

NEWS FLASH!

Parent Toddler coffee morning

on Saturday, March 12, 10am to 11.30am

Various stalls and face painting for all who are children at heart. Tickets for sale in the church or at the door on the day. Come and join us.

Silent Auction

on Saturday, April 2, 1pm to 4pm

organised by the social committee

Bids will close at 3pm Admission £2.

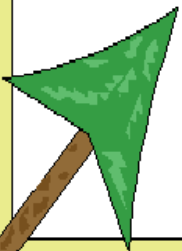
Light refreshments will be served.

We are looking for quality goods so it is time to spring clean that loft and garage and get into the auctioneering mood. Arrangements will be in place for goods to be delivered to the church on Friday,

April 1 between 10am and 4pm.

If these times are not suitable for you, the committee can and will make other arrangements.

Contact Pat Moir on 319217



Parish Press

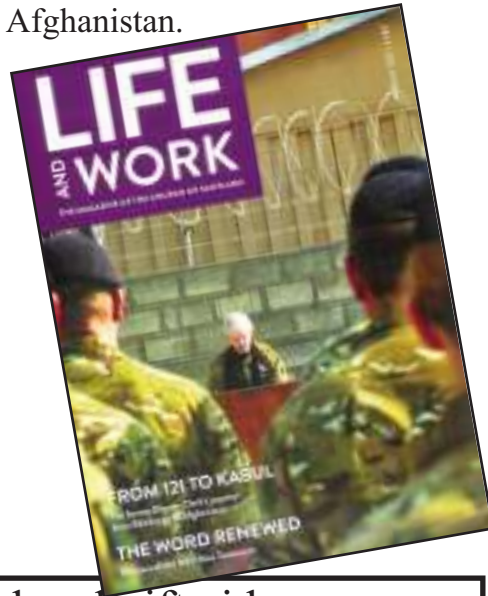
Monthly magazine of South Holburn Church, March 2011



Work has started on our long-awaited development at South Holburn and an explanation of the project is on display in the church for those wanting to know more.



This month's edition of the Church of Scotland magazine **Life and Work** includes a feature entitled From 121 to Kabul, about the Rev Dr Marjory Maclean who was the first Reservist Naval chaplain to be formally mobilised when she was sent first to a NATO anti-piracy task force in the Gulf of Aden and then to Afghanistan.



It's not often we have a grown-up baptism at South Holburn Church, so on Sunday, February 20, it was both a joy and a privilege to be part of Alex Dee Bright's baptism during morning worship.

Flower fund and gift aid

Donations can be made to South Holburn's Flower Fund by putting money in an envelope marked Flower Fund and adding it to the offering on any Sunday.

If you are a taxpayer, the church can reclaim the tax (28p in every £1) on any offerings you give if you sign a gift aid form. You do not have to commit yourself to giving a set amount or for any length of time. See Shelagh Johnstone for details.



Meet the ladies of Gairn Court

From Session Clerk Alan Johnston

You may recall that we highlighted the ladies of Balmoral Court last year.

This time its the turn of the ladies of Gairn Court to come under the spotlight.

Here they are with the youngest member of our Court/Nursing Home worship team, Eleanor Johnston.

A monthly service is held in

turn at Bridge of Dee, Gairn and Balmoral Courts and Riverside Nursing Home from September through to June, led by a worship team from South Holburn.

The service is open to all residents and ensures that South Holburn can extend its mission into the parish.

From the manse

For the past three years our Congregational Board has been planning some improvements to our church halls, to bring our facilities up to date.

We have been able to do so as a consequence of the union, which happened almost five years ago.

The project will be funded by the Church of Scotland, from the proceeds that were raised through selling the former Holburn Central Church.

This development will ensure that our church at South Holburn remains a welcoming and accessible place.

It will enable us to keep meeting for worship, service and fellowship and to do so in safety and comfort.

As well as helping us to continue our present work, the improvements will give us what we need to undertake new work in the future.

Our architect Raymond Simpson has prepared the plans for our development and the

firm of Anderson Construction will undertake the work. As promised, the builders have now arrived and the work will be happening over the next few months.

Throughout this time, the safety of those who are using our premises will be of paramount importance.

The builders will be taking appropriate precautions, but we also ask all members of our church family to take care when using the premises.

A small display has now been set up at the back of the church, providing an explanation of the project.

The development will provide us with improved space for meetings, as well as modernising our kitchen and toilet facilities.

The work will be undertaken in two separate phases to minimise any disruption to those using our halls.

Nevertheless, we are bound to experience some occasional inconvenience. ⇨

⇨ I hope that we can all remain patient and do our best to work together throughout this time. In many ways, the development project is the final stage of our 'union' process. During the first five years at South Holburn, we have trying to lay foundations for the

future. Our church buildings are an important tool, which help us to carry out our congregation's work. From here we can go forward with imagination and faith, building on these foundations in Jesus' name.

