

The Bulletin



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*Special Services and Events
for Christmas*

Sunday 1st December

7.00 pm: An evening of Readings and Hymns for Advent
at Cruden Parish Church

Wednesday 11th December

7.00 pm: Christmas Carol Service
at Cruden Bay Congregational Church.

Sunday 15th December

3.00 pm: A service of Christmas Carols
At St James the Less Episcopal Church

Thursday 19th December

3.30 pm: Messy Church
at Hatton Public Hall
Families of all shapes and sizes welcome!

Christmas Eve – 24th December

11.30 pm : Watchnight Service at Cruden Parish Church
(Carol singing from 11.15 pm)

You are welcome!

Cruden Parish Church
Winter 2019-2020

Diary Dates Winter 2019-2020

Worship services will continue every Sunday in the Church at 10 am

DECEMBER

- Sunday 1st Time for Prayer – Vestry 11.15 pm
 Advent Evening Service 7 pm
- Monday 9th Guild Christmas Party - St Olaf 7.00 pm
- Wednesday 11th Carol Service at Congregational Church 7 pm
- Sunday 15th Carol Service at St James' Church 3 pm
- Thursday 19th Messy Church in Hatton Public Hall 3.30 pm
- Tuesday 24th Charity fun run/jog/walk on Cruden Bay beach 1.45 pm#
- Tuesday 24th Watchnight Service 11.30 pm

JANUARY

- Sunday 5th Time for Prayer – Vestry 11.15 pm
- Tuesday 7th Craft Group in Hall 1.30 pm
- Thursday 16th Messy Church in Hatton Public Hall 3.30 pm
- Tuesday 21st Craft Group in Hall 1.30 pm
- Sunday 26th MORNING SERVICE
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Brunch for Christian Aid
 organised by the Guild after the service
- Monday 27th Guild in Hall 7.30 pm
 Stella's Voice - Mark Morgan

FEBRUARY

- Sunday 2nd Time for Prayer – Vestry 11.15 pm
- Tuesday 4th Craft Group in Hall 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 5th Choir Practice in Hall 7.30 pm

Tuesday 18th	Craft Group in Hall 1.30 pm
Thursday 20th	Messy Church in Hatton Public Hall 3.30 pm
Monday 24th	Guild in Hall 7.30 pm Guild Theme "Companions on the Road " - Rev Sean Swindells

MARCH

Sunday 1st	Time for Prayer – Vestry 11.15 pm
Tuesday 3rd	Craft Group in Hall 1.30 pm
Wednesday 4th	Choir Practice in Hall 7.30 pm

Enjoy Advent!
by James Martin,

First of all, get to know Advent. This liturgical season is a time of waiting - something that we all do: we're waiting for some good news, for a better job, or for our lives to improve. Advent is a time when we think about waiting for God, so it fits in perfectly with our natural human longings. "Come, thou long expected Jesus," as the hymn goes. Advent is also the time of beautiful Scripture readings, like those from the Book of Isaiah. "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom." These are readings to give all of us hope! And Advent is the season for beloved church traditions, including the Advent wreath, which can easily be translated into home rituals.

Second, cut back on the craziness of Christmas preparations. Here are just a few suggestions: send cards only to close friends and family; drop one present per person from your list; and go only to the most essential holiday gatherings. Does that sound selfish? It's just the opposite! It will give you time to spend with those you really love, and more time to spend in prayer.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Kirk Session has decided that the charity to benefit from the offering at our Christmas services this year will be **RNLI**.



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing it is a rather raw and miserable winter's day. A wee bit earlier I was out walking the dog and got caught in a heavy shower of rain, leaving both of us thoroughly soaked. Then the postman thoughtfully dropped through the manse letter box, a letter from the Inland Revenue, advising that I owed £355.48 in tax payable by January. And I am really struggling looking for inspiration for Sunday's sermon. Not a good start! But rather than feeling miserable and complaining there is another way of looking at things. I love the outdoors, live out in the country and have a beautiful, affectionate Golden Retriever dog who brings much joy. And when you think of what we get for the amount of tax (and rates) we pay, it is incredibly good value. The NHS, Armed Forces, Police, Schools, pensions and benefits etc. We have a quality of life and public services that, whilst not perfect, are very enviable. So there are always two ways of looking at things – the negative (a raw and miserable day) and the positive (dogs, outdoors and the joy of paying income tax.)

