

Lossiemouth Baptist Church

150 Year Anniversary

1861-2011



Message from our current Pastor

Rae Mackenzie



Office, 30 North Street.
Edin 25th Novem: 1867

Dear Sir,

I submitted your application dated the 4th current to my Constituents Lady Dunbar Brander of Pitgaveny and Captain Brander Dunbar for a site for the Baptist Chapel in Branderburgh, and am authorised by them to say that you may have the vacant ground on the South East corner of "James Square" at the usual feurduty being not under £10. per Imperial Acre and which in this instance would be £2.15/-, but which is to be restricted during their lives to Five shillings yearly, and which ground will be sufficient both for a Chapel and Manse to the Clergyman.

I may add that Her Ladyship and Captain Dunbar fully appreciate the kindly and generous expressions in your letter towards them, and that they and I sincerely wish this Christian undertaking to prosper, and prove a blessing to many.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly

Geo Saker

Mr James Scott
Seaman

Stotfield

**Transcript of original letter authorising the establishment of
Lossiemouth Baptist Church**

The Baptizall Church of Christ Meeting in Reidhaven Street, Chapel, Elgin.

Elgin, May 12 1861

To our Dear Brethren and Sisters,

You, Wm. Crockett, Robt. Mitchell, Mr Robert Mitchell, Josh Mitchell, William Farquhar, Alexr. Garden, James Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Mrs James Mitchell, Wm. Edwards, John Mitchell, Wm. Mackilligan, Isobella Farquhar, Isobella Mason, Isabella Mitchell, Jane Mitchell, Elspet Mitchell, Jessie Stewart, William Stewart, William Mitchell, David Mitchell, Alexr. Mitchell, Barbara Mitchell, Anne Mitchell, having applied to us for your Dismission in order to be formed into a church of the same faith and order as ourselves, the matter was brought before us and your request was granted, accompanied by the following resolution :-

“Resolved that as our friends at Branderburgh, Stotfield and Lossiemouth have applied for their Dismission to be formed into a church, we cannot as a Church allow the present opportunity to pass by without recording our gratitude to the Lord for the cordial fellowship we have had with some of them for a lengthened period of time and with others during their membership with us, and pray that the great Head of the Church may grant them His constant presence that they may be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus – that they may increase and grow up in Christ both in gifts and grace, and that from them may sound out the Word of the Lord through all the region round about and that the Lord may add unto them multitudes of the saved and that a cordial feeling of reciprocated Christian love may ever exist between the two churches.”

This resolution was put and carried by the Church. My earnest prayer for you, my Dear Friends, is that you may ever enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus, until you are called to surround His throne in Glory. The Lord preserve and increase you with men. Continue to pray for your former Pastor.

Signed on behalf of the Church,

Thomas Vasey

(Pastor)

Lossiemouth Baptist Church: formation, Ministers, building, and extensions

The Lossiemouth church was formed in 1861 from a nucleus of 22 members who before that were worshipping in Elgin, their parent Baptist church. The male members were mostly fishermen living in the Seatown, Branderburgh and Stotfield districts of the town. With the agreement and blessing of Pastor Vasey and the members of the Elgin church, the new Lossiemouth Baptist church met initially in Bentons Buildings on Clifton Road where Loxa Court is now located. Their first minister was Rev A H McKimmie. The congregation acted quickly to raise funds, have plans drawn up, and obtain a site by the square in Branderburgh. Finance was arranged in remarkably short time, to cover the then substantial cost of £650, and so the congregation was able to move into the original church building in 1868. In 1895 during the ministry of Pastor B. J. Cole, the first hall was completed at a cost of £600, and the manse purchased for £300. A second hall extension was added 70 years later during the pastorate of Alistair Clark. The latest extension, a lovely modern multi-purpose hall and kitchen, was completed in 2010.

Ministers of Lossiemouth Baptist Church 1862 to 2011

1862 – 1866	A. H. McKimmie	1921 – 1944	Donald Fletcher
1869 – 1871	J. M. Campbell	1945 – 1949	James Martin
1873 – 1876	G. Whittet	1950 – 1951	Redvers J. Samson
1876 – 1882	G. McDonald	1952 – 1954	George F. Maitland
1882 – 1884	J. McGregor	1954 – 1959	Richard L. McPhee
1885 – 1889	A. M. Riddell	1959 – 1966	Dan M. Fraser
1889 – 1892	F. A. Judd	1966 – 1971	Ken Denman
1892 – 1897	B. J. Cole	1971 – 1982	Alistair Clark
1897 – 1900	A. Bremnar	1983 – 1995	James Urquhart
1900 – 1914	J. Yeomans	1996 – 1998	William Freel
1915 – 1918	D. M. McKenzie	1998 – 2003	Darren McLean
1918 – 1921	Jane Henderson	2004 – 2010	Trevor Wilson
Current Pastor from 2010 - Rev Rae Mackenzie			

There have been 25 Ministers since the church was established. The longest serving Minister was Donald Fletcher, generally recognised as a man of great pastoral ability and deep spirituality. He commenced his ministry during the 1921 – 1923 revival and ended it at the close of WW2, though he also served as Moderator for the next two pastoral appointments. The second longest serving Minister was John Yeomans who was inducted in 1900 following receipt of a unanimous call from the church. He had served in Westray in the Orkney Islands (one of the oldest Baptist

churches in Scotland), from 1895 to 1900. Yeomans had been appointed President of the Young People's Christian Endeavour society in 1897. After the First World War, when fewer men were available as Ministers Lossie had a woman Minister for four years, Rev Jane Henderson, who had a fruitful ministry.

Two of Lossiemouth's Ministers went on to become Presidents of the Baptist Union of Scotland, Rev. G. Whittet, and Rev. B. J. Cole; and one, Rev. W. Freel, had previously served as President of the Baptist union of Scotland. Two of the post-war ministers were called to serve in Canada, R. McPhee and D. McLean, and one, R. J. Samson, went from Scotland to minister in England, then in later life to the USA. He is believed to have come originally from Wales, while recent pastor Trevor Wilson hailed from Ireland. All other post-war ministers were Scottish, but there were some from England in the church's early years, including John Yeomans who was from Manchester.

Information is scarce on the pastors who served LBC in the 19th century during the church's first 40 years. We have a photocopy of a picture (too faint to print) of the girls Bible class during the pastorate of George MacDonald, 1876 – 1882. The young ladies pictured were Misses Farquhar, Mitchell (4), Stewart (2), Campbell, McIntosh, Phimister, and Smith. Their teacher was Mr Willie Herd. The gravestones of two of the early ministers, G. MacDonald and J. McGregor can still be found in the old Drainie cemetery close to the gate of the RAF station. The inscription on Rev MacDonald's stone is barely decipherable, but that of Rev James McGregor is reproduced below.

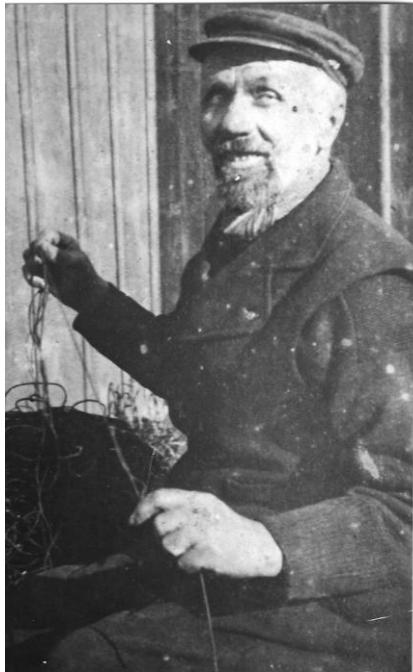


Gravestone of Rev James McGregor,
Drainie cemetery

The inscription reads :

“This stone was erected by the members of the Baptist Church Bible Class, Branderburgh, in affectionate memory of their much esteemed and beloved Pastor James McGregor who fell asleep in Jesus March 23rd 1884 aged 29 years, leaving a widow, church, and congregation to mourn his loss, dearly regretted by all “

Pictured below is founder member Robert Mitchell, his wife Isabella, and his mother. The photographs were kindly supplied by 92 year-old Mrs Ina Vickery who is a granddaughter of Robert Mitchell. Robert, a fisherman, is pictured preparing his lines. He fished from the old river mouth harbour in an open boat which was mainly financed from the savings of his frugal mother. She, Isabella senior, was a member of Elgin Baptist church, who refused to be photographed unless she was holding her Bible.



Robert Mitchell



Mrs Isabella Mitchell



Isabella senior

The original congregation in 1861 was composed of fisher families and others whose work related closely to the fishing. Names of the founding group that continued to be prominent in the fishing fleet until the late 20th century were Mitchell, Stewart, Edwards, Garden, Crockett, and Farquhar. Later fisher family names to be added to the church members and adherents included Campbell, Scott, McKenzie, Cormack, Wood, Flett, Gault, Ralph, Main and Smith. The Gault family included fish merchants, and there was one deacon, Jimmy Robb who was the last of the coopers in the town who made barrels to hold the salt-cured herring. A family of local boat builders, the Slaters, constructed sailboats (scaffies and fifies), steam drifters, and seine-netters, from 1875 till 1951. Sandy and Willie Slater were long time supporters of the church.



