

 The Church of Scotland

NATIONAL GIVING DAY



Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman
Church Magazine
Autumn 2021
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Greetings from the Minister

Dear friends,

We continue in a season of changes and transitions.

Just as there are variants of the coronavirus, there are variants of COVID guidance and variations in how vulnerable we feel.

We are at the culmination of a growing season for many crops, with harvesting going on in fields and gardens.

A new academic year has begun, and many groups and activities are restarting as seems safe and appropriate.

The Church of Scotland continues transitioning to new shapes at national, regional and local levels, which will affect every congregation in Moray in the years to come.

We also have personal changes to deal with. There have been losses in health, relationships, opportunities, finance and people. There will also be new relationships and adventures on the go.

Changes and transitions are part of life bringing all sorts of emotions (often all at once).

Whatever changes we face, whatever transitions we are going through, we are promised we never do so alone. At the start of Matthew's gospel we read that Jesus came as *Immanuel* (which means, "God is with us"). The same gospel finishes with Jesus saying, "*I will be with you always, to the end of the age.*"

God is with us. Jesus promises to be with us always. The Spirit is with us to comfort, challenge and guide us. We're also given each other in the church, in all our human messiness.

For this we can, I hope, be thankful – hence the National Giving Day we are invited to participate in. I thank God for God's presence through all the ups and downs of life, and I thank God for all of you, sharing this amazing confusing journey together.

With love, prayers & hugs,

Jenny



Greetings from the Probationer Minister

Dear friends in Duffus, Hopeman, Spynie and beyond,

It is amazing to think I am almost three months into my probationary placement in the parish.

I extend deep thanks to Rev Jenny and you all for the tremendous and continued welcome you have given me throughout the past months as I have settled into the parish family. I have enjoyed meeting and working with all those I have to date, and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with many more in the weeks and months to come. I am grateful for the positive and constructive feedback I am receiving as I explore and learn in my ministry.



I have been inspired by the congregation's and community's efforts keeping each other safe and supporting each other during the COVID restrictions and how people are now adjusting to life out with the COVID 'levels' system in a combination of old and new normality.

It has been a humbling experience to be among you as the church celebrated the happy milestone in Flora's 100th birthday, as well as mourning the sad loss of several dedicated members of the parish.

As we head into the next few months, I am looking forward to experiencing and learning from a variety of opportunities and challenges; realising the joy in worship, groups, and activities which may resume once again, but also recognising the difficulties in what aspects of the parish life may not be able to return. In these opportunities and challenges, I share these Words of Christ from Mark's gospel, '*don't be afraid, just believe*'

I am looking forward to a few weeks' holidays soon and hope as many of you as possible have had some time to rest over the summer months and can look ahead refreshed.

Wishing you all God's blessing

Christine

From your Session Clerks

Dear Friends

I can scarcely believe I'm writing this for the Autumn edition of our Kirk magazine. I'm definitely not alone in feeling that this year has passed so quickly. Whether it's because of the pandemic or simply just getting older, every year seems to pass faster than the previous one.



Life in the Rowand family is still as hectic as ever. By the time you read this the schools will be back and our twins will have started their final year. Again, where do the years go ?

Our first grandchild, Blair, arrived at the beginning of this year and she continues to bring us all so much pleasure as she grows & learns new skills almost every day. And we recently learned that Blair is going to be a big sister early in the New Year. What was it I said about life being hectic !

As our country continues to slowly return to something approaching 'normal', your Board & Session are still working hard to determine how to do so in a safe & sensible manner.

Details of the plans for Worship for the next few months can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Many of you will have met our Probationer Minister, Christine. We are all delighted by how easily she has become a part of our Church family & we have enjoyed her refreshing approach to worship. Please make her feel welcome as we all continue to learn from each other & grow in faith together.

At the last Board & Session meeting it was agreed that Michael would share the Session Clerk duties with me. We both hope that this will work satisfactorily for your benefit.

