

# *The Bulletin*

**Winter 2023-2024**



**Cruden Parish Church**

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023



### Sunday 3rd December – Advent 1

10.00 am Morning Service – The promise of peace.

### Sunday 10th December – Advent 2

10.00 am Morning Service – The promise of hope.

### Sunday 17th December – Advent 3

10.00 am Morning Service – The promise of joy.

2.00 pm Nativity Pilgrimage – meet in the church car park  
(and 3.00 pm at the Kilmarnock Arms)

### Saturday 23rd December

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Christmas Café and Carols  
at St James' the Less Episcopal Church

### Sunday 24th December – Advent 4 and Christmas Eve

10.00 am Morning Service – The promise of love

6.00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

### Monday 25th December -Christmas Day

9.30 am Joint Christmas Day Service at  
St James' the Less Episcopal Church

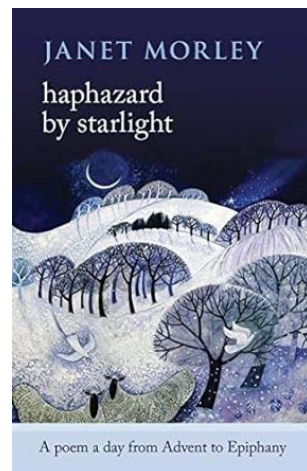


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## ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY READING GROUP

During the Advent and Christmas season there will be the opportunity to explore the book *Haphazard by Starlight* by Janet Morely. The book is a wee gem. There is a poem and reflection for each day of the festive season. We will arrange a few zoom meetings to discuss what we have found helpful and thought provoking. To register an interest, please contact Sean.

The book is available from Amazon (and other retailers!) Regretfully the book is not available on Kindle.



Dear Friends

There are many different ways of viewing the festive season. When I worked in catering, Christmas was non stop. In the cooking and serving of festive fare to large numbers of customers, there was never enough time or staff. Everything felt rushed and hurried. By the time Christmas Day arrived, we were all feeling exhausted ! I think this is how many parents feel with all the things that need to be done.

Another approach is that of the cynic. Tired, exasperated people with worn out wallets and purses, wondering what is the point of all the excess!

The Christian writer C S Lewis offers an interesting insight into the true meaning of Christmas. During a radio broadcast, given at the height of the Second World War, C S Lewis spoke about the coming of Jesus into the world. This is what C S Lewis said: 'I must 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.

This is how I like to view Christmas. It is God, with subtlety and deftness, upsetting the apple cart. It is the love and the light of the Christ Child, undermining the values of this world. Through a helpless baby born into squalor and poverty, God offers a new and different way of living. And what a wonderful gift faith is! Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can know and understand and encounter the real meaning of love and grace. Faith also enables us to see the true value of things. Faith even helps us to ponder the wonder of eternity.

Going back to C S Lewis, his view that 'God has invaded this dark world' is spot on. Regretfully, the word invasion also describes the war in Ukraine perpetrated by Putin. It describes the intrusion of Hamas terrorists who committed the biggest massacre of Jewish people since the holocaust. The word invasion sums up the overreach of Israel in seeking to root out terrorists from Gaza. How these situations will be resolved is beyond me. It can be hard to find hope in such awful circumstances. But through faith, I also know that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

This Christmas time, may your homes be invaded by grace, your hearts warmed by the intrusion of God's love, and may God's light shine in the darkness.

**Rev Sean Swindells**

## THE CRUDEN NATIVITY PILGRIMAGE ROUTE

One of the more interesting local developments has been the formation of a new core path linking Cruden Bay with the Parish Church. The path is well used by walkers, especially Melville and Magnus (the minister's dogs).

During the festive season we will be using the core path for a Nativity Pilgrimage. Starting from the church carpark, and heading outwards towards Mill Park and returning alongside the new housing development, there will be a series of stations. Each station will contain one or more QR codes which when scanned with a smart phone will connect with a link, offering a reading, a piece of music/ carol, a craft activity or prayer/poem. Each of these will reflect the Christmas story.

For example, the QR code on the right, if scanned into a smart phone will connect you to a recording of a well known Christmas Carol.



