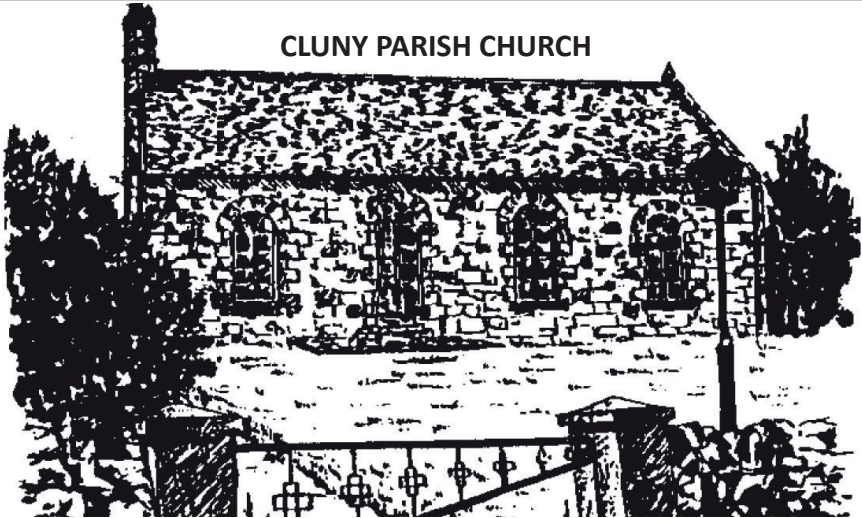


## CLUNY PARISH CHURCH



### Newsletter Number 55: October 2017

**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 (October) and Monymusk (November) and so on. A calendar of services for 2018 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](http://www.clunychurch.weebly.com)



## Letter from the Manse

On 27th May 2017, I celebrated 25 years as minister of the charge of Cluny and Monymusk. I think back to that lovely summer evening in late May 1992 with the church at Cluny packed with members from Cluny, Monymusk and a number from Rubislaw Church in Aberdeen where I had served my probationary period before ordination. I recall the refreshments provided after the service, many shared outside as there was not enough room in the church hall and I now realise that on that evening I began what I would not have believed would be 25 years here in Cluny linked with Monymusk. Many changes have happened over these years with new housing being built, welcoming new members and sadly the death of a lot of friends and hard workers for the church, but what has not changed, at least in my eyes, is the support you have given me over these years in putting up with me for such a long time! On Sunday 4th of June at Cluny Church at our regular joint service we marked this anniversary with a special cake after the service and the presentation of a cheque gathered from members of both churches. I was overwhelmed by the amount of money raised but even more so by the love that went with it, and like my ordination 25 years earlier I trust that I will never forget that day. I had not wanted a fuss to be made as I am only doing my job but in reality I am happy that you did make a bit of a fuss. I decided to purchase a new computer to help me with my work along with new robes and a very colourful stole (scarf). You can see these in the accompanying picture.

May I thank you all most sincerely for your generosity, not just for the gift but also for your support and kindness to me, Anne and Andrew over the years. It really has been a delight and joy to be minister of Cluny linked with Monymusk and God willing and God's plans aside I hope to be here for a few years yet. As always if you need a visit please get in touch.

*Euan*



## Cluny Parish Register

### Deaths

Mr William Thomson, Dunecht, died on 20th May 2017

Mrs Alice Burr, Sauchen, died on 5th June 2017

Mrs Irene Mitchell, Kemnay, died on 17th August 2017

### Marriage

Rev Euan Glen conducted the marriage of Catherine Paterson and James Ashworth at Cluny Church on 9th September 2017

### New Elder

The Kirk Session was delighted to welcome Alastair Howie as a member after his ordination as an elder on Sunday 19th March, 2017.

### Pastoral Support

Please let the minister or your elder know if you are in need of a visit for any reason or if you are going into hospital or would just like a chat. The minister and elders are responsible for pastoral support and are only too happy to help in any way they can. The minister can often be the last to hear so please contact him at any time.

## Visit from the Moderator

During the last week of April I had the pleasure of being with the then Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Rt. Rev Dr Russell Barr and his wife Margaret as they visited Gordon Presbytery. Dr and Mrs Barr were brought across to Cluny to visit the church and signed our visitors' book. At the morning service on Sunday 30th April in Monymusk Church Dr Barr was the guest preacher at a special service to launch the 850th Celebrations for Monymusk Church Building. At the lunch following the service he presented Cluny Church with a friendship cup or quaich in recognition of his visit.

During that evening in Inverurie St Andrews Church, as part of a celebration to mark long service to the Church of Scotland, he presented signed certificates to two elders from Cluny Church, Agnes Gray and Sylvia Henry, pictured here with three recipients from Monymusk Church.



