

# *The Bulletin*

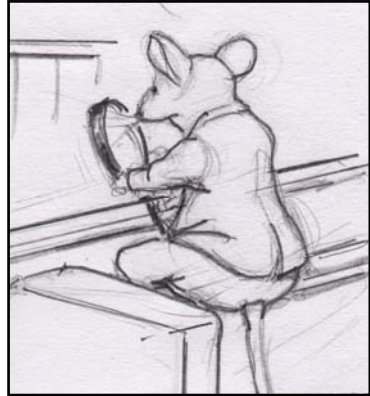
## **Spring 2025**



## **Cruden Parish Church**

Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, there was some minor disruption during the morning service. I first noticed people shuffling about in the pews. This was followed by smiles and suppressed laughter. Without mentioning her name, a certain person (Rosemary) left the church, followed by Joyce Willox who came to the rescue and returned with a brush and dustpan. Not wanting to distract the remainder of the congregation from their rapt attention on my sermon, I carried on. Soon peace was restored and the rest of the service proceeded without incident. Later, the reason for the disruption was revealed. A dead mouse had been found under the pew. I don't think my suggestion of having Moussaka for dinner was appreciated by those concerned!



There does, of course, have to be place for humour in the church. Unrelenting bad news at home and abroad means there is little cause for optimism. In contrast, resilience, hope and joy are hallmarks of authentic faith. We of all people should have a positive view. God is with us. Nothing can separate from his love. There may even be signs that the long secular winter of unbelief and church decline is ending. And as we all know, if you are in the country there will always be the occasional rodent that sneaks into your home or outbuilding. But is there something we can learn here?

Most of us would have a negative view of being disrupted. Scam phone calls, unwanted doorstep callers, delays to our travel plans, unexpected illness or bereavement, the unanticipated loss of a much-loved family pet, unforeseen bills or expenditure. I even hear from colleagues whose services are disrupted by drunks or hecklers or people falling ill. There was even an incident where a minister was attacked whilst conducting an Act of Remembrance! Disruption has a negative impact on our lives.

There is one exception to the above. It is when our lives are disrupted by God (if we allow him). And God's disruption is never bad, hurtful or negative. God is love. His purposes are always redemptive and to bring blessing. When God disrupts our lives there is always a positive outcome. And here is a deeper truth. When we close our lives, and our church, to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit we become spiritually impoverished and the church dies.

With warmest greetings,

**Rev Sean Swindells**

## EASTER & HOLY WEEK 2025

### Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday

10.00 am Morning Worship at Cruden Parish Church

### Monday -Wednesday – 14th-16th April

7.00 pm, Service of Compline at St James the Less Church

### Maundy Thursday -17th April

2.00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Supper at James the Less Church

### Good Friday – 18th April

7.00 pm A reflective service for Good Friday at Cruden Parish Church

### Easter Sunday – 20th April

10.00 am Easter Sunday Celebration

## JOINT SERVICE

Joint Service at St James the Less Church, takes place at 10.00 am, Sunday 27th April 2025. (No service in Cruden Parish Church that day.)



*All in the April evening,  
April airs were abroad;  
The sheep with their little lambs  
Passed me by on the road  
The sheep with their little lambs  
Passed me by on the road;  
All in the April evening  
I thought on the Lamb of God.*

Katherine Tynan

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## NEW FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Following the success of our Alpha Course, we are currently setting up a new Fellowship Group. This will be meeting on a regular basis during the week and will include Fellowship, Bible Study and Prayer. Planning is still at a very early stage. If you would like to know more, please contact Sean or Robert. (A new Alpha Course will start after the summer holidays.)

## THE LAST OF MAF'S FOUNDERS TAKES FLIGHT

A great wave of sadness engulfed the MAF world when news came through of Jack Hemmings' death at the age of 103. The last of MAF's early pioneers died peacefully in hospital on 24 January 2025.



Born in Yorkshire, Jack won a bursary to prestigious

Christ's Hospital in West Sussex, where he studied accountancy. At 19, he joined the RAF, serving in India and, in 1942, becoming Leader of 353 Squadron, cheating death several times.

He later received the Air Force Cross for 'exemplary gallantry while flying' and, in 2017, was awarded the Master Air Pilot award.

One of the few British pilots to take light aircraft from London to Africa's remotest regions, Jack and fellow MAF co-founder Stuart King left for central Africa in 1948, visiting 100 isolated mission stations to see if they could assist those serving there.

In 1950, having prayerfully raised funds for a second aircraft after their first (*the Mildmay Pathfinder*) crashed, they launched MAF's first programme in Malakal, southern Sudan. 80 years later, MAF now serves more than 25 low-income countries.

In old age, Jack raised over £50,000 for MAF, performing aerobatics in a Slingsby Firefly, piloting a Miles Gemini similar to the he once flew to Africa, and - at the age of 102 - a wartime Spitfire.

