



Meldrum & Bourtie

Parish Church of Scotland

February / March 2012

Dear Friends,

Christmas seems a century ago already doesn't it? The snowdrops are coming out, poking through the remnant of the snow that fell a couple of days ago. Apparently the third weekend in January is the most miserable of the year. I suppose that is when the financial chaos of Christmas catches up with us in credit card bills and a week still to go until pay day. Even the best organised and sensible of us can find our finances in sudden chaos with unexpected expenditure. Avaaz, a web based pressure group with 10 million members worldwide (including me) has been collecting signatures for an e-petition to the Chancellor and RBS protesting about the bonuses that are planned for their top bankers. Even though the bank has made a £750 million loss in the last 6 months £500 million in bonuses are planned. The petition calls on the chancellor to use the power of the massive public stake in RBS to halt this process and question the ethics of massive bonuses. RBS will say, as it has before, that to attract the best people it must pay them as well as other banks do. I wonder if these can really be the best people to employ if the bank is still losing money and since I am an RBS customer myself I am beginning to wonder if I should move to a more ethical bank. The Co-operative bank for example. I would be sad to move, I have had good, friendly service from RBS over the years. There is nothing wrong with its local employees who help me with my finances but, of course, these are not the people who will be getting bonuses no matter how hard they work. Maybe I'm just an old red Clydesider, but I'm sure that much of what is going on in the financial world



Kirk News

www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org



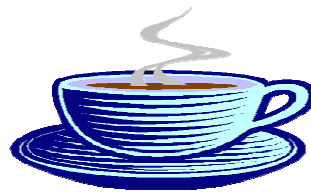
at the moment isn't just unethical, it is plain wrong. We have been so used to assuming that bankers knew better than us how to manage our money that it is difficult to take in the fact that some of them have lost rather than managed our money. So far we have been sheltered from the worst of the consequences by the government's action in taking over the debt of the failing banks. We have not lost the money in our bank accounts but our tax bills reflect the fact that we are now paying off the debts through the public purse. In this situation it is particularly galling that these people want bonuses. They should be paying back the government and through them all of us whose taxes have bailed them out.

As this financial year comes to an end the church too will have to present accounts to the Annual General Meeting of the congregation . We have a new treasurer as Willie Paterson has taken over the roll from Marion Philip. Marion and her band of helpers Eileen Arthur and Elaine Buck have carried the burden of this work for many years and we are very grateful to them. Unlike the top bankers, they have not invested our funds in dodgy deals or creamed off large bonuses. They have taken nothing for their work and carried it out with integrity, serving God in this specialized way.

The church should be different from the rest of society for we are not a business, we are a family of faith. However we still need money to support the work that we believe serves God here in this place. This is the time of year when the Kirk Session asks all of us to review what we are doing with our finances, with our time and with our talents. The Kirk Session does not take your support for granted and it only spends money on things necessary to keep our work going. In the next few years we will need more of your support than ever. We will need your prayers as we take forward plans for the future needs of the congregation. We will have to raise money for building and equipping a new or rebuilt place of worship fit for the times and the work but, more than this ,we will need the support of all your prayers and understanding as we lead you onwards. Money may, in the end, be the least important of our commitments to God but it is certain that things will be much harder to achieve without it. There will be no bonus for our treasurer or elders except one, knowing that we have faithfully served God and the congregation in this place. All of us, Minister, Elders and members have a part in giving to God's work our hearts and souls and our money. We can give in the knowledge that this is not a tax levied by God but a gift we give to God through the church. May he guide us in our spending, our saving and our giving.

I'd like to finish with a quotation from Rev Linda Pollok from a letter sent by one of her congregation to "Life and Work". Before the offering Linda announces, "God does not need our money, he wants us, the building needs our money, however, if we have little or none at all not to worry." This year as well as our own congregation's needs we will be expected to take part in a National Stewardship Campaign. The economic crises of our time have left fewer people than ever supporting the Church of Scotland. Many of our members are aging too and have enough difficulty holding everything together. We can only embark on a Stewardship Season, as instructed by the General Assembly, when we have found a way of appealing to those who have money while not making those who have not feel as if they are not necessary or welcome and contributing in other ways to the work of the church.