## **Cluny Kirkers**

The Kirkers have restarted after the summer break with 11 children on the roll. Sylvia and Euan and the helpers who fill in when Euan has other business are working through a series of bible stories from the Go Teach material which at the start of the session was telling the story of Elijah. The evening takes a common form with a time of gathering games, followed by sitting in a circle hearing a bible story, then a time of work based on worksheets from the Go Teach booklets, then some juice and biscuits finishing with games. We would welcome any new children of primary school age to join us. Each child donates 50p per evening most of which goes to the church but on occasion our offering is donated to a charity like Children in Need or some other good cause.

## **The Presbytery Clerk**

For a total of almost 13 years and in two separate periods I have served as Presbytery Clerk for Gordon Presbytery. I was first appointed in 2000 and worked until 2008 then reappointed in 2012 until today when I am the current holder of the position. It is probably something that you have heard me talk about already but I thought that I might share with you some of what is involved in being the Clerk to Presbytery.

Technically the Clerk to Presbytery has three functions: to keep the minutes of the meetings, to ensure that church law is followed and to advise the Moderator of Presbytery if required. There is however a lot more to it than that. I am the first call when a problem develops within a congregation, often at a time of crisis either from a minister or Session Clerk and I am expected to know what to do. Sometimes I do and at others I just try my best. My role is both as legal counsel and pastoral carer and I have to be careful to differentiate these. Acting as a legal advisor means that I can't get too involved in some situations though my heart wants me to share and to show concern and care for those involved.

As a pastor I have a special concern for newly ordained ministers making sure to offer them support and to visit them at least once a year during their first two years in ministry. I attend a lot of meetings in Edinburgh and in other locations often representing our Presbytery. Overall I have a wide remit of church life and know a little about a lot of subjects and just bluff the rest! No two weeks are the same but here is a summary of the tasks that I have carried out in the past fortnight prior to writing this item for the newsletter. I have been involved in a lot of correspondence from the various Council and Committees in Edinburgh and preparation of papers for the Presbytery Business Committee which meets in advance of our monthly Presbytery meeting. I collate and organise the order of business for these meetings and my colleagues seem happy to leave much of the work up to me (I wonder why that is?!). I attended two meetings with prospective ministers as part of my role as a Presbytery assessor for ministry candidates and went to Inverness for a meeting to check on the training of another candidate for the ordained local ministry. I had a wonderful three day spiritual retreat in Perth organised by Presbytery and attended by 16 folk from our Presbytery. I had a meeting in Aberdeen with the Clerk of that presbytery and met a number of colleagues to discuss with them their hopes and concerns.

It is a highly varied and challenging role and as the years pass I seem to do more, which is not ideal. The administration of the church in terms of its own legal requirements and those of the state seems to increase each year.

I know there are times when I would rather be with you than on Presbytery business and I am sure that you must think the same. However I would like to thank you for your support in this aspect of my working life which gives me a fuller ministry and wider view of the Church of Scotland than if I had concentrated solely on being minister of Cluny and Monymusk.

*Euan*

## An Apology from the Editor

It will have been observed that the last edition of the newsletter was printed in miniature (well half the usual size!). This was due to an unintentional error at the printer's. It would have been too wasteful to have the entire run reprinted (although our printer offered to do that at no cost to us) and there were some favourable comments about how easily the small booklet could fit into a handbag. However I thought that the main victim of the resulting tiny font size was the following article on the Commonwealth Grave and so decided to include it again in this edition of the newsletter.

## 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, pictured opposite.

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.

In Memory of

Flight Sergeant

**Alexander McAllan**

525353, Royal Air Force who died on 25 July 1943 Age 26

Son of William and Margaret McAllen, of Cluny.

Remembered with Honour

Cluny Churchyard Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## Praise in the Park

The annual Praise in the Park service took place in Sauchen Park on a warm and sunny morning in August. There was a very good attendance with a wide range of ages present. The praise was led by Granite City Brass and once again their playing of well-loved and familiar hymns was stirring and inspiring. It was interesting to read about the origin of the band on its website <http://www.granitecitybrass.co.uk/>

A brass band was first established in 1850 by workers at Stoneywood Paper Mill in Aberdeen and named the Stoneywood and Auchmull Union Band. Instruments were purchased for the original 12 members but their ownership was vested in a trust as the public property of the two villages. 58 years later it was noted that these instruments were still available "for practice". The band underwent various name changes and became one of the most popular and successful bands in the north east of Scotland. By the end of the Second World War it was known as the Stoneywood Silver Band and it travelled widely to take part in competitions. Over the years the percentage of musicians actually employed in the paper mill declined and by the 1980's the players were drawn from all walks of life. New sponsors from the oil industry resulted in another name change to UDI Brass and a busy schedule of concerts, contests, civic occasions and other events followed. A merger with Aberdeen City Band took place and then when UDI were taken over by an American oil company the members of the band voted to rebrand themselves as Granite City Brass. So the band has a long and highly successful past and each year when they come to Sauchen everyone involved at Cluny Church is delighted to welcome them and their wonderful playing of our favourite hymns. The Praise in the Park service in 2018 will be held on Sunday 26th August.