As we are no longer restricted by numbers and if you feel comfortable & able, it would be wonderful to see you on a Sunday morning.

God Bless

Shona



National Giving Day

*Jesus says "I will be with you always, to the end of the age."
(Matthew 28:20)*

We are joining congregations across the Church of Scotland in taking part in a National Giving Day initiative this autumn. The aim of National Giving Day is to offer us an opportunity to reflect deeply on God's loving presence with us during these challenging times and to express our appreciation and gratitude through giving generously ourselves.

The Congregational Board & Kirk Session have agreed that money given through our National Giving Day will be shared three ways:

- 50% to local congregational funds of Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman. This supports our work by contributing to the costs of ministry, supporting the Church of Scotland's wider work in Scotland and overseas, covering costs of our activities locally, and maintaining the buildings we gather in.
- 25% to Hopeman Community Minibus (see below)
- 25% to Moray Firth Radio Cash for Kids appeal (see below)

We will introduce a season of thanksgiving for God's presence with us at our Harvest Thanksgiving Communion service on Sunday 3rd October.

We will then continue to reflect and give thanks to God with us, through National Giving Day services in Spynie, Hopeman & Duffus on 10th, 17th and 24th October. After each of those services we hope to have teas and a time to share less formally.

If you are able to give financially, you are invited to do so with the slip included in this magazine and/or at any of those services 3rd-24th October.

However, we are aware that everyone's financial situation is different, and that the pandemic has made money tighter for many people. We can also use the season to reflect on how else we respond to God's presence in our lives, offering our time, attention, and abilities to God.

Hopeman Community Minibus



"In 2016, a Community Minibus was acquired through the Press & Journal. It was decided to call it 'The Hopeman Community Minibus' as it was parked in Hopeman, but it is for the use of the community, taking in the whole parish of Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman as well as Burghead. For its first 4 years it was used extensively to transport community groups in this area who paid for the use of the bus. The

committee, a registered charity, made sure that the books were balanced so the bus could continue to serve groups such as the Scouts, the dance group, the youth section of the football club among others.

However, when Covid struck in March 2020 and we went into lockdown, these groups were unable to travel so the bus wasn't required for them. The committee realised that, with the temporary closing of the Hopeman and Burghead medical surgeries, people without transport were having difficulty travelling to Lossiemouth for medical appointments. So, with the help of funding from Grampian NHS and Moray Council among others, resources were acquired to offer a free service to people in Hopeman, Burghead, Duffus, Cummingston and all round the local area to allow them to travel easily to appointments they had previously been able to get to. Additionally, the bus had to be made Covid-safe so equipment and PPE was bought to allow this.

Over the last year alone, the bus has been used by over 100 local folk who need to travel to Lossiemouth Medical Centre and has become quite literally a lifeline for many.

Hopeman Community Minibus still relies on donations and funding to pay for fuel and maintenance of the bus as well as purchases of PPE for drivers and passengers. All drivers are volunteers who give up their time to help those in need in the local area. The committee is determined to keep the service free for those in need and to keep charges as low as possible for community groups who are able to pay, so that this valuable community resource can be retained."

from Richard Cavaye, Chair, Hopeman Community Minibus

MFR Cash for Kids

“MFR Cash for Kids is a grant-giving charity helping the children that need it most across Moray, the Highlands and Aberdeenshire.

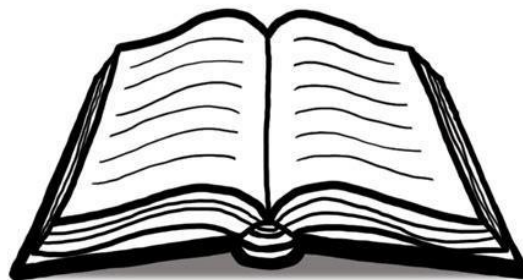


Our mission is to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in our communities who are affected by illness, poverty, neglect or have additional needs. We believe that all children should be able to express their individuality, achieve their potential and live life to the full.

