



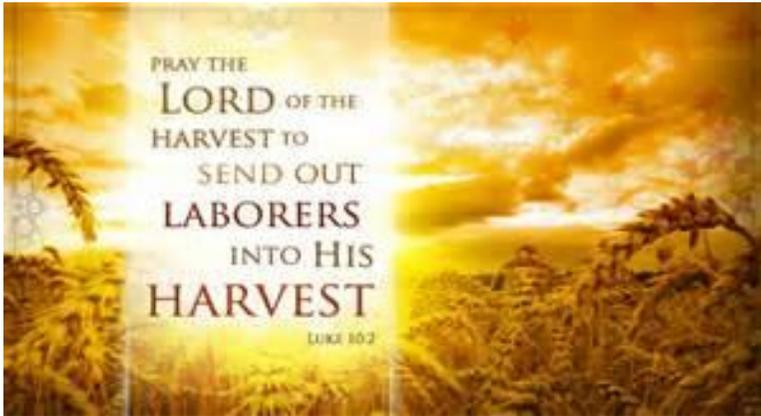
Friends of Gordon Chapel
NEWSLETTER

www.gordonchapel.org.uk

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The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Lot again... A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad"



Harvest is a great season for the Christian, because within is so much meaning beyond the usual bunches of grapes and flowers that decorate our churches, as God looks to our harvest - how fruitful are you as a Christian?!

According to that fount of all knowledge - Wikipedia - Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word hærfeſt, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. (source [Wikipedia](#))

Concert – Musik Fyne – Saturday 1st October

Robin Stewart was a much valued member of Gordon chapel and always brimmed with enthusiasm and ideas!. He had a passion for music and sang with the vocal group, Musik Fyne. Directed by James Ross, Musik Fyne research and perform music written in 16th century Scotland and contemporary repertoire including music by John Taverner, Paul Mealor and Arvo Part.

Their music has been heard all over Scotland including Pluscarden Abbey, Dornoch Cathedral, and Stirling Castle.

On Saturday 1st October, Musik Fyne is coming to give a concert in Gordon Chapel at 8pm, followed by refreshments. Tickets will be available at the door for £10 or from Fiona, tel: 01542 833213.

The concert is advertised as “Ancient and Modern – a thousand years of Scottish choral music” and will also feature instrumentalists on clarinet, ‘cello, gut-strung harp and pictish harp.

Musik Fyne will be presenting this concert in memory of Robin, with the proceeds going to Gordon Chapel and the Oaks Hospice in Elgin, at the request of the Stewart family.

This promises to be a wonderful evening, so, if you can, come along and be inspired!

Fiona Gordon

A Trip to Bath

An invitation to visit Bath Abbey in June for a performance of the Mass in B minor by J. S. Bach was not to be missed!

Arriving during the afternoon of a beautiful sunny day, Bath was looking at its best. There was time for an open-topped bus tour around the city, during which lots of historical snippets were gleaned through headphones in a choice of languages including Japanese, French, German Italian and English. We learnt that Queen Victoria refused to visit the city, after opening a garden at the age of twelve, an undiplomatic journalist described her clothes as rather drab. When passing the area she apparently would have blinds closed on her carriage or train so that she wouldn't have to gaze upon the place! Jane Austen of course made Bath famous and we were treated to information about life during that period which for a certain class seemed to involve lots of “taking of the waters” and generally staying within a strict code of behaviour in order to progress.

Following the tour we viewed the magnificent west front of the Abbey and went inside to listen to the choir rehearsing. The 16th century Abbey replaced a Norman Cathedral, a Saxon Monastery and a Roman Temple. It is one of the last English buildings to be built in a medieval gothic way described as a “perpendicular style with strong vertical lines, big windows, flying buttresses and spectacular ceilings. The ceiling of the

Nave seeks to echo the vault of heaven, hence Bath Abbey's vision statement that it is a building where earth and heaven meet".

Built of limestone, it reflects the light wonderfully and the windows, with mostly Victorian stained glass, occupy more than 80% of the building's wall space giving an overall feeling of space and illumination.

Several of the choir stalls had been removed (quite a logistical feat) to accommodate the Bath Bach Choir and the orchestra. It was lovely to explore the Abbey to the sound of rehearsing voices.

Conducted by Nigel Perrin, the choir is of a very high standard, with entry by audition and regular attendance of rehearsals required. Both my brother, Jamie and sister-in-law, Jo, take part and relish the demands of the varied repertoire they sing, ranging from Bach to MacMillan.

The Orchestra, "Music for Awhile", led by Margaret Faultless, specialises in the Baroque era, performing on period instruments.