**Lossiemouth
Harbour
(circa 1900)**

Brief History of the Church

In Scotland, Baptist churches first emerged in the later 1700s although there are accounts of Baptist believers in the 1600s. They were variously referred to as Anabaptists, water dippers, and independents. They had been influenced by Baptist groups from Europe, and by Baptists and Puritans in the Cromwellian army that occupied Scotland in the 1650s. Leaders of the Baptist movement in Scotland in the 1700s included men like John Glas of Dundee, Sir William Sinclair of Caithness, Archibald McLean of Glasgow and the central belt, and the Haldane brothers who evangelised all over Scotland. Formal baptist churches were formed throughout the country in the 1800s, over a dozen of them in the years 1800 – 1810.

Elgin was the first to start a Baptist congregation in Moray, in 1808, with the support of the Haldane brothers. In 1850 a 300 seat chapel was opened on the present site of that church. Several members were added from Lossiemouth and Hopeman, and in due time they applied to form their own local Baptist churches. Both daughter congregations went on to erect their own buildings - Lossie in 1868 and Hopeman in 1898.

Lossiemouth Baptist church was born at the time of powerful revivals that impacted on England, Ireland, and Scotland in 1859 – 1860. The north and west of Scotland had been evangelised by men like Rev John MacDonald who had a significant effect on the country and particularly on Inverness and the Highlands. The Disruption of 1843 had split the Presbyterian church over patronage, the right of the Lairds, or the congregation to choose their minister. The ‘free’ churches, as they became, sought to have Biblical truth as their guide rather than tradition or modernism, and to have a more evangelical ministry. This led not only to the rise of the Free Church, but also a number of other groups such as Congregational, Brethren, and Baptist.

The young churches were greatly encouraged by a visit in 1874 of the American evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, who preached to a huge crowd in Elgin. The great C.H. Spurgeon visited Scotland around those times, but mainly the Central Belt and parts of the Highlands. However, his sermons were avidly read, being available in the weekly Christian Herald which commenced publication in 1876. By coincidence, the Lossie church was built the same year as Spurgeon’s huge Metropolitan Tabernacle that replaced the former Park Street Church in London.

Two 20th century spiritual movements that helped to boost the numbers and spirit of the Lossie church were the 1921 – 23 revival, and the 1955 Billy Graham Scotland Crusade. The 1921 revival began in Lowestoft under the Rev Douglas Brown, and spread quickly to Scottish east coast, carried by the herring fishermen who returned home that season with more than a harvest of fish. Jock Troup was one of the preachers who helped spread the word through the fisher communities. In the first four months of 1923 there were 56 baptisms and admissions to membership in Lossie Baptist Church. For the next 50 years *‘the revival’*,

was a term in common use in the town when dating events from that period of intense spiritual activity.

In 1954 a young American evangelist, arrived in London where he preached nightly to hundreds of people in Harringay Arena. The London campaign culminated in a rally in Wembley Stadium where the largest crowd there in post-war times assembled to hear Billy Graham's final address. He was invited to Scotland the next year and held his nightly meetings in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall. Relay meetings were arranged all over the country, connected by telephone link to the Kelvin Hall services. The Lossie Baptist church membership lists show a rise in baptisms and memberships after 1955 and the years following when there was a "Tell Scotland" Crusade.

The decades from 1970 to 2000 saw big economic changes in Lossiemouth with the fishing fleet being reduced, and eventually wiped out by the European Union Common Fisheries Policy. At the same time the North Sea oil industry grew and many redundant fishers were able to find work on the rigs or on the service vessels. The RAF stations at Lossie and Kinloss, however, continued to provide jobs for local people, and several RAF or former RAF personnel and families, joined the church and were active in the church organisations. Disappointingly, Kinloss was recently closed, but the future of RAF Lossiemouth appears to be secure for the time being. From 1940 to 1970 the air station came under the Navy and was called RNAS Fulmar. Many service men and women from the RNAS attended the church as do a number from the RAF today.

The church always had active ministries for the youth, beginning with Sunday School and Bible Class. A Boys Brigade company was supported around 1940 – 1950, and again around 1984 - 94. From 1953 to 1980 there was a strong Covenanter group, established and run for most of that period by Jim Brock. Then under the ministries of Darren McLean and Trevor Wilson, youth work expanded and Alpha courses were introduced. Finally, with the appointment of Rae Mackenzie as Youth Pastor in 2008, it became a major focus of the church, and with the induction of the former youth pastor as senior pastor, responsibility for the young people's work was taken on by Mrs Kate Wakeford.

By 2011 both the adult membership and the numbers of young people in the youth organisations, had risen to levels not seen for 50 years. The church music ministry also expanded under the leadership of Sandra Stewart followed by Brian Gray who were both ably assisted by teams of adult and young musicians, singers, and sound technicians.



Music Team: Emma, Mitch, Danny and Brian

The interior of the church has changed over the years with the numerous renovations and extensions. The old high pulpit was removed and replaced with more modern podiums which in turn were removed in favour of a simple transparent stand. A new keyboard replaced the former organ, choir seats were removed, and individual seats replaced the old wooden pews. A door from the sanctuary to the hall behind lay on the right of the pulpit. It was blocked up and replaced with a door on the left of the pulpit during the 1980s renovations. That door in turn was closed when the 2010 extension was completed, and replaced by two side doors from the sanctuary into the entrance and into the crush hall.



Pulpit changes 1960 - 1985

The original church building of 1868 had been a tremendous achievement by the poor congregation of the time, and it has served the fellowship well for over a century. The growing need for more space for Sunday school and social events led to the church undertaking a number of other smaller extensions and renovations over the past 60 years. By the 1990s, the need for further space for the growing youth work and other ministries became a major concern of the membership. There were a number of initial efforts to find ways to expand or replace the church building and its facilities, but none came to fruition until the current extension was agreed during the pastorate Trevor Wilson. Members, adherents, and friends responded generously, contributing to the building fund which grew to a level where the expensive undertaking could be launched.

This led to the construction and opening of a new modern facility in 2010, including a multi-purpose hall, kitchen, toilets, inner walkway, and store. In addition to the generous giving of members and friends, the building was financed by a loan from the Baptist Union of Britain. The 2010 extension cost around one thousand times the price of the original building in 1868.



Mrs May Farquhar and Alex Saulys, the longest and newest members of LBC opening the new extension



The new extension hall and facilities are utilised for a range of church and community activities. Coffee mornings, prayer meetings, Sunday school and crèche, funeral teas, and youth activities, all take place in the extension. The church also hosts regular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous to assist local people with addiction problems. When local Heritage events take place in the square, the church provides toilet facilities and lends tables and chairs when requested.

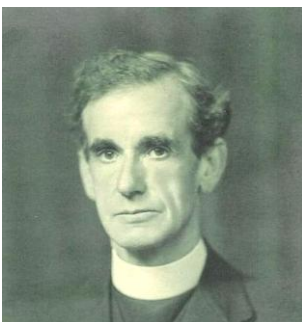
Some Memories from the Past

At an evening service in 1901 **Rev J Yeomans** had just completed the baptisms when a young fisherman, William Farquhar, got up out of his seat, walked forward to the baptistry and addressed the minister with the words used by the Ethiopian eunuch, “*See – here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptised?*” The minister, after a moment’s hesitation, responded with the words of Philip, “*If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest*”. William Farquhar replied, “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*”. He stepped into the water fully clothed, and was duly baptised. He went on later to become an elder and leader of the local Brethren assembly. His grandsons, Sandy and Alistair, and granddaughter Margaret, attend Hopeman Baptist church, and other grandsons, Farquhar and John Thomson, attend the Gospel Hall and the Episcopal Church in Lossiemouth. A great-granddaughter of William Farquhar, Karen Gault, now worships at Lossie Baptist church together with her husband, Andrew, and their young daughter, Amy.

The impromptu request for baptism was repeated some 87 years later when Kenny Owens went forward after some baptisms conducted by Rev Jim Urquhart, and confessing his faith asked to be baptised also, there and then. Mr Urquhart duly obliged, and Kenny, now a valued member of Lossie church, was a deacon, and is a talented member of the praise group in which he sings and plays guitar.

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In 1920, during the term of office of Miss **Jane Henderson**, one of the very few lady ministers of a Baptist church in Scotland, a young Janey Scott, (Imlach), later to be the mother of Katie Crawford, and grandmother of Kirstin, was avoiding the minister in case she confronted her about taking the step of faith. When Miss Henderson came to their house, Janey ran out the back and hid in the wash house. Undeterred, lady minister Henderson sought her out and challenged her. The end result was that Janey trusted the Lord then and went on later to be baptised by Donald Fletcher and become one of our church’s most esteemed long-serving members. (She is pictured with two others who were members for over 70 years, and is in the photographs of the opening of the previous church hall constructed over 40 years ago).



