

The Bulletin



Cruden Parish Church Winter 2020-2021

Dear Friends

In his book 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' C S Lewis tells the story of the magical land of Narnia. In the opening chapters, Narnia is under the rule of a wicked White Witch and the whole land is locked in an endless, perpetual winter. Or as one of the characters of the book describes it – 'winter but never Christmas'. As C S Lewis continues his story, it is not long before the White Witch begins to lose her grip on power. The great Lion Aslan is on the move. Soon the thick layer of ice that has entombed the entire land begins to thaw. Father Christmas makes an appearance and soon the first signs of Spring begin to emerge. The book concludes with the White Witch defeated, normal life restored, and the seasons brought back into balance.

Winter but never Christmas is how I think how many of us are feeling at the present time. It has been a weary and difficult year. Covid-19 has affected everybody. Perhaps the greatest burden has fallen upon those who work in the NHS, not forgetting the older members of the community for whom the social isolation has been hard to bear. For the church, it was only back in the middle of September that we were again able to open the doors, albeit under stringent conditions. (It is interesting for me as the minister, gazing upon the congregation on a Sunday morning, seeing everybody sitting two metres apart and wearing facemasks, conveying the appearance of gang of bank robbers!)

Our Christmas celebrations are going to be quite different this year. At the time of writing, we do not yet know how many people will be able to gather in our homes on Christmas Day or what restrictions will be in place. For the church, apart from our Sunday services all our activities will be on-line or via Facebook. These include the opportunity to take part in a virtual Advent candle lighting, every Sunday at 10.00 am, a daily Advent calendar, a virtual Christingle service at 6.30 pm on Christmas Eve and a live Watch-night reflection at midnight on Christmas Eve.

I hope and pray, that however you experience Christmas this year, you will know and encounter the mystery of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ coming amongst us. Of this we can be sure. Christmas is not cancelled. How we celebrate and spend with families and friends may be different, but the message of hope, peace, joy and love, is unchanged and undiminished.

With best wishes for Advent and Christmas.

Rev Sean Swindells
Parish Minister

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all those who have been attending church since we restarted services in September. Your participation in our worship is greatly appreciated.

A special thankyou to everyone who has made the reopening of the church possible, not least those involved in the enhanced cleaning regime.

It is very different on Sunday mornings with social distancing, the congregation wearing masks and no singing. Whilst it is good to be back, it looks like restrictions on social interaction and singing will remain into the New Year.

It has now been decided that we will stop the need to “book your seat” and worshippers are welcome to just turn up on a Sunday morning.

WORSHIP FROM HOME



A new feature for our church is having the Sunday service available on our Facebook page and we hope this will continue.

However, for members who do not have access to the internet, one possibility we are exploring is to record the Sunday Service and have it available for people to listen to over the phone after the service has ended. If this would be of interest, please let Sean or Robert know.

The Sunday Service is now broadcast each week live on Facebook



ANGELS, ANGELS, EVERYWHERE - CHRISTMAS 2020

This year we are going to explore the role of Angels in the Christmas story. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, this Christmas is going to be quite different!



Why not create your own **Advent Candle display** and join in the candle lighting from home? Copies of an easy to create template will soon be available via the church website, on request or at local shops. This is a family friendly activity. Why not get the younger members of the family to colour it in?

Also, why not get involved in making your very own **Christingle** on Christmas Eve? These are easy to make and a great way of getting younger members of the family involved! Christingle Kits (everything you need to create a Christingle except an Orange or large Satsuma) will be freely available nearer the time!

HOW THE ROBIN GOT ITS RED BREAST

The fire was going out and it was getting cold in the stable after Jesus was born. Mary asked all the animals if they could help to keep the fire going, but none of them would help.

It was then that a small, nondescript brown robin flew over to the fire and fluttered there, fanning the embers with its wings until the flames leapt up again. Then it flew off and returned with twigs in its beak to put on the fire. The robin kept fanning the fire with its wings until the heat turned its breast bright red. Mary was so grateful for the little bird's efforts that she declared it would always have a red breast, a symbol of its kind heart.



ANGELS, ANGELS, EVERYWHERE !

All our services and reflections are broadcast live on the Church Facebook page

Every day – a Facebook Advent Calendar

First Sunday of Advent – 29th November

10.00 am Virtual Advent Candle Lighting
– the Candle of Hope

10.00 am Morning Service

‘Mary and the Angel Gabriel’s message of Hope’



Second Sunday of Advent – 6th December

10.00 am Virtual Advent Candle Lighting – the Candle of Peace

10.00 am Morning Service

‘Joseph’s Dilemma and the Angel’s message of Peace’

Third Sunday of Advent – 13th December

10.00 am Virtual Advent Candle Lighting – the Candle of Joy

10.00 am Morning Service

‘Shepherd’s Shock and Awe and the Angel’s message of Joy’

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20th December

10.00 am Virtual Advent Candle Lighting – the Candle of Love

10.00 am Morning Service

‘Nasty Herod and the Angel’s message of Love’

Christmas Eve – 24th December

6.30 pm Virtual Christingle Celebration (Family Friendly)

11.50 pm Virtual Watchnight Reflection

Christmas Day – 25th December

10.00 am Virtual Advent Candle lighting – the Christ Candle!

