

The Bulletin



*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(John 1:5)*

Cruden Parish Church Winter 2021-22

***Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.
(1 Thessalonians 12)***

Dear Friends,

When was the last time you felt appreciated, or somebody said, ‘thank you?’ It is of course very easy to take people for granted. This was brought home to me recently through experiences in Newcastle and Aberdeen. On the 12th of September I was one of 57,000 runners taking part in the 13.1 mile Great North Run. Many of the people taking part were running for charity. It was interesting to see how all the different charities had their supporters cheering on the runners as they raised much needed funds. One charity that comes to mind was a local hospice, whose supporters, with great enthusiasm were making lots of noise!



Another reminder of the importance of appreciation occurred very recently in a pastoral visit to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Pastoral visits are of course always confidential. Without going into any specific details, I was struck in the way in which the nursing staff were caring for a very ill patient. It was not just the way they demonstrated their professional skills, but their compassion and sensitivity. Given all that has happened over the past 18 months, hospital staff have been at the hard end of things. It was also noteworthy how the staff enabled me, not a family member, to visit the patient under the most challenging of conditions. I made sure I said thank you to the ward staff.

Showing appreciation is also a fundamental part of our relationship with God. You could say that faith helps us to see the true value of things and to recognise what is important in our lives. We have so much to be thankful for. The beauty of creation, the gift of life, the love of friends and families, and our many blessings. To this we would add God's presence in our lives and the strength and hope that flow from faith. There is more. The promise of eternity, that the best is yet to come and the grace and forgiveness that flows from the cross of Jesus Christ. True faith helps us to see the real worth of all these things and more! In the words of Psalm 100: 4 'Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.'

So, this Christmas time, let us take time to express our appreciation to the people around us, (especially those cooking and serving the Christmas dinner!). As parish minister I would like to say thank you to the members of the Kirk Session and pastoral team, those who support the leading of worship, those helping with the cleaning or administration or looking after property and money etc. And let me express my appreciation to you, friends, and members of Cruden Parish Church. Thank you for your support and generosity. For your giving and commitment in attending worship on Sunday (as you are able). Without you, the work in sharing the good news of Jesus would not be possible, the church would not be viable, and our 1000+ years of spiritual heritage in the Parish of Cruden would quickly come to an end.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas!

Rev Sean Swindells,
Parish Minister.

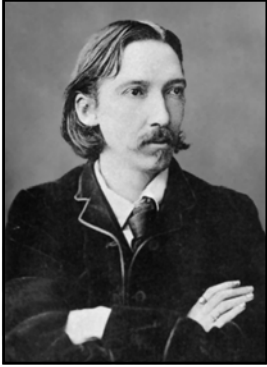
A Christmas Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.
Amen.



A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson



Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
And open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
And good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil
by the blessing, which Christ brings
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us
Happy to be thy children
And Christmas evening bring us
To our beds with grateful thoughts
Forgiving and forgiven
For Jesus sake
Amen.

Ythan Singers Christmas Carol Concert



The Ythan Singers will be holding their Christmas Carol Concert in Ellon Parish Church on Sunday 19th December at 2.30pm. The choir will be singing a varied programme with some old and new Carols and will include solo performances and audience participation. All welcome. Current Covid restrictions apply and tickets are available at the church door. Proceeds to be donated to a charity of the church's choice.

EVENTS AND SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

First Sunday of Advent- 28th November 2021

10.00 am A Service of Light

Second Sunday of Advent – 5th December

10.00 am The Coming of hope.

Third Sunday of Advent – 12th December

10.00 am The arrival of love and the Sacrament of Baptism

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 19th December 2021

10.00 am The appearance of truth

Community Carol Singing around Cruden Bay. Meet outside the Kilmarnock Arms at 5.00 pm, returning at 6.30 pm for refreshments. All ages and singing abilities welcome! Carol sheets provided.

