



# DUFFUS, SPYNIE AND HOPEMAN

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**If you are able to receive the magazine by email,  
saving paper and printing, please let Rev Jenny know.**

Dear friends,

May the peace, love and hope of God be with us all.

We are living in times of great change and uncertainty.

In UK life, there is a change of era with the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III.

In global life, there is huge uncertainty due to the increasing cost of energy and food. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and ongoing climate change come on top of other conflicts and crises.

And in church life in Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman (and across the Church of Scotland) we are facing change and uncertainty. A process of discerning what shape of church life might enable mission into the future has begun.

The conclusion that Moray Presbytery has reached about Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman is that we should unite with the congregations in Lossiemouth to share gifts and office-bearers, reducing our governance burden. Within that new congregation there will be Local Mission Churches led by local folk in Duffus and Hopeman, who can get on with worship, service and outreach without as much admin.

To reduce the responsibility for heating and maintaining historic buildings, the Presbytery Mission Plan also proposes that in time Spynie Kirk and Hopeman Church and Hall buildings will be disposed of, through sale or lease.

None of these changes will happen immediately. There are currently two full-time ministers in post, to reduce to one minister with a ½ time pastoral assistant. That will happen when one of us discerns a call to serve God elsewhere. Transfer of buildings to other bodies will need discussion to explore options and legal and financial advice. Meanwhile, we will continue to use our buildings, making space to celebrate their mission and memories.

None of these changes reduce the commitment of the church to the whole parish of Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman and our church family.



Church buildings are only one way we serve. Mission will continue to use community halls, woods, beaches, estates, cafés and homes. We can accept hospitality as well as offering it.

This is difficult and painful for many. Change brings loss as well as new possibilities. There was no route through the mission planning process without causing hurt. I made mistakes, for which I am sorry.

And yet...“We meet in the presence of God, whose Son Jesus has passed through death before us, and who offers us hope of new life and peace with God. Jesus, who promises, “I will be with you always, to the end of time.” “

These are words I use in every funeral service, reminding us that Jesus whom we follow has faced the very worst and transformed it into new life and hope.

We can trust in Jesus who is with us always, through everything, no matter how hard, no matter how much it looks like death.

We can trust in the forgiveness of God, no matter what mistakes we have made.

We can trust in the power of love, as the community of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - draws us in to be loved and sends us out to share that love with each other, with friend, stranger and enemy, with all creation.

We are living in times of great change and uncertainty. But we are not living through these times alone. God is with us and we can journey together, carrying each others' hopes and hurts.

Trusting in God, there is always hope for new life, new possibilities, new love, for us, for the church and for the world.

With love and prayers,

**Jenny**



## Greetings from the Probationer Minister

A Big Hello!

Hello. My name is Anne-Marie Simpson and from October 1st I'll be joining you at Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman as a probationer minister under Jenny's supervision. I am delighted to write this short introduction to myself for your magazine. I live in Keith and I'm a member at Keith North, Newmill, Boharm and Rothiemay, where I serve in various roles including as a presbytery elder and Christian Aid co-ordinator. I regularly lead worship within the community, which I thoroughly enjoy. I first began to discern that God was calling me to ministry more than fifteen years ago, but I ignored him for a long time. Finally, I ran out of excuses, and He told me to just get on with it, so here I am.



I retired from work a few years ago and spend much of my time with my children and grandchildren, which keeps me busy. My hobbies include all types of embroidery, knitting and crochet, making jewellery and other creative pastimes. I read widely and love a word puzzle or sudoku. I'm a keen walker and enjoy taking bus journeys around the North East. At the moment I'm learning to drive to help with my future ministry.

My real passion is my garden which I've transformed from a barren wilderness into a haven for insects and small birds over nearly 25 years. I grow a range of perennial flowers, particularly iris and clematis, and some vegetables and fruit too, and making compost is paramount for my success. I dream of building a greenhouse as I grow most of my plants from seed and my windowsills groan under the strain every spring. I very much look forward to meeting with you all soon and joining in with various church activities, such as Forest Church. Please stop me to introduce yourselves when you see me – I'm always ready to chat.

