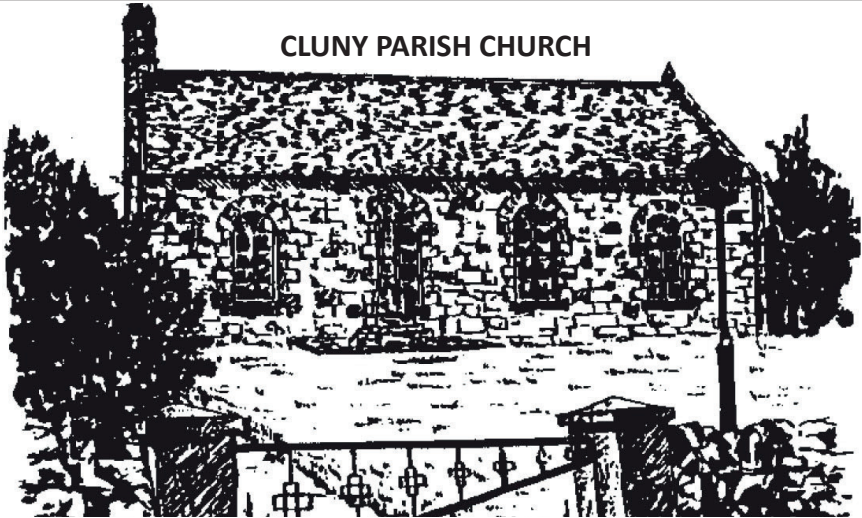


CLUNY PARISH CHURCH



Newsletter Number 53: October 2016

MINISTER Rev. Euan Glen, B.Sc., B.D.,
The Manse, Monymusk.
Tel 01467 651470
email: gglen@churchofscotland.org.uk

SESSION CLERK Mrs Anne Harrison,
Meadow View
Blairdaff, Inverurie.
Tel 01467 651766

TREASURER Mr Scott Langlands,
Margaret Allan Grove,
Sauchen.
Tel 01330 833322

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Mrs Ann Wilkinson,
22 Stewart Drive, Alford.
Tel 019755 62382
email am_wilkinson81@hotmail.com

Times of Church Services

Sunday morning worship takes place at 11am in Cluny Church except for the joint services which are held at 10am on the first Sunday of the month and alternate between Cluny (November) and Monymusk (December) and so on. A calendar of services for 2017 is included with this newsletter. Members of Cluny Church are reminded that the minister's day off is Monday. It would be appreciated that, unless there is an emergency, contact should be made at any other time during the week.

www.clunychurch.weebly.com

Letter from the Manse

I am sitting in my study on the day after our harvest ceilidh to write this letter to you. Truth be told I am a bit stiff as I am not used to dancing as much as I did at the ceilidh last night. It was a lovely event and evidence of how well the congregations of Cluny and Monymusk work together; with great food, company and entertainment all part of what made it a most enjoyable evening. I look back over quite a few years as parish minister and delight at how the congregations have come together to share worship, fundraising and friendship. This is surely the way forward for all congregations to work with neighbours and share what we have with each other. I would like to thank the elders and board members and all others who help in the work of our congregation at Cluny.

Our harvest thanksgiving service focused on Jesus being the vine and we being the branches, a teaching you can read in St John's gospel at Chapter 15. As part of the service, goods were gathered which will be donated to food banks in Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland. It is quite a thought that while we celebrated the harvest people not far from us were going without and will have to rely on the generosity of others. Life for many is hard and we as a church and as individual Christians are called to help in any way we can. We may not always have much to give but we can give our prayers and our friendship and in that way reflect Jesus's command to love one another.