Tuesday 21st December

Community Carol Singing around Hatton, 6.30-7.30 pm. Meet outside Hatton Public Hall at 6.30 pm. All ages and singing abilities welcome! Carol sheets provided.

Christmas Eve – 24th December

11.00 am, The Cruden Christmas Caper (5K Charity Fun Run) on Cruden Beach in aid of Aberdeenshire North Foodbank.

6.00 pm Child Friendly Carol Service at Cruden (Old) Parish Church.

Boxing Day – 26th December

10.00 am Christmas
Sunday Worship
Everybody welcome!





The Alpha Course is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session includes a talk looking at a different question around faith, followed by the opportunity to ask questions and discussion. Alpha has been run in over 100 countries and translated into over 100 languages.

The Alpha Course starts at 7.00 pm, Sunday 16th January 2022, online via Zoom. For more details, please contact Sean 07791 755976

Thank you for shoeboxes.

Ten more shoeboxes have been filled to add to the 113 already delivered making a marvellous total of 123 people who will have a happier Christmas thanks to your generosity. Thankyou to everyone who contributed with goods, paper, boxes and donations.

Special thank you to Margaret Strachan of Peterhead who through her many contacts in Peterhead and Fraserburgh was responsible for many of the boxes and to the craft group who provided most of the hats, scarfs and gloves needed. With next year in mind I have started collecting empty shoe boxes which are in short supply. With Christmas coming up will, you please keep the boxes in mind for left over paper or unwanted toiletries.

Rosemary Reid

Cruden Church Pastoral Care

The pastoral care team are here to help and to listen. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit or a listening ear please let us know. Members of the team are:

Maureen Esson (01779 813049) **Kathleen Craig** (01779 841221)

Jean Campbell (07716399011) **Rev Sean Swindells** (07791755976)



THE GUILD

Like all organisations within the kirk, the Guild as we know it has come to a standstill. Since things are slowly opening up again, the committee thought that maybe we could go out for lunch to discuss the way forward for the Guild in Cruden and to have a jolly time just before December gets too frantic. We would like to invite Guild members, past and present and any interested parties to come to lunch at St Olaf Hotel on the 8 December at 12.30pm. The cost of the lunch will be £15. Please come along to enjoy the fellowship we have all been missing.

If you would like to join us please contact Muriel, Shonah, Irene or Wilma.
(Text Muriel mobile 07497 720953)

CRAFT GROUP

Our group is doing well and has welcomed 4 new members since we started back in September. We gave a large consignment of makes we had been beavering away at during lockdown to the Giving Tree and the pile is growing again. We are stopping for Christmas on the 14th December and will restart on the 18th of January, weather permitting. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert for ensuring the heating is always on for us .

Margaret Kidd

THE CHRISTMAS INVASION

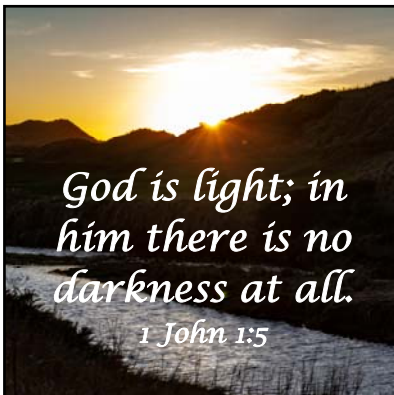
Back in 2005, the title of the BBC Doctor Who Christmas special was 'The Christmas Invasion.' It was a great episode and included murderous whirling Christmas Trees and alien invaders disguised as a brass band wearing Santa costumes. It was a welcome antidote to the misery of the East Enders or Coronation Street, whose plot lines make the most joyful season of the year a time for utter despair!