We work with local grassroots organisations across the region that aim to make a difference to young lives, and directly support families who often have nowhere else to go through our regular grant rounds.

We commit that at least 80p from every £1 we receive goes back into our local communities.”

from planetradio.co.uk/mfr/charity/info



Dwelling in the Word

Dwelling in the Word is an ancient tradition in the church where we come together to listen to scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our listening. By sharing what we have heard we gain new insights into what God is saying into our lives and we give thanks for God's presence.

If you are mature in your faith or simply beginning to ask some of the bigger questions of life, you are welcome to join a Moray-based group that meets online. They meet on Tuesday evenings at 8pm on Zoom.

To find out more, search for the “Dwelling in the Word” group on Facebook.

In Memoriam September 2021

Joyce Rudland	Lybster – funeral 22 nd June
Ogilvie Smith	Hebenton Rd, Elgin – 23 rd June
Pat Robertson	Hutcheon St, Hopeman – 24 th June
Hazel Hepburn	Lodge Rd, Hopeman – 3 rd August
Tessa Masson	Southview Rd, Elgin – 10 th August
Sandy Sinclair	Cooper St, Hopeman – 13 th August
Nellie Sutherland	Thom St, Hopeman – 16 th August



These are the church funerals. We also remember others who have died in our communities and families in these very difficult times.

*We remember them with love,
give thanks for their lives,
entrust them to God's loving arms,
and hold their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.*

You are invited to communion



As long as we can do so safely and conforming to public health guidelines, we are going to celebrate communion every four weeks. This will probably take different shapes as we explore what is safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

Whenever, wherever and however we gather for communion we are looking forward to the great feast God invites all people to, and we offer thanksgiving (Eucharist) for God's goodness. It is the family meal of the church family in which we are fed and nourished for the journey ahead.

A sacrament is a visible sign – in this case, visible, edible, tastable and touchable – of God's invisible grace. God loves us first and always, and the sacraments enable us to know that through our senses, as well as our minds. Jesus invites us to come, take, eat – we are all invited. You are invited.

Please join us if you can. And if you are unable to join us, please speak to your elder about home communion.

Rev Jenny

Cleaning & Welcome Volunteers Needed

In order to welcome people safely into our buildings we need volunteers to help – if you can do so safely. We are hugely grateful to everyone who has helped in the past and in the recent pandemic times.



We need people to welcome folk as they arrive at church and take their contact details for Test & Protect.

We also need people to take a turn at helping to clean each of our church buildings, so that all surfaces people have touched are clean and safe for the next users. Materials are provided.



If you can help occasionally, please let me know.

Thank you.

Rev Jenny

Health Walks



The Walk Moray project delivers health walks across Moray every week and is managed by Health and Social Care Moray. With the help of a network of fantastic volunteers, Walk Moray runs a variety of low-level, friendly health walks.

A Health Walk has recently started in **Hopeman**, from the Surgery car park every Thursday morning at 10am.

There's also one from **Burghead** Station Road car park every Thursday at 1.30pm.

There are Health Walks in **Elgin**, from Elgin Library on Wednesdays (11am faster 2 mile, 12.15pm moderate 2 mile, 1.30pm relaxed, 1 mile); Moray Leisure Centre on Thursdays 10am; and Linkwood Medical Practice on Fridays at 10am.

Whether you would like to meet new people, or get more active, they are always looking for new people to join in their walks.

COP26 Glasgow 2021

The **COP26** or to give it its full title the '2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference', will take place in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November. The conference is due to



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incorporate the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hence the title COP26). Also the 16th meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16), and the 3rd meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA3).

In other words it is an international conference about the challenge of climate change, run by the UN, but hosted this year by the UK.