With love and best wishes,
Alison



Coffee Morning

As part of Fairtrade fortnight we will have a

Coffee Morning on **March 10th in the Church Hall.**

Contacts

Name	Position	Contact Tel No
Rev. Alison Jaffrey	Minister	872250
Mrs Jean Mitchell	Reader	872745
Jim Walker	Session Clerk	872281
Mr W Paterson	Treasurer	07961 245900
Mrs Eileen Arthur	Gift Aid Convenor	872867
Mrs Winnie Reid	Roll Keeper	872571
Focus Groups:		
Billy Dalzell	Outreach & Communication	872943
Mrs Ray Walker	Pastoral Care Group	872281
Charlie Simpson	Worship Group	872108
Trudi Munro	Sunday Club	01464 841430

Volume 1, Issue 1

Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
February			
1 st (Wed)	Nathalan Court	11am	Monthly Gathering
5th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Fairtrade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
12th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
19th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
26 th	Meldrum	10am	Alternative Service
	Meldrum	11am	'Thinking Day'

Christmas Eve/Day Offerings

Thank you very much for raising over £700 at the Christmas Services

We are pleased to say that £359.32 was raised for each of the following good causes - Lepra & Royal Cornhill Hospital.

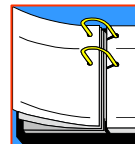
CHRISTMAS TREE

Those of you who have attended services in Meldrum Church over the Festive period will no doubt have admired the lovely Christmas Tree. This tree was once again donated by Hoodles and the Kirk Session and Sunday Club wish to say a big Thank You to all concerned in providing this beautiful decoration for our church.

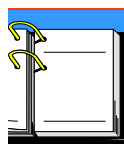
James Walker, Session clerk

Creche

Thanks to Sarah Storer for organising the creche over the last few years. Sarah is now on Sunday Club duty so is unable to continue. Lindsay Threadgold has volunteered to take over from Sarah, Thanks Lindsay. Anyone wishing to join the crèche rota should get in touch with Lindsay, Alison or any other Elder.



Dates for your Diary



Date	Place	Time	Remarks
March			
4 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Fairtrade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
7 th (Wed)	Nathalan Court	11am	Monthly Gathering
11 th	Meldrum	11am	Family Service
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
18 th	Bourtie	9.45am	Mothering Sunday
	Meldrum	11am	Mothering Sunday
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
25 th	Meldrum Church Hall	10am	Alternative Service
	Meldrum	11am	
April			
1st	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Fairtrade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise

Baptisms

Erin Grace Good

4th December 2011

Deaths

Mrs Arlene Hazel Horne

30th December 2011

Mr William John Horne

5th January 2012

both of South Road, Peterhead

Meldrum Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member	
Feb 5th	B Webster	E Poch
12th	M Green	R Richardson
19th	W Paterson	T Munro
26th	C Simpson	S Simpson
Mar 4th	P Patrone	E Falconer
11th	A Dobson	A Adam
18th	E Poch	M McCartney
25th	S Simpson	C Simpson
Apr 1st	E Falconer	A Milton
8th	J Bruce	D Davidson

Date	Finance		Flowers
Feb 5th	A Gunn	J Walker	M Greaves
12th	A McCartney	G Smith	H Webster
19th	J Bruce	A McLean	
26th	L Niven	M Watt	E Poch
Mar 4th	B Reid	M Philip	
11th	L Stevenson	G Stephen	J Donald
18th	A McCartney	E Buck	M Dow
25th	R Walker	J Walker	A McLean
Apr 1st	G Stephen	A Allan	S Wilson
8th	S Hill	T Munro	EASTER

Bourtie Church Duty Rota

Date	Welcoming Member		Flowers
Feb 5th	I Peddie	S Bousefield	M Green
19th	M Green	G Stephen	
Mar 4th	I Peddie	I Dunbar	
18th	S Bousefield	G Stephen	M Green
Apr 1st	I Dunbar	M Green	M Green

HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

This is a service we provide to take hospital visitors to Aberdeen Hospitals on Wednesdays, the Inverurie area, including Blythwood, Port Elphinstone and Badenscoth, Rothienorman on Thursdays at request of passengers. Prospective visitors should phone the volunteers on duty between 6pm & 7pm on the day before their chosen run. If for any reason you have difficulty in contacting the volunteers phone: Mrs M. Green on 01467 620401, Mrs M. MacDonald on 872216, or Mrs R Richardson on 872307. Further volunteers for this list would be very welcome.

