

The Bulletin

Reflection for Easter

Would we be counted
among the doubters
hiding in the shadow
cast by that cruel cross?
Or, when challenged,
like Peter
openly deny you?

There are times, Lord
when doubts assail
and the distance between us
seems to increase.
There are times, Lord
when sin has its hold,
like a barrier between us
that will not move.

Who is there we can turn to
when we feel so overwhelmed?
Who can roll away the stone
and reveal the empty tomb?
No-one but you, Jesus,
no-one but you!
(Anon)

Spring 2023



Cruden Parish Church

www.crudenchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC006408

CHURCH DIARY

Easter Services

Palm Sunday – 2nd April

10.00 am Morning Service at Cruden Parish Church, with Palm Crosses

Maundy Thursday – 6th April

3.00 pm Celebration of the Eucharist (Communion) at St James the Less Episcopal Church

Good Friday – 7th April

7.00 pm Service of hymns and reflection at Cruden Parish Church, including a prayer vigil for Ukraine.

Low Saturday – 8th April

10.00 am to 11.30 am – Easter Crafts and activities for all the family at Cruden Church Hall, including tea/coffee/juice & Hot Cross Buns.

11.30 to 11.45 am – A time of reflection for Low Saturday

Easter Sunday – 10th April

10.00 am Easter Service of Celebration – The Lord is Risen!

Other Services

United Service – 30th April

10.00 am United ecumenical service at St James the Less Episcopal Church (No service in Cruden Parish Church)

Coronation Weekend – 5th to 7th May 2023

10.00 am Service of Celebration to Mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III

Pentecost (our birthday!) – 28th May

10.00 am Service to celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church

Celebration of the Holy Communion – 4th June

10.00 am An ecumenical service of Holy Communion at Cruden Parish Church where we will be joined by the congregation of St James the Less.

BOOKS & BUTTERIES

On Saturday 29th April from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon we will be holding a Books and Butteries Morning at Hatton Public Hall. There will be usual produce stalls, plus the opportunity to browse and purchase books for the approaching summer holidays. Proceeds from the event will support the Christian Aid Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal. Tickets on sale soon and donations of books would be appreciated. More details form Betty Forrester, tel. 01779 841205.

Dear Friends.

At the time of writing things are a mess! Take as an example my home office. As usual there are books and papers littered across my desk, accompanied by a stapler, letter opener, bicycle pump and lights, posters for our Easter events, a plastic teaspoon and a pair of binoculars. (How the plastic teaspoon got there is a complete mystery.) I won't even mention the floor which is equally untidy!

On the day this pastoral letter is being written, the children are out of school due to industrial action. The international situation is looking bleak. The brutal war in Ukraine is showing no signs of resolution. At home there is political upheaval, with the search for a new First Minister at Holyrood and growing discontent with the existing government at Westminster. To this could be added the increasing levels of anxiety and poverty. I am reminded of the first Gaelic word I learned when I moved to Scotland over 40 years ago. It was used by a lady called Sheena who was my kitchen assistant in the hotel. As I cooked dinner for guests and residents, she would scurry around after me whilst muttering under her breath 'bùrach!' An apt description for the state of the world.

There are several comments being made about the present time. According to one national newspaper, we now live under the heel of 'narcissistic wokeism' (whatever that is) or 'welcome to 'can't do' Britain!' A more 'paranoid' writer suggests we are entering a new dark age – a dangerous cold war with the democratic nations facing a new alliance of Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. Whatever the truth here, we are living through an uncertain period of change and upheaval. The tectonic plates that make up our culture and society are moving.

Personally, I do not share such pessimistic views of the future. Things may get worse before they get better, but I do see a positive outcome. I see a rebalancing of priorities and a reshaping of values. I think there will be a return to 'things that matter,' including less individualism and the re-emergence of community. I see good days ahead for the church. I see the renewing work of the Holy Spirit amongst the people of God. The timing, of course, is in God's hands. Who knows what the catalyst will be for a return to spiritual things!? But as my desk can be easily tidied and the floor given the once over with the Hoover, so the 'bùrach' of the current times can easily lead to positive outcomes!

So, keep the faith! Remember Jesus is true to His word. And enjoy the gentle emergence of Spring!

With warmest greetings


Rev Sean Swindells

07791 755976

PETERHEAD FOODBANK CENTRE

Honour Lent differently this year! Collect an item for each day of Lent to donate to the Foodbank as need grows deeper in our area

AD-LENT CALENDAR



TINNED FRUIT	UHT MILK	LONG LIFE JUICE	TINNED RICE PUDDING
JAM	BISCUITS	SOUP	TINNED FISH
RICE	INSTANT COFFEE	TINNED MEAT	TINNED TOMATOES
INSTANT MASH	CEREAL	DEODORANT	TINNED CUSTARD
PASTA SAUCE	TOOTHBRUSH	DRIED NOODLES	CEREAL BARS
TINNED VEGETABLES	SHOWER GEL	TINNED HOT DOGS	TINNED POTATOES
BISCUITS	TOILET ROLL	TINNED FISH	CHOCOLATE BAR
TINNED SPAGETTI	TINNED FRUIT	TOOTHPASTE	UHT MILK
TOILET ROLL	SHAMPOO	INSTANT NOODLES	COOKING SAUCE
TIN OF BEANS	CUP A SOUPS	EASTER TREAT	EASTER TREAT

HONOUR LENT DIFFERENTLY THIS YEAR!

