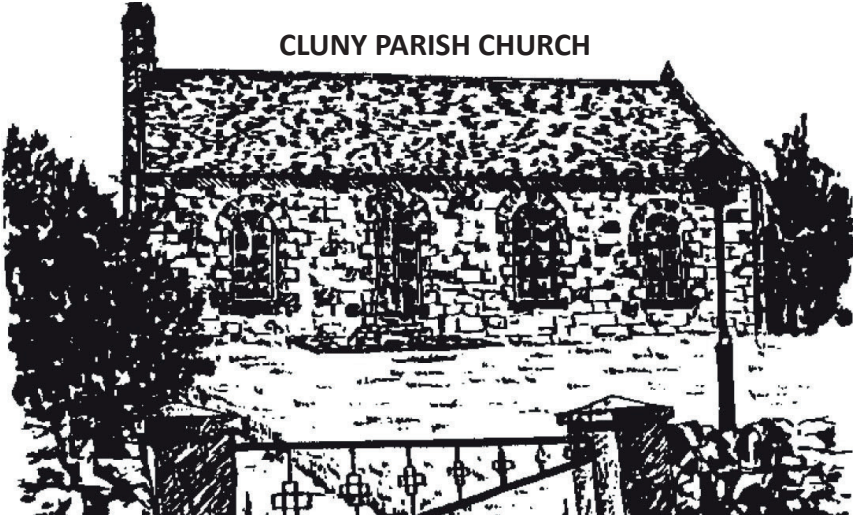


## CLUNY PARISH CHURCH



### Newsletter Number 54: April 2017

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### 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 (April) and Monymusk (May) and so on. Joint services at 10am will take place at Monymusk Church for all the Sundays in July and at Cluny Church for all the Sundays in August. 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](http://www.clunychurch.weebly.com)

### **Letter from the Manse**

It has been an amazing winter weather wise although I worry that, because we have had such a quiet winter, we won't see a good summer. I have no reason or experience or skills for saying this but it always seems that there is cause and effect. As I get to older middle age (still not old as such- at least in my mind!) I seem to spend more time reflecting upon how things were. When I was a lad.... then there follows some rose tinted view of the world.... the winters were always colder and the summers warmer, you never locked your door at night because you trusted people and so on. It's probably nonsense but it makes you feel good looking back to the way things have been or at least as you perceived them to be. On the last Sunday in March (Mothering Sunday) I read out an excerpt from a statistical account of 1794 written by one of my predecessors in which he notes that 500 people in the parish took communion that year. He described his parish as industrious, sober and decent. I suspect not all were, and not all who took communion were, but we can but hope. I now have the pleasure of looking back over 25 years of ministry in Cluny and I have seen many changes. The old guard who ran the church when I arrived have almost all gone to higher service with a few notable exceptions who still work exceptionally well for the church along with new elders, board members and church members present in worship. We can look back with fond memories but we must look forward to what will be a time of change and challenge in the next few years. Our relationship with Monymusk Church continues strongly which is encouraging as the future of the Church of Scotland is for neighbouring congregations, presbyteries and denominations to work together more closely to share resources and to project a united front rather than defend old territories and practices of religion. The one thing that should bind us together is our knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ and our acceptance that he is head of the church and saviour of the world.

In my time here I have found out that there has always been a core of hard working diligent folk who do so much for this church and

parish. Throughout the years at Cluny there have been changes of personnel but the ethos of service and support still carries on. Evidence of this is shown in many ways, not least when we come together for fund raising events, social events or special church services. I want to thank all those who have helped me in these 25 years and encourage you to pray for the church, for your elder, minister and neighbour.

As always if you need a visit please get in touch.

*Euan*



### **Cluny Parish Register**

#### **Deaths**

Mr John M Cruickshank, Sauchen, died on 26th October 2016.

Mr John Leslie, Kemnay, died on 20th January 2017.

Mrs Margaret Stewart, Dunecht, died on 29th January 2017.

#### **Marriage**

Rev Euan Glen conducted the marriage of David and Julianna at Cluny Church on 5th November 2016.

