

# *The Bulletin*



## **Cruden Parish Church Autumn 2020**

[www.crudenchurch.org.uk](http://www.crudenchurch.org.uk)

Registered Scottish Charity SC006408

Dear Friends,

During the early summer we discovered that a family of sparrows had set up home in the outside vent of the cooker hood in the manse kitchen. With the image of a cruel landlord evicting a family out onto the street at the back of my mind, I had no option but to remove the birds. However, one of them had other ideas. On the morning of the eviction, one of the them got trapped. Rather than heading out into the fresh air, the inquisitive bird negotiated the duct and headed in to the inner workings of the cooker hood. We could hear it chirping and beating its wings. With my very limited DIY skills I realised that I might have managed to take the cooker hood apart, but getting it back together was another matter entirely. So we had to wait till somebody with experience could remove the squatting sparrow.

As we waited for the tradesman to arrive, we could hear the bird fluttering around. Then there would be silence. The silences grew longer and we were sure that the bird had not survived. However, when the cooker hood was finally taken down from the wall and dismantled we discovered that the bird had flown! The mess was still there but the bird had found its way out to freedom. We also ensured that it could not return by replacing the faulty vent cover.

For many people the past few months of lockdown have been an incredibly difficult experience. Like a sparrow trapped in a cooker hood, being confined to home, not able to go to work or socialise with friends, family and neighbours has been hard. And it has been a cruel time not being able to visit loved ones in hospital or care homes or attend funerals. To this could be added the challenge facing families of young children with them being unable to play outside with friends or attend school. But now like a sparrow finding its way into the fresh air, the lockdown is easing. Now we are able to associate, with restrictions, and we yearn to get back to our usual routines.

I am also delighted to report that the Kirk Session has agreed to reopen the church from Sunday 13th September, which means we are again able to return to worship. But like the easing of the lockdown, this comes with many restrictions. And for good reason. We have a moral responsibility to ensure that people can return to church safely and with confidence. As Covid-19 has not gone away, this is going to involve a great deal of inconvenience for all of us. More details about these arrangements are on the opposite page.

I would also like to express a sincere thank you for your ongoing support. Although Cruden Parish Church is partly supported through central funds, it exists because of the generosity of its members and supporters. This enables us to maintain a physical Christian presence of worship, mission and pastoral care. We were hoping to start a couple of new groups this year, but suspect the lockdown will continue in some form into the New Year.

In the meantime, I eagerly look forward to welcoming you back to worship on Sunday 13th September and invite you to ponder the words of Psalm 100

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Your friend and minister,  
Rev Sean Swindells

## **REOPENING OF CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH**

**The church reopens for worship at 10.00 am, Sunday 13th September, 2020.**

In order to ensure the safety of everybody, we have put in place an enhanced cleaning and hygiene regime, which includes wiping down every 'touchable' surface with antiviral and antibacterial cleaning solution prior to the service.

There will be very limited seating, with every household maintaining a minimum distance of two metres within the building. Seating areas will be clearly marked. In order to secure a seat, please pre-register by contacting Robert Esson before 7.00 pm on the Saturday evening. He can be contacted by phone on 01779 813049 (If he is not in please leave a message on the answering machine.) or by email at **robertesson@btinternet.com**

As seating is limited, the service will be broadcast live via the church Facebook Page.

Hand gel will be available on entry and exit from the building.

The wearing of face coverings is now compulsory in places of worship and you are encouraged to bring your own if possible. Disposable face masks will be available for those who do not have one.

To comply with the strict regulations, a track and trace system will be put in place, to record the names and phone numbers of everyone who attends.

Regretfully, no singing is allowed at this time, but Stephen will be present to play the organ.

We would request that each member and visitor fully complies with the above requirements that are either current regulations or best practice as advised by The Church of Scotland.

**To ensure a seat contact Robert Esson by 7.00pm on the Saturday  
Telephone 017790 813049 or email robertesson@btinternet.com**

## 2020 London Marathon for Christian Aid Update!



On Sunday 4th October the 40th London Marathon will go ahead but only for a small number of professional elite runners. These include the current world record holder Eliud Kipchoge, who set the time of 2 hours 1 minute and 39 seconds, at the Berlin Marathon in 2018.

