

# *The Bulletin*



## **Cruden Parish Church Spring 2021**

## RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

At the time of writing, we have been advised by the Scottish Government that places of worship may reopen on or around the second week of April. This of course is subject to change as the battle with Covid-19 is far from over. And if we do reopen, it will likely be with the same restrictions as before – limited numbers, observing social distancing, wearing face masks and no singing.

I would like to express my appreciation for everyone who has kept the Kirk going during the lockdown. For the friends and members who have continued to support us. To the church cleaning team and everyone whose attention to detail made the church a safe place to meet. To folk who have phoned to check up or offer a friendly voice and so many others.

Rev Sean Swindells.

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## SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

### 'GOING FOR GOLD!'

Towards the end of the summer holidays, I am planning to hold a holiday club called 'Going for gold!' (This will just be after end of the Tokyo Olympics.) The holiday club will involve sport themed games and crafts for P1-7 aged children. This is where you come in! I will be needing help and support organising games for the children, preparing and organising crafts, administration and publicity, preparing and serving refreshments etc.

Once we get a clear indication that the pandemic is ending and the Holiday Club can go ahead, I'll be holding a meeting for all volunteers. In the meantime, if you feel you would like to get involved, please let me know!

Sean.



### SHOE BOXES

Although it is a long time away I already have quite a lot of shoe box goods but I am very short of boxes. If you have any, I would be grateful if you could let me know. Basics needed are: soap, face cloth, toothpaste, tooth brush, small toy for children. We still have hats etc. thanks to the craft group. If you include shampoo or body wash, 300mls or less please and no spray products. Rosemary (Tel 01779 841531)

Dear Friends

At the time of writing, we are on the cusp of change, as winter gives way to early Spring. The days are getting longer, new growth is clearly visible in the garden and you can feel the warmth of the sun on your face. I have even seen my first lawn mower of the season! You could say change is all around us. Along with the renewal of creation that comes with Spring, there is the renewal of life itself! We are not there yet, but as the vaccination rollout continues, the pandemic will finally be coming to an end.

The word renewal seems to be so appropriate to describe the current time. The past twelve months have for so many people been an awful experience – a time of angst and isolation. But very soon this time will be past. With confidence we can look forward to the renewal of relationships, a renewal of family time and a renewal within the community. Just imagine what it will be like. Imagine walking into a shop without wearing a face mask. Imagine the joy of again meeting up with friends, family, and neighbours, not forgetting shaking hands, embracing etc. When that day comes, we are all going to have a real celebration!

Renewal is also a word that can be used to describe the season of Easter. There is the darkness of Holy Week, of how Jesus the Messiah must be reviled and suffer and go to the cross. But with Easter Sunday comes the renewal of creation. Light overcomes darkness. Love indestructible overcomes the power of evil. New life overcomes death. The message of Easter can be understood on so many levels – grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation with God, but the key phrase is renewal. Renewal of hope and the renewal of life itself.

As we look forward to the future, the church will of course reopen when it is safe to do so. (Probably still with restrictions on numbers, no singing, wearing face masks etc.) But on the first Sunday we can fully reopen we are going to have a party. I am not yet sure what form this party will take (Elders wearing party hats?), but we will celebrate with thanksgiving. We will have so much to be thankful for – from carers and medical staff, researchers who have made the vaccine possible, and everybody who has sustained and supported community life, lifted our spirits and gone the extra mile. Not forgetting our heavenly Father who has held and sustained us every step of the way.

Wishing you all a joyful Easter!

**Rev Sean Swindells,**  
Parish Minister



## CHURCH LIFE IN PANDEMIC

In these times of Covid, all days run into one  
Especially in the winter time where we really miss the sun.  
No way to gather with our friends outside or in our room.  
But the Church Family we can meet on Sunday on the Zoom.  
The Service starts at 10am with music, prayer and readings.  
The Sermon lifts our spirits up, and adds light to the proceedings.  
Then when the blessing has been said, that's when we all catch up.  
Just as we do in normal times with coffee in our cup.  
Until things go back as they were, why not join us in the room,  
To lift your spirits, and see your friends at home, safe on the Zoom.