### **Cluny Kirkers**

At the end of last summer the older girls left the Kirkers to do other things. Most had been very diligent over a number of years and though we miss them time moves on. Our age group has narrowed with the majority of boys and girls in Primary 1-3. We have currently 11 on the roll and with an average attendance of about 9 each week. The children are good fun, at times hard work (but then we all are hard work at times!) and committed to the Kirkers. Sylvia is a great help in her leadership of the group and I enjoy the weekly interaction with the children. Playing games, telling bible stories, doing crafts and going outside if the weather is fine is good for me and good for the youngsters. The Kirkers have been going now for more than 15 years and is evidence that those who made the decision to cancel Sunday School and start the midweek club made the right one. Long may we be able to continue sharing the message of the gospel through fun activities with the young in our parish. Thanks to all the families who send their children and for the support they offer Sylvia and me.

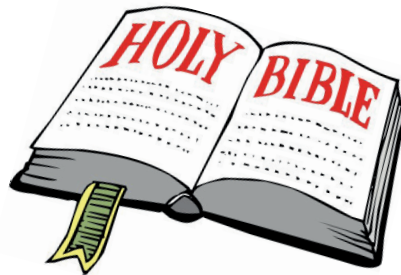
*Euan*



## Property Matters

The Board early this year agreed that we would embark on two major property works in the church and hall. We have agreed to repaint the windows and doors of the church and to complete a major redecoration of the hall, kitchen, toilets and corridor. This is a big task but one that is overdue and thanks to the continued support of members past and present we can proceed to get quotes for the work. We are also going to upgrade the digital projector so that better images can be seen in the church on Sundays during worship.

*Euan*



## Bible Study and Prayer Group

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Manse at 7.10pm for prayer followed by bible study at 7.30pm. All are most welcome to come. However the Bible Study and Prayer Group numbers have been very low recently. Over the course of the last year there have been occasions when we have had to cancel the meeting because no one turned up or only one member did. This will be a matter for discussion at the next Kirk Session meeting and it may be that this type of study has outlived its usefulness and other forms can be introduced. I would like to hear your views about the group so please contact me if you have any ideas about how to increase numbers or perhaps what alternative format we could adopt.

*Euan*

## Christmas Services

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session one of the items on the agenda was the Christmas Services. Mr Glen thanked everyone who was involved in these and was delighted with the packed churches at the Candlelight Service in Cluny Church on Friday 16th December and the Christmas Eve service at 7pm in Monymusk Church. However he expressed concern about the low attendance at the traditional Watchnight Service at 11.30pm in Cluny Church. Numbers attending this service have been falling over the years and there were only 15 people there last Christmas Eve. Discussion followed about this trend and the Kirk Session agreed to consult the members about the future of the Watchnight Service before taking any decisions. Elders will be asking the opinions of members in their districts when delivering the May communion invitations but it would be good to have the views of everyone living in the parish. Please let Mr Glen or the Editor (email addresses are on the front cover of the newsletter) know what you think e.g. should the Watchnight Service continue or perhaps be held earlier in the evening? You may have other suggestions. All responses will be considered at the next meeting of the Kirk Session in October before any final decision is made.



*The Editor is grateful to Diane Howie for writing the following article:*

### What is Pentecost?

Pentecost (or Whitsunday) is when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples of Jesus. It occurs seven weeks or 50 days after Easter. The disciples received the “gift of tongues” which is the ability to speak in other languages and they then spread the word of Jesus. This day is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church. Symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit: flames, wind, fire and a dove. The Holy Spirit forms the third part of the Trinity along with the Father and the Son. Pentecost will be celebrated at the service at Cluny Church on 4 June 2017 at 10am to which all are welcome.

The Bible is full of encouraging verses that give us hope and strength for every situation in which we may find ourselves.

#### **Romans: Chapter 15, verse 13:**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Galatians: Chapter 5, verse 22:**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