I would like to thank everybody who filled out our recent Congregational Questionnaire. Whilst there were no suggestions that the minister should have more holidays, there were some extremely helpful contributions. These will help myself and the Kirk Session to begin the process of diligently seeking God and formulating a vision for the way ahead. Responses to the question about what people valued and found meaningful were all positive. These include, being a friendly and welcoming congregation, with good music, a sense of peace, and an attractive building. The community spirit was also noted, people felt accepted and a sense of belonging.

The second question was about our future. Some people suggested changes to our buildings, improving the seating and being more involved in the community. But the greatest number of comments concerned the place of children in worship and a yearning for young people at the heart of the church.

As you will all be aware, there are no easy answers or instant solutions. We cannot recreate the church of the past or rekindle those happy, positive memories of Sunday School. How times have changed! Yet there is also much that is positive. Messy Church in Hatton is something which is greatly appreciated by the families that attend. As already mentioned, the questionnaire revealed that our congregation has many strengths. We are not perfect, but we still have a reasonable number of people who attend worship.

And there is something else we need to remember here. We are not in charge of the future. We can think and plan, pray and reflect, yet ultimately it is God who is in charge. We might have our concerns for the future and for the spiritual welfare of young people, but how much greater is God's concern? How much more does God yearn to see the renewal of church and the revival of faith?

One final thought. As Christmas approaches, we are again reminded of how God sent a child into the world. Who could have imagined that the vulnerable and naked Christ child was the Messiah and God incarnate? That through the giving of His Son, God would bring salvation to the human race and the renewal of the whole of creation. The Christmas story reminds us that God acts in ways we cannot perceive or imagine. And wouldn't it be interesting as we yearn and pray, to see a new generation find faith, that God would use a new generation to create a renewed church – fit for the modern age – and the revival of Scotland?

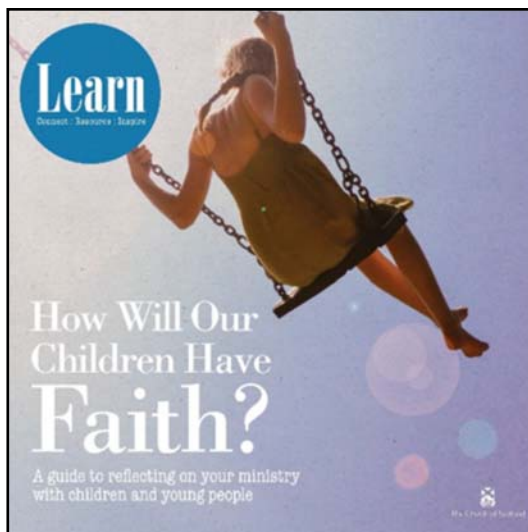
Wishing you a joy filled and peaceful Christmas.

Rev Sean Swindells,
Parish Minister

Tel. 07791 755976 Email sswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church, faith, children and young people.

At a recent Kirk Session meeting we discussed in some detail the results of the recent congregational survey, especially in relation to young people, children and families. The big question now is how to proceed in listening and discerning the way ahead? Fortunately, the Church of Scotland has produced a book called *How will our children have faith?* to help congregations begin the process of planning for the future. If you have a heart and concern for the spiritual welfare for the young people and families of our parish and would like to be part of a study and prayer group, please contact Sean. This new group will have its first meeting in the early New Year.



CRAFT GROUP

The last three months have been very busy for the group, with lots of donations going out. We were pleased to liaise with an old friend of Cruden Church, Jennifer Strachan (née Laird) and as a result several boxes are on their way to Malawi via Ellon Parish Church. Seven boxes went to Blythswood Care as well as hats, scarves and mittens for our own church's Blythswood Christmas boxes. A number of knitted teddies were added to the donations of food at the harvest service and will be added into Christmas bags at the food bank. We were recently very grateful to receive a donation of more than 200 knitted squares and several members put these together to make lovely blankets.

Instead of our usual meeting in November we attended St James' Church and joined with other local craft groups to hear Lyn Irvine, Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Nurse Consultant, speak about her work in ARI. Lyn appeared recently on BBC Reporting Scotland appealing for wool and twiddle muffs/blankets for dementia patient in ARI. After a very interesting and informative talk, we were delighted to hand over fifteen blankets and hope to produce more in the New Year for this extremely worthwhile cause.

