

*CRUDEN
PARISH
CHURCH*

*BULLETIN
JUNE 2012*



CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH TO THE FORE!

James Hyman, Presbytery's Youth Representative to this year's General Assembly, carried the Presbytery of Buchan Banner, designed by Jim Taylor, at an Assembly event in Princess Street Gardens, Edinburgh on 20 May 2012

www.crudenchurch.org.uk

A Registered Charity SC 006408

DIARY DATES

SUMMER 2012

Worship services will continue every Sunday morning in Cruden Parish Church at 10 am and will be conducted by the minister except where otherwise stated.

The hymns sung during the summer will be from Mission Praise.

June

- Thursday 7th : Guild Senior Citizens' Outing
Sunday 10th : Admission of New Communicants
Saturday 16th : Congregational Walk leaving Hatton Hall at 8.30 am
Gordon Way
Sunday 24th : The service will be conducted by Mr Richard Sneddon,
Peterhead.

July

- Sunday 22nd : Sacrament of Baptism during the morning service
Congregational Walk leaving the hall at 11.30 am
Newburgh to Balmedie
Sunday 29th : **OUTDOOR MILLENNIUM SERVICE AT 9.30 am**
See fuller details on a later page

August

- Sunday 5th : Sacrament of Baptism during the morning service
Saturday 11th : Congregational Walk leaving Hatton Hall at 8 am
Glenlivet
Saturday 18th : **Millennium Flower Festival** in the Cruden Churches
Monday 20th : : Kirk Session 7.30 pm Hall

The Social Committee intend to resume the monthly Coffee and Chat mornings on Wednesday 7 September. Remember to keep the first Wednesday mornings of the winter months free.

FROM THE MINISTER 25 MAY 2011

Dear Friends

To celebrate the fact that it is 1000 years since the first chapel was built in the parish of Cruden after the 1012 battle between the Danes and the Scots, three special events have been planned uniting the three parish churches.

29 July - Open Air Service *This will take place on St Olaf's day near the site (precise location no longer known) of the first Christian chapel in Cruden parish, built on the dunes where the Battle took place. By the 17th hole on Cruden Bay golf course, there still exists today St Olaf's Well and, by permission of the Golf Club, we will worship beside it. The Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney will celebrate the Eucharist and all are invited to come along. Cars can be parked in the golf course car park or driven down to the green keeping huts next to St Olaf's Well. After the service tea and coffee will be freely provided in the Clubhouse (and bacon rolls may be bought).*

18/ 19 August - Flower Festival *From 10 am to 5 pm you can visit the three parish churches enhanced by the many flower arrangements and accompanied by information on the 1,000 years history. There will be an opportunity in each church to make a donation to help defray costs. On the Saturday refreshments will be available as follows: Morning - Congregational Church, Lunchtime - Cruden Parish Church, Afternoon - St James Church.*

28 October - Thanksgiving Service *After the first chapel was buried by sand, another was built not far from the Water of Cruden as it flows into Cruden Bay. The third church site is where the present Cruden Parish Church, the oldest church building in the parish, stands. Guest Preacher at this service in the Parish Church will be the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland - the Right Reverend Albert Bogle. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated and all are welcome to attend. Tea and coffee will be available after the service.*

Please put these dates into your diary and plan to come along to what will be memorable occasions.

Your friend and minister

Rodger Neilson

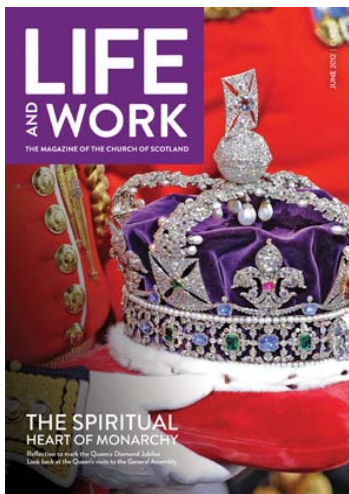
PARISH REGISTER

*(denotes church member)

DEATHS

- *Mr George Sangster, 26 John Buchan Drive, Cruden Bay.
Mrs Margaret (Bunty) Daniel, 5 Cantlay Court, Cruden Bay.
*Miss Hilda Davie, Lesmar, Uppermill, Hatton.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL COME OUT ON **26 August**. Copy for inclusion to be handed in to the Manse by 15 August.



