The Bulletin

Spring 2026



CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH

Dear Friends

Recently I came across a rather curious book: A field guide to the English Clergy. The book is a collection of stories about eccentric reverends, some of whom must have been bordering on insanity! These include a story from the early nineteenth century about the notorious Rev Dr Edward Drax Free who besieged by his Bishop, barricaded himself in his rectory with a brace of pistols and his favourite maid. His other misdemeanours include stripping all the lead off the church roof and selling it, and 'quarrelling with all and sundry, whether sober or drunk.'

My favourite religious eccentric is the Rev Robert Haker of Morwenstow. Cornwall. He was the instigator of what has become one of the most treasured church traditions – harvest festival. But there was another side to his character. As a young man he used to dress up as a mermaid. To live out his vocation, he fashioned a wig out of seaweed and wrapped an oilskin around his legs. Rowing a boat out of Bude Harbour, he sat upon a rock and would start singing a mermaid's lament. Whilst a crowd would regularly gather to watch his antics, his performances ended after a local farmer threatened the would-be aquatic damsel with a shotgun. He responded to the threat by singing the national anthem and swimming back into the harbour.

So, what has this foolishness to do with Easter? In 1 Corinthians 1:25 the Apostle Paul uses the phrase 'foolishness' to the Greeks. The point he is making is that the message of the Gospel challenges all our assumptions and expectations. In the original historical context, the ancient Greeks valued philosophical reason and wisdom. To them, the message of a crucified and risen messiah must have sounded absurd and ridiculous. And yet this is the message of Easter. That God sent Jesus into the word to suffer and die and rise to new life. Paul concludes: Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

There is nothing wrong with wisdom and learning and common sense! These are valuable things. But our faith is rooted is something much deeper - the wisdom and power of God.

Wishing you a joyful Easter!

Rev Sean Swindells

WHAT'S ON AT CRUDEN PARISH CHURCH

THE ANNUAL STATED MEETING

of the Congregation will take place at the Morning Service on Sunday 10th May 2026

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group meets fortnightly on Monday evenings from 7.30 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)

ECUMENICAL SERVICES

During Holy Week we will be visiting St James' The Less for their Maundy Thursday service at 2.00pm.

This will be followed by members of St James' joining us for the Good Friday service at 7.00pm.

As part of their Patronal Celebrations this year we have been invited to St James' on Sunday 26th April for their service at 10.00am

In addition, St James' have accepted an invitation to join us for the Celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 31st May

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Holy Week - online reflection for each day of Holy Week via the Church Facebook page.

Saturday 28th March - 10.00 to 11.30 am, Coffee Morning with Hot Cross Buns & Easter themed crafts for all ages at Cruden Church Hall.

Sunday 29th March - 10.00 am Palm Sunday Service with the distribution of Palm Crosses at Cruden Parish Church

Thursday 2nd April - 2.00 pm United Maundy Thursday Celebration of the Eucharist at St James the Less Church

Friday 3rd April - 7.00 pm, United Good Friday Service at Cruden Parish Church

Sunday 5th April - 10.00 am Easter Sunday Service of Celebration at Cruden Parish Church

Coming Soon:

2026 we celebrate the 250 years since the church was built. We have 2 events planned so far:

19th and 20th September 2026

We plan to take part in this year's Aberdeenshire Doors Open days. That weekend we will be holding a flower festival, at which we would like to exhibit photographs of events held in the church over the years as well as any church memorabilia.

If you could contact Katherine, she will scan any photos and return them to you. We would also like to preserve memories you have of your experiences of the church and would like any stories or reminiscences either jotted down or we can come and record them for you.

1st November 2026

The first service in the newly constructed church took place on the first Sunday in November 1776. It is proposed to hold a special service on 1st November to mark the occasion, this will be followed by a buffet lunch.

It is accepted that for things to happen we will require a significant number of volunteers, a few have already offered to help in whatever way they can. If we all pull together, we can make the year a success and raise the profile of the church in the community.



By Jim MacDonald, an impression of what the 1776 building may have looked like before the additions of the towers and the extension for the organ.