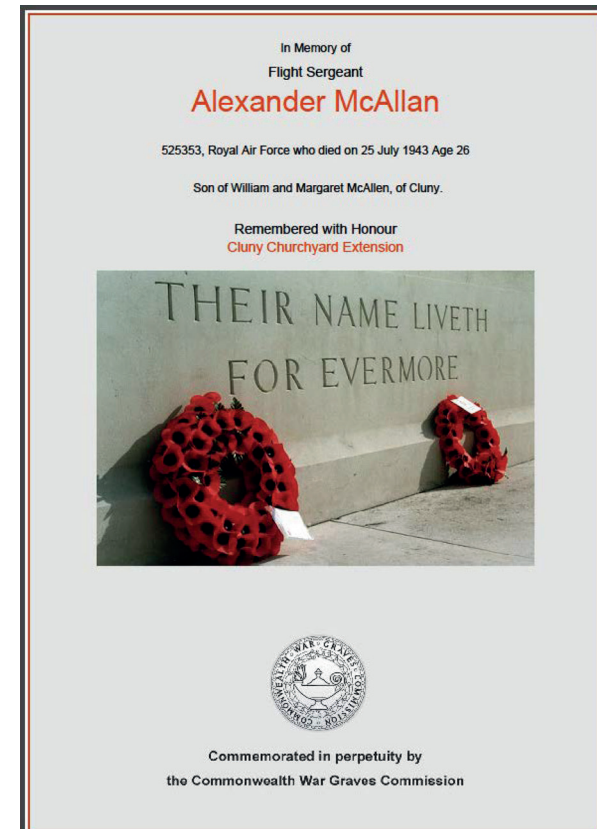
#### **Psalms: Chapter 23, verse 1:**

The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.



### Commonwealth War Grave

I recently noticed a small sign at the gate to Cluny Churchyard saying “Commonwealth War Grave” and wondered who it was that is buried there. I looked up the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/) and discovered the following page.



If anyone reading this article has information that they would like to share about Alexander McAllan’s early life in Cluny or his subsequent service in the RAF the editor would be delighted to hear from them. It is interesting to note from the official records that the spelling of his parents’ surname differs from Alexander’s.



## Mainly Music

The mainly music idea and materials originated in New Zealand and there are now groups established across the world. Our group is supported by Monymusk church with volunteer leaders from Monymusk and Cluny churches and additional helpers baking for us each week. We meet on Tuesday afternoons in Monymusk Village Hall from 1.45pm until 3.15pm and it costs £3. Children from tiny babies to preschool age come along with their mums or carers.

The afternoon is very informal with half an hour of songs, a snack for the children then play and activity time with members of the team while Mums enjoy a cup of tea and cake and

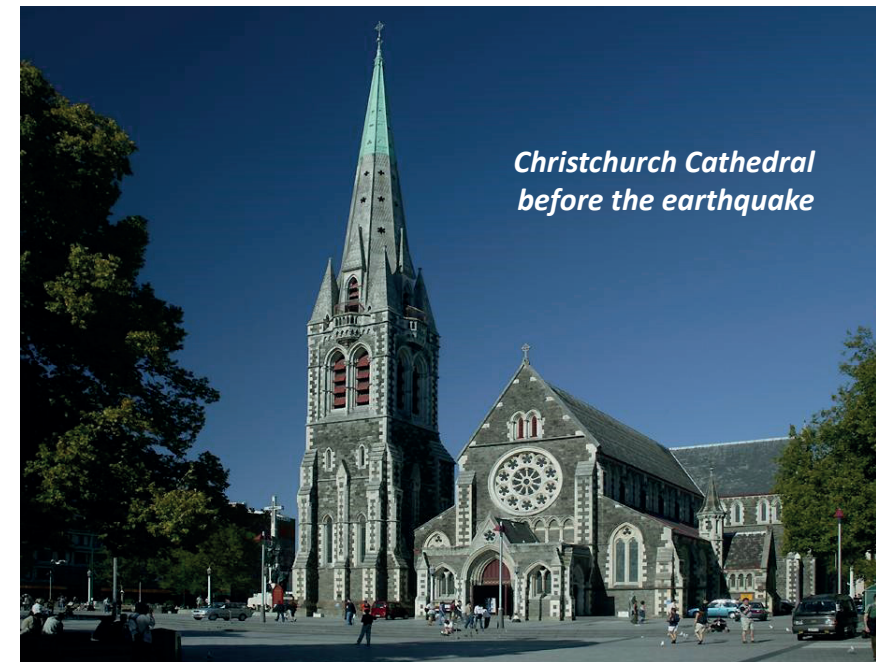
an opportunity to meet other parents. It is a great pleasure for us to have the company of the youngsters as they grow and learn as well as getting to know their families. I hope that they all have as much fun on a Tuesday afternoon as the volunteers! New families are always welcome so if you would like to come and join us please contact Susan Reid for more information and to check that a place is available. 01467651480.