JUNE ISSUE THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Spiritual Heart of the Monarchy As the nation celebrates the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Rev Dr Ian Bradley reflects on the spiritual influence of the Church of Scotland on the monarchy.

A Decade of Change Ten years on from the publication of *Outside Verdict*, his controversial critique of the Church of Scotland, Harry Reid reflects on the church today and looks to the future.

Twenty Years of the Glasgow Gospel It is 30 years since Jamie Stuart first conceived the Scots Gospel and 20 years since his Glaswegian version made him famous. Jamie and his friend Dr Donald Smith tell Thomas Baldwin how it all started.

A Time of Crisis and Opportunity Michael Gunn reports on an uncertain future for Christians in Egypt.

Biblical Botanicals Muriel Armstrong describes the biblical connections of the humble cucumber.

Worship for a New Age? The Rev Bryan Kerr considers the role of interaction in worship.

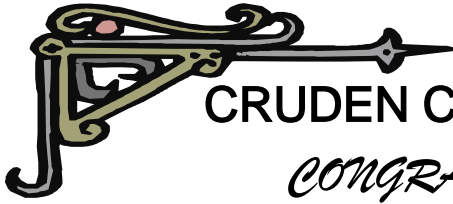
Anyone wishing to subscribe to this informative magazine of the Church of Scotland should contact Mrs Isobel Young, Tel: Cruden Bay 812360

SUNDAY MORNING DUTIES OLD CHURCH 10 am

Date	Door	Flowers	Teas
3 June	Helen Harper Barry Harper	Irene Stott	Rosemary Reid Doreen Buchan
10 June	Helen Harper Barry Harper	Betty Forrester	Iris Durno Betty Morris
17 June	Kate Clark Fiona Stephen	Margaret Cruickshank	Lewis McKechnie Wilma Moir
24 June	Kate Clark Fiona Stephen	Robert Esson	Alison Neilson Betty Forrester
1 July	Dorothy Cruickshank Peter Slamaker		Jim MacDonald Margaret Adams
8 July	Dorothy Cruickshank Peter Slamaker	Wedding	Beatrice Fawkes Sharon Clark
15 July	Beatrice Fawkes John Lamb	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Anne Cadey Elizabeth Bruce
22 July	Beatrice Fawkes John Lamb	Norma Forman	Irene Stott Dorothy Cruickshank
29 July	Kathleen Craig Robert Petticrew	Margaret Adams	Wilma Moir Liz Carnie
5 August	Kathleen Craig Robert Petticrew	Marilyn Samways	Elma Cumming Rosemary Reid
12 August	Betty Forrester Robert Esson	Betty Morris	Lewis McKechnie Marilyn Samways
19 August	Betty Forrester Robert Esson	Betty Forrester	Alison Neilson Norma Forman
26 August	Marilyn Samways Shonah Taylor	Iris Durno	Fiona Stephen Rosemary Reid

Date	Children	Date	Children	Date	Children
5 June	School Holiday	10 June	Helen Smith Maureen Reid	17 June	Katherine Hyman Brenda Cadger
24 June	Karla Buswell Helen Smith	1 July – 19 August	School Summer Holidays	26 August	Maureen Reid Katherine Hyman

COMING YOUR WAY – To raise funds for the Windows Project there will be a monthly Cake and Candy Stall in the Hall after the service on the first Sunday from June to September. Donations for the stall welcome. Further details from Beatrice Fawkes (841814).



CRUDEN CHURCH FAMILY CONGRATULATIONS

JULY

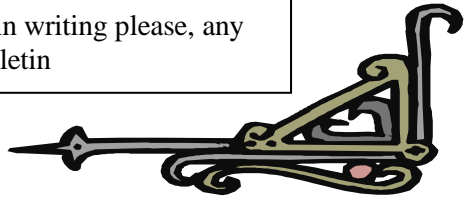
to **Mrs Jean Knox, 32 Quarry Road, Hatton** who will be celebrating her 80th birthday

to **Mr & Mrs Imlah, 22 Danesburgh Cottages, Cruden Bay** who will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding.