As many of you will be aware, I was due to represent Christian Aid at this event (and the Great North Run). However, my place on the charity team (for both events) has been held over till next year. In the meantime, I do hope to continue my fundraising efforts once the social lockdown has been further eased. To date about £2,300.00 has been sent to Christian Aid to support their work in the most impoverished and troubled places in the world. Thank you for your support.

Along with the elite event in London, the organisers are encouraging people to run their own virtual marathon on Sunday 4th October. Being up for a challenge and having done no training during the lockdown, I will also be doing the equivalent distance. (After church of course!) I will probably be walking most of the way, whilst attempting to work off the spare tyre I have gained during the lockdown!

**Rev Sean Swindells.**



At the end of February we sent £1,345 to Christian Aid, raised from several events held in support of Sean's entry for the London Marathon, which as Sean has written above has been postponed till next year. More donations have been added to

this total bringing it up to about £2,300.

A further £320 has now been sent which was received from the envelopes distributed along with the Bulletin and which have continued to be delivered to Rosemary all during lockdown.

Thanks to everyone who has taken the trouble to make a contribution this year.

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

Mrs Sarah Petticrew, North Howe, Skelmuir

Mrs Helen Thomson, Wyndwell Care Home, Peterhead

## STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUP

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Bible in an approachable and enjoyable way, with the opportunity to ask questions? Starting in September we will be starting a new online study and discussion group exploring various parts of the New Testament. No previous knowledge is required.

Due to Covid-19 the group will be run online – you will need a computer, tablet or smart phone connected to the internet, but no special software is required. The group will meet on Sunday evenings.

For more information, please contact Sean on **07791 955976**  
**sswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk**

## WALKING FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The group regretfully had to stop meeting due to the lockdown, but we hope to restart in the autumn. More details soon. .

## THE GUILD

### *One Journey, Many Roads*

Unfortunately due to the current restrictions, the Guild committee has decided not to meet this Autumn and we will review the situation in January.

Even during the pandemic, the work of the Guild goes on. The projects need support and some Guilds have held open air afternoon teas to raise funds. The annual theme for 2020-2021 is “The extra mile” and I am sure that once the corona virus is under control, we will rise to the challenge and go the extra mile.

Looking forward to getting back to “normal”. Keep safe.



Messy Church will not be going ahead in September as previously planned. When we feel it is safe to return to Messy Church we will inform Port Errol and Hatton Cruden Schools in the usual way.



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## ONE OF THE OLDEST BELLS IN SCOTLAND

We have one of the oldest surviving bells in Scotland sitting quietly in our church by the west window. It carries the date 1519 and is believed to have been cast in the Netherlands. Sadly the inscription is difficult to read and no one has yet been able to decipher it. Francis Eeles made an extensive study of the bells of Aberdeenshire and when he visited Cruden at the end of the 19th century he was very enthusiastic about the bell, though noted that it was of “inferior casting, badly weathered and broken mouthed”. He urged the Kirk Session to take it down and preserve it in the church.

It was half a century before that happened! The Cruden Old Woman’s Guild presented a new bell in 1957, the 70th Anniversary of the Guild which had been started by Rev Dr Archibald Charteris in 1887. 1957 was also the 25th anniversary of first annual meeting of the Guild in the Usher Hall. That bell still hangs in the bellcote, but no longer rings. I am told that the mechanism is seized up and does not move. It was the installation of this bell that inspired Grace Cruickshank’s poem which is printed on the opposite page.

But back to the old bell. Eeles records that the bell rung with the note A, and that it is one of only three surviving mediaeval bells in Aberdeenshire. Tough Kirk’s bell once hung in the tower of King’s College in Aberdeen and dates from a time similar to the Cruden Bell. The other is to be found in the quaint double bellcote on the ruined old St Congan’s Church in Turriff. It is dated 1556. Cruden’s bell is also the fourth oldest bell in Scotland only being preceded by St Giles’ in Edinburgh (1464), St Giles’ Elgin (1502) and St John’s Perth (1506).

When Fred Coutts visited the church recently to take a picture of the old bell, he struck it to see what it sounded like. This was the sound that rung out to call the people of Cruden to church through the centuries. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to hear the sound of that old bell welcoming the congregation back to our building after our period of enforced absence?



## The Story of the Bell

This poem was written by Grace Cruickshank whose father was at one time the Beadle at Cruden Old Church.