After November the group will take a break and resume on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Carol Paul

The Computer swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed grandma, yes honestly, it's true.
She pressed 'Control' and 'Enter' and disappeared from view.
It devoured her so completely, the thought just makes me squirm.
She might have caught a 'Virus' or been eaten by a 'Worm'.
I've searched through the 'Recycle Bin' and files of every kind.
I've even used the 'Internet' but nothing did I find.
So then I went to 'Google' my searches to refine.
The reply I got was negative, not a thing was found 'Online',
So if inside your 'Inbox' my grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her and send her home to me!
Anon.



THE GUILD



At our September meeting Rev Fred Couatts gave an in-depth talk on the history of the communion silver of Cruden church. He also explained the effect religious disputes at different times in history had on the worship and the ministers of Cruden. The communion cups were crafted in the early 18th century by a French silversmith living in Old Aberdeen.

Cruden Guild were hosts to the Guilds Together meeting in October. The speaker from the *Free to Live Trust* informed us about Seema's Story, one of the Guild's projects for this year. It involves providing a safe house at the Bori Centre for street children of prostitutes in Pune, India.

The speaker at our October meeting was Janet Dick who is the Mission and Discipleship Development Worker for Buchan Presbytery. She spoke about her work and the influence her grandmother had on her life. Her grandmother had been an inspirational woman for her time, making an impact on Janet's attitude to life.

The Guild Christmas meal will be on 9th December at St Olaf Hotel.

The Guild will be holding a brunch for Christian Aid after the church service on Sunday 26th January 2020. It is planned to hold a concert at a later date, arrangements to be finalised.

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church is continuing with the enthusiastic team and children we have. There will be some changes to suit the interests of the current children and an opportunity for active play. There will be the usual Christmas fun. Why don't you come along and join the fun?

Dates: 19th December, 16th January, 29th February, 19th March.

The Messy Church Team

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thanks to every one who helped me by supplying shoe boxes, contents, wrapping paper, donations towards delivery and transporting the boxes. 96 boxes were delivered to the Blythswood lorry on the 7th of November to be distributed in time for Christmas. You have brightened Christmas for a lot of people. Thank you.

Rosemary Reid

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020



Next year is a big year as I will be celebrating a very significant birthday. In order to have a meaningful mid-life crisis, on 26th April I will be competing in the London Marathon to raise funds for Christian Aid.

The work that Christian Aid carries out is hugely respected. Often in the most difficult of situations, it seeks to bring help and support to the most marginalised communities. For example, the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world concerns the Rohingya refugees (many of whom are Muslim). Due to escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes and fled to Bangladesh, fearing for their lives. Christian Aid is one of a number of refugee agencies working with the group seeking to offer help and support. Without our financial donations, this work would not be possible.

In addition to our usual congregational giving for Christian Aid Week, I am hoping to raise funds by organising a series of community events and activities. The plan is not simply to ask for money but offer people something in exchange for money, at the same time getting people involved and building relationships.

For example, at 1.45 pm on Christmas Eve I am organising a charity fun run/jog/walk on Cruden Bay beach. If running or jogging sounds too ambitious or arduous, what about helping to organise a coffee morning, a jumble sale or a silent auction. All offers of help and support would be much appreciated! Just remember, what we do locally can make a significant difference to people in some of the most desperate and trying circumstances.

Sean (07791 755976)



2020 FLOWER CALENDAR



We have modified the Flower Calendar for 2020.

In previous years it has always been “first come first served” with the Flower Calendar. On a number of occasions this has resulted in people being too late in selecting a date which they wish because someone else got there before them.

There is no real reason why more than one person cannot put flowers in the church on any specific Sunday, so for 2020 there is an option for two people to place flowers in the church on any Sunday. People are therefore encouraged to put their name in one of the boxes for their chosen Sunday.



NOVEMBER CAROL

Lord of the drizzle, the damp and the chill;
Lord of the leaves that lie soaking and still;
Christmas comes earlier, year after year.
Santa's been sighted! Your season is here.

TV commercials proclaim the good news;
Make us an offer we dare not refuse.
Come with your credit cards: stand up and spend!
Pay when the Universe comes to an end.

Lord of November, come early, come soon.
Gleam through the mist of our grey afternoon.
Short and depressing and dull is our day.
Come with the catalogues: come Lord - and stay.

John Coutts

(copies available from johnjcoutts@gmail.com)

**Ythan Singers
Christmas Concert**

REJOICE AND BE MERRY

Conductor: Morag Simpson
Accompanist: Rosemary Lund
Sunday 1st December 2019 2.30pm
Ellon Parish Church
Friday 13th December 2019 7.30pm
St Andrew's Church, Inverurie

Ythan Singers: Scottish Charity: SC038223: www.ythansingers.co.uk

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

Mr Alex Taylor, Glendale, 13 Bain Road, Mintlaw.
Mrs Isabel Connon, 5 Aulton Road, Cruden Bay.
Mrs Mary Shewan, 6 Stewart Cottages, Hatton.
Mr William Moir, Courtview, Main Street, Hatton.

