just a sweet story about a god visiting our world. Other religions abound with such stories. Jesus's death and Resurrection at Easter teaches us that by stepping into the world, God took on all of our humanity, even our mortality, and forged a bond with creation that not even death could break.

And if God has bound himself to us like that – as Christmas and Easter teach – then everything is going to be ok. I don't mean that in a trite, simplistic or frivolous way. I mean that in the deepest of senses, everything is going to be ok. Whatever is worrying you; whatever you fear; whatever is troubling the world – it's going to be ok. That doesn't mean there is no pain or suffering. But it does mean that God has bound himself to us in love and he will not let us go.

May you be reassured of God's love for you and yours this Christmas.

Much love,
Neil



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.

Plant Sale Quiz - Winner & Answers

Beasts that fly in our Garden

Thanks to everyone who donated to the quiz in aid of church funds launched at the Plant Sale on the 24th May. £61 was raised from the entry fees and donations and £25 was spent in prizes.

The winner with the highest number of correct answers was Vicki Graham from Midmill, Kintore and Jackie Coull from Monymusk was runner up. Well done both of you.

Here are the answers for anyone completely flummoxed. Stella Gauld can provide further explanation if required:

FLIES

1. High lifter (driven by tall father)? ***CRANEFLY***
2. Liquid container made in Bristol? ***BLUEBOTTLE***
3. Known for forty shades? ***GREENFLY***
4. Ultravox singer? ***MIDGE***
5. One of your five a day? ***FRUITFLY***

FLIERS

6. Loved on our Christmas cards? ***ROBIN***
7. Quick, find in Monymusk Church tower? ***SWIFT***
8. Switzerland, me, loud, loud, Switzerland, indef. article, very loud! ***CHIFF CHAFF***
9. Short spelling of fletcher's output? ***SPARROW***
10. Piscatorial ruler? ***KINGFISHER***
11. "Little bit of bread and no cheese"? ***YELLOWHAMMER***
12. Fork tailed migrant? ***SWALLOW***

FLIERS cont'd

13. Found singing at the dead of night? ***BLACKBIRD***
14. "Peesie weep, peesie weep weep"? ***PEEWIT or LAPWING***
15. Three what were "sitting on a wa'"? ***CROWS***

BUTTERFLIES

16. Hot navy officer? ***RED ADMIRAL***
17. Home for semi-aquatic quadruped? ***TORTOISESHELL***
18. Readily available sulphur? ***COMMON BRIMSTONE***
19. Key feature of migratory bird? ***SWALLOWTAIL***
20. Symbol of being proud? ***PEACOCK***

I hope you had much fun trying to work out the answers, even if you didn't complete them all nor submit an entry for marking and potentially winning. I enjoyed setting this up and who knows, may even do another in due course.

Stella Gauld

Tear-Out Christmas Quiz

BPC Christmas Quiz Questions 2025
Donations of £1 gratefully received

1. By what name was Santa Claus known as in the film *Miracle on 34th Street*?	
2. Which country was the first to use the tradition of the Christmas tree?	
3. In which popular pantomime does Robin Hood and Maid Marion appear?	
4. Selling glass Christmas ornaments in America in the 1890s was said to have contributed to the start of which company's great business success?	
5. Which Christmassy item was invented in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1610 and called 'lametta'?	
6. Terry's Chocolate Oranges area great stocking fillers. How many segments are there in each orange?	
7. Which carol contains the lyrics: "Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone"?	
8. What was first manufactured in Halifax in 1936 and named after a play by J. M. Barrie?	
9. After Scrooge decides to change his ways on Christmas Day, what does he anonymously send to the Cratchit family?	
10. Which fictional reindeer is missing from this list: Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen?	
11. Which UK Christmas number one was the first single to sell over two million copies?	
12. Which archangel foretold the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary?	
13. Which fruit popular at Christmas is named after a seaport in Morocco?	
14. Which British group wished it could be Christmas every day?	
15. Who 'las looked out, on the Feast of Stephen?	
16. What is London sweet maker Tom Smith credited with inventing in 1847?	
17. What was invented in 1670 by the choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral, in Germany to keep choirboys quiet?	
18. Is Bethlehem a tiny farming village in England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales?	
19. What first appeared in 1939 when Montgomery Ward department store asked one of its copywriters, Robert L. May, to create a Christmas colouring book?	
20. If you were born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?	

