



## Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum

We have a new President for session 2007-2008. Robin Falconer who lives in Urquhart Road has taken charge and has already finalised plans for a ceilidh picnic dance on 8<sup>th</sup> September in the Tarves Hall. The Fittiefolk Ceilidh Band are playing which should mean a lively evening. Tickets are for sale at £10 and you are invited to bring your own picnic basket for you and your friends. There will be an honesty bar for drinks, but you will need your food, your plates and your cutlery. All the profits from Rotary occasions are ploughed into local, national and international charities. A successful "Kids Out" was held at Craibstone where pupils with special needs enjoyed a full day's entertainment with lunch and snacks. Pupils from Meldrum Primary were there. Two of the senior Academy pupils attended the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Camp in July at the Abernethy Centre at Nethybridge where they spent a week learning and developing skills. The project leaders teach them to improve the "6Cs"- commitment, communication, character, competition, confidence and courage. These are important skills for citizenship. Your Minister, Hugh is to talk to the Rotary in August about the Amazon Hope 2, and so again a local connection will be keeping us up-to-date on the international charity so dear to Meldrum & Bourtie. The garden at the South Road junction continues to progress. Although the Rotary started it, it is now run by the Community Garden Project Team. Most Saturday mornings you'll see workers there laying paths, planting ground cover and generally making it into a garden for all the community to enjoy. Doug Smith and Alastair Donald are building an arch just now, which will be a great focal point. A warm welcome will be given to any of you who would like to help in any way. Andrew McCartney or Jim Walker can be contacted for further details on the garden or any other part of the report.

For further information on Rotary Activities visit our website on [www.oldmeldrumrotary.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.oldmeldrumrotary.freeserve.co.uk)



*August / September 07*

Dear friends,

Sayings. What are you're favourite sayings? Here are a few you will almost certainly have heard of (or even used): "Laugh and the world laughs with you"; "Don't cross your bridges before you come to them"; "Every cloud has a silver lining"; and "Where there's a will there's a way".

"Bob's your Uncle" is a well known saying which means "you're all set" or "you've got it made". But do you know its origins? It's a catch-phrase dating back to 1887, when British Prime Minister Robert Cecil, or Lord Salisbury, decided to appoint a certain Arthur Balfour to the prestigious and sensitive post of Chief Secretary for Ireland. Not lost on the British public of the day was the fact that Lord Salisbury just happened to be better known to Arthur Balfour as "Uncle Bob." In the resulting furore over what was seen as nepotism, "Bob's your uncle" became a popular sarcastic comment applied to any situation where the outcome was preordained by favouritism. As the scandal faded in public



# Kirk News



[www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org](http://www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org)

memory, the phrase lost its edge and evolved to how it is used today.

Many sayings from Scripture, in particular from Jesus' lips, are known by millions including many who do not read the Bible.

From the Old Testament, "The Lord's my shepherd", "Vanity, vanity all is vanity", "[There is] a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance"; and from the New Testament, "Blessed are the peacemakers", "The salt of the Earth" and "Faith Hope and Love but the greatest of these is love", among them.

There is one saying which I remember hearing from the Bible in my early teens. From Revelation 3:20: "Behold I stand at the door and knock". In this vision of John Jesus goes on to say "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me". Here we have a wondrous word-picture of the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, the architect of the cosmos standing at the door of our heart *waiting* to be invited in.

Like all sayings this one has a message at its root; it is that if we accept Christ into our lives we will find full acceptance and, for his part, Jesus will never leave nor forsake us. What fantastic truths. So if you have not already done-so, why not open the door to Jesus today. It's easy – *Bob's you're uncle!*

Your friend,  
Hugh O'Brien

## **Thank You**

Comments have been made on how lovely and welcoming the floral tub is at the Bethelnie Cairn on the entrance to Meldrum Church. Thank you to all those who produced and maintain this beautiful display.

# **ALTERNATIVE SERVICE**

Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Kirk invite you to their Alternative Service in the Church Hall, Oldmeldrum on the last Sunday of the month. Services normally start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

They are open to all.

**26<sup>th</sup> August 07**

***Florence Nightingale***

**30<sup>th</sup> September 07**

***Breakfast***

**We look forward to welcoming you.**

The Alternative Service is a complementary service which takes place on an informal basis in the Church Hall rather than the Church.

The band 'Reachout' play for us every month and there is always a short talk and plenty of song in this short service.

If you would like to try out this form of service you will be made most welcome. The breakfast services are very informal and a great way to get to know people.

of global warming; we build houses on floodplains; the lust for power or dominance of ideologies along with selfishness and greed bring about much violence and other atrocities.