Aberdeen - For transport to Aberdeen on Wednesday afternoons please phone contact numbers above, between 6pm and 7pm.

Inverurie 2pm—4pm	Month	Date	Volunteer	Tel No
	February	2nd	Mrs E Miller	871801
		9th	Mrs M Simmers	882302
		16th	Mrs M Beveridge	872022
		23rd	Mr W Dow	873466
	March	1st	Mrs M Beveridge	872022
		8th	Mrs M Simmers	882302
		15th	Mrs E Miller	871801
		22nd	Mr W Dow	873466
		29th	Mrs E Miller	871801
	April	5th	Mrs E Arthur	872867

Alternative Service

Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Kirk invite you to their informal Alternative Service in the Church Hall, Oldmeldrum on the last Sunday of the month at 10am..

26th February 12

Breakfast

25th March 12

Open to all.

CH4 Hymnary - LARGE PRINT

There are Large Print versions of the new CH4 Hymnary available at the Church entrance - just ask.

Prayer

This March we celebrate World Day of Prayer and Mothering Sunday. We also travel together through Lent in preparation for Easter. Here come face to face with the vast and unconditioned love that Christ feels for us all. The following meditation helps us to go forward in that love being the best that we can be.

Be yourself --- truthfully

Accept yourself --- gratefully

Value yourself --- joyfully

Forgive yourself --- completely

Balance yourself - harmoniously

February 2012

February 2012		
Week 1	Own Church	Give thanks for all the things we enjoy day by day, that we can often take for granted. Bless all the homes in our town and all the families within them.
	Presbytery	Pray for the work of the congregation of Culsamond and Rayne, linked to Daviot and for Rev. Mary Cranfield, their minister.
	World Issues	Help all survivors and aid workers who work at crisis points in our world.
Week 2	Own Church	Pray for each person that their needs are met and they feel special. For each part is essential for the whole.
	Presbytery	Remember and pray for all those who care for and look after others, whether it is in their own homes or elsewhere. Give thanks for their time.
	World Issues	Pray for children and people in many countries who have to work to eat and have no security. Pray that their needs are met and their fears calmed.
Week 3	Own Church	Pray for the groups who use our Church Hall. Give thanks for their meetings, friendship and fun together.
	Presbytery	Remember the Ellon congregation, their Church Centre and minister.
	World Issues	Pray for families and communities throughout the world who need to know more of God's love and care.
Week 4	Own Church	Pray for all whose work is connected with fair treatment for all.
	Presbytery	Remember those congregations seeking a minister. Send them a shepherd to guide them.
	World Issues	At the beginning of this Fair Trade fortnight pray for all those in need of fair wages for their work, especially as these wages help whole communities to grow and develop.



On Monday 28 November the Guild held a fundraising Open Night which took the form of a Matter of Opinion evening. The panel included Rev Alison Jaffrey, Sarah Mack, Alex Allan, and Willie Paterson all ably chaired by David McClelland. It was a very successful evening with plenty of questions answered along with some friendly banter. Tea, coffee and sandwiches etc followed and

the evening raised a total of £504.00.

Monday 12 December was the evening for the Guild Party when the weather co-operated unlike last year when the party had to be cancelled. Members and guests enjoyed a seasonal meal which was followed by entertainment from "Bel-Canto". The girls' programme was varied and very much enjoyed closing with a few Christmas Carols for everyone to join in. The evening helped get everyone in the mood for Christmas.

The first meeting of 2012 brought a welcome return visit from Rev Eleanor Macalister who came to tell us about her cruise to the Antarctic. Eleanor and her husband flew via Buenos Aires to Ushuaia at the very southern tip of South America where they boarded the ship. They first travelled to Port Stanley and the Falkland Islands where she was surprised to see penguins so soon in their journey then onwards to South Georgia before sailing to the Antarctic Peninsula. Eleanor was very sea sick during rough weather when the wind reached 160 miles/hour. Photographs of icebergs were superb but it was difficult to imagine their size until she told us that the ship would fit into one of the smaller holes on the side! They visited some of the research stations and had amazing pictures of various types of penguins, seals and orcas. Everyone was amazed by her courage and determination and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Guild Programme: Meetings are held in the Church Hall.