George S. Cowie

Congratulations to our BBs

Congratulations to our Boys' Brigade who brought home not one but two trophies from a recent Boys' Brigade event at the Bridge of Don - their first competition.

They were outstanding in the high jump event - something they are all keen on - and Michael Holland won the company section and Joe and William were joint winners for the seniors.

Malawi coffee morning success

A very successful Malawi Coffee Morning raised £537, our thanks to all who attended and donated in time, effort and money to this great total.

World Wide Church Committee and Social Committee helpers

Brian Smith

painter and decorator

interior and exterior

31 Abergeldie Terrace,
Aberdeen AB10 6EE

Tel: 01224 575127

Mobile: 07745 107426

A tribute to George Geddes

From the Rev George Cowie

The son of a baker, George Geddes was born in Aberdeen and his first home was at number 69 Holburn Street.

He was baptised at the West Church of St Nicholas, but his family moved to Holburn Central Church after they set up home in Union Grove. George was the eldest of three children, having two sisters Dorothy and Margaret.

As a boy he began his education at Holburn Street Primary School and subsequently became a pupil at Robert Gordon's College. Before leaving Robert Gordon's George received a certificate for six years perfect attendance

He went on to study at Aberdeen University, where he read French and German. He then spent four years serving with the Royal Air Force and this took him away from his hometown and

family. George's sister Dorothy recalls that he wrote to her every week throughout this time. He was eventually demobbed from the Royal Air Force just in time for Dorothy's wedding.

George then embarked on his long-term career, teaching modern languages.

Although his degree had been in French and German, he later also qualified to teach Russian. In his early years George spent some time teaching in France.

He subsequently taught at ⇨

⇨Hilton and at Inverurie, before becoming the Principal Teacher of modern languages at Bankhead Academy.

George spent many happy holidays on the continent and had a continuing love for France.

Over the years, he remained close to his two sisters and he spent many Christmas and New Year times with Dorothy in St Andrew's. He was uncle to Dorothy's children David and Susan and to Margaret's children Elaine and Peter.

Latterly George was also a Great-Uncle to Amanda and to Sarah. George was an active member of the church and he was ordained as an elder at Holburn Central Church 50 years ago. He served as Clerk to the Congregational Board and then as Session Clerk – an office which he held for five years. George was greatly respected within the congregation and one of his successors described him as something of a 'father figure'. He wasn't the kind of man to

intervene, but if his opinion was sought he was ready and willing to give kindly advice and help. George was always appreciative of Sunday sermons and often made incisive observations. On one occasion I commented to him that I had accidentally split an infinitive in the course of a sermon. He replied in the most grave tone: 'Yes, I noticed!' George had a great love of classical music. For many years he sang in the church⇨



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⇒choir – and in fact when the new hymnary was introduced at Holburn Central, he gifted it to the congregation. At home he had a substantial collection of music CDs. His interests ranged from Bach and Elgar to the music of the Russian Orthodox Church. George was accustomed to being independent and for most of his life he enjoyed very good health. Indeed, a few years ago when George was unwell, it was discovered that he was no longer registered with a GP, because it had been so long since he had made an appointment. He had a certain ‘routine’ to his life – and he would sometimes let folk know that he valued good time-keeping. It would be fair to say that George was quite a private man. People will remember that he often stood at the edge of our church hall, rather than being in the thick of things. Nevertheless, he was always keen to hear people’s news, not

least of how young folk were getting on at school or at university. At the age of 90, George had an excellent memory and he still spoke in depth about consequential things. He was a man of wisdom and knowledge – very much a senior statesman of our church. After his recent admission to hospital, George received much kindness and support, not least from his good neighbour Joy Mitchell. Although George’s stamina varied from one day to the next, he still had good conversations with people who visited. While the suddenness of his passing surprised all who knew him, perhaps we can be thankful today, knowing that George is now at peace. In giving thanks for his life, we might remember the words of commendation that Jesus used in a parable. When telling of those who had served their master well, he declared: ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’

Sunday worship is at 10.30am. Sunday School meets in the hall prior to service and the crèche in room 1. Parent and Toddlers Group meets Thursdays from 9.15am/11.15am. Bowling Club meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am/12pm at Pitstruan.



