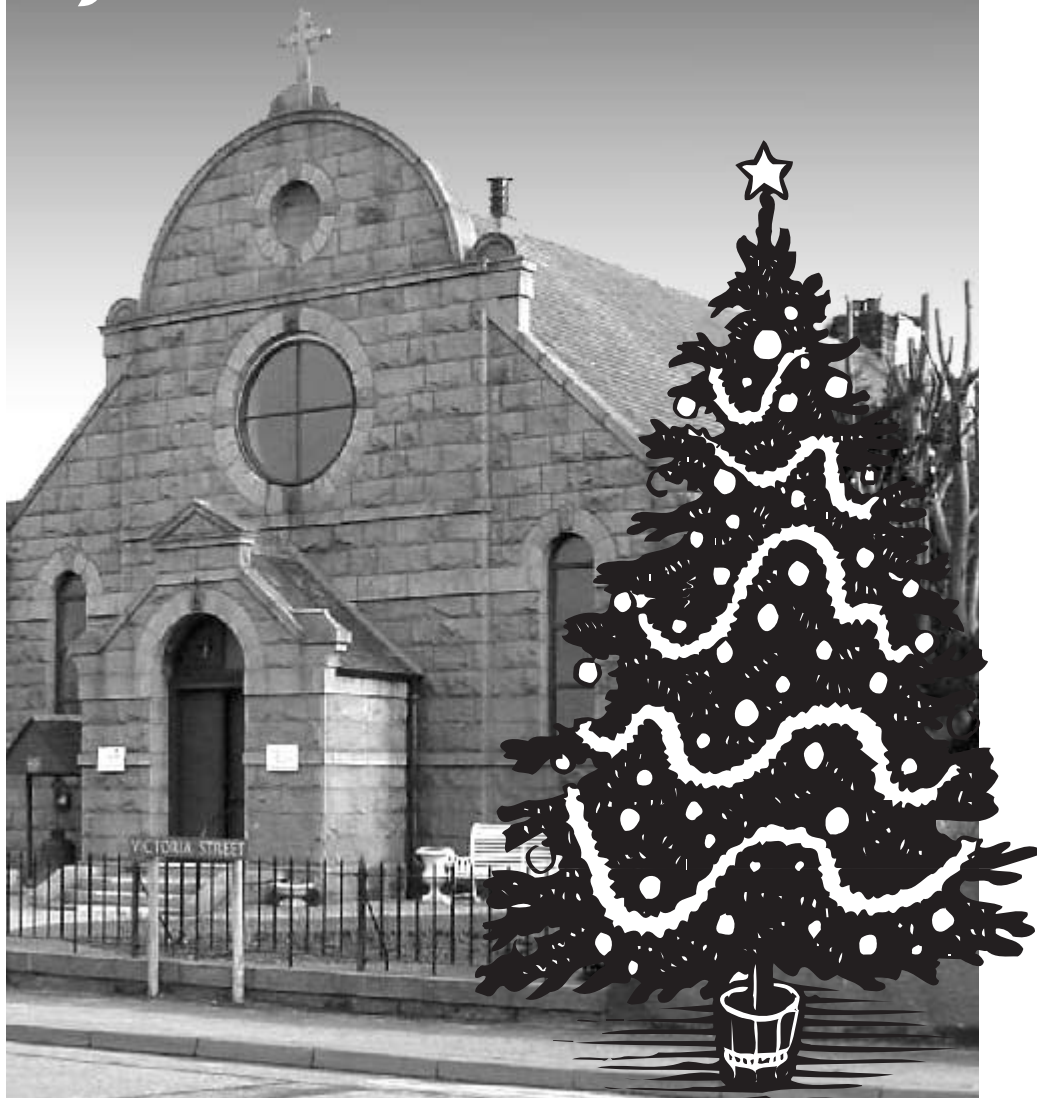


# *The Parishioner*

WINTER 2008



Quarterly Magazine of Dyce Parish Church, Aberdeen  
[dyceparishchurch.org.uk](http://dyceparishchurch.org.uk)



*You're always welcome!*

## Who's Who

### MINISTER

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### TREASURER

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Standingstones  
Tel: 770001

### FWO TREASURER

**Barbara Cruden**  
Standingstones  
Tel: 770001

### GIFT AID CONVENER

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### CHURCH OFFICER/HALL KEEPER/ HALL BOOKINGS

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### FABRIC CONVENER

**James Milton**  
19 Overton Avenue  
Tel: 723939

# *Dear Friends in Dyce Church*

By the time you are reading this, the Reverend Manson Merchant will have been inducted as your new minister and what a joyful occasion that will have been. I have known Manson for a number of years and I am delighted that you now have such an excellent new minister. Manson Merchant is a very experienced and able minister who will want to deepen the spiritual heart of the congregation and lead it in outreach and mission, building on all that has gone before. A new and exciting chapter has opened up for all of you at Dyce Parish Church.

For my part, I have greatly enjoyed getting to know the people of Dyce Parish Church in my time with you as Interim Moderator. I have found you to be an exceptionally happy, friendly and welcoming congregation. When I met you and led worship for the first time, I said that even at that stage,

## **Purpose Statement**

We seek to **Proclaim Christ**  
**Promote Fellowship**  
**Produce Discipleship**

In order that God's Kingdom may be extended in our midst through a **believing, belonging and becoming** community of faith.

God was beginning to lift someone out of their present situation and lead them towards you. That process is now complete. We have God to thank for the arrival of Manson and Sheena. Please pray for them as they continue to settle in to life in Dyce. It is by no means easy to leave one set of circumstances and settle into another. They will need your customary encouragement and warmth if they are to put their roots down quickly.

Every blessing as you go from strength to strength. Always be prayerful and remember to persevere to the end. Our Saviour Jesus has said that to those who overcome, he gives a crown of life.

