



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

February / March 2019

Dear All,

At the turn of a new year in the depths of winter we often find ourselves looking through the holiday brochures that turn up on our doormats or inside our magazines. From the cold of Meldrum and Bourtie we look at the warmth of Gran Canaria or Florida with envy. We look at the cost of travelling with horror and think about the effort of getting organised. At that point many of us put the brochures away and think, "Maybe next year!"

Some of us will take the risk however, pay the deposit and dream of days of exploring or resting. Personally I find the idea of a beach in the Caribbean appealing even if I know in my heart that I'd be bored after 3 hours. My kind of travel is more about experiencing a different country and culture and, because I am still an old archaeologist, exploring the ruins.

Some of us put down the brochure because we don't have anyone to travel with even if we would like the opportunity and some of us because we don't have the necessary money. In



Kirk News

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these days of economic stringency this is so often the case. One of the things that annoys me most about the economy in which we exist is that it is often cheaper to fly abroad than it is to go on holiday in this country. Air fares can be cheaper than train fares which seems totally ridiculous. However there are some places which will always be more expensive to travel to, because fewer people go and so the cost is higher.

A few years ago three of us from Meldrum joined the pilgrimage to the Holy Land (or Land of the Holy One if you are being politically correct) that Eleanor MacAllister was leading. For me it was a life and perspective changing journey and I feel far more connection to the stories in the Bible through the time I spent in Jerusalem and the Galilee. Although it was expensive and not always easy in the heat, the experience will stay with me for a lifetime. This was more than a holiday with friends that got to know each other on the journey, this was an opportunity to walk where Jesus had walked.

In our own land there are pilgrimage destinations which are being rediscovered and renewed. Places like St Andrew's and Whithorn and there is one whose popularity has never diminished, Iona. I have never been to Iona and always wanted to go but somehow there has never been the time, or the money, or the opportunity. Iona is a complicated journey from here involving a long car trip and two ferries at least. Carl arrived in our parish with a dream to take a pilgrimage to Iona and a deep interest in the Celtic Church. The two ideas blended into an opportunity for all of us to visit one of Scotland's most meaningful, holy places and to visit it together. There was space in the hotel and at first enthusiasm for the idea. The dates were set to go on the 24th April this year and to book 30 places in the hotel. We had a meeting but even by then the first enthusiasm was waning and now only 6 of us want to go. We have opened up the trip to other churches in our Presbytery. Now there are only two options, to cancel the trip and lose the deposit or to go as a smaller group in one or two cars instead of easily on the bus we had planned. I am so sad about this but I understand

that it is a big cost for a short stay and a long way to go. I hope we will still be able to go, one way or another but, even more, I hope some of you may be able to reconsider this opportunity and make it a church family pilgrimage.

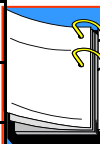
Even at the height of pilgrimage, in Mediaeval times, only a few had the courage to take the journey to Jerusalem. It was far longer and more difficult then. Now our lives are so complicated by the needs and timetables of work, family and friends that only those free of such entanglements find it easy to get away. The trip to Iona is still an open door for those who can make their faith a priority for these 4 days of April and take the opportunity to go and experience something rare in this world, a special place where it is not unusual to travel for spiritual reasons. There will be plenty of time for personal exploration of the island or to relax with friends just being there together. Even if you cannot go please do not deny yourself the pleasure of spending some holy day time with God at home. Travelling to the place in your heart where you meet our Lord Jesus Christ. He travels with us wherever we go at work, on holiday or just travelling through our lives towards his kingdom where we will know the glory of everything which a pilgrimage now only gives us a glimpse of. If you feel like taking a pilgrimage at home I thoroughly recommend a book, "The Accidental Pilgrim" by Maggi Dawn. Reading it has been a delight in the days after Christmas.