The recording of the live Zoom service is well done with beautiful photographs. I enjoy, particularly, the hymns when they are accompanied by an organ. It is good to see our minister taking the service. Grateful thanks to Fred Couatts who is our sound recordist etc etc.

Our Zoom services have been, quite literally, a Godsend. Although we do miss our face to face meetings on a Sunday morning, our Virtual Fellowship has proved to be a welcome link amongst our members, and has also, through YouTube, reached out to many who would not normally attend a traditional church service.

Is this the way forward?

I have very much enjoyed zoom. It keeps me in contact with my church family .

I enjoy our Zoom Church Services! During these very difficult times it helps to maintain contact with other Church members and is an excellent substitute for our normal Sunday Service.

We personally feel that the Zoom service has been beneficial to all during very difficult times, we appreciate everything that has been done and also the great help in the production of the broadcasts and keeping everyone together.

Zoom church is great, with the added bonus of Fred's lovely photos and everyone.

Weekly worship via Zoom maintains a Church connection, which is much needed and greatly appreciated, until we are allowed to gather again in Church on a Sunday morning.

We both much prefer the experience of Church in person, however we're very grateful for Zoom in that we can still attend a service and keep connected. Grateful for all the efforts put in to make this happen..

**Cruden Parish Church****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****Year ended 31 December 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Endowment	Total	Total
		2020	2020	2020	Fund	2020	2019
		General	Fabric/Organ 12 & 13	Activities (see over)	2020 Burnett		
<b>Receipts</b>							
Donations	4	44,426.38	0.00	325.61	0.00	44,751.99	47,900.83
Legacies		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funds Generation		204.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	204.20	235.12
Interest		8.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	8.20	0.41
Investment income		188.33	522.50	0.00	0.00	710.83	724.94
Rental of premises		495.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	495.00	375.00
Weddings & Funerals		250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	340.00
Grant and Loan		0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00	0.00
Other Receipts		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>45,571.91</b>	<b>522.70</b>	<b>325.61</b>	<b>240.00</b>	<b>46,660.22</b>	<b>49,576.30</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
Costs of generating funds	5	202.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	202.80	231.87
Charitable activities		42,536.56	3,713.62	464.41	0.00	46,714.59	55,570.43
Loan Repayment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>42,739.36</b>	<b>3,713.62</b>	<b>464.41</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>46,917.39</b>	<b>55,802.30</b>
<b>Surplus for the year before transfers</b>		<b>2,832.55</b>	<b>-3,190.92</b>	<b>-138.80</b>	<b>240.00</b>	<b>-257.17</b>	<b>-6,226.00</b>
Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>£2,832.55</b>	<b>-£3,190.92</b>	<b>-£138.80</b>	<b>£240.00</b>	<b>-£257.17</b>	<b>-£6,226.00</b>

The Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator has laid down its requirements for the presentation of charity accounts. Compliance is required to maintain charitable status. All Church of Scotland congregations are now obliged to present an annual report which involves much more than the presentation of figures and the lay out of the figures is quite different from what was done in previous years. The Kirk Session has decided that because of the size of the annual report, only this two page summary will be issued to members. A full copy of the Annual Report is available on request from the Treasurer.

**Cruden Parish Church****STATEMENT OF BALANCES****Year ended 31 December 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Endowment	Total 2020	Total 2019
		2020 General	2020 Fab/Org 12 & 13	2020 Activities	Fund 2020 Burnett		
<b>Bank Balances</b>	Note						
Brought forward		74,437.69	15,291.03	6,650.23	820.46	97,199.41	103,470.21
Surplus for the year		2,832.55	-3,190.92	-138.80	240.00	-257.17	-6,226.00
Carried forward	Note 7	<b>£77,270.24</b>	<b>£12,100.11</b>	<b>£6,511.43</b>	<b>£1,060.46</b>	<b>£96,942.24</b>	<b>£97,244.21</b>
<b>Investments at market value</b>	Note 8						
(cost £ 8,352.20)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,380.40
<b>Assets</b>							
Gift Aid Receivable		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Liabilities</b>		<b>None</b>					