Amen, and to God be the glory!

*Louis Kinsey*

Former Interim Moderator!

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**9.30am** Second and last Sunday in the month

**11.00am** Every Sunday

**6.30pm** Services will re-commence  
3rd Sunday January 2009

**2.30pm** Service at Fergus House on  
the first Sunday of the month  
(except July and August)

## **MID-WEEK SERVICES**

(except July and August)

2nd Wednesday

Victoria Grange

3rd Wednesday

Berrymoss Court

**Services start at 7.15pm**

Parkhill Court – **No services meantime**

# PARISH REGISTER

## BAPTISMS

September 14 Melissa Grace Brown  
14 Lola Caitlin Brown

October 5 Aaliyah Smith  
5 Greig Jack Simpson  
5 Sister Geraldine Young

## WEDDINGS

October 4 Gail Angus to Michael Hutcheon

## FUNERALS

August 25 Alexander Findlay, Clewiston, Parkhill  
August 27 Mrs Doris Niven, Woodend Hospital  
October 9 Mrs Olive Burnett, 188 Victoria Street  
October 25 Mrs Elizabeth Ross, Annesley House,  
Aboyne

## NEW MEMBERS

*We welcome the following persons into the Fellowship.*

*Admission by Resolution of Kirk Session*  
Mrs Phyllis Farquhar, 215 Jesmond Avenue,  
Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

*From other Congregations*

Williamina Fordyce, 17 Victoria Grange, Dyce

# From our departing Locum

Things will not be easy for our new minister. They are not easy for the teacher, the parent, the shopkeeper, the manager, and the unemployed. Changed days!

There used to be recognised “types” of minister. There was the **Scholar**, at home with his books and producing his own.

But today’s ministers, highly trained, come from varied backgrounds, in business, education, engineering, parenting.

And there was the **Visitor**, his face known to the whole parish, and found at every bedside. But most of Dyce does not know there is a parish minister; and the visitor seldom finds a whole family at home.

The **Activist** was engaged in every good cause, charity work, school boards, the town Council, or found running the affairs of the church, sometimes to the neglect of more obvious duties.

There was also the **Saint**, a life focussed on prayer and scripture, otherwise worldly in a charming and vital way.

Of course we need all of these aspects of

ministry. Yet they have one thing in common, they assume a stable church background.

Today all involved in Christian ministry (that means you) have to sit down with their (full-time) Minister, to reflect and consider: What must we do here? What can we leave? What resources have we? We should have in view three, five and ten years ahead.

From this consensus, the Minister will be supported in his own course and those around him will understand and accept their special part in this game. After all, we are playing to win!

*Your departing locum and fellow-traveller*

**Ian Strachan**

P.S. I am about to go on a sentimental journey to Ghana, celebrating the jubilee of the Youth Movement I initiated half a century ago. I have enjoyed leading your worship and preaching to an attentive and supportive congregation. Having been rather an absentee in recent years I hope I can now claim full membership.

# Thanks to Rev Ian Strachan

It was only in the last edition of our magazine that I was extending a welcome to Rev Ian Strachan, and thanking him for agreeing to be our Locum, and now I have to acknowledge his departure as we prepare to welcome our new Minister Rev. Manson Merchant.

Ian will probably feel that he has not had long enough in our midst to get to know those that he did not know previously, but his role as care-taker, was not to create change but merely to keep things ticking over, and he has done that admirably. He mentioned that he found the sea of faces in Dyce Church more interesting than the back of heads, but he is destined once again to take a back seat if there is room. People like the front of the bus, the back of the church and the centre of attention, and Ian has certainly held our attention

with his varied and topical sermons. His experience and knowledge was obvious, and his humour appreciated. Although only providing pastoral cover one day a week, I am grateful to Ian for the cover he has provided, in our journey towards a new Ministry in Dyce.

As I write, Ian has embarked on a much longer journey to attend the 50th celebrations of the foundation of a school at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana where he was involved at an incredibly early age. He takes the best wishes of Dyce Congregation to that fellowship, and perhaps in the not too distant future he will be prepared to provide an update on that journey.

**Raymond Mack**  
Session Clerk



## *Welcome to our new Minister*

Before this edition of the Parishioner drops through the letter-boxes around the parish, our new Minister Rev. Manson Merchant will be in post.

Manson and his family will have to embark on a steep learning curve, getting to know a lot about the church and congregation, and it is a difficult time for the family uprooting from one congregation and settling down in another. They will all be warmed by words of welcome and encouragement Ministers are always expected to be there to encourage, but it is important to give encouragement as

well as to receive it. Remember that they are human with feelings and can be buoyed up with words of encouragement.

Can I therefore on behalf of the Kirk Session, Congregational Board and Congregation of Dyce Parish Church, extend a warm welcome to Manson, his wife Sheena and his family Laura, Jennifer and Jonathan.

**Raymond Mack**  
Session Clerk

# FABRIC

To most folks the word 'Fabric' means some fancy cloth or material to make curtains or dresses, etc. but in the Church it means our buildings and everything that concerns them, both outside and inside, including all the furniture and fittings.

Dyce Church has a very active team of volunteers who serve formally both on the Fabric Committee and when called to help with a project or improvement. This Committee meets once each month to discuss and arrange any items affecting our three properties (Church, Manse and Hall) and then submits a report each month at the Congregational Board meeting. We try very hard to keep our buildings in good order and when funds permit to modernise or improve them. The Church of Scotland insists that there is a formal annual fabric inspection to make sure that all is well and every five years there is a special inspection carried out by an official appointed by the Presbytery of Aberdeen.