With love,


Alison x

Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
February			
3 rd	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
10 th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
17 th	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
24 th	Meldrum	11am	Thinking Day
March			
3 rd	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
10 th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
17 th	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
24 th	Meldrum	11am	ASM after the Service
31 st	Meldrum	11am ⁴	Mothering Sunday



Date	Place	Time	Remarks
April			
7 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service

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

Meldrum Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member	
Feb 3rd	G Simpson	J Simpson
10th	B Webster	C Simpson
17th	M Dow	E Oliver
24th	A Dobson	S Dobson
Mar 3rd	M Kavanagh	A Adam
10th	A Gartly	E Porch
17th	I Reid	E Falconer
24th	I Bousefield	S Bousefield
31st	A Adam	M Dow
Apr 7th	B Webster	A Gartly

Date	Finance		Flowers
Feb 3rd	M Watt	G Smith	E Arthur
10th	L Niven	A McLean	D Davidson
17th	W Paterson	E Buck	H Hay
24th	A McCartney	D Davidson	I Reid
Mar 3rd	M Watt	B Reid	S Bousefield
10th	S Simpson	P Patrone	M Spence
17th	G Smith	L Niven	A McLean
24th	M Kavanagh	E Oliver	D McLelland
31st	D Davidson	W Paterson	E Smith
Apr 7th	E Buck	D McLelland	M Miller

Bourtie Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member		Flowers
Feb 3rd	I Peddie	S Bousefield	M Green
Mar 3rd	I Peddie	I Dunbar	M Green
Apr 7th	I Dunbar	M Green	M Green

Deaths

Mrs Olive J Strachan	The Grove, Kemnay	18th November 2018
Mrs Helen McKay	Inverurie	15th December 2018
Mr Jens Kristian Hansen	Greyhound Drive	24th December 2018

Kirk News Articles

All items for the April/ May 2019 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editors, Brian Reid, or Simon Hill by Sunday, 24th March 2019.

If you know of anyone who does not normally receive Kirk News and would like to, please contact the Editor. (see Contacts table)

Prayer Calendar



February 2019

Week 1 & 2	Own Church	Lord we give thanks for the support by our church family for the Food Bank donations and the Kilombero Rice Challenge. We pray that enough food and educational opportunities are available for all.
	Presbytery	Remember Chapel of Garioch Church and congregation and pray for their desire to welcome more young people.
	World Issues	Pray for all those taking the news of God's love and compassion to every corner of the world. May your Good News be heard and understood.
Week 3 & 4	Own Church	Pray for all the groups of all ages who use our Church Hall. Pray that they continue to grow in strength, fellowship and joy.
	Presbytery	Remember the Ellon Church Centre and Ellon congregation. May they continue to provide for the needs of their local community. Pray for their continued success.
	World Issues	Pray for the Fairtrade Organisation as it faces change. Remember Fairtrade Fortnight (25th February - 10th March). Give thanks for their work with projects and groups to provide fair wages and enable them to improve life for all in their communities. Strengthen support for Social Justice in our world.

Prayer Calendar



March 2019

Lent 2019 runs from Wednesday March 6th to Thursday April 18th. Last year we looked at the first 8 stations of the Cross and continue this year with the remainder.

- 9th Station Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
Luke 23 v 27 - 31
 - Pray for all those who weep and are full of sorrow.
- 10th Station Jesus is crucified Luke 23 v33 and 47
 - Pray for all those who spend their lives serving others.
- 11th Station Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief Luke 23 v 33 - 34 and 39 - 43
 - Pray that our world recognises all that is true and good and is inspired by this.
- 12th Station Jesus on the Cross. John and his mother. John 19 v 25 - 27
 - Pray for all mothers who have lost their children.
- 13th Station Jesus dies on the Cross. Luke 23 v 44 - 46
 - Pray that we all remember to take our troubles and needs to our Father God and trust in His love.
- 14th Station Jesus placed in the Tomb. Luke 23 v 50 - 54
 - Give thanks that Jesus died to redeem us and our world.
- 15th Station The Resurrection Luke 24 v 1 - 7
 - We adore you O Christ and we bless you. By your resurrection you have shown us your undying love and by your grace brought us the gift of eternal life.
Amen

Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum



This is the time of year when planning and organising our regular activities with local schools begins to move forward. We were delighted when once again a Meldrum Academy pupil was successful in their application to the Euroscola scheme which allows young people to visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Euroscola is a national competition open to senior pupils who are fluent in French. Successful attendees meet with young people from across all 28 European member states and have the opportunity to experience a day as an MEP engaging in debate and sharing information around issues such as human rights, diversity and other topical European issues. The local candidate, who has been sponsored by Oldmeldrum Rotary, will be invited to come to a club meeting to tell us about their visit. All our previous candidates have returned full of enthusiasm about their trip saying it had been a brilliant, unique experience for them.

Last year's winner of the Young Musician competition is also a pupil at Meldrum Academy and by the time this newsletter is published will have taken part in the Rotary District heat in Perth. We wish Alex good luck and hope he does well and enjoys the experience.

March the 6th is the date for this year's Primary School Quiz which is held at Meldrum Academy. Teams from all the local primary schools take part in what can be an exciting evening for the pupils taking part and the parents and family members who come along to offer their support. Last year 20 teams took part with a team from Pitmedden Primary the final winner. Can they do it again?

Our other school competitions include Young Photographer and Young Writer; this year's themes are Beauty of Nature and My

Inspiration respectively. Previous years entries for these competitions have shown there is an amazing amount of talent among the young people in this area. Keep an eye on our FaceBook page to see the winning entries.

Back in November we were delighted to give a cheque for £250 from our Community Fund to the group in Udney Station to help them upgrade the Christmas Lights. The Community Fund is open to individuals and groups living in the Meldrum Academy catchment area who are looking for financial support for activities which support their local community. For more information see the poster in the noticeboard in Meldrum Square or e-mail communityfund@oldmeldrumrotary.org.uk for more information on how to apply.

Finally on behalf of all our club members and helpers I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported Santa and his elves when they visited Oldmeldrum in December. Over ten evenings in Oldmeldrum and the surrounding villages, also 2 days outside the Co-op we raised over £4200. £1500 of that was donated in Oldmeldrum. Thank you so much for your generosity which will help fund the events previously mentioned and other activities we support in local schools and communities.



The Guild

“One Journey, Many Roads” Seeking the Way

On Monday 26th November we held a ‘Taste and Try’ afternoon. Some members told us about their favourite recipes and we sampled some delicious food. An informative and fun afternoon.

The Christmas Party on Monday 10th December was held at Morris’s Hotel, where we enjoyed a beautiful Christmas lunch served by welcoming staff. Everyone brought a gift and took one home. It was a lovely social afternoon, which was enjoyed by all.

On Monday 14th January we welcomed Ian Dow, District Governor for the Rotary, whose topic was ‘The Gambia’. Mr Dow showed slides whilst talking on his Project—Schools providing Education to The Gambia.

He told us the School had 120 children and they trained 6 teachers during the holidays. There are now 400 children. Money was sent from the Rotary to lay a concrete floor and repair the roof of the School at a cost of £250. They also provided tables and chairs, chalk boards for Nursery children and footballs. The aim is for the Gambians to manage themselves. A very interesting talk, which was most enjoyable.

Syllabus:

February	11th	2pm - Christian Aid—Solar Ovens in Bolivia Ian Waldram
March	1st	(Friday) 7pm - World Day of Prayer - "Come, everything is ready"
	11th	2pm - Members Afternoon
	23rd	12noon - 2pm Soup and Sweet Lunch
April	8th	2pm - AGM and Talk on the Guild Theme Rev. Alison Jaffrey

Gordon Presbytery – Local Focus

Continuing on in the path of renewal and change Churches in Gordon Presbytery will be focussing on St Andrews church Inverurie over the months of February and March. As we did here in Meldrum & Bourtie back in 2nd October 2018 the congregation of St Andrews will be presenting their story to the Presbytery on the 5th February at St Andrews Church Inverurie. Please include St Andrews in your prayers over the next few weeks, praying that their presentation evening will be successful.

