

Cushnie & Tough Church *The News*



Autumn 2014

Number 51

“We aim to be a strong Christian witness to all in this community as a worshipping, caring, welcoming and united church in the strength of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

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From the Manse



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

How would you describe the smell of fresh air? Is it like the grass on a dewy autumn morning or the beach and the sea? What about clothes just off the line or freshly dug earth? Maybe barley ripening? Or is it just a little bit of each?

Our atmosphere is filled with aromas and all of these contribute to the smell of fresh air. Some are more pungent than others of course. The yeasty smell of a bakery in the morning, the spicy smell from an Indian restaurant in the evening, the unmistakable smell of a distillery, even the various after shaves and perfumes as you walk down the street may all contribute to your daily experience of fresh air.

I don't know if air really has a smell by itself but it certainly carries all those other aromas around and distributes them everywhere the wind blows.

In 2 Corinthians 2: 14 – 16 we're told that all of us can be like a pleasant aroma spreading God's love as we go about our daily lives. In order to be able to do this we need to have the Spirit of Christ living within us, his power working through us. We're just like the air picking up his love and distributing it all around. Following Christ's example by caring for others, showing compassion, being generous, showing kindness and patience, is how we can spread the aroma of Christ to those around us. And just like the lingering smell of fresh air on the washing as it dries on the airing rack our love will linger long after we pass by, blessing more people than we could ever have imagined.

So next time you go out and take a deep breath of lovely fresh air remember that wherever you go and whatever you do, you will have opportunities to spread the love of God and be the aroma of Christ to other people each day.

Wishing you every blessing

Rosemary Legge

STUDY LEAVE REPORT 2014

In March I went to a conference at Scargill House in Yorkshire. The title was “Famous Last Words” and it was led by Bishop Cyril Ashton. We studied the last words of Jesus from the cross in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Each morning started with worship, then Bible study, followed by personal time for reflection on what we had been studying, then coming together for discussion. I found the studies very helpful and enlightening.

In the afternoons there were workshops when we joined with people on another course for church leaders. Here we discussed various subjects relating to ministry. It was interesting to hear about others experiences and reflect on how they compared with my own.

In the evenings there was time for personal prayer and journaling as well as fellowship and worship together.

I found the conference very interesting. It was good to share with people from different church backgrounds to my own. I came home with renewed goals for my life and ministry.

In May I attended a course in Perth run by Bridge Builders. The subject was “Transforming Church Conflict”. It was specifically for church leaders and there were people from Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal, Church of England, Baptist and URC.

It was a very intensive course with a lot of useful information packed in. We learnt in various ways – through teaching, discussion and practical exercises. Subjects covered included conflict in the Bible, understanding ourselves, communication and listening skills, working in teams, decision making, mediation and chairing meetings.

I came home with a lot of information which I need to go over again so I can think about how I might apply it in my situation.

Rosemary Legge

AUTUMN

It's harvest time in the country,
Time to leave the town,
Time to tread the woodland paths
As leaves come fluttering down,
Time to watch the combines
Cut the grain with ease,
To enjoy the real taste of fruit
Directly from the trees,
Partake of wholesome country food
Every day at noon,
Linger with a glass of wine,
Beneath the harvest moon,
Off to church on Sunday,
Join new friends to share
Praise and prayer to a gracious God
For all his love and care.

Bid farewell to your new found friends
They'll be pleased to hear,
You've made your reservation
To come again next year.

Don Patience

PRAYER

The Lord our God
Be Thou my Guide
Lest from Thy Path
My feet shall slide.

Betty Riach

From The Editor

I don't know about you, but I have a bit of a passion for reading. I have quite a diverse range of likes – from fast-paced thrillers to light-hearted “easy reads” to autobiographies. I like to read long novels and equally, short stories or passages whether in magazines, books or online.

It was online that I came across the following passage which I would like to share with you:

‘While praying one day a woman asked

“Who are you, God?”

“I am.” He answered.

“But, who is, I am?” she asked.

He replied, “I am Love. I am Peace. I am Grace. I am Joy. I am Strength. I am Safety. I am Power. I am The Creator. I am The Comforter. I am The Beginning and The End. I am The Way, The Truth and The Light.”

With tears in her eyes she looked towards Heaven and said, “Now I understand. But, who am I?”

God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered,

“You are Mine.”

I think this is a beautiful passage. In all its simplicity it gives the wonderful message of God's love. How wonderful those three little words are! Despite all our failings and faults, for all our sins and shortcomings, we are all infinitely precious to Him. Now, doesn't that make you smile!

Kind Regards

Julie Diab

DUNN FAMILY VISIT

On 24 August 2014, Cushnie Church welcomed the Dunn family from far and near for a celebration of their links to the Cushnie area. The following articles are shared from the special service held on that day for those who were unable to attend.



GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE

A presentation at Lochel Cushnie, Scotland,
August 24, 2014, by Zander Dunn

GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE

All of us can look back and see God at work through our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, our friends, even our enemies.