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020

Thankyou to everyone who helped with the shoe box appeal. In spite of difficult circumstances we were able to send off 47 boxes.



CANNIBALS TURN TO CHRIST



Papua's Yali people welcome a MAF delivery of 2,500 Bibles in their own language

A few months ago, two MAF pilots landed in the mountainous Seng Valley region of Papua, Indonesia, to deliver 1,160 Bibles and 1,400 children's Bibles to the Yali people, who'd been waiting years to receive copies.

A dark history

The Yali, a tribe historically renowned for violence and cannibalism, were first discovered by an MAF aerial survey in 1965. Two years later, World Team missionaries Phil Masters and Stan Dale arrived to scout out a place for a new airstrip and to plant a church. Tragically, both men were killed by the arrows of Yali warriors. After many years of outreach by MAF and World Team, the Yali have since accepted Christ. The first Yali baptisms were held in the early 1970s and, after 30 years of hard work, the first translation of the Bible was completed in 2000. Having waited 20 years for more copies, the Yali were overjoyed to welcome MAF's latest delivery.

A joyful reception

MAF's Linda Ringenberg reported, 'As the MAF aircraft touched down in Holuwan, Yali women were waiting excitedly, swaying back and forth, and chanting in their Yali tongue. Some people walked a whole day just to receive a copy of God's Word.'

Holy ground

MAF Pilot Dave Ringenberg was privileged to deliver freshly printed Bibles and witness the warm welcome from the Yali. He said, 'It felt like we were on holy ground. It was a holy moment, one to be remembered.' MAF Pilot Peter Santana added, 'Seeing the joy on the Yali people's faces as we unloaded their Bibles stands in stark contrast to their history of violence and cannibalism. That is the power of the Gospel.'



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Last year the Church of Scotland started on a process of reform at all levels of the church. There was a recognition that the central organisation of the church had to change and that costs needed to be reduced by at least 20% over a two year period. The coronavirus situation has only made this situation more urgent. Some reforms have been implemented nationally and more are on the way.

With regard to Presbyteries, it has been agreed that these are to be reduced in number from over 40 to about 12. For us in the North East, discussions are ongoing between the Presbyteries of Aberdeen & Shetland, Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside, Moray and Orkney about the establishment of a Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles. The plan is to have this ready to take to the General Assembly in 2022 for approval.

At a local level Presbyteries have been instructed to robustly review their Presbytery plans. The main function of a Presbytery Plan is to show where the individual charges within the Presbytery should be, with a minister serving in each charge. Given the shortage of ministers and the funds available to pay for them, this only means one thing, we have to prepare ourselves for a significant reduction in the number of charges within Buchan Presbytery. This obviously has implications for us in Cruden and the Session has begun considering what we think the future may hold. In all likelihood we will have to join up with one or more of our neighbouring congregations at some point in the future. However before any final decisions are made, there are many discussions to be held between Presbytery and all the current congregations to find a way forward.

RETURN TO ARMY CHAPLAINCY

At our last meeting of the Kirk Session, I surprised the elders with a piece of personal news! After a gap of several years I have returned to being an Army Chaplain. I now have what is called a 'reserve commission' which means I will be spending time with the Army Cadet Force, located down in Angus and Dundee. My responsibilities will not interfere with my parish work, apart from a two-week camp in the summer. I was previously involved with the cadets before transferring into what was known as the Territorial Army. It is a challenging role and my previous involvement included me becoming an adventure training instructor. Who knows what new skills I will be able to pass on to the congregation? (Drill in the carpark before the service?)



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

These are the replies received by the young man from his true love, when he sent her the gifts of the 12 days of Christmas:

December 26:

Dearest Bill: I went to the door today and the postman delivered a partridge in a pear tree. What a wonderful thoughtful gift! I couldn't have been more surprised. With deepest Love and Devotion, Sarah

December 27:

Dearest Bill: Today the postman brought your most wonderful gift. Just imagine - two turtledoves! I'm delighted at your very sweet gift. They are just adorable. I will have to get a cage for them. With deepest Love, Sarah

December 28:

Dearest Bill: Oh! Your third gift arrived! You really went too far, I think. I don't deserve such generosity - three French hens. They are just lovely, but I must protest - you've been way too kind. Love, Sarah

December 29:

Dearest Bill: Today the postman delivered four calling birds. Now, really, they're quite nice, but now I have ten birds and nowhere to put any more... so please, no more birds!! But, thanks. Affectionately, Sarah

December 30:

Dearest Bill: What a surprise! Another present... and not a bird this time! Wow! Today the postman delivered five golden rings, one for each finger. You're just too extravagant, but I love it! Frankly, all those birds squawking were beginning to get on my nerves, but the rings are wonderful ...and so quiet!! All my love, Sarah