We are also asked to keep in our thoughts and prayers the Minister and congregation of Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Church as they move on from the Church in Local Focus, praying that they have a smooth transition to a Unitary Constitution and find guidance in the management of their buildings.

The Gospel Writers: Part 1 - Matthew

The Bible contains sixty-six books, of which only four give us detailed accounts of Jesus' life here on Earth. These are the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament. The first Gospel in the Bible is attributed to Matthew, so what do we know about him?

Matthew was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, but when we first meet him he is a tax collector, working for the Roman occupation forces of Israel. Tax collectors were particularly disliked by the Jewish population. They were seen as doing the Romans' work for them and, more often than not, they charged ordinary people extra tax and pocketed the difference. Matthew's Jewish name was Levi, son of Alphaeus. We don't know if he was given the name Matthew by Jesus, or if he changed it himself as a mark of his life change but, interestingly, Matthew is a shortened form of Mattathias, which means 'the gift of God', and, for us, Matthew's subsequent life is a gift.

For Matthew, the day Jesus chose him probably started as any other. As usual, he went to his tax collecting booth, where he sat collecting taxes. The first three Gospels then record events as they happened (Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 5:27-32). Jesus came along and said, "Follow me". Immediately, Matthew got up, left his booth and followed Jesus. He took Jesus home and held a banquet in His honour, at which there were 'many tax collectors and sinners'. When the Pharisees criticised Jesus for associating with such folk He revealed to them a great truth – He had "not come to call the righteous, but sinners." At the calling of Matthew, Jesus revealed one of His great tasks; bringing sinners back to God, and Matthew concluded his Gospel with an instruction, called 'The Great Commission' in which Jesus passed that task on to His disciples and, down through history, to us – "Go and make disciples of all nations".

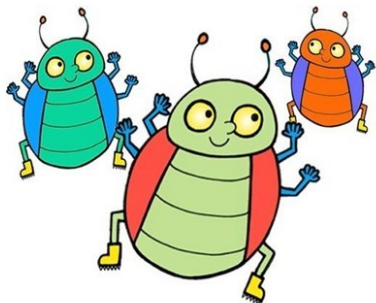
Matthew's former life as a tax collector required a careful eye and attention to detail; skills he put to good use when compiling his Gospel. We cannot be certain about Matthew's later life. Tradition has it that, following Jesus' ascension into Heaven, he preached in Jerusalem for about fifteen years before taking the Word to foreign countries where he was martyred. The one thing we can be certain of is that he left us with his account of Jesus' life on Earth, 'The Gospel

According to Matthew'.

Matthew, then, has much to teach us. Where we come from, what we look like and what we have done, are unimportant when we sincerely follow Jesus. Granted, none of us can emulate Matthew by writing a Gospel – the task of writing Books of the Bible is complete, but we can be sincere in our Christian faith and we can do our little bit for the 'Great Commission', even if it is only striving to live out our faith and share it with those we meet. Now that, as Matthew found, is the greatest thing any of us can do.

Friday 22 Feb 2019

Beetle Drive



Family Lunch:

Due to the success of our family lunch event on the 13 January and all of the positive feedback we have received, the Kirk Session has decided to trial a further two lunches on each of the Family service days in February and March:

These dates are:- Sunday 10 February & 10 March.

The lunch will be held in the Church hall after the morning service; please note that teas & coffee will be served in the hall on these days and **not** in Church.

To help with this we are looking for volunteers who will be responsible for:

- To be at the hall to take delivery of the soup & sandwiches.
- The soup is delivered warm but will need to be heated before serving.
- Set serving tables with the soup, sandwiches, plates, spoons and napkins
- Prepare teas & coffee - serve where necessary:
- Clean & tidy up:

Please note: You will not be responsible for putting out the tables and chairs this will be done prior to the service.

The lunch is available to all— with no charge:

However to ease the financial cost to the Church donations will be gratefully accepted.

The average cost to the Church for previous events such as this has been £5 per head.