



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

December 2019 / January 2020



Kirk News

www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org

Dear Friends,

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it”.

The month of December often sees me traipsing over to my church in Belhelvie on dark evenings to deliver Orders of Service, or fiddle with the laptop and projector one last time to make sure they’re going to behave themselves when I need them to. Sometimes I’m canopied in starlight, other times assaulted by the wind. On more than a few occasions last year I was trudging through a foot and a half of snow from the moment I stepped out of the manse.

I’ve been here long enough now, and have made that journey often enough, that the transit through a dark graveyard holds little fear. But it’s one of the small pleasures of my job that on these dark nights I get to open up the church, flick on the power, and walk into a sanctuary that’s mellow with the glow of Christmas tree lights.

Years ago, when my father worked in a department store in Ballymena, there were occasional Saturdays when – as keyholder – he had to go in and have a check through the building for incendiary devices. The threat was real at that stage of the Troubles, but it was small enough that it caused him no worry to bring me along for company.

I used to love working our way around the huge shop by the few friendly lights that took the edge off the darkness and turned the experience into an adventure.

If I was lucky, he would flick the switch on the huge Scalextric set and I got to race the cars for a while, navigating (as much as you ever do in slot-racing!) by the glow of their headlights. It was great while it lasted, but I was always sad when I had to set down the throttle and leave the beautifully modelled raceway behind in the darkness.

Darkness is nobody’s friend. Perhaps that’s why we treasure an open fire, or a Christmas tree, or those little Scandinavian lights in the window on those long, and sometimes lonely, winter evenings. When I was last an Interim Moderator I used to love driving over to Methlick on winter evenings because there was one house, way out in the country, where the owner had put up masses of lights on the outdoor trees. You’d turn that corner and – wow! There was this glorious cascade of colour, burning away in the dark night. It did the heart good to see it.

And yet the truth is, darkness is always with us. Not just the physical darkness which is the absence of light, but the other kind of darkness which is more about the absence of hope and meaning. Some of you may be feeling that because illness or uncertainty have come into your life in recent times, or because a loved one will be missing from the Christmas table this year. Maybe circumstances are getting you down – things in your own life or just the general malaise the country seems to be in at the moment. Maybe you're just tired: tired of someone who's wearing you out, or – worse still – tired of yourself and the rut you seem to have got into.

The temptation for all of us, preachers especially, is to bemoan the darkness, but though that's both understandable and easy, it's hardly productive. The old adage *"it's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"* strikes me as a better course of action.

Think about the particularities of your life. Where's the darkness in your family, in your neighbourhood? In yourself, even. Loneliness? Bitterness? Stress? Weariness? What light does God want to bring? Could you be the one to bring it?

"I will hold the Christ-light for you

In the night-time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you,

speak the peace you long to hear"

(‘Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You - HY 694)

The good news of Christmas is that the light has come. And the darkness will never overcome it.

May the light of Christ gladden your heart, lighten your way, and push back the darkness for you and yours in this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas and every blessing to you.

Rev Paul McKeown (Interim Moderator, Meldrum and Bourtie)



Thank You

Once again Christmas fast approaches, this year seems to have disappeared so quickly. Maybe because the last few months have been exceptionally busy with Alison moving on and then Jim retiring, many of you have had additional responsibilities added to the usual duties you carry out on behalf of the Church.

Though I would say, and I am sure you would all agree, that we have been well served by Paul, our Interim Moderator, who has worked hard to ensure we have had first-rate support to continue our worship at Meldrum and Bourtie over the last few months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our congregation, especially those who have taken on extra duties over the last few months, and those other members of our community, who, during the past year, have once again given their time and efforts for the benefit of our church and fellowship within our Parish.

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 a happy and peaceful Christmas and a successful New Year.

William Dalzell, Session Clerk

Playlist For Life

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Drop-in Session previously planned for Friday, 20th December has been cancelled. Our next Session will be on Thursday, 30th January 2020, in the Church Hall, from 2 - 4pm.

Come along to find out more about Playlist for Life.

