

The Bulletin



Cruden Parish Church Spring 2022

Dear Friends

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
(Hebrews 10: 24-25)

Recently came the news that many of the restrictions associated with Covid 19 are now coming to an end. From the 4th April facemasks will not be a legal requirement for worship or attending funerals. However, due to high levels of infection they do remain a legal requirement in most indoor settings. We will of course do everything possible to ensure that the church remains a safe place. Along with the continuing presence of Covid 19, there is I regret, not a lot of good news around at present.

In the brutalised country of Afghanistan (which was recently voted the most unhappy place in the world) the Taliban have just backtracked on promises made regarding girls' education. The long-promised reopening of secondary schools to girls has been stopped at the last moment, because of disagreement over the appropriate uniform. A news report on the BBC showed pupils and teachers ready to start the first day of the new term, only to be sent home. In the words of the Taliban, the girls' uniform needs to reflect Afghan culture and Sharia Law. A pathetic excuse for the purposeful exclusion and subjugation of girls and women.

The news in Europe is also looking grim. Scenes from the unjustified and needless invasion of Ukraine continue to dominate the news. Who would have thought in the year 2022, we would again see an evil and ruthless dictator bring war and death to Europe? What the people of Ukraine are going through is beyond words, not to forget the plight of young Russian conscripts who have been propelled into an unwinnable war, thousands of whom have perished. This is the most dangerous and unstable period in European history since the Second World War. The risk of the conflict expanding beyond Ukraine along with the use of weapons of mass destruction is all too possible.

Here in Scotland, there are also serious problems emerging. The cost-of-living crisis is seeing prices of essential items such as heating, food and transporting spiralling upwards. Whilst many of us can cope in the short term, I think of the people on low incomes and benefits. For many, life is going to get a lot harder. And we are all going to see a reduction in our standard of living. How all of this is going to affect our communities is yet unknown. Ever increasing levels of poverty and the resulting threat to social cohesion does not bode well for the future.

So how should we respond to the grim news from home and abroad.? How do we stop ourselves becoming overwhelmed and despondent? And what is the best way of responding to the emerging threat of yet another mendacious dictator? We have various options. We can draw the curtains, switch off the TV and withdraw from the world. But I have a better answer. Come to church! Come and join your fellow Christians for worship. Draw deeply upon on the resources that come with faith and be encouraged and filled with hope. And join in with the prayers of the people. This is our greatest weapon against the evil that is arising from the East. Given the dark times we are living through, there is a desperate need for the prayers of the people of God.

I look forward to seeing you in church!

Best wishes,

Rev Sean Swindells.

EVENTS FOR EASTER AND HOLY WEEK

This coming Easter we are involved in several events and activities. These include an Easter Card delivery for members of friends of the congregation, a daily reflection and prayer for each day of Holy Week posted on our Facebook page.

Palm Sunday – 10th April

10.00 am **Morning Service** at Cruden Parish Church including the distribution of Palm Crosses

Maundy Thursday – 14th April

3.00 pm **Holy Communion (Eucharist)** at St James' the Less Church

Good Friday – 15th April

10.00 am to 12.00 noon **Coffee & Easter Crafts** (and Tea, Juice, Hot-cross Buns) at the Village Hall, Cruden Bay. This will be part of the 'Easter Eggtravaganza' organised by Cruden Bay Community Association.

Everybody welcome.

6.30 pm **Good Friday Service & Prayer Vigil for Ukraine**

Easter Sunday - 17th April

10.00 am **Easter Morning Service of Celebration** in Cruden Parish Church



PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN

The 2021 General Assembly approved the Presbytery Mission Plan Act which has far reaching implications for the church throughout Scotland. Church of Scotland attendances and finances have been declining for many years and radical action is required to make the church fit for purpose in the present times.

It has to be noted that Mission is central to work of the church throughout the country and with that in mind the General Assembly approved 5 Marks of Mission which have to be incorporated into all new plans.

Going forward it has been agreed that the church nationally will have 600 centrally funded posts (Ministers and Mission Development Workers). For Buchan Presbytery this means that the allocation of posts is being reduced from 22.5 to 14.

Buchan Presbytery therefore has to come up with a plan which details how these posts are to be deployed over its area.

The implications for us at parish level are significant.

It has been proposed that Cruden becomes part of a group along with the parishes of Longside, Deer, Maud and New Deer which would be covered by two of the posts allocated to Buchan Presbytery. In addition to this, discussions are ongoing about the possibility of the parish of Slains transferring from Ellon Parish Church to Cruden.

The Kirk Session has met to consider these proposals and has come to the view that they are not willing to accept the proposed grouping because they believe it is too large to be covered by one Kirk Session and they do not see how it could be split into two congregations in a fair and equitable way.

Previously, knowing that major changes in the local structure of the church were coming, the Kirk Session had looked at future potential options for Cruden and decided that being part of a group with the congregations of both Longside and Deer was a viable option. The Session is also looking to see if there are viable alternatives open to Cruden.