Sunday, March 6: 3pm service in Riverside Nursing Home.
Monday, March 7: 2pm Guild meets, speaker the Rev Ewen Gilchrist on A Place of Hope.
Wednesday, March 9: 7.30pm meeting of board and session. 7.30pm. Guild Spring Rally in Bucksburn Stoneywood Church.
Saturday, March 12: 10am, Parent and Toddler Coffee Morning.
Sunday, March 13: 3pm service in Bridge of Dee Court.
Monday, March 14: 7.30pm Guild meets, speakers Mike Gibb and Michelle Bruce on the play Clarinda.
Wednesday, March 16: 1pm Lunch Club.
Sunday, March 20: 11.30am Church Stated Annual Meeting. 3pm service in Gairn Court. 7pm to 8.30pm Youth Group.
Monday, March 21: 2pm Guild meets, speaker Alan Ramsay on British Heart Foundation.
Wednesday, March 23: 7.30pm Gairn Guild meets, Easter Time.
Friday, March 25: 12pm to 1.30pm Christian Aid Lunch.
Saturday, March 26: 10am Boys Brigade Coffee Morning.
Sunday, March 27: 3pm service at Balmoral Court.
Monday, March 28: 7pm Guild AGM followed by Guild DVD.
Donations for Instant Neighbour, the charity caring for the needy in our city, can be placed in the boxes at the back of the church any Sunday - non-perishable food items only.

As the Parish Press editor recently passed a milestone birthday, the following seemed appropriate:

When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less,
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.
But now that I am older,
I've set my body free;
There's comfort of elastic
Where once my waist would be.
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven;
I have to wear a nine now,
But used to wear a seven.

And how about those blasted tights -
They're sized by weight, you see,
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?
I need to wear these glasses
As the print's been getting smaller;
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.
Though my hair has turned to grey
and my skin no longer fits,
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
just the outside's changed a bit.

Oh To Be 12 Again...

A man was sitting on the edge of the bed, observing his wife, looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off he asked what she'd like to have as a gift. 'I'd like to be ⇨

⇨12 again', she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her birthday, he rose early, made her a nice big bowl of Coco Pops, and then took her to Alton Towers theme park.

What a day!

He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Corkscrew, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Monster Roller Coaster, everything there was. Five hours later, they staggered out of the theme park.

Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down.

He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra

But, on a positive note...

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

fries and a chocolate shake.

Then it was off to the cinema with popcorn, a huge Cola, and her favourite sweets.....M&Ms. **What a fabulous adventure!**

Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted.

He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well dear, what was it like being 12 again?"

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed.

"I meant my dress size, you idiot!"

The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, chances are he'll get it wrong.

Late elders honoured at session

From Session Clerk Alan Johnston

At their February meeting, the Kirk Session paid moving tributes to elders Betty Jamieson and George Geddes, who had both passed away in the early part of the year.

The session heard that the contractors for the development were due to be onsite from Monday, February 28, and letters had gone out to church organisations advising them of the building work and possible disruption.

New elders

The Rev George Cowie said he had made contact with prospective elders and would report back after further discussion. In order to publicise the work and role of being an elder, a service focussing on eldership was to be held and an item was to be written for Parish Press.

20/20 Vision consultation

On behalf of John Gillies, Session Clerk Alan Johnston reported on the 20/20 Vision

conference held last November, which focussed on four main areas; priority area action plan, training review, a place for hope and sustainable ministries.

Youth group

Reporting on the progress of the youth group, George said there were six young adults along at the last meeting and everyone had enjoyed it. Future events were being planned as well as a name for the group.

Copyright rules

Alan reported on Church of Scotland's law department's advice on musical copyright issues.

Souper Sunday

Those involved in leading the Souper Sunday service and preparing the lunch afterwards were thanked and the session heard that £316 had been raised for the Church of Scotland's HIV project.

Correspondence

The session received letters from Christian Aid thanking⇒

⇒ us for the donation of £300 and from Instant Neighbour thanking us for the generous donation made from the Christmas Services collection. Alan advised of a forthcoming SafeGuarding training session to be held on March 13 and added that anyone interested in attending should liaise with Pat Moir.

There was a lengthy letter from Aberdeen Presbytery regarding Presbytery Planning, which had been circulated to elders prior to the meeting, and after discussion, it was decided to look for four or five volunteers for two presbytery conferences to be held on March 26 and March 28. Anyone interested should speak to Alan to find out more.

There was also an email from Aberdeen Presbytery regarding changes to the default retirement age and a letter regarding a Data Protection Information evening to be held on March 22 at Queen's Cross Church.

Edinburgh trip

George reported on a Roll

Away The Stone event taking place in Edinburgh, on Sunday, May 22, and it was hoped that congregation members would be able to attend.

Roll figures

South Holburn's roll was attested for 2010 as: Opening 708, Closing 685.

Easter services

The services for Holy Week and Easter were agreed as follows:

Maundy Thursday (April 21) an evening reflective service at 7.30pm.

Good Friday (April 22) an area service at South Holburn at 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday (April 24) worship in the church garden at 8.45am, followed by a Communion morning service.

New members

George reported that he would be running a class for new communicants later in the year.