If you need any further information before then please feel free to contact Eileen Oliver on 873396, or Mhari Watt on 07780 650061

Deaths

Mr Evan Arthur

Dunhill, Colpy Road
19th October 2019



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	
Facebook Page	www.facebook.com/meldrumbourtiechurch.org.uk	
Website	www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com	



LOCUM's LETTER

It feels like it was only a few weeks ago that I completed my first placement at Meldrum and Bourtie. How time flies though, for I was last here in 2017.

Having finished my training for Ordained Local Ministry it was a delight for me when Paul asked if I would take the role of Locum part-time minister during your vacancy. I joined you in October, and time continues to fly as we head towards the end of the year. It has been a busy start so far. We celebrated communion at the end of October, and then welcomed a church full of people for Remembrance Sunday. Besides taking two Sunday services each month, I will also be available for 2 days of pastoral work each week. This pastoral work can take many forms - visiting people in their homes, or in hospital, stopping with folk for a coffee and a chat, leading families through bereavement and funerals, or even sharing two minutes silence with P6 and P7s at the War Memorial on Monday 11th. No two days are ever the same!

The welcome I have received since my return has been heart-warming. Meldrum and Bourtie folk have the special knack of making people feel at home, and I certainly feel I am where I belong at the moment.

As the busy season of Advent and Christmas approaches, I am going to enjoy getting to know new faces and re-kindling friendships with those who were here before. There will be lots of chances to meet after services, or through the week if you would prefer, just let me know. I will try and remember everyone's name, but as you may recall, that is not my greatest gifting. Please be kind to me, and don't take it personally, if I ask you, yet again, to remind me who you are!

I look forward to this time with you, and to sharing the joy of Christmas at Meldrum and Bourtie.

Valerie

CAROL SINGING

Volunteers are needed for this years Carol Singing around the village. It will be on Monday 16th December, starting at 7pm from the Church Hall (Christmas Hats and Tinsel are optional!). Alternatively, if you would like a visit or know someone who might like one, e.g. A housebound or elderly person, please contact Sheila Simpson.

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club meets every six weeks to discuss a wide variety of books, usually provided by the Library, as Book Club recommended books.

We have read some great books over the years and also a few

duds, but they always make great talking points. If someone has a special interest, or really wants to read a book, not on the Library list, then we occasionally buy it, but in the main it is a cheap night out with good-natured conversation.

If anyone would like to join our thriving Book Club please contact Sheila Simpson.



The Guild



On 23rd September the Guild had a very interesting talk from Fiona Marshall, who gave us a catch up on the progress of the Air Ambulance Service in Aberdeen. A collection was made that night for which she was very grateful and thanked us once again for our £1,000 donation, which was raised in March from our Soup and Sweet Lunch. Hopefully we will have our own Air Ambulance Service shortly in Aberdeen.

Two very inspirational sisters, Frances Thomson and Julie Ritchie, came to our meeting on 14th October, and told us how Julie had donated a kidney to Frances. They were lucky that she was almost a perfect match, as her sister was on dialysis and requiring a transplant. After many tests and the operation it was great to see how successful it had been and even though still having regular checkups, how well and cheerful they were. They actually made it a very happy afternoon making fun of some of their experiences getting through to the eventual reward. They encouraged us all to become organ donors, as age is not always a deterrent, but always to let our families know of our wishes.

Susanna Bichard was the speaker at our meeting on 28th October. She told us she had had four guide dogs over the years and how she had to go down to Forfar to train with a prospective dog to see if they suited each other. She gave us a demonstration of how she and her present dog Jack, a black Labrador, worked together and naturally we all fell in love with the dog. Many of us knew Susanna from being a Reader in Meldrum Church when Rev. Hugh O'Brien was our minister so it was nice to see her again.

On Monday 11th November we welcomed Dr. Pam Cairns to talk on the Guild Project, "The Free to Live Trust". Dr. Cairns

spoke of the effect of extreme poverty, which leads to exploitation by way of Human Trafficking and Grooming Street Children, Prostitution, Forced Labour, Forced Crime, Domestic Servitude and Forced Marriage.

Seema's Project aims to help girls by rescuing them, giving advice on Healthcare and HIV Education.

There has been 2 years of Fundraising in Scotland, which has enabled the Guild Partnership to offer a meal six days a week to between 40 and 50 children living in the red-light area of Pune; fund the rehabilitation of two workers; fund extra staff in Bori - a driver, night watchman and extra kitchen and care staff; pay for the college education of one of the school leavers.

