



The Alpha Course



To those who are not acquainted with the Alpha course, it's a series of structured interactive sessions for considering (contemporary) life and the Christian faith in an informal, fun and friendly environment which is open to believers, non-believers and all in between. Thanks to the generous efforts of several good cooks in our community, each weekly evening session starts with a shared meal, followed by a video presenting one of the 15 component topics with relevant Biblical references which prompt the ensuing discussions. This course is nearing completion, and all the participants, explorers covering a wide age range and guides alike, have enjoyed the prepared material and discussions which have derived from it including personally helpful clarifications on some challenging subjects. We've also had a splendidly hosted away-day which allowed us to get to know each other, our creator and our saviour better, and to share in worship and prayer. If you've not attended an Alpha course please look-out for the next one appearing in a venue near you and give it a try - it comes thoroughly recommend-

Brighter Bervie

The 2019 growing season may have come to an end but the stalwarts of Brighter Bervie haven't been idle!

There's been a flurry of activity from late October into November – 'Children In Need' family ramble round our features trail which raised £53 plus gift aid for this worthy cause;

Off on our travels to the annual 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' Seminar in Stirling with Oor Wullie and his planter, where Mary and Tom collected Brighter Bervie's outstanding It's Your Neighbourhood award; Erection of the spinning mills heritage information board overlooking the Haughs; Bulb planting with pupils of Bervie pre-school Nursery and folk from the Daycare Group; attendance at the Volunteer Fair which Kincardineshire Development Partnership ran in the Bervie Church Centre.

Thanks are due to all our hard-working volunteers and supporters for another successful season. Please get actively involved with us to make Bervie even brighter in 2020.

Tom Campbell

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December 2019 / January 2020

WOTS *it all about?*

The Church and Community newsletter for Arbuthnott, Bervie, Gourdon and Kinneff

Registered Charity No SC009239



Items for the February / March 2020 edition of WOTS should be sent to wots.editors@gmail.com or dropped into the church centre letterbox by 5.00pm on Friday 24th January. We welcome your items and any financial contributions towards the cost of printing and distributing this free newsletter which is prepared entirely by volunteers.

The Manse, 5 West Park Place, Inverbervie, DD10 0XA

tel -01561 362530 mob- 07720275028

Email - Andrew.Morrison@churchofscotland.org.uk

Friends,

I was reflecting in the car the other day with Kirsty that it's almost a year since we first came to Inverbervie to visit the area and see if we felt God was calling us to this part of the world. By the time you read this, it will be over a year since we came (we arrived on 30th Nov for a couple of days). During our short trip, and over the next couple of weeks following our wonderful visit, we became more and more sure that God had called us here.

We knew things weren't going to be easy regardless of what church we served at, and we knew it would be difficult moving to a part of the world where we would be a few hours drive from any close friends or family. But, we knew God was with us.

That's exactly what the angels announce to a bunch of unimportant shepherds on a hillside in some small town – the saviour of the world has arrived. God has come in human flesh. God is with you!

The whole message of the Good News of Jesus is pointing towards this reality. That God cares enough about your eternal destiny and mine that he enters into human history to save us. That he is with you in the mess of life, in the heartbreak of bereavement and relationship breakdowns, in the pain and discomfort you battle daily. The message of Christmas is that God is with you.

That still blows my mind when I ponder about it. To know that the God who formed the universe and galaxies actually cares about my struggles makes me stand in awe of him. What a God we worship!

This Advent season, I hope you'll be able to join us as we rejoice and celebrate this incredibly loving God who comes to us. As you'll see on the Church Calendar we've got a couple of special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and our Nativity Service on 15th December (10:30am at Bervie Church). And, as you go into 2020, and all the highs and lows that it may bring – may you know that the eternal, powerful, majestic, incredible God we worship goes with you.

I pray that, this Christmas season, you'll know the joy and hope that the angels announce to the world. God is with us. Hope is here. The saviour has arrived!

