



Friends of Gordon Chapel **NEWSLETTER**

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Farewell to the Sea King

The last yellow RAF Sea King helicopter left Lossiemouth in December. (The Royal Navy search and rescue helicopters were red and grey.) The new helicopters replacing them have the benefit of speed but the yellow Sea Kings have been iconic in Scotland because of their relationship with mountain rescue.

A programme honouring the Sea Kings and their crews was broadcast on January 10th it was Radio Scotland's 'Out of doors' Saturday morning slot from 6.30 till 8am. What was my surprise when I recognised the man being interviewed! Some of you will remember John Prince who lived in the house opposite Gordon Chapel (St Margaret's). He had been chosen because of his exceptionally long service with the helicopters, 17 dangerous years. Married men were pressured by family to leave after 3 or 4 years but John was single so he stayed! What follows is what I remember of the information given by John and others in the broadcast.

John Prince is in the Guinness Book of Records for the longest rescue helicopter flight. Six people were lifted from the dinghy of a sinking

Icelandic vessel (one later died.) To get there fast, John used techniques from his air racing days. They refuelled in the Faeroes or they would never have made it back to Lossiemouth.

John said the crew was like a family. Rank didn't count. It radically concentrated the pilot's mind knowing that if he dies, they all die!

Some winch men took time to be converted to the Sea Kings because of the strong down draught. They feared it might blow people off the mountain in a rescue, but to counter balance this it had the advantage of a strong winching platform. There has been a strong affection for it in Scotland, especially in coastal and mountainous areas.

It was expensive to run, £5,000 to £10,000 a day depending on the activity. A return trip from Lossie to the Ben Nevis area cost £15,000. Euan McIlwraith asked if mountaineers should have insurance. John said mountain rescue teams never challenged climbers in trouble but as a pilot he did not appreciate it when climbers said they didn't ask to be rescued! 98% of John's rescues were of civilians.

So we will no longer see the big, sturdy, solidly built workhorse that was the Sea King. It will be missed. Mountain rescues, sea rescues and emergency flights to hospital will now be carried out by its successors. We wish them well. And it was good to hear John Prince reminisce.

Margaret Forsyth

Be Inspired

'**Inspires**, the magazine of the Scottish Episcopal Church' is available in Gordon Chapel for members of the congregation to read and take home if necessary, provided they return it, but does anyone ever read or even open it? If not, you don't know what you are missing, as it is an excellent magazine, interesting and readable; so much so that Margaret Forsyth and I subscribe to it for a well-spent £8 a year for four issues.

When I looked through the issue of December 2015, I found an article entitled 'A whole new language'. It began as follows:

Serving a curacy in the Highlands can bring both challenge and opportunity. The Rt Rev Mark Strange explains 'The Diocese of Moray,

Ross and Caithness has a long tradition of training local clergy for local ministry, but when Sarah Murray was selected for training it was the first time in many years that we had produced a local stipendiary curate.

We had only just got to know Sarah, so I wondered ‘Is this our Sarah?’ and of course it is. There is an excellent photograph of her walking down the aisle in Holy Trinity Church, Keith with the Bishop in the background.

‘Inspires’ used to be a rather dull publication, but when the Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth took over as Editor in 2013, he completely transformed it by taking a theme for each issue, and collecting articles by various people who could give the benefit of their personal experiences. For example, the theme for autumn 2013 was Births, Deaths and Marriages, and contributors wrote about their positive experiences of bereavement, remarriage, the first great grandchild and other personal situations.

Now we have an editorial team of The Rev Chris Mayo, Lorna Finley, The Rev Sarah Murray and Karen Willey, and their joint efforts are producing a magazine full of interest.

Do please have a look at ‘Inspires’.

Audrey Abelsmith

A BIG YEAR AHEAD

2015 was a very productive time for Busega Scotland. Our profile and number of supporters increased, and we became a registered charity. But all this is of little consequence unless it makes a difference on the ground in Tanzania? One of the most telling comments was from a girl in the orphanage at Mayega, who said Busega Scotland gave her ‘hope for the future’.

Why is this? Africa is littered with under resourced orphanages and broken promises, some African and some European. The children know this. In order to build ‘hope’ helping organisations have to demonstrate,

not just talk about, commitment. This is something Christine and I can do with confidence when we are in Mayega, because we know the backing we receive from Moray and elsewhere.



The children see it. Food available *every* day, health needs met, clothes, school uniforms, school fees, solar power, the hen project, a newly built dining room and motivated staff, getting regular pay. Without the help of Busega Scotland

‘hope’ would be replaced by ‘worry and uncertainty’, as Tanzania has no social welfare safety net for children or adults.

