

The Bulletin



Cruden Parish Church Autumn 2022

Dear Friends

Over the past few months, we have journeyed through some momentous historical events. Top of the list is the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. I did not expect that we would be reflecting on her passing so soon after celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. It is hard to find the words to adequately express the contribution she has made to the United Kingdom and wider world. She was delightfully old fashioned and embraced the values of faith, service, and character. And these values were never compromised. We reflected on her life in the period of national mourning following her death and through a series of daily reflections, which I hope were appropriate and helpful.

Looking beyond the Queen's passing there is, I regret to say, a lot of bad news around. The continuing war in Ukraine is an ongoing source of concern and horror at the damage and destruction to human life and property. For how much longer will this awful conflict grind on? And how will it end? Even the most optimistic commentators view that the war will continue for many months. There are other areas of concern. The cost-of-living crisis, the price of heating, industrial unrest and many more. I cannot remember a more challenging and unstable period of history. At the least the Covid 19 pandemic appears to be over!

There is a more penetrating question. Where is God in all this? Where is God in this time of national loss? Where is God in the war in Ukraine? Where is God in the rising levels of poverty? Where is God in this period of industrial unrest? Where is God as we witness and experience the continuing decline of the church? Perhaps, a more erudite question is what is God saying in and through these events?

Some folks take a very negative view of the present time. There are 'prophetic words' which describe the United Kingdom as being out of time, out of tune and out of step with the Holy Spirit. This is undoubtedly true. As a nation we have forgotten God and cast aside the ancient pathways of faith which sustained the previous generations. But I am not convinced that the events we are witnessing are manifestations of God's judgement and anger. Personally speaking, I don't think God is out to get us! Far from it. But there is a need for a spiritual resetting of the times and seasons.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke some bold and penetrating words to the ancient Israelites as they journeyed through perilous times.

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'" Jeremiah 6: 16

I do not know for how much longer our weary, monochrome, and secular age will linger. I do not know how long it will be before we see the spiritual resetting of the times and the renewal of the church. But I do know that change is needed, and change is coming. For our nation to overcome the present times and prosper, we need to return to the ancient paths of faith and service and character. I do wonder if the passing of the Queen provides a prophetic sign for the future, giving God his rightful place in our lives and in our nation, recognising our need and responsibility to contribute to the common good and the personal formation of character.

With warmest greetings

Rev Sean Swindells

Parish Minister

A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN

O God of Creation,
you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.
As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.
May the brilliant colours of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that
it is you who gives us the breath of life.
May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given
and bounty we are to share with others.
May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise
that death is temporary, and life is eternal.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.
Amen



STUDY LEAVE

On Thursday 29 September, Sean began a new part-time course through Trinity College (Part of Glasgow University) called Listening in Mission. The course is about developing the skills of community planning, listening and discernment in developing appropriate models of mission. The key idea is that God is already present and at work within our communities. Our task is to discover what God is doing and join in!

Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits. (Samuel Butler)

BUCHAN PRESBYTERY 2022 MISSION PLAN

In 2019 the General Assembly passed the Radical Action Plan for the restructuring and reform of the Church of Scotland. This included a refocussing of church life and activity on mission, a reduction in the number presbyteries, a cut in the number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff, and congregations being gathered into groupings and sharing resources.

The Mission Plan 2022 Committee has presented a draft plan to Buchan Presbytery, which will be considered (and probably amended!) and voted on at a meeting on Tuesday 11th October 2022. Should the mission plan be accepted by Presbytery, it will then be submitted to the Faith Impact Forum and General Trustees for review, comments, and possible amendments. (Hope you got all that!)

So, what does this mean for Cruden Parish Church?

It is proposed that Cruden Parish Church becomes part of a larger grouping taking in central and north-east Buchan (with the exclusion of Peterhead). This will consist of the parishes of New Deer, Maud and Savocho, Deer, Longside, St Fergus and Cruden. Some of the buildings within the grouping have been suggested for closure. These include New Deer Church, Deer Church, St Fergus Church and Hall. There are no changes proposed for Maud Church, Longside Church and Cruden Church. These buildings are deemed essential for the mission of the church.

The suggested staffing allocation for the new enlarged grouping has been set at two (FTE) Ministers of Word and Sacrament and a half time member of staff focussed on developing work within Mintlaw. This is a reduction from the current level of five (FTE) Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The new grouping will also be served by one Kirk Session – all the elders of the existing parishes invited to come together.

It is difficult to predict exactly how the new grouping will come into being. Each of the five ministers have what is known as security of tenure. Under existing church legislation, no minister inducted to their present parish on unrestricted tenure can be forced to move or step down. From the day I was inducted as Minister of Cruden Parish I made it clear that I was prepared to be flexible and take on additional responsibilities.

There are several things that are clear.