Send completed entries back, by 31st December, to: Stella Gauld, Brae Lodge, 35 Kendal Road, Kemnay AB51 5RN Winner (random pick of correct entries) - £10 Runner Up (second pick of correct entries) - £5	Name, Address Include your email if you wish to receive a set of the correct answers.

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

Thank you to all 1,000 who have returned a completed **Member Information** form.

Unfortunately there remains circa 500 who have not!

To those persons, we plan to send a final personal letter with this issue of the Bennachie Kirk Newsletter stating that if we do not receive a completed form before the end of March 2026 they will have to be removed from the Bennachie Parish Church roll with the approval of the Trustees.

This is the very last thing that we want to do but this will need to be done to comply with legal requirements for holding personal data.

Please do return your form.
If you have any doubts as to whether or not we have your approval please contact the office on 01467 643883 or E-mail:
office@bennachieparish.church
or Contact Jeff Thomas on 01467 643434 and leave a message.

Thank you





Cluny War Memorial
Sauchen, Aberdeenshire

The Cluny War Memorial commemorates the lives of 37 local men who lost their lives in the First world war (1914-1918) and the Second world war (1939-1945). It was erected in 1920 on the hillside of Cluny Parish Church grounds and officially dedicated by Lady Cathcart of Cluny Castle.

Move on one hundred years and the Church of Scotland start going through a massive closure and sell off of its churches and one of the casualties was Cluny Parish Church, a rural church in the middle of Aberdeenshire.

The Congregational Board of Cluny Church, the local Community Council, and Bennachie Parish all agreed that the War Memorial should be relocated from the church grounds to a new designated site. There was concern that, following the sale of the Church, the war memorial would be situated on private property, potentially restricting public access. Hence started a 3-year project to move the 5.1 metric tonne, 3 metre high, granite memorial.

Aberdeenshire council provided an area to move the monument to, plus advice and assistance in the planning process. Attempts to get companies to quote and take on the work proved arduous as the monument sat on the side of a hill with limited access. Contracts were subsequently awarded, and the work began.

On the 19th of October at 2pm a rededication service took place led by the Pipes and Drums of the Gordon Highlander association with veteran soldiers from The Gordon Highlanders and Scots Guards performing a march past.

In attendance was Alexander Manson, The Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire; Andrew Bowie MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine; Alexander Burnett MSP for West Aberdeenshire; Ron McKail Deputy Provost for Aberdeenshire; Major Grenville Irvine-Fortescue MBE DL Gordon highlanders association; Hon. Captain Jonathan Forbes of the Scots Guards association plus members of Aberdeenshire council.

The service was led by Rev. Euan Glen and Rev. Neil Meyer with over two hundred in attendance. Cosmo Linzee Gordon unveiled the War Memorial,

including his great grandmother's speech from 105 years ago in his remarks.
Luckily, the weather was kind to us which allowed everyone not only to stay dry but enjoy the tea, coffee, and cakes on offer after the service.
My thanks go to everyone who helped and contributed on the day to what was a superb and proud occasion.

Scott Langlands

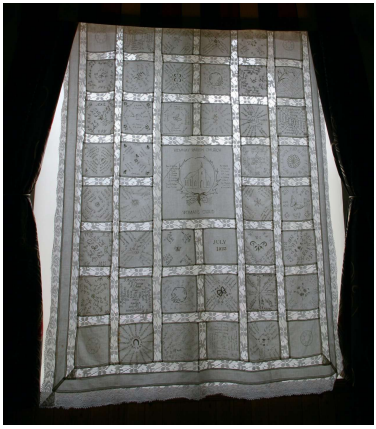








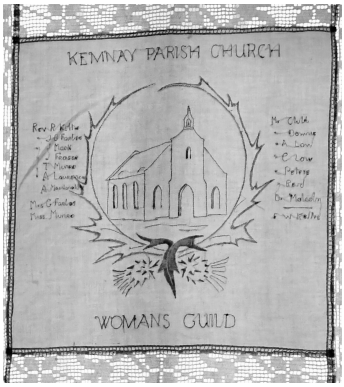

With thanks to Alan Gorvett for Rededication Service Photos



Woman's Guild Embroidered Cloth

Several years ago a lady handed in a cloth to the church which she had received from her uncle who died in 1991. How long he had it in his possession is unknown and he was unaware of its previous history.

