



# MID DEESIDE CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



# INTERIM MODERATOR'S LETTER

Hi there,

**"Let me tell you what you should have done"**

**"Let me tell you a story"**



I wonder which of these statements you would rather hear?

I know I react badly to the first, and I love to hear the second. I believe that is no accident. I believe it's the way I was made. I believe in a God of stories, and the power of story. Tell me that I need to behave and I want to ask Why? Tell me a story about who I am, and I am inspired to live up to that.

I hope it's obvious that my passion like those who are part of Mid Deeside, is for wrestling with the stories in scripture, and I keep finding that those writers seem more concerned with helping people understand who they are, than making them behave in certain ways, or getting them into some Holy club. The overriding idea that God seems determined to get across is that every single one of us was made to be part of what God is doing, and invited to be part of what God is doing. Most surprisingly of all, nothing in our past needs to get in the way. God doesn't see our mistakes and our messes as the things that define us. Instead he sees our potential. He has dealt with our mistakes (the bible is packed full of people making mistakes!) and seems determined to remind us of who we were made to be, who we are invited to be.

In our time of vacancy there is much looking back, and looking forward, but be encouraged. Your Kirk Session is in good heart and God is a work here as he always has. I hope you find this magazine full of good news stories. I hope you find yourself in these stories, and are reminded of who God made you to be, and what you are invited to be part of.

Grace and peace

**Tony Stephen**

Your Interim Moderator

## VACANCY NEWS

Since the last update on the vacancy in the August edition of this Newsletter, we have continued to advertise our vacancy. We advertised in the Church of Scotland “Life and Work” magazine in May and have continued to repeat that advert since then. It has also now been placed in the Presbyterian Herald, which is the official magazine of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. It has been placed in the United Reformed magazine which is published by the United Reformed Church, but has readers from all Christian denominations, and placed in the Chronicle magazine, which is produced and distributed by the churches in the Westhill area.

We are also investigating the possibility of promoting our vacancy with a London based organisation called Rural Ministries, who specialise in recruiting ministers who would like to serve in rural areas. Although predominantly serving England there is no reason why we may not find a minister who would like to come to Scotland.

As well as advertising as I have just described, we have also written personal letters to a number of serving ministers, inviting them to consider our vacancy.

So far, sadly, we have had no positive response to our efforts. However we realise that there are 133 vacant charges in the CoS and only a handful of newly ordained or probationary ministers to fill these vacancies.

In the course of our activities we have become aware that there are some parishes in the CoS who have serving ministers who joined from overseas. We know of at least one country which has more ministers than vacancies to fill. Therefore, if we continue to be unsuccessful in our efforts here, then this is an avenue we may consider pursuing in the future.

Going forward, we will continue to use all reasonable available means of advertising our vacancy, but there is one means of advertising, that we have not used to its full advantage, and that is “word of mouth”.

So, what the Nominating Committee would like to do, is to ask each and every one of you to reach out and spread the word of our vacancy. If you have relatives, friends or acquaintances around the area, or anywhere else in the country, whether they are church going people or not, can we ask you to make them aware of our vacancy and ask them in turn to make their friends and relatives aware. If they know, or hear of, any minister they think might be ready to answer a new call please ask them to let us know.

**David Cockburn** Nominating Committee Convener

## MID DEESIDE GUILD NEWS

At our meeting on 13 December, Aileen Glennie showed us, under her expert tuition, how to make Christmas cards. At this meeting, we were joined by three young people, Emily, Erin and Harris, and their Mums, as part of the Year of Young People, which the Guild is proud to support. We all had great fun and are proud of our efforts!



We are going to see Mother Goose, the Panto at Lumphanan in early December instead of our usual monthly meeting and are looking forward to another fun evening!

Looking forward to 2019.....

- Tues 8 January Kilt Making presented by Michelle Garrett
- Sat 26 January Project Afternoon Tea 2-4pm in Lochnagar Room
- Tues 12 February Guild visit to Annesley House at 2.30pm  
Entertainment by the Lodgers
- Tues 12 February Evening meeting - Crossreach "Join up the Dots"  
Speaker Mrs Sheila Robertson
- Tues 12 March Christians against Poverty  
presented by Pauline Rowett
- Tues 9 April Early evening Buffet Meal followed by A.G.M.
- Sat 20 April Easter Coffee Morning and Sales Table  
at 10-12noon in Lochnagar Room.

We are a friendly Guild and would love to see new members, or anyone who is curious to see what the Guild is all about. Come along and join us anytime.....we meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. We also do lovely teas and coffees with home baking, as fundraisers.....see 26 January and 20 April in the programme above!

