Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

Registered in Scotland
Charity Number SCO15960

April / May 2022

Kirk News

www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Dear friends,

I am writing today as the sun is shining through the window! Oh, how we have needed some sun and calm weather. We have all had to weather far too much lately. From literal storms to covid, to restrictions to normality. You may also be aware of the winds of change coming in the Church of Scotland over the next few years, which will include the closing of many buildings across Aberdeenshire and indeed all of Scotland. Yet, in the closing hopefully it will make way for new and different ways of being the church. Change is coming; And change is hard. That is why we at Meldrum and Bourtie need everyone's help to see us through the change. We are determined to make the spaces we own as fit for purpose as possible. And that means spaces fit to serve the community. The community is at the heart of what we do as church. The season of Lent prepares us for the great gift of Holy Week, when we remember that Christ died for us all, a redemption for **all** of us. A death that could not be silenced by the grave but broke the chains that bind humanity in his resurrection on Easter morn. Easter teaches us that some things must die to be reborn. No matter how cold, or wet, or windy the winter may be Spring will bring new growth and new life.

The buildings we own in Meldrum and Bourtie need substantial repair and redevelopment in order to serve their purposes and serve our wider community. Our Church Hall is well used by many local groups and organisations. Our goal and vision moving forward is to make every space modern, adaptable, and importantly more useable for the community. But we can't do that alone. We need your help.

We are excited about creating spaces that will support, encourage, engage, enhance not just the life our of congregation but the whole of our community in Meldrum. So, I humbly ask for your support. Any support you are able to give, from financial support, prayerful support, to enthusiastic support! We have various fundraising events planned in the coming

months which you can read about in this edition of Kirk News. Please come along. With your support we can redevelop our buildings, so they are fit for purpose in today's world. We are ready and eager to move forward into the future.

Please consider giving toward our work and our mission. And on behalf of the church community and wider community, I would like to thank you in advance for your support. Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a huge impact for the redevelopment of Meldrum and Bourtie.
You can give online through our webpage, www.meldrumandbourtie.com/donate-online by paypal or using the QR Code.

Thank you again.

Happy Easter to you all!

Rev. Alisa McDonald

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Meldrum and Bourtie

PRAYER CALENDAR
April 2022

In Holy Week we come face to face with the journey Jesus made at the end of his ministry. We follow him through the bleakest of moments leading to his crucifixion and death on the cross. On Easter Monday we see the light at the end of the tunnel with Jesus's resurrection. We can now celebrate and give thanks for the assurance of life everlasting bought for us by his sacrificial love. Through this pathway Jesus shows us that he is with us in all things and in all times. We are not alone in despair or joy as he is there with us. As we see the suffering that the war in Ukraine has brought home to us and as we see the kindness and compassion towards the people displaced and damaged by war let us pray for all of them this Easter time.

A prayer for Ukraine by David Thomas, Ireland's Church and Community Manager

Lord of all people and all nations,

We lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia,

Each girl and boy, each woman and man living in fear of what tomorrow might bring,

We long for a time you spoke of through your prophet Isaiah,

When weapons of war would be beaten into ploughshares,

When nation will no longer lift up sword against nation,

We cry out to you for peace,

Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety,

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones,

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression,

Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace,

Please Lord come and have your way in your world,

May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven,

May your peace reign. Now and always,

We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do

more than we can ever ask or imagine,

In the name of Christ our saviour,

Amen

PRAYER CALENDAR
May 2022

Own Church	We give thanks for our Church Family, our minister and her family and for our organists. We give thanks for our worship time together and we pray that all will feel welcome especially our recently joined elders and all visitors. Help us to embrace change, in worship and new ways of being church together. Strengthen our fellowship and bind us together in love and service in church and local community. We pray for those who quietly work in the background in our church and the wider community. May they know contentment in all that they do for us. We pray for those in our community who may be challenged by rising inflation and struggles to cope. We pray that they will find the help and support that they need.
Presbytery	As our area Presbytery faces change and the need to guide all the churches through these changes we ask that you be with them Lord as a guide and example. At this time of challenge and opportunity grant them and all congregations the gifts of patience, sensitivity and wisdom. Help them to listen and respond with care. Let your spirit Lord be an ever present and sure guide in the challenge to grow outward looking, mission focussed churches. We pray that in our wounded covid world people will find healing and fellowship within our churches.
World Issues	Please pray for the worldwide work of Christian Aid. The focus this year is on drought and climate justice so that the people of Zimbabwe can feed their children. Their work helps those facing climate change build up their resilience. We pray for those who risk having no food due to drought, floods or other natural disasters and those countries that will struggle for grain to make bread due to the war in Ukraine preventing farming. We give thanks that Christian Aid also responds to disasters. We especially give thanks for the aid given to the homeless of Ukraine. We pray for the success of Christian Aid Week 15th to 21st May and give thanks for workers at Christian Aid and all charitable organisations who work to make the world a better place for everyone. Give us the grace to share what we can with a loving heart.

