



## Pupils crack the code

By Rev STUART DUFF

Birnie and Pluscarden linked with Elgin High

EASTER CODE was devised by a school chaplaincy team in the Hamilton/Blantyre area to help P7 children understand the events of Easter.

Some of the goals/aims of Easter Code are:

*To encourage pupils to learn about the meaning behind the celebration of Easter*

*To help the youngsters better understand the background to the final events of Jesus' life*

*To give them an opportunity to experience and participate in key events remembered during Holy Week*

*Pupils and staff to have a positive experience within their local church*

*Pupils would know more about why people remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

On Thursday, March 26, Elgin High Church greeted 113 Primary 7 pupils from three schools – New Elgin, Greenwards and Mosstowie –

who had come to take part in a two hour programme entitled 'Easter Code, Can You Crack It?'

The programme started with a fun activity - a Chocolate Quiz. Teams that answered correctly received an egg. Inside one of the eggs was a key to a box containing a scroll - a 'Ten Minute Gospel'.

The dramatic account told the story of Jesus' life from his baptism to Palm Sunday – mimed by several others. The children in their teams then visited 5 locations set up in gazebos to look at the events of Holy Week. The events were the Last Supper; foot washing; arrest in Gethsemane; the crowd and the crucifixion.

The story of the resurrection events included a spontaneous drama by the children, where one of the leaders helped them to act out the women finding the empty tomb. This was followed by telling of Jesus meeting his friends on the Emmaus Road.

During the programme, the children had worksheets to complete

and there was also a chance for them to respond to what they had learned.

Some comments included 'why is Good Friday called good?; amazing; thank-you; Jesus on the cross wasn't the end, it was the start; I enjoyed today as I learned that Jesus had doubts about being a sacrifice; thanks for telling us about Easter

At the end, children received an Easter egg and a work book about Easter.



Elgin High's Paula Baker helps helps youngsters on their way to cracking the Easter Code.

Although it was a lot of work to prepare for Easter Code, every volunteer was encouraged by being part of it.

The feedback from the teachers was very positive and we were asked if we will be doing it again next year.

To find out more about the various programmes, go the website that explains in detail all the activities. See [www.calderside.org.uk](http://www.calderside.org.uk)



Jill Scotland throws herself into her role at the Easter Code event in Elgin High.

# Jesus IS the Bread of Life

YOU CAN get away with murder if you are just a little vague.

Let me tell you what I mean. If you make a statement or a promise and you are just vague enough, you leave yourself an out.

We've come to expect this kind of thing from politicians. A politician promises to "address an issue". We think the politicians will do something about the problem when, in reality, they won't, they only intend to make mention of it in a speech.

If you can get away with murder by being vague, you can also get yourself killed by being too precise. If you say exactly what you mean people will hold you to your words. Your precision has given them a standard by which to judge you and your actions. It gives them something solid to shoot at. Your enemies will love you for being too precise.

Message from  
the Moderator  
Rev DANNY  
CONNOLLY

If you beat around the bush you can get away Scot free, but if you say exactly what you mean they'll nail you. That is what happened to Jesus: He said exactly what He meant and they nailed him - to a cross!

Things were going well for Jesus, his popularity was on the rise and then there was the amazing feeding of the 5,000. Now that was a publicity man's dream. What a photo opportunity. Jesus feeds the masses and they try to make him king, but he declines. This would look good on TV. But then Jesus jeopardised the whole thing by making a precise statement.

He said: "I am the bread of life." There was no mistaking it. He made himself equal with God. And worse still, he was looking straight into the camera when he said it. Every microphone picked it up. Every channel ran it as the sound-byte for the day. "Today on a Galilean hillside Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life'.

Now, if I had been Jesus' speech writer, I would have convinced him to say something different. I would have said - "Jesus,



love this 'bread of life' statement. Great touch, especially on the heels of the whole multitude thing. But let's work on the wording a little. Maybe you should say, 'God sends the Bread of life.' Or better yet, 'The bread of life is here.' Let people draw their own conclusions and believe what they want to believe. But this 'I am the bread of life' it'll get you into a lot of trouble in the religious press"

Jesus got into trouble for being too precise in saying I am the bread of life. **Not was, not used to be, not maybe or will be, but I am.** Jesus is the bread of life. He is the one true source of forgiveness. Look to him to satisfy your hunger and he'll not disappoint you.



## Open air service welcomes Easter Day

ON EASTER Sunday, members of Kinloss and Findhorn I/w Alves and Burghead gathered at Carsehill for an open air service.

At this service, the four Celtic crosses, which are kept in the four church buildings, were brought and put together to form one Celtic cross on the hill.

In the fresh glow of the early morning sun, the surrounding countryside seemed to respond to the message of new life and new beginning.

## Hitting the net for Malawi

ON Easter Sunday, the linked charges of Rathven and Buckie North held a united service, when a retiring offering raised £230.46.

The money will go towards providing mosquito nets for children in Malawi and Zambia.



## How things have changed ... A trip down memory lane to the Assembly of 1930



As the General Assembly is almost upon us, I thought this picture taken at the Assembly in 1930 might be of some interest. The caption states: Mr James Brown, Lord High Commissioner, and Mrs Brown at the General Assembly in 1930. The Moderator that year was the Rev Dr Andrew N. Bogle. (NS)

## Buckie and Aberdeen guilds link for fellowship



A happy gathering ... The members of Buckie North Guild were joined by their link partners from Queen Street Church, Aberdeen, for an afternoon of fellowship in the North Church hall. The link between the guilds was formed more than 10 years ago and they meet together twice a year - October and March. In October the Granite City Guild hosts, and they travel through to Buckie in March. The speaker at this year's event was Pastor John Coppard of the Riverside Christian Fellowship.

# Team Romania 2015 set for mission

IN A LITTLE under 12 weeks, a team from Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church will head out to Sistarovat (pictured right) in rural Romania to work for a week with vulnerable and orphaned children.

The 2015 mission comprises a team of 17 people aged between 16 and 60+, and their aim is to share the Good News of Jesus with the Romanian youngsters by providing a week's Friendship Camp.

This is done through Bible stories, crafts, games, sport, music and song and spending time with them building relationships.

The week in July will see the group working with around 70 children aged 11-15. Of this number, 40 are children of low paid factory workers from the nearest city Arad, and around 30 will be youngsters who were orphaned but have been fostered by Christian families.

The majority of the children are unchurched and the theme will be basic and simple - the Gospel message that Jesus died for us and can be our friend if we believe in Him.

As part of the project, as well as instructing craftwork and overseeing activities, team members will take every opportunity to share their own personal testimonies with the children, and sharing what Jesus has done in their lives.

It will be a challenging mission for members of 'Team Romania 2015' - it will be hot and there is a language



barrier to overcome, but they also know it will be humbling and rewarding.

The group goes out in the great Christian hope they will bring children to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and in return will have their own lives greatly enriched with a deeper personal relationship with Jesus.

The team is meeting regularly for prayer and to make preparations. If you would like to help, please PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for those taking part in this wonderful venture in faith, and for the children of Romania.

<b>Team Romania 2015</b> JULY 11 - 18					
	Isabel	Denise	Mark	Liam	Ben
					
Anne	Alison	Margaret	Rachel	David	Rowan
					
Neil	John	Iain	Christy	Callum	Kirsty



The Rev Gillian Morton, convener of the Presbytery's Mission and Service Committee, presents a bunch of flowers to the Rev Bill Reid (to be given to his wife) as a thank you for his excellent presentation on the Presbytery of Europe and his experiences as minister of the Scots' Kirk in Paris. Bill's talk was given at the World Mission Lunch, held in Elgin High Church hall. The lunch, which had a flavour of France, was prepared by Ann Grant and included French onion soup.

## LOSSIEMOUTH MODEL RAILWAY GROUP

# MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION



# ST JAMES CHURCH

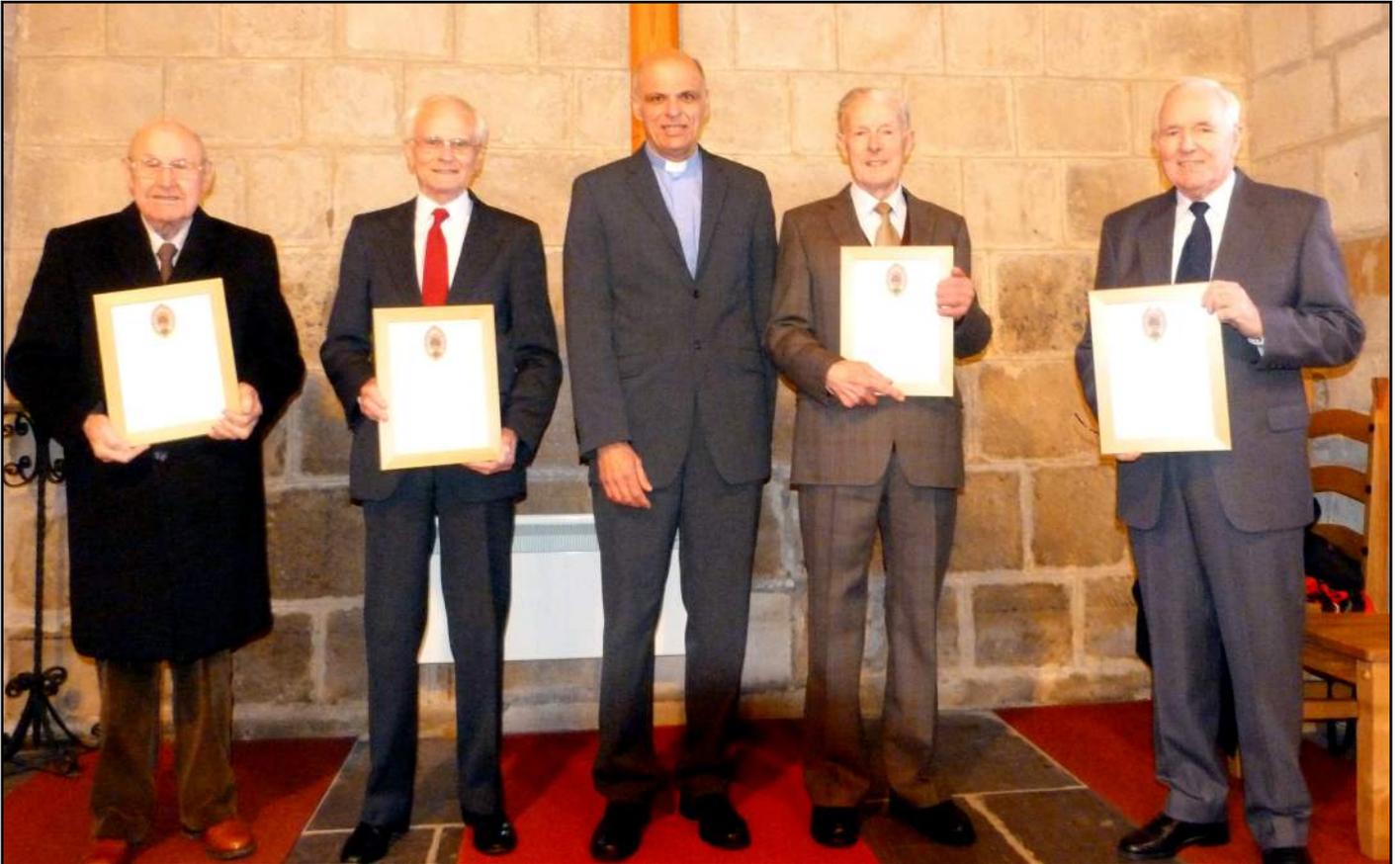
PROSPECT TERRACE, LOSSIEMOUTH

# SATURDAY, MAY 9

10am-4pm :: Entry £3 - Children and Concession £1.50 - Under 5s Free

Layouts, Purchases and Displays :: All Welcome

# Men's long service recognised by the Kirk



Four elders of Birnie and Pluscarden Church were presented with long service certificates in recognition of their dedicated service to the life and work of the Church of Scotland at a service in Birnie Kirk. Pictured are (from left to right) Bill Craig (44 years), Bill Knox (37), the Rev Stuart Duff, who presented the certificates, George Cruickshank (45) and James Gordon (30).

## Just for fun - find the hidden books of the Bible

**There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them?**

THIS is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people. - Martin Luther