Any questions, get in touch with the Guild Contact Person:-  
*Dorothy Keir* ☎ 82179.



## MANSE SALE UPDATE

The Manse in Auchmacoy Road is now up for sale and has already had a number of viewings. If you are looking for a new home in Torphins and would like to see what the manse has to offer you can find the Manse details on the ASPC web site at this address:-

[www.aspc.co.uk/search/property/371804/Mid-Deeside-Manse--Auchmacoy-Road/Banchory/](http://www.aspc.co.uk/search/property/371804/Mid-Deeside-Manse--Auchmacoy-Road/Banchory/)



## PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is an important part of our Christian fellowship. As a team, together with our elders we want to be there to support you in your hour of need. We simply offer a moment of companionship, a compassionate ear, or a shared prayer. We rely on you to let us know of anyone in our community we can offer support to in this way whether it be through illness, bereavement or simply a moment where a small hand of companionship might help.

Please do let us know if we can help, call or speak to:-

**Karen** ☎ 82711 or **Pam** ☎ 82722

## ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON KIT?

Our regular Keep in Touch email bulletin, or **KIT** as it is has become known, is issued every two weeks and aims to keep our church family up to speed with church news in between issues of the church newsletter.

A number of KIT readers have recently let me know that they appear to no longer receive KIT, or that they have found it in their spam folder.

KIT is normally issued every second Sunday evening, so if you are on the circulation list and haven't been receiving it, then something has gone amiss.

So please check you spam folder. If you find it there you can retrieve it by marking it as "not spam".

If you are not getting KIT and it is not in your spam please contact me to let me know you have not got it so that I can resend.

If you do receive KIT but find it is not relevant to you or, for any reason, you no longer wish to subscribe, again please let me know and I will take you off the circulation list.

**Lesley Stone** Communications Team Co-ordinator

☎ 013398 84354 e-mail [lesley.stone90@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.stone90@gmail.com)

## PRAYER

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:5-7)

Prayer is such a key aspect of church life, and it is with thanks that I welcome this opportunity to update you on the prayer activity with Mid Deeside Church.

The prayer group continues to meet every Sunday at 10:15am to pray through the activities planned, challenges we are facing and personal requests submitted by the congregation. We have introduced a new prayer request slip and would encourage everyone to use this .

I SOUGHT THE LORD AND HE ANSWERED ME  
AND DELIVERED ME FROM ALL MY FEARS. *Psalm 34:4 NIV*

PLEASE PRAY FOR -

DATE -

It would be great to have more people at the prayer meeting and anyone who would like to attend the meeting it takes place in the Vestry and you don't have to pray out loud or read, just your presence would be a blessing.

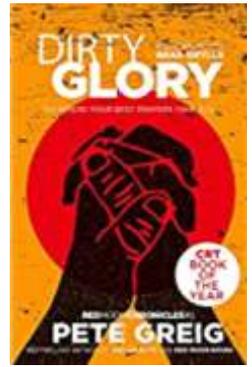
In recent services, those leading have been encouraged to involve other members of the congregation in our prayers. If anyone has not been asked but would really like the opportunity then just speak to myself and I will progress it from there. You don't have to be a "Professional Prayer" to do this and please take heart and confidence from the little poem on page 7.

"We can do all this through him who gives me strength".

I would also like to recommend a great book that I have recently read that has really influenced my prayer life and prayer activities.

The book is called **“Dirty Glory”** and written by **Pete Greig**

The book gives you a glimpse into the life of a world wide organisation called 24/7 Prayer and rather than try and give you an overview myself I have included some of the authors comments below.



*“We are qualified for Christian service by our praying not our preaching, by our desire to worship him and not our workload on his behalf, by knowing Jesus personally and not just by knowing a lot of interesting things about him. If you lose God's presence you lose everything, but if you know his presence you already have everything you will ever need.” Pete Grieg*

*“We were 'still sinners' when Jesus looked at us and loved us and deemed us worth trading his life for our own. He arrived at the door, long before we'd fixed our hair or fixed our teeth, before we could put on a suit or put out our cigar, before we'd kicked the drugs or dried the tears. Jesus showed up before we had done anything at all to heal ourselves or save ourselves or make ourselves more deserving, when we were still just an unholy seething mess.” Pete Grieg*

As this is the Christmas issue of the newsletter let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very **Merry Christmas** and may the **New Year** provide us all with opportunities to walk in faith with Jesus.

*Ian Garrett on behalf of your Church Prayer Team*

## BANCHORY FOODBANK

Donations of **tinned and dried foodstuffs** can be brought to **Mid Deeside Church** and left in the box in the Foyer.