Many blessings to you and your loved ones this Christmas and beyond into 2020,

Andrew, Kirsty and Bonnie the dog.

P.S. I'm always happy to visit for whatever reason, or to have visitors to the manse. I've still to meet many of our members and those who read WOTS – and I hope to see many more of you in 2020. Whether you're a Church member or not, whether you've been every Sunday, or not for 30 years, I'm always happy to meet people. Please get in touch if I can encourage or support you in any way, invite me over, or just drop by our house. The kettle is on!

Dates for your diary

December 2019

Sun 1st	1st Sunday in Advent—Arbuthnott, Bervie and Gourdon Communion
Mon 2nd	<u>12.30pm Monday WOW group meet at "The Coppins" Townhead.</u>
Wed 4th	10.00 /11.30am Church Café. Church Centre
Wed 4th	6.30pm Castle Lodge Christmas Sing-a-Long . All welcome to join us.
Thurs 5th	2.30pm Gourdon Guild Christmas Party. Mission Hall
Fri 6th	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre
Fri 6th	7.30pm The Faith Mission. Gourdon Mission Hall
Sun 8th	2nd Sunday in Advent—Services at the normal times.
Tues 10th	7.30pm Session Meeting. Church Centre.
Wed 11th	9.45am Gourdon Prayer Meeting; 2 Davidson's Buildings
Wed 11th	10.00 /11.30am FairTrade Café; Church Centre
Wed 11th	2.00pm Bervie Guild Christmas Party. Church Centre
Thurs 12th	7.30pm Thursday WOW group meet at 10 West Park Terrace
Fri 13th	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre
Sun 15th	3rd Sunday in Advent—10.00am Arbuthnott Church Service; 10.30am / 11.45 Messy Nativity in Bervie Church.
Wed 18th	10.00 / 11.30am WaterAid Café. Church Centre
Fri 20th	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre
Sun 22nd	4th Sunday in Advent—Services at the normal times.
Sun 22nd	6.00pm 'Carols by Candlelight' Voyage of Life Garden Living Rooms if wet
Tues 24th	7.00pm Christingle Family Service; Bervie Church
Tues 24th	9.00pm Candlelight and Carols Service; Gourdon Mission Hall
Tues 24th	11.30pm Watchnight Service; Arbuthnott Church
Wed 25th	11.00am Christmas Day Family Service; Bervie Church
Sun 29th	11.30am Combined Service in Bervie Church

January 2020

Wed 8th	10.00 /11.30am FairTrade Café; Church Centre
Wed 8th	9.45am Gourdon Prayer Meeting; 2 Davidson's Buildings
Wed 8th	2.00pm Bervie Guild; Mexican Cuisine Martha Doyle. Church Centre
Thurs 9th	7.30pm Thursday WOW group meet at 10 West Park Terrace
Fri 10th	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre
Mon 13th	1.00pm Monday WOW group meet at 3 Queen Johanna Drive
Wed 15th	10.00 / 11.30am WaterAid Café. Church Centre
Fri 17th	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre
Sun 19th	2.30pm Bervie Church Cluster Group "Songs of Praise"
Wed 22nd	9.45am Gourdon Prayer Meeting; 2 Davidson's Buildings
Wed 22nd	10.00 /11.30am FairTrade Café; Church Centre
Thurs 23rd	7.30pm Thursday WOW group meet at 10 West Park Terrace
Fri 24th	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre
Fri 24th	2.30pm Sing-a-Long at Castle Lodge.
Mon 27th	1.00pm Monday WOW group meet at 3 Queen Johanna Drive
Wed 29th	10.00 /11.30am FairTrade Café; Church Centre
Fri 31st	9.00am Friday Prayer Group. Church Centre

Love Actually

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas – 'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for *sixteen* years. It's true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?
What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!'