While all our buildings are

important it is particularly necessary, when a new Minister is called, to ensure that the Manse is in a fit state to welcome the new Minister and his family. The Fabric Committee stepped up a gear as soon as the Manse became vacant in an attempt to improve the property and to make sure it was ready for the new family. As most of you will be aware the Manse is a very large old property but over the years the congregation has done its best to ensure that there have been gradual and continued improvements made.

Over the last 10-15 years or so these have included a new kitchen, central heating, a new bathroom suite, a new toilet downstairs, wet rot treatment to some of the walls and floors, loft insulation and many other improvements to the property and gardens. Since the bathroom is a room with 'lie ins' in the ceiling it was impossible to stand in the bath to have a shower so this summer it was decided to convert the smallest bedroom into a shower room complete with

toilet and wash-hand basin.

All the bedrooms had old fireplaces and ancient ceramic sinks which severely limited the position of beds and furniture. These have been removed to provide much needed wall space for wardrobes and other furniture.

Now that the work is completed and the rooms redecorated along with the fitting of new carpets the house has taken on a new lease of life and looks great. All this work has required input from a great number of folk, from the 'Hike, Bike and Trike' fundraisers, the Guild members, various skilled tradesmen (plumber, joiner, plasterer, carpet fitter, electrician, painter and decorator, builder) and an army of volunteer wall painters and gardeners.

On behalf of the Congregation I wish to thank everyone involved in any way for their considerable help and support.

**Jim Milton**

Fabric Convener

## Contributions Welcome

Items for the Spring Edition can be submitted now and up to **Sunday 15 February 2009**.

Where possible please send items by email to [thelian@btinternet.com](mailto:thelian@btinternet.com) or post in the **Editor's Box** (beside lounge door at back of Church) or to my home address **110 Corrennie Circle**.

Photographs sent via email can be accepted but please remember – **parental permission must be granted where children are involved**.

**Ian Milne**  
Editor



# Dyce Church Guild

*"Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me right where I am,  
Help me to know your love deep in my heart and  
enable that love to flow from me to those with whom  
I am in contact."*

The above is the Guild Prayer and has been reflected in all the works of the speakers we have had so far this session. We have heard about Miss Doran's experience in China and had an update on the Lydia Project.

Clive Fairweather came to talk on Combat Stress (the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society) which is the only UK charity to provide specialist help to ex-service men and women from all three services and the merchant navy who suffer from service related psychological problems like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. With so many of our armed services having been involved in so many recent conflicts we were glad to hear about Hollybush House near Ayr which is the only Scottish treatment centre.

John Anderson of International Rescue Core gave us a real insight into their work. This

incorporates men and women from all over Britain who have had in depth training to deal with all disasters. This ranges from earthquakes abroad to gas explosions in Scotland. They have to be ready with all necessary equipment to go anywhere in the world at very short notice. It is a voluntary organisation which has to raise funds to support itself.

At our last meeting we were delighted to welcome amongst us ladies from Newmachar, Bucksburn, Newhills and Cults Guilds as well as ladies from our Catholic friends.

Our Sale of Work was a great success and we raised over £1300 thanks to the hard work of all guild members.

We still have two meetings and our Christmas Party to look forward to before Christmas and anyone wishing to join us will be made very welcome.

Margaret Whyte  
Vice President

## Season's greetings to all friends of Traidcraft



It is truly marvellous that since the Traidcraft Christmas catalogues were circulated throughout the Parish, the sales of fair trade products sold have once again topped the £1000 mark. At the Festive Event in October, we sold £840.55 of goods and the orders are still coming in! I am most grateful to those who made toffee to sell, to the donor of the Indian papoose doll (whose name Sarah, was correctly guessed by Anna Aitken) and to all who gave a donation for tea, coffee and home baking. If you helped in any way then your support was appreciated.

It is always worth a mention that everything thing you spend on fair trade is reinvested in promoting a fair deal for the small developers in the developing world. At Christmas time when we enjoy giving gifts to friends and family it is good to know our giving is helping those folks who are trying to help themselves.

Thank you all very much for your continued interest in Traidcraft each month. It has wonderful far reaching consequences.

**Thelma** (Tel 722088)

# Earth Keepers

I was just looking back through some of the photographs that I continue to hold on my computer hard drive and I found pictures of a New Year service held in Dyce. During this service you were asked, and many did come forward, to attach a leaf on which you had written an environmentally themed pledge to what was a bear tree. That was back in January 2006. How many of us have continued with these pledges we made then? Like New Year resolutions some will last only a few days, others weeks and perhaps, just perhaps, we may abide by our promises and keep practicing the resolution we made at the time.

By the time you read this we will have a new Minister inducted here at Dyce. As Manson will make his commitment to serve our parish perhaps it is time for us to renew our commitment to continue with or resurrect and carry out the pledges we made in 2006 or perhaps make some new environmentally based changes to our lives.

The next time you are throwing out the rubbish take a look at the contents.

Is there anything that could have been recycled? I know that in this area of Aberdeen we do recycle our glass and plastic, well at least some kinds of plastic, but here are a few facts about what happens after we have put out our recycling bins.

- Around 14 million glass bottles and jars are sent to landfill in the UK every day. These could all be recycled and with not a lot of trouble on our part.
- Glass can be recycled again and again – containers made from recycled glass are of the same high quality as those made from new raw materials.
- When you recycle your glass bottles and jars, they can be transformed into a range of new products, including new glass bottles and jars, concrete paving, construction aggregate and golf course sand!! Recycled glass can also be used for arts and crafts products. Recycling one glass bottle or jar saves enough energy to power your computer for 20 minutes.

- When you recycle your plastic bottles, they can be transformed into new plastic products such as bin liners, compost bins, new bottles, and even fleece jackets.
- Although technically, almost all plastics can be recycled, collection, infrastructure and low market demand (that means there is a financial aspect to this) are barriers to the recycling of some types of plastics. Hence the reason why your bin-man may not take all the plastic containers you put out for recycling.
- Recycling just one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W light bulb for six hours. It takes just 25 two-litre plastic bottles to make a recycled fleece jacket. In the UK we throw away around 455,000 tonnes of plastic bottles every year – equivalent to around 9.1 billion bottles. That's a lot of bottles.