One of our elders will take the items over to the **Foodbank at Banchory.**



# The Prayer of Cyrus Brown

By Sam Walter Foss (1858-1911)

"THE PROPER way for a man to pray,"

Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,"

And the only proper attitude,

Is down upon his knees."

"No, I should say the way to pray,"

Said Reverend Doctor Wise,

"Is standing straight, with outstretched arms,

And rapt and upturned eyes."

"Oh no; no, no," said Elder Slow,

"Such posture is too proud:

A man should pray with eyes fast closed

And head contritely bowed."

"It seems to me his hands should be

Austerely clasped in front,

With both thumbs pointing toward the ground,"

Said Reverend Doctor Blunt.

"Las' year I fell in Hodgkin's well

Head first," said Cyrus Brown,

"With both my heels a-stickin' up,

My head a-p'inting down;

"An' I made a prayer right then an' there—

Best prayer I ever said,

The prayingest prayer I ever prayed,

A-standing on my head."

## MID DEESIDE NEWSLETTER

The next edition will be early March, 2019.

Letters, articles, photos etc should be sent to:-

Anne Hilton "Bon-Accord", 19 Craigour Road, Torphins AB31 4HE



82130 or e-mail to [Cha4DTP@aol.com](mailto:Cha4DTP@aol.com)

## TRAIDCRAFT

We would like to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent **Coffee and Buttery Morning**. We were so pleased to have so many happy customers browsing the cards and gifts on the **Traidcraft stall** and above all enjoying time with others to sit and chat over coffee. There was a lovely buzz about the Lochnagar room and we even had to put some extra tables in the foyer! **The butteries and other food was purchased from Scotmid who very kindly gave a voucher to support the event.** There was a great team of helpers on the door, serving tables, washing up and helping on the stall and their help is as always very much appreciated. Overall there was **£323** raised between the door and raffle and the sale of goods was **£771.60** which was fantastic.

Recently we have been hearing about the financial problems being faced by **Traidcraft** and the uncertain future ahead and we are pleased that they are working through a recovery plan and hope to continue operating albeit in a smaller scale. However we are also saddened that many of the employees will lose their jobs and that the **Traidcraft Organisation** will have to work with fewer producers than previously. The money raised from the coffee and buttery morning will be going to help support those producers and we hope to have more information in the new year about what the new **Traidcraft Organisation** will look like and how we can continue to support small **Fairtrade** producers through **Traidcraft**.

**Ann McGregor** on behalf of the Traidcraft team.



### Were you there with us on Remembrance Sunday?

If you were one of the many who joined us on **11<sup>th</sup> November** for our **service of Remembrance**, this is directed very affectionately at you.

It was such a joy to see you all and so we hope that some Sunday in the future you will feel inclined to come again.

Peace between nations and factions is still a long way off but we can offer peace in the heart- '**the peace of God which passes all understanding**'.

Jesus said, '**Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest**'.

Each Sunday we hear what God is telling us in His word, the Bible and we express our thanks and ask for wisdom and forgiveness through prayer.

We would be delighted to welcome you any time you are able to join us.



## MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

### PRAISE BAND

The praise band meet every Wednesday for rehearsal from 6.30 – 7.30pm in the church. The band consists of various instruments and as one of our players has just changed from playing a baritone to a tuba, she will play a bass part with us instead of an inner harmony part. We look forward to working this change into our music. The band have built up a range of hymns in our repertoire and try to take part in as many services as we can. The availability of players on a Sunday determines how often we are able to do that. We have just started rehearsing carols for Christmas services and intend to play for some of the services at that time.

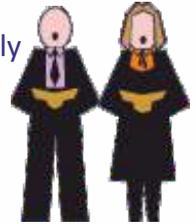


If you play an instrument, or sing, you are very welcome to come and join us.

**Come along on a Wednesday and give it a try.**

### CHOIR

Every week, the choir leads the singing for the service and regularly learn new hymns as required. In addition to this, we enjoy the challenge of learning pieces in harmony. Sometimes these are for special events in the Christian calendar, but we also work on pieces for other services as well. We are currently working on two new carols for Christmas and look forward to singing them for you next month. New members are always welcome to come along and join us.



**Isobel** 📞 **83763**

One of our choir members found this poem in the Church of Scotland website which we thought we would share with you:

### **TAE SING LIKE A LINTIE by Bill Macmillan**

Whit mair i the wârld cuid a body desire

Than tae sing like a lintie an be in a choir?

Be it tenor or bass, contralto, soprana

Harmonics for aa soondin hosanna

Nae maitter the sang bummed oot in accord

As lang as the note Is praisin the Lord

Sae haud tae yer praise chant oot the line

Introit an anthem sweeter than wine

Ring true, than, the vocals sherpen the voice

Tap notes an law yins 'Let the people rejoice!'