The title 'The Christmas Invasion' could also be used to describe a radio broadcast given at the height of the Second World War by C S Lewis. In speaking about the coming of Jesus into the world, C S Lewis said: 'I have to accept the view that He was and is God. God has landed on this enemy occupied world in human form.' For C S Lewis the meaning of Christmas could be summed up in one word, and that word would be invasion. God has invaded human experience. The coming of Jesus



into the world is an act of intrusion. God is trespassing into creation. The light of God has invaded this dark work.

Rev Sean Swindells



The next issue of the Bulletin will be published at the beginning of March. Please send all material to be included before **Sunday 20th February 2022** to: Fred Coutts, Ladebank, 1 Manse Place, Hatton AB42 0UQ bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk



Livestreaming Sunday Services

We are now livestreaming our services every Sunday on YouTube. If you want to join us on the Internet, go to the church YouTube Channel at 10am on Sundays. If you would like to view the service at a later time, a recording of the service is also on our YouTube Channel.

Go to You Tube: www.youtube.com and search for Cruden Parish Church



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM

Jayden Peter Jack,
son of Rhiannah Slamaker and
Andrew Jack,
3 Stewart Crescent, Peterhead

FUNERAL

Sandy Smith, 20 Skerry Drive,
Peterhead



Humour at Christmas

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot?

“Get out of my face.”

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis.

What do you call a blind reindeer?

No-eye deer.

What do you call a blind reindeer with no legs?

Still no-eye deer.

Why are mummies such big fans of Christmas?

Because they enjoy wrapping.

What is one of the best Christmas presents that you can give and receive?

A broken drum.

Why? Because you can't beat it!

What is Santa's favourite kind of pizza?

One that's deep-pan, crisp and even.

Why did the red-nosed reindeer help the old lady cross the road?

It would have been Rudolph him not to.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite.

What do you call an old snowman?

Water.

What did Frosty's girlfriend give him when she was mad at him?

The cold shoulder.

What did the third wise salesman say after his friends had already presented gold and frankincense?

But wait – there's myrrh!

Be a hero to a child like Julie

At just 10 years old, Julie came to CrossReach counselling after witnessing her stepfather assault her younger sister who had additional support needs.

Thankfully she was able to receive the support she needed through counselling over 6 months at our Counselling service in Inverness.

It was a safe place where she could share what she had been through, what she had witnessed and how she was feeling.

By giving her that safe space and listening to Julie, the counsellor was able to find ways to help her manage the trauma, flashbacks and fear.

In addition to supporting Julie one to one, the CrossReach counsellor met key people at Julie's school to help them understand how Julie was feeling and help them support her within the school setting, where she spent most of her days.

The counsellor also had frequent review meetings with Julie's mother who was herself receiving counselling; not only did this help her personally, but it also meant she was able to support Julie at home.

In time, Julie's flashbacks began to fade and she learned that it was understandable to feel this way, as well as learning that what happened was not her fault.

She felt more able to ask for help, gradually becoming more settled in school and finally able to sleep through the night without fear or worry.

Many suffer in silence, but what we at CrossReach want to ensure is we are there to support everyone who comes to us for help in such a horrific situation. No one should have to go through the abuse like Julie experienced.

We need your help so that we can fund our services to be there for more children like Julie. We rely on donations from friends like you to keep our children and family services open.

£50 could fund a 1 hour counselling session for a child like Julie, but anything you can spare would be that vital help to one more child that needs us.

Will you be a hero to a child like Julie this Christmas?



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info@crossreach.org.uk

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Mobile: **07791 755976**

Session Clerk	Robert Esson	
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	Beatrice Fawkes	Hatton
	Joyce Willox	Hatton
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	Robert Petticrew	Rural
	Robert Esson	Peterhead
	Maureen Esson	Cruden Bay
	Kate Clark	Cruden Bay
	Kathleen Craig	Cruden Bay
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	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Cruden Bay
Walks	Maureen Esson	
WFO Treasurer	Joyce Willox	

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Finance	Rosemary Pittendrigh
Membership and Outreach	Kathleen Craig
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Social	Betty Forrester