So in the coming year, 2009, make a pledge to recycle more and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

**Ken Knight**  
01358 743236

# BOYS BRIGADE

The company is now up and running again. It was refreshing to see that all except 2 boys returned after the Summer break, as we sometimes lose a few following the long break. We had 6 new additions to the Anchor Boys, giving us a healthy 10 boys who attend on a regular basis. 8 boys moved from Anchor Boys to Junior Section and 3 moved from Junior Section to Company. This is often a very testing time for the lads as they are no longer the oldest group in their section. However, all the young lads who have moved up into new sections have adapted very well indeed

and have joined their group activities with a mature approach and got stuck into everything asked of them.

We also have one young man (Daniel) starting the work for his Queen's Badge and we look forward to supporting him through all the hard work he has before him.

Our boys are set to take part in several competitions over the coming year including badminton and basketball. Good Luck to all involved in these.

By the time you read this, preparations will be under way for our annual open night which

will be held on Friday 5 June 2009. Although some of the officers get a little stressed out – you know who you are!!! – it goes smoothly and never fails to be a good night. All being well, we will be holding a dedication service in late January or early February which will incorporate a celebration of 125 years of the Boys Brigade. Details of this service will follow once Manson Merchant has had time to get used to the idea!

Until next edition, God Bless

**A B Smith & Staff**

Dyce Boys Brigade

## Instant Neighbour

Our Church here in Dyce has been supporting this local Aberdeen charity for a number of years. On the last Sunday of each month, "Food Drop Sunday", you have been bringing donations of tinned and dried food. These are collected by the Charity and are distributed to those in need in Aberdeen.

Instant Neighbour clients are referred by social, health and housing workers but increasingly people are referring themselves when no form of statutory help is available to them. This could be a single person or single parent family who are outwith the Social Work Department's remit. Perhaps the client's benefits have been stopped for some reason and no money is available for basic foodstuffs.

In this time of "the credit crunch" and

other financial woes either worldwide or indeed in our own city it is important that the work which this charity undertakes in and around our city continues. The donations which you bring each "Food Drop Sunday" are very much appreciated by the Charity as it enables them to continue supporting the poorest people in Aberdeen. Distribution of food is only one of the projects run by the Charity. Further information on the work Instant Neighbour carries out in Aberdeen can be found in its leaflets that are available in the Lounge or at the front entrance to the Church.

On behalf of Instant Neighbour, thank you for your continuing support on "Food Drop Sunday". Your donations can be left in the tub provided at the Church door.

# Boys' Brigade – 125th Anniversary Celebrations

On Saturday 4 October 2008, the Boys' Brigade celebrated 125 years to the exact date since William Alexander Smith founded the 1st Glasgow Company in the North Woodside Mission Hall on Thursday 4 October 1883. Since then, the BB has gone from strength to strength not only throughout Scotland and the rest of the UK but worldwide as well.

In celebration of this, a Thanksgiving Service was held in Glasgow Cathedral at 2.30pm to which Officer and Boy representatives from Companies in each Battalion

were invited. Our own 53rd Company was represented by myself, my mum and Daniel, one of our Senior Boys.

Having recently completed my King George VI Officer Cadet Training, I was honoured to be a steward and uplift the offering at the event where distinguished guests included The Right Rev. David Lunan (the present Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland), Rt. Rev. Alan Main (past Moderator), Sir Kenneth Calman KCB (Brigade President), Steve Dickinson (Brigade Secretary), Tom Boyle (Director Scotland)

and John Swinney MSP.

Worship was led by Rev. Dr Laurence Whitley, Minister of the Cathedral.

Weather-wise, the day was very wet and windy so entertainment by Pipes and Drums, Junior Sections and Company Drills which was scheduled to take place outdoors had to be relocated to the Cathedral nave but that certainly did not dampen the spirits of those fortunate enough to attend and the event is something I am very proud to have experienced.

**Fraser McGillivray (Jnr)**

## *Teas and Coffees*



Once again due to the generosity of the congregation throughout the year the sum of £633.65p has been raised from the teas and coffees served in the church on Sundays. Thanks to this effort the charities in the table have benefited.

A big thank you to all involved in making the tea, supplying the necessities and doing the washing up. A special thanks this year to our very own double act "Ramsay and Paul" for the banter they provide each month. Keep it up lads – it is good to laugh – even in church.

**June Bolton & Lucy Thurley**

Scottish National Bible Society	£60.00
Leprosy Mission	£50.00
Mike McIntosh Polish Trip	£50.00
Toybox Charity	£39.25
Traidcraft	£20.90
Christian Aid	£27.00
Alzheimer's Scotland	£40.00
Rock Solid	£21.50
Boys Brigade Dyce	£100.00
SSPCA	£75.00
Mission Aviation	£75.00
The Encephalitis Society	£75.00

# Going the distance

When Pheidippides ran the 40km (just under 25 miles) from Marathon to Athens to announce a victory in battle by the Greeks over the Persians, before he promptly fell down dead, he would not have been aware that 2500 years later his exploits would be remembered in various marathon events that take place all over the world over the now the official distance of 26.2 miles.

The 'modern' Olympics of 1896 saw the re-enactment of Pheidippides' epic run and the 1908 Olympic Games in London saw the distance increase to 26.2 miles and runners have cursed Queen Alexandra, whose idea it reportedly was, ever since.

People know myself and my wife Maureen regularly take part in distance running and they have often asked what it is like doing these sort of events and after a recent talk given at the local Rotary on the subject I was asked to write an article for 'The Parishioner'.