Whit mair i the wârld cuid a body desire

Than tae sing like a lintie an be in a choir?



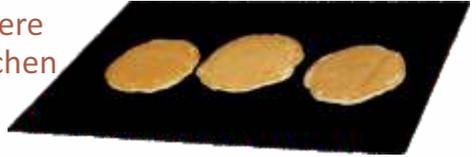
## CHURCH ORGAN

### HOW MUCH DO YOU MISS THE BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS OF OUR PIPE ORGAN?

Even after the generous donation from our charity shop, and an anonymous bequest, we are still about **£10,000 short** of what we need, to repair the organ.

Since the last newsletter, a fundraising team has been set up with the aim of organising events to raise funds for the repairs to the church organ.

We have organised a pancake tea where pancakes are freshly baked in the kitchen and served 'hot off the girdle' along with tea and coffee. This event will already have taken place by the time you receive this, but we hope you came along to support us and enjoyed the afternoon.



There are other events being discussed and will take place next year. Look out for local posters, intimations in the church and KIT for details of these nearer the time.

If you are particularly fond of organ music, and you have the means to make Isobel happy in playing it again, please consider sending a donation to:-

Bob Auckland, Mid Deeside Church,  
St Marnan Road, Torphins AB31 4JQ

***Cheques payable to  
Mid Deeside Church Organ Fund***

***Alan Bainbridge on behalf of the team***

Isobel Robertson (organist and musical director)  
Isabel Wilson and Jayne Clarke



A married couple were arguing who should make the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in **HEBREWS!**"



## YOUTH MINISTRY in MID DEESIDE CHURCH

What a glorious summer we were blessed with! We hope you all enjoyed the opportunity to get outside in the garden, the play parks, the walking paths or had a visit to one of our many beauty spots.

Over the summer we at **Rocking Stones (RS)** studied **Genesis** and the **story of creation**. For each of the days God created we used that number shape to draw the beginnings of the earth and all that is in it. It was a fun and engaging way to learn some of the foundational points in Genesis.

### HERE IS OUR CREATION CLOUD

### YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018

As you know in June of this year, as part of the **YOYP**, we registered with Scripture Union **“Pray for Schools Scotland”**. Scripture Union offer lots of opportunities for young people to explore and grow their faith and to meet other young people.

During the holidays one of our RS members spent a week at a SU camp and had a wonderful enriching time meeting new people and studying the book of Kings. SU run camps regularly and so if you are looking for a worthwhile activity for your children to take part in take a look at their web site and see what they have to offer.

Our garden is coming along well with our trees now protected from nibbling deer! We have acquired a sculpture, of sorts, that we plan to refurbish and put in the garden. This is in the early planning stages and we will keep you up to date with future communications.

### MESSY CHURCH

**Julie Quantrill**, the regional coordinator for Messy Church in Aberdeen and the Shire visited us on 7th October and gave us a presentation on what Messy Church is all about.

Julie explained that Messy Church is a way of being church for families as a fresh expression of church helping people encounter Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The values of Messy Church are;

- Christ centred
- All ages
- Creative
- Offering hospitality
- Celebration

It is not about trying to get more people to come along to a traditional Sunday worship.



A typical meeting could be:

- 15 minutes welcome tea/coffee/juice/chat
- 1 hour activities - creative play, crafts, science project
- 15 minutes celebration time, worship based on the activities of the day.
- Finishing with a family meal.

This is a whole family event, parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. However your family operates this event is designed for you to all have a great time together as your own form of church and you have a meal cooked for you too!!!

If you have any comments on this item or would like to know more then please get in touch with us.

## **HAPPY WEEN**

On 31st October we ran a fun night for all P1-P7 children.

The theme of the event was Jesus is the Light of the World, with the children learning the verse "The Lord is my light and my Salvation " ps27v1a, we used fun hand actions and torches to help us.

The evening started with the children decorating their own goody bags, making models from glow sticks and we also offered junk modelling and pumpkin design and colouring.

Lots of fun was had in our carnival games room, with Tin Can Alley and plenty of fast moving Minute to Win it games, bringing out a competitive streak in everyone!

The team races took place in the sanctuary, where we had lots of room to run.

Races included a balloon relay, the wiggly worm, the penny drop and many more.

After all that running it was time for some refreshments and hand decorating fairy cakes to eat.

After that the children had a pop at poking the pumpkin for a prize and had an opportunity to get wet with our apple bobbing, they were so good at it, teeth marks in lots of apples!!

The children left with plenty of sweets and prizes and things they had made, really fun night for all who came.