A Home has been built for the girls and an extension has now been built for boys.

A very informative talk which gave us a lot to think about.

Syllabus:

December	2nd	2pm for 2.30pm - Christmas Party in Morris's Hotel - Bring a Secret Santa Gift
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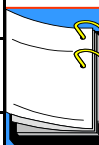
January 2020

13th	2pm - A holiday in Russia - Join Ellie & Keith Ingram
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February	10th	2pm - Hats can tell stories - by Isabel Gregory
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Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
December			
1 st	Meldrum	11am	First Sunday in Advent
	Bourtie	2pm	Carol Service (Retiring Offering)
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
8 th	Meldrum	11am	Second Sunday in Advent Fairtrade Stall
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	Carol Service
15 th	Meldrum	11am	Third Sunday in Advent
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
16 th (Mon)	Church Hall (starting from)	7pm	Carol Singing around village
22 nd	Meldrum	11am	Fourth Sunday in Advent Family Service Sunday School Nativity
24 th	Meldrum	6.30pm	Messy Church / Family Service (Retiring Offering)
	Meldrum	11pm	Community Carols
	Meldrum	11.30pm	Watchnight Service (Retiring Offering)
25 th	Meldrum	10.30am	Christmas Morning Family Celebration
29 th	Meldrum	11am	



Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
January			
5 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Informal Communion after the Service
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
12 th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
19 th	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service
26 th	Meldrum	11am	
February			
3 rd	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Evening Service

Retiring Offerings

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

World Mission - The Free to Live Trust
Local Mission - Campaign for new air ambulance in
Aberdeen.

Meldrum Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member	
Dec 1st	M Kavanagh	A Adam
8th	A Gartly	C Simpson
15th	I Reid	E Falconer
22nd	I Bousefield	S Bousefield
29th	E Porch	M Dow
Jan 5th	A McLean	A Gartly
12th	A Dobson	S Dobson
19th	E Falconer	I Reid
26th	G Simpson	J Simpson

Date	Finance		Flowers
Dec 1st	B Reid	M Watt	E Thomson
8th	E Porch	G Smith	J Howard
15th	E Buck	E Porch	A Milne
22nd	A McLean	E Buchan	Christmas Flowers
29th	D Davidson	M Kavanagh	P Patrone
Jan 5th	S Simpson	D McLelland	M Torr
12th	E Buchan	B Reid	E Buchan
19th	P Patrone	M Kavanagh	I Reid
26th	S Simpson	A McCartney	E Arthur

Bourtie Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member		Flowers
Dec 1st	M Green	I Peddie	M Green
Jan 5th	S Bousefield	I Dunbar	I Cooper
Feb 2nd	G Stephen	M Green	S Peddie

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2019

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.



Prayer Calendar



December 2019

L is for Love brought down to earth.

1John 4 v9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we may live through Him.

This message is beautifully expressed in a Hymn 316, written by Christina Rossetti:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But, wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and Love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.



Prayer Calendar



January 2020

In the first month of the year we find the Week of Christian Unity. In 2020 this is from the 18th to 25th of January. We start the year thinking about the lives and works of Christians of all denominations. Our brothers and sisters of the Christian Churches in Malta and Gozo have chosen the text and theme for 2020. The Bible text is from the Book of Acts. When on his way to imprisonment in Rome Paul is shipwrecked on Malta. This terror and disaster led to the beginning of Christianity in Malta. We are reminded that God can bring good out of the most difficult circumstances. In response to this we pray for:

- ⇒ All Christians imprisoned and in danger because of their beliefs. Be with them in their time of need.
- ⇒ All people like Paul confronted by the terrifying power of the elements, especially those making dangerous journeys by land and sea. Be with those facing the terror of shipwreck, natural disasters and the man made disasters of warfare and poverty. Lord bring them to safer places and better times.
- ⇒ Give thanks to all those working to bring others to safety. From the Lifeboat men and women around our shores, to those crewing rescue boats for migrants in the Mediterranean and English Channel. May we be equally kind to those who are fearful and lost. Help us to sow seeds of kindness throughout 2020 to witness God's Love. Amen

Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum



It's almost that time again when Santa and his helpers will be in Oldmeldrum. As usual Santa will begin on the first Sunday in December by visiting the residents at Westbank Home before coming to The Square to help MAIG at the ceremony to switch on the Christmas Lights. Santa will be happy to let young children onto the sleigh so they can tell him what they hope he will bring on Christmas Morning. On Tuesday 3rd December Santa will be in Rothienorman, then Tarves on 4th, Methlick on 5th and Daviot on 6th.