In Psalm 2 we read 'Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? **The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed**, saying, 'Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.' This sounds very much like the nations of today who are due to meet at the COP26.

The cause of climate change is complex, there are various factors which include, cyclic climate variations, increased pollution (including higher co2 levels), volcanic activity (creating increased pollution levels). Some of the factors also contain elements that can slow down global warming, such as increased dust in the air can cause a decrease in temperatures, but the same dust can increase snow and ice melt especially at the polar regions, in turn causing higher sea levels.

There is also a spiritual aspect, hence the quote from Psalm 2. We also read in Isaiah 59:8 '**The way of peace they do not know there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads no one who walks along them will know peace**'.

Isaiah's description also seems to fit the nations of today. (Further reading Psalms 2 & 36, Isaiah 59, Romans 3:9-19)

So is the root of the problem just a question of ecology or is it deeper? I would advocate that the changing climate is but a symptom of a far deeper problem, that is the turning away from God and his ways by the nations of today. In particular the Nations seem to have rejected at least the first 5 commandments, and seem intent on rejecting the second 5 as well. If this is the case then the history of Israel and its relationship with

God would demonstrate the danger of turning ones back on God, and especially in rejecting the 10 commandments.

1. “You shall have no other gods “- Many of the Nations now seem to think they are above religion, and God.
2. “You shall have no other gods before me”. ‘You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath - Veneration of Dictators, past or present, and symbols of authority (including laws) or nationality (including culture) eg national flags are examples of breaking this commandment.
3. “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God” - Removal of all references to God in public areas such as schools and government offices, the rational is not to cause offence, but at the same time is offensive to God. We can also include all who persecute followers of both Christianity and Judaism, as they clearly hate God and those who follow his ways.
4. “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”. - Britain is possibly one of the leading nations guilty of breaking this commandment, as we not only ceased to keep Sunday’s special or holy, but we also persuaded most of the EU to follow our lead !
5. “Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you”. - The family unit has suffered its greatest attack these last few years, from various types of legislation, mainly in the name of equality, but in reality it has undermined the role of both a Mother and a Father as a role model for good family units, especially in regards to the raising of children.

A further note on this fifth commandment is how it is conditional, and if broken we can expect to have to leave or flee from our land. The world is now seeing what are known as climate refugees, possibly providing a connection to this fifth commandment ?

In the final verse of Deuteronomy Chapter 5 we read ‘ Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess’.(Deuteronomy 5:33)

This follows on from the second listing of the 10 commandments, further supporting the conditions linked in with the commandments.

In conclusion the world is in a mess, mainly caused by the arrogance of the nations, especially their leaders. This mess could be a result of rejecting Gods guidance as laid out in the 10 commandments.

Prayer: Forgive us for turning away from your ways both as individuals as well as a nation, help us turn back to you and start repairing damage that has been done.

We also pray for the COP26 conference that the world leaders will work together to meet the challenges of climate change, and after the conference will choose to again follow your guidelines as laid out in the 10 commandments, Amen.

Francis Mitchell

How can we get involved with COP26?

Reflection, Learning, Prayer and Worship

We'll have a dedicated Climate Sunday service in Duffus Kirk on 12th September, and can all join others across the world in prayer.

Practical Action

Talk, listen and share stories from communities and faith groups around the world. Take action in our church buildings and in our homes.

Consider signing the Scottish Churches COP26 Pledge to support fossil divestment and a just and green recovery at

<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/scottishchurchespledge/>

Advocacy

Tell our MSPs and MP – about your concerns and your plans. Get involved with campaigns from Christian Aid or Tearfund. Listen to the voices of women and children to share their experiences and solutions. Keep in touch at www.climatefringe.org

Find out more at www.ecocongregationscotland.org/cop26



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Update from 'Creation Calls'

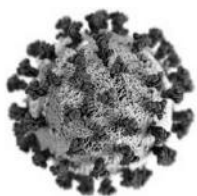
In common with many others, the Moray eco-congregation group 'Creation Calls' has had to be on hold for the last 18 months. However with the relaxing of COVID restrictions, we were able to participate in this years Refuel at Gordon Castle, in July.