February 2012

13th Afternoon Meeting-2pm - Doric Writing & Talking - Mrs D Leslie

27th Afternoon Meeting-2pm - Talk on Rotary - Mrs R Walker

March 2012

12th Afternoon Meeting-2pm - Talk-Bethany Christian Trust - Mr A Murray

26th Afternoon Meeting-2pm - Talk-The Lady Lawyer - Mrs E Park

The Guild

Church of Scotland Home Insurance

If you are thinking about changing your Home insurance this year then the Church of Scotland scheme may interest you. For every policy issued under this scheme they donate £20 to your congregation and any profit earned is donated through Gift Aid to the Church of Scotland. Leaflets are available in the Church foyer. This may a good way to support your Church.

Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum



Well Christmas is over and a new year has begun. We had a wonderful tour of our communities with our Santa Sleigh raising just over £3000 for local, national & international charities - helping people in distress as well as supporting our local youth. One of our new projects in sponsoring our local youth is "Euroscola" which gives an opportunity for a senior pupil, proficient in French, to join a group of school students on a visit to the EU parliament in Strasbourg. They will debate in the parliament chamber with students from across the EU. Three of our Rotarians interviewed three of the senior Meldrum Academy pupils and George Bruce, Head Boy at Meldrum Academy was chosen as our candidate. Not only did he eloquently answer our questions he was able to answer two of them in fluent French! He was then chosen from 39 other candidates to be part of the 26 students attending from Scotland. George who lives in Daviot is the grandson of the late Mr Duff of Wyverie Court and Mrs Jean Duff now of Westbank Home.

Our Community Group Quiz is scheduled for Monday 5th March 2012 at the Academy at 7.30 pm, and letters to your groups should be with you now. If you want to take part get in touch with Christine Falconer on 01651 842494.

Georgie Ligertwood who won the heat of the Young Chef goes on to the next round in Aberdeen College. I know you will wish her well. Also we send best wishes to George Davidson who won the heat of the Young Musician and goes on to the next round on 4th March in Perth. (For anyone naming a child just now it looks like George/Georgie makes for success!)

Finally, remember to put the Easter Sunday Haddo Egg Hunt in your diary. It's 8th April from 10-4. I know that after your own Church service many of you make your way along to Haddo to look for the lovely decorated eggs, and enter the competitions for painted eggs, and to take part in the craft making, the face painting and all the other activities on offer. More about that in the next magazine.

Any of you interested in joining Rotary can come along to the Redgarth any Monday evening. We meet at 6.30 for 6.45 and lots of information about us is on our website at www.oldmeldrumrotary.org.uk

Kirk News Articles

All items for the April / May 2012 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 18th March 2012.

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

Two Cub packs and Two Scout Troops???

Bored with your New Year's resolutions already? Fancy following in the Duchess of Cambridge's footsteps? Scouting in the Daviot Oldmeldrum area has never been more popular. Our census figures for 2012 shows that we have the highest number of young people and leaders in our Group than we have ever had!

Unfortunately, *that's* our problem...

Unless a child joins the Group at the Beaver stage, our figures tell us that it's going to be very unlikely – if not impossible – that any other child will be able to have a place in the Cub Pack or Scout Troop. This means that anyone on the waiting list is unlikely to get in. At the moment, that means 25 children on our waiting list have nowhere to go and families who move into the area with young children will also not be able to get a place.

The Daviot-Oldmeldrum Group management is therefore looking at the possibility of opening up a **second Cub Pack** and a **second Scout Troop**. This would allow us to offer the benefits of scouting to a significantly higher number of youngsters in our area.

Although we have the full backing of the existing leadership team, we cannot do this without the recruitment of a number of **additional adult volunteers for leadership roles**. Talk to any of our leaders and they will tell you of the immensely rewarding experiences *they* have in scouting, never mind what the kids get out of it. It's not the shortage of children that's the problem – it's the shortage of adults!

An added bonus is that once you join us as an Appointed Leader, your children are *guaranteed* a place in any of the appropriate sections.

Leadership roles can be as flexible as you want to make them – from a couple of times a month to every week. An arrangement can be made to suit *you* as long as you're prepared to show commitment to the Group.

Help us to help kids in our area. Help us to help *your* kids. Help us and *have fun!*

Mike Bidgood
Group Scout Leader