Today several members of the Dunn clan are here to celebrate the ways in which God has worked through our extended family. We've come to honour The Dunn family and to thank God for our Scottish roots. The Dunn family was part of this community, was active in this church, and went, from here, to Canada and the U.S. Deirdre Dunn Strachan, an expert in genealogy, has traced our roots back to 1718 to a John Dunn.

GOD AND THE DUNNS

Growing up I heard these four things about the Dunns:

First, in every generation there's been a Dunn in the Presbyterian ministry, right back to John Knox (surely an exaggeration).

Second, at one time there were seven Dunn men in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

Third, my great uncle, Rev. Alexander Dunn, was one of four prospective Presbyterian ministers who arrived in British Columbia in 1875. He was the first man ordained by the new Presbytery of British Columbia, formed in that same year. He'd come to British Columbia either through the isthmus of

Panama or around Tierra del Fuego because there were no roads or railways across Canada. Alexander Dunn urged his brothers and sisters to move from Scotland to live in Canada. They didn't get out to B.C. in the West but settled in Arthur, Ontario, Upper Canada .

Fourth, one son of his brother - my grandfather, also Rev. Alexander Dunn, won the silver medal for academic excellence at the University of Manitoba in 1896. He married Jessie Evans and went to teach in India. Later he preached in various churches across Canada.

His son, Rev. James Dunn, my father, was born in India, grew up in Canada, and took his wife, Frances Robinson, to British Guiana, South America, in 1935 where my sister and I were born.

I, as the first-born son, was named Charles Alexander, after my two grandfathers, a Scottish tradition. My mother, not liking either name or their short forms, called me Zander which is short for Alexander. People thought I was Dutch or German - Zander of the Zuider Zee or Hans Zander. I had to explain my name so often I complained to my mother that she should have called me Sam. That would have been appropriate because one of our early ancestors was Samuel Dunn.

A Canadian historian noted in one of his books that at the beginning of Canada the Scots were into everything in ways disproportionate to their numbers. The Scots were the engineers, the financiers, the politicians, the business men, the authors, the religious leaders, the doctors, the lawyers, the explorers ... and the criminals.

GOD WORKED THROUGH ALEXANDER DUNN

My great uncle, Rev. Alexander Dunn, showed how God works through people. Most of the Scots who came to British Columbia had no idea of what they were getting in for. They couldn't imagine the vast distances they would have to travel. They couldn't believe the mosquitoes and black flies which bit them incessantly. They couldn't conceive of the cold of the winters or the heat of the summers.

As a result many of those pioneer Scots became deeply depressed. They were thousands of miles away from home. Their postal service was slow and irregular. They had none of the comforts we enjoy today - radio and television, movies, electricity, indoor plumbing, air conditioning, central heating. Life was rough for the early settlers in Canada. Everything had to

be made from scratch. The pioneers felled the trees, cut the planks for their houses, and nailed every piece by hammer. They had to clear the land of scrub and grasses. They had to till the land by horse-drawn ploughs. They had to plant their seeds by hand. There wasn't much time for fun or for church. There were, in fact, no churches - no buildings.

When Alexander Dunn arrived he was judged by the old timers as too soft to last. "That one will never make it," they said. But, of the four men who came to work in British Columbia, Alexander Dunn was the only one who didn't give up and return to Scotland. The only time he left B.C. was in 1882 when he went to Eastern Canada to a church conference and married Catherine, his wife for 43 years. Together they ministered to the people of Langley which was a big, sparsely settled area.

HOW GOD WORKED THROUGH THE DUNNS

Alexander Dunn travelled by foot, by horseback and by canoe to reach the people and to lead worship. Many times he got lost in the dense bush. There were no roads in those days and often he missed the signs blazed on the trees. He fell off his horse several times.

One time he was crossing a river on his horse and was told to put his feet up on the saddle, but he feared that would unbalance him & he'd fall off. So he kept his feet down and then had to wring out the water from his clothes and boots. He tipped his canoe in many streams and rivers. In one case his canoe got stuck in the mud. His travelling companion tried to carry him piggy-back to the shore but they both fell into the mud, to the laughter of their friends. They slipped and slithered through the muck until they gained the shore where they changed their clothes supplied by those same friends.

Rev. Dunn would leave on Saturday to travel 33 miles by horse to be ready for his Sunday services. Only twice did he meet another traveller. He would conduct four and five services each Sunday. At first, all the services were in private homes. Then the services were held in schools. Finally, church buildings were erected all through the Langley district.

It was in the churches that the people came together to enjoy fellowship and build community. Before the Canadian Pacific Railroad was completed in 1886 everyone was burdened in gloom. Alexander Dunn wrote, "The great majority of the people were in a state bordering on despair. Only a few maintained a brave and hopeful spirit."

That's why Alexander Dunn was so much appreciated by the people. He constantly visited them, often staying overnight. He baptized babies, married couples, buried the dead. Alexander Dunn was that man who represented God. The people saw God in him and they loved him. He was always welcome wherever he went. He listened to the depressed. He encouraged the dismayed. He joked with the downcast. He cared for the dying. He was "the friend" all the people needed. In many ways he conveyed the love of God to those who were hurting or doubting.