Every blessing,  
Anne-Marie

## THInC

Do you need advice about travelling to and from your medical appointment?

The Transport to Healthcare Information Centre (THInC) can help. They provide practical transport advice for people who have difficulty getting to and from medical appointments in Grampian.

The service provides a dedicated telephone service offering guidance on accessing suitable transport options to get to and from appointments when they have no means of personal transport. The centre can provide details of suitable bus or train times, contact telephone numbers and other services such as local dial-a-bus or voluntary car schemes.

Please note that THInC does not book transport but can assist with travel advice.

The centre is the first of its kind in the UK and is a joint initiative between Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, The Scottish Ambulance Service and Nestrans. THInC is one of the projects taken forward as part of the Health and Transport Action Plan.

Please call THInC on 01467 536111 between 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday or email [travel@thinc-hub.org](mailto:travel@thinc-hub.org). Calls are charged at local rate.

Further information on the Health and Transport Action Plan can be found on the Nestrans website.



## **You are invited to Communion**

We are continuing to celebrate communion every four weeks. We are doing what we can to make it safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone, within public health guidelines. To include everybody, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free bread.

Whenever, wherever and however we gather for communion 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 or contact me about home communion.

## **Thank You**

Many thanks are due to Shona and Michael Rowand for their time as Session Clerks. They have undertaken the role with passion, commitment and great care for the elders and the whole congregation - Shona for many years, Michael officially sharing the role latterly. On behalf of the Session, the congregation and myself, thank you both for all you did, through many ups and downs in life.

A huge thank you to Linda Paiton for her service as Clerk to the Congregational Board and Data Protection Officer for many years. Linda was diligent and patient, doing everything with care. During COVID Linda adapted to minuting combined Board and Session meetings held over Zoom, and she continued to support Board and Session in recent months through the difficult discussions around the Presbytery Mission Plan. On behalf of the Board, Session, congregation and myself, thank you Linda.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Congregational Board and Kirk Session for their commitment and service, particularly through the challenges of COVID and the discussions about the future shape of church life. The responsibilities are not always easy to bear, and it helps to share them with others. Thank you all.

Rev Jenny

## **From the Assistant Minister**

Dear friends,

This is a sad time for our country as we mourn our loss in the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

It is an opportunity for us all to recognise Her Majesty's long life and dedication to duty. Many of us will have fond memories of the Queen and of many of the celebratory events during her lifetime and reign. The country is now going through a transition from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II to King Charles III.



Locally, Moray Presbytery, as with the other presbyteries in Scotland, continue to progress through the presbytery planning process. This process brings hope for new opportunities, but also sadness as some Kirk buildings face significant change and even closure. I continue to pray that all in the communities extend love, grace, and patience to each other during the presbytery planning process. As the country and local communities experience these transitions, I also am experiencing a transition in my ministry as I completed my probationary period with Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman parish at the end of August, and moved into a temporary Assistant Minister role at the beginning of September.

The temporary Assistant Minister post is a role that has been created for me by the Moray Presbytery, and is currently expected to last up to 18 months while the Church of Scotland goes through its restructure and presbytery planning processes. The role is being shared between Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman Parish and the Lossiemouth Parish.

I will also be doing some work within the presbytery and some pulpit supply. On my last Sunday as a probationer, I was very humbled with the gifts I received from the parish to mark the completion of my probationary period.



I was kindly presented with a 'Spirit of Creation' portable Communion set and fair-trade colourful preaching stole, both pictured below.



I am very grateful for not only these gifts, but also for all the words of encouragement and positive and constructive feedback I received during my probationary period and continue to receive.

I am looking forward to working as part of the team ministry between Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman, and Lossiemouth, whilst also exploring and discerning where God is calling

me to as the planning process progresses, and various parishes are given permission to call a minister.

I am delighted to be meantime remaining part of the Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman parish and wider communities, as well as expanding my ministry with the Lossiemouth parish and community.