#EndHungerinAberdeenshire

The Session has agreed to support the Peterhead Foodbank Ad-Lent campaign and members are encouraged to bring items in the Ad-Lent Calendar to church and place them in the box in the Welcome Area. All donations will be forwarded to the Foodbank

WALKING FOR HEATH AND WELLBEING

Our community walking group will be restarting after the Easter holidays. This provides the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the surrounding area, have a news and some gentle exercise. More details very soon!

MESSY CHURCH

As Covid finally recedes, the Kirk Session has appointed a small group to look at ways of relaunching our families and children's ministry. What has become evident is that we do not yet have a clear vision for our future work. Also, we need a team of volunteers who are committed to the spiritual nurture of



children and young people in a way that is fun, inclusive, and relevant.

I am reminded of a conversation that took place with an elderly lady in a previous parish. The children's work had stalled and many of the youth group had left due to college or employment. There was an ongoing discussion within the congregation about the way forward, which looked very uncertain. The lady asked me a rather curious question that went something like this, 'Would she live to see it happen?' What followed was unexpected. It was one of those rare times I have felt God speaking clearly and directly. The answer was yes. Yes, she would see the renewal of children's work with her own eyes. About 18 months later, I reminded her of the conversation, as the church hall was full of children creating chaos! She also enjoyed her new role as an 'honorary granny' to many of the children.

I do not doubt the way will become clear. But in the meantime, we must pray and be open to the opportunities that God will bring before us.

One final point and note of apology. In looking forward we sometimes neglect to value the past. As a congregation we have been remiss in not publicly thanking the Messy Church team for all the work that happened before the pandemic. I must accept a degree of personal responsibility in this. So, on behalf of myself and the congregation, I would like to say a big thankyou to Beatrice and Kathleen for their work and leadership in Messy Church, plus all the other regular and occasional leaders and helpers. Your work was much appreciated by me, the parents and children, Kirk Session and congregation. I do hope we can do justice to your contribution by restarting this essential area of work.

CHURCH FLOWERS

If anyone wishes to place flowers in the Church on any given Sunday, please contact Betty Forrester to make arrangements. Betty can provide floral arrangements or if not, will advise on accessing the Church with your own flowers. Betty can be contacted on 01779 841205.

Cruden Parish Church**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****Year ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		2022 General	2022 Fabric/Organ 12 & 13	2022 Activities (see over)	<u>Fund</u> 2022 Burnett	2022	2021
Receipts							
Donations	4	32,086.60	100.00	0.00	0.00	32,186.60	37,745.00
Legacies		0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
Funds Generation		699.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	699.66	95.00
Interest		0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.22	16.00
Investment income		211.14	467.50	0.00	0.00	678.64	544.00
Rental of premises		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Weddings & Funerals		125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	60.00
Grant and Loan		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Receipts		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,280.00
Total Receipts		33,122.40	20,567.72	0.00	0.00	53,690.12	39,740.00
Payments							
Costs of generating funds	5	208.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.18	169.00
Charitable activities		49,972.45	524.64	117.78	0.00	50,614.87	54,642.00
Loan Repayment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payments		50,180.63	524.64	117.78	0.00	50,823.05	54,811.00
Surplus for the year before transfers		-17,058.23	20,043.08	-117.78	0.00	2,867.07	-15,071.00
Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Surplus for the year		-£17,058.23	£20,043.08	-£117.78	£0.00	£2,867.07	-£15,071.00

Cruden Parish Church

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

Year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
		2022 General	2022 Fab/Org 12 & 13	2022 Activities	Fund 2022 Burnett		
Bank Balances							
Brought forward		73,667.20	1,394.89	6,198.43	610.46	81,870.98	96,942.24
Surplus for the year		-17,058.23	20,043.08	-117.78	0.00	2,867.07	-15,071.26
Carried forward	7	£56,608.97	£21,437.97	£6,080.65	£610.46	£84,738.05	£81,870.98
Investments at market value							
(cost £ 8,352.20)	8	5,731.92	11,616.00	0.00	0.00	17,347.92	19,445.00
Assets							
Gift Aid Receivable		5,877.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,877.28	0.00
Liabilities							
							None

The accounts approved by the Kirk Session on


Signed for and on behalf of the Kirk Session

Robert M Esson

Session Clerk

Rosemary Pittendrigh

Treasurer



2022 Activities Funds

	Flower	Junior Church	Guild	Messy Church	Totals
Income					
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	57.54	60.24	0.00	0.00	117.78
Other costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	57.54	60.24	0.00	0.00	117.78
Surplus	-57.54	-60.24	0.00	0.00	-117.78
Opening Balance	90.63	4,327.37	611.12	1,169.31	6,198.43
Closing Balance	33.09	4,267.13	611.12	1,169.31	6,080.65

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

I was asked to write a few words on our Bible Study Group that has been meeting up online for the past four weeks. We have been studying, or looking more closely at the book of Philippians which I've found has many great words of encouragement to discuss and appreciate.