AUGUST

to **Mr & Mrs Innes, 14 Hobshill Place Hatton** who will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding.

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



BARNABAS PETITION

BARNABUS FUND is a registered charity dedicated to collating and communicating information regarding the persecution of Christians throughout the world. It is surprising in how many countries round the world to be a Christian is to put your life at risk.

The Kirk Session have agreed to display a petition organised by Barnabas Fund and would encourage you to sign it. It begins *We the undersigned call upon our government 1. To recognise that Christians around the world currently face unprecednted levels of persecution and are oen of the most persecuted groups in the world.*

It will be available in the Welcome Area of the Church (where more information about Barnabus Fund is on the table) and also in the Hall throughtout the months of June, July and August. **Please tick the box at the end of the line where you put your name if you do NOT wish to receive ongoing infomation from Barnabus.**



This year's Buttery Morning exceeded expectation, raising £600 - almost twice as much as last year. Once we add this to all the money received from the house to house collection as well as other donations, our grand total is only slightly down on last year which is no bad result during a time of economic downturn.

Once again we are delighted to say thank you to all who have worked hard and to those who have supported this fundraising,

- Wilma Moir who organised the Buttery Morning
- Rosemary Reid who organised the house-to-house collection in Hatton.
- our Christian Aid Organiser, Rosemary Pittendrigh, who organised the count and also the house-to-house collection in Cruden Bay.
- those who helped with the house to house collection;
- those who came along on Friday evening to help with the count;
- those who supported the buttery morning, being there, helping with the serving, giving and buying of raffle prizes;
- those who over the year collect coins in jars/boxes/bags etc.

The figure raised shows that the parish of Cruden continues to support and help the poor and needy of today's world. This amount of money will give many people a chance to enjoy a better life.



COFFEE MORNING

In response to the much appreciated care and attention she received in Roxburgh House, Jessie Macdonald has organised a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on Wednesday 30 May from 10.30 am to 12 noon. A tombola and raffle will also take place and all proceeds will be donated to Roxburgh House Entry - £2. If you can, come along.

CHURCH WALK Auchnagatt to Maud - Sunday, 20 May.

Having mostly shared in the united morning service at St. James', our group of 12 (delighted to have 2 new members) set off for Auchnagatt where we enjoyed our picnic lunch before setting off on part of the Formartine Buchan Way - the 4.5 mile stretch to Maud past Brownhill of Annochie. Auchnagatt was having a gala day and the weather was perfect.

Constructed on the bed of the old railway link, the route is mostly level; so provides a safe path for all to use either by walking, cycling or on horseback.

The chat was good – topics being: holiday plans, airports to avoid, bird spotting and garden festivals, to name but a few, whilst on either side of the line the cows were quietly grazing and paying little attention to those on the busy path.

We did miss having Muriel with us to identify the rich stretches of pink, wild flowers bordering the walkway. However, Annette has come to the rescue and given the name (according to Larousse Field Guide) as Common Centaury or Centaurium Erythraea!! We are not without a bit of culture as we exercise!

On reaching Maud, the big decision had to be made as to where we would adjourn for tea. The Happy Plant certainly fitted the bill and we all enjoyed a welcome cuppa – and more chat - at the end of a most enjoyable afternoon.

The next walk – on The Gordon Way – is on Saturday, 16 June. Please do not let the stated 11 miles deter any new members from joining us. Within the group, we walk at varying speeds and some achieve much shorter distances BUT we all enjoy the fellowship AND we all meet at the coffee shop at the end!

Marilyn Samways.

Ythan Singers
"Let's Celebrate"

Wednesday 6th June 2012
7.30pm
Newburgh Public Hall

Conductor: Morag Paton
Accompanist: Rosemary Lund

Tickets: £6 & £4 concession
from choir members or 01358 721838
Profits to Scottish Huntinton's Association

Scottish Huntinton's Association
Ythan Singers: Scottish Charity: SC08222 | www.ythansingers.co.uk

SALE OF COMMUNION TOKENS

This fundraiser, for our windows project, has exceeded our expectations for it has now raised in the region of £1,700. The tokens were advertised on eBay and from that £514 was raised.