HOLY COMMUNION

26 January 10 am

.Duty Elders: Mary Bratton, Peter Slamaker,
Irene Will, Robert Esson.



I am thankful for...

The taxes I pay because it means that I am employed.
The clothes that fit too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
My shadow who watches me work, because I am out in the sunshine.
A lawn that has to be mowed, windows that have to be washed
and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
The spot I find at the far end of the parking lot
because it means I am capable of walking.
All the complaining I hear about our government
because it means we have freedom of speech.
The birds that are chirping in the spring sunshine
because it means I can hear.
The huge piles of laundry and ironing
because it means my loved ones are nearby.
The alarm that goes off in the early morning,
because it means that I am alive.

The next issue of the Bulletin will be published at the beginning of
March. Please send all material to be included before
Sunday 23rd February 2020

to: Fred Coutts, Ladebank, 1 Manse Place, Hatton AB42 0UQ
bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk

Sunday Morning Duties 10 am

Date	Door	Flowers	Teas
1 December	Kate Clark Irene Will	Mary Bratton	Iris Durno Mary Bratton
8 December	Muriel Cantlay Beatrice Fawkes	Betty Forrester	Norma Forman June Morrison
15 December	Muriel Cantlay Beatrice Fawkes	Irene Will	Margaret Adams Rosemary Reid
22 December	Coreen Phillips Peter Slamaker	Joyce Willox	Beatrice Fawkes Doreen Buchan
29 December	Coreen Phillips Peter Slamaker	Robert Esson	Margaret Bruce Ken Bruce
5 January	Norma Forman Katherine Hyman	Muriel Cantlay	Joyce Walker Allan Walker
12 January	Norma Forman Katherine Hyman	Muriel Cantlay	Kathleen Craig Elma Cumming
19 January	Helen Harper Barry Harper	Betty Morris	Iris Durno Beatrice Fawkes
26 January	Helen Harper Barry Harper	Marina Bruce	Irene Stott Fred Stott
2 February	Shonah Taylor Michael Buchan	Marilyn Samways	Norma Forman Katherine Hyman
9 February	Shonah Taylor Michael Buchan		Rosemary Reid Margaret Adams
16 February	Kathleen Craig Wilma Moir		Mary Bratton Doreen Buchan
23 February	Kathleen Craig Wilma Moir	Joyce Willox	Margaret Bruce Ken Bruce
1 March	Maureen Esson Robert Esson		Joyce Walker Allan Walker
8 March	Maureen Esson Robert Esson		Liz Carnie Elma Cumming



Reminder to those on duty.
If you are unable to do
door or tea duties,
please endeavour to find someone
to do them for you.

Minister: Rev Sean Swindells

SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk

Parish Office: **01779 841964** Mobile: **07791 755976**

Session Clerk	Robert Esson	
Treasurer	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Contact Elders	Betty Forrester	Hatton
	Beatrice Fawkes	Hatton
	Joyce Willox	Hatton
	Muriel Cantlay	Rural
	Robert Petticrew	Rural
	Robert Esson	Peterhead
	Maureen Esson	Cruden Bay
	Kate Clark	Cruden Bay
	Kathleen Craig	Cruden Bay
Gift Aid Treasurer	Muriel Cantlay	
Bulletin	Fred Coutts	
	bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk	
Christian Aid	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Cleaning	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Communion	Adrian Smith	
	Joyce Willox	
Flowers	Betty Forrester	
Guild	Muriel Cantlay	
Life and Work	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Messy Church	Kathleen Craig	
Organist	Stephen Calder	
Presbytery Elder	Katherine Hyman	
Press Officer	Mary Bratton	
Roll Keeper	Mary McNaughtan	
Safeguarding	Kathleen Craig	
Teas	Beatrice Fawkes	
Transport	Robert Esson	Hatton
	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Cruden Bay
Walks	Maureen Esson	
WFO Treasurer	Carol Paul	

Committee Conveners

Education & Worship	Katherine Hyman
Finance	Rosemary Pittendrigh
Membership and Outreach	Kathleen Craig
Property	Peter Slamaker
Social	Betty Forrester