1. I've been on top of Cruden Old  
for many a year, I have been told.  
I've worked so hard with might and main  
and weathered thunder, hail and rain.
2. I've watched the children as then run  
to Sunday School when I say come.  
I've heard their voices raised on high  
to praise their Maker in the sky.
3. In answer to my Sunday toll  
the people come when e're I call  
and sing the praises of our Lord  
and listen to his Holy Word.
4. The war it came to torture all  
and law declares I shall not toll.  
My tongue it lies within my cheek.  
My life is dull and I grow weak.
5. The news is spread so very fast:  
The war is o'er – Peace, Peace at last!  
This joyful hour is also mine  
once more, at last, they let me chime.
6. I've waited for this day so long  
and so I chime my joyful song.  
But mingled with the joy is pain  
for those who'll ne're come home again.
7. Some years ago I nearly died,  
for working hard, I split my side.  
So weak – but still I carried on.  
I did not think my job was done.
8. And then I hear somebody say  
“That bell will be removed today.”  
A bell is here to take my place.  
Ah, yes, I'm really in disgrace
9. I'm taken from my home up high  
and on the ground, I'm made to lie.  
Oh woe is me, and great my sorrow  
for me there is no more tomorrow.
10. And then I feel those loving hands  
and so I learn for me there's plans.  
Ah yes for me there is some grace  
and in God's house I take my place.
11. I wish to serve my Master well  
but not just merely as a Bell.  
So if you drop a coin within  
I'll know to God you want to cling.  
To help a lame dog on the way  
and hope he sees a brighter day.  
So with me, please raise your eyes  
To our dear Lord beyond the skies  
and thank him for the life we live  
and every chance we have to give.







## **FAREWELL MONGOLIA**

Mission Aviation Fellowship's operation in Mongolia — known as Blue Sky Aviation — has come to an end after almost two decades.

When MAF first surveyed Mongolia after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the country was less developed than it is today. With poverty widespread, the country's basic infrastructure fell into disrepair, leaving remote communities with little access to healthcare.

After 70 years of religious persecution, there were very few Mongolian Christians. The fall of communism created interest in foreign development, democracy and religious freedom.

### **A need for MAF**

As the Church slowly grew, so did calls from missionaries and NGOs for better transport. Many people were living in places that were almost impossible to reach, and the need for MAF was critical.

Following further surveys during the 1990s, MAF finally received approvals, and built a hangar in 2000. The Millennium Messenger, MAF's new Cessna Caravan aircraft designed to fly in extreme temperatures, eventually landed in Ulaanbaatar in 2001 and Blue Sky Aviation (BSA) was launched.

### **A unique service**

BSA was the first light aircraft operator in Mongolia and played a significant role in developing aviation. People living hundreds of miles from towns were able to reach them in a matter of hours — saving a week by road. The Millennium Messenger became an 'air ambulance' for remote regions, and many lives were saved. With MAF's partnership, the Gospel began to spread across the country through the work of local and international missions. From a handful of



believers in 1990, Mongolia’s Christian population has grown to almost 80,000.

**Pastures new**

By 2017, Mongolia’s infrastructure had notably improved. In recent years, young Christians have been sharing the Good News across the country. The government is increasingly taking responsibility for healthcare in remote locations, and transport routes have developed and improved. After 19 years of service, it’s time for our plane to be redeployed from Ulaanbaatar to West Africa.

**SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020**

This year we are unable to do the shoebox appeal as usual because of the current Covid restrictions. Thanks to the Craft Group and friends I have 20 boxes partially filled. All boxes have a hat, scarf, gloves, soap and face cloth. Some boxes are fuller than others. With your help I hope to complete as many boxes as possible by 31st October. Most boxes need toothpaste and a brush or comb. Look at the form on the right to see the sorts of things than may be included. If you feel you can help, please contact me on 01779 841531. You can drop things off at 11 Manse Road, Hatton or give me a ring and I can arrange to pick it up. I know some of you like to give me a donation to do the shopping for you. This is still possible. You can also donate direct to Blythswood online.

**Rosemary Reid**

**CHECKLIST 2020**

Please tick items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

**ESSENTIAL ITEMS (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW):**  
Please include the following items highlighted in the top box.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Toothbrush and Toothpaste</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hat, scarf, gloves</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Soap</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Underwear</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Small Toy</b> for boys and girls such as cars, dolls, balls. Please only include new shop-bought toys. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sweets</b> (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best Before' date no earlier than March 2021. <b>No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets.</b>
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**Do not include** used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should also not be included.