## New Projector

A new projector has been installed in the church and by the time that you read this it will have been providing colourful and high resolution images during Sunday worship for a few weeks. The machine is a gift from the late and fondly remembered Marshall and Elsa Cruickshank whose daughters Fiona and Diane are honouring their parents' wishes to give the church something of practical use. These sentiments reflect the nature of their personalities and the church is exceptionally grateful for the family's generosity.

## Cluny Motto Book

Whilst indulging in some general decluttering Sylvia Henry discovered a facsimile copy of the "Cluny Motto Book" with the date of 1911 on the cover. The Editor has borrowed it and discovered that many families from Cluny, Monymusk, Midmar, Sauchen and further afield had contributed their favourite sayings to the compilation. Sylvia picked out the following as a favourite. It was attributed to the McLeod family of Cluny Gardens.

*Two ears and but a single tongue  
By Nature's laws to man belong.  
The lesson she would teach is clear:  
Repeat but half of what you hear.*

There were others with thoughts in the same vein. Joan Scott of Waulkmill, Sauchen wrote:

*There's so much good in the worst of us,  
And so much bad in the best of us,  
That it ill becomes any of us  
To talk about the rest of us.*

This was obviously such a hit with the editor of the book that it



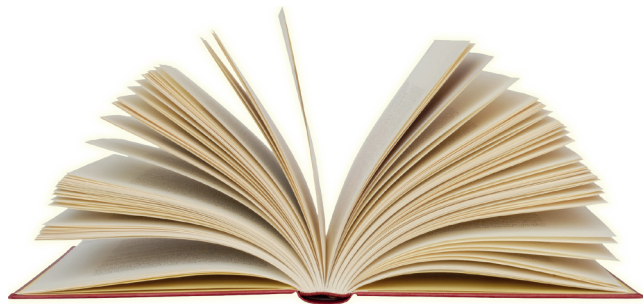
was repeated a few pages later under the name of M. Philip, Cluny Castle and then again by Mrs Chivas of Inver, Monymusk and finally the Pirie family of Castle Fraser! Perhaps the folk of Cluny were incorrigible gossips back in 1911 and needed to be gently scolded in print.

There were amusing sayings reflecting progress in transport methods: *The Spirit of the Age – petrol!* (Frank Duncan of Newburgh) and *There are a great many people nowadays who keep a motor car who really cannot afford to keep a donkey.* (Frank C. Smith of Dunecht).

One or two rather pretentious examples: *At spes infracta* from Mrs Harper of Cluny Schoolhouse, helpfully translated as *But hope is unbroken* and *Obsta initiis* from Dr Lawson of Waterton with no English equivalent. However the joy of the internet in 2017 is that we can be enlightened and the best translation I could find online was *Refrain from the evil way of others.*

Many wise mottos were included in the book *Live peacefully with all men* (Mrs Duncan, Quinloch Cottages), *A stich in time saves nine* (W Downie, Broombrae), *Waste not, want not* (Mr J M Ironside, the vet from Sauchen) and, an appropriate one to end with in this article in the Church Newsletter, from Andrew Reid of Laggan Cottage “*Trust in God and do the Right*”.

*The Editor (with thanks to Sylvia Henry)*



### Church Flowers

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

## Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 12th November:** Following the Remembrance Sunday service at 11.00am there will be a Soup and Something lunch served in the Hall.

**Sunday 19th November:** A Fairtrade Stall will be set up in the Hall following the morning service selling the usual Fairtrade produce along with Christmas cards and gifts.

**Friday 15th December:** Candlelight Carol Service in Cluny Church at 7.30pm

**Sunday 24th December:** Christmas Eve Family Service at Monymusk Church at 7.00pm.

*Please note that there will not be a Watchnight Service at Cluny Church on Christmas Eve. The falling numbers at the service and the results of the consultation with the congregation via the last edition of the newsletter persuaded the Kirk Session to decide with sadness to cancel the service. Members of the church and the local community are encouraged to support the Christmas Eve Family Service at Monymusk Church.*

**Monday 25th December:** Christmas Morning joint service at Monymusk Church at 10.30am

**Saturday 27th January 2018:** A traditional Burns Supper will be held in the Great Hall with excellent speakers undertaking the toasts and entertainment from the Garioch Fiddlers. Tickets will be available soon.



## Light-Hearted Corner



***Who dreams these up? A lexophile of course!***  
*(thanks to Scott Langlands too)*

- Venison for dinner again? Oh dear!
- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- Jokes about German sausage are the worst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro – what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.





Cluny Church of Scotland SC003429