Donald Fletcher For close on 24 years, from 1921, to 1945 Donald Fletcher served the church and the community of Lossiemouth. As most of the men who had formed the church were fishers, they formed the majority of the male membership until 1950. It was during the first year of Mr Fletcher’s pastorate that the herring fleet returned from the annual fishery off East Anglia with

news of remarkable spiritual activity that had started under the leadership of Rev Douglas Brown of Lowestoft. The revival continued from 1921 to 1924 and spread quickly along the Moray coast ports. There were 56 baptisms in the Lossie church in 1923, testament to the impact on the town. Strangely, Elgin was not affected by the movement which affected only the fishing ports. A recent book, *Glory in the Glen*, describes that revival, and records its impact on Lossiemouth, and the role of Donald Fletcher :

“At the port of Lossiemouth ... by 1923, the Baptist minister, sensing a spirit of inquiry, especially in his Bible class, produced a series of special meetings, much to the indifference of his deacons. Without the assistance of any outside evangelist, these quickly grew in attendance and conversions ... The local press observed the ‘civic righteousness which now obtains in Lossiemouth’. This included the transformation of many drunkards. Meetings were informal with ‘more dependence put upon the Spirit than upon form’. Evidence of the genuineness of the movement was seen in the numbers, 150 folk attending weekly convert meetings in the Baptist Church.” (Part 2 : Fishermen’s Revival 1919 – 1923)

The revival coincided with the start of a period of fundamental changes in the fishing fleet. The continental market for salt herring collapsed with the crippled post-war economies of Germany, Russia, and Poland. Lossiemouth had developed a large fleet of steam drifters to replace its sailboats, but now there was only a limited domestic demand for herring. Attention shifted to demersal fish, mainly haddock, so the large steam drifters were scrapped or sold and smaller motor-powered seine netters became the mainstay of the fleet. The change bankrupted some families, and a number of fishers emigrated. Those who remained were to prosper again after WW2. Pastor Fletcher provided constant encouragement and comfort to families through these difficult depression years and tied hard to dissuade men from resorting to drink. He was a strong supporter of the Temperance Movement for which he suffered much abuse and ridicule.

All who knew Donald Fletcher personally were impressed by his patience and forbearance. He was known as “Mr Valiant for the Truth” due to his faithfulness and godliness, and was said to have had an indomitable spirit despite his indifferent health.

During Pastor Fletcher’s ministry, the first of eight men to join the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen (RNMDSF) who were members or associated with the church, began his service with the Fishermen’s Mission. He was George ‘Dodie’ Crockett who for a period commanded the last of the organisation’s mission ships. These ships followed the fleet and ministered to herring fishers and trawlermen when they were at sea or ports far away from their homes. He is shown in an old photograph from the Mission Institute in Aberdeen.

Many of those Mr Fletcher led to Christ and baptised, continued to serve the church until the end of that century. They included Janey Imlach, Martha Stewart, and Margaret Simmonds, mother of our secretary, John Simmonds. On his retirement, Pastor Fletcher was appointed

Minister Emeritus of the church he loved and which he continued to assist after his retirement until his death in 1958.



Jim Martin, who followed Donald Fetcher, was a big man with a reputation as a robust character, both in Lossiemouth, and at his later charges around Glasgow. He was even goalkeeper for the Lossie Football Club for a period though one observer said he was often picking the ball up from the back of the net! Mr Martin led a Boys Brigade troop at the church. They are pictured in the following pages at a camp in Carrbridge. Dolly Campbell's brother, Alec 'Babe' recalls that week as they were rained out of their tent and he lost his shoes wading through the River Carr.

Around 1947 Mr Martin was befriending Joe Scott whose wife attended the church and he asked Joe why he was rarely seen at any of the services. *"Well, Mr Martin,"* responded Joe, *"I don't see you either when I'm at sea in my fishing boat, the Heather."* Never one to back away from a challenge, Mr Martin responded, *"All right Joe, I'll make a bargain with you. I'll come to sea with you for a week on the Heather, if you agree to come to the services"*. Both men were as good as their word, and for a whole week Jim Martin sailed on the Heather, and after that, Skipper Joe came along to the services.

A memorable event organised by Mr Martin was a youth coach trip to Inverness to hear the evangelist Jock Troup who was having meetings at the Baptist Church there. Jock was originally from Wick and had been powerfully used during the 1921 revival. He was Superintendent of the Tent Hall in Glasgow at that time. He had led many Scottish fishermen and fisher-girls to Christ during the herring fishings at Lowestoft and Yarmouth and other ports like Peterhead. The trip started in high spirits with a full busload singing choruses with the minister in charge. But all were very thoughtful on the way back following a powerful message from Troup.

After leaving Lossie Jim Martin went to Leven Baptist church, then to Springburn in Glasgow, then Cumnock in Ayrshire, then finally to Easterhouse in Glasgow, from where he retired.



Redvers Samson was inducted in 1950, the year when May Farquhar's father (George MacKay) died. Pastor Redvers and his wife, Muriel Grace, invited young May and her widowed mother, Maggie, for tea at the manse. To this day May recalls the lovely way the table was set with plates of attractive sweet biscuits and cake. This was during the years of

sugar and chocolate rationing when these items were rarely available. At that time the Minister's stipend was a mere £4 a week!

Mr Samson went on to minister in Annan, Dumfries, and in England, then in the USA where he died. His wife, Mrs Muriel Grace Samson, survives him, and their son, John, leads a church in Phoenix, Arizona. May's brother, George, had some more inspiring memories of Rev Samson. He recalls him as a big, cheerful extrovert, with a hearty laugh and strength of presence to suit his name. He had no need for a pulpit loud speaker system.

George remembers how Redvers encouraged him after they both had moved away from Lossie. *"My wife and I set up our first home in Carlisle in 1957 when the Samsons were in Annan, Dumfries-shire. In addition to his pastoral duties there, he had been elected to the Town Council, and became a controversial supporter of several town projects. He believed a Christian should be active in his community. I understand that Mr Samson was a converted Roman Catholic and tended to bring a degree of priestly authority to rather reluctant Deacons' Courts."*

"The Samsons visited us several times travelling the many miles each way on a small moped, he wearing his long black overcoat, clerical collar, and homburg hat and with Mrs S wrapped up on the pillion. There was little to be seen of the bike behind the front wheel. At that time he carefully encouraged me in systematic Bible study using the centre of page Bible reference columns. He was an enthusiastic reader of Dale Carnegie's book *"How to win friends and influence people"*. He gave me a copy. He also advised me to suggest to my employers that as a married man I was now more valuable and should get a rise. He showed that a Christian could be motivated, interested and useful as well as evangelical."

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During the pastorate of **George Maitland** there occurred the great gale of 1953 which devastated forests and properties in the country, and resulted in a number of boats being lost or shipwrecked. The Lossie seiner *Caronia* was sailing south through the Moray Firth when the storm hit her. Her wheelhouse was smashed and one net was washed over the side into the propeller. An SOS message was broadcast over the radio telephone. It was picked up by the Aberdeen trawler, *Loch Awe* which was sheltering in Wick harbour. Skipper Imlach took the *Loch Awe* out in the dreadful storm conditions and located the *Caronia* by radio direction finder. After two failed attempts, it came upon the stricken boat in the wild sea and successfully rescued the whole crew before it sank. A crewmember of the *Caronia*, Joe Campbell, became a devout believer and long serving deacon of the church, deeply committed to prayer. He noted later how the

number of the boat INS 276 was the number of the souls saved from the ship that took Paul across the Mediterranean in the NE storm recorded in the Bible at the end of Acts.

Members baptised by Mr Maitland included Mrs Marie Bakie, Mr Len Hamilton, and Mrs Joy Black. He also brought Mr Ed Fiske and his wife Nett into membership (parents of Thomson Fiske).

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In 1955, shortly after his induction, **Richard McPhee** decided he would get to know the young people better, so he volunteered to join the Covenanter group at their annual summer camp, that year near Dufftown on a site arranged by John Imrie, a fine Christian man in Keith. Mr McPhee entered into all of the activities of the camp with zest, whether games, hikes, meals, evening singsongs, or routine trash collection and tidying up. The highlight of his week was a climb up to the top of Ben Rinnes with some of the older boys, including Johnny McCracken, Michael Davidson, Charles Stewart, Hedley Clark, and David Thomson.



Many young men were baptised and brought into membership under Mr McPhee during his pastorate years 1955 – 1959. Among these were John McCracken, Charles Stewart, Michael Davidson, Billy Thomson, and Billy Simmonds. Ladies he baptised included Margaret Smith (McCracken), Rhoda Scott (Hamilton), and Mary Riddell. He also baptised Stanley and Rena Barnard. Stanley went on to become a deacon and continued to support the church after his retirement and move to Dingwall and later Inverness.

During Dick's ministry Mrs Mary Simpson was baptised in her senior years. Her two daughters, Jessie and Elma, were to follow in her steps. Jessie had a remarkable experience of coming to faith after a stunning confrontation with Holman Hunt's painting of "*Christ the Light of the World*" in St Paul's Cathedral in London. She returned home determined to make a public confession of her newfound faith. A week-long series of evangelistic meetings had been organised in the church. Jessie attended each one waiting for an appeal to be made, but there was none, until the final moments of the last meeting. As soon as the altar call was made she leapt out of her seat and raced to the front to record her decision for Christ!

Margaret Bakie (Jeffreys) recalls how the youth work was progressed during the interim months between the pastorates of Richard McPhee and Dan Fraser. The youth leaders and helpers formed into four small teams for Sunday evening witness. They were led by Charles Stewart, Margaret Campbell, John McCracken and Margaret herself. After a short prayer time they walked across the Square to talk with the young people in Peter's Café (Buckley's) and the adjoining chip shop. Each week several teenagers came to the YF meeting, often

with bags of chips in hand. Margaret prepared the music and the programme which was led by Charles, while other team members prepared refreshments and a small group continued in prayer in the vestry. Not surprisingly, several of the young folk who attended went on to make their own decisions for Christ.