THE PLACE OF CHILDREN IN CHURCH

It really doesn't matter age, clothing, profession or status everyone is welcome to come to church and share in the fellowship ❤️

- Bring them to church.
- Even if they're colouring on the bulletin.
- Even if they're whispering too loud.
- Even if they're laid out across your lap, fully asleep before the sermon hits the second point.
- Bring them anyway.
- Faith isn't built in perfect silence.
- It's built in repetition. In rhythm. In showing up.
- Let them see hands raised.
- Let them hear worship.
- Let them be surrounded by people who love Jesus and aren't ashamed of it.
- They don't have to "get it" today.
- Seeds don't sprout the same day they're planted.
- One day they'll remember the songs.
- The prayers.
- The feeling.
- So bring them.

Messy, wiggly, tired… and all.

A message from our Congregational Treasurer

Dear Friends

As we look ahead to the coming year and the work God continues to call us to, we invite each member of our church family to take a moment to prayerfully review their annual giving. Your generosity sustains the ministry and mission of our church, supports our outreach, and helps us care for one another and our community.

We are deeply grateful for every gift, large or small which helps keep our church family thriving and supports the work we do together. If you are able, please consider whether your current giving still feels right for you this year. Together, we can continue to grow, serve, and make a meaningful difference.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your love for this congregation.

Rosemary Pittendrigh

Congregational Treasurer

Cruden Parish Church **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds			Endowment Fund	Total	Total
		2025 General	2025 Fabric/Organ	2025 Activities	2025 Burnett	2025	2024
Receipts	Note		12 & 13	(see over)			
Donations	4	42,299.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	42,299.51	36,029.38
Legacies		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funds Generation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.60
Interest		248.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	248.96	202.90
Investment income		67.79	660.00	0.00	0.00	727.79	687.00
Manse Solar Panels		599.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	599.60	891.74
Weddings & Funerals		250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	467.00
Grant and Loan		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Receipts		285.00	540.00	0.00	0.00	825.00	0.00
Total Receipts		43,750.86	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	44,950.86	38,578.62
	Note						
Payments	5						
Costs of generating funds		264.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	264.26	264.26
Charitable activities		51,449.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,449.80	57,331.93
Loan Repayment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payments		51,714.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,714.06	57,596.19
Deficit for the year before transfers		-7,963.20	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	-6,763.20	-19,017.57
Transfers		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deficit for the year		**-£7,963.20**	**£1,200.00**	**£0.00**	**£0.00**	**-£6,763.20**	**-£19,017.57**

Cruden Parish Church **STATEMENT OF BALANCES**

Year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 General	2025 Fab/Org 12 & 13	2025 Activities	Endowment Fund 2025 Burnett	Total 2025	Total 2024
Bank Balances							
Brought forward		55,115.89	251.26	5,199.97	510.46	61,077.58	80,518.17
Surplus for the year		-7,963.20	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	-6,763.20	-19,440.59
Carried forward	Note 7	**£47,152.69**	**£1,451.26**	**£5,199.97**	**£510.46**	**£54,314.38**	**£61,077.58**
Investments at market value (cost £ 8,352.20)	Note 8	7,698.68	12,529.00	0.00	0.00	20,227.68	19,786.52
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

Signed for and on behalf of the Kirk Session

Robert M Esson **Session Clerk**

Rosemary Pittendrigh **Treasurer**

2025 Activities Funds

Income	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
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Surplus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Opening Balance	33.09	3,997.57	0.00	1,169.31	5,199.97
Closing Balance	33.09	3,997.57	0.00	1,169.31	5,199.97

CONNECTING ISOLATED PEOPLE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD

We live in a world where news travels instantly due to modern technology, yet millions of people remain isolated from the outside world just because of where they live. As if that was not enough, they also have little or no access to all the things which we take for granted in our daily lives.

In South Sudan it is estimated that 65% of the population cannot read or write. In an attempt to help these people Mission Aviation Fellowship has been partnering with a charity named Every Village to provide people with solar powered radios, to date over 170,000 radios have been distributed giving millions of people in the most isolated parts of the country increased access to what is happening in their communities and around the world.

Programming is a mix of health, education, social, agricultural, music, sport and Gospel content. South Sudan's most isolated villages now have access to life-changing information and God's Word in their mother tongue, which is transforming lives.



Due to solar energy, the radios don't need normal batteries and can be used where there is no electricity – ideal for South Sudan, which has little infrastructure in remote areas. Demand is high – they disappear fast after MAF planes land!