The accounts approved by the Kirk Session on 21 January 2021

Signed for and on behalf of the Kirk Session

**Robert M Esson****Session Clerk****Rosemary Pittendrigh****Treasurer****2020 Activities Funds**

<b>Income</b>	<u>Flower</u>	<u>Junior Church</u>	<u>Guild</u>	<u>Messy Church</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Donations	0.00	0.00	272.00	53.61	325.61
Legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank & Deposit interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other receipts	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>272.00</u>	<u>53.61</u>	<u>325.61</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Charitable activities	0.00	45.00	254.00	165.41	464.41
Other costs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>45.00</u>	<u>254.00</u>	<u>165.41</u>	<u>464.41</u>
<b>Surplus</b>	0.00	-45.00	18.00	-111.80	-138.80
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<u>90.63</u>	<u>4,685.37</u>	<u>593.12</u>	<u>1,281.11</u>	<u>6,650.23</u>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	90.63	4,640.37	611.12	1,169.31	<u>6,511.43</u>

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT: HOW FAITH CAN SHAPE OUR BAKES

tearfund



***Bake-off star and Tearfund ambassador Martha Collison shares how our faith can play a part in our baking.***

Food has always been linked to hospitality and to faith. So much of our day revolves around food, which not only gives us opportunities to be thankful for what we have, but to share it openly with those around us.

I was vividly reminded of this when I visited Lebanon to see the work that Tearfund and its partners are doing to

support Syrian refugees. It was there that I met Areej, who invited me into her home to eat with her family.

The family had been living in a canvas tent in a refugee camp for seven years. I was humbled by the warm welcome and generosity they showed me. Areej laid out her best plates and insisted on serving us chicken, even though the family could only afford to eat meat once a month.

### **Practising hospitality in a pandemic**

Food unites us as human beings. It crosses cultures and can heal divisions and hurts. The pandemic may have changed the rules on hospitality, but it hasn't let us off the hook from practising it. We just have to adapt, so that we can still share what we have with those in need.

That's one of the reasons why I continue to bake, and I want to invite you to do the same. You can invite God to partner with you in your kitchen.

On your marks, get set, bake!

## **We remember the deaths of these church members**

Mrs Helen Fowlie, Denview, Bridge Street, Cruden Bay

Mrs Margaret Peters, 23 Main Street, Cruden Bay

Mr James Innes, 26 Braehead Drive, Cruden Bay

Mr Derek Bruce, Cantlay Court, Cruden Bay

Mr William Chalmers, 3 Chapelhill Road, Ellon

## REAL STORIES

**“The foodbank was a lifesaver.”**  
**Your support is helping us to  
change lives**



### HOLLY'S STORY

*“The people at the foodbank were wonderful, they understood and saved us.”*

Having always worked and never claimed benefits, Holly, 29, from Chichester was bringing up her four-year-old daughter, Phoebe alone. She was determined to give her the best possible start in life, but when Phoebe suddenly fell ill, Holly was forced to turn to a foodbank for help.

The council flat that Holly was living in was in a deprived area with drug dealing and dog fouling taking place in the corridor outside her door. Holly was adamant that her daughter should have a better environment to grow up in and was offered alternative accommodation near her parents but at double the cost. As well as borrowing money from her parents to meet the cost, Holly was working part time. At the same time, she had been selling second-hand clothes online and the shop she was working in noticed its success and offered her a space selling clothes in their shop.

Under normal circumstances, Holly could just about scrape by, but when her daughter became poorly and had to spend three weeks in hospital, she was forced to close the shop temporarily. When Phoebe recovered, they returned home to empty kitchen cupboards, bills racking up and no income to support them.

Holly felt unable to ask her family for help again and after discussions with the local Citizens Advice Bureau she was referred to the foodbank.

Holly said: “The people at the foodbank were wonderful, they understood and saved us.”

Although Holly's situation is still precarious, knowing the foodbank is there in an emergency is a huge weight off her shoulders.

As this real story says Holly lives in Chichester, however there are many in our own area who are suffering just as much and our local foodbank needs support to help them.

For more information on how to donate to the Peterhead group please phone 07561 750574.