In all he did he lifted the spirits of the people. Alexander Dunn, when he conducted funeral services told the stories of the people who had died. Those stories were later printed in the newspapers.

Much of the history of British Columbia is in those funeral orations. To take one example, he told about a Mr. Jolly. Mr. Jolly was an leading citizen of the Langley district. He had served in local government. He had worked for the peace of the community. He was a strong Christian leader. He and his wife "were careful to entertain strangers."

GOD WORKED THROUGH DUNN HOSPITALITY

Note: they "were careful to entertain strangers." Hospitality is a special and important Christian gift which we all must share with others.

Those who follow Jesus know that he enjoyed table fellowship with the sick, the sinners, the social outcasts. Jesus was hospitable and accepted the worst people, the lowest people, the wrong people.

In Canada it was especially important to entertain strangers in that vast and lonely land. Alexander and Catherine Dunn were hospitable to the people who needed to be loved and accepted. Alexander and Catherine were important people not because they had stature or fame or power but because God worked through them. Alexander and Catherine were hospitality personified. They were the embodiment of the love of God in action, of the presence of God for people, of the power of God to help.

As we thank God for Alexander & Catherine Dunn and for all the Dunns who have served God, let's remember that we, too, are called to be loving, hospitable and open. Let's always rejoice that God works through people, even people like the Dunns with their struggles, faults and failures. Let us, like Alexander and Catherine Dunn, offer ourselves as channels for God's service.

If we do that, then the grace of God will reach all the people whom God loves. And that will remind us of the Good News which is that God loves all people even the Scots, even the English, even the Canadians, even the Americans, and even the Dunns.



“The Dunns of Leochel Cushnie”
Presented to the Cushnie Parish Church
August 24, 2014

Peter A. Dunn, Ph.D.

It is a great honour and opportunity to visit our home community of Leochel Cushnie where our family of Dunns originated. This area is such a beautiful part of Scotland with the rolling hills with heather, rivers and fertile fields. I want to especially thank Rev. Rosemary Legge for her thoughtfulness, support and overwhelming kindness in arranging this opportunity for us to be part of your church service including allowing the Rev. Zander Dunn and myself to speak to you today. We are coming together in celebration as Dunns with our local community. Rev. Legge’s prayer “....we are coming together in love” is very appropriate for our gathering and reunion today. I will talk briefly about how we have been divided as kin by great distances and time and how we are reconnecting together again. We have over thirty Dunns from the United States, Canada, England and Scotland here today including interestingly three James Dunns and three Peter Dunns.

The Dunns were one of the largest families in Leochel Cushnie in the 1700s and 1800s and as a result have one of the largest number of tombstones in the church cemetery. We have not yet traced all of the Dunns buried here. However, we have found out that our earliest known Dunn in Cushnie was William Dunn in the 1600s (father of John Dunn). John Dunn was born in 1718 in Leochel Cushnie and married Kathryn Lyon. Samuel Dunn was one of their sons who was born in 1755 and married Elizabeth Stephen. Samuel Dunn and Elizabeth Stephen are the great grandparents of all of the Dunns here today at this service. Two of his sons and their wives are buried in the church cemetery near the front stone wall of the churchyard (Peter Dunn and Jean Ritchie as well as Alexander Dunn and Barbara Ritchie). Alexander and Barbara’s son Rev. Charles Dunn, is buried here too.

The Dunns were originally farmers contributing to providing food, land stewardship, economic development, etc. similar to one-third of the world’s population. This surrounding area must be a very spiritual place since seven Dunns became ministers in Scotland or abroad at one time (five in Scotland).

I would like to briefly tell you the story of three of the Dunn families who moved from Leochel Cushnie to Canada in the mid 1880s. Like many people

from Scotland the Dunns were travelers with some of them moving abroad including to New Zealand, India, Africa, Europe, Central and South America, the United States, Canada and throughout Great Britain. Many stayed here in this community and their kin are here today.

This is the story of some of the challenges and achievements of three Dunn families who moved to Canada from Leochel Cushnie roughly around the same time in the 1870s. They eventually lost contact with each other in the vast land of Canada, but this is also the story of the reconnections of their families. Their experiences were very different than today in terms of facing very challenging travelling conditions, lack of accessible communications and inadequate public health care.

Rev. Charles Dunn and Mary Stewart left Leochel Cushnie in 1872. Rev. Dunn became a Presbyterian minister in Stellarton, Nova Scotia on the east coast of Canada. He was the minister near the Albion Mines for 17 years. In 1880 there was a major mining disaster and 50 men died and many others were seriously injured. The following year many of the children in this community lost their lives to diphtheria prior to medical inoculations including two of their very young children. After helping people in the community heal eventually Charles and Mary returned to their homeland of Scotland. One of their sons, Rev. Peter Dunn and his wife Berta, eventually came back to North America first to Boston and then Hamilton, Canada where they contributed greatly to their communities.

Also, in 1872 James Dunn came out to Canada and settled with his wife, Catherine Taylor, in Arthur Ontario over 1,000 miles west of his first cousin, Rev. Charles Dunn and 2,000 miles east of where his brother Rev. Alexander ended up in British Columbia. He was a very successful farmer and his son became a minister Rev. Alexander Dunn. His grandson was Rev. James Dunn and his great grandson is Rev. Zander Dunn whose brother is James and his sister Sharon.