Until literacy rates improve in South Sudan, radios – delivered by MAF – are helping to bridge the gap. For more information on the work of Mission Aviation fellowship visit www.maf-uk.org. *(credit: Jenny Davies)*



Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2026

HELP FUND AID TODAY HELP FUEL HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Funding Crisis Appeal – Aid cuts have intensified the pain of living in poverty. Can Cruden offer support?

Huge cuts in international aid funding have reduced the level of assistance that's offered to communities living a state of crisis. Plus, the rising cost of living in the UK, and worldwide, means organisations like Christian Aid have seen their donations stretched further than ever to meet the intensifying demand. For people seeking refuge and peace from conflict, your support is crucial. **A compassionate gift from Cruden will help to respond to the ongoing crisis in South Sudan and beyond.** Donations could help offer emergency cash assistance to those fighting to meet their family's most pressing needs, and longing to start building a better future. In places where public services are overstretched, resources limited, and poverty widespread, the arrival of thousands displaced people deepens the daily challenge of just living. **Amid the humanitarian crisis, emergency cash grants are one of the most effective ways to support people.** Emergency cash means people can prioritise their individual needs and decide for themselves how to meet them. Buying food and medicine is often the very first priority. People also invest in getting a small business going. Often buying wholesale goods that can be sold to generate further income. An investment many parents make is in their children – paying school fees so their education can resume. For some the most immediate benefit of an emergency grant is being able to buy food for their hungry family.

In times of crisis, donations from churches help Christian Aid to respond where the need is greatest. **This work must not stop.**

PARISH REGISTER

We remember the deaths of these church members:

Douglas Burnett; 38 Longside Road, Mintlaw
Alister Smith; East Sandend, Cruden Bay
Margaret Jamieson; Bayview Care Home, Cruden Bay
Anne McNaughton; Bayview Care Home, Cruden Bay
Margaret Bruce; 20 Morrison Place, Cruden Bay
Jean Knox; Grangepark Nursing Home, Peterhead
Lorraine Buchan; 3 Quarry Road, Hatton

We welcome our new member:

Barry Reaper; 7 Westeria Gardens, Cruden Bay

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	(07791 755976)
Maureen Esson	(07949 792233)
Kathleen Craig	(01779 841221)
Jean Campbell	(07716 399011)
Robert Petticrew	(07990 904000)

COMMUNION SERVING ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA (March to June 2026)				
29 March 2026	Katherine Hyman	Shonah Taylor	Peter Slamaker	Maureen Esson
31st May 2026	Robert Esson	Joyce Willox	Rosemary Pittendrigh	Jim MacDonald

Welcome Duty			
22 March 2026	Shonah Taylor		Irene Will
29 March 2026	Bob & Norma Forman		
05 April 2026	Barrie & Helen Harper		
12 April 2026	Kevin & Janie Smith		
19 April 2026	Kathleen Craig		Joyce Willox
26 April 2026	Kate Clark		Maureen Esson
03 May 2026	Kathleen Craig		Joyce Willox
10 May 2026	Jim MacDonald		Betty Forrester
17 May 2026	Bob & Norma Forman		
24 May 2026	Barrie & Helen Harper		
31 May 2026	Margaret Adams		Rosemary Reid
07 June 2026	Robert Petticrew		Peter Slamaker
14 June 2026	Shonah Taylor		Irene Will
21 June 2026	Kevin & Janie Smith		
28 June 2026	Kathleen Craig		Joyce Willox

TEA ROTA		
22 March 2026	Bob & Norma Forman	
29 March 2026	Kevin & Janie Smith	
05 April 2026	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
12 April 2026	Shonah Taylor	June Morrison
19 April 2026	Maureen Esson	Iris Durno
26 April 2026	Bob & Norma Forman	
03 May 2026	Kevin & Janie Smith	
10 May 2026	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
17 May 2026	Shonah Taylor	June Morrison
24 May 2026	Maureen Esson	Iris Durno
31 May 2026	Bob & Norma Forman	
07 June 2026	Kevin & Janie Smith	
14 June 2026	Margaret Adams	Rosemary Reid
21 June 2026	Shonah Taylor	June Morrison
28 June 2026	Maureen Esson	Iris Durno