Running a marathon takes many weeks and months of preparation as you train your body to endure longer and longer training runs and you force yourself to head out on a long training run when it is pouring rain because you know you have to if you want to ultimately 'get the job done'.

Race day starts with every effort being made to stay calm and conserve vital energy, sipping water to try and stay hydrated but inevitably the toilet is visited several times as nerves kick in. The start is a battle to start slow when you want to sprint away and trying to get into a steady economic pace. As you run the physiological changes to your body include increased pulse and a quick increase in body temperature. As your body tries hard to keep cool the heart works harder at pumping the blood round the body, which in turn causes your body temperature to

rise and so starts a vicious circle.

One way the body helps keep you cool is by sweating, it is very difficult to replace all the fluid you loose in this fashion by drinking water and so in time the blood volume decreases and the heart has to work harder in getting it round the body which causes more temperature increases which causes more sweating and so we start again!

Then in time the body begins to run of fuel reserves and this can be the time that the dreaded 'wall' is hit. This is the time that the weeks of training kick in and where a mental toughness helps ignore the cramps, muscle pain caused by microscopic tears to the main muscles of the legs and joint pain caused by the joints now absorbing 2-3 times your body weight on each foot strike, due to your running losing it's efficiency.

The final stage of a marathon can be the most challenging and indeed dangerous as this is where 80% of fatalities in a marathon occur. This is because a runner very often gets a mental 'high' realising they are close to the end which is more pronounced because they have been felling so low due to the impact on their body. At this stage some runners can ignore the warning signs their body is passing to them and push themselves faster to the point of total exhaustion which I'm sure some of you have seen on your TV screens.

Crossing the finishing line is always an exhilarating experience and although I always say to myself at this point "never again!", by the time a few hours have passed myself and Maureen are planning the next event, even if by the next day I can only go downstairs backwards or on my bottom!

So why do it? Well, at times I ask the same question – certainly during the events themselves, "Why am I putting my body

through this, am I mad?!" I think the answer is that after the event there is satisfaction that you have challenged and tested yourself physically and mentally and making it through the other side brings real satisfaction. However, there is more to it than that. When myself and Maureen do larger events we tend to seek sponsorship for a charity, which we don't nominate well in advance, it just sort of presents itself due to something that is or has just touched us in some way. This more than anything makes the training and the punishment of the race worthwhile and we are very grateful for the support we have received over the years from so many people in Dyce

In Hebrews 12.1 Paul says the following; **"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"**. When myself and Maureen are running our endurance only has to be temporary, but there are those who are literally running a marathon everyday of their lives, both in this country and abroad. These are the people who deserve the

## Dyce & District WRI

We have had our first snow for this season so I do hope this does not mean a hard winter is ahead of us.

So far this session we have had a really interesting talk and film from Margaret Farquhar on the Lifeboats and in October Arlene White demonstrated her fantastic selection of embroidery including work done for St Paul's Cathedral. We all got the chance to embroider a card with varying degrees of success. In October we also ran a very successful whist night.

In November we have Avril Linton giving us a talk on the work of the Heart, Chest and Stroke Charity and in December members are once again paying a visit to the Evening Express Carol Concert in the Music Hall which was so enjoyed by all last year.

recognition and the medals. They endure the pain, the doubt and the lows, wondering if they will ever get to the finishing line and not having thousands of people giving them encouragement along the way. For those the race is long and lonely and the next day they have set out once again.

So this Christmas spare a thought for those in the above situation and if you would like to perhaps open a purse or a wallet next year when again myself and Maureen prepare to test ourselves again then we would be very grateful.

With kind regards  
Roddy MacInnes

P.S. I should say that anybody can complete a marathon, it's not the distance, it's the time you do it in – all it takes is preparation and having realistic expectations of yourself. If it's something you have often thought about but didn't know how to go about it then get in touch and I'll give you an idea how to tackle it one step at a time...

In January our Scottish night will have entertainment provided by Raymond Mack. Our speaker for February has still to be confirmed but keep a look out for information on our posters. In February Dyce WRI reaches its 78th birthday and this will be celebrated with a meal, music and dance.

Members are again busy filling decorated shoe boxes for Christmas distribution to children, teenagers and adults in Romania and Moldova by New Hope Trust. Thank you for all your generosity.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Church Hall unless otherwise advertised. A warm welcome awaits all members, visitors and friends.

Jessie Milne

# Dyce Gardening Club and Dyce in bloom

2008 marches towards its close. The Christmas lights have been dusted down, checked and erected, flower tubs are planted for winter and the hanging baskets have been emptied, cleaned and stored safely till next spring. Now is a good time to take stock and consider how best to enhance next year's display.



The Gardening Club winter programme continues on Tuesdays in Carnegie Hall at 7.30pm. New members and visitors will be welcomed warmly.

The efforts of different groups in the village were recognised when Dyce won a silver-gilt award for being judged one of the top four urban communities in Britain. Roslyn and Sandy Bruce and Ron Clark proudly accepted the award in Chester.

Next year Dyce can compete in the Beautiful Scotland competition. 3 representatives of *Dyce in Bloom* travelled to a Beautiful Scotland seminar in Stirling to seek and share good ideas. "Adopt a Station" was one exciting scheme discussed.

9 December  
2009

Christmas Treats 'U

20 January  
17 February  
17 March

Snowdrops with Ron Begbie  
Gardening My Way with Gina Wilson  
Garden Thinking by Dr Tom Smith.  
Mini Bulb Show

14 April  
30 May

AGM  
Plant Sale. Coffees.  
Hanging Baskets, 10am

Redundant seed trays will be gratefully accepted to be recycled for planting up with flowers for the May Sale.