As in previous years we were able to participate within the Moray Churches tent, due to the continuing COVID restrictions at the time, we were not manning the tent as in previous years, but instead ran a theme of prayer. Within the tent there were five prayer stations, with a common theme of prayer and the environment, our prayer station was on ecology. As the prayer station was in the middle of the tent, we made a stand with four sides each side having a Bible verse, a question/thought and a short prayer. The prayer stations were unmanned, but there were several of us in the area to ensure covid restrictions were adhered to, but luckily the Monday of the start of Refuel, restrictions were downgraded, so in reality little action/monitoring etc. was required.

Those who were lucky enough to attend Refuel, were rewarded by 3 days of what we have come to expect from Refuel, namely good speakers, meeting old friends (and meeting some new people) and visiting interesting stalls, and of course all in the beautiful location of Gordon Castle.

'Creation Calls' are in the process of organising one of its eco-walks, this time in Fochabers. It is now due to take place on Friday 17th September at 2:00pm. Further information will be available closer to the date, otherwise I may be contacted (tel 830713).

Francis Mitchell



COVID Guidelines

At the time I write this, we are moving beyond the Scottish Government's "level" system of COVID restrictions, but the coronavirus is clearly still active in our communities and across the world. Church of Scotland staff have worked hard throughout the pandemic, engaging with the Scottish Government and congregations to keep us as up to date as possible with guidelines. That is a huge task as they are trying to cover all the different activities and contexts across Scotland, and guidance shifts regularly.

All I can write about are the current guidelines in mid-August, knowing those are likely to change in the weeks and months ahead. These have changed from the previous very strict restrictions, and we hope they will help you feel safe if you come.



Capacity/booking - We no longer have capacity limits in our buildings – so we no longer need to book attendance.



Distancing - We no longer have to keep a legal distance from each other. However, we do have to keep each other safe, so I would ask everyone to respect a safe distance from each other. Please pay attention to how others are feeling, as we all assess risk differently.



Face coverings - We do still have to wear face coverings while in places of worship, including when we sing. While it may be uncomfortable, it's something we do to keep others safe.



Test & Protect - We do still have to gather names and contact details (phone or email) for Test & Protect purposes. Those are kept confidentially and destroyed after 21 days, and not used for any other purpose.



Hygiene - Everyone is asked to sanitise hands on arriving and leaving the church buildings. We are cleaning each space after every use, and are asking all user groups to do that too. A huge thank you to all the volunteers helping with cleaning.



Ventilation - In order to ensure good ventilation, we are having to keep our doors open during services. Obviously that can get draughty, and will get cooler as the seasons shift, so please wrap up well for church. We have put pew cushions back, though, which helps a wee bit!



Books - We are still being careful about handling books. We will continue to use the screens in Hopeman and Duffus Kirks for now. You are welcome to bring your own hymnbooks and Bibles (and take them home again afterwards).

We are now able to host funeral services in our church buildings, with all the same guidelines applying to those too. Many of our hall users are beginning new sessions too.

In order to ease the workload on our volunteers, we will continue to have a 3 week pattern, using each of our church buildings in turn. We are changing that service to 10.30am to give everyone more time in the morning.

We appreciate that may involve more travel, and would encourage you to offer assistance to others as you feel able, and to use the phone and online reflections.



Phone & Online Options

Phone (01343) 614450, for a 15-30 minute recorded reflection. A new reflection is uploaded every Saturday evening.