**Dookin' for apples**

**KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR OUR NEXT EVENT AND GIVE IT A TRY!**

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday saw a striking display of poppies made by our children over a couple of weeks. Isabel Wilson, who runs the Knit1 Purl1 sessions, joined us and taught the children finger knitting and how to make various poppies for our display. The Scouts joined us for this service and one of the group also did a reading for us.



## GUILD CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING EVENING

On 13th November our Mid Deeside Church Guild invited P5-S3 children to join them for a night of Christmas Card making lead by Aileen Glennie. We all enjoyed making some lovely designs and meeting new people.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

On December 14th & 15th the above Festival will be taking place in the sanctuary and the Rocking Stones entry will be done by those children who come to visit the display. So...come along and make a decoration, hang one on the tree and make one to take home too!!

## YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE - DECEMBER 16TH

Please join us for our youth service, come see what we do and how we celebrate and pray for the gift of children.

## COMING UP

Our prayers always include asking our God for guidance and wisdom on how to reach out to the young in our community, we would value your prayer involvement in these requests too.

If you have any ideas, questions, or suggestions then please let us know. Young People are our future and we have the privilege to walk with them and help guide them as they navigate their way through life.

**Matthew 18:14 Says, "In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost."**

God is concerned for every human being he has created. When we come in contact with children who need Christ at home, in church, in school and in the neighbourhood let us steer them towards Christ by our example, our words and our acts of kindness.

So as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we hope and pray that you all find rest and peace during this festive season and please join us in worship we would love to see you.

**Happy Christmas**

*Michelle Garrett for Youth Ministry Team*

# WORD SEARCH - All words to do with Christmas in Mid Deeside Church and the Christmas Story.



- ADVENT CANDLES • ADVENT SUNDAYS • ANGEL GABRIEL • BABY JESUS •
- BETHLEHEM • CAROLS ROUND THE TREE • CHILDRENS NATIVITY •
- CHRISTMAS DAY • CHRISTMAS EVE • CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL •
- FRANKINCENSE • GOLD • HEAVENLY HOST • INNKEEPER •
- MARY AND JOSEPH • MYRRH • NATIVITY SCENE • NAZARETH •
- NO ROOM AT THE INN • SHEPHERDS • STABLE • STAR IN THE EAST •
- THREE WISE MEN • WATCH NIGHT SERVICE •

# THE WISE MEN SEE JESUS - colour by numbers

1. Blue    2. Yellow    3. Light Blue    4. Red    5. Orange  
6. Skin tone    7. Brown    8. Gray    9. Purple    10. Green



# THE WISE MEN SEE JESUS - Spot the difference

There are 12 differences in the picture below - once you have found them colour them in with your own colours.



**Editor's Note:** I received this little story from Mrs. Dorothy Taylor recently. She thought the girls and boys might like to read about "Glen" the Dog-next-door. I'm sure you will **all** enjoy reading it !

My neighbours, Marieanne and Gary have three "Search and Rescue" dogs. They are beautiful dogs and very highly trained. Gary often takes the 'boys' over into the field opposite my house and I can watch them go through their training programme. Sometimes, "Glen" (an English Springer Spaniel) stays at home with Marieanne whilst the other two dogs go out on patrol. When Marieanne pops out, I sometimes go into my garden with Poppy (my Yorkshire Terrier) and speak to Glen and we have a wee chat over the fence - he likes a chat, I think!

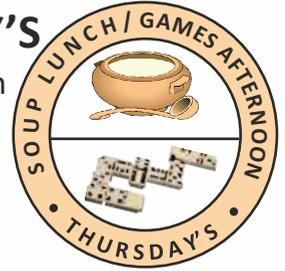
A few weeks ago, I had a nasty fall here in my home in Torphins when I banged my head and hurt my back. I found that I could not get up on to my feet and could be facing a night in the cold and dark. I had no way of summoning help, so I just started shouting. After a wee while, my friend "Glen" heard me and became agitated, pacing up and down his kennel. He made lots of noise to alert Gary who then came out to see what was wrong and he heard my cries for help.

I will always be grateful to my neighbours and my friend "Glen" for helping get me to hospital - but more than that is the fact that Glen cared enough for me to raise the alarm. We have lots to learn from our pets and in fact from all animals. I have a hero now who will always be in my heart - can you guess his name? "GLEN" - the dog next door!



## SOUP LUNCH/GAMES THURSDAY'S

We started the "Soup Thursdays" when the Church Extension opened with the idea it would be an opportunity for people to meet up with friends and have a chat over a bowl of soup and a cup of tea/coffee whilst taking part in a fun quiz.