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## THE CRUDEN NATIVITY PILGRIMAGE

### 'There IS room in the Inn!'



Starting at 2.00 pm, Sunday 17th December, beginning in the Church Car Park, there will be an opportunity to walk part of the Nativity Pilgrimage Route, pausing along the way to sing a carol or hear part of the Christmas Story.

Unlike Mary and Joseph who found no abode was available, there **will** be room in the Inn!

We plan to arrive at 3.00 pm at the Kilmarnock Arms for Mince Pies and Carol Singing.

Everybody welcome – either on the walk or join in at the hotel.



## A POEM FOR ADVENT

Wintry snow whispers  
The forest and the fields are cold and bleak  
Crystals shimmer between branches  
Who lean to the floor  
Bells ring in the distance

Stars shine faithfully in the sky  
The world bathed in atmospheric light  
Gently breathed in by peace and joy

People find themselves in friendship  
Grief, hardship disappearing into nothing  
Angel sound from the sky resounds  
Through the cold silver forest

Burn four candles in Advent  
For all the people we know  
The Almighty watches over us  
We are waiting for Christmas night.

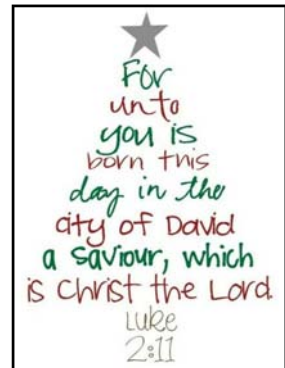


*Author unknown/public domain*

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## 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



# **THE CRUDEN AND HATTON COMMUNITY PANTRY**

## **Update**

The Cruden and Hatton Community Larder has been running for several months now from the Pavilion at Mill Park in Cruden Bay. It is a friendly, welcoming place which stocks fresh vegetables, some fruit and chilled food that would otherwise go to waste. We also have pasta, rice, cereals, tinned and frozen foods and personal hygiene products which have been donated or are bought using funds contributed by Larder users and the community.

We are staffed by volunteers who enjoy meeting our regular and new visitors. We offer visitors a cup of tea and a biscuit and a chance to sit down for a chat. There are even recipe ideas for using the food we have in stock.

We are not a food bank, but a project aiming to reduce food waste and help the community with cost of living. Some members of the community have been bringing in delicious produce from their greenhouses. If you ever grow more vegetables than you know what to do with, we'd love to see you.

We are open each Friday morning from 10:30 till 12:30. All who live in Hatton, Cruden Bay and the local surrounding area are very welcome. We ask for a minimum donation of £2.

**Corine Kooij**

### **A note from Sean:**

Our involvement with the Community Pantry is part of our mission and service to the local community. Run in conjunction with the Cruden Bay Community Association and CFine, it helps us to meet three of the five marks of mission, which include:

1. Responding to human need by loving service (making food available at no cost to people who are struggling)
2. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (we are helping to support people whom society ignores.)
3. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The pantry is preventing the waste and throwing away of a sizeable quality of food, which has significant environmental benefits.

Well done to all our volunteers!

## **SATURDAY@THE KIRK**

### **'Preparing for Advent & Christmas'**

The third in our series of family friendly events takes place on Saturday 26th November, from 10.00 am to 11.45 am, meeting in the Church Hall. The theme is 'Preparing for Advent & Christmas' and will include faith, friendship, crafts, lego, activities, tea, coffee and juice plus nice things to eat including Stollen! (Why not bring the extended family, friends or neighbours along?) Everybody welcome.

Our two previous Saturday@ The Kirk sessions (the last Sunday of each month during term time) were Harvest and Celebrating the Saints. These will resume at 10.00 am, Saturday 28th January.

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## **CRUDEN CRAFT GROUP**

It is now two years since we started up again after Covid and we enjoyed an Afternoon Tea to celebrate at the end of September. We continue to give to as many local charities as we can cope with as well as helping Rosemary out with items for her Blythswood Boxes. We have now become involved with Barnardo's and have passed on seventy Ear Warmers, Mitts and Beanie Hats to be put in Christmas Boxes for distribution to children in Aberdeenshire. There is also another batch of toys ready to be passed on to the Archie Foundation.

