

The Bulletin

Autumn 2025



Cruden Parish Church

Dear Friends,

Back in April I enjoyed a memorable weekend away in London which included running the marathon. What makes the London Marathon so remarkable is the level of support and cheering. It is hard to put this into perspective. I have run marathons in Europe and the Middle East, but nothing compares with the incredible atmosphere generated by the crowds in London. It is as if the whole city resonated with positivity. (In 2025 there were around 57,000 participants and a supporting crowd estimated to be around 750,000!) It is no wonder that over a million people (including me) unsuccessfully applied for a place in next year's event.

At the time of writing, London was again in the news. Again, a large crowd of people had gathered around a common cause. But it was not to celebrate athletic achievement. It was to protest the high levels of illegal immigration. On Saturday 13th September, a crowd estimated to be between 100,000 and 150,000 marched through central London under the banner of 'Unite the Kingdom'. Carrying placards and banners which proclaimed 'Stop the boats' the crowd was generally good natured. By the afternoon the atmosphere turned hostile. Isolated violent scuffles broke out which saw twenty-five police officers injured, four seriously.

There is much that can be said here about illegal migration. There is a growing level of public disquiet. Successive governments appear to have failed to adequately address the issue. Perhaps the biggest concern is the mischievous personalities who are feeding off and manipulating the public's concern and frustration. One of the leading figures of the protest movement goes by the name of Tommy Robinson. His criminal record includes convictions for violence, financial, and immigration frauds, cocaine possession with intent to supply, and public order offences.

This is also a local issue. There have been protests outside migrant hotels in Westhill and Aberdeen, which have led to arrests. A few weeks ago, a Facebook post reported the arrival of a group at the former RAF base in Boddam. The arrival of the individuals under cover of darkness sparked local gossip and concern about illegal migrants. As usual the truth of the matter was a little more mundane. It was a group of Cadets from down south who arrived for their annual camp!

It is not possible in a pastoral letter to fully explore what is a complicated issue. But migration should concern us all. We should have a heartfelt and prayerful concern for the security and wellbeing of all genuine seekers of asylum. Many refugees come from places like Iran and Afghanistan. We can hardly imagine the repression and brutality they have suffered. In response, the Bible calls us repeatedly to welcome, love and care for the stranger, the foreigner and the sojourner. (Exodus 22, Leviticus 19, Leviticus 24, Deuteronomy 6, Deuteronomy 10, Psalm 105)

And there is a deeper concern here. Whose voice should be shaping public opinion? Is it people like Tommy Robinson, Elon Musk or the French far-right politician Eric Zemmour. Or should the church be shouting from the rooftops about the worth and dignity of those forced to flee from their homes? Of this I am certain. The need has never been greater for the voice of God's people to be heard.

Wishing you a joyful and colourful Autumn.

Rev Sean Swindells

PS Just signed up for my next marathon!

A prayer of gratitude at Harvest

*Faithful, loving God,
at harvest time I pause to remember your goodness.
Thank you for the wonderful things I have:
the beauty of your creation,
the kindness of others
and the hope you give me in every season of my life.
I'm grateful for moments of joy,
for the people who walk with me in life
and for your love.
Help me to hold onto that gratitude, even during hard times,
and to share that hope with other people.
Amen.*

WHAT'S ON AT CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH...



Every Sunday

10.00 am **Morning Service** followed by tea and coffee in the church hall.
Everybody welcome, especially visitors.

10.00 am Sunday 5th October - **Harvest Festival**

10.30 am Sunday 9th November – **Service of Remembrance**
followed by laying of wreaths at the Parish War Memorial and
Hatton War Memorial (12.00 noon.)

Every Friday

10.00am to 11.30am, **Foodshare Pantry** in the
Pavilion in Mill Park. Tea and Coffee always
available.



Saturday@The Kirk

10.00 am to 11.45 am, the last Saturday of the month.
Crafts, Lego, Games,
Tea and coffee and nice things to eat,
Friendship and Chat.

- Saturday 28th September – The Changing Seasons
- Saturday 25th October – Thinking about Autum & Remembrance
- Saturday 29th November – Preparing for Advent & Christmas

Christmas and Advent 2025

10.00 am - Every Sunday

30th November to 21st December Advent Worship

Saturday 20th December

2.00-4.00 pm Christmas Café & Carols

at St James' the Less Episcopal Church

Sunday 21st December—6.00 pm, Carols & Christingles

Wednesday 24th December – 11.30 pm, Watchnight Service

Thursday 25th December – 9.30 am

Joint Christmas Day Service at St James the Less Episcopal Church

Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group meets fortnightly on Monday evenings from 7.00 pm to 8.30pm.