In 1875 Rev. Alexander Dunn came out to British Columbia as one of the first Presbyterian ministers in the province. He came to Langley BC before the Panama canal and the Canadian Pacific railroad were built. As a result it took him six months to get from Scotland to British Columbia since he had to sail around South America. He married Catherine Kern from Ontario in 1880. As Rev. Zander Dunn has explained they faced many challenges since there were only dirt roads and no railway in British Columbia at that time.

Because of the great distances between these families and since letters that took months to be received our kin became disconnected. There were no cellphones or airplanes then. After a family reunion in 2001 some of us began to search for some of our other descendants. This first family reunion was in Arbuthnott, Scotland where our father, Charles Dunn, was born and our grandfather, Rev. Peter Dunn was a minister before coming to the United States and Canada. When we went home we discovered through tracing our kin on the internet the descendants of the other two Dunn families who had come out from Leochel Cushnie to Canada in the late 1880s. The men had similar names (Peter, Charles, James, Alexander, Scott) and professions (i.e. ministers). Many of the women were pioneers and leaders in multiple disciplines. Now we are coming today together in Leochel Cushnie to connect with each other.

Today is a great celebration for us in bringing many groups of Dunns and their home community back together again. From the relatively small community of Leochel Cushnie we have dramatically increased in number and spread throughout the world making major contributions as men and women in many fields in addition to being ministers. Fortunately there are still Dunns in this area. We have learned the importance of kinship, connections and reconnections in our lives. It is a time to celebrate. Thank you for this great opportunity. We wish you all deep connections with your family, kin and community...

Harvest Retiring Offering

Our Harvest Festival Service is on Sunday 26th October, 10am at Tough church. This is a time to give thanks for the Lord's bountiful provision for our needs and a chance to share with others less fortunate than ourselves.

This year our Retiring Offering will go to FARM AFRICA

In 1985, Sir Michael Wood and David Campbell, who shared a vision of a prosperous rural Africa, established Farm Africa in response to the famine in Ethiopia.

They believed that Africa has the power to feed itself and that its smallholders hold the key to lasting rural prosperity. Farm Africa focuses on five east African countries, working directly with farmers to help them unleash their potential to feed Africa's people.

You can find out all about it at www.farmafrica.org.

Here is some information from the web site about the charity.

We are a specialist practitioner, and concentrating only on farming. Our 200 staff on the ground are highly qualified east African experts with deep understanding of the region.

We promote 'climate-smart' approaches so farmers can manage their natural resources sustainably, become more resilient to climate change and build long-term food security. Our mix of agricultural innovation and training in effective marketing skills equips farmers to succeed. With our expertise to call on, they are able to grow more. Through business training and setting up farmers' groups, they can sell more, and by learning how to process and store their produce they reduce waste and sell for more.

Farm Africa tests new technologies and trains farmers in them. Success breeds success and once trained farmers pass on their new know-how to others, ensuring our work has an impact well beyond our projects. By testing farming approaches in the region's various soils and climates, the evidence we collect is more robust and the techniques we spread are proven to work.

Here are some examples of what is done

CROPS

Eight out of ten rural Africans scrape their living from small plots. Soils are often poor, drought ever near. Farm Africa brings in the smart crops, drought-busting techniques and marketing skills that make such tough farming viable, profitable and sustainable

LIVESTOCK

Where land is arid and crop cultivation hard, many farmers make their living by keeping animals. Animals are generally the family's most valuable possession and Farm Africa helps with basic animal health services.

FISHERIES

Pollution and overfishing have put wild fish stocks under pressure. The price of fish has rocketed, hitting people hard. Farm Africa is pioneering fish farming in Kenya, which ensures sustainable protein supplies and a major new source of income.

FORESTS

Deforestation destroys wildlife and dehydrates soil. We help forest communities replace traditional tree-cutting and wood and charcoal selling with new eco-friendly enterprises such as beekeeping that protect biodiversity and provide a sustainable income for future generations

Our approach is to spread tried-and-tested methods as widely as possible. We increasingly work on regional projects that are for more than one country.

Although eastern Africa is widely varied in its landscapes and peoples, there are many common farming problems everyone faces. Farm Africa shares knowledge across communities, without the constraint of country borders.



A Farmers Lot

My father's farm was called Bogside. When he answered the phone my father would say, "Hello, this is Legge, Bogside". That was usual way among farmers in those days and so our neighbours were known as "Grant, Bogend" and "Duncan, Rannachie".

Bogside was a rented farm, one of many on Seafeld Estates and had been in the Legge family for many generations. Ninety acres lying partly on hill land and partly on the flat with a boggy corner that none of the previous generations of farmers had ever been able to do anything with.

But the Lord had given Bogside the best soil possible for growing potatoes and this harvest provided the main income for the farm. Scores of Legges had fed their families and done a lot more besides from the proceeds of this annual tattie harvest.