We had a very informative visit from Shona of The Giving Tree which we also support and a large amount of items have gone there this year. On top of all this some of us still manage to make things for ourselves and family.

Our thanks again to Robert for ensuring that the hall is warm for us, it is much appreciated.

Margaret Kidd

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## **SHOE BOX APPEAL**

118 boxes were picked up by Blythswood on the 26th October. Thank you to everyone who supplied boxes, goods or money for transport. Special thank you to the craft group. Their sterling work over the year is ensuring many people are able to keep warm. I already have five items towards next year. You have all given 118 people a better Christmas.

Thank you  
Rosemary



## MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

In late September we were visited by Mr Andy Martin of Mission Aviation Fellowship. Andy outlined the work of MAF to some of our members on the Saturday and took part in our worship on the Sunday morning. It was an eye opening experience for many.

MAF works with many charitable organisations by using light aircraft to deliver support both spiritual and physical to many living in some of the remotest areas of the world, changing the lives of those that can be reached. Using light aircraft is the quickest and safest way for aid agencies staff and supplies to reach those in need

Malaria is an illness which is having a devastating effect on millions of people living in some African countries. In 2021 there were over 690,000 deaths in the world related to malaria, 75% of these were children under the age of 5. Malaria is an easily preventable illness, vaccines are relatively inexpensive but many have little or no access to basic medical care. MAF is working with partners to deliver vaccines and other supplies to many of these remote areas allowing the population to have access to the help that they need.

Many of us will remember the famine which raged through east Africa almost 40 years ago due to drought and the work of Band Aid to help alleviate the situation. The sad fact is that today the situation is worse in that area than it was then with millions facing starvation. Again MAF is working with aid agencies to deliver food and other supplies to those in desperate need.

As a Christian organisation MAF is dedicated to changing the ending in a positive way for those in desperate need in some of the remotest locations in the world.

Polio is also an illness which is causing huge concern in certain parts of the world. MAF is helping to combat this illness in Madagascar.

The Kirk Session have agreed to enter a partnership with MAF and hopefully this will encourage us to follow the teaching of Jesus to love others as we love ourselves.





## **PARISH REGISTER**

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

Mr Fred Stott, Holmlea, 12 Laird's Walk, Boddam  
Mr Sandy Lawrie, 50 Slains Crescent, Cruden Bay  
Mr Frank Groves, 104 Braehead Drive, Cruden Bay  
Mrs Muriel Cantlay, Uppermill, Hatton  
Mrs Moira Butters, Dunbuy Cottages, Errollston Road, Cruden Bay  
Mr Alex Robertson, Hatton Farm Gardens, Hatton  
Mrs Margaret Matthew, Grangepark Nursing Home, Peterhead  
Mrs Marilyn Samways, Burnview, Main Street, Cruden Bay  
Mrs Beatrice Fawkes, Cuillin, 3 Northfield Gardens, Hatton

### **Beatrice Fawkes**

On Sunday 22nd November, I received the sad news of the passing of Beatrice Fawkes. I still remember my first visit to Beatrice and Allan. I quickly realised that here were two very intelligent folk who had deep faith. Together, they made a formidable team. Allan had been a very capable parish minister supported by Beatrice, who in her own right had considerable gifts. Within Cruden Parish Church, Beatrice held a number of different roles. A member of the Guild, a hard-working district Elder, not forgetting her role within Messy Church. In many ways Beatrice was 'old school.' I remember (along with the others) being summoned by Beatrice for an audience to discuss some aspect of church life or express an opinion. We did not always see eye to eye. But it made no difference to the high esteem in which she was held. I will miss our discussions.

Along with her various roles and involvement with the Kirk, Beatrice had many interests. She was a keen gardener. Her garden was always well tended along with a multitude of potted plants. She and Allan loved feeding and watching the birds at the feeders or in the garden bushes. But at the heart of her life were people. Beatrice was well known for offering hospitality in her home or at church, visiting, and having large circle of friends. Beatrice may have been 'old school' which itself is an affirmation of her traditional values and high standards. She also possessed a sense of humour and deep compassion. We will all miss her presence at our services, groups and meetings. Our prayers go to Anne and David and the rest of the family.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Rev Sean Swindells**

## **Muriel Cantlay**

Muriel died after a long fight with cancer, at home surrounded by her loving family, on 10th May this year.