**Evelyn Shearer**



The Government has announced that it accepts all of Christian Aid's campaign demands for the Climate Change Bill. It has declared its commitment to cutting UK carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. It will also ensure that British companies are required by law to report their emissions. Along with the Government's stated commitment to making measurable year on year progress towards its targets, Christian Aid has won

everything it asked for.

No country lives in isolation in this world and when we, particularly in the first world, nonchalantly, uncaringly and just because we can, toss a stone in the pond the ripples make an impact on the far side greater than we can imagine.

This Christmas, consider please consider your purchases more carefully. How far have they travelled? What are they made of? How much energy do they

consume? Were they ethically produced? And of course, do we really need them?

Don't forget that Governments need reminders. So if you can, why not drop your MP an e-mail wishing them a Merry Christmas and reminding them that the best Christmas present you can receive in return is them ensuring that they do what they can to ensure that the Government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions remains in place.

# From the Past

*Parishioner Winter 1973*

## **Giving A Lead Over Waste**

While there is a growing feeling that all of us have to give more serious attention to “recycling” our waste resources- paper, bottles and much else-senior elder Mr. Boyne, The Mews, Pitmedden Road, began to set an example as long ago as 1970 when he undertook, with the help of like minded church friends, to organise the collection of waste newspaper and magazines and now reports that since then – up till this month – £405.13 has been raised. In the past four years over 54 tons of paper and magazines has been collected.

*Parishioner Winter 1974*

## **Towards Christmas**

Through Advent we are taking the recognised “path” suitable for the Christian year – Preparation for the Christ, the Word which has special reference to Him, those who are called to minister the Word... the Word made flesh – joyous and exciting – more so when more and more seek to make the Great Pilgrimage for themselves...

*To shelter himself from God*

*You will find no shelter from Him*

*You will find the builder of the stable there*

*The world's renewal, the world's salvation*

*And yours—and yours*

*Wherefore rejoice, Good Christian men and women*

*Rejoice and be glad at this joyful season*

*Rejoice in your own weakness and unwisdom*

*Rejoice that the way of salvation is not man's way*

*Rejoice that Christ alone is your salvation*

*Rejoice with shepherds and with wise men*

*Rejoice with blessed Mary and all the angels*

*Rejoice and sing, Glory to God in the highest*

**From “Word's End” by**

**J D C Pellow**

## **MOAA (Men of All Ages)**

Thanks to the men of Dyce who supported our Breakfast Rally in the Beach Ballroom on 25 October. Over 130 attended to hear the Word spoken by three speakers. Dan Robertson a Probationer at St Columbas, Bridge of Don, who led our Bible Study, Greg Dixon from Sheddocksley Baptist Church who led us in Prayer and Tommy MacNeil from Memorial Church, Stornoway, who was our main speaker on our theme “GO FORTH AND TELL”. All the speakers left us in no doubt, through their inspirational and thought provoking presentations that we have indeed a wonderful story to Go Forth and Tell! No morning at MOAA is complete without music and singing and we were

very ably led by our Praise Leader Jim Ritchie and his musicians.

Jim has only recently taken up the appointment as National Director of The Scotland Trust, a ministry working to bring renewal to the church and to our nation of Scotland. No doubt we will be hearing a lot about his mission in the future.

To all who participated in the morning a big THANK YOU.

Next Local Breakfast being organised for mid-January at Oldmeldrum

We will keep you advised.

**Ian M**

# National Youth Assembly 2008

This year's Church of Scotland Youth (CoSY) National Youth Assembly (NYA) was held at the Apex City Quay Hotel in Dundee from Friday 5 until Monday 8 September. The NYA is a weekend event for young adults with a connection to the Church and who are aged 16 to 25. And what a weekend it was!

As with my last 3 years at NYA, I was extremely excited and proud to be travelling to Dundee to represent Dyce at this event, especially as very few Aberdonians attend! This year I travelled with 4 of my mates from Newhills Church to the gorgeous 4-star hotel we were being *forced* to stay in. But don't be misled! Yes, the event may be held in a swanky hotel. Sure, we all have full access to the swimming pool, gym, spa, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi. And, yes, we do get fed rather well. But the NYA also could be the most exhausting event one could ever encounter! With a programme that runs from as early as 6am and with some worship running as late as 2am, there is little wonder every delegate returns home knackered and totally sleep-deprived!

This year the theme of NYA was 'End of Part One', covering issues with the sense that the planet is at an ending and beginning. The way of life the older generation has known cannot be sustained in the future

without some radical changes to the way we live now, so we considered the changes the younger generation will have to make to the way they live to preserve our planet. This theme was reflected through the entire weekend, through the worship, educative, social and debate aspects that make up the NYA as a whole.

The primary objective of the NYA is to hold discussions and debates on certain topics relevant to the Church. This results in a report which is then presented to the General Assembly in May by our 10 NYA delegates who are elected during the weekend. This year the debates ran in a different format, whereby we worked our way through the 4 topics in almost a workshop fashion throughout Saturday and Sunday, with our organised small groups suggesting deliverances at the end of each section. These were then all collated and organised into as few deliverances as possible and were ALL debated on Monday. Although representatives from different Church Councils did open debate and accept our reports on Monday, this year our subjects for debate did not come from the Councils themselves. Our topics were the Media, Healthy Relationships (focusing on Mental Health), Future Church and Climate Change and Sustainable Living, all extremely relevant to the

challenges the Church (and we, personally) are facing today. Debates were both lively and heated, fuelled even more this year by the presence of an online instant messaging service called Twitter which was on display during debate. This service already exists on the web and throughout the course of the weekend NYA became the most popular forum on the entire site! Despite some of the usual tedium caused by lengthy argument over semantics, I believe we managed to produce a report the GA would be proud of which fully reflects the views of the CoS youth of today.