The linen cloth is almost 7 feet x 5 feet and is made up of a central panel measuring approximately 16" x 14" which features an embroidered image of Kemnay Parish Church with a column of names down the right hand side which appears to be the Kirk Session and on the left a column of names which could be the members of Presbytery. The cloth is made up of around 44 panels measuring approximately 7" x 6" on which have been embroidered names and/or initials. These panels had then been sewn up with strips of lace between them to form the cloth – a task which must have entailed much time and patience and no small modicum of skill. A panel below the image of the Kirk carries the date July 1925.



No mention of this cloth appears in the Kirk Session Minutes, which is quite understandable, and no minutes of the Woman's Guild to which the origins of the cloth have been attributed, have yet been found. Any more thoughts on how the cloth came about must be pure conjecture. It could have been a fund raiser whereby an individual or a group of people may have "purchased" a square and decorated it as they saw fit.

For whatever reason that the cloth came about many hours had lovingly been spent embroidering these individual squares, some with just lists of initials others with names, before a considerable amount of time had been spent sewing them all together to form the magnificent cloth which we now possess.

After the passing of a century many of the initials convey little or no

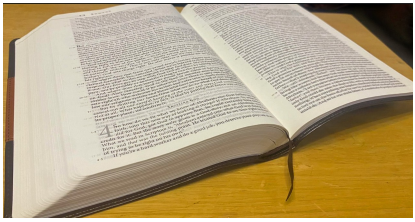
meaning, but one pair of initials, HD and RWD are those of Robert W Duncan for long blacksmith at Kirkstyle and his wife Helen – they were the grandparents of Mary Duncan a long time member of the church.

Among the list of names appears two M Snowies [Marjory and Mary] whose father at one time had a bakery in Station Road and used to live at Don Cottage. M Dufton would be the proprietrix of the Burnett Arms Hotel; Gina Souden, M J Souden and J M Souden are all members of a family who lived in Glenhead; Lilian M Diack's family stayed at Benview; J M Robertson was a well-known headmaster at Kemnay School, whose name appears alongside Edith Robertson, Edith M Robertson and Margaret Robertson; James Morgan was a shoemaker at Melville in the High Street who is listed with Isabella Morgan, Dorothea Morgan and Margaret Morgan; A G Reid and W B Reid were two brothers who ran a building firm in the village; Mrs Downie was the wife of the local joiner whose name is listed with M[ary] Downie and A[nnie] Downie, her two daughters. One square which has the image of a horse shoe in the middle and "Craigearn Kemnay" embroidered around it contains a list of 16 names including Dr. John Malcolm, the local doctor and also tenant farmer in Craigearn, along with members of his family.

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

Children and Families from Bennachie Parish and beyond are very welcome at any of the groups. Come and visit to find the group that works best for your family. We look forward to meeting you.

BENNACHIE PARISH CHURCH HOLIDAY CLUB REPORT
August 11th -15th 2025 at Kemnay Church Centre.

We are pleased to report that the Holiday Club was very successful and enjoyed by all.

During the week we welcomed from across the Parish in all 32 children with an average attendance of 22 children (many of the children came along each day). The children were from P1 to P7 at school.



We had a great full on week of fun, teaching, challenges, singing, games, crafts, puppets and teaching videos.

Chris (from Out of the Box Scotland) prepared the material and led the sessions.

As last year we thank Chris for his energy, the programme he presents and his skill to explain and engage us all in learning more about faith in all the different ways.

Also thank you to all the volunteers who support Chris to deliver his programme, in the smaller groups' time, through craft, warm ups and games and most importantly snack time.

Also, members of the congregation thank you for all the toilet rolls you collected!

You will be pleased to hear we have booked Chris for next Summer 2026.

Save the date **August 10th - 14th 2026.**

COME AND JOIN US AT SUMMER CLUB

SUNDAY GROUPS

Kemnay Kirk Kids - We meet on Sunday mornings @ 10am in Kemnay Kirk to have fun together exploring the Bible in an interactive and hands on approach.