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Dan Fraser was inducted in 1959. In August the following year, 1960, a dreadful shipwreck of a Lossie boat, the *Devotion*, occurred. The boat which had come through the Pentland Firth, was wrecked under cliffs near Fraserburgh that stormy night. Three young crew members miraculously survived but the four married men were lost. Jim Ralph, the 19 year old skipper's son was one of the survivors. Shortly after the tragedy he went to see Dan Fraser at the Baptist Manse and there committed his life to Christ. A few years later he was on his uncle's boat *Ocean Gleaner*, off the West of Scotland when his 19 year old cousin David Ralph, was washed overboard in front of his eyes, and lost in the waters of the North Minch. Following that further tragedy Jim left the sea and joined the Fishermen's Mission which he served until his retirement.



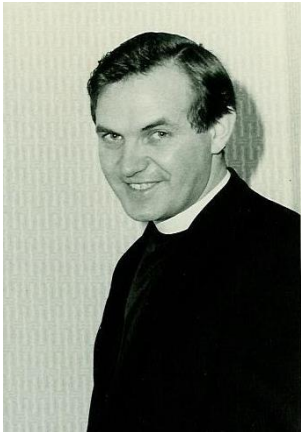
In 1960, Rev Dan Fraser organised a bus to take members to Fraserburgh to hear Mrs Nate Saint speak. She was the widow of one of the missionaries martyred by Auca indians in Ecuador. After the service, the bus stopped at a restaurant where Mr Fraser had arranged for a meal. He reminded the people that the cost of the meal was included with the payment for the bus ticket. As the meal was finishing he spotted Mrs Jane Smith get up and head quickly to the cash desk. A true gentleman Rev Fraser prevented her getting there and ushered back to her seat. "*No, no, Mrs Smith, I said the meal was paid for*". This happened twice, much to Mrs Smith's frustration, but at her third attempt someone pulled the minister aside and pointed at the ladies room door which lay right behind the cash desk!

Pastor Daniel Fraser was a fine expository preacher, and his ministry like that of Richard McPhee, was blessed by many professions of faith, baptisms and continued growth of the youth work. Among those he baptised were Doreen (Brock) Maythorne, Jim Ralph, Netta Stewart, George Hutcheon and Bella Hutcheon.

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Ken Denman pastored the church for five years after the ministry of Dan Fraser. He was instrumental in the conversion of one of our senior deacons, Chris Gault, who is currently responsible for pastoral care of the congregation. That was when Mr Denman was leading Elgin Baptist church after his period in Lossie. While in Lossiemouth he baptised Dolly Campbell and her husband Joe. A highly respected fisherman, Joe, went on to be elected to the Deacons Court, and was made a life deacon in honour of his sterling service. Joe and

Dolly served in the Sunday School for many years. Dolly is active in the Ladies Fellowship where she was prayer co-ordinator for a period. She is currently one of the stalwarts of the Coffee Morning ministry. Ken Denman also baptised former church secretary Chris Maythorne, and his wife, Doreen, Katie (Imlach) Crawford, Mike Campbell, Lorna Campbell, and Lorna Michie.



Elspeth Gray (nee Smith), mother of our music leader Brian, recalls the ministry and encouragement of Mr Denman and his wife Janet. Pastor Ken conducted the wedding service of Elspeth and Sandy in July 1967. Elspeth also recalls the youth leadership of Charles Stewart, tracting with him in town, and the times the young people spent at the home of Charles and Dorothy. A special friend was Lennie Hamilton who used to lead Elspeth to the organ at the start of each service. He always had a nice smile, a word of encouragement (and a pandrop) for her. Elspeth spent many enjoyable evenings at the home of Rhoda and Lennie.

Elspeth had joined the Bible class when she was 12 as did her best school friend, Shirley Mitchell. It was led by Miss Garden and Miss Bakie, but young Elspeth got bored occasionally and so brought her knitting along, for which she was gently reprimanded by Eileen McCracken! Later she began to play the piano for the YF and from that graduated to playing the organ at church services, a service now performed by her son, Brian Gray. Elspeth even managed to play the organ at the funeral of her brother, David, who was tragically killed in a road accident. Mrs Ella Brock kindly relieved her for the final hymn of that service.

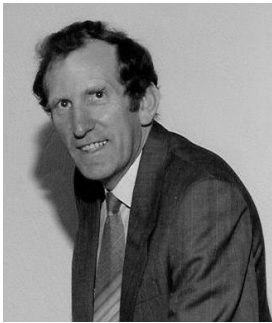


Alistair Clark is remembered by Ann Regan as a very caring pastor who was always ready to give lifts to and from church to car-less people. She was baptised by Alistair shortly after starting to attend the church. The baptism took place on a cold week-end and the tank heating switch had been inadvertently turned off – so Ann recalls the “*chilly waters - chilly and cold, that chill the body but not the soul*” as the old Negro spiritual puts it. Another event that Ann found thrilling was an account of her work in Africa by Dr Helen Roseveare the renowned missionary. Not all members were as impressed because her talk continued far beyond the normal 20 minutes, extending the service until 12.40! Other members baptised by Mr Clark include Ian Munro, Peter Stewart, Carole Campbell, and May McLeod, the wife of long serving deacon Sandy McLeod. He also brought into membership Geoff and Ruth Chandler of the Fishermen’s



Mission. Alistair went to Irvine in 1982, where he assumed the pastorate of the Baptist church there.

(Alistair Clark is seen in some of the photographs of that period, including one of the opening of the church hall extension, January 17, 1976, and another with his wife Audrey and children, Mrs Janey Scott Imlach and Mrs May Farquhar).



Margaret Mackenzie recalls the arrival of **Jim Urquhart** and his wife Marie in 1983. They hailed originally from Dundee, where both had attended the same school and been part of the same young Christian group as our current member, Mrs Betty Thomson. They arrived with their four children from Wick where Jim had been teaching. During Mr Urquhart's pastorate there was an emphasis on personal evangelism and door-to-door visitation. LBC and other local churches came together for the "New Life for Lossie" outreach, with evangelists, Ian

Leitch and Donald Cormack. The fruit of that outreach is still evident in the lives of some of our present members. A praise group, social committee and drama group flourished in the church then, and for a period there were special Friday morning Bible studies.

Around 1989 there was a period of refurbishment in the church (see the pictures in the photos section). John McCracken was as usual working late on the renovations. The work was stopped for a tea break about 8.00 p.m. when John's wife, Margaret, appeared with a cake. It transpired that day was John and Margaret's silver wedding anniversary. John being John, had some of the cake along with the others and went straight back to work while Margaret went home. Through all of their 50 plus years in the church, John and Margaret gave the fellowship unstinted sterling service, and were greatly loved and respected by all. John served as deacon, secretary, and treasurer at different periods, while Margaret led the Women's Auxiliary for many years. A popular school janitor, John was well known and admired in the town. He had served an apprenticeship with Alexander's, a local baker, and often produced batches of excellent shortbread and gingerbread for the coffee morning sales table. He was a part-time member of the Lossiemouth fire brigade station which dedicated a seat on Prospect Terrace in his honour.

During the year between the pastorates of Jim Urquhart and Bill Freel, 1995 – 1996, the church was assisted in the summertime by **Brian More**, then Bible College student, who was later inducted to Airdrie Baptist, and is now pastoring the church in Newton Mearns. Brian, who came from Burghead, was an extremely popular trainee minister, well liked by young and old. He married Janet Cordiner, a



daughter of highly respected Minister, George Cordiner, of St James Church of Scotland in Lossie who died sadly ten years ago. Brian had been a fisherman on Lossie boats before leaving the sea to go to Bible College. A busload of Lossie church members and friends went to Airdrie to see Brian formally inducted into his first pastorate in 1998. He was inducted into Newton Mearns church in 2006.

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William Freel had pastored several large churches in Scotland and England, including Richmond in Surrey where Stephen Olford had ministered. He had also been an international conference speaker and former President of the Baptist Union of Scotland. So it was an honour when he agreed to be inducted into Lossiemouth, this being the final full-time pastorate of his long life of Christian service. His messages were always thoroughly Biblical, instructional, and inspiring, regardless of the size of the congregation, or whether a Sunday service or prayer meeting. During his previous pastorate in Inverness he led a young college student to faith. The student, Darren McLean, went on to take Divinity and Masters degrees, and was to follow in Pastor Freel's steps when he became Lossie's next minister.

Among the new members who joined the church when Bill Freel was Pastor, were Margaret and Campbell McLean who ran the well-known bakery in Forres. They generously supplied scones and pancakes for the Tuesday coffee mornings, and we are most grateful that their family continue this support. The McLeans, who hailed originally from Stornoway, were also among the church group that accompanied Mr Freel on a tour of the Holy Land. Sadly, Campbell died a few years later, shortly after his retirement.

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Darren McLean was the youngest minister inducted into the church, being but in his mid-twenties in 1998. He had previously filled the pulpit on occasions while he was still a student in Edinburgh and Glasgow. He proved to be a very popular young man in the town, and especially with the pupils of the High School where he often addressed the assemblies. Back in the manse he lived alone the first few months while his wife Trish was completing Ph.D. studies in Thailand. For several weeks he invited groups of members to the manse for dinner. All who came were astonished at his culinary skills and the professional way the table was set and the food served. Darren made a number of innovations and experiments with the church services, one of them being the "*blue moon services*" designed for people who went to church only once in a blue moon! Surprisingly these novel services

attracted a full house on most occasions. Darren now pastors the large Nashville Road Community Church in Toronto, Canada.