Regular customers and new faces have made this a popular date in the calendar and it is not unusual for us to cater for 40 - 50 diners.

On Thursday the **13th December** we will be serving a selection of soups and mincemeat pies and Charlie has promised a fun "Christmassy Quiz" to round it all off.

**The Soup Lunches will commence again on the 10th January** from 12 noon to 1.30 pm and will continue on the 2nd Thursday of each month until April 2019.

There will be **no Games Afternoon in December** but will return on **24th January** 2.00 - 4.00pm and every 4th Thursday of each month thereafter also until April 2019.

Everyone one on our team would like to wish you all  
"A Peaceful Christmas" and "A Happy New Year"

Irene Bonner ☎ 82481

Lesley Stone ☎ 84354

Charlie/Anne Hilton ☎ 82130

**"WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE"**

## BANNER GROUP

The Banner Group have almost finished four individual banners for each advent Sunday in December which will be displayed one at a time and Gill is working on a lectern fall which we are looking forward to seeing completed.

We will once again be entering a tree for the Festival

**'The Christmas Story'.**

Sheila ☎ 82593 for info.



## PERIODIC ROLL REVIEW

There are currently 560 names on the roll of Mid Deeside Church. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see all those people fill our church on a Sunday morning!

Session realises, however, that this number includes people who are no longer taking an active part in our church life. There can be many reasons for this: health issues, work or family commitments, joined another church or no longer interested in the church, to name but a few. One of the principles of data protection is that records are kept up to date and, if someone decides they no longer wish to remain a member, then their personal information should be deleted from our church records. Session has therefore asked the Roll Keeper to write to those we have been missing from church to ask if they wish to retain their membership. If you receive a letter please be assured: the purpose of this exercise is to have an up to date record of membership, **we don't want to lose you and if you want to continue to be a member we will be delighted to know that – and to welcome you in church if you are able to come along or try to find other ways of keeping in touch with you if you are not able to get to church.**

## KNIT 1 PURL 1 (K1P1)

**K1P1** meets every month on the **first Wednesday** of the month for just an hour, **between 6 and 7pm.**

The idea of a monthly meeting of short duration and an early evening slot was to encourage youngsters to come along and learn to knit with older more skilled adults.

Knitting is growing again in popularity. It's a relaxing and productive hobby with proven health benefits. Knitting can help people deal with stress and depression for example.

Knitting is portable and sociable. You can complete some projects in an evening or take months and months to make a unique and personalised garment.

At **K1P1** there's always something new going on. We participated recently in helping youngsters at church to **make poppies** for display in our **Remembrance Day Service**, and we'll be **planning our tree** for the **Christmas Tree Festival** next. **Everyone is welcome, of any age or gender or skill level. All materials will be supplied to get you going.**

A big thank you to supporters so far and let's hope to see more knitters and beginners joining up in the future.

*Isabel Wilson*



# The Bread of Life

**Opening Hours: Wed & Fri 10am - 3pm Sat 10am - 1pm**

The Charity Shop held a Christmas Sales event which proved to be very successful raising **£913** on the day!! The wonderful donations we receive contributed hugely to the day.

The Bread of Life recently awarded grants to:-

- **Torphins Parent Council for playground improvements**
- **Lumphanan Welfare Group to help fund an outing**
- **Kincardine O'Neil Twinning Association to help with travel costs.**

If you know of any local group or good cause do encourage them to apply for assistance by applying for a grant. Grant application forms are available in the shop or can be downloaded from the Mid Deeside Church website.

The Shop will close for a **Christmas break at 3pm Fri 14th December 2018 and reopen 10am Friday 11th January 2019.**

This gives our hardworking volunteers a well earned break.

Please keep all your donations until we are open again in the New Year as we cannot accept donations during the closure. Thank you!

The Management Team would like to take this opportunity to wish all volunteers, customers and all who make donations to the shop a **very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.**

We are always looking for new volunteers - so if you would like to help please call into the shop and ask for an application form. Full induction training is provided for all new volunteers. The work is very rewarding and you would be joining a happy band of workers!!

**Best wishes to all.**

*Joan Donald*

**For the Management Team**

## A Prayer for Work

Lord, Help me to always give 100% at work:  
12% on Monday, 23% on Tuesday, 40% on Wednesday,  
20% on Thursday and 5% on Friday. Amen



# WIDEN YOUR CHURCH HORIZONS

Subscribe to the  
Church of Scotland magazine

## “LIFE AND WORK”

It's full of interesting news and thought-provoking articles about what's going on elsewhere in your extended Church Family.