*The Editor is grateful for the following contribution from Scott Langlands who recently spent a wonderful holiday in New Zealand:*

## Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand

Christchurch Cathedral was built between 1864 and 1904, but the February 2011 Christchurch earthquake destroyed the spire and part of the tower and severely damaged the structure of the remaining building. The remainder of the tower was demolished in March 2012. The west wall suffered collapses in the subsequent earthquake in June 2011 and that is still the state the building is in 6 years on. In the picture below the steeple was on the right hand side.



*Christchurch Cathedral  
before the earthquake*

There has been a considerable degree of controversy over what to do with the ruined building. The options are firstly to repair and rebuild the existing structure or secondly demolish and rebuild an earthquake proofed cathedral in a similar style or finally to demolish and build a modern cathedral for a soon to be modern city. Ironically each option is supported by a roughly a third of the

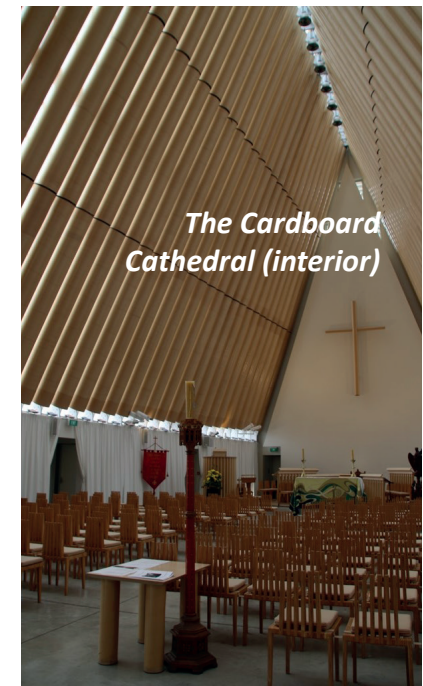
local population so whatever option is decided two thirds will be disappointed.

While the debate has been raging on, the congregation set about designing and building a new Transitional Cathedral which was to be a temporary structure. The new cathedral, because of its substantial use of cardboard in its construction, became known as the "Cardboard Cathedral". A-frame in style, rising 24 metres (79 feet), it would incorporate 86 cardboard tubes of 500 kilograms (1,100 lb) each atop 6 metre (20 feet) long shipping containers as the walls. This is the only cathedral in the world designed in this way. Even elements of the cathedral such as the altar, cross and font are made out of cardboard tubes. All this was achieved in just 11 months.



Is there much difference in the life of a small rural church like Cluny or a cathedral in a major city? Not really..... in times of trouble the congregation in Christchurch rallied round and gave not just their money to build the Transitional Cathedral but their time in making and preparing the cardboard tubes, painting the containers, etc. and still to this day acting as guides in the new cathedral. The giving of time by the congregation is a quality we see regularly in Cluny Church and is this year's stewardship theme.

The cardboard cathedral has subsequently been reinforced with steel posts going up through the cardboard tubes, to make it a permanent structure, so what is going to happen in the future when the original cathedral once more rises out of the rubble? There is immense pride and attachment in the congregation for the cardboard cathedral but can the church in Christchurch support both cathedrals financially and congregationally? Similarly will Cluny and Monymusk churches both be sustainable 10 or 20 years down the line?



No matter the size of the church or its congregation they face the same issues, with the same strong support from their congregations, just on a different scale. But it is a blessing that we do not have earthquakes to deal with here.

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday 14th May: Holy Communion in Cluny Church at 11am.  
Saturday 27th May: Boules from 9.30am in Monymusk Square  
Saturday 3rd June: Plant Sale at Millbank Hall 10am-11.30am.  
24th/25th June: Flower Festival, Monymusk Church,  
2pm-4.30pm. Part of the Monymusk 850  
years celebrations. Teas will be served in  
Monymusk Village Hall on both afternoons  
from 2pm-4pm.

### Church Flowers

Mrs Betty Ross has been Flower Convener at Cluny Church for almost five 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](http://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.

### Light-Hearted Corner

They're back.... those wonderful typos and blunders. Thank heavens for the church ladies with typewriters! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- **The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.**
- **The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.**
- **Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.**
- **Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.**
- **For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.**
- **Next Thursday there will be auditions for the choir. They need all the help they can get.**
- **At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.**
- **Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some.**
- **Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.**
- **The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.**
- **Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.**
- **Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.**





**Cluny Church of Scotland SC003429**