The Bible makes it clear that humans are given a special part to play as stewards, carers of the environment. Here is what Hildegaard of Bingen wrote in the 12th Century, "With nature's help, humankind can set into creation all that is necessary and life-sustaining. This is possible; possible through the right and holy utilisation of the earth, the earth in which humankind has its source." So God gave us the job of caring for his creation, including animals: "The Godly are concerned for the welfare of their animals." (**Proverbs 12:10**). In truth we have not always been "Good Stewards" of God's creation, nor are we still. Many Christians are acutely aware of the need for change and the Christian Ecology Movement has recently launched a campaign called "Operation Noah". It aims to encourage Britain's churches and government to lead a radical transformation in both our culture and economic systems; a transformation towards simpler, liveable and supportable lifestyles that will increase happiness and well-being, while safeguarding the whole of God's creation for future generations. Now, that is something we can sign-up to.

## **CHRISTIAN AID BENWALK**

The usual Garioch Area Benwalk is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> September from the Back of Bennachie car park, from 2pm onwards. There will be a choice of short walk, or longer more strenuous walk. Forms, both sponsor and donation, will be available from Church or Eileen Arthur from mid August. Please indicate your intention to participate by obtaining a form – it assists greatly with planning the catering for the barbeque.

## **Contacts**

Name	Position
Rev. Hugh O'Brien	Minister
Mrs Jean Mitchell	Reader
Jim Walker	Session Clerk
Mrs Mary Dow	Board Clerk
Mrs Marian Philip	Treasurer
Mrs Eileen Arthur	Gift Aid Convenor
Mrs Winnie Reid	Roll Keeper
Mrs Alison Milton	Rock Solid
Mrs Pat Patrone	Quest
Focus Groups:	
Billy Dalzell	Outreach & Communication Group
Mrs Ray Walker	Pastoral Care Group
Charlie Simpson	Worship Group
Sheila Bousefield	Audiotape Co-ordinator

## **Bereavement Service**

For the last four years we have held a bereavement service in October, when those who have been recently bereaved are personally invited to this special service to remember the many memories of loved ones who have passed away. After a short thanksgiving service, refreshments are served giving people a chance to share the friendship and fellowship with comfort and support.

It is intended to hold this service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at 3 p.m. in the Church Hall in Albert Road. Personal invitations to those more recently bereaved, will be sent out in September, but there is a welcome for all people who would like to come along to share and cherish the memories of their own loved ones, so please note this date in your diary if you wish to attend.

## Listeners Wanted

Are you a good listener and do you have some spare time to spend as a pastoral visitor? If so we need people like you to visit folk who would like a bit of extra company from time to time. Please phone Margaret Green, Anne MacLean or Ray/Jim Walker for further details. You may also chat about it any Sunday with any Elder at the Church.



## The Guild

The new session of the Guild starts with the Dedication Service on Sunday 9 September at 11.00 in Meldrum Church with the first meeting following on Monday 10 September at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. All welcome.

## Fundraising Coffee Morning

We are holding a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, from 10am to 12noon, to raise money to maintain the Church Fabric. Please put this date in your diary.

As well as coffee there will be a Cake and Candy Stall, a Produce Stall, a Bottle Stall and a Raffle. Donations to any of these stalls will be very welcome and should be handed in to the Church Hall between 10am to 12noon, or between 7pm to 8pm on the previous day. Items may be handed in on the Saturday morning prior to the event. Donations can also be given to any Elder, or can be handed in to Meldrum Motors on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

but this is often far from the case and many Scientists have come to know God through their work. James Tour, an American nanoscientist, said recently, "I stand in awe of God because of what he has done through his creation. If you really study science, it will bring you closer to God." There is, of course, a great debate between Christians and non-Christians (and even within the Christian Church) about Creation vs. Evolution. Even the basics of this argument would take many books worth of writing and couldn't be addressed within the confines of this article, but if you'd like to look at that issue a good place to start is at this web address, you can follow it through from there and make-up your own mind (<http://www.eauk.org/resources/idea/bigquestion/archive/2005/bq7.cfm>).

The Bible begins by saying that God created a perfect world. "God looked over all he had made, and saw that it was excellent in every way." (**Genesis 1:31**), but if God made the world why is it spoiled by disease, earthquakes, pollution and suffering? The exact timing and process whereby suffering entered the world is controversial amongst Christians but all agree that **the Bible** describes how suffering is part and parcel of when we humans decided to disobey God and ignore his advice and commands: *broken relationship, broken lives, broken world*. Indeed the further people stray from a proper relationship with God the more they can expect the entire system to dysfunction and for that dysfunction to bring about suffering (Genesis 3:16-19). Now this is the bare "Theology" but really, just as Scientists will never fully provide answers for our current condition, neither do we Christian fully understand why God allows suffering, and it is a real dilemma for us as well as non-Christians. While human suffering, then, is not surprising as an overall concept in Biblical terms, it is none-the-less difficult to make sense of in individual circumstances, and Christians are not immune from suffering either. Human beings, though, even today contribute to natural disasters and suffering. For example, many floods result from the cutting down of forests; increasingly violent weather is the result

