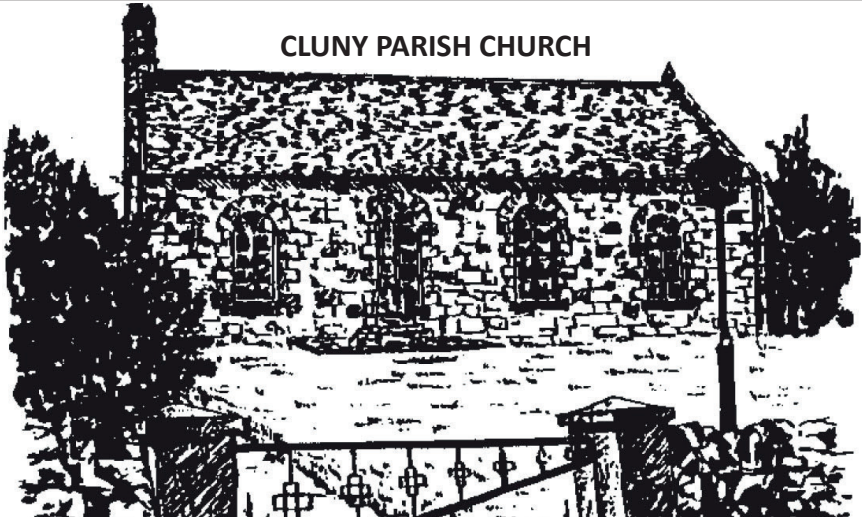


CLUNY PARISH CHURCH



Newsletter Number 57: November 2018

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 Monymusk (November) and Cluny (December) and so on. A calendar of services for 2019 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

Be still and know that I am God... these are wonderful words from holy scripture found in Psalm 46 or at least in some translations of the Psalms. Imagine having the time to be still before God! During the middle week of September I had the opportunity to do just that when I went away for a couple of days to Kinnoull Monastery in Perth with my colleagues from the presbytery of Gordon. It was a lovely experience and on one morning I attended morning worship in the monastery chapel with the community and some of their guests. As part of the morning practice there is a time of silence when we came before God in silent prayer. It seems quite an easy thing to do but it takes a bit of an effort for as I was sitting in the lovely little chapel I could not totally switch off. It takes time to be still and know that he is God. All the daily activities and the things waiting for me back home along with a rumbling tummy wanting its breakfast distracted me for a while from God but once I had settled down it was a moving experience simply to let myself be in the presence of God.

In our business and in our church life we don't often allow a time for peace and to be still in the presence of God. I am not going to recommend that you have long periods every day in quiet contemplation but maybe like me you could take 10 minutes off in a week and just think about God. Be still and let his love flow over you and his strength empower you. If your mind wanders you can focus on a lit candle. I sometimes do that or simply repeat a verse from the bible like the one at the start of this letter. Be still and know that I am God. My wish is that you can find time to be still and in the stillness may you also find God.

As the nights lengthen our church life seems to kick into gear. In August the rain beat us and our outdoor Praise in the Park became Praise in the Kirk and an enjoyable morning was had with the Granite City brass band leading worship followed by refreshments offered to everyone in the hall after the service. We had a very

enjoyable quiz night in September. Thanks are extended especially to Scott Langlands our quizmaster and all who helped with the catering. As the months move on look out for more church activities and if you can support them it would make all the difference to us. In November on Remembrance Day (Sunday 11th) we have a soup and something lunch following on from our service in the Church and then at the War Memorial. In no time we are thinking of Christmas and then the New Year with a Burns Supper planned. Time flies so it's good to be still and know that he is God.

May I wish you every blessing and if you would like me to visit please get in touch

Euan Glen

Cluny Parish Register

Deaths

Mrs Aggie Burr, Balhousie Care Home, Huntly, 7th June.

Mrs Linda Lattimer, Muirhead Care Home, 16th June.