From Psalm 31:24 - Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

With blessings, love, peace, and prayers,

**Christine**

### **Bible study group For Duffus Spynie and Hopeman**

We are a wee group that meet weekly for prayer, fellowship and to read what God has to say to us. We are currently going to read and discuss the book *Sleeping Giant* by Tommy MacNeil. He is a Church of Scotland Minister in Stornaway and has written this book to encourage us as the Church to Awake and Arise. My guess is that it will take us up to early December to work our way through it.

We would love to hear from any in the congregation of anything that would like to be discussed and prayed about in the New Year, and for folk to join us now that COVID restrictions have eased and we can meet together again.

Please feel free to ask me or David about the group.

**Pat & David MacKay**



### **The Spynie Kirk Mouse**

Once upon a time, there was a "Wee wifie that played the organ" (her own words) Sybill Merillees, at Spynie Kirk, she would never say that she was the organist. One Sunday, she spotted a mouse disappearing into the organ. When it was time for the first hymn, she could not get even a squeak out of the organ. It was discovered later that the mouse had caused so much damage to the organ by nibbling at all the resistors, capacitors and insulation, (perhaps it thought that they were liquice allsorts or dolly mixtures), that the organ was beyond repair. Shortly afterwards, a poem appeared, I can't remember if it was Sybill, or another Spynie stalwart, Flora Christie, who entertained us so often with her stories and poems, that was responsible for it, but I think you might enjoy it!

**As remembered by Sam Simpson**

## The Wee Kirk Moose

A puir wee Kirk moose aw forlorn  
Its furry coat fair sairly worn  
Sank doon upon its bony knees  
An prayed – for jist a wee bit cheese

The tears ran doon its wee thin cheeks  
But nane could hear its saddest squeaks  
That drifted on the cauld nicht air  
Till whiles it couldna pray nae mair

Syne daylight came. The Kirk bells rang  
The doors swung open wi' a bang  
Communion day had come oan by  
Wi' wine an' plates o' breid piled high

The wee moosie lay still as daith  
An' watched it aw wi' baited breath  
Then thocht, "If I keep sae awfa quate  
A bit micht jist fa' aff the plate"

And so it gazed as roon they went  
Then jist as tho' twas heaven sent  
Whit landed richt apon it's heid  
But twa lumps o' communion breid

The staff o' life lay on the flair  
Then, bounteous answer to his prayer  
Jist as he thocht "It looks fell dry"  
Ae body couped some wine forebye

Wee moosie stoated up the aisle  
Wearin' sic a boozy smile  
The fowk stopped singin' fair aghast  
Tae see a moosie stagger past

The organist fell aff her chair  
The meenister could only stare  
Tae see a drunken sinfa' moose  
Cavortin' in his sacred hoose

At last it staggered up the nave  
Then turned, an' gie'd a happy wave  
"Ah ken noo when it's time tae pray  
I'll dae it on communion day"



Irene Walker      Birnie Place, Elgin – funeral 25th March 2022

Jean Royan      Pluscarden – 21st April 2022

Karen Dunbar      Forsyth St, Hopeman – 3rd May 2022

Rosella Woodvine      Forsyth St, Hopeman – 19th May 2022

Madge Mackenzie      Meadow View, Hopeman – 8th August 2022

*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.*

*The Lord bless you and watch over you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon  
you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord look kindly upon you,  
and give you peace.*



## Hopes for the future of Spynie Kirk

"This a very sad & difficult time for our congregation. As things become a little clearer again, with the Presbytery decision to accept the amendment to retain Duffus Kirk building & to dispose of both Hopeman & Spynie buildings we felt it was important to let you know that a small group from Spynie are exploring the possibility of being able to lease or perhaps purchase the Kirk with the hope of continuing to worship there.



Obviously we would have wanted to remain part of the Church of Scotland. Unfortunately this won't be possible but it would be our hope that we could work along side Duffus & Hopeman doing Gods work. We can continue to be a loving, caring & friendly place to worship. Spynie has always been a very community based Kirk & hopefully this can continue. Nothing much needs to change apart from the name."

**Shona Rowand**

## Warm Sharing Comfortable Spaces

With energy prices continuing to rise & people needing company more than ever we want to offer warm spaces for people to gather, if they wish.