Contacts

Name	Position	
Rev. Alisa McDonald	Minister	872059
Mr W Dalzell	Session Clerk	872943
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Mrs Lorna Reid	Roll Keeper	01651 873000
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Kirk News		
Brian Reid	Editorial Rep	872794
Facebook Page	www.facebook.com/meldrumbourtiechurch.org.uk	
Website	www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com	

Kirk News Articles

All items for the June / July 2022 issue of Kirk News should be in the hands of the Editors, Brian Reid, or Simon Hill by Sunday, 22nd May 2022.
If you know of anyone who does not normally receive Kirk News and would like to, please contact the Editor. (see Contacts table)

You can also catch up with our latest news, events and videos on our website @ https://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/ or on our Facebook page.

The Guild

On Monday 14th February we welcomed Kaitlin O'Brien who gave a talk on The Vine Trust. Kaitlin spoke about her time in Tanzania as part of a Working Party, which included 20 pupils each from Kincorth Academy and Banff Academy. They spent 15 days working with Families and Children, Healthcare and Construction. They took out suitcases of clothes and shoes. She told us that the living conditions of the families were basic, e.g. No taps in houses; food was mainly rice, chicken, fish and bananas. Kaitlin found the experience demanding and rewarding. A very interesting talk, which was enjoyed by everyone.

On 14th March we welcomed Kevin Mathieson who is Centre Head at Maggies which is a Cancer charity in Aberdeen. Kevin told us his background is in Nursing, but his job now is to keep the Centre running. At Maggies they give emotional support for patients and relatives, answer any questions and give advice. They have a team consisting of Volunteers, who welcome anyone who comes through the door; 2 Cancer Support Specialists; a Benefit Advisor; a Clinical Psychologist; a Fundraising Manager; a Networking Group to help people going through Cancer. The NHS have time constraints for helping patients so it is important to have a facility such as Maggies. A very informative talk which was enjoyed by everyone.

Easter at Meldrum Kirk

All are invited to our services for Holy Week

10 April // 9.45am	Palm Sunday and Communion at Bourtie Kirk
10 April // 11.00am	Palm Sunday at Meldrum Kirk
14 April // 7.00pm	Joint Maundy Thursday Service at St. Matthew and St. George Episcopal Church
15 April // 7.00pm	Good Friday Service at Meldrum Kirk
17 April // 11.00am	Easter Celebration and Communion at Meldrum Kirk
17 April // 3.30pm	Easter Messy Church at Meldrum Hall
24 April // 11.00am	'A Different Kind of Worship' at Meldrum Hall

Christian Aid Week 2022 May 15th to 21st.

The King will Reply “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”. Matthew 25 v 40 NIV

The focus of Christian Aid this year is on drought, the impact of climate change and need for climate justice. They work to help the women of Zimbabwe feed their children in the face of drought and they also help areas affected by climate problems to develop resilience. Their disaster fund is supporting the displaced people of Ukraine.

During Christian Aid Week their will be opportunities for giving via paper envelopes and electronic means. We aim to have a retiring offering in church and to have collections at nominated places in Oldmeldrum. Please look at the Church Website for updates.

Due to the Covid outbreak we have not collected in the Christian Aid seed boxes during the last 2 years. However, we plan to collect them this year. I would be grateful if you could drop them off at church on Sunday 1st May or get them to Sheila Simpson, preferably before this date. Sheila can collect if necessary. Thank you.

Community Connect Café

Every 2nd Saturday of the Month from 10.00am – 12.00noon in Meldrum Church Hall.

Come join us for a wonderful atmosphere, tasty treats and a simple way to support our local community groups and organisations. We are looking for groups to help take part as well. We will help you every step of the way in 'running' the café for your group.

Each Community Connect Café will also have a ***School Uniform Swap Shop***. Uniforms from nursery to academy will be available to take, free of charge. In addition, you can drop off any outgrown uniform to The Manse, 17 Benview Gardens AB51 0FY or at any Swap Shop.

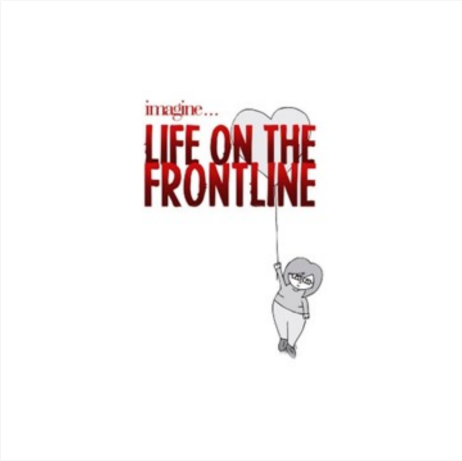
Email:

Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk with any queries.

Life on the Frontline Bible Study Series

Join us for a weekly Bible Study starting on Tuesday, 26th April in the upper room of the Church Hall.
Discover together how we as Christians can make a difference wherever we are and identify our own frontlines.

