



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

December 2018 / January 2019



Kirk News

www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org

Dear Friends,

Relativity.

Time has to be the most elastic substance in the universe. It stretches and contracts with alarming rapidity in our lives. Sometimes it seems to be an endless resource, especially when we are young and at other times it seems that it has contracted into an intense rush to fit in everything we think we should do. Times like this lead to stress in many of us and Christmas always seems to be like this.



The messages from those who want to sell us things ramp up from Black Friday into a kind of desperation and the TV is full of adverts for perfume. Is Christmas the only time that perfume is bought? No matter what the advert is like though, perfume does have an association with Christmas, it's just not the kind of perfume the adverts are selling.

When I think of Christmas it is cinnamon and mincemeat and ginger and cloves that come to mind. Brandy fumes in the mincemeat mixture and baking pastry. Christmas cake mixture in the bowl and warm ovens leaking the glorious smell of rising baking.

The smell of a log fire and mulled wine, the smell of pine needles in the woods and that indefinable smell of snow in the air, these are the non food smells I love too. Before this starts to resemble that song from the Sound of Music I'd better get to the point.

Scents can transport us back in time or miles away in our own time. They activate our memories and our perceptions shift. Just think about how a whiff of the perfume your grandmother wore can make you feel like a child again. One of the first Christmas presents was perfume, the Frankincense that one of the Magi brought for Jesus. The byre in Bethlehem was suddenly filled with the beautiful smell of the most precious perfume in the world, only found in the resin of rare trees in the Middle East, a perfume burned to worship God and to lift the human spirit onto the spiritual plane. That smell still fills the streets of

the old city of Jerusalem. It flowed over the smell of dirty straw and donkeys, cattle and unwashed people and even the smell of dirty nappies. They were eliminated in an uprush of glorious scent that made the byre a temple if only for a moment and connected the everyday with the things of God.

I just bought a Frankincense candle to burn through this Christmas. I hope it will do the same for me and help me to keep the Bethlehem byre at the centre of all I do. It will cover the other smells of a busy Scottish Christmas season with the reminder of the presence of God born as one of us and worshipped in perfume by a wise man who knew nothing but, this was important. To go to Bethlehem and meet the son of God, born for us.

I wish you all the uplifting rush of joy that signifies the presence of God in your lives this Christmas and always.

With love,

Alison x



Thank You

As Christmas 2018 fast approaches I would like to thank all the members of our congregation and those other members of our community, who, during the past year, have given their time and efforts for the benefit of our church and fellowship within our community.

I look forward to seeing you at our services leading up to Christmas, the details of which are in this issue, and finally I would like to wish all readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and a successful New Year.

William Dalzell, Session Clerk

Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum



Like many of you, December is one of our busiest months. We have to make sure the Santa Sleigh is ready and that lights & sound equipment are working before we take the sleigh out for Santa's annual visits to Oldmeldrum and some of the surrounding villages.

We start as always on the first Sunday in December when Santa and his helpers will be supporting MAIG when the Christmas lights are switched on in the Square. Over the rest of the following 2 weeks, as well as Oldmeldrum, we will be in Rothienorman, Tarves, Methlick, Daviot and Newmachar.

We will be in Oldmeldrum on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th between 6.15pm and 8.30 and aim to cover the same streets as previous years. On Tuesday we will go south from Commercial Road and Market Square including Elmbank Gardens and Otter Avenue. On Wednesday 12th we plan to cover roads to the north of (and including) Commercial Road, Market Square and South Road, and houses to the north of Albert Road and along Urquhart Road and Albert Grove.

We will also be at the Co-op one weekend, the date has still be to be confirmed but information about this will be put on the Meldrum Community website.



The Santa Sleigh is our main fundraising event of the year and we appreciate how many of you support us with donations, no matter how big or small when we knock on the door. Its donations like yours that help us to re-distribute money to good causes locally and further afield.

