



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

April / May 2019



Kirk News

www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org



Change and Decay in All around I see.
O Thou who changest not, Abide with me.

Dear Friends,

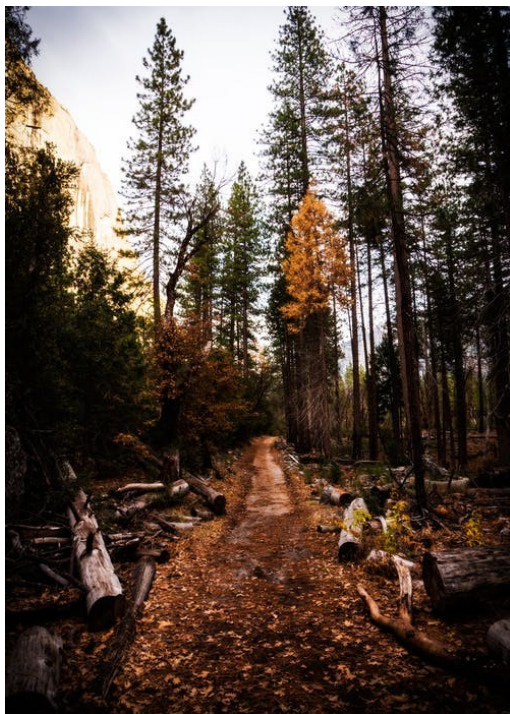
Why is it that “Change” and “Decay” always seem to go together in our thinking as a church? I suspect that those lines from the perennial favourite hymn verse “Abide with me” have something to do with it. We are also brought up on tales of how good things were in the past. Of how the pews were overflowing with worshippers and there were hundreds in the Sunday School and everyone joined the church as a matter of course. I heard all those stories myself growing up in the church in Scotstoun East in Glasgow....and in the other churches where my parents’ house moves took us: Kent; Norfolk; Bathgate, everywhere we went the story was the same, “things were better here before.” Maybe it is a part of the human psyche to imagine the past must have been better, or at least easier than now. I have to tell you though, the archaeological evidence does not support this theory at all. In the past people died of tooth decay and abscesses, they died of starvation and malnutrition; they were crippled by arthritis by the time they were 40, if they lived that long; women frequently died in childbirth and diseases that we can now vaccinate against killed by the hundreds of thousands and all of that is before we count in the wars that raged across the whole of Europe for a hundred years at a time. The churches may have been full of people but that may also have been



because they were always so close to death - it was all around them. Every change seemed to mean death and decay - decay of physical bodies. Meanwhile all around them rose the un-decaying beauty of mediaeval church buildings, testament to

the glory of God and the imagination of craftspeople and the wealthy donors who paid for their work.

Great change has swept across our society since the beginning of the industrial revolution, change that society is still trying to catch up with. We see the technological changes in our own lifetimes with wonder. We also see the final push for equality in life and workplace by half of the human race and the struggle for everyone to be treated fairly especially those who have been discriminated against. Every morning brings a new calamity as we seek a new way forward and yet we are all still on the same journey through life as all our ancestors faced. A journey with decisions to make: where will we go; what shall we choose to do. We have more opportunities and paths to choose than our grandparents could have dreamed of. We have the potential to be a generation of change in the life of the family of faith. If we are brave enough to allow change to be our everyday experience because change might involve a little decay but lots of things grow from decay.



When a tree falls in the forest it's life is over but in its death it sustains the new life of many millions of grubs and worms, beetles and bugs, fungi and flowers. They all use the nutrients that the tree now gives back to the soil and new life grows and flourishes. A new tree will grow from nearly the same place while all through the forest the birds will have scattered the seed of the old tree and its offshoots will be growing through the nutrients left by other trees. This is the cycle

of renewal all around us and it is wonderful, sustainable and renewable like all of God's plans for us and for our church families.



In these last months we have lost two of our most active elders, Ruth Richardson and Winnie Reid. We all miss them and all that they have done for us. Both of them were gardeners, both knew the truth of that glorious cycle of life, both of them have left nutrients in the soil of faith here to inspire growth in others. Their work will never be forgotten and it will go on in each of us who carry on their concerns for others. We cannot be Ruth or Winnie but we can be ourselves - learning from what they taught us about friendship and the use of all the talents we have. We can be ourselves, growing from the ground they have cultivated and enriched and thankful for all that they have left us.