A tireless encourager of young pilots, Jack told one of MAF's newest recruits, 'I've never got into an aircraft and regretted it. Flying with MAF will give you the adventure of a lifetime!'

In 2024, the 102-year-old went to Normandy, taking part in the D-Day commemorations and honouring the late Stuart King, who Jack once described as 'a great friend, a man of vision, devoted to MAF since the early days in 1947.'

'Lovely Jack', the last of MAF's founders, leaves behind his wife Kate, son Adrian and grandchildren William, Beatrice and Olivia, who all describe him as a 'legend'.



## MARY GAVE ALPHA A GO

In February Brenda Robertson from the Alpha Course came to church and told us about the Course.

I had heard of it many years ago and said to myself, 'It's not for me. I don't need it. I've gone to church for years. It's for someone who doesn't go to church, someone a lot younger than me!!' I WAS WRONG! Brenda really struck a chord, and inspired me to give it a go. I really needed to refresh my faith.

The Alpha Course is described as 'A series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith - no pressure, no follow up, no charge. An opportunity to explore the meaning of life'.

So, I went along. There were five of us including Sean our minister. We met every Monday at 7pm. Starting with a welcome cup of coffee, we watched a series of videos, entitled, for example, 'Who is Jesus?', 'How can I have faith?', 'Why did Jesus die?' etc. We had some interesting discussions, and it definitely made me think more deeply about my faith.

On Saturday 15th March we went down to Stonehaven for an Alpha Day. We were made very welcome and joined a large group of likeminded people of different ages and denominations. The day was entitled 'Who is the Holy Spirit?' and 'What does it do?' There was a lot of meaningful praying and music by a very talented group of young people.

The day was interspersed with lovely refreshments and a very enjoyable visit to Dunnottar Castle. (viewed from the TOP of hundreds of steps!!)

We have since watched a video concerning faith healing. Interesting!!

During the Course I have learned not to be as complacent about my faith and you're never too old to refresh your faith.

If you get the chance I would recommend taking part in an Alpha Course, whatever stage of your faith journey you are on.

I have a long way to go!!

**Mary Bratton**



*Between sessions, members of the Alpha Group went out to have a look at Dunnottar Castle, and of course a craft shop.*

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

2023

**The Annual Stated Meeting of the  
Congregation will take place at the  
Morning Service on Sunday 4 May 2025**



**Cruden Parish Church****STATEMENT OF BALANCES****Year ended 31 December 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds			Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
		2023 General	2023 Fab/Org 12 & 13	2023 Activities	Fund 2023 Burnett		
<b>Bank Balances</b>	Note						
Brought forward		56,608.97	21,437.97	6,080.65	610.46	84,738.05	81,871.00
Surplus for the year		5,206.62	-8,869.14	-457.36	-100.00	-4,219.88	2,867.00
Carried forward	Note 7	<b>£61,815.59</b>	<b>£12,568.83</b>	<b>£5,623.29</b>	<b>£510.46</b>	<b>£80,518.17</b>	<b>£84,738.00</b>
<b>Investments at market value</b>	Note						
(cost £ 8,352.20)	8	6,538.64	12,056.00	0.00	0.00	18,594.64	17,348.00
<b>Assets</b>							
Gift Aid Receivable		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,877.00
<b>Liabilities</b>							
		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

<b>2023 Activities Funds</b>					
<b>Income</b>	Flower	Junior Church	Guild	Messy Church	Totals
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
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Charitable activities	0.00	157.36	300.00	0.00	457.36
Other costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	157.36	300.00	0.00	457.36
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	0.00	-157.36	-300.00	0.00	-457.36
<b>Opening Balance</b>	33.09	4,267.13	611.12	1,169.31	6,080.65
<b>Closing Balance</b>	33.09	4,109.77	311.12	1,169.31	5,623.29

## YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD



*Thomas Baldwin traces the life of the minister who sowed the seeds of Christian Aid as the charity marks its 80th anniversary.*

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, requests for help for German people could receive short shrift from the allies.

That was certainly the case when the Rev Douglas Lister, a Church of Scotland minister serving as an Army chaplain in Lüneburg, north Germany, requested help for 80,000 refugees sheltering in desperate, freezing conditions nearby.

When the British army refused to help, Lister went to the war-weary British people, writing to churches across the country and they responded, sending blankets, food and other necessities.

From that initial appeal grew the Inter-church Aid and Refugee Service which later morphed into Christian Aid

As the charity celebrates and commemorates its 80th anniversary this year, Lister's story will be remembered at the two churches he served after leaving the military. St Andrew's Church, Inverurie, where he ministered from 1957 to 1967, and Largo Parish Church in Fife, where he stayed until retirement in 1988.