Our children are between the ages of 2 to 9 years old. Our older children often take part in the service, by reading the scriptures and leading the prayers. Everyone welcome.

Kintore Messy Church - Messy Church is held on the second Sunday of each month Sept to May 3.30 - 5.30pm. Messy Church is a special fun family time, as parents are with children throughout. After registration a welcome fly cup is provided with lovely home bakes.

There is always a biblical theme for the day. The Bible story will be read by one of the team and craft time follows with around six different activities based around the theme. When these have been completed, we move from the hall through to the church for a time of celebration usually led by Neil. He reinforces the theme with a video of the story, and we sing a couple of lively songs. In the meantime, the hall is transformed into a cafe, and when we return a lovely nourishing supper is served for families and volunteers and another time of fellowship is experienced.

If you are a family with children under 12 we would be delighted to welcome you at 3.30pm on the Mini Messy on 7 December.

Messy Church could not happen without its willing group of dedicated volunteers.

Monymusk and Cluny Sunday School - We meet as a family group, once a month on a Sunday morning at 10am. All members of your family are welcome to come along.

The pattern of the session changes but usually includes time in church then we have the hall across the way where there is space for craft, more songs and time in smaller groups.





Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday - the Sunday School hosted Harvest coffee and cake

Christmas at Sunday School

Returning this year, our Nativity Play -'The Angry Hotel Man'. We are also looking forward to Olivia and Lily playing during the Christmas service.

The plan is

November 30th, we begin Christmas preparations in the Hall after Nora's Baptism in church

December 7th Nativity practice.

December 14th Christmas Nativity Play followed by a Party Tea.

All Families are very welcome to join us and take part at this very special time.

Echt and Midmar -An informal nativity led by the children is planned on Sunday **14th December at 6.00 pm**. Further information will be posted on the Church Facebook page.

Chapel of Garioch and Blairdaff - Children are very welcome at all the services; there is a special area where there are toys and activities for children.

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES



Monymusk mainly music - We are a group for families with babies and pre school children, who meet on a Tuesday afternoon in Monymusk hall (term time) from 1.30 to 3.00pm for songs, toys and activities, with a snack for the children and cakes and tea for mums. We enjoy

the mainly music songs and rhymes and then after snack, play and activities. Our play ideas over the years have become more adventurous and messy! Dressing up is a favourite activity for the older children, while the cars and kitchen toys are always popular.



Nov 25th, Dec 2nd and 9th the Christmas story, our mainly music Christmas story and party time songs.

Kemnay Little Lambs - "Little Lambs" continues to open on Fridays 9.15 to 10.45am (term time), offering support to parents, grandparents and childminders, alongside our play, snack and music time. It's lovely to see our young ones interacting in the music sessions: they love routine – anticipating what is coming next - but embrace new songs, props and actions too.

Our current age range is 14 weeks to 3½ years, plus our young adult wheelchair-user with complex needs who enjoys watching the activities. Numbers vary week to week, from 9 children on a quiet day to 19 on a busy one!

CONTACT NAMES FOR THE CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Kemnay Kirk Kids - 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 of Garioch and Blairdaff - Fiona Geddes fionageddes@bennachieparish.church



Bennachie Parish Church

Christmas Services December 2025

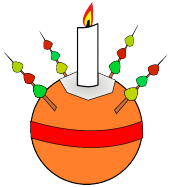
The Church of Scotland

Sat, 29th Nov	5:30pm	**Christmas Lights Switch-on**	Monymusk
Sat, 6th Dec	4:00pm	**Christmas Lights Switch-on**	Kintore
Sun, 7th Dec	10:00am	**Christmas Gift Service**	Joint-Kemnay
Wed, 10th Dec	7:00pm	**Time to Remember**	Kintore
Sun, 14th Dec	10:00am	**Lessons and Carols**	Kemnay
Sun, 14th Dec	6:00pm	**Nativity Play**	Echt
Sun, 14th Dec	10:00am	**Nativity Play**	Monymusk
Tues, 16th Dec	7:00pm	**Carols in The Square**	Monymusk
Sun, 21st Dec	10:00am	**Nativity Play**	Kemnay
Sun, 21st Dec	10:00am	**Instant Nativity**	Kintore
Sun, 21st Dec	6:30pm	**Carols by Candlelight**	Kintore



Christmas Eve – Wed, 24th Dec

Kintore – Christingle, 5:30pm
Kemnay – Christingle, 6:30pm
Monymusk – Family Service, 7:00pm



Watchnight – Wed, 24th Dec

Echt – 11:00pm
Kemnay – 11:00pm
Kintore – 11:15pm



Christmas Day – Thur, 25th Dec

Monymusk – 10:30am
Kintore – 11:00am



Joint Service – Sunday, 28th Dec, Echt, 10:00am (Lessons and Carols)
Joint Service – Sunday, 4th Jan, Monymusk, 10:00am (Communion)



Bennachie Parish Church

Christmas Services December 2025 By Location

The Church of Scotland



Joint Services
Sunday, 7 Dec, 10:00am, Christmas Gift Service, Kemnay
Sunday 28 Dec, 10:00am, Lessons and Carols, Echt
Sunday 4 Jan, 10:00am, Communion, Monymusk

Echt Church
Sunday 14 Dec, 6:00pm Nativity Play
Christmas Eve: Wed, 24 Dec, 11:00pm, Watchnight Service

Kemnay Church
Sunday 14 Dec, 10:00am, Lessons and Carols
Sunday 21 Dec, 10:00am, Nativity Play
Christmas Eve: Wed 24 Dec, 6:30pm, Christingle
Christmas Eve: Wed 24 Dec, 11:00pm, Watchnight Service

Kintore Church
Saturday 6 Dec, 4:00pm, Christmas Lights Switch On
Wed 10 Dec, 7:00pm, Time to Remember
Sun 21 Dec, 10:00am, Instant Nativity
Sun 21 Dec, 6:30pm, Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve: Wed 24 Dec, 5:30pm, Christingle
Christmas Eve: Wed 24 Dec, 11:15pm, Watchnight Service
Christmas Day, Thurs 25 Dec, 11:00am, Christmas Day Service

Monymusk Church
Sat 29 Nov, 5:30pm, Christmas Lights Switch On
Tues 16 Dec, 7:00pm, Carols in the Square
Sun 14 Dec, 10:00am, Nativity Play
Christmas Eve: Wed 24 Dec, 7:00pm, Family Service
Christmas Day: Thurs 25 Dec, 10:30am, Christmas Day Family Service

Littlewood Court Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 18 December at 2pm

Come join our friends at Littlewood Court for a service of traditional carols with a modern twist. We'll be singing our favourite Christmas carols and re-telling the Nativity story a bit differently.

The service will be followed by a cuppa and mince-meat pies
Don't miss out.

Hope to see you there

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

E-mail: office@bennachieparish.church

Address: Church Lane, Kemnay AB51 5QP



Correspondence

Hello,
While stopping with my Dad in Kemnay I was interested to read the report in the summer 'Bennachie Parish Magazine' on the June open air service at Old Blairdaff Church.
The photos reminded me of my brothers wedding that took place at Old Blairdaff Church on 16th October 2010. Amazingly the weather was remarkably kind for the time of year as you can see from the attached pics.
The wedding was conducted by a family friend who came up from Yorkshire for the event. We then carried on the celebrations at the Kemnay Church Center, with some of the refreshments being supplied by the 'Loaves and Fishes' team.
My brother and sister-in-law (Peter Gedge & Melanie Jones) are happy for these pictures to be shared in the magazine if you would like to use them.
Blessings,
Judith Humble





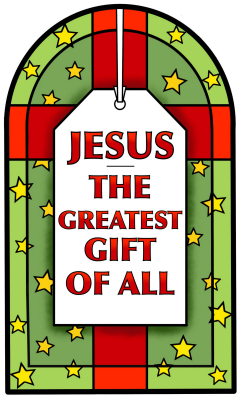
Editors reply:
Thanks for getting in touch and for the interesting story and photos…..
Am I correct in Assuming your dad receives the newsletter in Kemnay?
Your timing is perfect as I'm about to start preparing the next edition of the newsletter.
I'm sure recipients of the newsletter will find it of interesting.
The summer service was my first visit there and the weather on that day was perfect too…..
Regards,
David

Continued on next page

Hello David,
Yes! you are correct my Dad receives the newsletter. Up until this year he was a regular attender at the monthly Tuesday Morning Group and even further back attended the two churches in Kemnay on alternate weeks! Sadly my Dad is now bed bound but has some wonderful carers who visit during the day and will use the magazine as a conversation starter. It will be brilliant for him to see the photo(s) of his sons wedding in the newsletter.
Old Blairdaff Church is such a lovely setting, I am pleased to know it is now being cared for sympathetically. My sister in law's (she of the wedding-dress) parents ashes are now interred in the grounds, so the place continues to have special importance for the family…..
Blessings, Judith

Thanks for the reply……Would you mind telling me your Dad's name, my wife Diane thinks she may remember him from Good Morning Group.