Decay is only the beginning part of the process of growing new life. There is nothing to fear in it or from it. It is one part of the constant change that is all around us. So let us not fear for our future as a family of faith but instead trust in the processes that God has put in place and grow through them into the change God wishes to see in us and in this world.

As I come to an end of my time with you, I will take so many happy memories and good lessons learned with me. I will continue to pray for you and your continuing journey. My road has taken me on a different fork but I know that it will lead to the same place at the end of the journey, in the hands of God the master of change, decay and new life.

With love from
Alison x

Winnie

Her hands wove vines and tendrils
into the framework of beauty
flowers carefully chosen and prepared
were lifted out of buckets and into glory
out of distress she climbed into determination.

A flower festival in praise of the Almighty
a bouquet to welcome a new life
in any form.

So small a person for such a large heart to inhabit
Inspiration and energizer,
with no energy left, she goes on
and where she passes we salute in silent love
a soul that shines.



Dear Friends,

This is Paul McKeown here - writing to say hello and introduce myself as your Interim Moderator for the next wee while.

I'm currently the minister at Belhelvie Church, where I've served for 14 years this April. Prior to that I was a Community Minister in inner-city Glasgow, and going further back into the recesses of time I was a research chemist, developing anti-cancer drugs for my PhD. (This causes some embarrassment when my kids come home from school with chemistry problems I can no longer solve!)

I'm originally from Northern Ireland, but my wife Rhona is Scottish and together we have three children, Ross, Mairi and Isla. Rhona works as a GP in Aberdeen.

I already know Jean Mitchell well through Presbytery and I'm looking forward to getting to know your congregation better in the months that lie ahead as we discern God's call and prayerfully search for the right person to fill the vacancy at Meldrum and Bourtie. As I always remind vacant congregations – it only takes one person to fill a pulpit!

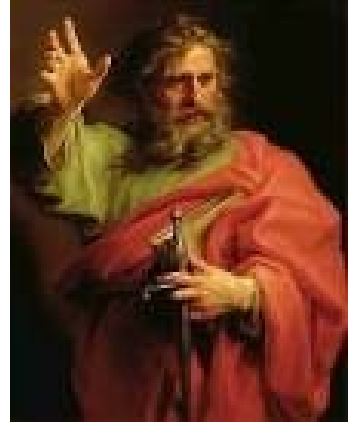
Though the departure of a long-serving minister is always tinged with sadness, vacancies can be useful times in a congregation's life. Times when we draw breath and take stock; and I plan for us to do some of that reflective work together, even as we keep things ticking over in church life.

Ideally, we would have liked to find a locum to see to pastoral work and funerals and also take Sunday services in the vacancy, but working locums are like hen's teeth at the moment and it's proving difficult to source one. So in the meantime I'll be covering funerals and essential pastoral work while still overseeing my own congregation in Belhelvie. This will not be easy, and I'd appreciate your prayers in the months ahead, and your understanding and patience if we can't manage to keep absolutely everything running as usual.

A rota for Sunday services is now in place, using Jean, the worship team and some retired ministers, and before long we will be drawing up our Parish Profile and electing our Nominating Committee who will set about the task of finding your next minister.

If you were on that committee, and you received the letter of application below – I wonder how you'd respond?

"Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also have some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organiser. I've been a leader most places I've been. I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing."



"My health is not too good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in the towns where I have preached. In fact, some have even threatened me, even attacked me physically. I'm not too good at keeping records and have been known to forget whom I've baptised. However, if you can use me, I promise to do my best for you".

I don't think many of us would give this candidate a second look; but what you've just read is the CV of the Apostle Paul!

May God bless us all with wisdom and discernment as we work and pray our way through this time of vacancy, and may God – in God's own good timing – lead us to the man or woman who's already feeling a divine nudge in this direction.