When my father took over as farmer in the 1950's, he continued the farming methods that he had learned from his father. It had always been done that way and he was not going to change things. When I think of all that he did with that 90 acres I am humbled and amazed. He was able to make a decent living and bring up a family using age old methods and the good earth that God provided, no mean feat but very hard work.

However, almost nothing really stays the same for ever. Farming methods changed during his years of the tenancy and small units of under 100 acres became unsustainable. Despite that he struggled on with diminishing profits until his retirement in 1980. When he left the farm the estate planted trees on the land and if you were to look for Bogside now all you would see are endless rows of conifers. The fields that were cleared and worked and cared for have been changed into a forest. All that he did on the farm is now history.

Just as at Bogside the world as described in the Bible has changed completely. One thing is still the same however, the love of Jesus. If Jesus was with the people in the Bible, helping them and guiding them, then he is also here now with you now doing the very same thing. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever". Some things never change.

Bill Legge

Round The Parish



Guild News

At our August meeting we had a discussion on the Guild topic 'Go Serve'. Although we are a small number we had a lively debate followed by a chat and a cup of tea.

In September Rosemary Legge brought a DVD which she shows to the schools about the receiving of the Blytheswood Shoe Boxes. It is very touching to see the joy on the people's faces upon receiving their own box full of goodies as well as practical things. I was fortunate to attend the annual Guild Rally in Dundee. This is always an interesting and happy occasion meeting friends from other Guilds and enjoying wonderful singing and fellowship. WE had three speakers – The Moderator of the Church of Scotland the Rev John Chalmers, The Rev Dr Margaret Fowler who is originally from Scotland and is now a minister in Jamaica. She is well respected for her work on Social Justice, especially on Human Trafficking for which she has won several awards. In the afternoon our third speaker was the artist John Lowrie Morrison (Jalomo) famous for his landscape paintings. He is also a Church of Scotland Reader in his home area of Argyll. Singing was provided by Brightons Parish Church, a choir formed in 1994.

Our October meeting will be packing shoe boxes. Thanks to all who have contributed by providing shoe boxes and items to put in them, to a local sewing group for making items and to Guild members and volunteers for packing them.

At our November meeting we welcome Catriona Walker from Tough who is going to talk about her visit to Israel.

Finally in December we hope to have our annual Carol Service at Muirhead Care Home.

As members of the Guild we are very proud to belong to such a wonderful organization that does so much to meet the needs of others – we are indeed Whose we are and Whom we serve.

Jean Mortimer

Evergreens

As usual the Evergreens have been busy. In August it was board games being played and word and card skills were being honed. Bingo and “legs 11” were played in September. Afterwards, however, with goods being brought by the Evergreens and wonderful handsewn items by Linda Ewen’s group everyone enjoyed the bring and buy sale. Many I’m sure, got some Christmas presents. The total raised so far is £160 and it is to be sent to M.S. Scotland.

In October we have a visit from Isobel Balfour who will tell stories and read poems. November is to be board games and our Christmas party in December will see Alistair Salter entertain us again. Alistair’s last visit was so special that we are all anticipating it with great pleasure.

You too could be part of this. All you need to do is come along to Tough Church Session room on the 2nd Friday of a month or contact Jean or Anne.

Regards

Anne Ferguson

Craigievar School News

After we came back from the summer holidays we’ve gone up to the forest and had lots of fun. We learned about lots of different kinds of mushrooms, like poisonous mushrooms and also edible mushrooms. We carved our own mushrooms out of wood and played team building games in a giant spider web! We also worked together to start creating new dens.

We’ve also had a visit from a lady called Annie from OPAL science group. We went to our wildlife garden and looked to see if we could find different lichens on our trees. Lichens are a cross between algae and fungus and we used the lichens to see how polluted our air is. Different lichens like different levels of pollution in the air.

We have had a visit from two ladies from Childline. They told us about the

importance of staying safe on the internet and outside. They also told us how you shouldn't bottle up everything in your mind, you can tell Childline about anything, big or small and they will tell you things that you can do to feel better. Most of all, they told us that you should try to tell an adult that you trust about what's bothering you.

For the four terms, the P7's have been planning events to raise money for their chosen charities. We have already done a P7 and teachers ice bucket challenge for a charity that gives support to people with Motor Neurones Disease, or for people with friends or relatives that have it. You can have a look at photos on our school website! We are also planning to raise money for MacMillan cancer support with a coffee morning at the end of term then WWF, diabetes and cystic fibrosis in the next 3 terms.

So stay tuned for more!

By Marianne Dalgarno and Lachlan MacKenzie

Craigievar School

Tough School News

What a brilliant Summer we had! Since then, Tough pupils have been enjoying back at school for Session 2014/15. This year, we have been joined by 5 new P1 pupils – Leo, Owen, Jodi, Brodie and Lilia. Also, Maryjo is back in P2 and Fraser in P5 joined us just before the holidays.

The P1s have been learning all about their numbers and shapes, alongside learning about different sounds and how they might go together to make words.

Our topics so far have included World War I in P4-7 and Fairytales in P1-3. In P1-3 they have also been looking at rules in school and in different places. They have even written rules for and created a Monster City.

We are continuing with the great work that Tough's Task Groups do – Eco Group, Road Safety Group, Rotakids, Library Group and Health Group. They organise great competitions, homework tasks and school events. Each Task Group also talks to the P1-3s and lets them know how they can help improve the school and learn more.

At the end of each term, we plan on visiting Tough Church for special services. We are looking forward to continuing the work that has already been going on at Tough Church and School to support Mary's Meals and Farm Africa. We hope you have a wonderful Harvest time and look forward to sharing more news with you in the next newsletter

NEW LARGE PRINT HYMN BOOKS

Lena Garden left a legacy to the church and the Kirk Session thought it would be good to use some of the money to buy something in memory of her. Because she loved music and gave so much pleasure to others through her playing, we thought it would be appropriate to buy some large print hymn books in memory of her. We therefore bought 12 new large print books, 6 for each church. Please ask the elder on the door if you would like to use one.

Parish Register

FUNERALS

2 May	8 May	James Robertson Kirkton Lea Tough	Midmar church
16 June	23 June	John Marshall Yeoman's Cottage Lumphanan	Mid Deeside Church Torphins
1 July	16 July	Elizabeth Cumming Muirhead Care Home	Howe Trinity
15 July	18 July	Douglas Ellis 6 The Village Monymusk	Monymusk church
14 July	21 July	Alfred Insch Pitprone	Cushnie church
25 July	30 July	Betty Keir Formerly Ladymill	Cushnie church

Tribute to Betty Keir

Betty will be sadly missed in many ways especially by her family. Alistair Smart read the following tribute at Betty's funeral on 30 July 2014.

On behalf of the Elders of Cushnie and Tough Church and the friends she made through her church work during her time as an elder, I wish to pay tribute to Betty today.

Ordained on the 6th October 1974 as an elder of Cushnie & Lynturk Churches, she was the first lady elder in these church parishes, she continued on through the closure of Lynturk Church and the joining of Cushnie and Tough, receiving her long service award on 6 March 2005.

Sadly due to ill health, Betty retired in 2009.

She was greatly missed in many ways.

Betty executed her duties wisely and diligently acting in the way she believed to be right, biblically, ethically and for the good of the congregation and ALWAYS willing to lend a hand at all times.

It is most appropriate to describe Betty as an "unsung hero" and someone who was always there when needed.

I feel I need say no more as the company here today speaks volumes, demonstrates the high esteem that Betty was held in and endorses all that I have said.

Betty, may you rest in peace and may the Lord reward you for all your hard work with a special place in His house..

2014 Shoebox Appeal

As many will know Cushnie and Tough Guild are again supporting this year's Blythswood Care shoebox appeal. But did you know over the past two years more than 60 shoeboxes have been filled by our Guild and, that in addition, surplus items were sent on to Howe Trinity Church as we ran out of boxes to fill!

A recent article in *Life and Work* quotes this worthwhile event allows people to send boxes of Christmas gifts to deprived children around the world. Such is the take up that last year's appeal produced 118,000 gift-filled boxes, which were distributed in orphanages, schools, hospitals, care homes and Gypsy villages in eight countries in Eastern Europe. Nearly 15,000 were sent to Pakistan. These boxes contain toiletries, clothes, toys and other every-day items.

Just imagine a shoebox filled with surprises – what joy and happiness it must bring to those who receive one.

In the article Blythswood's chief executive, James Campbell said "Many can hardly believe that a stranger would spend time and money filling a box with such useful and practical gifts for them. Such a thoughtful act of generosity means so much — they feel loved. And in most cases your gift is the only one they will receive. By filling a box for Blythswood's Shoe Box Appeal, you are making a very personal present of practical help to people facing a level of hardship which is hard to imagine."

Isn't it good to know that through us here in Cushnie and Tough Church donating what we take to be a small, everyday item, this can bring so much pleasure to others less fortunate?

Simon Crouch

Hello everyone. Now that the Summer is over (shame) and the Autumn colours start dominating our landscape, I hope you all had a restful time with an opportunity to 're-charge your batteries' in readiness for the months ahead. It is important that we take time out to relax and although I am probably the worst person to be giving advice like this (do as I say not as I do!) it is also vital in our Christian lives that we schedule some quiet time to be alone with our thoughts and along with God.

Some of you will know already that following on from my period of worship with you in Tough and Cushnie, I have been accepted by the Church Of Scotland to commence my training as a Reader, which will not only involve Christian and Religious studies at the University of Aberdeen and two six months placement over the next couple of years, but also regular periods of reflection where I am able to think ahead. This not only clears my mind but also re-affirms to me that this is the right direction to go.

I attended a joint service at Tough at the end of July and was quite overcome by the warm wishes expressed together with a 'Good Luck' card signed by Rosemary and a large number of the congregation and a most generous book voucher which has already come in handy. Thank you all so much for this.

As well as regularly leading worship in my own parish, I have now commenced my studies which are not only enjoyable but also challenging as the 'little grey cells' are put to work once again.

God's blessing to each and every one of you and I will keep in touch and hopefully be able to worship with you again in the future.

Simon

World Mission Church



The Church of Scotland

World Mission Council

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Scottish Charity Number: SCO11353

Dear World Church Rep,

Greetings from World Mission Council. Once again, September has arrived and the flurry of activities in our churches has begun after the summer break. During the summer months we have been busy preparing various resources for congregations and I would like to share some of them here with you. It is our hope that you will make good use of them in the various different areas of your church's life. We are always keen to help in any way we can to help you to develop your congregations' engagement with the world church. This includes coming to your congregation and taking part in any activity or meeting. This may be inviting someone to share in a Sunday service, or to discuss issues with session or to your World Church group, or to speak at the Guild or anything else you wish, we are very flexible!

You may or may not be involved with Twinning; we are happy to begin an initial discussion about this and would encourage you to get in touch with Rebecca McGonigle, Twinning Development Officer at rmcgonigle@cofscotland.org.uk or if there is a particular problem you need to discuss in relation to an ongoing twinning, feel free to contact me at cfinlay@cofscotland.org.uk

Have you done a Souper Sunday yet? This is still one of the main fundraisers for our HIV Programme and we have produced a full order of service for 2015 with a theme relating to women & children. As well as being educational, Souper Sunday is a great way to enjoy fellowship over a bowl of soup and to also give a donation to the programme which will help one of the 32 projects supported in Scotland and all over the world. The Programme has also produced a very colourful fundraising advent calendar. Please feel free to contact Marjorie Clark who coordinates the HIV Programme for more information at mclark@cofscotland.org.uk

This year, the World Mission Council reported to the Assembly primarily about our relationship with partners in Europe and you can read about this in the enclosed book. However, we hope that fascinating as it is, that it is not a booklet which will stay on your shelf, but that you will encourage engagement with the theme through the use of some of the resources that you will find on the website:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/mission_worldwide/current_focus These include fun activities such as a quiz and a jointly produced resource with Jubilee Scotland featuring our partner in Greece and the effects of the economic crisis in Europe.

Other new resources include 'Needing a Neighbour' inviting you to hold a songs of praise with African themed songs and an opportunity to share the story of our partner in South Sudan who is dealing with the effects of conflict, flooding and famine. Any offerings from these events will go towards immediate relief work. The Moderator will visit the church there in January 2015 to stand in solidarity with them as they seek peace for their country.

As a legacy from the Commonwealth games, 'Hit the Net' is a joint initiative with Glasgow the Caring City and an opportunity for people to hold net inspired events to raise funds for mosquito nets for Malawi and Zambia. This is a great event for your youth groups to have fun doing.

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

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These and all our resources can be found on the website at:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/mission_worldwide/get_involved This includes our regular publications, our WM magazine and weekly email update. Please let us know if you require to change the number of WM's you receive. These are free and we can provide you with as many copies as you wish. As World Church Rep, you should receive this automatically, please let us know if you do not get this. You require to subscribe to the email Update at wmeditor@cofscotland.org.uk – this is free and a great tool for keeping up to date with current issues – please feel free to use any of the information on church notice boards, intimations or in prayer groups etc. If you or any others in you congregation are a Facebooker, sign up to Church of Scotland World Mission page or if you have a twinning to the specific World Mission Twinning page. We delight in hearing from congregations on these pages and it is a good way to share ideas with others.

If you are having an event and wish to have some materials from World Mission Council or if you have a question or comment about communications, please direct them to Katie Bradley kbradley@cofscotland.org.uk who will be pleased to help.

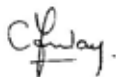
It is a joy to host visitors from the world church and I know many of you access the Faithshare Visitors Grant Programme for twinning visits, but we are often able to welcome members of partner churches for short visits for meetings and events; it is always good for them to be able to visit local congregations and good for people locally to meet them. If you are able to offer hospitality for even a few nights, and would like to host visitors, please let us know so that this can be arranged when the opportunity arises.

We also are hoping to develop opportunity for groups of people from local congregations to visit partner churches as an opportunity for active accompaniment. One opportunity is to visit Cuba in February 2015. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please email cfinlay@cofscotland.org.uk by 19th October. Look out for other opportunities throughout the year.

Whew! If you have reached here - well done! However, there is a lot more going on and you can find out more on the website.

Have a great year as you engage with the World Church.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Finlay
Twinning & Local development Secretary

P.S. Do let us know what you are doing in relation to World Church Issues.

Sandra - Wealthy Farmer

A parable for today based on the wealthy farmer Luke 12:13-21

Sandra took the new sequined top out of its bag and hung it up in the wardrobe. She had to squeeze it onto the end of the rail because the wardrobe was full to bursting. "I'll have to buy a bigger wardrobe" she thought to herself. She gave a long sigh and trotted off down stairs, picking her way carefully past the assorted objects scattered on the steps. In the kitchen she boiled the kettle, the shiny aluminium one that she had only just bought, made a coffee and collapsed onto the settee in the lounge munching a digestive. She glanced around at all her things stacked high in every corner. Over these last few years she had been earning a good wage and could buy whatever she liked. When she felt a bit down she just went out and bought something new, some clothes, a gadget of some kind or furniture. It cheered her up just to look around her small council house and see it all.