This summer has been a strange one with the weather improving only once the children returned to school. Our outdoor service Praise in the Park was blessed with good weather for which I am grateful. I had a number of weddings at Monymusk and the weather was not always kind. It's amazing how often I am asked to pray for good weather by the bride or groom or their families. Of course the family wants a good day but I used to think how selfish. I no longer feel that way because God does not only concern himself with the big events in life, on national levels, he also concerns himself with ordinary things like family gatherings for weddings, funerals and

the like. So I do pray for good weather but leaving it in his hands. That being said if it rains it makes no real difference to the joy of the day, except for having to find indoor spaces for pictures. God is still there and enjoying the fact that the couples are still being married in his name.

I do hope that this letter finds you well but as always if you or yours need a visit please get in touch. Sometimes I am the last to know if someone is unwell or in hospital so please let me know. I would rather have three or more calls about a person than none at all.

I wish you every blessing.

Euan Glen



Cluny Parish Register

Deaths

Mrs Helen Nicol on 11th April

Mrs Isabella Matthews on 19th May

Mrs Elsa Cruickshank on 4th August

Cluny Kirkers

The Kirkers restarted in September and we have a number of new children attending with around 10 on the register. Some of the older girls who have been attending since they were very young have now stopped coming. We would like to thank them for their years of participation and wish them well for the future although we are sad to say goodbye. However this is the normal course for any children's club so our age range has now reduced and it's a different challenge teaching P1-3s along with a couple of P4's but the kids are fun and they seem to enjoy the evenings.

We welcome any child of primary school age to a night of play, bible teaching, bible activity, snack and more games. It's more about fun than teaching, but we do share well known bible stories with the children. This year we are following material produce by Scripture Union, a book called Mosaic- God is Love

If you would like any further information please contact Euan Glen or Sylvia Henry who run the club.



Cluny Hymn

O God, I know a church that stands
In lovely, wooded pasturelands;
Its solid walls are built in stone
A house that worships you alone.
Down leafy lane, where time stands still
Sits Cluny's kirk upon a hill,
Where faithful souls have laboured on
Two hundred years have swiftly gone.
In changing seasons, changing days
Our lives have changed in many ways;
But you have drawn us into light
And kept us ever in your sight.
In spring when birds are on the wing
And from the hedgerows sweetly sing;
Our church is there to hear their praise
And welcome back the sun's first rays.
As spring gives way to summer long,
Our hearts grow stronger in the song
That in your garden all is well,
A sacred place in which to dwell.
But when the golden fields are bare
And frosty winds do chill the air,
We gather in your house to hear
The comfort that your love is near.
And as the church bell calls us home,
It bids us swiftly, Lord, to come;
To place our souls with thee is best
Forever more with thee to rest.

*Composed and written by Sandy Argo for the 200th anniversary of
Cluny Church in 1989*

Retirement of Sandy Argo

On Sunday 26th June the congregation marked the retirement of Mr Sandy Argo as our church organist with a special presentation during morning worship followed by refreshments in the hall after the service. Sandy was given three pictures along with a cheque as tokens of the high regard in which he has been held in his role of organist and choir master for more than 25 years.

I had the privilege of working closely with Sandy throughout my ministry. His touch on organ and piano led worship with a sensitivity that I have rarely heard in any other congregations. All organists can play the music but Sandy could make you sing it even better with change of volume, stops and speed. This was a gift that he developed playing for congregations for over 60 years. But to me, Sandy was more than a talented musician, he was a good friend and a great support; nothing was too much bother for him. He helped with church services including founding the annual Praise in the Park and Christmas Candlelight services. His playing at weddings and funerals was greatly appreciated by the wider community and he was a member of the Church Board for many years. We will miss his presence leading us in worship on Sundays but on behalf of all of his friends at Cluny I would like to thank him for his service to music and even more for his service to the church and our lord Jesus Christ.

Euan Glen



Recent Social and Fundraising Events

The Monymusk Boules Masters Competition took place at the end of May on a dry and sunny day. Lots of fun was had by the participants and the onlookers and a donation of £750 was given by the organisers to Cluny Church which is greatly appreciated. The Plant Sale and Coffee Morning held in Millbank Hall at the beginning of June was a great success raising £1200 for Church funds; a magnificent effort and thanks are due to those who worked hard to grow such a lot of young healthy plants for sale. It is hoped that they continued to thrive in what turned out to be a challenging summer!