Every Blessing

Paul McKeown
(Interim Moderator)

Dates for your Diary

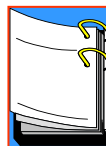
Date	Place	Time	Remarks
April			
7 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
14 th	Meldrum	11am	Palm Sunday Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
15 th (Mon)	Meldrum	7.30pm	Holy Week
16 th (Tues)	Meldrum	7.30pm	Holy Week
17 th (Wed)	Meldrum	7.30pm	Holy Week
18 th (Thurs)	St Matthews Episcopal Church	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday
19 th (Fri)	Meldrum	7.30pm	Good Friday
21 st	Meldrum	11am	Easter Sunday
28 th	Meldrum	11am	Communion
	Meldrum	6pm	Informal Communion

Deaths

Mrs Winnie Reid
Mrs Bertha Lynas

Provost Drive
Kirkhill Drive

28th January 2019
28th January 2019



Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
May			
5 th	Bourtie	9.45am	Communion
	Meldrum	11am	
12 th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Communion Transport available
	Westbank Home	3pm	Communion
19 th	Meldrum	11am	
26 th	Meldrum	11am	
June			
2 nd	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	

Kirk News Articles

All items for the June / July 2019 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 19th May 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 issue leading up to Easter is being delivered to all the Community and on behalf of the Kirk Session may we wish you all a Happy Easter.

Meldrum Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member	
Apr 7th	B Webster	A Gartly
14th	E Buchan	I Reid
21st	A Dobson	S Dobson
28th	G Simpson	J Simpson
May 5th	May Duties will be issued by email.	
12th		
19th		
26th		

Date	Finance		Flowers
Apr 7th	E Buck	D McLelland	M Miller
14th	B Reid	A McLean	J Howard
21st	A McCartney	E Porch	EASTER
28th	COMMUNION		B Munro
May 5th	May Duties will be issued by email.		C Donald
12th			J Simpson
19th			M Miara
26th			E Bain

Bourtie Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member		Flowers
April 7th	I Dunbar	M Green	M Green
May 5th	S Bousefield	M Green	S Peddie
Jun 2nd	I Dunbar	M Green	M Green

Contacts



Name	Position	
Paul McKeown	Interim Moderator	
Mrs Jean Mitchell	Reader	
Mr W Dalzell	Session Clerk & Roll Keeper	
Mr W Paterson	Treasurer	
Focus Groups:		
Pat Patrone	Worship Group	
Kirk News		
Brian Reid	Editorial Rep	
Church Group:		
Eileen Oliver	Pastoral Care Visiting Team	

Prayer Calendar



April 2019

Week 1	Own Church	Praise the Lord for the gift of His son, Jesus Christ, who through the Easter story showed his love for each one of us, who through his sacrifice brought us life everlasting.
	Presbytery	Pray for Skene Church and Westhill congregations as they celebrate Easter.
	World Issues	We think of those in danger throughout the world. Those who are caught up in war and those who have suffered through floods and devastation. Bring them aid and comfort.
Week 2	Own Church	Pray for the ill and elderly members of our Church family. Remember those who visit them and provide support. Pray for all those in Residential Homes.
	Presbytery	Give thanks for all those people within our Presbytery who visit those in Hospital, Residential Homes and the housebound.
	World Issues	We pray for all those working to support health projects caring for the elderly, the very young and pregnant mothers in their vulnerability.
Week 3	Own Church	Give thanks for those who give their time to transport and support others in visiting church and those making new friendships through pastoral visits.
	Presbytery	Support the work of the congregation of St Andrews and all churches in a period of Vacancy, waiting for a new Minister.
	World Issues	Remember all those whose jobs involve travel and transport, look after them as they do their daily work. Pray for all those injured in traffic accidents.
Week 4	Own Church	Give thanks for our Organists and all those who make music as we prepare our church for Communion. May we also prepare our hearts to welcome the love of our Lord, Jesus.
	Presbytery	Remember all those in Presbytery. Give them wisdom to plan ahead and choose the right path for our Churches.
	World Issues	Remember all those in Israel and Palestine where there is conflict in the Holy Land. Bring hope and understanding.

Prayer Calendar



May 2019

Please pray for all those involved with Christian Aid Week 2019. This year it runs from 12th - 18th May. The theme is "ALL MUMS SHOULD LIVE". Money raised will be used to:

- ⇒ Build More Health Clinics
- ⇒ Provide Health Training.
- ⇒ Improve Hygiene.

Why choose this topic?

Christian Aid wants all Mums and babies to live longer and happier lives. However, in many countries just giving birth remains dangerous. Unfortunately this is still the reality in the developing world today.

