

CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH

A Registered Charity SC 006408

THE BULLETIN



SOME IONA BOUND PILGRIMS
ON THE BOAT LEAVING OBAN

NOVEMBER 2009

www.crudenchurch.org.uk

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER 2009

EACH WEEK

Sundays 10.00 am Children's Sunday Club in the Old Church & Stables

Sunday 1st	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
		Admission of New Communicant		
		Presentation of Elders' Long Service Certificates		
		Adult Sunday School	11.30 am	Church
Wednesday 4th	:	Time for Chat and Coffee	10:30 am	Hall
	:	Choir Practice	7.30 pm	Hall
Sunday 8th	:	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	10.30 am	
		Youth Organisations on Parade		
Monday 9th	:	Watch and Talk Group	7.30 pm	Main Street, Cruden Bay
Saturday 14th	:	Malawi Buttery Morning	10.30 am	Hall
Sunday 15th	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
		Cruden Churches Walk	11.30	Tarves
Wednesday 18th	:	Choir Practice	7.30 pm	Hall
Friday 20th	:	St Andrew's Night Dinner	7 for 7.30 pm	Red House Hotel
Sunday 22nd	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
		Sacrament of Baptism		
		Advent Study	6.30 pm	Hall
Monday 23rd	:	Kirk Session	7.30 pm	Hall
Sunday 29th	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
		Sacrament of Holy Communion		
		Advent Study	6.30 pm	Hall
Monday 30th	:	Cruden Guild	7.30 pm	Hall
		Gordon McKay – Scottish Night		

FORTHCOMING DATE IN DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd Time for Chat and Coffee 10:30 am Hall

NOVEMBER HYMN BOOK CH4

At its October meeting, the Kirk Session decided to change the start time of the service on Remembrance Sunday. It will start ½ an hour later at 10.30 am.

RECENT DONATIONS

To the Girls Brigade for their rebuilding project £110.

To Malawi Kitchen to enable a farmer to fund a child at secondary school £390.

For the transporting of goods to Ekwendeni in Malawi £150

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STILL WANTED

Someone who cares about poverty enough, to want to help! We need to appoint a **CHRISTIAN AID ORGANISER** for the Parish of Cruden in good time before next year's Christian Aid Week. For further information contact the Minister.

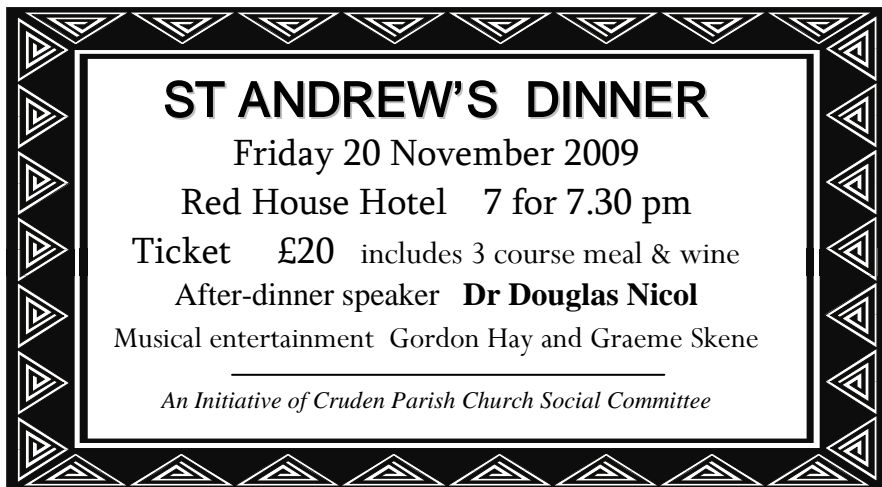
The choir are looking for at least two ladies to join the soprano section. Might you be interested?

Help is desperately needed to enable people from Hatton get to Church on Sundays. If you can help, contact Beatrice Fawkes on 84181.

Cruden Parish Church Christmas Cards

2 designs taken from Nativity Posters used many years ago
by our Sunday School. £3 for a pack of 10. 2 packs £5

Available in the Church Hall or by phoning the Manse.



ST ANDREW'S DINNER
Friday 20 November 2009
Red House Hotel 7 for 7.30 pm
Ticket £20 includes 3 course meal & wine
After-dinner speaker **Dr Douglas Nicol**
Musical entertainment Gordon Hay and Graeme Skene

An Initiative of Cruden Parish Church Social Committee

LIFE ^{AND} WORK

NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Hope for the future Exploring the work of the Church of Scotland in Scottish prisons and with young offenders.

A Questioning Faith Profile of Alex Fergusson MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and a Son of the Manse.