Change is long overdue! The church cannot continue in its current shape and form. It is unsustainable and unaffordable.

Regular weekly services must continue in all the worship centres.

The proposed shape and function of the grouping will be agreed by all the individual Kirk Sessions and congregations kept informed at every stage. The work of ministry is not just the burden of ministers! Everyone who is a follower of Jesus is a co-worker!

One final comment

It is my hope that Cruden Parish Church enters the grouping as a strong and willing partner. This means several things, like trying to increase the numbers attending worship and participating in church life. Now the Covid pandemic is all but over, we must reconnect with the communities we have been called to serve. We must explore different models of mission and do what we can to restart our children's and families' ministry.

None of this is going to be easy or straight forward. Your prayers are both essential and appreciated as we move forward in faith.

Rev Sean Swindells

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10.00 am, Sunday 16th October 2022

A traditional Harvest Festival, with a collection of tinned foodstuff for the North East Aberdeenshire Food Bank,

10.00 am to 11.30 am, Saturday 29th October 2022

Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Tea, Coffee, home baking, ecclesiastical bacon rolls cooked and served by the minister, and farm produce stall. All proceeds to church funds.

10.00 am, Sunday 30th October 2022

A celebration of Holy Communion

Remembrance Sunday – 13th November 2022

10.30 am Service of Remembrance at Cruden Parish Church, followed by laying of wreaths at Cruden War Memorial.

12.00 noon, Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Hatton Public Hall.



END OF AN ERA IN BANGLADESH

After 25 years, MAF operations in Bangladesh have come to a close.

On 1 August 2022, MAF International CEO Dave Fyock officially announced the closure of MAF's flight operations in Bangladesh. Due to significant growth in the country's transport infrastructure in recent years, demand for MAF's services has continued to decline.

Improvements include the country's longest bridge from Shariatpur to Madaripur, which opened on 25 June 2022. This six-kilometre bridge enables access across the Padma River, connecting the south-western region to the rest of the country and opening routes for regional and international trade.

Installation of rail tracks on the Padama Bridge began on 22 August, which will form part of a new rail link project spanning 172 km and linking 21 southern districts. The route will connect locations which have been served by MAF's southern shuttle since 2008, which helped NGOs reach some of the country's most underdeveloped areas.

Dave Fyock says, 'We celebrate with the people of Bangladesh the progress that has been made and are glad for the dramatic difference that this will make to the country's southern region.'

'Following a review of the Bangladesh programme in late 2021, we concluded that, in conjunction with the improved transport infrastructure, there was insufficient demand for MAF in the country.'

'MAF's priorities are shaped by the greatest impact on isolated communities. Closure of the Bangladesh programme will release resources to invest in new opportunities where we can make a more significant difference. Please uphold the team in prayer as they work through the closure.'



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The effects of Covid are beginning to be reflected in our finances. The Budget estimated that Income of £40,780 against £44,331 of Expenditure would produce a shortfall for the year of £3,551, but up to the end of August the shortfall is £10,123. We have sadly lost several members this year and the present economic climate would no doubt have contributed to the reduction in givings.

With four months till year end, it is hoped that we can substantially reduce the shortfall. Thankfully we have a fairly healthy bank balance, but if the present trend continues, this will not always be the case. We should strive to meet our day to day running costs, and hope that we do not have to meet any unexpected expenses.

CRUDEN CRAFT GROUP

Today we have had a lovely afternoon tea to celebrate being back after covid for one year. During that year we have tackled a few special projects, one being bunting to decorate the church for the Queen's Jubilee. The bunting has now been turned into knee blankets and will be given to charity.

We have space for more members now that covid has been suppressed so if you would like to join us you would be made very welcome. If you would like to know more about us just contact me.

We will be stopping on the 6th December for Christmas and restarting on the 17th of January, weather permitting of course.

Margaret Kidd

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding

1 September 2022 James Hyman & Jamie Buckingham

We remember the deaths of these church members

Mrs Mary Daniel, 10 Aulton Drive, Cruden Bay

Mrs Helen Burnett, 20 Castle Road, Cruden Bay

Miss Nan Laing, Banff Care Home, Colleonard Road, Banff

Rev Allan Fawkes, Northfield Gardens, Hatton

Mrs Kathleen Morrison, 6 Garden Place, Cruden Bay

Mrs Brenda Cadger, 16 Pentland Place, Peterhead

Miss Betty May, Kirkburn Court Care Home, Peterhead

Shoe Box Appeal Filler Ideas

Here are some ideas of what you might put in a shoebox.