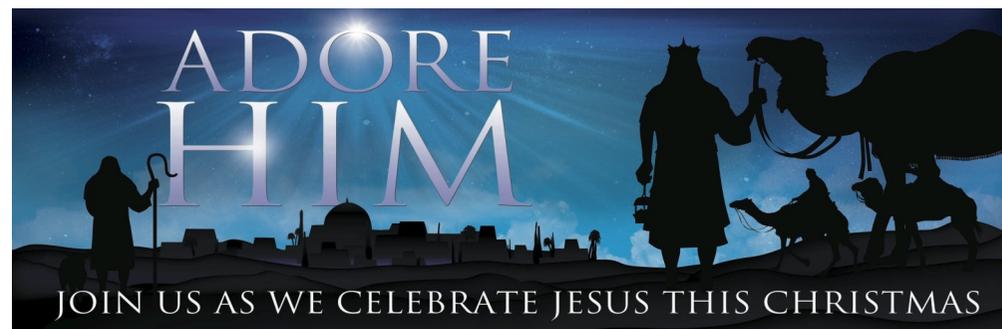
(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)

A German proverb goes: 'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.

'The main thing' is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, 'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.' Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

Church of Scotland, Mission & Discipleship Church Without Walls Team



Advent— Jesus - "The Reason for the Season!"

Sunday 1st December— Prepare for the Miraculous. Normal service times

10.00 at Arbuthnott; 11.30 Bervie ; 6.00pm at Gourdon Mission.

Sunday 8th—Prepare to be Used by God . Normal service times

10.00 at Arbuthnott; 11.30 Bervie ; 6.00pm at Gourdon Mission.

Sunday 15th December - Prepare to Meet the Saviour - 10.00 at Arbuthnott;

10.30 / 11.45 "Messy Nativity" Bervie Church ; 6.00pm at Gourdon Mission.

Sunday 22nd December— Prepare for the Greatest News. Normal service times

10.00 at Arbuthnott; 11.30 Bervie ; 6.00pm at Gourdon Mission.

Tuesday 24th December 7.00 p.m. Bervie Church

"Christingle" Family Service

Tuesday 24th December 9.00 p.m. Gourdon Mission Hall

Candlelight and Carols Service

Tuesday 24th December 11.30 p.m. Arbuthnott Church Watchnight Service

(roads/weather permitting)

Wednesday 25th December 11.00 a.m. Bervie Church

Christmas Day Family Celebration

Sunday 29th being a 5th Sunday, a combined service at 11.30 Bervie Church

6.00pm Gourdon





A fantastic total of 278 shoeboxes for Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2019

A very big thank you for all the lovely shoeboxes which you filled for the Blythswood Christmas appeal 2019.

The lorry came to Bervie on Wednesday 6 November at 2.00pm and all 278 boxes were loaded; a fantastic total, more than we have ever collected before! We couldn't do it without all your help, so thank you very much.

First of all the lorry will take the boxes to the Blythswood Scottish depot where they are checked, loaded on to lorries and driven by volunteers the long journey to countries such as Serbia, Romania, Slovenia, Albania and Hungary.

The shoeboxes will get there in time for Christmas and they will all be given out to men, women and children who otherwise would not receive anything at all at Christmas because they are so poor.

So again, a very big thank you for doing this very kind thing to bring a smile to the face of someone you don't know in a country a long way from here.

Thank you also for the many monetary donations which were also generously given including £208 from the Wednesday Fairtrade coffee mornings .

*Jill Simpson and Sam Davidson
on behalf of Arbuthnott, Bervie and Kinneff Church World Mission Team*

Thank You!

We would like to say a very sincere thanks to all who have supported our fundraising activities throughout the year; local businesses for sponsoring the calendars, individuals for donations to the hampers, and those who make soup and puddings on a regular basis, not forgetting all who support the events and activities. We are so very grateful.

1st Inverbervie Scout Group

We Want YOU!

Leaders required for ALL sections.