She had at least two or three of everything. The only trouble was that now she was running out of room. She finished the coffee and began to feel tired so she lay back and closed her eyes. After what seemed like a few minutes she was gently shaken awake by someone. A fairly ordinary looking man in jeans, shirt and trainers stood in front of her.

"Who on earth are you, and what are you doing in my house?" asked Sandra.

The stranger smiled and sat down beside her "Let's just say I'm from the ministry of spiritual, physical and emotional health".

"The what?" Sandra asked.

"And I have some good news for you and some bad news, as they say, first the good news, you are moving to a better place"

"Oh good" said Sandra "A bigger house?"

"Sort of" said the stranger

"And the bad news?" asked Sandra.

"You will have to leave all your possessions behind" he said.

"You're winding me up" said Sandra.

"Have a look at this" said the stranger as he opened his case and brought out a laptop. Sandra watched the screen with horror as a film started to roll. It

was clearly a funeral and it was her funeral because the minister was giving the tribute, speaking about her life and death. At last she grasped who the stranger was.

“This is awful” she wailed “What about all my stuff, my lovely things, I’m not ready to go yet”.

“That’s really why I’m here” he said “I’ve watched you these last few years, shopping mad, piling it up, and I thought to myself that I should do something to help”.

“Like what?” Sandra sobbed.

“Well now, let me see, if I give you a hand we can get this lot sorted out and most of it will sell quite nicely in the charity shops” he said.

“Charity Shops!” shouted Sandra “This stuff is all new, it cost me a fortune, it means a lot to me”.

“That’s the whole trouble I’m afraid Sandra” and he stood up and produced a roll of black bags. “Now if we just start filling these” and without waiting for a reply he was upstairs in a flash and gaily filling bags with Sandra’s clothes.

“But you can’t do that, please, no, not all my lovely things” Sandra cried as she followed him around.

But the stranger just kept on filling bags and suddenly Sandra felt quite faint with all that was happening and collapsed onto a chair.

She felt she had been asleep for a long time and when she woke up she remembered about the stranger and she rushed upstairs, but there was nobody else in the house. All her things were there, just as before, or were they? On the floor of the bedroom something glittered and she bent down to pick it up. It was a sequin. “Of course she thought, my lovely new top” and she looked in the corner of the wardrobe but it was not there. She never did find her new sequined top but later that week, as she was going past the Red Cross shop, she spotted something in the window. It was a sequined top exactly like the one she had bought.

Bill Legge

Hamish on his holidays

Hi there, how has the summer been for you? Did you get out and about, go anywhere for a break? It's always nice to have a change of scenery, new smells, new animals, new people. New people mean a chance to try out your doggie tricks on some unsuspecting victims. See how quickly you can get them under your control and show them how you would like them to behave.

And so it was with eager anticipation that I was left with a week's supply of biscuits and plenty of hide chews and treats with a couple of folk I'd never met before. However I had been assured of their love for dogs. I can tell when folk like dogs, I have this sixth sense and when I detect a dog lover I usually sit on their feet. Now I don't know why but humans seem to think that this gesture is cute and that I'm declaring my love for them. Little do they realise that what I'm actually saying is "I'm claiming ownership of this gullible new slave, I'm establishing my power an influence". It works like a charm every time.

My new temporary home was out in the country and within minutes of my arrival I saw roe deer and rabbits in the neighbouring fields. Wow I thought this is going to be fun! And so it was, the week passed very quickly, my senses were overloaded with the scents of rabbit, fox, deer, badger, mice, voles, pheasants and a few cats as well. It was just so wonderful that I asked for an early breakfast, 5am, to be able to get out early and take it all in. That didn't go down too well at first with the humans but that is where a bit of foot sitting came in handy, just to make the point. "Am I not the cutest thing you've ever seen, why would you not want to let me out at 5am?" I soon had the situation under control.

By the end of the week I had my humans very well trained. I was getting my meals on time, treats on time, walks morning and evening and trips out in the car. Visitors would arrive and I'd turn on the charm and roll over and get that hard to reach bit of my tummy scratched. So by the end of the week I felt thoroughly refreshed, renewed in mind, body and spirit, bright eyed and bushy tailed. Not so with my usual Master who arrived to collect me looking a little dishevelled and dog eared and with a definite limp. He remarked on how well I looked and that was more than I could say for him. What had he been up to? Some talk of a dancing holiday. I felt quite sorry for him. He said his feet were so sore that I would have to do without walks for a few days. We soon sorted that one out, with a bit of foot sitting. Hey Ho isn't life wonderful!



Church of Scotland

Cushnie & Tough Parish Church

Forthcoming Services

Harvest	26 October	10am Tough Church
Communion	02 November	10am Cushnie Church
Remembrance	09 November	10am Tough Church 11.30am Cushnie Church
Christmas Eve	24 December	6.30pm Tough Church
Christmas Day	25 December	10am Cushnie Church
End of Year	28 December	10am Cushnie Church



Scottish Charity No. SCO 30817