Compared to the rest of our study group, it could be said that I am a fairly new Christian and in light of this, it can be a bit daunting. You might worry about keeping up or asking questions that might seem "silly" to others who are more mature than you (spiritually that is).

Sean leads the readings and discussion in a very relaxed informative and clear way while encouraging any questions that we might have.

Discussion groups are not always for everyone but he makes it very plain that you can participate as little or as much as you feel comfortable with, which is very reassuring.

I would therefore say that with each week I am enjoying the group more and more. It's nice to share in the fellowship too, which gives you the opportunity to get to know your fellow church members that bit better.

Another positive for me personally is a technical one. I recently attended an online safeguarding course, and not being in the habit of using Zoom very often, I found that I spent the first 10 minutes appearing in name only onscreen, followed by 10 minutes of face only, until I eventually managed to get my audio working too. I must say though that I could see and hear the meeting from the start, so nothing was in fact lost.

Practise makes perfect and I'm happy to say I have had no technical problems as yet in joining the group on Sunday evenings".

Janie Smith

CRUDEN CRAFT GROUP

We as a group are very busy these days. We are now knitting and crocheting for quite a few charities, most of them local as well as working on our own personal stuff.

We limited the membership a while back for several reasons and plan to stay that way. However, anyone who can knit or crochet and feels they have time on their hands would be very welcome to become an outworker for us, perhaps with a view to becoming a full member when spaces arise.

Margaret Kidd

YTHAN SINGERS

The Ythan Singers are delighted to announce that their Annual Charity Concert “Summer Sampler” will take place on June 2nd 2023 at 7.30 pm in Ellon Parish Church. The concert is a feast of musical delight with a selection of popular songs and choruses from musicals, film and opera and excerpts from Karl Jenkins’ wonderful work “The Armed Man”. We also have a wonderful young singer, Jodie Beaton from Aberdeen City Music School, joining us for the concert as a guest.



We are an Ellon-based 4-part choir with members coming from all around, including Newburgh, Cruden Bay, Mintlaw and Old Meldrum. We rehearse on Monday nights from 7.30-9.30 pm in Ellon Parish Kirk Centre or in the Church. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, we are very willing to receive new members at any time. More information about the choir can be found at www.ythansingers.co.uk or Facebook @ythansingers.

Contact us on ythansingers@yahoo.co.uk

CRUDEN CHURCH PASTORAL CARE

Members of the Pastoral Care Team are here to help and 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 someone in confidence, again please get in touch.

Team Members are:

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

PARISH REGISTER

Wedding

19 November Shaaron Margaret Skinner and Neil McCallum Dove

We remember the deaths of these church members

Mrs Violet Penny, 23 Hamewith, Harehill, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

Mrs Catherine Stephen, Viewfield, Airfield Road, Crimond

Mr William Cargill, Quarry Road, Hatton

TEA ROTA

12 March	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Shonah Taylor
19 March	Iris Durno	Adrian Smith
26 March	June Morrison	Norma Forman
2 April	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
9 April	Maureen Esson	Betty Forrester
16 April	Kevin & Janie Smith	
23 April	Bob & Norma Forman	
30 April	No Teas: United Service at St James the Less	
7 May	Iris Durno	Adrian Smith
14 May	June Morrison	Shonah Taylor
21 May	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
28 May	Maureen Esson	Betty Forrester
4 June	Kevin & Janie Smith	
11 June	Allan & Joyce Walker	
18 June	Bob & Norma Forman	
25 June	Iris Durno	Adrian Smith

WELCOME DUTY

12 March	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
19 March	Shonah Taylor	Irene Will
26 March	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
2 April	Janie Smith	Kevin Smith
9 April	Robert Petticrew	Adrian Smith
16 April	Ken Bruce	Adelaide Duncan
23 April	Katherine Hyman	Peter Slamaker
30 April	United Service at St James the Less	
7 May	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox
14 May	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
21 May	Shonah Taylor	Irene Will
28 May	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
4 June	Janie Smith	Kevin Smith
11 June	Robert Petticrew	Adrian Smith
18 June	Ken Bruce	Adelaide Duncan
25 June	Maureen Esson	Kate Clark

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	Maureen Esson	
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	
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	Katherine Hyman
Finance	Rosemary Pittendrigh
Membership and Outreach	Kathleen Craig
Property	Peter Slamaker
Social	Betty Forrester