Blythswood Care ask that each shoebox, if possible has a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, sweets,

Girl / Boy 3-7

Plasticine, Pyjamas
Simple sewing, Toy car/truck
Dressing-up, Toy animals
Chalk, Paints
Sticker books, Picture snap cards
My Little Pony, Wooden toy
Colouring book, Small ball
Crayons, Socks
T-shirt, Shorts
Underwear, Vests

Teenage Girl / Boy

Make-up, Shorts
Craft kit, Tennis ball
Jewellery, Rubix cube
Hair brush, Draughts board game
Nail varnish, Aeroplane model
Dominoes, Windup torch
Perfume/After shave, Dominoes
Hair band, Deodorant
Small watch, Small watch
Diary, Thermal vest
Manicure set, Cap

Woman

Make-up
First aid kit
Sanitary products
Perfume
Shampoo
Tape measure
Apron
Measuring spoons
Kitchen utensils
Small scissors
Underwear

Girl / Boy 8-12

Sewing kit, Lego
Craft kit, Draughts
Paint by numbers, Modelling clay
Jewellery/beads ,Tennis ball
Socks, Vests
T-shirt, Watch
Pyjamas, Playing cards
Colouring book, Sticker book
Stationery, Socks
Skipping ropes ,Marbles

Man

Dominoes
Pack of cards
Draughts
Tape measure
Tin cup
Belt
Braces
Wind-up torch
Pen knife
Shaving brush
Pen

Elderly woman

Magnifying glass
Umbrella
Hand cream
Folding walking stick
Slippers
Apron
Candle
Tin cup
Small clock
Nail brush
Tights

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thanks to everyone's generosity shoe boxes are mounting up. They will be delivered to vulnerable people in Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania and Serbia.

To complete boxes, I am in need of face cloths, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and sweets. Full boxes are always welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helps.

Last date for handing in boxes is 23rd October.

Contact Rosemary 01779 841531.



September 1815

A poem by William Wordsworth

While not a leaf seems faded; while the fields,
With ripening harvest prodigally fair,
In brightest sunshine bask; this nipping air,
Sent from some distant clime where Winter wields
His icy scimitar, a foretaste yields
Of bitter change, and bids the flowers beware;
And whispers to the silent birds, 'Prepare
Against the threatening foe your trustiest shields.'
For me, who under kindlier laws belong
To Nature's tuneful quire,

this rustling dry
Through leaves yet green,
and yon crystalline sky,
Announce a season
potent to renew,
'Mid frost and snow,
the instinctive joys of song,
And nobler cares
than listless summer knew.



COMMUNION

Serving Elders

30 October

Jim MacDonald, Shonah Taylor, Beatrice Fawkes, Betty Forrester

29 January

Rosemary Pittendrigh, Muriel Cantlay, Robert Petticrew, Adrian Smith

26 March

Peter Slamaker, Katherine Hyman, Kate Clark, Kathleen Craig

CRUDEN CHURCH PASTORAL CARE

Members of 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 or if you would like to speak to any of us in confidence again please get in touch.

Members of the team are:

Maureen Esson	01779 813049
Kathleen Craig	01779 841221
Jean Campbell	07716399011 (Mobile)
Rev Sean Swindells	07791755976 (Mobile)
Robert Petticrew	01771 624280



Harvest in days gone by

TEA ROTA

2 October	Iris Durno	Katherine Hyman
9 October	June Morrison	Rosemary Pittendrigh
16 October	Kevin & Janie Smith	
23 October	Allan & Joyce Walker	
6 November	Norma Forman	Shonah Taylor
13 November	No Teas	
20 November	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
27 November	Maureen Esson	Betty Forrester
4 December	Kevin & Janie Smith	
11 December	Iris Durno	Katherine Hyman
18 December	June Morrison	Rosemary Pittendrigh
25 December	No Teas	

WELCOME DUTY

2 October	Robert Petticrew	Adrian Smith
9 October	Maureen Esson	Kate Clark
16 October	Margaret Bruce	Ken Bruce
23 October	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox
30 October	Peter Slamaker	Katherine Hyman
6 November	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
13 November	Shonah Taylor	Irene Will
20 November	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
27 November	Janie Smith	Kevin Smith
4 December	Robert Petticrew	Adrian Smith
11 December	Margaret Bruce	Ken Bruce
18 December	Maureen Esson	Kate Clark
25 December	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox

Minister: Rev Sean Swindells
SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk
 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	01779 841320	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	
Pastoral Care		Maureen Esson	
Presbytery Elder		Katherine Hyman	
Press Officer		Mary Bratton	
Roll Keeper		Mary McNaughtan	
Safeguarding		Kathleen Craig	
Transport		Robert Esson	Hatton
		Rosemary Pittendrigh	Cruden Bay
Walks		Maureen Esson	
WFO Treasurer		Joyce Willox	

Committee Conveners

Education & Worship	01779 812541	Katherine Hyman
Finance	01779 812220	Rosemary Pittendrigh
Membership and Outreach	01779 841221	Kathleen Craig
Property	07836 638176	Peter Slamaker
Social	01779 841205	Betty Forrester