They are no longer available from eBay but there is an option on our own church website for people in the future who want to buy tokens to order them directly from us.

CRUDEN GUILD.

Monday 30 April Rosemary welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting of the Guild. After the opening hymn, Rodger presided over the business of election of a new committee for this year. He thanked Mary McNaughtan and Kathleen Craig for all their hard work on the committee over the years. Owing to family commitments, both were not seeking re-election to the committee. A committee comprising Rosemary Pittendrigh, Shonah Taylor, Lorraine Neilson, Beatrice Fawkes, Irene Will, and Alison Neilson was elected. The posts to be held by individuals would be decided at the next Guild Committee Meeting.

All business concluded, Rosemary handed over to the entertainment for the evening, Newburgh SWRI concert party, and their pianist, Rosemary Lund. It was great to see her again, even if only for one night. They gave a wonderful concert, with songs from the musicals, an Irish medley, western music, monologues and jokes a plenty. It was a truly entertaining evening which kept everyone smiling.

Tea on this occasion was a bit special, with sandwiches, snacks, cakes, toffee and drinks being provided. After the vote of thanks, Rosemary thanked everyone for coming along, and wished them a safe journey home and reminded all members of the forthcoming Senior Citizen's Outing on Thursday 7 June

The new session of the Guild will commence on Monday 24 September in the church hall. All members and guests are welcome.

Lorraine Neilson

GUILD SPONSORED WALK & SENIORS' OUTING

The Guild would like to say a big thank you to all sponsors and all who took part in the Sponsored Walk on 22 April in aid of the Senior Citizens' Outing and Guild funds (with a donation to follow to the Church Windows Project). £1,015 has been raised so far.

This year the **Senior Citizens Outing** is going to Raemoir Garden Centre, Banchory followed by high tea at the Bancar Hotel, Lonmay on Thursday 7 June. An invitation is extended to all senior citizens who are church members.

A bus will pick up in Cruden Bay at 12.30 pm and Hatton at 1 pm. Due to the high cost of buses, we want to know numbers in advance. If you would like to come please can you notify any Guild Committee Member – Kathleen Craig, Rosemary Pittendrigh, Shonah Taylor, Beatrice Fawkes and Lorraine Neilson.

MALAWI

LIVINGSONIA SYNOD AIDS PROGRAMME (LISAP)

THE GIRLS & BOYS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

LISAP is a faith based organisation that was established in 1994 to respond to HIV & AIDS by coordinating and implementing HIV & AIDS work in the Synod's catchment area in Northern Malawi. LISAP implements its activities according to the national response to HIV & AIDS and works in areas of prevention, care, support, treatment, capacity building and research. LISAP's vision is a society that has reduced the prevalence of HIV & AIDS and that is mitigating its impacts through care and support of the infected and affected.

BACKGROUND Girl marriages customs occur in various times and places whereby children are given in matrimony before marriageable age. Most countries have declared 18 as a minimum legal age for marriage for marriage. Despite the sanctions however, more than 100 million girls are expected to marry in the next decade'. In 2009 Malawi pegged 16 as marriage age for girls with consent.

While the practice has decreased globally over the last 30 years, it remains common in rural areas among the poorest of the poor. Impoverished parents often believe that child marriage will protect their daughter. This practice is common in sub Saharan Africa where 42% of women get married before 18. In Malawi the practice is even more rampant where 50% of girls get married before the age of 18. According to the National Youth Council of Malawi, over 35% of pregnancies are teen age. This is why in 2009, LISAP embarked on a Girls and Boys Empowerment project through increased access to education - a long term response to HIV & AIDS. This project aims at empowering girls and boys from harmful traditional and other practices which expose them to abuse, denial of continuous education and HIV & AIDS.