## PARROT FASHION

Niko caused quite a stir at a holiday club for children we organised at Mastrick Parish Church way back in 1984. Our theme was Noah's Ark. Niko was on his holidays with Helen, one of the leaders. She was looking after him while her parents were off on a trip. The local paper got word of Niko and a photographer was dispatched to capture the occasion. He tried to persuade Mary to let Niko sit on the neck of her guitar, but the sight of his beak was too much for her so close to her face! So I ended up with Niko on my shoulder, a little too close to my ear for comfort. The picture appeared again in the Evening Express years later in the "Down Memory Lane spot". You know you must be getting old when you feature on that page! I just heard the other day that Nikko had been a sailor's parrot in his younger days and he had quite a choice vocabulary. Fortunately he was on his best behaviour that day!

Jockie lived in Mastrick too. I encountered him as he sat glowering at me from the top of the wall mirror in a blind old lady's house. She was quite frail and asked if we could celebrate Communion with her in her home. So John, her elder and I did just that. John had come prepared with "oatie cakies for Jockie". He had been there before! Jockie was 'free range', able to fly about the house at will, leaving his calling cards all over the place. He had even started to gnaw away at the corner of the sideboard and the wooden arms of the chairs. But the old lady did not seem to mind or even to be aware of the aroma.

Picture it if you will, me saying the words of the Communion Service, breaking a piece of bread and Jockie with his beady eye on the bread in my hand. I could see him wondering, "Will I, or won't I?" He didn't!

Fred Coutts

A burglar broke into a house one night to look for valuables. It was pitch black as he went from room to room using his little torch to search around and see what he could find. Suddenly he heard a small voice, "Jesus is watching you!" He stopped for a moment but heard nothing more, so he went back to his search for valuables. Then he heard the voice again, "Jesus is watching you!" He turned his torch to the where he thought the voice was coming from and saw it was a parrot speaking.

"What's is your name?" asked the burglar.

The parrot replied , "Moses."

"That's a strange name for a bird. Who would call their parrot Moses?"

The parrot stared at the burglar up with an inscrutable look in his eyes and said, "The same people who called their bulldog Jesus!"

## SNOWDROPS



Snowdrops (*Galanthus Nivalis*) earned their name from the combination of a Greek and a Latin word. *Galanthus*, from ancient Greek means milk white flower, while the Latin word *nivalis* means resembling snow. Carl Linnaeus classified the flower in 1753.

When the recent snow melted in the garden, there underneath the snow I saw that the snowdrops had been growing.

There is a legend that tells of how Eve sat weeping after she and Adam had been thrown out of the Garden of Eden. She was completely distraught. The earth was cold and barren and God sent continuous snow and frost. As Eve sat weeping, an angel appeared to comfort her. The angel caught a snowflake and breathed on it. The snowflake fluttered to the ground and gave birth to the snowdrop. This delicate flower has come to symbolise hope and rebirth.

**Minister: Rev Sean Swindells**  
**SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk**  
Mobile: **07791 755976**

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<b>Session Clerk</b>	Robert Esson	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Contact Elders</b>	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
<b>Gift Aid Treasurer</b>	Muriel Cantlay	
<b>Bulletin</b>	Fred Coutts	
	<a href="mailto:bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk">bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk</a>	
<b>Christian Aid</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Cleaning</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Communion</b>	Adrian Smith	
	Joyce Willox	
<b>Flowers</b>	Betty Forrester	
<b>Guild</b>	Muriel Cantlay	
<b>Messy Church</b>	Kathleen Craig	
<b>Organist</b>	Stephen Calder	
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	Katherine Hyman	
<b>Press Officer</b>	Mary Bratton	
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	Mary McNaughtan	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Kathleen Craig	
<b>Teas</b>	Beatrice Fawkes	
<b>Transport</b>	Robert Esson	Hatton
	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Cruden Bay
<b>Walks</b>	Maureen Esson	
<b>WFO Treasurer</b>	Carol Paul	

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**Committee Conveners**

<b>Education &amp; Worship</b>	Katherine Hyman
<b>Finance</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh
<b>Membership and Outreach</b>	Kathleen Craig
<b>Property</b>	Peter Slamaker
<b>Social</b>	Betty Forrester