Dad is Brian Gedge. Thanks J



Welcome

Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world that is waiting,
Welcome, Jesus baby
To a world needing joy,
Thank you for the presents
That you bring us on your birth day,
Peace, love and hope
Wrapped in one baby boy.

By Daphne Kitching
(courtesy of Parish Pump)

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"



The Princess Royal Visits Bennachie Parish Church

On 10 October, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, arrived in the village of Kemnay to the sounds of the Kintore Pipe Band. Her Royal Highness was greeted at the church gate by Mrs Lorna Smith, the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire. Mrs Smith accompanied The Princess Royal to the church entrance, where Rev Neil Meyer, the minister of Bennachie Parish Church, was presented to her.

Rev Meyer then introduced the Presbytery Moderator Rev Shuna Dicks, the Presbytery Clerk Rev Stella McBurnie, the Session Clerk Mrs Carole Horne and the Treasurer Mr Andrew Radcliffe to Her Royal Highness.

After a short conversation at the church door, The Princess Royal was invited to enter the church building, where Rev Meyer showed her the map of the parish.



The Princess Royal was given the opportunity to witness Bennachie's innovative approach to worship first-hand. She watched the other four churches of the parish go live on screen and heard greetings from Monymusk, Kintore, Echt and Chapel of Garioch.

A team of Community Led Worship leaders were presented to Her Royal Highness after the live broadcast - they had the opportunity to share further details with her of how worship is led in the physical absence of a minister.



In fine weather, the visit continued with a tour of the Commonwealth War Graves at the Kemnay Church cemetery. The tour was led by local historian, Mr Duncan Downie and the Commonwealth War Graves representative, Mr Scott Laird.



The next stop of the royal visit was the Kemnay Church Centre. In the Loaves and Fishes Café The Princess Royal was introduced to volunteers who run the congregation's three café's: Loaves and Fishes in Kemnay, Thursday Drop-in at Kintore and Hope Café in Echt.



One of the halls of the Church Centre was set to display all the charities and initiatives the parish is involved with locally and internationally. Children's ministry in the parish includes Scripture Union at Kemnay Academy, a mainly music® group and Sunday School at Monymusk, a monthly Messy Church at







Kintore and the weekly Little Lambs of Kemnay. Charities on display included Christian Aid, Toilet Twinning, WaterAid, Famine Relief for Orphans in Malawi and local charities such as the Aberdeenshire North







FoodBank and the parish's own Hospital Transport scheme.

Her Royal Highness learnt about the environmental project run at Monymusk, which is trying to re-establish a swift colony in the church tower.



The visit ended in the main hall of the Church Centre, where Her Royal Highness met with over 80 of Bennachie's most dedicated volunteers, who had gathered for tea in anticipation of her arrival. To mark the occasion, Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque commemorating her visit to the parish. The Princess Royal was then presented with gifts from the congregation, including a painting of Bennachie by local artist Mr Ian McCracken, and a picture of the 121st Toilet Twinned by the parish. In a particularly touching moment, 102-year-old Elder Emeritus, Agnes Ryle, presented Her Royal Highness with a posy on behalf of the parish.







In his parting message to The Princess Royal, Rev Meyer said, "Your Royal Highness, it has been a real joy to have you visit us here at Bennachie Parish Church today.

"When we heard that you would be able to visit us we gave a lot of thought to what message we want to convey to you.

"We decided that we didn't just want to show you the "best little church in Aberdeenshire", even though I, of course, think we are that.