<p><b>Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo <input type="checkbox"/> Soap/Shower gel <input type="checkbox"/> Face cloth/ Moist wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturising Cream <input type="checkbox"/> Comb/Brush <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Products <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving foam/Razors <input type="checkbox"/> Socks/Tights  <p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> New Make-up <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Household Candles <input type="checkbox"/> Screwdrivers/Pliers <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Utensils  <p><b>Stationery</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Pens/Pencils/Sharpener <input type="checkbox"/> Notepads/Colouring books <input type="checkbox"/> Rulers/Rubbers  <p><b>Clothes and other Items</b> (T-shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/ Shirts) etc</p> <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....
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[www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org)



## **A LOOK ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE**

One of God's greatest gifts is joy. Laughter and (appropriate) humour are essential components for a healthy spiritual life. A Bible verse that comes to mind here.

Proverbs 17:22 *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*

### **Shall we gather at the river...**

There is a story of a minister who was always preaching on the evils of drink. Every Sunday his congregation were bombarded with sermon after sermon that detailed the evils of drinking alcohol. On one particular Sunday he got really worked up. Waving his arms around his head and with tears pouring from his eyes he told the congregation that if I had all the beer in the world I would take it and pour it away in the river. If I had all the sherry in the world I would take it and pour it away in the river. If I had all the wine in the world I would take it and pour it away in the river. After mentioning every type and brand of alcohol, he concluded. And if I had all the whisky in the world I would take it and pour it away in the river. Wearing by his frenzied and continuous exhortation he slumped exhausted into the pulpit.

Then the choir stood to sing the anthem, which was the hymn 'Shall we gather at the river!'

### **The Church Ladies Annual Summer Outing**

There was once a bus driver taking a group of ladies on their annual summer outing into the countryside. Fifteen minutes into the journey, he felt a tap on his shoulder and found a lady placing a small handful of peanuts into the palm of his hand. Grateful for the snack he continued driving. Another fifteen minutes later he felt another tap on his shoulder, again followed by another handful of peanuts being placed in the palm of his hand. And this continued for the rest of the day. As they journeyed through the countryside the bus driver was sustained by frequent gifts of peanuts.

When they came to their journey's end, the driver turned to the lady and said thank you for the peanuts. "You're welcome!" she said and explained that none of the ladies liked peanuts. The driver replied, if they didn't like peanuts why did they buy them? The lady replied, "We only like the chocolate coating on the outside..."

## Christmas is coming!

For those who like to be super-organised, the CrossReach online shop is now open. You will be able to order Christmas Cards and Calendars for 2021.

To access the shop go to **shop.crossreach.org.uk**

You can request your paper copy of the Catalogue by

Email: **webshop@crossreach.org.uk**, or telephone: **0131 454 4374**.



**CROSSREACH**  
Care you can put your faith in

# CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar Collection 2020

See the full collection and order yours at:  
[shop.crossreach.org.uk](http://shop.crossreach.org.uk)  
or call: 0131 454 4374

The Church of Scotland  
Social Care Council

2021 Calendar

Love Hope Peace Joy

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

2021

The advertisement features a collage of various Christmas cards and a 2021 calendar. The cards include designs with stained glass, a dove, a nativity scene, a lighthouse, and a Santa Claus on a sled. The calendar shows a lighthouse on a rocky shore. The background is a mix of purple and white.

**Minister: Rev Sean Swindells**  
**SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk**  
Parish Office: **01779 841964** 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
	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
<b>Gift Aid Treasurer</b>	Muriel Cantlay	
<b>Bulletin</b>	Fred Coutts	
	<a href="mailto:bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk">bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk</a>	
<b>Christian Aid</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Cleaning</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Communion</b>	Adrian Smith	
	Joyce Willox	
<b>Flowers</b>	Betty Forrester	
<b>Guild</b>	Muriel Cantlay	
<b>Life and Work</b>	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
<b>Messy Church</b>	Kathleen Craig	
<b>Organist</b>	Stephen Calder	
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	Katherine Hyman	
<b>Press Officer</b>	Mary Bratton	
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	Mary McNaughtan	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Kathleen Craig	
<b>Teas</b>	Beatrice Fawkes	
<b>Transport</b>	Robert Esson	Hatton
	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Cruden Bay
<b>Walks</b>	Maureen Esson	
<b>WFO Treasurer</b>	Carol Paul	

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**Committee Conveners**

<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