Please Pray for:

- The 1 in 8 women dying in pregnancy and childbirth in Sierra Leone.
- The 1 in 76 (average number) women dying in pregnancy during childbirth in the rest of the developing world.
- All children and infants in the developing world where every fourth child is not likely to survive to the age of five years.
- The women and children Sierra Leone, the worlds most dangerous place to give birth (UNICEF Report).
- All family members experiencing the loss of wife, mother, sister, child.

PRAYER

Loving Father God,

We pray that you hold the women, girls and babies of Sierra Leone in your hands.

As you have inspired UNICEF and Christian Aid to hear and see their needs help us to respond.

We ask your support in all we do during Christian Aid Week to raise funds to bring help to Mums and Babies.

We pray in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum



You might recall that the last issue of the Newsletter mentioned the Primary School Quiz which took place in early March. On the night, 21 teams from 11 local Primary Schools entered, the teams all did really well answering a range of easy and difficult questions and Tarves was the overall winner. Well done pupils from Tarves Primary School.

The local heat of the Young Photographer Competition has also recently taken place with the theme My Beautiful World. A 10 year old girl from Rayne North was the local winner and also won her age group at the Rotary District Heat. Her fabulous photographs can be seen on our club Facebook site and are really worth a look.

Looking ahead to Easter Sunday, we will once again be managing the Egg Hunt at Haddo. As usual children are invited to bring eggs they have decorated themselves to enter the painted egg competition, also

bring hard boiled eggs to roll down Deer Hill and of course see if they can find one of the wooden eggs the Easter Bunny hides among the bushes. We ask adults to please leave these eggs for the children to find, and if they wish the wooden eggs can be swapped for chocolate ones. Tickets for parking are available on the Haddo website. It's always a super day of fun for families.

Also in June some members of Oldmeldrum Rotary, along with other clubs manage a day out for several hundred primary school children from across the whole of Aberdeenshire. The Kids Out event at Craibstone is especially for children who have learning support needs. During the day the children and adult helpers enjoy the climbing frames, pony rides, clowns and other fun activities as well as the outdoor disco to finish off the afternoon. Lots of happy children are then returned to their schools with lots of very tired adults.

At most of our meetings we have an invited speaker or speakers who talk about a wide range of interesting topics. One of the most interesting recent topics was when pupils from Meldrum Academy Interact Group along with one of the teachers came to tell us about their efforts to raise awareness of Alzheimers and dementia. Their presentation spoke about some of the myths of these conditions and how best to support people who are affected by them. As well as taking part in a memory walk to raise funds for the Alzheimers Scotland Charity the pupils worked at a Boogie in the Bar where sufferers of these conditions came to enjoy music which can often help trigger memories. These pupils did an excellent job giving their time and devising their presentation which they will show to their fellow students.

If you think you might like to hear more about Rotary, and how you could be involved helping your local community, feel free to join us on a Monday evening at 6.30 at the Redgarth Hotel.

The Gospel Writers: Part 2 – Mark

The second, and probably earliest, Gospel is attributed to John Mark, who appears several times in the New Testament, while tradition provides extra details.

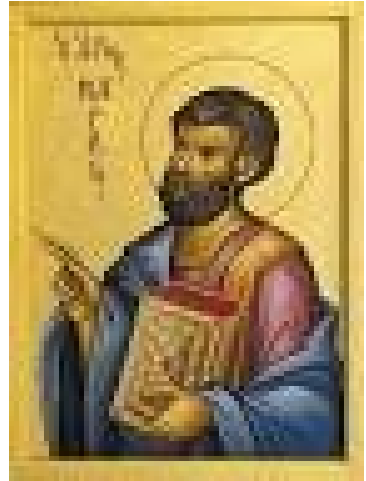
Mark was born in North Africa, probably Western Libya or Eastern Tunisia, between 3 and 15 years after Jesus' birth. His family moved to Palestine, shortly after his birth, to escape Berber attacks. They settled in Cana, scene of Jesus' first public miracle; turning water into wine. Indeed, there is a tradition that Mark was an attendant at that wedding feast, although there is no hard evidence for this. Another tradition tells us that Mark's father died while he was young and he was 'adopted' by the Apostle Peter, a relation of Mark's father. Certainly, Peter refers to his 'son Mark' at the end of his first letter, but it is unclear if Mark was adopted or a son in the faith.