Weekly offerings

Alan advised that some church members had indicated feeling uncomfortable while the offering bag was passed ⇒

⇒ along during morning service as their offering was not made on a weekly basis. The session agreed that a suitably worded offering envelope will be made available.

SafeGuarding

Pat Moir gave an updated report on SafeGuarding clearance and reported on new procedures to be implemented, when the system would be streamlined to make the process easier to administer. She stressed that new volunteers could not begin working until SafeGuarding clearance has been obtained.

Church online

George reported that the church website is up and running and is being regularly updated.

Committee Reports

For the pastoral care and outreach committee, Lorraine Johnston reported that welcome packs and invitations were being developed and transport arrangements were also being looked into. A special afternoon service for those unable to come along to church regu-

larly might be arranged.

The committee proposed specific leaflet drops, with Easter being the first of these. For the worldwide church committee, Fred Gibb reported that the recent coffee morning had raised £537, covering the cost of the lap-top bought for Kachere church, with the balance donated to Aberdeen Presbytery's Malawi fund. Hastings Phale was no longer Session Clerk at Kachere as he had not been re-elected to the post. Fred added that presbytery was reviewing the structure for future Malawi visits and an event was being held at Queen's Cross Church on March 13 in aid of the Malawi appeal.

Visitors' reports

Anne Stott reported on a visit to the Lunch Club made at Christmas, when there were approximately 80 at the meal, a very good turnout considering the weather and bad roads. The meal was excellent and entertainment was provided by the Beacon Choir from⇒

⇒ Bucksburn. The afternoon ended with tea and shortbread. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the committee and helpers were congratulated for their commitment and dedication. Gladys Yule reported on a visit to the Parent and Toddler group made by her at their Christmas party, when there were about 30 children and about 24 adults. Party games were played and it was a noisy and happy occasion. Gladys reported that the group was very well run and organised.

Dorothy Smith reported on a visit made by her to the Boys' Brigade. There were 18 boys, three officers, one helper and one bugle tutor. A full range of activities took place and some of the boys were away competing in a high jump competition which they won. Dorothy advised that the Boys' Brigade was in a healthy state.

Presbytery elder

George reported that John Gillies was to be retiring from his role as Presbytery Elder at the end of this session. In

John's absence, Dorothy Smith reported on the February meeting. The Rev Martin Grashoff had been appointed as chaplain to the UK Oil & Gas Industry. Arrangements were being made to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and various property matters were discussed.

The presbytery's parish development committee were holding an introduction to the Mission Shaped Ministry Course on March 19 and church and society committee convener Hugh Wallace spoke of the work being carried out in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council to help vulnerable people.

Christian Aid

Alison Dale advised that there will be a Christian Aid lunch on March 25 following the success of last year's event.

Future meetings

The session next meets, jointly with the board, on Wednesday, March 9 and thereafter on Wednesday, April 27 (changed from April 21).

Letter to the congregation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering.

It is important that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation's Ministries and Missions Contribution – the money your congregational treasurer sends to the Church offices in Edinburgh.

How does it enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how your congregation's contribution is used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal and general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly.

Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he/she is paid. This cost is the total for the stipend and employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with 10 years; service.

Congregation	Contribution
Aberdeen: South Holburn.....	£71,607
Parish Ministries (86%).....	£61,582

The cost of ministry in your parish is £39,600. Your contribution to the cost of ministries in other parishes and training for ministries £21,982

Mission and Renewal (6%).....	£4296
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This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world and in providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.

Support for Councils and Congregations (8%).....	£5729
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This provides financial, legal, safeguarding and other ⇨

⇨services and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.

Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed on the previous page.

A fuller picture is given in the leaflet **2011 Ministries and Mission** which is available free to all congregations.

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the Gospel through the money your congregation sends through the Church offices to all parts of Scotland's and beyond.

Yours sincerely,
Gordon D Jamieson,
Head of Stewardship



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Desiderata

Inscribed on a gravestone in Old Saint Paul's church, Baltimore 1692 and contributed to Parish Press by Christine Laennec February 2011 - and still as relevant more than 300 years on.

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. You have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful.

Strive to be happy.

Did you correctly unravel the anagrams in last month's Parish Press? If not, here are the answers:
I Owe Core Egg - George Cowie; Yum, A Rarer Menu - Maureen Murray; Slant on Jonah - Alan Johnston; A whine of a dodo - Fiona Woodhead; Joe Shilling - John Gillies; It's Elect Joy - Joyce Lettis; Dry Smooth Hit - Dorothy Smith; Key Manly Lord - Raymond Kelly; Ran Black Mill - Bill Manclark; Jonah Towns - John Watson; Eye A Darling - Adeline Gray; Acclaim Tall Chorus - Alastair McCulloch; He Hates Longjohns - Shelagh Johnstone and Map Riot - Pat Moir

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