For those with access to the internet or YouTube:

- Find us on YouTube at “DSH Youtube Channel”. That will offer a weekly 15-30 minute video reflection.
- Find “Duffus Spynie Hopeman” or “Jenny Adams” on Facebook for the YouTube reflections and other information

We are currently installing technology that will allow us to “livestream” services, whether Sundays and funerals, to allow people to join the gathered congregation from wherever they are. That will be available through the same YouTube channel, and will be gradually introduced in the coming weeks and months. Thanks to Chris Thompson for all his work on that.

Open meeting about future mission – 13th September 2021



Are you interested in how we and others meet the needs of our communities into the future?

Can you imagine ways to continue to share the love of God with the people of Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman?

Who might we work in partnership with? What might help resource mission?

We are having an open meeting on the evening of **Monday 13th September, in Hopeman Kirk Hall at 7pm**, to explore these questions. This will help us shape our own work, and will also feed into Moray Presbytery's mission planning exercise.

We will also be looking for a few folk to represent our congregation in a focus group meeting with members of Moray's Presbytery Planning Team at a later date. Is that something you might also be interested in?

To help us all to consider what we do and could do, in partnership with God and others, here are the Five Marks of Mission:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (This is about telling the Christian message of forgiveness, purpose, hope and love.)
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (This is about how we help people to grow as followers of Jesus.)
3. To respond to human need by loving service (This is about how we demonstrate the love of Christ through our actions.)
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (This is about how we promote and support God's ways of justice and peace.)
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth (This is about being faithful stewards of this amazing home that we share with all living things and play our part in tackling the crises it faces.)

To find out more, come along, or contact Rev Jenny

Moray Presbytery Mission Planning

Growing a Shared Future: Planning our future together with God

The General Assembly 2021 has instructed every presbytery to develop a Mission Plan, to be approved by 31 Dec. 2022. The Mission Plan will outline the shape of church life for the next five years, including arrangements of congregations, ministries, buildings & online activities.

Moray is developing a Mission Plan that will be amalgamated with others into a shared Mission Plan for a new larger North East and Northern Isles Presbytery that most of Moray will join. Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church will move with Moray to that new North East & Northern Isles Presbytery, but our neighbours from Burghead westwards – the 7 congregations in and around Forres – are about to transfer to Inverness Presbytery and then into a Highlands & Islands Presbytery.

Moray will have an allowance of 11.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) paid posts. That is a change from 17 FTE posts serving 21 congregations – a third fewer paid staff. Maintaining the status quo is not an option – the shape of church across all Moray's congregations will have to change.

The Moray Presbytery has agreed a process, shaped by the Presbytery Planning Team (PPT), which aims to listen. The PPT wants to listen to the local church, where there is knowledge of our communities and insight into God's ongoing work. That is part of a wider listening to God, whose church this is and whose mission is our purpose. Our listening to God can help us discern where pruning will create space for God to work in new ways, and help us imagine new ways of following Jesus in the 21st century.

Information is being gathered, and the PPT will meet with and listen to a focus group from every congregation in the coming months. There will also be a parallel process auditing church buildings, considering whether they are "well equipped spaces in the right places."

Please pray for everyone involved in this process, which is challenging but hopes to open up new possibilities for growth in God's church.

God, vine-grower, true vine, Spirit of life,
across Moray help us grow together,
discerning and planning our future with you.

Help us to remain joined with you and accept wise pruning,
so we might share the fruit of your love more widely.

Amen



Rev Jenny

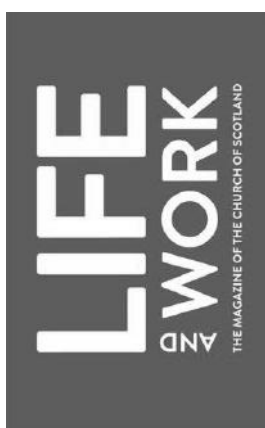
Guild news 2021-22 – from Kathie Young

Margaret Munro and I have had a meeting. We decided that a letter be sent to members from the 2019-2020 session to find out how many would be interested in restarting on Tuesday 7th September in the Church Hall, Hopeman from 2pm to 4pm.