The Vintage Tea Party which followed a fortnight later turned out to be a delightful afternoon with sparkling entertainment by the Spectrum Singers. This was complemented by a sumptuous afternoon tea served in vintage china cups and saucers with traditional tiered cake stands laden with delicious savouries and cakes so beautifully presented in Monymusk Village Hall. £410 was donated to Church funds.



The final social event of the season was the Harvest Ceilidh held at Monymusk Hall at the end of September. This was a wonderful evening with a mix of ages from 2 to (certainly) 72 and possibly a bit more! Beef, venison and chicken casseroles featured on the menu followed by trifle and fruit salad. Music was provided by Ian Thow and Alistair Salter and ceilidh dances were enthusiastically performed by the company. Traditional bothy ballads sung by Alan Taylor were enjoyed by all. It truly was a memorable evening.

Praise In The Park

The annual Praise in the Park service took place in Sauchen Park on the 28th of August. It was a warm sunny morning and a congregation of about 60 was led by the Granite City Brass Band. Traditional and modern hymns were sung with gusto; each was introduced by Euan who told us something about its origin and composer. Afterwards the members of the band were given well deserved refreshments. In fact so many homebakes had been made that most of the congregation were offered some too! The Praise in the Park service has become a much loved fixture in our calendar and we are grateful to the Granite City Brass Band for their continued support.





Fairtrade Church



You will recall that Cluny Church has been working towards gaining Fairtrade status for the church and the good news is that this was awarded in May. Here is the letter which came from the Fairtrade Foundation along with the certificate.

*Dear all at Cluny Parish Church,
Congratulations to you and your group for successfully achieving Fairtrade status for Cluny Parish Church. It has been a huge pleasure to read about your activities, you have clearly worked very hard to promote Fairtrade within your congregation - please pass on our congratulations and thanks to everyone who has put their time and efforts into making Fairtrade a part of your Church.*

Best wishes,

Jo Cooke

So thank you for all your support!

What is the difference between The Fairtrade Foundation and Traidcraft?

I was recently asked the question above and I realised that answering it in the newsletter would let everyone in the parish know what these organisations are trying to do and the part that we can all play in helping them.

First of all the Fairtrade Foundation is an independent non-profit organisation that licenses use of the Fairtrade Mark on products in the UK in accordance with internationally agreed Fairtrade standards. It has four key areas of activity which include:

- Providing independent certification of the trade chain for products and licensing use of the Fairtrade Mark on products as a consumer guarantee
 - Help in growing demand for Fairtrade products and empowering producers to sell to traders and retailers
 - Working with partners to support producer organisations and their networks
 - Raising awareness of the need for Fairtrade in the public arena and the significant role of the Fairtrade Mark in making trade fair
- Hundreds of Fairtrade towns (e.g. Aberdeen, Inverurie, Ellon, Alford),

faith groups like Cluny, Monymusk, and Howe Trinity in Alford, schools and universities as well as committed supporters are vital in helping the Fairtrade Foundation to realise its vision of fair trade. To find out more about the work of the Fairtrade Foundation access its website at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

On the other hand Traidcraft has a unique structure as a trading company (selling Fairtrade products to supporters like Cluny Church) and a development charity working together. It was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty. Its mission is to fight poverty through trade, practising and promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries transform their lives.

Traidcraft publishes an annual Development Review in which it describes in detail the development programmes in which it is involved. One of the most interesting statistics relates to the Catalyst Programme which provides funding to research and design projects that can transform the lives of many families and unlock large grants from major donors. An example of this is a new project in Senegal. £10,500 of catalyst funding from Traidcraft was used to research West Africa's fruit juice sector and to develop a project proposal. This was sent to Comic Relief where it unlocked £625,000 worth of funding to carry out the project; so now 2,200 farmers and their families (11,000 people in total) can benefit from increased income and a better quality of life. This is just one example of Traidcraft's work. In 2016 Traidcraft has been supporting 558,900 people in 18 projects taking place in 11 countries throughout the world by (in their own words) fighting poverty with bees, textiles, forest fruits, coffee, horticulture, cotton, tea, jute and handcrafts.