The Kirk Session recognises that there are going to be major changes for us in Cruden, just as there are to be for all congregations in the country, and requests that we all prayerfully consider the options which have been placed before us for the future of God's church in our community.

Church buildings have also to be taken into account in the planning process. However this issue is still to be addressed by the Presbytery Planning Committee

This is a brief outline of the current situation and significant decisions will have

to be made in the coming months.

For more information please contact Sean on 07791 755976 or Robert Esson on 01779 813049

THE PROMISES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and confessing Jesus Christ, as your Saviour and Lord, do you promise to join regularly with your fellow Christian in worship on the Lord's Day?
- Do you promise to be faithful in reading the Bible, and in prayer?
- Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world?
- Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to profess publicly your loyalty to Jesus Christ, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?

COVID-19 UPDATE - 'The end is nigh?'

At the time of writing many of the restrictions associated with Covid-19 have been removed. These include Track and Trace and maintaining Social Distancing. Also from Monday 4th April the wearing of facemasks, whilst recommended, is no longer a legal requirement for attending worship or funerals etc. We do of course want everyone to feel safe and be confident about coming to church. So whilst there is no longer any legal requirement to wear a facemask, please feel free to do so. There is also plenty of space in the church, so please use the transepts if you wish to maintain social distancing. Once infection levels reduce we will be bringing back many of our congregational routines such as tea and coffee after the service. We will also begin discussions about restarting a modified form of Messy Church or some other appropriate family activity. May I also strongly encourage those of you who have stopped coming to church due to the pandemic to return. Perhaps now is the time to restart our lives. (Please continue to self-isolate if you test positive or have Covid related symptoms.)

Finally, may I express a big thank you to our hard working team of volunteers who have enabled the church to remain open, especially those who contributed to the enhanced cleaning regime. Without your commitment and hard work it would not have been possible to resume worship.

Rev Sean Swindells
Parish Minister

Cruden Parish Church**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****Year ended 31 December 2021**

	Note	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		<u>General</u>	<u>Fabric/Organ</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>2021</u>		
			12 & 13	(see over)	<u>Burnett</u>		
Receipts							
Donations	4	37,745.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,745.51	44,752.00
Legacies		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funds Generation		95.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.00	204.00
Interest		16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00	8.00
Investment income		103.58	440.00	0.00	0.00	543.58	711.00
Rental of premises		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	495.00
Weddings & Funerals		60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	250.00
Grant and Loan		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00
Other Receipts		0.00	1,280.00	0.00	0.00	1,280.00	0.00
Total Receipts		38,020.09	1,720.00	0.00	0.00	39,740.09	46,660.00
Payments							
Costs of generating funds	5	169.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	169.54	203.00
Charitable activities		41,453.59	12,425.22	313.00	450.00	54,641.81	46,714.00
Loan Repayment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payments		41,623.13	12,425.22	313.00	450.00	54,811.35	46,917.00
Surplus for the year before transfers		-3,603.04	-10,705.22	-313.00	-450.00	-15,071.26	-257.17
Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Surplus for the year		-£3,603.04	-£10,705.22	-£313.00	-£450.00	-£15,071.26	-£257.17

Cruden Parish Church

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

Year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020	
		2021	2021	2021	Fund 2021			
		General	Fab/Org 12 & 13	Activities	Burnett			
Bank Balances								
Brought forward		77,270.24	12,100.11	6,511.43	1,060.46	96,942.24	97,199.41	
Surplus for the year		-3,603.04	-10,705.22	-313.00	-450.00	-15,071.26	-257.17	
Carried forward	7	£73,667.20	£1,394.89	£6,198.43	£610.46	£81,870.98	£96,942.24	
Investments at market value								
(cost £ 8,352.20)	8	5,717.00	13,728.00	0.00	0.00	19,445.00	18,824.20	
Assets								
Gift Aid Receivable		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Liabilities								
		None						

The accounts approved by the Kirk Session on 10 February 2022

Signed for and on behalf of the Kirk Session

Robert M Esson

Session Clerk

Rosemary Pittendrigh

Treasurer



2021 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	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	0.00	313.00	0.00	0.00	313.00
Other costs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>313.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>313.00</u>
Surplus	0.00	-313.00	0.00	0.00	-313.00
Opening Balance	<u>90.63</u>	<u>4,640.37</u>	<u>611.12</u>	<u>1,169.31</u>	<u>6,511.43</u>
Closing Balance	90.63	4,327.37	611.12	1,169.31	6,198.43

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Sunday 5th June 2022



On Sunday 5th June, as part of our regular Sunday worship, we will be holding a special service of celebration and thanksgiving to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There is much to give thanks for. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been an exemplar of public service and a dedicated supporter of so many charities and worthy causes. During her reign, in an often fractious and fast changing world, our Queen has been a symbol of dignity, stoic determination and stability.

In planning the service, I would love to hear from friends and members of the congregation and community who have had personal contact with any member of the Royal Family. Please let me know your memories.

Also, how about decorating the church for the service? And how about a cake to celebrate this special once in a lifetime occasion?