If you would like to subscribe,  
please contact:-

**Mrs. Edna Wildgoose ☎ 82266**



## MUSIC BOX

Music Box continues to meet on Mondays from 10.15 during term time at MDC Hall Lumphanan. The group is for parents/carers and pre-school children. We sing for about half an hour then have snack and playtime. We would love to have more people on the helpers rota-preparing a simple snack for the children and tea/coffee for the grown-ups. This would be at most a once a month commitment. If you would like to know more please contact:-

**Gill Howe ☎ 89056 or Pam Auckland ☎ 82722**

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw a picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"



## CHIMWEMWE MU'BEREKI (Joyful Motherhood) MALAWI

During 2018 approximately 30 different knitters have made and donated warm “popover” jumpers, cardigans, hats and blankets for the babies of this charity. The nurses continue to send me e-mails and monthly reports about their progress in providing health care for mothers and babies.

These reports are available in the Church to “read-and-return”.

This year we have also sent baby clothes which our own “Bread of Life” charity shop passed on to me as surplus to their own requirements.



All these garments have gone to Malawi – much to the delight of the nurses who work out in the community. I'm sure the toddlers and babies there will benefit greatly from the clothing.

This year, our Malawi Christmas Tree for the MDC Tree-fest will be 'smothered' in pom-poms made in the colours of the Malawi flag (red, green and black) along with yellow (for sunshine) and white (for starshine). Grateful thanks to the pom-pom makers from Lumphanan and Torphins !

**To all who knit and donate to the Malawi postage fund.....thank you for continuing your support for the 8<sup>th</sup> year running! Have a very, very Happy Christmas one and all.**

**Anne Hilton** 📞 82130

## BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2018

A sincere thank-you to all who donated items for the Shoe Box Appeal!

This year we have received:-

- 32 beautifully wrapped shoe boxes full of goodies.
- 20 bags of baby, children and cosy adult clothes.
- Lovely warm blankets.
- £45 of cash donations.

Your actions of kindness brings unforgettable joy into lives of people who have very little and feel left out! Thank-you for making them feel warm and loved this Christmas!

**Have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas**

**Margaret Stewart** 📞 82595



# CHURCH WEBSITE

Our website has had a revamp! Still the same web address, but now with a new look and new features.

**Do check it out:-**

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

The home page gives you immediate access to the latest sermon – so you don't have to miss out if you missed church, or you can “listen again”.

The calendar is a good quick reference to what's happening when and the photos section lets us share far more photos than we can put in this newsletter – with the advantage of being in colour. And we will soon be developing a “members' only area” with church rotas and other information not appropriate to share on the worldwide web. You can also use it to contact the church by completing the short on-line form.

That address again: [www.middeesidechurch.org.uk](http://www.middeesidechurch.org.uk)

**Why not take a look?**



One day the zoo-keeper noticed that the monkey was reading two books - the 'Bible' and Darwin's 'Origin of Species. In surprise he asked the monkey, "Why are you reading those books"? "Well," said the monkey, "I just wanted to know if I was my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."



## GARDEN GANG NEWS

As always, the Garden Gang have been hard at work – so here's the latest round-up of news. With the fine milder weather we've experienced, we continued to cut grass right up to the end of



October! We lifted all the summer bedding, tidied the borders and planted more bulbs for the springtime and have enjoyed having help in this task from the Youth Groups in our Church. This follows on from planting trees and further plans will take shape in the new year to work with our young people. We look forward to a fine show of daffodils and tulips in the springtime! Most recently, we've made use of our usual Tuesday meetings to tackle the autumn leaves and we've almost finished. We take the leaves to the compost storage area in the Church grounds and in time this mixture will be used to work into the shrubs and flower beds. It takes a good period of time (several years) to rot down but produces great compost and means we're being eco-friendly in our efforts.

We were all delighted at the wonderful display of knitted poppies on the bridge walkway leading up to the Church. Sincere thanks to Tina Thomas for all her hard work to produce such a fitting tribute to commemorate the centenary marking the end of the First World War.

As we approach Christmas, we take a break in December but will enjoy a festive get-together as a group! Sincere thanks to all the Garden Gang for their hard work throughout the year. Grateful thanks go also to all those folk who continue to 'adopt' a flower tub in Lumphanan and Torphins. As I write this, I'm very aware that the Garden Gang are an 'ageing' group – in other words mostly retired folk who are available and enjoy the tasks. We do have fun too and are always looking for new recruits. We would welcome anyone interested in joining us!

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and all the best for 2019.

*Archie Findlay* 📞 82681

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" "NO!" the children all answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, kept the garden neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?" Again, the answer was "NO!" "Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?" In the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"



## **Plans for growth in Mid Deeside Church.**

**OUR VISION:** To be a Church that reaches out in love and service to all in our Parish and beyond; a Church which encourages and enables everyone to contribute and to participate in its Christian life and worship.