We had seats close to the front for the performance and for myself, as a woodwind player, found it fascinating to watch and listen to the instrumentalists. The sound compared to modern instruments is generally softer and mellower, with the pitch nearly a semitone lower than the current A=440. The overall sense is very different on the ear. The skill required is immense with the brass instruments not having valves, meaning all the notes having to be produced with varied blowing and embouchure techniques. The woodwind instruments have only a few keys which makes the fingering complex.

The choir and soloists sounded fantastic in what was a perfect setting, both from a religious and acoustic point of view.

The Mass follows the usual structure with a Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Osanna, Benedictus, Agnus Dei and Donna Nobis Pacem. Bach wrote it over a period of fifteen years from 1733 – 1749 during which time he made many changes and variations and it was performed in part at different times. Bach stated that it "united his creed as a Christian with his creed as a musician".

The Mass wasn't published and generally available until 1845 and represents an "anthology of his finest vocal music and skilful instrumental writing".

The performance I experienced was superb, uplifting and I came away quite inspired!



References: Bath Abbey Guide; Bath Bach Choir programme

Fiona Gordon

PETER'S SUMMER

Over the summer, Professor Peter Reid has been involved in two very different activities and in the following two articles he tells us a bit about them.

EVERY CHILD A LIBRARY MEMBER

Over the summer, I have been undertaking a review of a Scottish Government initiative entitled 'Every Child a Library Member' which is a scheme to register automatically all children in Scotland as members of their local library service with a view to improving literacy and ultimately school attainment. I was commissioned to undertake the research by the Scottish Library and Information Council.

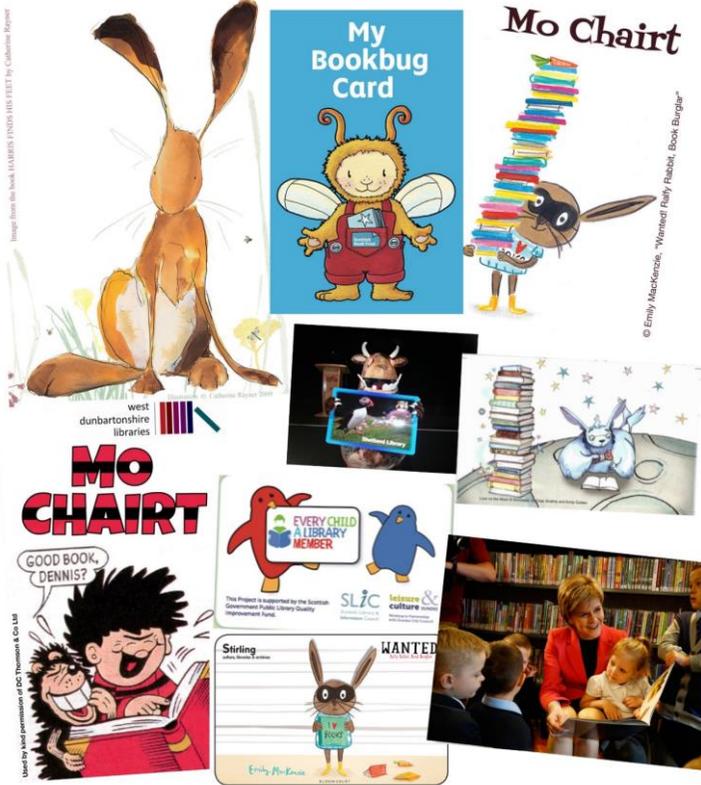
In August 2015, the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, launched Every Child a Library Member and all 32 of Scotland's local authorities signed up to the scheme and up to £5,000 was made available to each

local authority from the Public Library Improvement Fund. In the spring of 2016, each local authority submitted a report on the scheme in their area and outlined the approaches adopted. I was then asked to carry out an overview evaluation across all of these reports.

With my Research Assistant, Caroline, we assessed the various approaches taken across Scotland and identified good practice which could be shared more widely. There were some incredibly interesting things been doing across the country with library services really thinking imaginatively about how to turn children into active library users. For example, in Eilean Siar they obtained permission from illustrators to use their work in bespoke library cards for children. Others worked closely with Registrars to ensure that children were registered from birth. A whole range of innovative and creative programmes emerged from the evaluation we undertook.

The key findings highlighted the importance of removing barriers to library membership, community outreach, participation and engagement as well as fostering and developing active and engaged partnership with Registrars. The value and significance of the Tell Us Once (for Civil Registration) was also very important. A number of local authorities highlighted that the spirit of the scheme rests not in simply making child library members but in developing active. Our study also revealed the significance of high quality marketing and promotional materials. Every Child a Library Member is an important programme both for the library community in Scotland but also because of the role it can potentially play in closing the attainment gap, reducing social exclusion and promoting equality of opportunity. This was a thoroughly worthwhile and fascinating research project and led to a report which the Scottish Government has taken very close interest in.