The rest of our programme was full to the brim! Many different types of worship are offered to suit all tastes – lively praise band, acoustic, contemplative, prayerful, even extremely alternative and spiritual worship is explored on a Sunday night, with chanting, memorised part singing, candles and thought journeys. Bible study and discussion are offered alongside so many seminars I cannot possibly list them all! Each day a time is set aside for Human Library – different people with different stories to share, in different rooms – all we have to do is pick which one to delve into! I was particularly moved by the talk given by a girl with cerebral palsy who took part in a BBC series 'Beyond Boundaries',

crossing the Andes with a group of people with various disabilities. Most notably, this year our speaker was Mark Yaconelli, retreat leader, speaker and author who is in demand all over the USA and beyond. He is the co-founder of the Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project and has written on Contemplative Youth Ministry among many topics and is so inspirational I cannot put it in to words. Perhaps telling you that he was given a standing ovation during our Assembly Closing and Communion may give you some idea of how his ministry touched the hundreds of youth that attended NYA.

Social highlights included our charity dinner held on Saturday night. This year we had a Burns' Night, in its entirety including full dinner, Tam O'Shanter, pipes, Ode to the Haggis and a superb ceilidh. We also raised thousands of pounds for a project in Kenya, brought to our attention by

fellow delegates. This night was thoroughly entertaining for all our international visitors to the NYA who came from about 10 other countries. We also had our annual Hootenanny, aka NYA talent show! Full of fun as always, though I cannot repeat much of it! And of course, the NYA Christmas dinner, and nights full of lovely conversation with some remarkable people.

I intended to make this article short, but it is difficult when trying to convey just how amazing this youth event is and how important it is to the CoS. I personally think it is one of the best things the Scottish Bible Society, among many other contributors, could support. All we seem to hear about these days is how the Church is in decline and how hard it is to attract the youth, but to me, the NYA shows that the CoS youth is vibrant and extremely healthy. Each year the NYA

grows with a huge demand for places both nationally and internationally from many different denominations. In the last 5 years, the NYA has grown to the point where this year we took over an ENTIRE hotel, with every room shared and many applications having to be turned down. In 2009 we are having to move to a new location in Stirling, because we have genuinely outgrown yet another venue! I think this news gives us amazing hope for the future of the CoS.

If you would like any more information on the NYA or our report, there is information all over the internet, including our full report, which will also be published with that of the General Assembly next year. Otherwise, please ask me anything about it, though beware, I might not stop talking!

God Bless  
**Jill Smith**

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Margaret Thatcher once said "If you want anything *"said"* ask a man but if you want something *"done"* ask a woman". It is obvious Maggie didn't know Raymond Mack our Session Clerk.

The last eleven months could have been a tough unsettling time for us in Dyce Church but we have come through it and look forward to the future with our new minister. Raymond has played a major part in keeping us all united during this time. As well as his "usual" session clerk duties Raymond has had to trawl through all the mumbo jumbo (to us ordinary folk anyway) that is involved in the call of a new minister but through all this busy time

Raymond finds time to visit the elderly, people waiting to go into hospital, people in hospital. He makes a lot of people happy playing his guitar and singing and a couple of weeks ago he was to be found at the Guild sale selling neeps and apples (don't know what the bathroom scales were for Raymond) and having a banter with all the wifies. We give thanks to God for Raymond and for the many talents he has been blessed with.

Therefore brothers and sisters be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

jmb

# FLOWER ROTA

January – May 2009

## January

4	Mrs J Chapman	27 Gallowhill Terrace
11	Mrs Hunter	40 Valentine Avenue, Bridge of Don
18	Mrs M Parley	23 Berrywell Place
25	Mrs H Strachan	35 Parkhill Circle

## February

1	Mrs A Daun	143 Victoria Street
8	Mrs M Gunn	3 Glen Drive
15	Mrs A Marjoribanks	13 Brucklay Court
22	Mrs P Henderson	163 Victoria Street

## March

1	Mrs J Johnstone	253 Stoneywood Road
8	Mrs M Cruden	"Park House" Woodlands
15	Mrs L Wilkie	15 Parkhill Crescent
22	Mrs E Middleton	18 Glen Road
29	Mrs H Barrie	1 Overton Walk

## April

5	Mrs M.Lowe	21 Gordon Terrace
12	Miss M, Reid	Top L, 19 Summerfield Terrace, Aberdeen
19	Mrs M. Strachan	"Cardenwell", Glen Drive
26	Mrs S. Rosie	10 Raxton Place



## May

3	Mrs C McIntosh	155 Victoria Street
10	Mrs K Wood	5 Pitfichie Lane
17	Mrs P Riley	8 Glenhome Crescent
24	Mrs G Cheyne	12 Glen Drive
31	Mrs P Sharp	8 Goval Terrace

## Convenor for January, February & March

Mrs Audrey Ross Tel: 773121

## Convenor for April & May

Mrs Lucy Thurley Tel: 722396

## NOTE:

The Church is open on Saturdays from 10am until 4pm.

**Please collect flowers for delivery after the 11am Sunday Service.**

# Acoustic Cafe

Besides being a great evening of musical entertainment from Gareth Davies-Jones and Rod Halligan and enjoyed by all who came to this event on 5 October 2008, we were pleased to send the proceeds (£70) from the sales of Traidcraft tea, coffee and chocolate etc to Traidcraft Exchange which is a fair trade charity. This was especially good as Gareth and Rod are wholehearted supporters of fair trade. The whole evening was a spiritually uplifting experience.

## Thanks

May I take the opportunity to thank everyone for the cards, telephone calls and visits enquiring about my health this past year. Also for the flowers, sweets and Morag's pancakes. Special thanks to John Thurley for the tape recordings of the services which I enjoy very much.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards

Charlie Grant

*Since receiving this letter it is with great sadness that we record Charlie's passing on Sunday 30 November – a true gentleman to the end.*

## Christmas Tree Festival and Arts & Crafts Exhibition

At time of going to print, arrangements are well under way for the Christmas Tree Event. A full programme of entertainment, Art and Craft displays have been planned and we look forward in anticipation to another successful venture.