New members would be made very welcome. As yet we have not prepared a syllabus. The theme for 2021-2022 is Lights and Bushels. One change for refreshments - please bring your own cup - tea and biscuits will be provided (no home bakes as yet). Contact: Kathie Young

Life and Work



The Life & Work magazine was established over 140 years ago and in each monthly issue promotes the life of the Church in Scotland and abroad.

Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current issues, a monthly meditation and regular articles on the spiritual side of life, reviews of the latest books, videos and Christian resources and is a very good read.

I have several back copies if anyone would like to see them before buying.

There is also a crossword in it!

The magazine costs £3 per month and if you are interested please contact Sheila Duncan on 01343 830238 or email duncanbegrow@gmail.com

TIME TO PRAY

TIME TO TALK



We are a group of folk who currently meet on zoom on Wednesday afternoons at 3-4.30pm.

We meet to pray for the parish and world issues and to discuss a relevant book.

Starting on 15th September we will be reading Neil Paynter's book *Seek Justice and peace, Pursue it*. This is available on Amazon for £10.53 with free postage, Contact Pat Mackay on 333851 for more details and a zoom link.



CHRISTIAN AID AND FAIR TRADE UPDATE.

Thank you for your continued support for Christian Aid and Fair Trade.

The Christian Aid May 2021 Appeal was concerned with Climate change, which affects us all and is very much on everyone's minds. People living in poverty fight the worst of climate change every day. "From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water. Christian Aid Week donations provide people with strength to withstand even the most unpredictable weather, helping a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms."

Duffus Spynie and Hopeman took up the May Challenge and raised the following amounts:-

Christian Aid Envelopes and boxes-	291
Gardening Challenge	300
Cycling Challenge	200
Spey Way Challenge	1130
CD's	100

A Grand Total - £2021



Thank you to all those who supported the Christian Aid May Challenges.

FAIRTRADE



Thank you for those who have been buying the Fair Trade Rice.

We still have 7 packs of White rice and 7 packs of Brown rice at £3.20 a bag. Please let me know if you need any. (830713).

I also still have a selection of Traidcraft Cards available at £1 a card.

Heather Mitchell



Family options e.g. Breakfast church?



Our Sunday worship will aim to have something for all ages, but do we need something extra for families? We are delighted for our neighbours at Hopeman Baptist Church in their success with the Adventurers club. We are currently exploring options for outdoor church and Messy Church. I am also wondering if families would be interested to come together for breakfast and a fun time of worship, perhaps once a month.

I would be grateful to **receive some comments or suggestions on this idea**, particularly any suggestions about a **preferred day and/or time** for the breakfast and fun worship.

Please send your comments to cmcwhirter@churchofscotland.org.uk or 07842 141164. Many thanks, Christine



Birthday milestone!

On the 28th of July Flora Christie reached a fabulous milestone & became 100 years old. She is the oldest member of our congregation & was baptised in Spynie Kirk by the Rev John Mair in 1921.

A service of celebration was held in Spynie Kirk with readings, prayers & Flora's favourite hymns. This was followed by a lovely picnic which because of the weather had to be enjoyed in the Kirk. Flora blew out the candles on her amazing cake & I think that she had a thoroughly enjoyable time. On return to her flat she received a birthday card from the Queen which also made her big day extra special. Flora banked £150 of donations to Christian Aid from gifts received too. We all wished Flora a very happy 100th Birthday.

Shona

Who needs PPE?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was a term that many folk were unfamiliar with until 18 months ago unless they worked in health and social care or dealt with hazardous chemicals. Now, with the intrusion of Covid into our everyday lives, most of us are familiar with basic protective measures such as the mandatory wearing of face coverings and have seen newsreel footage of healthcare staff in full protective suits and masks as they care for patients in Intensive Care settings.

Many of us take part in sports and leisure activities where our clothing and equipment gives us protection from the weather, natural hazards or even other players.