A Life in Service of Country Donald McGilp reflects on Remembrance Sunday.

What Does the Lord Require of You? Lynne McNeil reports from the annual meeting of the Guild.

A Privilege to Care Dr Murdo Macdonald offers a focus on end of life issues.

Mrs Knox's packing Jane Dawson discovers the roots of a 'start-up' kit for the Reformation in Scotland.

Scottish Weather? Thomas Baldwin's latest reports from Malawi focus on the work of the Livingstonia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

*If you would like to read Life & Work, the magazine of the Church of Scotland,
contact Isobel Young on 812360*

WATCH AND TALK GROUP 13 OCTOBER

This month's DVD was presented by Michael Portillo who gave the history of Christianity from the time when the Roman Emperor Constantine adopted the Christian Faith to when the Roman Catholic Church took control of the Christian Church. It would appear Constantine's idea of Christianity cannot be compared with the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament.

He saw no reason why he should not persecute and slaughter the pagans who refused to follow his rules. It would appear Constantine's reasons for becoming a Christian were probably politically motivated which may explain why he had his own version of a Spin Doctor in the name of Eusebius who had particular views about what should be included in the New Testament.

As the Roman Emperors became weaker in their control of the Empire, the Catholic Church and the Popes filled the void created by the fall of the Roman Empire. The Roman Catholic Church has, to this day, maintained considerable influence in the Christian Church. However, Michael Portillo concluded by saying that power is for politicians not churchmen.

Our next meeting will find us watching a DVD on the Reformation. This meeting will be held on Monday 9th November at 7.30 pm at the home of Marilyn Samways, 3 Main Street, Cruden Bay where old and new members will be made very welcome.

Jenny McGarrol

EKWENDENI - FUND RAISING

Buttery Morning

A Buttery Morning in aid of Ekwendeni Hospital will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday **14 November** 2009 at 10 30 am.

There will be raffles, a sales table and cards made by the Card Making Group will be on sale.

A big Thank You is extended to those who have continued throughout the past year to provide wool, knitting and other goods for Malawi.

Please give your support to this fund raising event so that our church can continue to respond to the needs of the hospital.

Annette Garden

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CONGRATULATIONS

CRUDEN CHURCH FAMILY

to Mrs Norah Hardy, Sunnybank Care Home, Cruden Bay and Miss Hilda Davie, Lesmar, Uppermill, Hatton who will be celebrating their 90th Birthdays this month.

The minister would welcome, in writing please, any news for this feature in the Bulletin.



FOR SUNDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT
6.30 pm - 8 pm in Cruden Church Hall
READY FOR CHRISTMAS
Thinking Through Advent

November 22nd LIGHT November 29th HOPE
December 6th FAITHFUL SERVANTS
December 13th JOHN THE BAPTIST

All are welcome to come along to these evenings. Please register your interest with the Minister so that you can receive a copy of the booklet which will be issued for a little background reading to enable fruitful discussion to take place.

Also on these evenings we will think ahead to Christmas through poems, readings and looking at the stories behind some of our favourite carols.

Annette Garden and Beatrice Fawkes will soon be choosing a Book Stall for Sundays 15th, 22nd and 29th November. The Stall will include items with the Christmas theme and your support will be most welcome.

I O N A

*Is this place really nearer to God?
Is the wall thin between our whispers and His listening?
I only know the world grows less and less
Here what matters is conquering the wind,
coming home dryshod, getting the fire lit.
I am not sure whether there is no time here or more time,
whether the light is stronger or just easier to see.
That is why I keep returning, thirsty, to this place that is
older than my understanding, younger than my broken
spirit.*

The Pilgrimage from Cruden Parish Church included those who would experience that spirit of Iona for the first time and those returning indeed thirsty, for more.

The dictionary defines the pilgrim as "one who travels a distance to visit some holy place, in performance of a vow." Standing on the shores of St Columba's Bay after an arduous trek to the south of the island, we were able to look over the horizon and imagine the little boat carrying Columba and his twelve monks sailing from Ireland towards these unknown shores not knowing whether this land held friend or foe or would be fertile enough to sustain them to settle here. They could never have foreseen that the path they trod would have such impact down through the centuries and that many pilgrims would come desiring to walk in their footsteps. They put the past firmly behind them and moved on to live a life of obedience and discipleship which resulted in the Gospel of Christ being spread throughout Scotland and Europe. And so we were challenged to think of the importance of the path we choose through life and the effect our actions will leave behind for future generations.