Beavers (6—8 years) Wednesday 6.30 / 7.30 pm

Cubs (8—10 1/2 years) Thursday 6.45 / 8.15 pm

Scouts (10 1/2 -14 years) Tuesday 7—9 pm

All sections meet in the Scout Hall, Church St

Please contact Margaret Gray, Group Scout Leader

01561 361 346 07738 216410

Can also be considered for Duke of Edinburgh Award



South Kincardineshire Churches Cluster Group

Songs of Praise **2020**



Sunday 19th January 2020 - 2.30pm - Bervie Church

Refreshments will be served in the church afterwards

A special welcome to the Cluster Group congregations of

**Mearns Coastal, West Mearns, Laurencekirk I/w Aberluthnot,
Arbuthnott Bervie and Kinneff**

Totzone

Baby and Toddler group

continues to run
during term times on

Tuesdays, 9.45am - 11.15am

in Bervie Church Centre

For info please contact Natasha
on 01561361925 or email

natasha.hepburn13@btinternet.com.

Castle Lodge "Sing-a-Long"

The story of Christmas in readings and carols will be held at Castle Lodge on Wednesday, 4th December at 6.30pm.

Andrew Morrison, our minister, the church choir and Singalong group will be taking part and leading the singing.

If you are interested in joining in the singing please contact Margaret Wells on 01561 362289 .

Sunday Services at Castle Lodge

Another opportunity to share a short time of worship. 3.00pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please join in!



Alternative Christmas Card Appeal 2019 in aid of

Bethany Christian Trust

"Buy a Bed"

<https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com>



The Bethany Christian Trust runs a Winter Care Shelter in Edinburgh between October and May each year. This December we will launch our **2019 Alternative Christmas Card Appeal** in aid of its "Buy a Bed" campaign.

For every £21 we raise the Edinburgh Care Shelter provides so much to someone in need: a warm place to sleep for the night, safety from the elements, a two course hot evening meal and breakfast in the morning and care and support for the individual to move out of the crisis of homelessness.

Here's how we can all help: Beat the hassle and waste of individual Christmas cards and give towards a project in great need of our help: wish your friends at church a Happy Christmas using our Alternative Christmas card appeal!

We have a choice of cards and a large chart to stick them on and we're asking everyone to donate what they will save (plus a little more if you would like to!).

Every penny you give will count and will have a lasting impact on the lives of people in great need.

So, please choose a card, write a message inside, stick it up on the chart and drop your donation into the jar we have provided.

If you are a UK tax payer please take a moment to fill in the details on the form nearby so that the appeal can claim back tax - 25p in every pound.

The cards will be available in Bervie Church Centre from Sunday 1 December and also at Arbuthnott Church and Gourdon Mission Hall.....please help if you can.

Margaret Wells and Sheila Taylor have kindly agreed to bring the card to Bervie Church, David Nicoll and Richard Dixon will do the same at Arbuthnott and Gourdon respectively. If you need more information please contact

Sandra Bissett, Sheila Taylor, David Nicoll, Richard Dixon

Thank you, your World Mission Team.

You are very warmly invited to a meeting of The Faith Mission in

Gourdon Mission Hall

on Friday, 6th December at 7.30pm

Speaker - Superintendent Paul Crowe.

This is an open meeting; all are very welcome.

Tea/coffee etc afterwards



The Guilds



Bervie Guild

We were delighted that Prof Hamish McKenzie was able to step in at the last minute for the November meeting to speak on "Art in Hospitals". It was inspiring and extremely well received.

We have our Christmas Party (with Santa) at 2.00pm on 11th Dec. and something tasty for the new year—"Mexican Cuisine" from Martha Doyle'.

Please join us in Bervie Church Centre.

Gourdon Guild

We look forward to all members attending our Christmas Party at 2.30pm on 5th Dec. and to "New Year Beginnings" 16th Jan. in the Mission Hall, Brae Rd, Gourdon
All are very welcome!

Women of the Way (WOW)

Monday WOW group will meet for the last time this year on 2nd December at the home of Margaret Gowans, 'The Coppins', Townhead at 12.30pm. (Please note change of time and venue) We will be watching the DVD of Mark's Gospel; it is an amazing film about the life of Jesus.