## What we believe about ... CREATION.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (**Genesis 1:1**). Christians believe that the natural world was made and is kept going by God; that the balance of nature and the size of the universe show us something of God's awesomeness, majesty and power. Many songs and poems have been written over the years which reflect how we Christians feel about the world in which we live, this by Thomas O. Chisholm being an example: "Summer and winter and seedtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in eloquent witness to your great faithfulness, mercy and love". Our churches at Meldrum and Bourtie, along with most others, are regularly decorated with flowers to remind us of God's creation, and we join with Christians all over the world in singing songs that celebrate God as creator. We, of course, hold annual Harvest Thanksgiving services to say "thank-you" to God for His provision and to acknowledge our part in the stewardship of the land and in brining-in the harvest: "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand."

Centuries ago scientists began looking at how the world worked. From this time, known as the Enlightenment, Science has attempted to bring the deep questions about where we came from, why we're here and how we have developed within human understanding and a great deal of progress has been made. Unfortunately, however, we have been caught short time and time again for, truly, there is much that we don't understand even though we may have many theories (often presented as fact but later found wanting). For example the "Big Bang" theory about when things began to happen in a hap-hazard way that finally, over many millennia, made the world, its plants, insects animals and fish, and the human race what it is today. Even if one were to accept this chaotic theory and that there was a "Big Bang", I'd like to know who pressed the button in the first place! There at times seems to be a war of attrition between science and Religion

## Deaths

Mrs Annie Adam	Laurels Lodge Nursing Home Formerly of Urquhart Road, Oldmeldrum	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2007
Mrs Catherine Chapman	Ythanvale, Ellon Formerly of Rosebank, Oldmeldrum	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2007
Mrs Jean Pottinger	Garioch Nursing Home Formerly of Albert Place, Oldmeldrum	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2007

## Weddings

Nicola Fullerton to Gordon Beaumont	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
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### *Kirk News:*

All items for the October / November 2007 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007.

If you know of anyone who does not normally receive Kirk News and would like to, please contact the Editor, Simon Hill.

# Information Supplement

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
<b>August</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fair Trade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
12 <sup>th</sup>	Meldrum	11am	Mrs Jean Mitchell
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Rev. Norry McIver
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
26 <sup>th</sup>	Meldrum Church Hall	10am	Alternative Service
	Meldrum	11am	'Commuters Service'
<b>September</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
5 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Meldrum Church Hall	11am	Monthly Gathering
	Meldrum Manse	7.30pm	Faith Matters*
9 <sup>th</sup>	Meldrum	11am	Guild Dedication Service
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
	Meldrum	6pm	New Homes Service
10 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Meldrum Church Hall	7.30pm	Guild Talk – "You are what you eat" - Mrs Ingrid Penny, Inch
15 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Meldrum Church Hall	10am	Coffee Morning - £2 Various stalls

## HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

This is a service we provide to take hospital visitors to Aberdeen on Wednesdays, the Inverurie area, including Blythwood, Port Elphinstone and Badenscoth, Rothienorman on Thursdays at request of passengers. Prospective visitors should phone the volunteers on duty between 6pm & 7pm on the day before their chosen run. If for any reason you have difficulty in contacting the volunteers phone: Mrs M. Green, Mrs M. MacDonald, or Mrs R Richardson.

Further volunteers for this list would be very welcome.

Aberdeen 2pm - 5pm	Month	Date	Volunteer
	August	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs G Silver
		8 <sup>th</sup>	Mr A McCartney
		15 <sup>th</sup>	Mr K Webster
		22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs M MacDonald
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Mr T Fryers
	September	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M Simmers
		12 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M MacDonald
		19 <sup>th</sup>	Mr A Donald
		26 <sup>th</sup>	Mr A McCartney
October	3rd	Mrs M MacDonald	

Inverurie 2pm - 4pm	Month	Date	Volunteer
	August	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr K Webster
		9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M Simmers
		16 <sup>th</sup>	Mr T Fryers
		23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs E Arthur
		30 <sup>th</sup>	Mr K Webster
	September	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs F Emslie
		13 <sup>th</sup>	Mr W Dow
		20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs E Arthur
		27 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs R Richardson
October	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mr W Dow	