RG

## Alternative Christmas Gifts

Give a gift with a difference (a gift for life) and help those less fortunate than ourselves:-  
**Contact the organisers and get information on how to gift anything from a Watering Can to Pigs to Baby Buffalo (Christian Aid) from a Tree to a Beehive to a Nanny Goat (Malawi Charity) from Tea planting to Business Start up Plans (Traidcraft)**

For more information and Gift Brochure please contact:-

**Christian Aid** – Roddy MacInnes tel.772108  
Email rp\_macinnes@yahoo.co.uk

**Malawi Charity** – Helen Donald tel 487256  
Email h.m.donald@btinternet.com

**Traidcraft** – Thelma Milne tel 722088  
Email thelian@btinternet.com

Correction to Elders tel. no:-  
Number for Ken Knight should read 01358  
743236

## End Note from the Editor

Thank you for all the contributions to the Parishioner this year. Please keep sending your news. It is important to all who read our Church Magazine. Have a Blessed Christmas.

## Reach for a Recipe

When we have all had enough of Christmas fare then this light dessert may well go down a treat.

1lb apples	1/2pkt lemon jelly
4ozs sugar	1/4pt boiling water
1tbs water	1/4pt cream
Cherries to decorate	

Stew apples with 4ozs sugar and 1tbs water until tender. Pour into bowl and beat till smooth. Leave aside to cool. Dissolve jelly in boiling water, stir well and leave to cool, when jelly shows signs of setting, add apple pulp and whisk till light and spongy, when beginning to set, pile up neatly in glasses. Decorate top with whipped cream and cherry.

## A Year End Smile

A small girl was taken to her first wedding ceremony. Afterwards she said to her mother "I think that lady changed her mind, because she went up the aisle with one man, and came down with another!"

Benevolent old lady: "Have you any religious convictions?"

Tramp: "Not worth mentioning, lady, but I got a month once for stealing an offering box!"

# DOOR COLLECTION AND FWO DUTIES

**9.30am Services** First named TWO in roster will officiate at early morning services

**11am Services** First named TWO bring in offering for dedication during singing of last verse of first hymn  
First named SIX will officiate as follows:-  
a) TWO at door  
b) TWO at inner doors and  
c) TWO within Church directing worshippers to seats  
ALL EIGHT will assist at count in four teams of two.

**6.30pm Services** Last named TWO will officiate at evening services

**Communion Services** A separate detail will be issued for Communion Services

**If you cannot attend please arrange a substitute.**

## PLEASE CHECK MASTER ROSTER FOR ALTERATIONS

### January 4 Service at 11am only

Mrs Cattanach, Mr Cheyne, Mrs Clark,  
Mrs Cumming, Mrs Drummond,  
Mrs Greenhorn, Messrs Gunn, Henderson  
**G Hendry**

### 11 Services at 9.30am & 11am

Messrs Howitt, Innes, Mrs Irvine,  
Messrs Kelly, Kelman, Knight, Lawson,  
D MacInnes  
**A Lamb**

### 18 Service at 11am only

Mr R MacInnes, Mrs Marjoribanks,  
Messrs Martin, Milne, Milton, D Murray,  
E Murray, Dr Orr  
**D Dunne**

### 25 Services at 9.30am & 11am

Mr Paul, Mrs Pirie, Mr Ramsay, Miss Reid,  
Messrs Roach, Ross, Mrs Shearer, Mr Smail  
**B Cruden**

### February 1 Service at 11am only

Mr Thurley, Mrs Whyte, Mrs Wilson,  
Mrs Adams, Mrs Aitken, Mrs Alexander,  
Dr Barber, Mrs Barbour  
**J Thomson**

### 8 Services at 9.30am and 11am

Mrs Baxter, Mrs Beagrie, Mr Brown,  
Mrs Bruce, Mrs Cattanach, Mr Cheyne,  
Mrs Clark, Mrs Cumming  
**R Mack**

### 15 Service at 11am only

Mrs Drummond, Mrs Greenhorn,  
Messrs Gunn, Henderson, Howitt, Innes,  
Mrs Irvine, Mr Kelly  
**G Hendry**

### 22 Services at 9.30am and 11am

Messrs Kelman, Knight, Lawson,  
D MacInnes, Mr R MacInnes,  
Mrs Marjoribanks, Messrs Martin, Milne  
**A Lamb**

### March 1 Service at 11am only

Messrs Milton, D Murray, E Murray, Dr Orr,  
Mr Paul, Mrs Pirie, Mr Ramsay, Miss Reid  
**D Dunne**

### 8 Services at 9.30am and 11am

Messrs Roach, Ross, Mrs Shearer,  
Messrs Smail, Mr Thurley, Mrs Whyte,  
Mrs Wilson, Mrs Adams  
**B Cruden**

### 15 Service at 11.00am only

Mrs Aitken, Mrs Alexander, Dr Barber,  
Mrs Barbour, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Beagrie,  
Mr Brown, Mrs Bruce  
**J Thomson**

### 22 Service at 11.00am only

Mrs Cattanach, Mr Cheyne, Mrs Clark,  
Mrs Cumming, Mrs Drummond,  
Mrs Greenhorn, Messrs Gunn, Henderson  
**R Mack**

### 29 Services at 9.30am and 11am

Messrs Howitt, Innes, Mrs Irvine,  
Messrs Kelly, Kelman, Knight, Lawson,  
D MacInnes  
**G Hendry**

# The Parishioner

Quarterly Magazine of Dyce Parish Church, Aberdeen

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