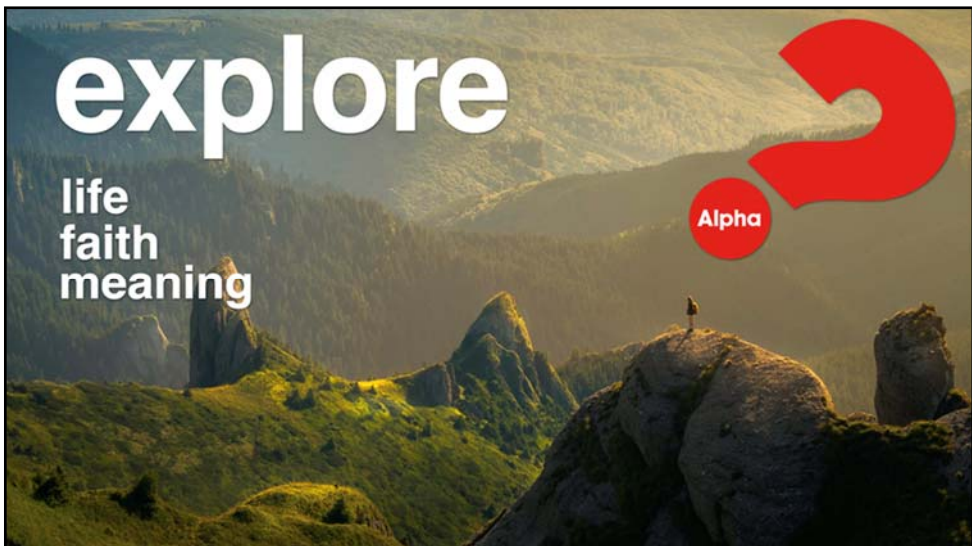
The group provides an opportunity to explore faith related issues, Bible Study and prayer. Everybody welcome.

For more details, contact Sean (07791 755976)



Coming in 2026.....

The Alpha Course – more details after Christmas!



CHECKLIST

Please tick the items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid. Include the essential items highlighted in the orange box. **Important: please only include new items.**

ESSENTIALS

☐ Toothbrush & toothpaste ☐ Toy*/gift

☐ Bar of soap

*Small toy for children such as cars, dolls, balls, etc. Please only include new shop-bought toys.

☐ Underwear

☐ Sweets

☐ Socks/tights

No chocolate, split multipacks, or any other food items. No loose sweets, lollies, or undated bags of sweets. Best before date no earlier than 31st March next year.

☐ Scarf, hat, gloves

Do not include used or damaged items: war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; mouthwash; seeds; 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 not be included.

TOILETRIES (NO TALCUM POWDER) MAXIMUM SIZE OF BOTTLES 200ML

- ☐ Shampoo or shower gel
- ☐ Face cloth/moist wipes
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Moisturising cream
- ☐ Comb/brush
- ☐ Sanitary products
- ☐ Shaving foam/razors

MISCELLANEOUS

- ☐ New make-up
- ☐ Sewing equipment
- ☐ Household candles
- ☐ Screwdrivers/pliers