I really enjoy walking and often I find that my feet may be travelling in one direction but a small part of my brain is rambling off on a completely different tangent.

A quick examination of my walking gear reveals the items that I consider essential for my personal health and safety.

1. Sturdy boots that protect my feet, keep out water, support my ankles and prevent me from losing my grip.
2. Appropriate clothing for the weather including good waterproofs, as it's not unknown for it to rain in Scotland, even in 'summer'.
3. Sufficient water and food for the planned expedition.
4. Trekking poles for balance and support.
5. First aid kit – because you never know when you or someone else may need help.
6. *Depending on the type of walk I'm undertaking* – map and compass, whistle, head-torch, foil blanket and, yes, I do carry a mobile phone (for emergencies only - no summit selfies!)

Thanks to the vagaries of the Scottish weather, on a recent walk I was especially grateful for sturdy boots, waterproofs, trekking poles and nourishing snacks. While I was not in any physical danger, my tangential brain began thinking about spiritual PPE. I did warn you that said brain is prone to rambling, so please bear with me!

Ephesians Chapter 6 popped into my mind.

Here (in verses 14 - 18) Paul speaks of The Armour of God then reminds us to pray, keep alert and never give up.

Isn't this a great example of PPE and encouragement for healthy, faithful living?

Church Calendar (continued)

Sun 17 Oct – **Sunday worship** Hopeman Kirk 10.30am –
National Giving Day teas after

Sun 24 Oct – **Sunday worship** Duffus Kirk 10.30am –
National Giving Day teas after

Sun 31 Oct – **Sunday worship** Spynie Kirk 10.30am –
Communion

November 2021

Sun 7 Nov – **Sunday worship** Hopeman Kirk 10.30am

Mon 8 Nov - **Board & Session meeting**, Hopeman Kirk Hall
7pm

Tue 9 Nov - **The Guild** meets, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2pm

Thu 11 Nov - Spynie Hall **Act of Remembrance** 10.45am –
details to be confirmed

Sun 14 Nov – **Remembrance Sunday**, Hopeman 10am,
Duffus 10.45am & 11.30am - **details to be confirmed**

Sun 21 Nov – **Sunday worship** Spynie Kirk 10.30am

Sun 28 Nov – **Sunday worship** Hopeman Kirk 10.30am –
Communion

December 2021

Sun 5 Dec – Sunday worship Duffus Kirk 10.30am

Tue 7 Dec - **The Guild** meets, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2pm

Sun 12 Dec – Sunday worship Spynie Kirk 10.30am

Sun 19 Dec – Sunday worship Hopeman Kirk 10.30am

Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church Calendar

All gatherings will be subject to current public health guidelines. In addition to gathering in buildings, you can join in by phone or online:

- Phone (01343) 614450, for a 15-30 minute recorded reflection
- Find us on YouTube or Facebook for 15-30 minute video reflection

See also dshchurch.co.uk for more information

Sunday worship will have something for all ages.

September 2021

PLEASE NOTE 10.30am Sunday worship time

Sun 5 Sept – **Sunday worship** Hopeman Kirk 10.30am – Communion

Tue 7 Sept – **The Guild** meets, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2pm

Sun 12 Sept – **Sunday worship** Duffus Kirk 10.30am – Climate Sunday

Mon 13 Sept Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm – **Open meeting about future mission**

Sun 19 Sept – **Sunday worship** Spynie Kirk 10.30am

Sun 26 Sept – **Sunday worship** Hopeman Kirk 10.30am

October 2021

PLEASE NOTE 10.30am Sunday worship time

Sun 3 Oct – **Sunday worship** Duffus Kirk 10.30am – Harvest Thanksgiving & Communion

Tue 5 Oct – **The Guild** meets, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2pm

Sun 10 Oct – **Sunday worship** Spynie Kirk 10.30am – National Giving Day teas after