Meldrum Church Duty Rota						
Date	Door			Finance		Flowers
	August	Mrs S Wilson	A Dobson	K Ingram	Mrs L Niven	Mrs M Watt
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A Milton	C Simpson	Mrs E Falconer	Mrs Richardson	Mrs M Philip	-- Spare --
12 <sup>th</sup>	A McCartney	Mrs McCartney	Miss A Adam	B Reid	Miss E Hourston	Miss H Webster
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs I Dunbar	S Hill	Mrs E Oliver	G Stephen	G Smith	Mrs A Gibson
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A McLean	Mrs I Reid	Mrs M Dow	A Gunn	K Millar	-- Spare --
Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs W Reid	Mrs A Gartly	Mrs D Davidson	Mrs M Philip	Mrs S Moir	Mrs M Spence
9 <sup>th</sup>	Miss A Adam	Mrs B Webster	Mrs R Walker	J Walker	Mrs M Watt	Miss E Hourston
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs S Hardwick	Miss S Burgess	Miss E Porch	S Hill	Mrs E Oliver	Mrs M Kelman
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs S Simpson	C Simpson	Mrs I Reid	B Reid	Mrs Richardson	Mrs E Arthur
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A McLean	Mrs P Patrone	L Stevenson	G Smith	A McCartney	Mrs C Donald
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>						
Bourtie Duty Rota						
Date	Door			Flowers		
	Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Bousefield	Mrs M Green	Mrs M Stephen		
19 <sup>th</sup>	G Stephen	I Peddie	Mrs S Peddie			
Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs M Green	I Peddie	Mrs M Christie			
16 <sup>th</sup>	G Stephen	Mrs M Green	Mrs M Nagahiro			
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	I Peddie	Mrs Bousefield	Mrs S Peddie			



## Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
16 <sup>th</sup>	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Meldrum	11am	
24 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Meldrum Church Hall	7.30pm	Guild Talk & Slides – Scottish Castles Mrs M F McKelvie, Aberdeen
25 <sup>th</sup> Tues	Meldrum Church Hall	7.45pm	Board Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup>	Meldrum Church Hall	10am	Alternative Service
	Meldrum	11am	
October			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Meldrum Church Hall	11am	Monthly Gathering
	Meldrum Manse	7.30pm	Faith Matters*
7 <sup>th</sup>	Bourtie	9.45am	Harvest Thanksgiving
	Meldrum	11am	Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service Fair Trade Stall
	Meldrum Church Hall	3pm	Bereavement Service
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
14 <sup>th</sup>	Meldrum	11am	
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	

\* - Faith Matters – formerly known as the Bible Study Group.

## Advance warning for 2008

We are holding an Auction for Church funds on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

# Prayer Calendar



August 2007		
Week 1	Own Church	Give thanks for all those who have enjoyed a holiday break and experienced refreshment.
	Presbytery	Pray for the minister and parish of Ellon for the outreach in their area.
	World Issues	Pray for all those who are refugees and travel not for pleasure but of necessity.
Week 2	Own Church	Give thanks for the evening Power Praise services in our church and the opportunity to feel the power of praise and joy.
	Presbytery	Give thanks for all those in our Presbytery who read lessons in church, say prayers and support ministers in many ways, including IT support to enhance our services.
	World Issues	Pray for the work of the Bible Society and all those who spread Bible knowledge in the world.
Week 3	Own Church	Pray for members of our congregation who teach and work in our schools. Pray for pupils beginning a new year, at school, with its new challenges.
	Presbytery	Pray for our own minister and for our reader and for their ministry to our local schools and young people.
	World Issues	Pray for students and pupils throughout the world and for those who would like the chance to study.
Week 4	Own Church	Pray for the older people in our church family and pray that our appeal for listeners – parish visitors is supported.
	Presbytery	Pray for the Parishes of Huntly, Cairnie and Glass.
	World Issues	Pray for elderly people all over the world, the people who care for them and the memories and understanding that older people can offer us.

# Prayer Calendar



September 2007		
Week 1	Own Church	Pray for those members of our congregation who have added to our community but who are no longer with us, but are entrusted to God's care.
	Presbytery	Pray for the Clerk to Gordon Presbytery and for all other members of the Presbytery that they may make inspired decisions at their meetings.
	World Issues	Pray for the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and all the work that this entails.
Week 2	Own Church	Give thanks for all those involved in the Guild and pray for the fellowship of their meetings.
	Presbytery	Pray for parishes without a minister, or with a new minister that they move forward in strength.
	World Issues	Pray for all members of charitable organisations and Aid Agencies who give up so much to bring caring and hope throughout the world.
Week 3	Own Church	Give thanks and pray for those who quietly work to make Meldrum a better place – pray for all those involved in making the Community Garden a success and a gateway to Meldrum.
	Presbytery	Pray for Rev. Mary Cranfield and the people of Culsamond, Rayne and Daviot.
	World Issues	Pray for believers of all denominations that they foster understanding and common beliefs so that our similarities are more than our differences.
Week 4	Own Church	Pray for any new members of our own congregation that they feel welcomed and pray for the growth of our church and for our members to keep on growing,
	Presbytery	Pray for Skene Kirk and congregations Pray for all those with growing parishes.
	World Issues	Pray for those who have moved into Oldmeldrum recently. Give them a smile to welcome them to our parish.