Stuart Watson was a teenager at Inverurie when Douglas arrived, and remembers a quiet man who never talked about his wartime experiences. "I liked him very much," he says. "He was great friends with my father and mother, and often came to visit and fitted in very well.

"He started the fundraising that renovated the church, which hadn't seen any renovations since the day it was built. And what he started is more or less the building you see today.

"He never talked about the war. He never preached about it. He was a really decent chap, a good minister and we were very sorry to lose him."

The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr is the locum minister at Largo. "All the older members remember him," he says. "He was a very well-liked minister.

"It would be fair to say that the memory of his connection with Christian Aid has faded but the anniversary has brought it back to the surface again. People are interested to learn, but also very proud of him and the Christian Aid connection.

"And locally it has helped people to lift their eyes, to lift their horizons, to see the wider world. That has been very important in my role as locum people have been a wee bit heads down, and worried about presbytery planning and all that



stuff, and being able to lift our eyes and see the difference that even a small congregation like Largo can make has lifted people's spirits.”

As part of the anniversary celebrations, churches are being invited to plant a tree to mark their support for Christian Aid (trees are available for free from the Woodland Trust, but with a minimum order of six).

It is also hoped that services will be held at both Largo and Inverurie in May, with a Faithshare partner to share the impact that Christian Aid's supporters have had.

“One of the things we are wanting to say is 'thank you' to everyone,” says Val Brown, head of Christian Aid Scotland. “When you look at what Christian Aid has been able to do over the last 80 years, and that it couldn't have been done without the support of churches, nationally and locally and the volunteers on the ground. You should be very proud -and it was Douglas Lister and the Scottish churches who were so instrumental in starting it.”

*Reprinted from an article in Life and Work February 2025*

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## **THE CRUDEN CRAFT GROUP**

Some of our members are busy knitting children's summer cardigans for The Buchan Giving Tree while others are busy on items for the Blythswood Christmas Boxes and Barnardo's teenagers in Aberdeenshire.

Although we have a full membership we find there is always somebody missing at our meetings therefore we feel we could accommodate one or two more if anyone is interested and can knit or crochet.

**Margaret Kidd**

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## **FRASERBURGH AND DISTRICT PARISH CHURCH**

As many of you will be aware, I have been acting as Interim Moderator at Fraserburgh and District Parish Church. This new grouping has experienced some significant changes including seven congregations becoming one, the closure of four church buildings plus all the associated financial and administrative work. If that were not enough, they have squeezed in a congregational day conference and are about to begin the search for the new ministry team.

Please remember the folks at Fraserburgh and District in your prayers, especially for God's guidance as look for the ministry team.

## PARISH REGISTER

### We remember the deaths of these church members

Mrs Sheila Low, Bayview Care Home, Cruden Bay

Mrs Joyce Nicolson, Wyndwell Care Home, Peterhead

Mr Jim Taylor, Auchtercrag Care Home, Ellon

Mrs Annabelle Gray, Serald Street, Cruden Bay

Mr Gordon Smith, 19 Rowan Terrace, Hatton

## CRUDEN CHURCH PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care team of Cruden Parish Church is set up to help and to listen in your time of need or maybe for just a friendly chat. If you would like a visit or 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. Please be assured that anything that is said between yourself and the pastoral care team is confidential.

Contact numbers for the Pastoral Care team:

**Rev Sean Swindells (0779 155976)**

**Maureen Esson (07949 792233)**

**Kathleen Craig (01779 841221)**

**Jean Campbell (07716 399011)**

**Robert Petticrew (07990 904000)**

## SHOE BOXES

Although there is a long time to go, thanks to everyone who is collecting up boxes and goods for this year's boxes.

**Rosemary**

## Communion serving Elders

**25th May**

Robert Esson,  
Maureen Esson,  
Irene Will and  
Joyce Willox.



# Happy Easter

## WELCOME

6 April	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox
13 April	Kate Clark	Maureen Esson
20 April	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
27 April	<b>Joint Service at St James'</b>	
11 May	Robert Petticrew	Peter Slamaker
18 May	Shona Taylor	Irene Will
25 May	Bob & Norma Forman	
1 June	Kevin & Janie Smith	
8 June	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox
15 June	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
22 June	Kate Clark	Maureen Esson
29 June	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid

## TEA DUTY

6 April	Maureen Esson	Irene Durno
13 April	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
20 April	Shona Taylor	June Morrison
27 April	<b>Joint Service at St James'</b>	
4 May	Kevin & Janie Smith	
11 May	Maureen Esson	Irene Durno
18 May	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
25 May	Shona Taylor	June Morrison
1 June	Bob & Norma Forman	
8 June	Kevin & Janie Smith	
15 June	Maureen Esson	Irene Durno
22 June	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
29 June	Shona Taylor	June Morrison

**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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