RESPONSE With Funding from the Scottish Government through Tearfund, the Girls and Boys Empowerment Project worked with the different stakeholders in Karonga district of Northern Malawi. According to the baseline survey during the pilot phase done in Iponga, 64% of girls married by the age of 18 and 32% of girls were getting married before the age of 14. For this reason LISAP strategized the project that all stakeholders should work together in response to this problem. The stakeholders were the government departments such as education, social welfare, judiciary, police and youth and other NGOs. This being a cultural issue, LISAP felt it

was difficult to be handled from outside the cultural setting and by outsiders who are not aware of the deep cultural practices within Karonga. LISAP therefore mobilised the custodians of culture and gate keepers - traditional leaders. The aim of putting them at the fore front was for them to understand the evils and disparities that the kupimbira (arranged and forced marriage) culture was bringing to the girls of Karonga and find solutions. The traditional leaders, after being convinced, were able to be watchdogs within their own communities.

Further steps were taken to put father and mother groups in each village. This group of people were the whistle blowers, who, when they see that underage children are going into marriage, would alert the village and bring the child back to school. Trainings were also done with the children themselves on their rights and sexual and reproductive health including HIV & AIDS through life skills. These trainings helped the girls to overcome the pressures which their society was bringing upon them. Child protection volunteers were also trained together with children. With the help of the judiciary who would interpret child related abuses and child protection policy for LISAP, children were guaranteed safety. Because of all these measures in place, 28 children from age 8 to 18 have been withdrawn from marriages and are now back in school.

CHALLENGES The practice of child marriage is deeply embedded in human culture and culture being a powerful tool for human survival, it is very difficult to uproot the practice. In Karonga Kupimbira has been a practice that has existed since time in memorial. This has been passed down within the society and it is being maintained to the present day, such being the case it was difficult to come in as a direct attack to the practice. Leaders were very defensive and would not unveil the evils that are existing from the practice.

Another challenge faced was that Iponga and Ighembe is located at the border of Malawi and Tanzania and when the rules become strict in Malawi regarding child marriages, wards could just take their children to Tanzania and marry them there. The rice growing areas of Iponga and Ighembe are very swampy, and during the rainy season, it is difficult for children to cross the rivers and swampy areas, such that, as much as the children would like to continue with school, mother nature would not let them.

IMPACT The impact to this project has been tremendous. One can even register an impact even if it was only one small girl (as above) who had been rescued from marriage. The results of these marriages are devastating. I believe that early marriage is both a social and health problem. The dignity and womanhood of these young wives is stripped and most child bearing complications occur in teenage

mothers. Through this project, a total of 28 girls have been brought back to school. Studies have shown a correlation between girls' educational level and age at marriage. Higher median age at marriage directly correlates with higher rates of girls in school. Conversely getting and keeping girls in school may be one of the best ways to foster later chosen marriages. The impact has not only been getting married girls back to school, but those who are never been married are kept in school which may later bring the above results. Through the teachings of the community leaders, they have seen the need of girls and boys education and they have established bylaws which started functioning in April 2012. The bylaws have different punishments for people who absent their children from school.

One of the negative impacts has been that, children and parents have been mobilised to keep their children in school but the school infrastructure is not conducive to learning. There are no teaching and learning resources and in some schools there have been no adequate teachers. Some learners go to school where they have to cross rivers and some are unable to attend schooling while they have the desire.

LESSONS LEARNED The mind set of people cannot be changed within short time period, otherwise the issues will resurface. This needs to take some years to make sure that the new culture has been accepted and is being absorbed within the society. At the same time, it is possible to change culture. Young girls are aware of the evils that are imposed on them by their culture and are able to stand against these given the tools. An example is Mphatso a 11 year old orphan who was able to tell her grandmother that she knew that all the statements which her grandmother was producing were leading to getting her a husband but she will not accept that as she was taught in life skills that the practice would ruin her future. 'Grandma, your marriage stories are going through this ear and coming out through the other. I will remain in school', said Mphatso.

CONCLUSION The Girls and Boy empowerment project has enabled the community to open their eyes on the importance educating children especially girls as culturally these have been seen as secondary beneficiaries to education in the home. In involving traditional leaders in the project, it has enabled a smoother running of the project as these were able to encourage their subjects to abide to the set rules of the project.