Two of the more recent recipients of donations from our Community Fund have been Newmachar Playgroup to help replace their outdoor storage, and Udhay Station Christmas Lights group.

Rotary isn't just about fundraising, we enjoy lots of social events too and we end the year with our Christmas Party at Morris's Hotel.

If anything you have heard about Rotary has been of interest to you then feel free to come and meet us to find out more about what we do. We meet on Monday evenings at the Redgarth Hotel at 6.30 and start our year on the 7th January.

On behalf of the members of Rotary Oldmeldrum I would like send best wishes to you all for the coming festive season.

Meet the Probationer

I'm sure most of the congregation have seen the new face by now; sitting at the front of the church with Alison, helping to lead worship and even turning up at the Guild! Who is he?

My name is Carl Irvine and I am a probationer minister. That means that I have done all my theological studies and training to become a full-time minister in the Church of Scotland and I am now spending 15 months working alongside Alison before I am unleashed on a parish of my own. As I'm gradually getting to know you all, it's natural that I am frequently asked the same questions, so I thought it would be a good idea to take this opportunity to tell you something about myself.

After spending the first 8 years of my life constantly moving around because my father was in the Royal Navy, I completed my primary schooling in St. Combs and then spent 6 years at Fraserburgh Academy. I am 56 years old, married to Suzanne and have four children; Lewis (27), Caitlin (25), Anne (23) and David (15). Lewis and Caitlin no longer live at home, but the rest of us live just outside Meikle Wartle with the boss of the house, Chip, an 8-year-old Jack Russell Terrier.

Most of my working life (33 years) has been spent in primary schools, as a class teacher, assistant head teacher and head teacher. Seven years ago, I began to study theology on a part-time, distance learning basis with Highland Theological College, UHI, graduating with a BA in 2017. During this time, I began to feel the call to ministry more strongly but, because of my age and circumstances, decided to pursue the route to Ordained Local Ministry, a part-time, voluntary form of ministry, previously called auxiliary ministry. After three years of training and placements, alongside my full-time teaching job, I was ordained in Inverurie West Church on 13 November 2017. This means that I am allowed to officiate at the sacraments; Holy Communion and Baptism, which most probationers are not, because they are not ordained.

Unexpectedly, I was offered early retirement at the beginning of this calendar year and immediately accepted, as I was by then in a position where I could apply to transfer to full-time ministry. My application was successful and, as I have already done almost all the

training for ministry, I need only complete this probationary period before I can apply for my own parish.

Between now and the end of December 2019, I look forward to getting to know many of you much better, hone my skills in ministry and, God willing, be of service to all in Meldrum and Bourtie Parish.

Many blessings,

Carl



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2018

A very sincere thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. The boxes will bring lots of pleasure to the folks who will receive them in Romania.

Kirk News Articles

All items for the February/March 2019 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 20th January 2019.

If you know of anyone who does not normally receive Kirk News and would like to, please contact the Editor, Simon Hill.

This special Christmas issue is being delivered to all the Community and on behalf of the Kirk Session may we wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

The Guild



On Monday 24th September the Guild welcomed Jessie Milne and Catherine Pine whose topic was Crafts. They demonstrated how to make Christmas decorations and then gave us the opportunity to try making some ourselves. A very entertaining afternoon for all.

On Monday 8th October the Guild welcomed Katy Jones as guest speaker. Her topic was “Chest, Heart and Stroke”. Katy came to tell us about the work of the charity. They support people who have had a Stroke or Heart problem. They aim to help people who live in fear and isolation and give them care and support. It was a very informative talk and was enjoyed by all.

On Monday 22nd October the Guild welcomed John Alexander as guest speaker. He came to tell us about his cruise on the Magellan to the Northern Isles. He spoke and showed slides of his trip to Shetland, Orkney, Faroes and Iceland, including some beautiful Churches and spectacular scenery. There were 1100 passengers on board and the food and service was first class. A very interesting talk which was very enjoyable.

On Monday 12th November the Guild welcomed Debbie Armstrong whose topic was “Healing”. Debbie is a Complimentary Therapist and told us about the work she and her team carry out. They deal with people who have Physical and Mental issues, Recovery from Addiction, Bereavement and Isolation. They have sessions of Reiki, Reflexology, a Self Esteem Group and a “Laughter Yoga” Group, which meets in Inverurie and proves to be beneficial. The talk left members with ‘food for thought’.

Syllabus:

December	10th	2.30pm - Christmas Party
January 2019	14th	2pm - Visit to Gambia - Mr Ian Dow
February	11th	2pm - Christian Aid - Solar Ovens in Bolivia - Mr Ian WalDRAM

Singing for Fun:

Come along and join us on

Friday 7 December at 2pm:

**Jim & Marisha Addison will be
playing a selection of songs to sing
along with.**

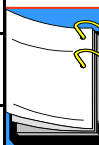
**Held in the Church Hall, Albert Road
Oldmeldrum.**

Tea & biscuits will be served:



Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
December			
2 nd	Bourtie	9.45am	First Sunday in Advent
	Meldrum	11am	First Sunday in Advent
	Balmedie House	3pm	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Advent Reflections
9 th	Meldrum	11am	Second Sunday in Advent Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
16 th	Meldrum	11am	Third Sunday in Advent Family Service Sunday School Nativity
	Bourtie	2pm	Carol Service *Special Offering*
17 th (Mon)	Church Hall (starting from)	7pm	Carol Singing around village
19 th (Wed)	Church Hall	7pm	Christmas Carol Singalong
23 rd	Meldrum	11am	Fourth Sunday in Advent
	Westbank Home	2pm	Carols
24 th	Meldrum	6.30pm	Messy Church / Family Service *Special Offering*
	Meldrum	11pm	Community Carols
	Meldrum	11.30pm	Watchnight Service *Special Offering*
25 th	Meldrum	10.30am	Christmas Morning Family Celebration *Special Offering*
30 th	Meldrum	10 ¹ 11am	Informal Communion after service



Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
January			
6 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
13 th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
20 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
27 th	Meldrum	11am	

Special Offerings

Donations received from all retiring & special collections at our special Christmas services will be donated equally between :

World Mission - Toilet Twinning*

Local Mission - Campaign for new air ambulance in Aberdeen.

*Follow this link for information on Toilet Twinning.

<https://www.toilettwinning.org/group/churches/>

Meldrum Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member	
Dec 2nd	G Simpson	J Simpson
9th	D Webster	I Reid
16th	C Simpson	E Oliver
23rd	M Dow	E Falconer
30th	I Bousefield	S Bousefield
Jan 6th	A Adam	I Reid
13th	A Dobson	S Dobson
20th	C Simpson	A Adam
27th	M Kavangh	M Dow

Date	Finance		Flowers
Dec 2nd	D Davidson	W Paterson	E Thomson
9th	A McCartney	B Reid	M Spence
16th	E Buck	M Watt	S Bousefield
23rd	L Niven	G Smith	J Howard
30th	P Patrone	M Watt	Christmas Flowers
Jan 6th	A McLean	B Reid	W Reid
13th	A McCartney	D McLelland	A Milne
20th	D Davidson	E Porch	D McLelland
27th	W Paterson	E Buck	K Duguid

Bourtie Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member		Flowers
Dec 2nd	S Bousefield	G Stephen	M Green
16th	M Green	I Peddie	M Green
Jan 6th	S Bousefield	I Dunbar	I Cooper
20th	G Stephen	M Green	S Peddie

Bourtie Services

I am very happy to be the minister of Bourtie as well as Meldrum. The congregation may be smaller but it is no less important to me and Bourtie Church is a very special place to worship. The building may be younger than Meldrum Church but the history of worship in Bourtie is just as long. It is not my intention to allow the church at Bourtie to close.

However, over the last couple of years the attendances at Bourtie Church have been going down, especially on the third Sunday of the month. Those who attend regularly think it is time to consider reducing the number of services at Bourtie to one per month.

Obviously this is not a decision anyone wants to take lightly and without consultation so a meeting will be held at Collyhill Farm, Mrs Green's house, on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7pm. If you would like to share your thoughts on Bourtie services you are invited to attend.

Alison



Prayer Calendar



Advent, December 2018

Advent prayers reflect two aspects of the Christian season. First the personal anticipation and readiness to celebrate Jesus birth (in a manger) in Bethlehem. Then the second part, our expectation and longing for Christ to come again in great power and glory. This prayer includes both these themes.

A Modern Advent Prayer

Father, in this season of Advent we prepare our hearts for your coming.

You are the vine, we are the branches.

Come and tend us, prune us, clean us.

Nourish in us everything that bears much fruit.

As we celebrate your coming as a vulnerable baby

Our hearts await your glorious return as the Eternal King

Nurture in our expectant hearts a deep longing for you.

For the day when you return to us in glorious splendour

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

Throughout all ages and generations.

Amen



Prayer Calendar



January 2019

In our divided world let us start 2019 by praying for the healing of divisions, respect for the views of others and unity of purpose. January is the month when worldwide prayers are said for Christian unity. This year Indonesian Christians have chosen JUSTICE as the theme. We can learn from their ideas.

“Bhineka Tunggal Ika” - Unity in Diversity.

“Gotong Royong” - Solidarity and collaboration.

- * Lord, we pray for our Church Family. Foster in us a spirit of collaboration and co-operation. Help us to treat others with respect everyday.
- * Lord, we pray for our local community. Whatever our views or beliefs help us to be good neighbours to those who need help. Inspire us to support community projects and our local Foodbank.
- * Lord, we pray for our Government that they may find a sense of common purpose. We pray that those in office find and agree on a way forward that enables our country and its citizens to prosper in the days ahead. Be with us all in uncertain times.
- * Lord, we pray for the growth of Justice in our world and unity in our Churches. Kindle hope in a more united Church and World and show us a way to find unity in the faith we share despite our diversity.

Gracious Lord and Father,

As you sent your son to be our light and saviour hear our prayers for hope, justice, peace, love and unity in our divided world. In Jesus name we ask.

Amen

Deaths

Mr James (Jimmy) Reid	Macmillan Avenue 3rd October 2018
Mrs Ruth Richardson	Kirk Street 11th October 2018
Mrs Pauline Scudder	Westbank Park 6th November 2018



Weddings

Karen Ingram to	Alexander Black	27th October 2018
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New Members (by Resolution of the Kirk Session)

Mrs Doreen Reid	Macmillan Avenue
Mr Philip and Mrs Heather Nicol	Rae Circle, Inverurie

Contacts



Name	Position	
Rev. Alison Jaffrey	Minister	
Mrs Jean Mitchell	Reader	
Mr W Dalzell	Session Clerk	
Mr W Paterson	Treasurer	
Mrs Winnie Reid	Roll Keeper	
Focus Groups:		
	Pastoral Care Group	
Pat Patrone	Worship Group	
Kirk News		
Brian Reid	Editorial Rep	



Kilombero Rice Challenge
Pick up your pack (or two) in Church
£3 per kg (brown or white)

Lets make a difference!



JTS has challenged schools, as well as churches, colleges and other organisations, to sell 90kg of rice – the amount of rice sold that would enable a Malawian farmer to pay for a year's basic secondary education for one child.

For more information go to website - <https://www.jts.co.uk/90kg-rice-challenge>

SCOUTPOST 2018

For the 17th year 1st Daviot-Oldmeldrum Scouts will be delivering Christmas cards and letters **to local addresses in Oldmeldrum and Daviot villages**. Please support our ScoutPost.

Posting boxes will be placed in The Co-op, Paper Shoppe and Pharmacy **from Sat 1st Dec**. Cards will be uplifted each Friday and delivered each Saturday to addresses in Oldmeldrum and Daviot (villages only). The last collection will be at 6pm on Friday 21st December.

Please write the **ScoutPost destination address Code** (see below) on each envelope. Place your Christmas post and suggested **donation of 25p per card/letter** in the posting box.

SCOUTPOST represents excellent value and helps us to buy equipment/activities for our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. **Thank you**, your donations mean a lot to our Group.

ScoutPost Destination Code (write this next to the address)

<i>Street</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Street</i>	<i>Code</i>
<i>Albert Grove</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Kirk Street</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Albert Place</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Kirkhill Drive</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Albert Road</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Le Roux Drive</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Albert Terrace</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Lower Cowgate</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Ardconnon Avenue</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Macmillan Avenue</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Back Wynd</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Major Lane</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Baker Street</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Manson Road</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Balcairn Avenue</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Market Square</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Barnett Court</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Mary Slessor Place</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Barra View</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Meadowbank</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Benview Gardens</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Meadows Drive</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Bruce Place</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Meadows Vale</i>	<i>12</i>

<i>Street</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Street</i>	<i>Code</i>
<i>Burgh Lane</i>	17	<i>Mill Road</i>	4
<i>Burnside Avenue</i>	9	<i>Morris Gardens</i>	13
<i>Colpy Road</i>	10	<i>Nathalan Court</i>	5
<i>Commercial Road</i>	10	<i>Newbarns</i>	15
<i>Coutens Drive</i>	17	<i>Oakbank Gardens</i>	13
<i>Coutens Park</i>	17	<i>Otter Avenue</i>	10
<i>Coutens Place</i>	17	<i>Parcock Place</i>	18
<i>Cowgate</i>	7	<i>Park Crescent</i>	2
<i>Cromlet Place</i>	4	<i>Park Lane</i>	2
<i>Distillery Road</i>	7	<i>Park Road</i>	2
<i>Donald Gordon Court</i>	9	<i>Provost Drive</i>	1
<i>Duff Drive</i>	12	<i>Provost Florence Drive</i>	9
<i>Duncan Avenue</i>	16	<i>Rosebank</i>	13
<i>Fingask Place</i>	16	<i>Saphock Place</i>	16
<i>Forsyth Drive</i>	16	<i>Seton Way</i>	9
<i>Eavern Place</i>	10	<i>Smiddy Court</i>	6
<i>Elmbank Gardens</i>	10	<i>South Road</i>	4
<i>Gas Street</i>	8	<i>Station Road</i>	10
<i>Green Way</i>	18	<i>The Glebe</i>	14
<i>Greczylo Gardens</i>	18	<i>Union Place</i>	7
<i>Greyhound Drive</i>	17	<i>Urquhart Road</i>	14
<i>Howe Place</i>	18	<i>Webster Court</i>	7
<i>Howe View</i>	18	<i>Webster Court Road</i>	7
<i>James Street</i>	6	<i>Westbank Home</i>	8
<i>Keil Brae</i>	2	<i>Westbank Park</i>	11
<i>King Street</i>	6	<i>Westend Gardens</i>	10
<i>Kirk Brae</i>	3	<i>Wyverie Court</i>	15
<i>Daviot (Village only)</i>	19		

Meldrum & Bourtie Church Stableford Open

The Stableford Open, which took place on Thursday 11th October was very successful.

Meldrum & Bourtie Church benefitted by £782 from the proceeds.

Grateful thanks go to the ever willing Seniors Committee, to all who took part and to all who donated prizes and raffles.



MELDRUM LUNCH CLUB

Do you or any neighbour or friend, who perhaps lives alone, enjoy good food and good company?

On the second Friday of each month, a pensioners' 2 course lunch takes place in the small Town Hall. It is subsidised by Making Meldrum Better and provided by "The Fly Cup" Inverurie. At the moment we have places for a few more guests and anyone who is interested is welcome to join us. Our Christmas Lunch will take place on Friday 14th December and we would be delighted to see you there. Please phone for further details.

Jean Mitchell