**Spynie Kirk will be open every Thursday from the 6th October, from 10am-4pm.** It will be a cosy space for anyone to meet. There will be tea, coffee & biscuits, company & things to do if you wish. You are welcome to come & go as you please. You can stay for 1/2 an hour or for the whole day. It's up to you. Some Spynie members have offered transport to anyone who doesn't have a lift. Please call Shona on 01343 850693 or 07908 583320 & she will organise that for you.

**Hopeman Kirk Hall will be open every Monday afternoon from 24<sup>th</sup> October**— details to be confirmed.

Rev Jenny will also be contacting community organisations in the hope that we might work together to help anyone struggling through this winter. Plans may therefore develop and change, and we'll get the word out across our communities with updates and details.

## Forest Church

In May, and then again in September, Forest Church has gone to the seaside. In May we thought about the amazing diversity of God's creatures in seas and oceans - then we created some of them in the sand. There was sand art with seaweed and sticks, digging and drawing, lots of building and quite a lot of water too. We had great fun, and the song "Wide, wide as the ocean" has become a firm favourite for some of our children. In September we will be thinking about the story from Matthew 7:24-27 about the wise and foolish folk who built on sand and rock - so hopefully lots more digging and water.

June's Forest Church saw us back at Earthtime's space by Duffus House. We paid attention to small things, and with the help of wooden frames created pictures on the ground - seeing what was already there or adding objects we could find.



July brought a wee walk into the woods from Spynie Kirk car park and the first sharing of prayers through bubbles. The bubble machines, which send these fragile and beautiful hopes into the air, came back out in August at Earthtime as trees took centre stage in the story of Zaccheus.

We'll continue to explore creation with Forest Church on the second Sunday of each month, at various locations across the parish - see the calendar for details.

We share a blessing from Guatemala:

The peace of the earth be with you,  
the peace of the heavens too;  
the peace of the rivers be with you,  
the peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace falling over you;  
God's peace growing in you.







**Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman Church Calendar**  
**October-December 2022**

We know that attending Sunday morning worship is not possible for everyone. We hope you continue to find ways to encounter God and to share in reflection and prayer. Here are some options:

**Phone (01309) 484774**, for “Call to Worship”, a 10-minute recorded reflection.

**Search YouTube for “DSH YouTube Channel”** to find a video reflection for each Sunday, including livestreams & videos of-services in Duffus Kirk.

**Find Duffus Spynie & Hopeman (or Jenny Adams) on Facebook**, for the YouTube videos and livestreams, and other posts.

**BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Scotland TV, BBC One TV** on Sundays.

**September 2022**

**Sun 25 Sep** All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am

**October 2022**

**Sun 2 Oct** All-age Harvest worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am – Communion plus Moray Food Plus collection

**Mon 3 Oct** Congregational Board meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm

**Sun 9 Oct** All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am  
Forest Church,  
meeting at Earthtime by Duffus House, 4-4.40pm

**Sun 16 Oct** All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am

**Sun 23 Oct** All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am

**Sun 30 Oct** All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am – Communion



**November 2022**

**Sun 6 Nov** All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am  
plus Moray Food Plus collection

**Mon 7 Nov** Kirk Session meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm

**Fri 11 Nov** Act of remembrance, Spynie Hall 10.45am

**Sun 13 Nov**  
**Remembrance service, Hopeman Memorial Hall 10am**  
**Act of Remembrance, Duffus War Memorial 10.45am**

**Remembrance service, Duffus Kirk 11.30am**  
**Forest Church, meeting at Spynie Kirk car park, 4-4.40pm**

**Sun 20 Nov** All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am

**Sun 27 Nov** All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am - Communion

**Mon 28 Nov** Congregational Board meeting,  
Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm

**December 2022**

***Christmas service details to be confirmed***

**Sun 4 Dec** All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am  
plus Moray Food collection

**Sun 11 Dec** All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am  
Forest Church,  
meeting at Earthtime by Duffus House, 2-2.40pm

**Sun 18 Dec** All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am

**Sun 25 Dec** All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am - Communion