Whoever we are, as Christians, we each have a 'frontline'.



Your frontline is the place where you spend much of your time, where you meet people who don't know Jesus. It's the place God has called you; the place of possibility and potential. We may be old or young; healthy or infirm; employed or not – we still have a 'frontline'. A place God has put us.
Often though, we don't see our frontlines in this light. But just imagine what the impact might be on our neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools – on the whole nation – if we could help each other make a difference for Christ in these places. Imagine how God could work through you, right where you are.
Life on the Frontline has helped over 100,000 Christians across the UK and worldwide discover their own frontlines. All are welcome to join, no matter where you are on your faith journey.

Tickets available from:

Dot Davidson - 01651 873323,

Oldmeldrum British Legion

Or,

Meldrum Amenities Group

Meldrum & Bourtie

Charity Shop

15 AUGUST - 20 AUGUST

Open 10.00am - 3.00pm

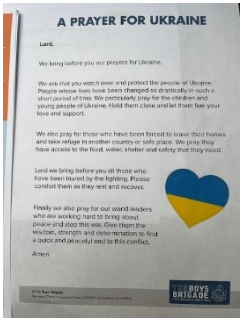
Including a FREE Swap Shop
of School Uniform supplies
for Primary and Academy

Accepting Goods from
Saturday 13th AUGUST
For more info or to arrange another drop off email
Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

Hello from the Boys' Brigade. We hope everybody is safe and well and looking forward to the clock change soon and better weather.

Anchor boys have been busy with their activities with a discussion about polar bears. Some of the boys knew that bear skin is black and the fur white but learned how far the bears could swim, their height & weight, and had a little quiz at the end, all scoring 9 or 10/10 🤔. They also decorated their pancakes for Pancake Tuesday. They celebrated World Book Day 📚 theme this week, with most of the boys dressed as characters from their favourite book or discussed with everyone what their favourite book was. We discussed the Greatest Book - the Bible and the boys knew/remembered quite a few stories. A quick Mr Men game, from which the leaders enjoyed Mr Lazy 😴🖌️ the most!! 🤣🤣

Junior section continued with their badge activities and their DIY project in making the Birds Nest Boxes. We also embarked on making pancakes and the boys certainly enjoyed that. On our latest meeting night we briefly discussed the situation in Ukraine and opened the evening with a prayer for all the people caught up in the war. We also discussed a subject called sensory overload which was a brief introduction into how sound and light distractions affect different people. We watched two short videos on Autism.



A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Lord,

We bring before you our prayers for Ukraine.

We ask that you watch over and protect the people of Ukraine. People whose lives have been changed so drastically in such a short period of time. We particularly pray for the children and young people of Ukraine. Hold them close and let them feel your love and support.

We also pray for those who have been forced to leave their homes and take refuge in another country or safe place. We pray they have access to the food, water, shelter and safety that they need.

Lord we bring before you all those who have been injured by the fighting. Please comfort them as they rest and recover.

Finally we also pray for our world leaders who are working hard to bring about peace and stop this war. Give them the wisdom, strength and determination to find a quick and peaceful end to this conflict.

Amen

Company section were also very active conducting a winter Olympics themed night gathering information on all sporting activities. They also made pancakes one night and had a 6-Nations quiz night. They had an escape room theme where the boys had to develop the problem-solving skills to escape a room - all in all, the boys are enjoying all sections.

Best Regards from the BB team

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Meldrum and Bourtie

FAMILY FUN BBQ

SUNDAY 8 MAY

2.00-5.00PM

Come along for food,
fun, games, and more!

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

MELDRUM & BOURTIE

SINGERS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR CHOIR?!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN A KIDS/YOUTH CHOIR OR MUSIC GROUP?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN OUR CHOIR! NO MUSIC EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Email: kates_xo@outlook.com

Come as an Individual or as a Team (max 6)

email: info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Quiz Night

FRIDAY, 10 JUNE

7.00PM – 10.00PM

MELDRUM CHURCH HALL

What's happening

TICKET PRICE

£5 PER HEAD

BRING YOUR OWN

PICNIC SUPPER AND

BEVERAGE OF CHOICE

Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Meldrum and Bourtie

WEEKEND
SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
&
SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

AUTUMN FAIR

AND SPONSORED BENNACHIE WALK

FAIR ON SATURDAY 24TH

CONTACT

INFO@MELDRUMANDBOURTIECHURCH.COM TO BOOK A TABLE

WALK ON SUNDAY WITH BBQ AFTER

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YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN OUR

EASTER MESSY CHURCH!

SUNDAY, 17TH APRIL

3.30PM IN THE AFTERNOON

IN THE CHURCH HALL

COME ALONG FOR FUN, MESSY CRAFTS STORY TIME AND A MEAL FOR ALL

Kindly RSVP to Rev. Alisa McDonald
at Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk
or through Meldrum and Bourtie Facebook
RSVP encouraged to help with organisation but not required.