Ronnie Fraser, the husband of Elizabeth, (long time member of the church and coffee morning convenor), was a willing practical worker around the church but he had never made a profession of faith. He developed a terminal illness towards the end of his life. One fine summer day, Rev Darren and Ronnie went for a drive around Morayshire. Darren took the car through many of the rural villages and places Ronnie knew as a young man. They stopped for a while to admire the view and enjoy the country scene. There they talked about heaven and the life to come. Darren invited Ronnie to repeat a simple prayer asking Jesus into his heart as Saviour and Lord, which he readily did. This moving event was recounted shortly after at Ronnie's funeral.

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▪ Pastor **Trevor Wilson** who had been both Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor at Wester Hailes Baptist Church, Edinburgh, (a daughter church of Charlotte Chapel), was called to Lossiemouth after Darren McLean moved to Canada. He placed great importance on days of prayer during his ministry, and organised several of these for the church. He also started a series of Alpha courses which bore much fruit. They are being continued now by Pastor Rae Mackenzie, with a strong emphasis on youth. Trevor's period of office was marked by an increase in the membership, with a number of new young families joining the church, many of them from the local RAF stations.

During Pastor Trevor's time the members decided to commit themselves to the construction of a new modern extension facility despite its enormous cost due to inflation. The project was co-ordinated and fund-raising organised by the deacons and the leaders of the organisations including the Monday Fellowship and the youth work. Members and adherents responded generously and sacrificially. Once the initial target sum was reached, a loan was negotiated with the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and construction commenced, the new building being opened in October 2010.

Lossie church had links with Wester Hailes going back to the times when the Minister, the late Alex Hardie used to bring groups of his young people north to engage in mission and witness. One of the WHBC young persons, then Carol Steel, is now an established member of LBC having married a Hopeman man, Andrew Reid, who is now one of our deacons. David and Margo Thomson were Wester Hailes members for eleven years before they returned to Lossie.

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A further link with the Edinburgh church occurred when **Rae Mackenzie**, born and bred Wester Hailes man, became our Youth Pastor, and went on to be called unanimously to serve as Senior Minister. Rae had some years before been part of a seaside mission group from Edinburgh to Lossie one summer. The entire team bunked together at Cloverdale, Kimberley street and much fun was had by all! After Bible College, Rae served as youth pastor at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church before his call to the similar position in Lossie. As senior pastor he has brought vision and enthusiasm to the church, which he leads with a maturity beyond his years. Pastor Rae continues to guide the youth work, Alpha courses, house groups, and other ministries, and to encourage leaders in the church organisations to continue to develop their talents and to assume more responsibility as the work grows. His pulpit ministry is soundly Biblical and has led to 17 baptisms during his first year as senior pastor.

Our last five ministers

The past five ministers of Lossiemouth Baptist church have spanned five decades in their ages. Darren Mclean was in his twenties, Rae Mackenzie is in his thirties, Trevor Wilson was in his forties, Jim Urquhart in his fifties, and Bill Freel in his sixties. No prizes offered for guesses on the age of the next minister!



Mission Work

The church had a number of members enter full time service, notably in the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen (RNMDSF). Among these were Billy Simmonds, Jim Ralph, and Ian Munro. Godfrey Turton, a local serviceman and adherent of the church, also joined the Mission. Ian and Godfrey died while in the service. Current church member and former deacon Alex Campbell acts as the Fishermen's Mission representative for the ports of the inner Moray Firth. Another Lossie man who has served the Mission well, Murray Campbell, brother of Alex, was a member of LBC's youth organisations, Jucos and Covenanters, in his teens. Local Mission man in the 70s, Geoff Chandler was a member of the church during his time in that position.

Fishermen's Mission officers from Lossiemouth:



Jim Ralph



Bill Simmonds



Godfrey Turton

One of the mission men who skippered the last of the mission ships also came from our Lossie church. George 'Dodie' Crockett (pictured right with his wife Elizabeth) served the mission from the 1930s to the early 1950s. A former Mission superintendent, at North Shields, Lossiemouth, and Milfordhaven, John Stewart (pictured on the far right) who had previously been a missionary in North Africa, and an assistant to Jock Troup at the Tent Hall in Glasgow, was a member for several years during his retirement.





Ian Munro at Lerwick Mission, Shetland



Above: Alex Campbell



Below: H. Murray Campbell

Alex represents the Mission in the ports of the inner Moray Firth coast. H. Murray Campbell is a Senior Superintendent in charge of the Fraserburgh Institute and also manages those at Scrabster and Mallaig on the north and west coasts.

Other mission work by members and young people

For some 20 years, long serving deacon, Sandy McLeod has been ministering in the Philippines over prolonged periods each year. He takes medications for skin diseases and infections which he personally applies to street children, prisoners, and other needy people in that country. Following his example, Linda Charleston, Caroline Foster, and Michelle Thomson have made short trips to Manila to assist Metro Ministries work with street children there in the city slums and refuse dumps. Hayley Howarth served with Latin Link in South America one summer. Margaret MacLean of Forres travelled to Sierra Leone where she assisted YWAM with mission work there.

Peter and Leslie Butcher who joined the church recently are missionaries to Romania for some years, and still return there to serve from time to time. With the support of a small group in Horley, Surrey, in 2002, they established a Centre of Hope in Dorohoi, a needy

town of 40,000 persons, mostly unemployed and suffering from a severe lack of basic necessities. Seven full time staff are employed at the centre which provides up to 300 three course meals a week, food and toiletry bags, offers shower and shampoo facilities, a childrens' playground, and counselling when requested. The work comes under a registered charity, GLIA, (God's Love in Action). When in Lossie, Peter assists the music team leading worship and playing the keyboard.

The church assisted another project in Chernavoda, Romania, for 15 years. The Monday Fellowship took the lead in supporting this home for children with aids. The aid was channelled through Lorna Jamieson of Glasgow who served much of that time in the home.

Marian Thomson who was baptised while at high school by Pastor Bill Freel, joined the OM ship *Doulos* with the encouragement and recommendation of subsequent Minister Darren McLean. She served on that ship for three years, in the Far East and southern Africa, then after completing university, joined the new OM ship *Logos Hope*, serving on her for over two years in East Europe, Scandinavia, and in the Caribbean.

Several of our young people have served with the BU Step-Out ministry in Scotland, and have been active in our own annual seaside missions. Prominent among these is Gordon Stewart who now leads step-out missions and serves in our Sunday School.



Young people's summer mission team

A notable event during the pastorate of Darren McLean, was the visit to Lossiemouth of Dr Tony Campolo, evangelist, mission leader, and prolific author. It was shortly after the attempt to impeach President Bill Clinton when Tony had been the minister Clinton turned to for help with his personal failures. A large marquee tent was erected in the Square (with the Laird's permission), and Rev Campolo addressed an audience of 1,000 on two evenings. His most memorable message was "*It's Friday, - but Sunday is coming*". He also spoke to the church about ministering in the locality and having a relevant open approach to all in need.

The church had paid for Campolo's air ticket and hotel, but the evangelist charged nothing for his services. One result of the visit was a large donation from the marquee meetings for a school in Haiti which Campolo called the "*Lossiemouth Slave School*". The term 'slave' there is used for bonded labour. Unfortunate children in that category have little freedom and cannot afford to attend normal school so the Campolo Foundation has established free schools especially for them.

Music Ministry

Musicians since 1940 : Organ and Keyboard

Isabella Flett	Jeannie Garden	Marie Bakie
Ella Brock	Lesley McLeod	Margaret Bakie
Eileen McCracken	Eileen Bruce	Laura Barnard Owen
Shirley Bakie	Elsbeth Smith Gray	Doreen Maythorne
Sandra Stewart	Claire Stewart	Brian Gray

Music Tapes and CD

Church soloist for most of the past 30 years, Kate McKenzie (pictured right), recorded 2 tapes over 20 years ago – *Possessed by Love*, and *His Eye is on the Sparrow*. The tapes were very popular and were sold in aid of church funds; a CD of the first tape has been re-released as part of the 150 year celebrations.



Current music team

Leader and pianist:	Brian Gray
Singers:	Kate McKenzie, Julie Gray, Lauren Harper, Lissa Rowan
Relief pianists :	Peter Butcher, Katrina Browne
Guitarists:	Kenny Owens, Mitch Temple, Emma Brooks, Danny Robinson
Drums:	Murray Strang, Greg Patterson, Danny Robinson, Craig Rowan
Youth singers:	Loretta Graham, Emma Brooks, Toni Cameron

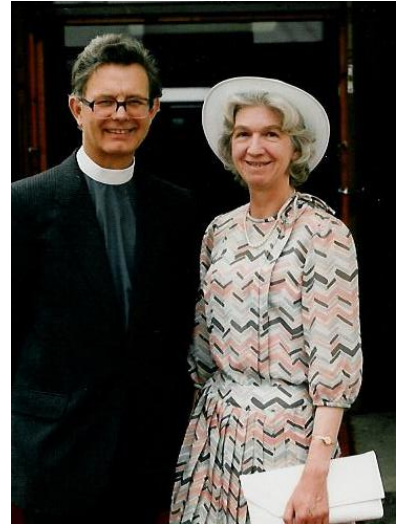
The church enjoys lively worship and benefits from a skilled worship team led by Brian Gray. The church has actively encouraged the youth to get involved and we have a strong youth band ‘*Image’n’me*’: Katrina Browne (keyboard), Loretta Graham (vocals), Danny Robinson (drums), Emma Brooks (bass guitar), Levi Maddison (guitar) and Calum Main (guitar). As well as their work within the church they have an excellent reputation locally and have played at many outreach events.