Professor Peter Reid



UPCYCLING AND OTHER CRAFTS

I've spent a bit of time over the summer pursuing a completely different interest in craft related things and particularly upcycling. I've always had an interest in this but it is only in the last year and a half that I have got back into it seriously. It started with a project to repair a rather sad, dilapidated jardinière which had belonged to my grandmother. After a bit of restoration and paintwork, I was delighted with the result and it is now reunited with her ninety year old fern in my library at home.

I've done some work on a couple of old kitchen chairs which I painted grey and recovered with some tweed from Johnstons Cashmere Centre, Elgin (other textile retailers are available). I've done a few other pieces

of furniture too using Annie Sloan's chalk paints and range of waxes to achieve different finishes.

I particularly enjoy working with image transfers, either using reverse printing (taking a picture, flipping it horizontally and transferring it using matt medium to another surface, a tray, a box or even a small canvas). I have been working at decoupage techniques too as well as stencilling sometimes with mixed results though. The blue tray in the picture is one that I am rather proud of because I managed to achieve a really fresh clean stencil with it.

My other great pleasure is making little houses out of drift wood (Kingston beach along as far as the rifle range is a great spot for picking up good pieces). I like making my little houses of the bits I find.

I find this to be really relaxing and rewarding, taking something a bit sad and unloved and in need of some attention and turning it into something nice. I might be having a garage sale towards the end of the year of some of my crafts so watch this space!

Professor Peter Reid

Winners of September draw:

£100.00	Colin Reid:	£75.00	Elsbeth Brown:
£50.00	Rosie Sugden:	£25.00	Stella Voss:



WALK MORAY FOR BUSEGA

The unremarkable Orchard Road car park in Forres was the starting point for quite an adventure, as twelve Busega Scotland supporters took on the 95 miles of the Moray Way. Three of us had the intention of walking all the way and everyone else did what they could.

A long distance sponsored walk is a daunting prospect, especially when so many people had been so generous with their time, money and support. Confidence was reasonably high, as the 'gang of three' had done well over a hundred miles in practice walks, but there did remain a little bit of doubt.

How did we get on?

Firstly, everyone completed what they had committed to complete. A magnificent effort! Secondly, it was tough (especially the hilly bit from Ballindalloch to Cromdale). From the start in Forres the route follows the coast to Kingston via Lossiemouth and then turns south through Fochabers and Aberlour and into Grantown. From there the Dava Way heads north back to Forres.

The walk was recorded as a daily blog on our website, busegascotland.co.uk, and there were many highlights. Here are some of them:

- At Covesea, we met four year old Logan who, complete with crash helmet and jump suit, gave us a display of quad biking that belied his tender years.
- From Ben Aigen we watched the beautiful sight (for train spotters at least) of the Aberdeen to Inverness train crossing the strath.



- Near Tamdhu, on our only wet day, out of the murk came a Japanese film crew making a documentary on the Speyside Way. They were delighted to meet us and we will soon be celebrities in the ‘land of the rising sun’.



So, then back to Forres, and the triumphant entry into the Orchard Road car park, journey’s end, that will forever be etched into our hearts with relief and joy.



We have yet to collect all of the donations and pledges but we will easily exceed the £1500 target we set ourselves. This means we will be able to buy a water filter for the Mayega Children’s Centre, sponsor a Mayega leaver at college next year and start a new Family Support Project in the village of Chole.

The congregation of Gordon Chapel has played a wonderful part in our achievement by contributing over £200. Thank you, on behalf of the children and

families in Tanzania, the walkers and Busega Scotland. God bless you.

John Carney

Gordon Chapel

Priest	Vacant	01343 829094
Sacristan	Janet Philpott	01343 820196
Vestry Secretary	Daphne Stevens	01343 821731
Priest's Warden	Margaret Forsyth	
People's Warden	Moira Middleton	

Friends' Team

Fiona Gordon, Co-ordinator Inchbroom, Cairnfield, Buckie, Banffshire, AB56 5EL	01542 833213
Moira Middleton, Membership Secretary Ardlui, Main Street, Urquhart, Elgin IV30 8LG	01343 842985
Brian Shepherd. Joint Editor 2 Elsher Close, Lhanbryde, Elgin IV30 8FA	01343 842179
Brenda Shepherd. Editor and Publisher 2 Elsher Close, Lhanbryde, Elgin IV30 8FA	01343 842179
James Smart Rhodal 2 Moray View Court, Portessie, Buckie AB56 1TE	01542 836002
Marion Bateman 39 Forsyth Street, Hopeman, IV30 5SY	01343 830471

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.