December 31:

Dear Bill: When I opened the door there were actually six geese a-laying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds again, huh? Those geese are huge! And it was bird poop that they were laying... complete with a large count of salmonella bacteria. Where will I ever keep them? The neighbours are complaining. The police came by with a formal complaint, and I can't sleep through all the racket. I guess I have my own noise-makers for the New Year's Eve celebration tonight. Please stop. NO MORE BIRDS!! Cordially, Sarah

January 1:

Bill; Happy New Year ...to some people. It hasn't been so happy with me. What's with you and those dumb birds? Seven swans a-swimming. What kind of practical joke is this? There's bird guano all over the house and they never stop

squawking. I could not sleep all night and I'm a nervous wreck. You have gone too far, bird brain. STOP SENDING BIRDS!! NO MORE BIRDS!! GOT IT?
Sincerely, Sarah

January 2:

OK, WISE GUY: I think I prefer the birds over this. What am I going to do with eight maids a-milking? It's not enough with all those birds and eight maids a-milking, but they had to bring their cows. Have you ever smelled a yard full of cow pats? There are piles all over the lawn, and I can't move in my own house. Leave me alone. NO MORE OF YOUR "GIFTS" . Sarah

January 3:

Hey, Vacuum-for-a-Brain: What are you? Some kind of freak? Now there's nine ladies dancing... right in the smelly you-know-what and tracking it all over my house. The way they've been bickering with the milk maids, I hesitate to even call them ladies. You've got it coming, chum! Sarah Truelove

January 4:

You rotten piece of scum!!!! What's with the ten lords a-leaping? I have threatened to break their legs so they can never leap again. All 23 of the birds are dead. They've been trampled to death by the leapers, the dancers, and the cows. At least, I don't have to worry about them any more. However, the cows are mooing all night because they have diarrhoea. My living room is a sewer! The County Council has summonsed me to explain why my house shouldn't be condemned. I'm filing a complaint to the police about you! ONE WHO MEANS IT!!!

January 5:

Listen, Gormless: Now there's eleven pipers piping. And they never stop piping... except when they're chasing those maids or dancing girls. The cows are getting very upset and sound worse than the birds ever did. What am I going to do? There is a petition going around to evict me from the neighbourhood. I hope you're satisfied, you rotten, vicious swine. Your sworn enemy, Sarah Truelove

January 6:

Dear Sir: This is to acknowledge your latest gift of twelve drummers drumming which you have seen fit to inflict on our client, Miss Sarah Truelove. The damage, of course, was total. She was found beating her head against the wall to the beat of the twelve drums. If you should attempt to reach Miss Truelove at Happy Glen Home for the Bewildered, the attendants have instructions to shoot you on sight. With this letter please find attached a warrant for your arrest.

Yours faithfully,

Sue, Grabbit and Scarper
(Solicitors)

CRUDEN BAY OR BUST!



Nowadays the bus journey from Peterhead to Cruden Bay takes a mere 20 minutes. The gentlemen (there were no lades) who made the first horseless carriage bus trip from Peterhead to the opulent Cruden Bay Hotel in 1913 were in for a much longer journey. The bus which would normally have been pulled by horses, on that day was hitched to the new-fangled traction engine which Peterhead entrepreneur, Jimmy Sutherland had acquired. The maximum speed of the vehicle was about 3 miles per hour and the journey from Peterhead to Cruden Bay took three and a half hours.

The journey did not go well: the passengers on the outside seats were nearly suffocated by the smoke belching from the engine. When they tried to escape the smoke and cram into the covered downstairs section, they were nearly stifled by the heat – no ventilation. The immaculate gentlemen who had set off from Peterhead that morning, were now covered in soot with sweat running off them. It is little wonder that they refused to make the return journey on that monster.

That steam powered excursion was not repeated, and Jimmy Sutherland reverted to horse drawn vehicles until petrol engines took over. Rising above the disaster of that first trip to Cruden Bay, he went on to operate a large fleet of buses over Buchan in the years between the Wars.

WELCOME DUTY
SUNDAY SERVICE 10AM

29 November	Peter Slamaker	Katherine Hyman
6 December	Maureen Esson	Kathleen Craig
13 December	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Kate Clark
20 December	Shonah Taylor	Jim MacDonald
27 December	Muriel Cantlay	Margaret Adams
3 January	Maureen Esson	Kathleen Craig
10 January	Peter Slamaker	Katherine Hyman
17 January	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Kate Clark
24 January	Shonah Taylor	Jim MacDonald
31 January	Muriel Cantlay	Margaret Adams
7 February	Maureen Esson	Kathleen Craig
14 February	Peter Slamaker	Katherine Hyman
21 February	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Kate Clark



We remember the deaths of these church members

Sandy Beedie, Kirkburn Nursing Home, Peterhead

Danny Mowatt, 4 Tullochgorum Gardens, Longside

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	
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