[Bulk food in the store room](#)

As with kids everywhere the Mayega children look beyond their childhood and dream of the future. Many orphanages show the door to their young people at eighteen and expect them to make their way in the world. Would we expect that of our own children? Perhaps, but only if they had our backing if things go wrong, and could feel the love and support being always there. In Africa, if you don’t have family behind you your problems are almost insurmountable.



One of Busega Scotland’s biggest achievements is to establish our Moving-on Project, where Mayega leavers are supported into professional and vocational training. We now have eight young people in the

project, following courses in primary education, secretarial, pre-nursing

and motor mechanics. But to succeed, these youngsters, out in the big [Motor Mechanic Students at Kalwande College](#) wide world for the first time, need social, emotional and spiritual support and this is where Rev Gadlord Deuli (our Project Leader in Tanzania) and his family come in.

The Deuli family see it as *their responsibility* to take care of the students, as if they are part of their family. This is quite remarkable - in both commitment and results. Take Ester, a girl who so lacked confidence when she left Mayega she couldn't look straight at a camera for a photograph. Now the principal of her teacher training college talks warmly of her work and behaviour, and said he would 'welcome more students like Ester in the future'.



[Rev Gadlord and Jane Deuli](#)

Well done Ester and the Deulis! *Ubuntu* (African brotherhood) is alive and well in the Moving-on Project!

So 2016 is a big year, as the children and young people at Mayega, and in college, work hard to realise the opportunities they now have, through the generosity of the supporters of Busega Scotland. We thank you for that, and assure you we will do all we can to build further 'hope for the future'.

John and Christine Carney.

The story behind a memorial

A plaque on a low stone pillar in Bellie churchyard records that a young Lord John Graham, son of the Marquis of Montrose, was laid to rest somewhere within its precincts. King Charles I's conviction of his "Divine Right", his increasingly despotic rule and his attempts to impose Church of England practices on Scotland had led Montrose, initially, to join the covenanters and fight against the king.

As time went on, the Presbyterians' aims and methods became more extreme, "King Campell of Argyll was intent on increasing his personal power. His portrait shows an unhappy face, malevolent, long nosed and small eyes beneath a black skull cap. Argyll and the Kirk replaced the moderate first Covenant by a second and then a third, ever more extreme.

Montrose, seeing that the Kirk had become as much of a tyrant as the king and fearing for Charles' safety, turned his coat and joined the Royalists. He was a complex character, a practical soldier, a clever general who defeated the Covenanters on six successive occasions but also a romantic and a poet, a side of him that sometimes caused him to over-estimate the effect his efforts would have. But a side too, that taught him how to use theatrical effects: - trumpets calling, blue bonnets, banners waving and his own inspiring courage to put heart into an exhausted army.

In the seventeenth century, army chaplains were the equivalent of our war correspondents and much of what is known of Montrose's campaigns is thanks to their accounts. Bleak terrain and wintry weather were frequent, in such conditions Montrose benefitted from the fitness of his men. John Buchan, in his biography of Montrose, says that the Highland soldiers, fed on meat and oatmeal, used to hard living and physical endurance were far superior specimens of manhood to the bannock fed lowland peasants and city apprentices fighting for the Kirk. Nor did they need transport wagons and pay chests. Each man fought out of loyalty to his clan chief.

Lord Graham, elder son of Montrose, had finally persuaded his father to let him accompany him on campaign. He was fourteen years old. But the privations of atrocious winter weather and lack of food and rest resulted in the boy's complete exhaustion. Respite with the Gordons at the castle at Bog of Gight was much needed, if only short. Sadly, Lord John's exhaustion turned to high fever and Montrose had to watch his son die, his coffin borne by four clan chiefs, was interred in Bellie cemetery. It was March 1645.

Five years later, Montrose nobly died a traitor's death in Edinburgh. Charles II, the son of the king he had served so loyally, had made a bargain with the Scots. An English political writer recorded the

“composure” and “majerty” of the prisoner added that “he has overcome more men by his death than he could have done if he had lived”.

Lines by Montrose himself could be a fitting epitaph:

“He either fears his fate too much
Or his deserts are small,
That dares not put it to the touch
To win or lose it all”.

Margaret Forsyth

Friends of Gordon Chapel draw took place on Palm Sunday and the lucky recipients are as follows:-

£100.00 Michael Gordon Lennox. £75.00 Sandra Smart. £50.00 Jeff Lowndes. £25.00 Felicity Calabrese

Thank you for all the contributions to our latest newsletter, we would love to hear some stories from our ‘faraway’ readers!!



Lohcarron

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We would appreciate items from Friends for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please send to: Brenda Shepherd 2 Elsher Close, Lhanbryde, Elgin. IV30 8FA or email: brenda02@tiscali.co.uk.