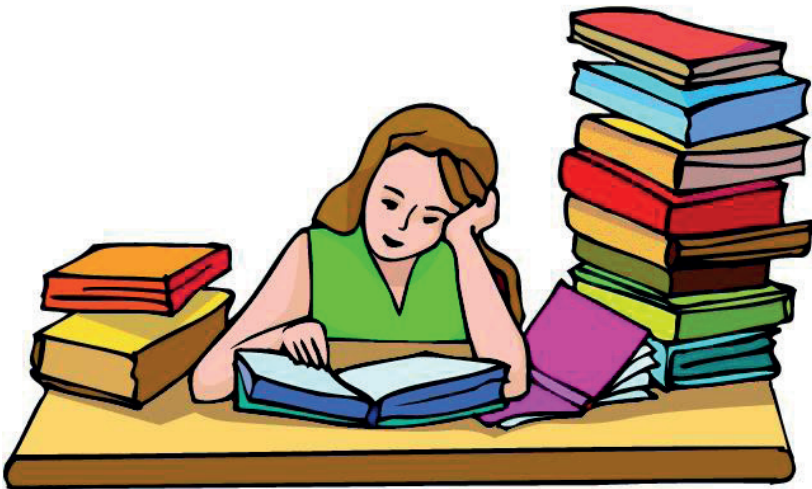
Mr William (Bill) Middleton, Lagrannoch, Kemnay, 26th June.

Mrs Nicola Kesson, Dalherick Cottage, Sauchen, 18th August.

Mr Jack Thomson, Lyndale, Sauchen, 16th September.

Student Attachment

In October we will welcome Mrs Fiona Lister to Cluny Church. Fiona comes from Kemnay and is in her first year of studies for the full time ministry of word and sacrament. She will become a well kent face around the church until May 2019 when her placement finishes and Euan is looking forward to working with her. It is the first time that a student has been placed with him and although challenging he is sure that it will be rewarding. We will hope to have Fiona give her thoughts about her time at Cluny in the next newsletter. Please remember Fiona in your prayers as she balances university studies, church placement and family time.



Cluny Kirkers

The Cluny Kirkers is still offering a Christian club for primary school age children in the church hall on Thursday nights between 5.30-6.30pm. All are most welcome and further information is available from Euan (01467 651470).

Presbytery Shuffle

For many Presbytery is something that others are involved in but it has little impact on the church in Cluny apart from the time given by our minister who serves as Presbytery Clerk.

Our Presbytery elder Sylvia Henry attends diligently and reports back to the Kirk Session about the ongoing work of Presbytery. Over the last year there has been a review made of how Presbytery operates and how it supports and encourages congregations.

A new plan which began in September was introduced during which the Business of Presbytery (planning applications of church or manse alterations, funding requirements, superintendence of ministers and congregations among many other responsibilities) will only be dealt with four times per year with a further five meetings focussing on an individual congregation or charge.

Over the course of two months Presbytery will then be encouraged to pray for and offer any help it can towards that congregation. In turn representatives from the nominated congregation will, during one of the non-business meetings of Presbytery, tell their story, warts and all.

It is hoped that by doing this people will come to care for other congregations apart from their own and that everyone will work together for the benefit of the church.

It will take time for this to bed in but we are all part of the Presbytery of Gordon and the hope is that by working in this way all church members begin to realise that they are part of the whole.

Starting in October and November we will be thinking about Meldrum and Bourtie congregation and in December and January about Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch congregation.

Watch this space!



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 11th November:

Following the Remembrance Sunday service at 11.00am there will be a Soup and Something lunch served in the Hall.

Friday 14th December:

Candlelight Carol Service in Cluny Church at 7.30pm.

Monday 24th December:

Christmas Eve Family Service at Monymusk Church at 7.00pm.

Tuesday 25th December:

Christmas Morning joint service at Monymusk Church at 10.30am.

Saturday 26th January 2019:

A traditional Burns Supper will be held in Monymusk Village Hall with excellent speakers and entertainment. Please contact Diane Howie, Hilda Stewart or Ann Wilkinson for tickets (£25).





Church Flowers

Mrs Betty Ross has been Flower Convener at Cluny Church for seven 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.

Fairtrade Church

First the good news about Traidcraft Exchange's Hidden Entrepreneur Appeal which many of you supported earlier this year.



Cluny Church gave £164 to it and across the whole country £540,000 was raised. The UK government is match funding and so the final total has reached almost £1.1 million. The International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, recently celebrated the success of the 'Hidden Entrepreneur' appeal with representatives from Traidcraft Exchange at Newcastle's innovation hub Campus North. She said that she wanted to say a huge thank you to the UK public for their generous support for the Hidden Entrepreneur Appeal which will empower people in Kenya, Bangladesh and Senegal to establish and develop small scale businesses.