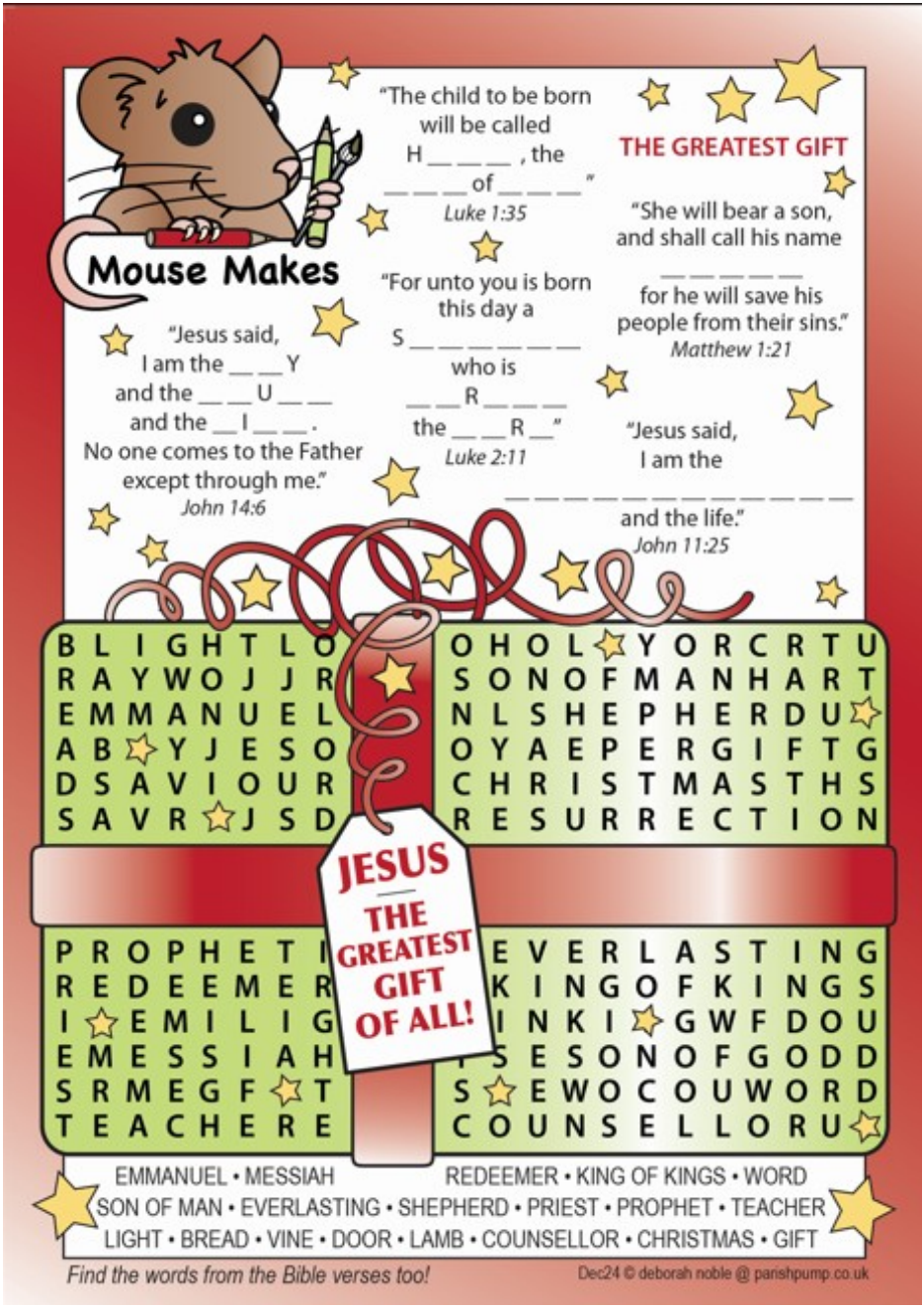
"We wanted, instead, to give you a picture of "every church" in Aberdeenshire.

"We are very conscious that we have colleagues and friends in churches across the whole of the North East who are facing the same challenges as we are with diminishing resources and congregational readjustments.

"We are all having to find new and creative ways to continue worshipping God and serving our communities. And we are doing so.

"We are doing so because the hope for the world lies in congregations of men and women who believe that the power which has the final word in human affairs is represented by a man hanging on a cross.

"We believe it; and we live by it – and that is why we continue to serve as we do."