The following week Santa will be back in Oldmeldrum on 10th and 11th. The sleigh sets off at about 6.30; the routes covered will broadly be the same as previous years going south from Commercial Road and Market Square on the first night then roads to the north from Commercial Road on the 2nd night. Santa will then be in Newmachar 12th & 13th. Exact timings cannot be given as much depends on the condition of the roads and any other delays but if you miss Santa when he comes to your street don't worry he will be at the

Co-op during the day on a couple of weekends in December, exact dates still to be confirmed.

All the money donated to Santa, and at all our other events comes back to communities in various ways e.g. all residents at Westbank are given a card and small gift on their birthday, funding is given to local youth organisations and activities promoting young people's leadership skills. International donations this year include money towards health and sanitation projects in remote villages in Nepal.

If you have any young budding photographers or writers in the family there is still time for them to enter this year's competitions. The themes are "Through My Eyes" and "Connections". Information about entry criteria has been given to schools but if you would like to know more then contact our Secretary at the address below and she will be happy to send you the application form.

Since Rotary began in 1905 it has become the world's largest non-political, non-religious humanitarian organisation. It was set up

initially to promote small town friendliness in the big city of Chicago. Since then much has changed in how clubs are run. It is less formal, there are different types of memberships, including Associated Members and Friends of Rotary, and no requirement to attend every week. However the main principles are still the same, it's people giving their time and energy for the benefit of their neighbours and communities, and generally having a bit of fun in the process. If you have ever thought you would like to do more to give something back to the community of Oldmeldrum and beyond then come and meet us and hear more about what we do, with no obligation to make any commitment. We meet at the Redgarth Hotel on Mondays at 6.30, or contact our Secretary for more details.

On behalf of all the members of Rotary Oldmeldrum I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

For information about any of the above please contact
Secretary@Oldmeldrum.rotary1010.org



Kirk News Articles

All items for the February/March 2020 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 19th January 2020.

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.

SCOUTPOST 2019

Once again 1st Daviot-Oldmeldrum Scouts will be delivering Christmas cards and letters **to local addresses within Oldmeldrum and Daviot villages**. Please support our ScoutPost.

Posting boxes will be placed in The Co-op, Paper Shoppe and Pharmacy **from Sat 30th Nov**. Cards will be collected each Friday and delivered each Saturday to addresses within Oldmeldrum and Daviot villages. The last collection will be at 5pm on Friday 20th December.

Place your Christmas post and suggested **donation of 25p per card/letter** in the **ScoutPost Box**. Please include the **ScoutPost destination street code** on each envelope (see below).

SCOUTPOST represents excellent value and helps us to fund equipment and activities for our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. **Thank you for your support**, it means a lot to our Group.

ScoutPost Destination Code (write this next to the address)

Street (A-Z)	Code		Street (A-Z)	Code
Albert Grove	2		Kirkhill Drive	3
Albert Place	1		Le Roux Drive	18
Albert Road	2		Lower Cowgate	8
Albert Terrace	1		Macmillan Avenue	16
Ardconnon Avenue	17		Major Lane	5
Back Wynd	5		Manson Road	12
Baker Street	5		Market Square	5
Balcain Avenue	16		Mary Slessor Place	14
Barnett Court	6		Meadowbank	13
Barra View	8		Meadowside	12
Benview Gardens	15		Meadows Drive	13
Bruce Place	12		Meadows Vale	12
Burgh Lane	17	18	Mill Road	4

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

Love Actually

According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year.

Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

‘Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?

What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!’

(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)

‘The main thing’ is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but ‘full of grace and truth’, to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually.

As Christina Rossetti’s carol puts it, ‘Love was born at Christmas.’

Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

Extract from Mission & Discipleship Church Without Walls Team