Any other suggestions or offers of help – please contact Sean, 07791 755976.

A COUPLE OF PUZZLES!

1. A ship is docked in the harbour. Over the side hangs a rope ladder with rungs a foot apart. The tide rises at a rate of 9 inches per hour. At the end of six hours, how much of the rope ladder will remain above water, if 9 feet were above the water when the tide began to rise?

2. How many penguins can a polar bear eat in a month?

Imagine that penguins live with a density of 1,000 penguins per square mile and can run at an average speed of 7 miles per hour on land and swim at 20 miles per hour. Also assume that a polar bear has a territory of 10 square miles, can run at 25 miles per hour and swim at 10 miles per hour, how many penguins will an average polar bear eat in any given month, remembering that a polar bear could, as a maximum, only eat one penguin per hour and 7% of the land is next to the sea.

Answers on Page 10



Christian Aid Week 15 – 21 May 2022

Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival. This Christian Aid Week we need to stand together. Every gift, every action, every prayer, every one Of us can change lives.

A Christian Aid envelope is enclosed for your consideration. If you wish to donate, it would be greatly appreciated if you could return the envelope or telephone for collection to any of the following:

- Rosemary Reid, 11 Manse Road, Hatton – Tel 841531
- Joyce Willox, 10 Rowan Terrace, Hatton – Tel: 841401
- Rosemary Pittendrigh, 21 Links View, Cruden Bay – Tel: 812220
- Post Office, Main Street, Cruden Bay
- Cruden Parish Church
- Or donate online at caweek.org/onlinegiving

Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country.

At least 3 million people have fled their homes to escape conflict in Ukraine. At least 691 civilians have been killed and 1,834 injured.

Christian Aid's Response

We're working with 2 partner organisations in the ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees fleeing deadly violence: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

So far, HIA has distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the Ukrainian borders. It has also established a refugee help point.

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Back then, we worked with partner churches to alleviate suffering by raising the equivalent of £3 million plus in today's money.

We supported, equipped and enabled partner churches in mainland Europe to provide what people needed. Nearly 80 years later, we are doing the same.

SUPPORTING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

I had been looking for something locally to get involved with for some time, so when Sean mentioned he was starting up a fitness and wellbeing class I jumped at the chance. I've always been very active but it had been some time since I'd taken part in any kind of organised fitness or sport.

The classes got off to a great start pre-lockdown with a good turn-out of both men and women, but Covid hit all these things hard and everyone was thrust into lockdown and enforced isolation for many. It was a big miss for me and the rest of the guys who attended I'm sure, but we all kept in contact through forming a chat group and we were all ready and willing when we got the go ahead again.

The class for me has been more than just an exercise thing but also a very comfortable and enjoyable social opportunity that has helped us all to cope with lockdown etc when some were also confined to working from home.

The class is very well run with Sean being a very competent and professional instructor. He is firm and fair and he doesn't ask you to do anything that he can't do himself. We even have boxing training in the mix now which is quite tough but not overexerting and there's no pressure from either Sean or any of the other guys. There's also always an easy and relaxed "banter" between everyone.

I would recommend to anyone looking to increase their activity and improve their fitness levels. I'm feeling better within myself these days than I have in a long time. And after the time we've all just come through, doing something that supports our physical and mental well-being is a very good move.

Kevin Smith

The next issue of the Bulletin will be published at the beginning of June
Please send all material to be included before **Sunday 22nd May 2022** to:
Fred Coutts, Ladebank, 1 Manse Place, Hatton AB42 0UQ

We broadcast our Sunday Service each week on the Church You Tube Channel.

Go to You Tube:
www.youtube.com and search for Cruden Parish Church

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLES ON PAGE 8

1. 9 feet - the ladder rises with the ship!
2. None - polar bears and penguins live at opposite poles

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

The news can be difficult to listen to and to read.
When that news relates to faces we know
and to voices familiar to us,
it becomes all the harder to hear.
Lord God,
we ask you to hold the people of Ukraine
deep in your heart.
Protect them, we pray;
from violence,
from political gamesmanship,
from being used and abused.
Give, we pray,
the nations of the world the courage
and the wisdom
to stand up for justice
and the courage too,
to dare to care - generously.
Lord in your mercy,
take from us all,
the tendencies in us
that seek to lord it over others:
take from us those traits
that see us pursuing our own needs and wants
before those of others.
Teach us how to live in love
and dignity
and respect - following your example.
In your name and for your sake,
Amen



The coat of arms of Ukraine is a trident or *trizub*. It can be traced back to the time of Volodymyr the Great, the first Grand Prince of Kyiv in the 10th Century.

No one is quite sure what it represents, perhaps a symbol of the Trinity or a hawk's wings, or a bow and arrow.

We remember the deaths of these church members

Mrs Sheila Stewart, 11 Kilmarnock Drive, Cruden Bay
Mrs Lindsey Savage, Harbour House, Harbour Street, Cruden Bay
Mrs Morag Ross, 25 Main Street, Cruden Bay
Mrs Cameron, 38 Longside Road, Mintlaw

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	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