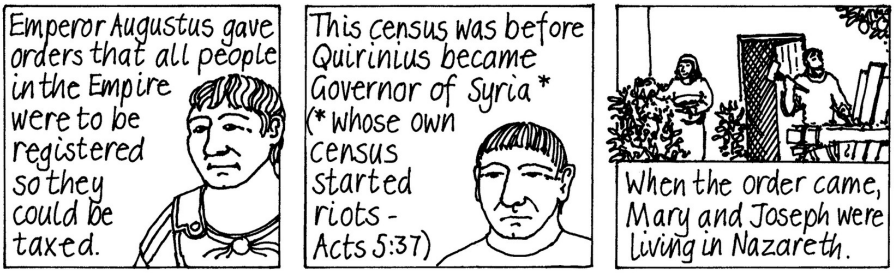

Mouse Makes
"The child to be born will be called H ___ ___ , the ___ ___ ___ of ___ ___ ___ "
Luke 1:35
"For unto you is born this day a S ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ who is ___ ___ R ___ ___ ___ the ___ ___ R ___ "
Luke 2:11
"Jesus said, I am the ___ ___ Y and the ___ ___ U ___ ___ and the ___ I ___ ___. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6
THE GREATEST GIFT
"She will bear a son, and shall call his name ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ for he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21
"Jesus said, I am the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ and the life."
John 11:25
B L I G H T L O
R A Y W O J J R
E M M A N U E L
A B Y J E S O
D S A V I O U R
S A V R J S D
O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N
JESUS
THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!
P R O P H E T
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E
E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT
Find the words from the Bible verses too!
Dec24 © deborah noble @ parishpump.co.uk

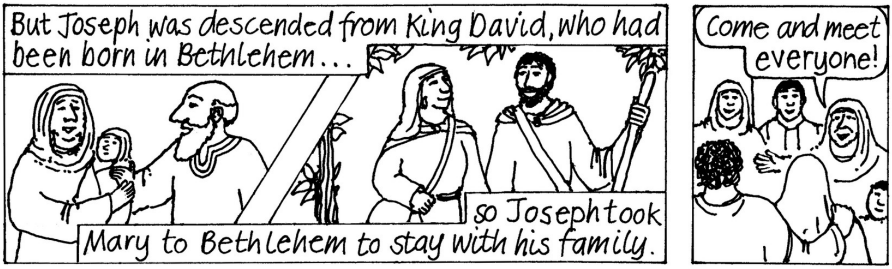
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Roman Empire charged the countries it had invaded taxes, based on the number of people and what they earned.









Bakers at Bennachie Church

Please gather your favourite receipes.
I would like to produce a small receipe book in 2026 to sell with all our favourite home bakes.
Keep an eye out in the New Year for more details.
Thanks, Hilary Size

Bennachie Parish Church - Newsletter Circulation

To reduce newsletter production and distribution costs we encourage readers to opt for the e-mail version however we are aware that some recipients are willing to pay towards the cost of the printed version and probably are already doing this - Thank you.
If you receive the printed version, once read, please consider passing it on to others in the neighbourhood especially if they are new or have relocated to the area.
Many Thanks

Everyday Christmas

Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.

Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings

As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
Afresh.
Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.



Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.

Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.

The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching
(Courtesy of Parish Pump)

Bennachie Parish Church of Scotland

CHRISTMAS FAIR

CHAPEL OF GARIOCH VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 29th November 2025

10am 'til 12 noon

£5 entry includes

Tea, Coffee and a fine piece

Home bakes, Raffle, Games,

Produce, Christmas Presents &

the Chapel of Garioch Primary School Stall!



In association with Chapel of Garioch Primary School

Bennachie Parish Church Charity No. SCO14790

BPC WiFi Free



The project to establish a wireless network in all our church buildings is now complete

Look out for the QR Codes which are now displayed - scan these with your mobile device to connect

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 Spring 2026 edition is **8th March 2026.**

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

Gods Love
Holds you in the stillness of its beauty,
not to go further but to dwell in that moment.

John Barr McCracken

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.

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



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



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

Minister:

Rev Neil Meyer: nmeyer@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Office: office@bennachieparish.church

Session Clerk: TBA after next Kirk Session Meeting

Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch
Local Leadership Team: Stella Gauld - stellagauld@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