She was a hard-working member of Cruden Parish Church for over 45 years, first as a member of the Congregational Board before being ordained as an elder in 1989. Taking her duties seriously she served as a district elder and Bond Convener.

Muriel loved to sing and was a keen member of the choir. She joined the Young Women's Group before 'graduating' to the Guild where she was chairperson for many years. She helped organise the annual senior citizens Christmas party and summer outing, the Millenium display in the West Church along with numerous other events.

She was a stalwart of the local community serving on various committees and for over 20 years helped organise and hosted, along with husband Philip, a clay pigeon shoot that raised, over the years, approximately £100,000 for Hatton Public Hall.

Muriel was a very sociable, hard working person and loved to be surrounded by family and friends, working for her church and community. She is sorely missed.

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## **Lexie Wallace**

'Lexie Wallace [Kidd] of Christies Beach, South Australia passed away peacefully on Saturday 16th September aged 95.

Before emigrating to Australia in 1985 with her husband Eddie, she was for many years a Church Elder, Sunday school teacher at Longhaven and organist at both churches.

When she married and lived at Uppermill Cottage she began teaching piano and continued to do so when she moved to Longhaven and then at Auchiries. After obtaining her teaching diploma she was a travelling music teacher at various local schools, including Hatton, Cruden Bay, Boddam, Peterhead, Longside and Mintlaw.

After emigrating she and Eddie retired but Lexie continued to teach music privately. Lexie loved travelling and meeting new people and they both had a long and happy retirement in Australia.

### **Communion serving Elders**

**26th November 2023**

Katherine Hyman, Peter Slamaker, Kate Clark, Joyce Willox

## WELCOME

5 Nov	Shonah Taylor	Irene Will
12 Nov	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox
19 Nov	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
26 Nov	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
3 Dec	Robert Petticrew	Adrian Smith
10 Dec	Ken Bruce	Adelaide Duncan
17 Dec	Janie Smith	Kevin Smith
24 Dec	Maureen Esson	Kate Clark
31 Dec	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox

## TEA DUTY

5 Nov	Iris Durno	June Morrison
19 Nov	Maureen Esson	Rosemary Pittendrigh
26 Nov	Kevin & Janie Smith	
3 Nov	Allan & Joyce Walker	
10 Dec	Bob & Norma Forman	
17 Dec	June Morrison	Shonah Taylor
24 Dec	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
31 Dec	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Joyce Willox

## CRUDEN CHURCH PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral care team are here to help and to listen and if you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit or a listening ear, be it at home or by telephone please let a member of the team know. We also visit Care Homes and Hospitals. The Pastoral care team contact numbers are:

**Rev Sean Swindells** (07791755976) **Maureen Esson** (07949792233) **Kathleen Craig** (01779841221) **Jean Campbell** (07716399011) Robert Petticrew (01771624280)

**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
	Joyce Willox	Hatton
	Robert Petticrew	Rural
	Robert Esson	Peterhead
	Maureen Esson	Cruden Bay
	Kate Clark	Cruden Bay
	Kathleen Craig	Cruden Bay
<b>Gift Aid Treasurer</b>	Maureen Esson	
<b>Bulletin</b>	Fred Coutts	
	bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk	
<b>Christian Aid</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Cleaning</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Communion</b>	Joyce Willox	
<b>Flowers</b>	Betty Forrester	
<b>Organist</b>	Stephen Calder	
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Maureen Esson	
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	Katherine Hyman	
<b>Press Officer</b>	Mary Bratton	
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	Mary McNaughtan	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Kathleen Craig	
<b>Transport</b>	Robert Esson	Hatton
	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Cruden Bay
<b>Walks</b>	Maureen Esson	
<b>WFO Treasurer</b>	Joyce Willox	

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**Committee Conveners**

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<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

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