After Christmas we will be studying the wonderful story of Ruth from the Bible. We meet at 1.00pm on the following dates :-

January 13th and 27th; Feb 10th and 24th.

Meetings to be held at 3, Queen Johanna Drive at the home of Margaret Wells. If you would like to join the group you would be most welcome.

Contact Margaret on 01561 362289 or email margueritewells@gmail.com

Thursday night study group continue to meet fortnightly at 10 West Park Terrace at 7.30pm through December and January studying "God's Big Picture", with the final session on 6th February. Dates are :-

Session 6- 12th Dec; Session 7- 9th Jan ; Session 8 -23rd Jan; Session 9 -6th Feb.

Any lady can come along at any time, we have great discussions, no advance preparation required. We'll be choosing a new study soon, and are also planning to go to a women's' conference in March 2020, if anyone is interested in coming with us. Please let Sandra Wright know if you'd like any more information - 07511 497768.

You are invited to join us for...

Kingdom Kidz and Totzone Creche



Every Sunday during school term time,
Bervie Church Centre 11.15 till 12.45pm

Please join us as we celebrate together for a



Messy Nativity

Sunday 15th December

10.30am / 11.45am Bervie Church

With lunch afterwards in the Church Centre

No sessions 22nd and 29th Dec. or 5th Jan



Totzone Sunday Crèche for children from 1 to 4 years is available for those wishing to stay for the Church service knowing their children will be safe and happy. Baby facilities and crèche room in the Church Centre are available on request. For more info contact:

Ruth Paterson 362749 e-mail : kingdomkidz@bervie.net

Two Worlds.

(a poem by John Morris, Kinneff)

Far too Heavenly minded, for any Earthly use! Is that how people see us: all talk, no do?

Our leader was a carpenter, and had a Heavenly link. When things got on top of Him, He went away to think.

This Jesus thought of God's world, to see His point of view, then came back down to people, to bring them something new.

The two worlds brought together, no need to be at odds. Visible to invisible, we too can talk with God.

Switch off your TV, mobile phone, He wants to contact you. Relax, let go, and let Him into everything you do.

Arbuthnott Bervie and Kinneff, Church

Kinneff Senior Citizen's Lunch Club

Lunch Club

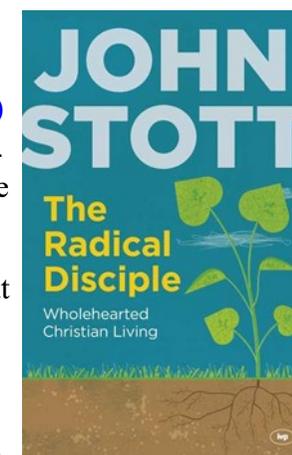
Do come along and join us at **Kinneff Village Hall** every **Wednesday**
from **12 noon—2.00pm.**

Meet other people, enjoy a two-course lunch (£4.54) and a game of Dominoes. Interested? As I need to know numbers every Monday, please contact Mary Forbes, Slains Park, Kinneff 01569 750 240 I look forward to seeing you. *Mary.*

Andrew's Book of the Month

**John Stott, The Radical Disciple:
Wholehearted Christian Living, (IVP, 2012)**

In 'The Radical Disciple: Wholehearted Christian Living', John Stott, in his final book before he entered eternal glory, encapsulates what it means to be a true Christian in all aspects of life. This is a relatively short and easy read, but don't let that deceive you. This will challenge you to grow as a follower of Jesus, whether you're just beginning on that journey, or you've been a Christian for decades. After all, being a Christian is not just for Sunday's, but a 24/7 way of life! Interested?



Just ask Andrew for a copy!

Church and **WaterAid**

Coffee Mornings

Peggy and Frances would like to thank our fantastic helpers and supporters who have enabled us to raise £1,002.45 for WaterAid and £1,223.50 for Church funds. We value your support; looking forward to our December Coffee mornings. We wish you all the blessings of Christmas and health and happiness in 2020. We restart on Wed 15th Jan.