STATIONERY

- ☐ Pens/pencils/sharpener
- ☐ Notepads/labelling books
- ☐ Rulers/rubbers

CLOTHES AND OTHER ITEMS

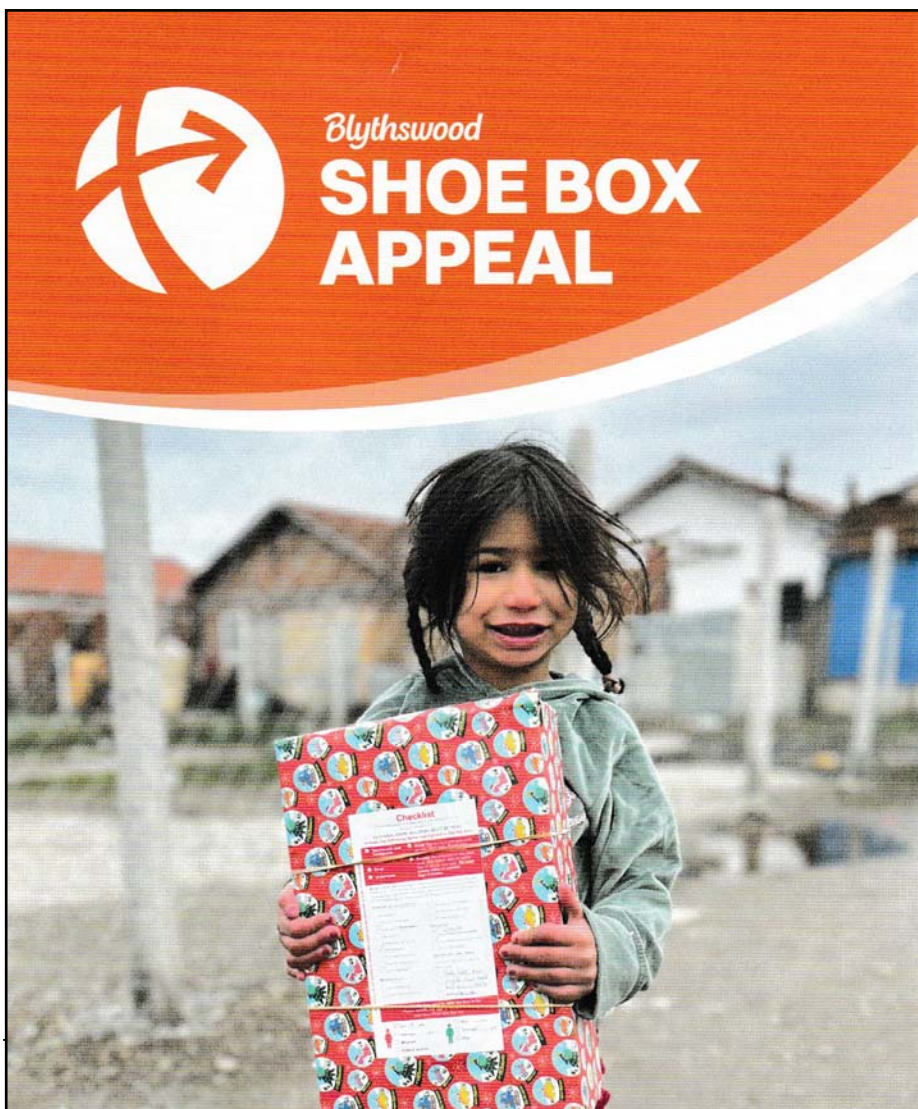
WE CANNOT ACCEPT BABY BOXES, OR NEW KNITTED GOODS APART FROM HATS, SCARVES AND GLOVES

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

SELECT YOUR SHOEBOX RECIPIENT

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boy (teen) | AGE <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boy (8-12) | AGE <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boy (3-7) | AGE <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly woman | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girl (teen) | AGE <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girl (8-12) | AGE <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Girl (3-7) | AGE <input type="text"/> |

Tear along the perforation to detach this panel and secure to the outside of your shoebox



SHOE BOX APPEAL

At the time of writing I have 29 complete boxes and many more with hats, scarfs and gloves thanks to the craft group and others. What boxes need now are the other items on the essentials list please. Please hand in boxes and items to me or the church by 26th October.

Contact details: Rosemary 11 Manse Road Hatton 07932373411



‘Maasai girls are sold to an old man for cattle exchange. They have no choice so they become his property and can’t make any decisions for themselves.’ – 14 year old Elinami

1 in 3 young girls, like Elinami, are married before they turn 18.

In Indepesi, Tanzania, young girls have their education, future, and basic human rights traded away for a few cows. Their voices aren’t heard; their hopes are shattered.

‘Many Maasai girls my age are married, and some have children too.’ – Elinami

Child marriage is, unfortunately, a common occurrence for the Maasai in remote Tanzania. It greatly increases the risk of violence, abuse, ill health, and early death for young girls.

Girls as young as 11 can be married off, becoming the man’s property.

For Elinami, school is protection. It’s the reason she can dream of a life she wants, and not one that’s forced on her.

‘I’m grateful that I can go to school. School can save me and give me a better life.’

Elinami

MAF has partnered with Help For The Maasai (HFTM) – an organisation that runs the primary school, secondary school, medical centre, and orphanage in the remote area of Malambo, Tanzania – to deliver school supplies and medical check-up kits for every child.