However there is also some sad news from Traidcraft plc, the trading arm of Traidcraft. Sales over the last year have not been good and the Board of Directors believe that it is prudent to close the loss-making trading operations at the end of December 2018. They are considering "new approaches" and hope to progress their plans. In the meantime they are looking for a positive trading period until the end of the year. Certainly the current products (food, drinks, Christmas gifts, household goods etc.) are all very attractive. You can see them at <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/> If you would like to buy anything from the Traidcraft Shop and to avoid postage and packaging charges please let Ann Wilkinson know. She can add your order to the regular orders she makes on behalf of the church. Traidcraft plc have asked any of its supporters who wish to contribute to the thinking about its future mission to send their thoughts to lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk In the meantime, in order to maintain our Fairtrade Church status, new suppliers for the products sold in church and used at church events will be sourced for 2019.

Bygone Times

The Editor is always looking for inspiration for items to fill the pages of the newsletter! This time, whilst involved in a spot of decluttering, she came across a copy of a quarterly magazine published in 1912 by Holy Trinity Church in Huddersfield. The reason that it was put into the “to keep” pile was that on page 16 her mother in law’s name was mentioned because she had received the prize for the best behaved girl in the Sunday school. However on further reading (and isn’t this how time is wasted when sorting out old paperwork and memorabilia) the following article entitled The Choir Boys appealed. How would our modern risk assessment and PVG masters have reacted to the predicament of the boys? Over one hundred years ago a sanguine approach, as indicated by the last sentence in the report, was all that was needed!

“They were impatient for their trip and visited Blackpool on Monday June 3rd. We need not report what they did there---what boys always do at Blackpool. Half of them missed the train home, so the Vicar brought home the early portion, reaching Huddersfield by 11.30 pm. Dr Pearson waited for the rest, and got them to Huddersfield at 1.30 am to the joy of their anxious parents. Altogether it was a great success.”



Psalm 46 (again)

Following on from the minister's mention of Psalm 46 in his Letter from the Manse the following item adapted from an article on CNN's website explains how words from that Psalm were used at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

"Then there was the gospel choir and its rollicking rendition of Ben E King's 'Stand by Me'. There is a backstory to the song that makes it even more appropriate for such an inclusive occasion. It was originally sung by King who was an African-American but the songwriters, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, were Jewish. It was based on an earlier 'Stand by Me' by Rev Dr Charles Albert Tindley (a Methodist minister) which he composed in 1905. Together King, Leiber and Stoller worked to fill out the melody and complete the lyrics and add a signature bass line at the beginning. Fittingly reflecting both the Christian and Jewish backgrounds of the composers, the lyrics to 'Stand by Me' are clearly derived from Psalm 46 of the Hebrew scripture. As King, Leiber and Stoller memorably wrote it:

*When the night has come
And the land is dark
And the moon is the only light we'll see
No I won't be afraid, No I won't be afraid
Just as long as you stand, stand by me
If the sky that we look upon
Should tumble and fall
Or the mountains should crumble to the sea
I won't cry, I won't cry
No I won't shed a tear
Just as long as you stand, stand by me
Whenever you're in trouble, won't you stand by me
Oh stand by me,
Oh won't you stand now?
Stand by me*

And here is the beginning of the Bible Psalm:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and
though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the
mountains shake with the swelling thereof.*

In other words, 'Stand by Me' embodies the very best of the American tradition, with artists from different backgrounds working together to create something uniquely wonderful and enduring."



Embrace the Middle East

On the back cover of the October edition of Life and Work (the magazine of the Church of Scotland) there is an advertisement for Embrace the Middle East, a Christian charity supporting humanitarian projects in the Middle East. It has been working in the region for 160 years to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It supports over 40 partner organisations in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Palestine which are Christian-led but who provide care for all those in need, regardless of faith or nationality. With an annual programme spend of around £2.5 million, Embrace is the biggest UK Christian development charity focused exclusively on the Middle East. Formerly known as BibleLands it changed its name in 2012 as part of a plan to re-launch the charity in order to become even more effective in one of the world's most troubled regions. The website for the charity is worth a look <https://www.embraceme.org/>



Cluny Church of Scotland SC003429