I hope that by giving examples of the highly admirable work carried out by Traidcraft you can see that small efforts made by us here in Cluny to raise awareness of Fairtrade by promoting and buying Fairtrade products can have a much wider impact across the world.

Fairtrade Products bought from Traidcraft are on sale regularly at Cluny Church. Please have a look at their website <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk> and if there is anything that you would like to buy I would be happy to add it to the Church orders so that you wouldn't be charged for package and posting.

Ann Wilkinson

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 13th November

Following the Remembrance Sunday service at 11.00am there will be a Soup and Something lunch served in the Hall. A Fairtrade Stall will be selling the usual Fairtrade produce along with Christmas cards and gifts.

Christmas Services

These are set out in the calendar which was included with the October 2015 newsletter but in case you have lost yours here they are again!

Friday 16th December

Candlelight Carol service at Cluny Church 7.30pm

Sunday 18th December

Family Christmas service at Cluny Church 11.00am

Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve Family service at Monymusk Church 7.00pm

Saturday 24th December

Watch Night Service at Cluny Church 11.30pm

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Morning joint service at Monymusk Church at 10.30am

Sunday 1st January

Joint service at Monymusk at 10.00am.

Saturday 28th January 2017

A traditional Burns Supper will be held in Cluny Hall with excellent speakers undertaking the toasts and singing from local soprano Emily Owen. More details to follow on church website www.clunychurch.weebly.com

Visit to Bath Abbey

On a recent visit to Bath Abbey, as well as being highly impressed by the building with its magnificent stained glass windows and huge space, I was taken by the way in which Jesus's life story was described in a welcome leaflet.

Jesus was born in an obscure Middle Eastern town called Bethlehem, over 2,000 years ago. During his first 30 years he shared the daily life and work of an ordinary home. For the next three years he went about teaching people about God and healing sick people by the shores of Lake Galilee. He called 12 ordinary men to be his helpers. He had no money. He wrote no books. He commanded no army. He wielded no political power. During his life he never travelled more than 200 miles in any direction. He was executed by being nailed to a cross at the age of 33.

The leaflet goes on to say how 2 billion people now worship Jesus as the Son of God and that he is our way to finding God.

Ann Wilkinson



Church Flowers

Mrs Betty Ross has been Flower Convener at Cluny Church for four years now and thanks are due to her for organising the rota and also to everyone who puts flowers in the church for the weekly services. Betty would be delighted to hear from anyone else who would like to do so. You can contact her on 01330 833591.

Church Website

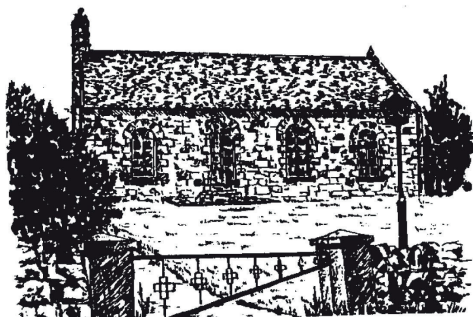
The minister has set up a website for Cluny Church and would appreciate any feedback. You can access it on www.clunychurch.weebly.com The site includes details of church life and a programme of events.

Newsletter

Thanks are due to those who provide items for our twice yearly newsletter. We would be happy to receive further suggestions and items for inclusion in future letters. If you wish to add an item for the next newsletter e.g. advertising a local event or to tell people about a local organisation please contact either Euan or the editor.

Data Protection Permission Slips

A gentle reminder to members of Cluny Church..... those who haven't done so yet could you please return the signed data protection permission slip to your elder as soon as possible.



Cluny Church of Scotland SC003429