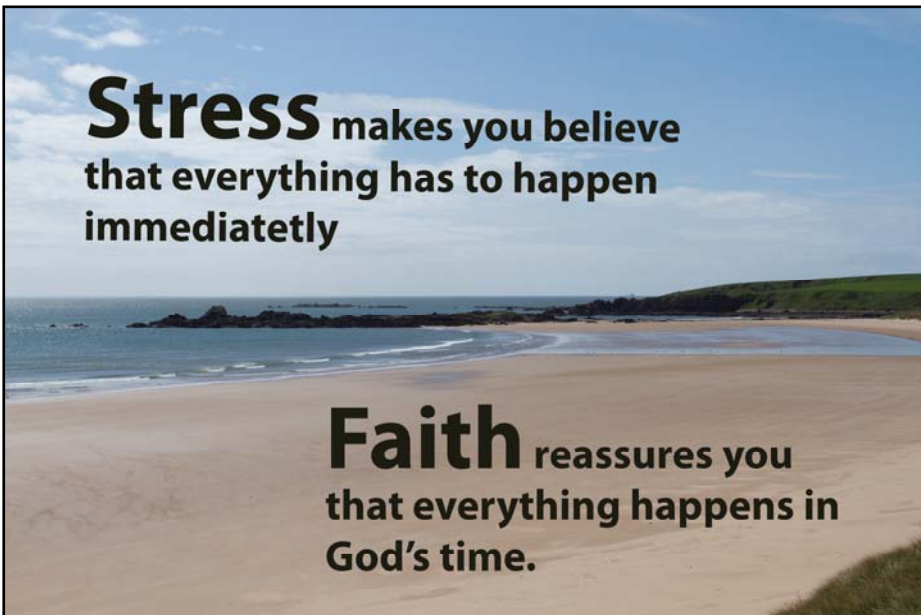
MAF flights are the only way to get these essential supplies to them quickly and safely.

When the students at Naserian English Medium Primary School and Naserian Secondary School go home at the end of the semester, many will deteriorate rapidly in health due to homes not having the supplies, food, and clean water that the schools have.

That's why the back-to-school medical check-ups run by HFTM are so important.

These check-ups can include malaria tests, minor medical treatments (burns, small wounds, or skin diseases), short term treatments (worms, UTI, or infections), a supply of vitamins, and extra nutritious food for eight weeks.

MAF are currently running a campaign to support Maasai girls education in Tanzania. If anyone wishes to make a donation they can return it to the church or visit www.maf-uk.org



PARISH REGISTER

We remember the deaths of these church members

Elsie Walsh, Crimond Care Home, Crimond

William Milne, 3 Woodside Crescent, Mintlaw

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)

COMMUNION SERVING ELDERS

**Sunday 30th
November**

Robert Esson

Shonah Taylor

Rosemary Pittendrigh

Kate Clark

*Do this in
remembrance of me.*



WELCOME

5 October	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
12 October	Kevin & Janie Smith	
19 October	Kate Clark	Maureen Esson
26 October	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox
2 November	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
9 November	Ken Bruce	Adelaide Duncan
16 November	Robert Petticrew	Peter Slamaker
23 November	Jim MacDonald	Betty Forrester
30 November	Shona Taylor	Irene Will
7 Dcmber	Kate Clark	Maureen Esson
14 Decembe	Bob & Norma Forman	
21 December	Kevin & Janie Smith	
28 December	Kathleen Craig	Joyce Willox

TEA DUTY

5 October	Kevin & Janie Smith	
12 October	Maureen Esson	Irene Durno
19 October	Shona Taylor	June Morrison
26 October	Bob & Norma Forman	
2 November	Kevin & Janie Smith	
9 November	NO TEAS	
16 November	Maureen Esson	Irene Durno
23 November	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
30 November	Shona Taylor	June Morrison
7 December	Bob & Norma Forman	
14 December	Kevin & Janie Smith	
21 December	Maureen Esson	Irene Durno
28 December	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid

Minister: Rev Sean Swindells
SSwindells@churchofscotland.org.uk
Mobile: **07791 755976**

Session Clerk	Robert Esson	
Treasurer	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Contact Elders	Betty Forrester	Hatton
	Joyce Willox	Hatton
	Robert Petticrew	Rural
	Robert Esson	Peterhead
	Maureen Esson	Cruden Bay
	Kate Clark	Cruden Bay
	Kathleen Craig	Cruden Bay
Gift Aid Treasurer	Maureen Esson	
Bulletin	Fred Coutts	
	bulletin@crudenchurch.org.uk	
Christian Aid	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Cleaning	Rosemary Pittendrigh	
Communion	Joyce Willox	
Flowers	Betty Forrester	
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
WFO Treasurer	Joyce Willox	

Committee Conveners

Education & Worship	Katherine Hyman
Finance	Rosemary Pittendrigh
Membership and Outreach	Kathleen Craig
Property	Peter Slamaker
Social	Betty Forrester