It is likely that the young Mark heard Jesus preaching, and it is certain that both he and his mother were well respected in the early church. Their house hosted the prayer meeting that Peter went to after his night-time angelic jail rescue. (Acts 12)

The next we hear of Mark, he was travelling with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. For reasons unknown, Mark left them during the journey and returned to Jerusalem. Consequently, when Barnabas suggested that they take Mark on their next journey, Paul refused. This disagreement led to Barnabas taking Mark, while Paul took Silas, on separate missions. Mark does not appear again in Acts but must have been reconciled to Paul, who later described him as 'helpful in my ministry' (2 Tim 4:11) and instructed the believers in Colossae to welcome him (Col 4:10).

Mark was also closely associated with Peter. The early second century Christian writer, Papias, described Mark as the 'interpreter of Peter', crediting him with writing down what Peter preached. When Peter travelled to Rome, prior to martyrdom,

Mark went with him as interpreter and scribe. As a Galilean fisherman, Peter's Greek was likely to have been functional for trade, but not good enough to preach or plead before the authorities. It was probably in this capacity that Mark wrote his Gospel, either for the benefit of the Gentile converts, or at the request of the Romans who wanted to better understand Peter's preaching. Whichever, it seems certain that Mark recorded the life of Jesus as seen through Peter's eyes. Interestingly, however, it is only Mark's Gospel that records, a small incident at Jesus' arrest, "A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind." (Mark 14:51-52) This seemingly insignificant event has left many speculating that the young man was Mark himself, a personal detail that adds an air of eye-witness authenticity to his account



Mark's later life took him to Egypt preaching and establishing Christianity, particularly in Alexandria, where he was martyred in 68 A.D. by being tied behind a horse and dragged through the streets until he was dead.

Mark's life was steeped in the early church. He witnessed Jesus preaching, travelled with Paul, Barnabas and Peter, established Christianity in Alexandria and wrote what was probably the earliest account of Jesus' life. If ever there was a life well-lived, it was Mark's.

The Guild



On Monday 11th February we welcomed Ian Waldram, from Christian Aid, Garioch. Mr Waldram showed us slides whilst talking about his Project of raising money for Solar Ovens in Bolivia.

He told us the Solar Ovens save people money as there is no need for them to buy gas cylinders, nor do they have to collect firewood. The Guild Project has supported this and donated £111,000.

There are three types of work done by Christian Aid:

Long Term Development Projects, e.g. Water, Drilling Wells

Humanitarian Assistance, e.g. National Disaster - Floods

Advocacy and Campaigning, e.g. Government Development of Fair Trade, Climate Change.

A very interesting talk, which was enjoyed by all.

On 11th March we held a Members Afternoon. We sang a selection of our favourite hymns and listened to readings, chosen by the members.

An entertaining afternoon, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Syllabus:

April 8th 2pm - AGM and Talk on the Guild Theme

New members and visitors are always welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (Continued)

How to Help

Sorry that we are unable to cope with larger items of furniture but if you are “clearing out” items can be donated at the Church Hall on:

Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th May
10am till 12 noon, 2pm - 4pm, 6pm - 8pm.

Wednesday 15th May
10am till 12 noon and 2pm - 4pm.

Any donations of cakes, candy and produce, or prizes for the raffle will be gratefully received.

If you would like to buy from the Thrift Shop it will be open for business:

Thursday 16th May - 10am till 7pm.

Friday 17th May - 10am till 6pm.

Saturday 18th May - 10am till 12 noon.

(Saturday black bags £3 each and raffle drawn.)

Christian Aid Week Donation Envelopes

Envelopes will be distributed and can be returned to the Church Hall Thrift Shop, or local shops. Details on the envelopes.
Thank you for your help in 2019.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th - 18th May 2019

This is the 35th year
that Meldrum has hosted a
Christian Aid Week Thrift Shop.

We hope that you will continue your kind and generous support for both our Thrift Shop in the Church Hall and the Christian Aid donation envelopes.

Please look out for the flyers and envelopes that will be coming through your letterbox.

2019 Theme - ALL MUMS SHOULD LIVE

Mums, babies and infants in the developing world are at the heart of this year's Christian Aid Week fundraising.

Please join with us and **GIVE, ACT, PRAY**. Thank you.



Please see page 19.