We are now encouraging the next generation to get involved and have a group of Under-16s learning worship skills both musically and spiritually.

Wives of Ministers

We have no record of Lossiemouth members who went on to become Ministers, but at least two lady members married ministers and assisted them throughout their several pastorates in Scottish churches.

One was **Margaret Bakie** who was LBC's church organist and a youth fellowship leader during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Several current members recall Margaret with affection from the time they were in her Sunday School class or attending the YF. Margaret married Stewart Jeffreys who was minister of several Church of Scotland congregations, in Caithness, Kilmarnock, Aberdeen and Banff. A talented musician, Margaret used that gift in leading the worship and in training and directing church choirs. Her daughter Ruth has followed in her steps, and presently serves the Gairlochhead Church of Scotland congregation with her husband Alastair Duncan.



Margaret & Stewart Jeffreys



Stewart & Lorna Falconer

Another member who married a minister was **Lorna Michie**, a popular young lady who had been active in the young people's work. She married Stuart Falconer of Elgin, the wedding being conducted by Alistair Clark who also dedicated their children. Stuart went on to pastor Baptist churches in Pittenweem Fife, and in Ellon, Aberdeenshire. A very godly man, well respected by all, Stuart died sadly of cancer a few years ago. He had commenced his ministry in 1996, some years after he, Lorna and family, had moved away from Lossie.

Long Serving Members

Three members who served the church for over 70 years are pictured below. Mrs Janey Imlach and Mrs Martha Stewart were baptized the same evening in 1923 by Donald Fletcher. They remained members till their deaths 74 and 76 years later. Margaret Simmonds was baptized by Mr Fletcher in 1937 and was a member until 2009, 72 years later.



Janey Imlach



Martha Stewart



Margaret Simmonds

Six members who completed 50 years of service are also pictured. They are Mrs Mary Riddell, John and Margaret McCracken, George and Bella Hutcheon, and Mrs May Farquhar.



Mrs Mary Riddell



John & Margaret McCracken



Mrs May Farquhar



Bella & George Hutcheon

Anniversary Greetings

From **Brian More**: As you gather to celebrate 150 years of witness may nostalgia be transformed into present day willingness and openness to find meaningful and creative ways to share Christ with the people of Lossiemouth. With many others we give thanks to the Living Jesus Christ who has given to every generation in LBC a desire to know Christ and make him known. Our prayer will be that you rise to meet the challenges and the needs of the day and that in doing so you will be faithful to the One who began the work.

From Pastor **Darren McLean**: John Todd's painting of the East Beach hangs proudly on the wall of my office in Canada. I often look at it and reflect on the happy years that I spent in Lossiemouth around the turn of the Millennium. As a 25-year-old novice pastor I relished the challenge of the work. It was in your church that I learned how to officiate at a wedding; give a eulogy at a funeral; perform a baptism; visit the elderly; and chair a business meeting. It was in your pulpit that I learned how to preach and how not to preach. I recall with some affection the support and patience of the deacons whenever I suggested hitherto untried ideas such as having a Blue Moon Service, and inviting Tony Campolo to speak in a thousand-seat marquee.

It has now been 8 years since I left for Toronto, and I remain as proud and grateful as ever to have been associated with the church and to have been given a small role in its long and prosperous history. To that end I heartily congratulate you on reaching this significant milestone. As you enjoy the celebrations of the anniversary weekend, my thoughts are with you from across the ocean.

From Pastor **Dan Fraser**

The Lord was very gracious to me in that He arranged that I should be called to the pastorate of Lossiemouth Baptist Church.

To minister the Word of God is always a thrill especially when the people are so responsive as they were during my ministry. Having members come with notebooks and pens was a stimulant to the preacher. An expectant congregation will always bring out the best in a speaker. Such was my experience 60 years ago and I trust it is the same today.

A PRAYING PEOPLE

A WORKING PEOPLE

A FAITHFUL PEOPLE

WHAT MORE COULD A PASTOR / PREACHER WANT ?

I thank God for the privilege of ministering at Lossie.

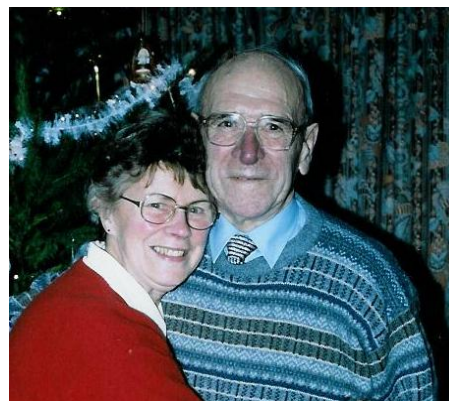
The blessing I give is the familiar words of Numbers 6.24 - *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord give you peace.*

From Pastor **Bill Freel** : Sixteen years ago I was asked by the Lossiemouth Baptist church office bearers to offer my services to lead the fellowship through a difficult period that would determine the future of the church. I had just retired from the pastorate of Inverness Baptist church and was anticipating years of freedom from pastoral responsibility! Betty, my wife, and I, turned to the Lord for guidance.

We decided to accept the challenge knowing that the will of God never takes you where the grace of God will not protect you. We were assured by the Lord that the task ahead of us is not as great as the Power behind us.

Accepting the call of God we discovered that the Church had a spiritual and godly diaconate. The members, who had remained faithful to the Lord and to the church, were willing to accept my suggested guidance and wisdom as from the Lord. The fellowship was deepened gradually, and increased, and after three years called an outstanding young preacher, Darren McLean, as their next minister. Over the past decade the church has grown and developed. At the dedication of the new extension I shed a few tears when I recalled all that the Lord had done to maintain and expand the witness that had continued for over 140 years.

Betty and myself rejoice with you in this special anniversary. We thank God for your unwavering support and friendship, astounding hospitality and kindness. On a personal note I want to say it was my privilege as your Pastor, to have the assistance of one of the most Christ-like persons I have ever known, namely, Joe Campbell, who guided and accompanied me in pastoral visitation. Joe was a man saturated in prayer, and in his presence I felt nearer to God.



To Rae, your gifted young Pastor, it is my prayer he will lead the church into a new era of spiritual maturity and growth.

From Mr **Alistair Clark** : Audrey and I have been thrilled to see the way that God has been at work among you, especially in recent years.

We rejoice that, far from showing signs of infirmity and old age, God is renewing you and building you up significantly.

We have so many great memories of the years we shared with you in Lossiemouth. We pray the God who has been so faithful through these past 150 years, will continue to bless and use you to His great glory.

From Pastor **Ken Denham**

Janet and I are very pleased to send greetings at this time of celebration, - the 150th anniversary of the Lossiemouth Baptist Church.

Many years have passed since we set up our first home in the Manse at Lossie, but the years have not dimmed the very happy memories that are ours to cherish.

When I moved to the pastorate in 1966 I was a young, relatively inexperienced minister (only 3 years ordained), but I was warmly received. Through the patience and tolerance and support of the church I was able to gain valuable experience which shaped my ministry through the following years.

During my pastorate I had a lot to be thankful for. The church had a good working relationship with other churches in the town. Dedicated teachers led an active Sunday School. A thriving Youth fellowship was ably led by leaders willing to dedicate their time and energy to pointing young lives to Christ, many of whom came to confess their faith in the Saviour. All were supported by a committed and enthusiastic deaconate and congregation.

Janet and I rejoice in the knowledge that today the church is moving forward and being used of God to reach people of all ages for Christ and his Kingdom.

Our prayer is that at this time of your rejoicing God will continue to conserve what He has wrought and bring to completion what He is beginning amongst you in these days of the church's history.

From Pastor **Trevor Wilson** (our minister 2004-2010): At this very special time of the church's 150th anniversary, it is a joy for me to reflect on my time as Pastor in Lossie. During my ministry with you I had the experience of every Pastor's dream, to be involved with the leadership team in a church where the people had a desire to grow, and a willingness to serve. It was exciting to play a part in the church's vision to be increasingly more accessible to the local community, and to become more Christ-like. This work is on-going today and we pray it will continue in the years to come.

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Phil. 1 v 3-6

**Greetings from Previous Ministers
sent to the church on its 100th anniversary celebration in 1961**

From Rev. **Redvers J Samson**, Annan,
Dumfriesshire

I offer greetings, congratulations, and thanksgiving for your Centenary of Christian witness. Your invitation recalls memories of a host of friends at Lossiemouth, and of a congregation composed of great listeners to sermons, steadfast keepers of the Sabbath, and generous donors to foreign missions. Long may the work continue.

From the Rev **Richard L McPhee**, Maple Avenue Baptist Church, Brownsburg, Quebec, Canada

My wife and I rejoice with you in this Centenary Year, as you celebrate the completion of one hundred years of faithful service and witness on the part of your church. You may truly say, "*Hitherto has the Lord helped us*". So long His power has blest you, it will surely lead you on. That God will continue to lead you to a brighter and happier future, is our earnest prayer.

From Rev. **George F Maitland**, Larkhall Baptist Church

I am most happy to send you greetings and best wishes on the Centenary of the Church at Lossiemouth. The years have witnessed the faithful service of successive generations of men, who like the disciples of old, were mostly fishermen. Men, called of God have ministered faithfully, seed has been sown, and a harvest reaped, and many in far-flung places of the earth, look back to the place of their spiritual birth.

My brief ministry among you was a happy and enriching experience, and leaves me with the memory of many friendships which the years will strengthen. May you go from strength to strength, labouring faithfully until that day when sower and reaper will rejoice together.

Church Officers and Leaders, 2011

Pastor: Rae Mackenzie

Deacons: John Simmonds (Secretary) Mark Wakeford (Treasurer)
Sandy McLeod Chris Gault (Pastoral Care)
Andrew Reid John Paterson
Alasdair Rose Brian Gray (Worship Leader)

Youth Work Co-ordinator: Kate Wakeford

Magazine Editor: Claire Stewart

Technical Team: Neil Millward, Kevin Barton, Ian Williams (Website)

Church Flowers: Janet Farquhar

Mission Team: Michelle Mackenzie (Co-ordinator), Margaret Mackenzie (Christian Aid/BMS Secretary), Monday Fellowship (Compassion), Ann Regan (Birthday Scheme)

Praise Team: Brian Gray

Caretaker: Johnny Wilson has acted as caretaker for many years, faithfully attending to weekly cleaning and tidying duties. He regularly does the washing up and kitchen work for the coffee mornings. His wife Rachel Wilson has been a pillar of support to the coffee morning team; until recently she has had to reduce her work-load due to ill-health. The church is deeply grateful to Johnny and Rachel for their years of faithful service.



CHURCH GROUPS

Monday Ladies Fellowship: Fellowship, fundraising and fun. The ladies enjoy a varied programme from guest speakers and bible study to pamper evenings and quiz nights. The Ladies Fellowship is run by a Steering Group including Maureen Donaldson, Anne Gault, Kate McKenzie, Ann Regan, Irene Rose and Claire Stewart and have raised monies for mission work, local charities and the church.

Small Groups: The church has over 10 small groups meeting mid-week for fellowship, worship and bible study.

The Alpha Course: The church periodically runs an Alpha Course for those interested. It has been a great opportunity for church members to bring along neighbours or family members who may be seeking answers. Due to the success of the initial course groups have gone on to meet for further study.

We have also developed a 'Youth Alpha' to cater for the younger age bracket and these groups have continued to meet long after the course was finished.

Coffee Morning: For many years the church has run an open coffee morning every Tuesday. This has been a great witness and blessing to the church and the community. Over the years they have helped raise funds for many local charities, mission and more recently the church building fund.

The coffee morning is run by a dedicated team led by Anne Gault and has our legendary scones and pancakes supplied by a local bakery, Macleans.

YOUTH WORK

Crèche: For our youngest members we run a crèche during the family service. This is led by Lizanne Fraser with children's parents making up the rota. The children enjoy playtime, snack and a little devotional / worship time.

Junior Church: Led by Richard Spencer and Gordon Stewart we have a wonderfully committed team of teachers to cover the 5 age groups: Pre-school, P1/P2, P3/P4, P5/P7, and our Bible Class which caters for S1+. During the church service the children enjoy a joint worship time and split for age-appropriate learning.



**Sunday School
Picnics**

1985 Duffus

1989 Forres

Kid's Church: Leaders: Kate Wakeford, Andy Peacock and Michelle Thomson. Running for 6 years and using material produced by Metro Ministries, Kid's Church is a fun mid-week event for local children. Messy games, Puppets, loud music, flashing lights and generally lots of fun not for the faint-hearted but loved by the children. This has been a great outreach to the local community and we have seen many un-churched children going on to grow in Christ and becoming committed and involved in other church activities.



Sunday Youth Fellowship: Led by Michelle Mackenzie, Alasdair and Irene Rose and Hayley Spencer. This group is for the older teens (S3+) and runs on a Sunday night following the evening service. They have a varied programme of fun activities and have encouraged joint events with other local Baptist churches which have been enjoyed by all.

Youth Small Groups: These groups have formed following Youth Alpha Courses. Aimed at High School age it allows the teens to form stronger bonds with each other as they seek to grow and develop as young Christians.

Little Acorns: A mother and toddler group which runs on a Friday morning and is open to all. Led by Lizanne Fraser and Wendy Strang this has been a great opportunity to meet with local parents, grandparents and child-minders, giving the children time to play and the adults time to chat. Over the year a number of social events are run to help build relationships with those attending the group.

Lad's and Dad's Football: This has been a very successful outreach event. Led by Alasdair Rose and Richard Spencer this group meets on a Thursday night to play football. It has been an opportunity to 'lead by example', witness by your actions and reach out to young lads (and their Dad's) who would not normally come along to church.

Youth Cafe: Together with other churches in town, LBC has supported a Youth Cafe as a service to local young folk. The LBC youth cafe team has included Kenneth Thomson, Craig Mackay, and Andrew Gault. The cafe is located in the lower Town Hall.

Charity Shop, Coffee Morning, and Fundraising

The church has been active in fundraising over the years, for both its own building and renovation projects and a number of good causes and missions. A charity shop has been run for a short period each year, staffed by church volunteers. All of the money from the church's weekly coffee morning goes to charity and needy persons, mainly the building fund the past few years. Also very active and generous in contributing to missions and a range of needs is the Ladies Fellowship (or Monday Fellowship).

Members of past fund raising committees have included Margaret (McLean) Williamson, Dennis Slater, John McCracken, Brenda Stewart, Anne Main and Ann Paxton. The charity shop has been blessed with many volunteers and manned at times by Ann Regan, Anne Main, Ann Paxton and Fiona Stewart who organises boot sales, and regularly has a charity table at the Elgin market. This anniversary year the charity shop team of volunteers was led by Jenny Browne and Lydia Davis.

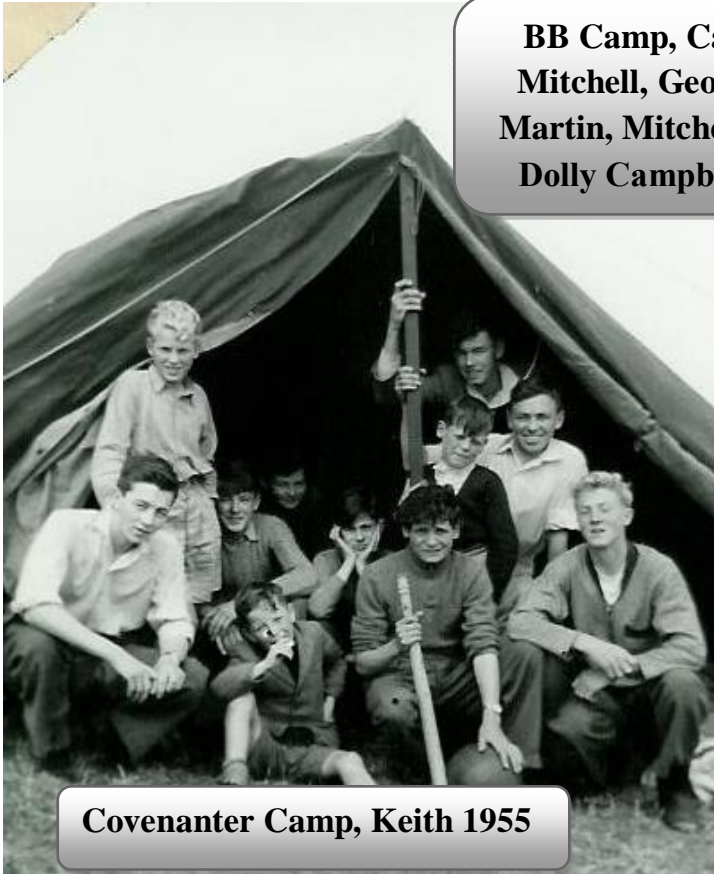


**Anne Regan & Fiona Stewart
at a car boot sale**



**Alex Campbell & John McCracken
Gala week fete**

BB Camp, Carrbridge, circa 1949: Robert 'Dillinger' Mitchell, George Cordiner, George MacKay, Rev Jim Martin, Mitchell Gault, Norman Kellop. At the front is Dolly Campbell's brother Alec 'Babe', now in Canada



Covenanter Camp, Keith 1955



Covenanter Boys 1955

Back Row: M Davidson, A Gair, C Stewart, W Thomson, J Campbell, D Smith, E Garden, H Clark, J McCracken. 2nd Row: A Thomson, D Thomson, Unknown, A Campbell, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, R Smith. Others include: P Thomson.