Travelling over the Machair along beautiful white sandy beaches and just able to see the outline of Tiree in the distance, we arrived at the Hermit's Cell where the monks would regularly spend a few days in isolation to meditate and draw closer to God. Here we were asked to

reflect on the need to set ourselves apart from our daily busyness to nurture our relationship with God.

Continuing on our journey to the north of the island meant that the large majority of the group were taken out of their comfort zone and physically challenged with the climb up Iona's highest hill, Dun I. On conquering the summit there was much applause and clicking of cameras both to record the occasion and the spectacular views around the island.

After a precarious descent from Dun I (which left one pilgrim with a very wet bottom!) we headed for the beach on the very northern tip of Iona from where we could view Staffa and Fingal's Cave and recall the boat trip we had made there the previous day when we had felt the power of the sea around us and marvelled at the awesomeness of God's handiwork. With a gentle breeze blowing around us and a warm sun overhead we joined in a simple sharing of bread and wine. As we did this the words of Psalm 133 came to my mind - "Nothing is more pleasing to God than when brothers live together in harmony ... for that is where God's blessing is to be found" and I silently gave thanks for the many blessings God had poured on us in our time together.

We had been blessed in the fun and laughter we shared as we walked and at the table while eating exquisite food together.

We had been blessed in our time of reflection at the end of each day when Rodger delighted us by relating stories from 'Adomnan's Life of Columba'.

We had been blessed in and through the worship in the Abbey each morning and evening as we prayed and sang together and shared in an Agape Meal.

We had been blessed in the connecting of our lives with each other and with God.

'There are moments when life feels real, when we touch the spirit in each other and share the beauty and sorrows of our lives and our hearts gain understanding and grow strong.'

Catherine Leitch

CRUDEN CHURCHES WALK

WHITEHILLS STONE CIRCLE AND GREEN HILL, MONYMUSK

Sunday 13 September

We left the car park for the Tillyfourie cycle trail along a wide-open track that rose gently through open woodland. Whitehills' prehistoric stone circle was our first objective. The huge altar stone and one flanker were still intact, as was standing stone No. 5 on the perimeter of the extensive circle.

After a fairly level stretch, our track left the main cycle trail and rose steeply through woodland until it reached open moorland. The route continued north rising sharply alongside a fence until we reached the summit of Green Hill (just over 1,000 feet) where the whole panorama of Donside opened out for us.

We carefully descended the rough track to meet up with a wide-open forestry road just over the halfway point at marker point 4 on our map, but 6 on the ground. We took that irregularity and the further one in our stride and circled back southward, the track rising gently as it cleared the woodland.

On the last lap, we were intrigued by the land formation in a nearby field and, a little later on, pooled our observations of flight, markings and size to identify a woodpecker as it dipped away from us.

LOGIE DURNO Sunday 11 October

We were pleased to welcome Robert's sister, Isobel, on our walk. Her wee dog, Scruffy, was our pacesetter stepping out smartly, ears cocked and tail wagging, being reined in occasionally to have twigs and grasses plucked from his undercarriage.

Our starting point was a village hall, a popular dance venue many years ago. The massive form of Bennachie dominated the countryside as we headed up a quiet country road into the wind. A short woodland section provided shelter, and we emerged again at Logie Durno Church.

Apart from a roofless family crypt, nothing else remained, a mass of ivy suggesting the shape of the original church. Lichen covered upright stones and moss-covered flat stones, where visible, dated back to the early 1800s. We looped south to the banks of the Ury to the site of three small symbol stones. Close by was a row of pet memorials, "Gip" being a recurring favourite.

The refurbished Logie House was visible through the trees as we headed back to Whiteford and then Lochters for coffee.

Margaret Wisely

PARISH REGISTER

*denotes member

DEATHS

*Mrs Elizabeth Clarke, Sunnybank Care Home, Cruden Bay.

*Mr Robert Knox, 32 Quarry Road, Hatton

HOLY COMMUNION



29 November
10.00 am

Duty Elders Kate Clark, Annette Garden, Betty Smith,
Jim MacDonald, Robert Petticrew, Sandy Smith, Jack Young,
Betty Forrester, Muriel Cantlay, Robert Esson

2010 FLOWER CALENDAR



Calendar for the Old Church will now be found on the notice board at the Church and members are invited to add their name beside any date on which they would wish to place flowers on the communion table. The gift of such flowers is always greatly appreciated. In particular, it is hoped that the early months of next year will soon be filled up.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL COME OUT ON **29 NOVEMBER**. Copy for inclusion to be handed in to the Manse as soon as possible.

HOME COMMUNIONS

The minister would be pleased to offer the opportunity to anyone unable to attend church to receive home Communion at the end of November. Please let your District Elder (failing which the Minister) know if you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity.