

***CRUDEN  
PARISH  
CHURCH***

***THE BULLETIN  
FEBRUARY 2013***



***[www.crudenchurch.org.uk](http://www.crudenchurch.org.uk)***  
**A Registered Charity SC 006408**

# DIARY DATES

## FEBRUARY 2013

**EACH WEEK** (Except during school holidays)

*Sundays* 10.00 am Children's Sunday Club in the Church & Stables

Sunday 3rd	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
Wednesday 6th	:	Coffee and Chat	10.30 am	Hall
Sunday 10th	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
		conducted by the Rev Fred Coutts		
Monday 11th	:	Watch and Talk Group	7.30 pm	
		in the home of Marilyn Samways, Burnview, Cruden Bay		
Wednesday 13th	:	Choir Practice	7.30 pm	Hall
Sunday 17th	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	
Monday 18th	:	Kirk Session	7.30 pm	Hall
Wednesday 20th	:	Walking Group Planning Meeting	7.30 pm	Hall
Thursday 21st	:	MESSY CHURCH	3:15 pm	Port Erroll Hall
Sunday 24th	:	MORNING SERVICE	10.00 am	Church
	:	<b>ANNUAL GUIDE THINKING DAY SERVICE</b>		
Monday 25th	:	The Guild	7.30 pm	Hall
		"Food for Thought" - Karen Woodhouse		
Wednesday 27th	:	Choir Practice	7.30 pm	Hall

### FEBRUARY HYMN BOOK - CH4

COFFEE and CHAT CHURCH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 10.30 am

# ***FROM THE MINISTER***    *8 January 2013*

Dear Friends

## **Presbytery Planning**

In December, members of the Presbytery of Buchan were given an outline of what is being proposed for the congregations in the Presbytery area for the future. The first and most important consideration for Presbyteries in shaping their plans is the mission imperative of Jesus who said *“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”* In the future the Congregations that exist must be the ones that are seeking to extend the Kingdom of God.

It is unavoidable also that consideration must be given to the number of ministers available to offer leadership to congregations. A considerable proportion of the church’s present ministers will be retiring over the next few years, far more than are currently becoming ministers. So the present shortfall of ministers compared to congregations can only get worse.

Every Presbytery, therefore, has been given an indication by the Assembly Board of how many ministers it might be expected to have in its bounds. Not surprisingly, the Presbytery of Buchan has to produce a Plan which has fewer ministers than has been the case.

However, I am glad to say that there is no intention at this time to change the status of Cruden Parish Church. When it next becomes vacant, then it will be allowed to call a minister without restriction.

It is important, however, that we continue to show that we are a viable congregation, active in different ways including reaching out to others in obedience to Christ’s command. Hence I commend to you March’s Stewardship Campaign. I hope you will respond positively to it.

Your friend and minister



*Rodger Neilson*

# PARISH REGISTER

(\*denotes church member)  
**NO CHANGES TO REPORT.**

## ANNUAL STATED MEETING

CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH

**Sunday 10 March 2013**

(as part of the morning service beginning at 10 am)

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON SESSION COMMITTEES

Those using WFO envelopes should ensure they are using the current year's envelopes. It is also most helpful when people **DO NOT** return a batch of envelopes but put all their contents into one envelope, marking on it the total amount enclosed. **THANK YOU.**



**THANKS** Cruden Church is grateful to Mr Henry McIntosh, Peterhead for once again agreeing to audit our church accounts. As always, our Treasurer was quick off the mark in getting the accounts ready and they will be presented to the Session at its meeting on 18 February.

## THE GUILD

For the Guild meeting on Monday 25 February, the guest speaker will be Karen Woodhouse speaking about "Food for Thought". Anyone interested in coming will be most welcome at the Hall at 7.30 pm.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL COME OUT ON **1 MARCH**. Copy for inclusion to be handed in to the Manse as soon as possible.

# SUNDAY MORNING DUTIES 10 AM

Date	Door	Flowers	Teas	Children
3 Feb	Shonah Taylor Liz Carnie	Betty Forrester	Iris Durno Elma Cumming	Karla Buswell Helen Smith Irene Siddle
10 Feb	Isobel Young Jack Young	Betty Forrester	Marilyn Samways Beatrice Fawkes	No Junior Church
17 Feb	Isobel Young Jack Young	Bessie Sandison	Wilma Moir Rosemary Reid	Katherine Hyman Maureen Reid Brenda Cadger
24 Feb	Margaret Bruce Ken Bruce	Joyce Willox	NO TEAS	Karla Buswell Helen Smith Irene Siddle
3 Mar	Margaret Bruce Ken Bruce	Jean Beedie	Mary Bratton Lewis McKechnie	Katherine Hyman Maureen Reid Brenda Cadger
10 Mar	Norma Forman Adrian Smith	Lewis McKechnie	Anne Cadey Fiona Stephen	Karla Buswell Helen Smith Irene Siddle
17 Mar	Norma Forman Adrian Smith	Irene Stott	Liz Carnie Helen Cay	Katherine Hyman Maureen Reid Brenda Cadger
24 Mar		Marilyn Samways	Marilyn Samways Janice Hutchinson	Karla Buswell Helen Smith Irene Siddle
31 Mar		Beatrice Fawkes	Elizabeth Bruce Alison Neilson	No Junior Church

## HOW MUCH DO YOU BELIEVE IN PRAYER?



When a nightclub opened on Main Street, the only church in that small town organised an all-night prayer meeting. The members asked God to burn down the club. Within a few minutes, lightning struck the club and it burned to the ground. The owner sued the church which denied responsibility. After hearing both sides, the judge said, “It seems that wherever the guilt may lie, the nightclub owner believes in prayer while the church doesn’t!”

# A HEALTHY CHURCH

In the first half of the 1990's some churches in the Diocese of Durham experienced significant growth. As a result, some research was done to find out if there were any common factors that might help people to understand this growth. Out of this research, seven 'signs' for a healthy church were identified.

Think of our own congregation, in relation to these 'signs'. How healthy are we?

The first is *energised by faith*, which is both the entry point for the healthy church and the mark out of which all the others flow. It asks, where does the internal energy (vitality) of our congregations actually come from? Is it survival, tradition, personal power base or from God, as part of a community of faith centred in Jesus Christ?

The second sign is an *outward looking* focus. Put another way, is the ministry of the congregation shrunk to the 'internal'? We would all agree that the task of the church lies beyond itself, and that the message of Jesus Christ must engage with our neighbourhoods, in a way that is both incarnational & transformational.

The third sign is a congregation that *seeks to find out what God wants*, by discerning God's **vision for the future**, rather than our own good ideas! Very often it is disturbing for us human beings, who like to be in control, to recognise that ultimately, God sets the agenda. What is key, is not knowing all the answers in advance, for maturity of faith is as much in the seeking as in the finding.

Next comes a difficult one, *facing the cost of change and growth*. One of the greatest barriers to change and growth in the church is the fear of failure. Healthy faith takes those risks, and here is the difficult bit, it needs to begin with ourselves. How open are we to change? ?

The fifth sign is the congregation that *operates as a community*. Communities identify gifts and people's vocation, whereas organisations and institutions are structural and task orientated. This means that the church as community values the person before the task, with the healthy church stressing the importance of developing good quality relationships, a sense of belonging and empowering leadership. Is our congregation a group of individuals who meet on a Sunday, an organisation to join, or a community of faith?

Two more signs to go. Number six is *making room for all*. The healthy church is inclusive and not exclusive. It is diverse, with people on a journey to faith, giving people the opportunity in the exploration of faith. If society is not homogenous then neither should be the church. Does your congregation reflect the community that it serves?

Lastly the healthy congregation concentrates on *a few things and does them well*. This means using the people you have, and not the people you would like to have! It is about using wisely the gifts and skills of its people, and matching them to the purpose and vision, of God's direction for the congregation.

Do these signs 'ring true' for the rural church in Scotland today? Are any of these signs easier or more difficult to develop in rural parishes?

*Adapted from an article by the Rev Robin McAlpine, Kirkcaldy  
when he was Regional Development Officer, Mission and Discipleship Council*

# CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Thanks to the generosity of those attending our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, £300 has been sent to Alzheimers Scotland

## ST ANDREWS NIGHT DINNER

Held at the end of November, this very much enjoyed event broke even with regard to the costs and the price of the tickets. However thanks to the very successful raffle, £181 was raised for the Windows Project. Our thanks go to the entertainers on the night and to the organising Social Committee.

## WATCH AND TALK GROUP

The February meeting will be on Monday 11th, as usual in the home of Marilyn Samways in Cruden Bay. Anyone interested in the current tension between the West and the Middle East or between Christianity and Islam might want to go along for the DVD to be watched is "Living with the Ayotolla."

### ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Once again, with the March Bulletin will come the annual commitment card for members. Except this year there will be more to think about as we focus also on our stewardship of time.

Within the first two/three weeks of March, these cards will be collected by a church visitor. Please show your support to the church by returning your cards.

FULL DETAILS NEXT MONTH



# TRAIDCRAFT

Fighting poverty through trade

## What we believe

Our principles stem from those aspects of God revealed in the Bible and especially in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ.

**God is love.** All people are created in his image, valued by him and called to eternity with him. We must, therefore, treat each person with respect, dignity and love. So, while we will always be a Christian-based organisation, we are happy to work with those of other faiths and beliefs, recognising the work of God in Christ in them.

**God is just.** Throughout scripture we are confronted with God's repeated call to act justly. The continuing poverty of millions in a world of plenty, the gross inequalities in the way we conduct and regulate trade are affronts to his goodness and justice. They demand a response from us.

**God is biased towards the poor.** The Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims good news for the poor. Christian discipleship demands we not only address the needs of the poor but also ask questions about why they are poor, and challenge systems and structures that keep them in poverty.

## What we do

We work in partnership with the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in developing countries, whatever their creed, and with all those who share our mission of using trade as a means of fighting poverty.

We fight poverty by engaging directly in trade, by influencing others who practice and govern trade, and by developing the skills and markets of poor producers.

We recognise that poverty has spiritual as well as material dimensions so we raise awareness of poverty issues among UK consumers and encourage them to exercise moral choices when spending their money.

We support the development of people to achieve their God-given potential and we promote relationships between rich and poor people that enable the poor to earn from their skills and for the rich to learn from the poor.

We promote responsible stewardship of the created environment, giving people access to resources, a share in decisions about them, and responsibility for their use.

We seek fairness for producers, customers, employees, shareholders and other stakeholders, and we report on our activities openly and honestly in our financial and social accounts.

## Our vision

Imagine a world freed from the scandal of poverty.

Imagine a world where trade is just.

Imagine a world where people and communities flourish.

We believe such a world is possible and our mission is to help bring it about by fighting poverty using trade as our weapon.

By working to build such a world we are responding in a practical, Christian way to the call of the Gospel to love God and serve the world. It lies at the heart of who we are, what we believe and what we do.

Traidcraft is led by practising Christians from various denominations and backgrounds. Our Christian perspectives are enshrined in our Foundation Principles, which are used to shape our policy and guide our decisions.

## Support our work

Fair trade is a transformational activity. Imagine if every time you enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee, bit into a cereal bar or indulged in some chocolate, it made a difference to the lives of others. When you choose Traidcraft products that's exactly what you do, whether you're serving them in church or at home.

**Traidcraft a Christian response to poverty**

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2013

**25 February - 10 March**

In 2012 Fairtrade asked everyone to take a step for Fairtrade and nearly 1 million steps have been registered so far. But there's still so much more to do to reach more farmers and workers who urgently need a better deal from trade.

**WE SHALL HAVE A FAIRTRADE STALL ON 3 and 10 MARCH**

**Our service on 3 March will focus on Fairtrade Fortnight.**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 1 March**

**Cruden Parish Church 7 pm**

Each year, the first service of the day is held on the island of Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean, close to the international dateline, and continues for a period of 36 hours until that same date concludes in Alaska just to the other side of the dateline.

The service for 2013 was prepared by Christian women of France.

The theme of the service this year is

**"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"**

Why not come along to this years' service after which refreshments will be provided.

*Yet another internet circulation – which appealed to your ever ageing minister!!*

***HAPPY NEW YEAR MY OLD FRIENDS!***

***TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER NOW BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.***

- *Your Kids are becoming you but your grandchildren are perfect!*
- *Going out is good, coming home is better!*
- *You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!*
- *You realise you're never going to be really good at anything....*
- *The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.*
- *You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed.*
- *You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" Switch.*
- *You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... ???*
- *Everybody whispers.*
- *You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet, 2 of which you will never wear.*
- *But Old is good in some things: Old songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!*

***Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"***

# EASTER PREPARATIONS

This year there will be a 5 week Lent Study series in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings at 7 pm. It will begin on the first Sunday in Lent which is 17 February and will continue for the following four Sunday evenings, finishing on 17 March.

The Lent Study is called **“Glimpses of God – Hope for Today’s World”** and provides opportunity to reflect on the relevance of our faith in a modern world.

The Five sessions are

1. The God who hears our cry
2. The Shepherd who guides and guards his people
3. The Son who is the Way, the Truth and Life
4. The God who shares our pain
5. The God who calms our fears

There is a course booklet and those intending to be involved will be asked to make a contribution of £4 towards the cost of materials which includes a CD for the group.

Then during Holy Week there will be half hour service in the Church at 7 pm each evening culminating in our Good Friday celebration of Holy Communion.

## CRUDEN CHURCHES WALKING GROUP

All those who might like to come along to this year’s walks are invited to a meeting to be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 20 February at 7:30 to plan where we will walk this year. Everyone is welcome to make suggestions where they would like to go. Further information can be had by giving me a call on 01771 624280

*Robert Petticrew*