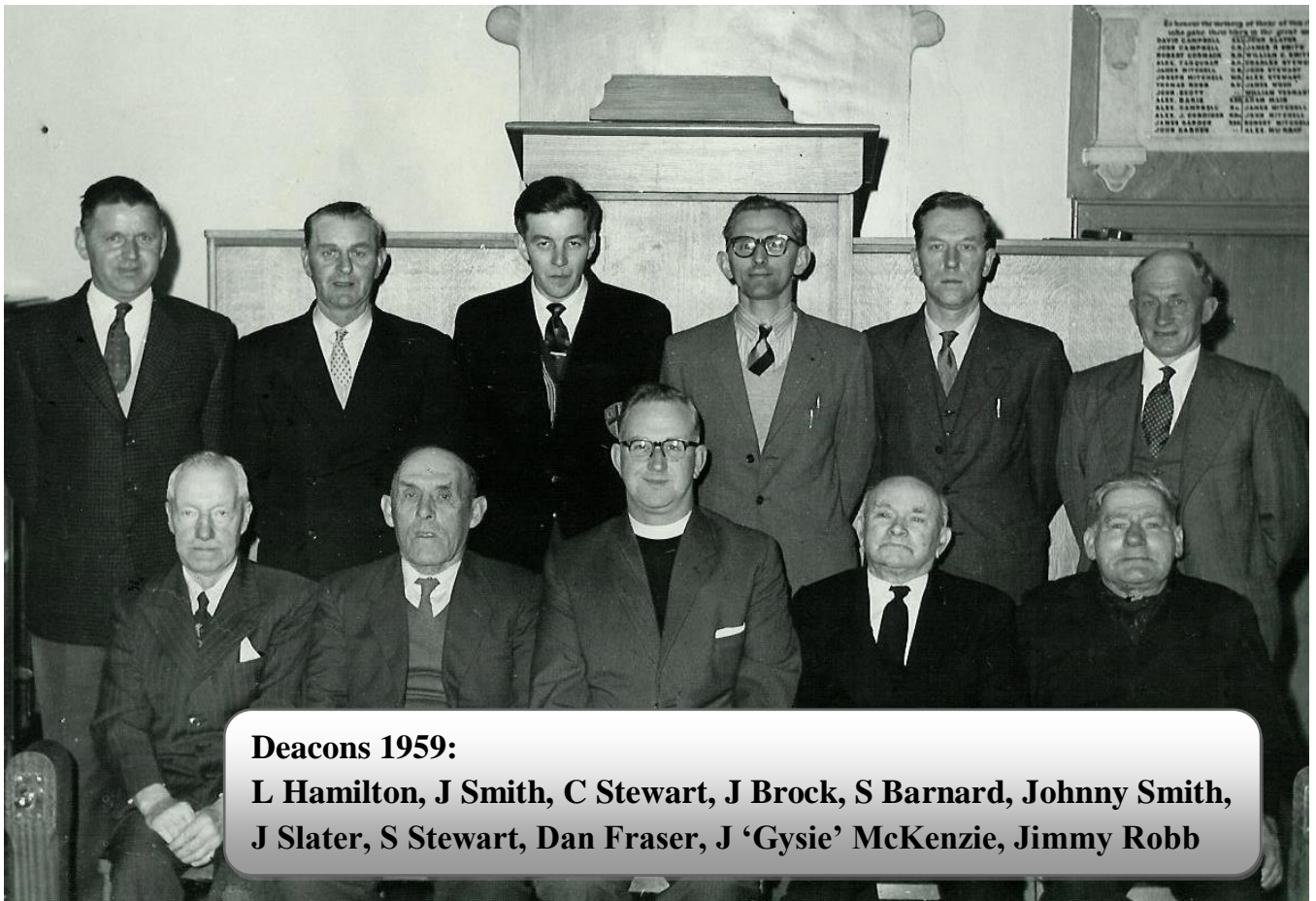
Covenanter Group 1954

Charles Stewart, Billy Thomson, Allan Murray, George Watt, John McCracken, Billy Smith, Ernest Garden, John Murchie Campbell, Hamish McKenzie, Ian Campbell





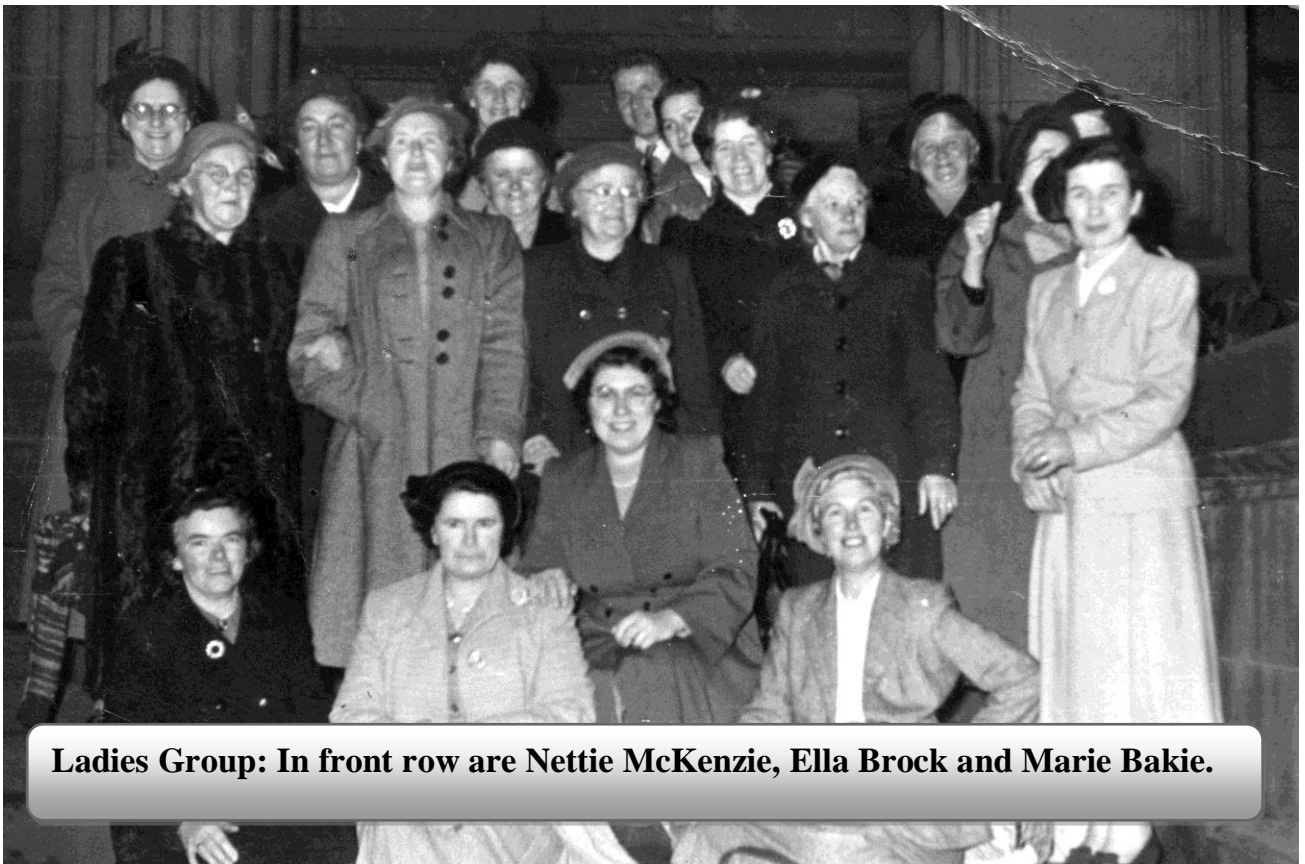
Jim Brock, and Rev George Maitland with the Covenanter class 1953 / 54 Including; Sandy McLeod, Charles Stewart, Jonny McCracken, Ernest Garden, and Billy Thomson. The boy with the Bible is Donald McKay who won the National Bible reading competition held in London in 1953. Donald is now a retired Air Force General in Canada.



**Deacons 1959:
L Hamilton, J Smith, C Stewart, J Brock, S Barnard, Johnny Smith,
J Slater, S Stewart, Dan Fraser, J 'Gysie' McKenzie, Jimmy Robb**



**John Mitchell, Richard McPhee, Len Hamilton, George Duthie
Isabella Stewart, Unknown, Margaret Smith, Rhoda Scott, Jean McLeod,
Margaret Bakie, Unknown, Margaret Mitchell, Netta Stewart**



Ladies Group: In front row are Nettie McKenzie, Ella Brock and Marie Bakie.



W.A. Gathering
Front row includes:
Rena Barnard, Ella
Brock, Margaret
Simmonds and Mary
Riddell

Social in the church:
Among the
congregation are Bill
Cowie of Buckie, late
minister in
Glenrothes and
Leith; Jim 'Gysie'
McKenzie, Jocky
Stewart, Margaret
Smith (McCracken)



Kay Brock with beach
mission children; circa
1956





Janey Imlach opening the then new hall with Rev Clark, January 1976



The Ambassadors, LBC music group of 1970. Left to right, John Simmonds, Lorna Campbell, Roy Millington, Anne Campbell, Elaine Bruce, Chris Maythorne.



**Rhoda (Scott)
Hamilton and
Joy (Black)
Stewart**

Sandra and Claire, Christmas 1997



Alex and Claire



Male voice songsters

James Stewart, Alex Campbell, John McCracken and Victor Stewart

Church Float



Church trip to Loch Ness 1997

Victor Stewart, Dolly Campbell and Margo Thomson



Beach Mission 1996 led by Gordon McBirnie of Teen Ranch and Sandy Stewart of Hopeman. Bill and Betty Freel above on the railing.



Coffee Morning in the new extension 2011



Praise Group 2011. Kenny Owens, Loretta Graham, Julie Gray, Emma Brooks, Danny Robinson, Greg Paterson, Brian Gray

**Technical Team
2011**

**Alex Saulys and
Matthew Payne**



**Morning Worship
Service 2011**



Current Deaconate

**Back Row: Chris Gault, Alisdair Rose, John Patterson, Brian Gray
Front Row: Sandy McLeod, John Simmonds, Rae Mackenzie, Mark
Wakeford and Andrew Reid**

LBC 150 Year Anniversary booklet: Compiled by, David Thomson; Editor , Claire Stewart; Format and Design, Marian Thomson and Susan McBirnie; Guidance, John Simmonds and Pastor Rae McKenzie. The team thanks all members and friends who generously supplied photographs and anecdotes.

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September 2011





LOSSIEMOUTH GROUP

Good Day at Lossie Garden Party

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