**OUR MISSION:** “**To know Christ and to make Him known**”. As God's people, we want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, make His name and love known as widely as possible, and to serve the community in which God has placed us.

**“JESUS LOOKED AT THEM AND SAID, 'WITH MAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE'”. Matthew 19, v26 (NIV).**

Following the Kirk Session conference in October 2017, a small group, consisting of elders and congregational members, was set up with the aim of developing a clear strategy for church growth here in Mid Deeside taking into account our Vision and Mission. Having spent considerable time reviewing and researching as well as attending Church of Scotland events and conferences the group have prepared a strategic review along with 10 key recommendations.

At the November meeting of the Kirk Session the recommendations were presented and the elders gave their approval to the plan. Session now wishes to consult with the congregation and it was agreed that our service on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2019** will be set aside to present the plan and seek the congregation's feedback. To allow sufficient time to break into smaller groups and gather feedback, the service will run a little longer still starting at 11:00am and finishing by 12:30pm.

It is our sincere hope that as many as possible will join us on the 20<sup>th</sup> January so that everyone can get behind this plan and that, with God's grace, Mid Deeside will grow into a church that is fully engaged in the work of the Gospel and the Discipleship of believers.

***The Strategic Planning Group***

### **CHRISTIAN AID NEWS**

**The Retiring offering at the Harvest Festival collected £248.20 and with the pledge from European Union to match each £1 with £4, a grand total of £1,241 was donated.**

**A well deserved thank you letter was received and read out in church. A small Christian Aid Tree will be entered into the Christmas Tree Festival - 'Promoting PEACE'**

**Sheila Blair ☎ 82593**

The logo for Christian Aid, featuring the words "christian aid" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background.

# PHOTO GALLERY



Poppies on the boardwalk



Tradecraft Buttery Tea



"Happy Ween" Event



Granite City Brass at Garden Praise (inside due to inclement weather)



**Holiday at Home - Card Bingo and All Dressed Up For A Horse Race**



**Harvest Thanksgiving**



**Prize Bingo Fund-raiser for Malawi Postage**

## M.D.C. FLOWER ROTA

MDC is most grateful for those who provide flowers each week for our Sunday Services, Church flowers are an important part of the pastoral care work done within in the Church.



After the services the flowers go to someone within our MDC Family whom we know may be needing comfort during a difficult time or someone who is celebrating a happy occasion, the Recipients are always touched by MDC thinking of them.

There is always room for more people on the flower rota and if people wish to provide flowers for a special date this can be arranged.

Flower vases, Cards and the Flower Diary are in the cupboard under the wash hand basin in the kitchen, the flower rota is also displayed inside the cupboard door.

Please can those on flower duty deliver or make arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to the Recipient after the Service and also enter the Recipients name in the flower diary.

Please let us know of anyone within our Parish who are in need of Church flowers. Thank you for your support

*Maureen Mearns* ☎ 82192 Flower Rota Co-ordinator

## ANNUAL CHURCH SALE · KINCARDINE O'NEIL

Many thanks to everyone who supported the sale in any way: pre-sale preparations, serving on the day, clearing up after the sale, generous donations or by coming along to buy. Particular thanks to the large team of helpers who made the day go so smoothly. We were blessed with great weather and on the day the sale raised **£2,250**. On-line sales of donated items that were better handled that way – especially larger items of furniture – and post Kirk sale on-line advertising of items remaining from the sale and of generous additional donations of fruit – plums and apples - boosted the total to over **£2,700**.

**Lesley Stone** ☎ 013398 84354.



## DATES AND VENUES OF SERVICES

Services are held every Sunday in Mid Deeside Church,  
St Marnan Road, Torphins at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated.

### DECEMBER

Sunday	2nd	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday	9th	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday	16th	11am	Youth Service
Sunday	23rd	11am	Morning Worship

**Monday 24th 6.30pm Christmas Eve Family Service**

**Monday 24th 11.30pm Watchnight Service**

**Tuesday 25th 11am Christmas Day Family Service**

Sunday 30th 11 am Morning Worship

### JANUARY 2019

Sunday	6th	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday	13th	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday	20th	11am	Morning Worship
Sunday	27th	11 am	Morning Worship

### FEBRUARY

Sunday	3rd	11 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	10th	11 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	17th	11 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	24th	11 am	Morning Worship

### MARCH

Sunday	3rd	11 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	10th	11 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	17th	11 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	24th	11 am	Morning Worship

*Everyone is very welcome at any or all of our services.*

*Tea and coffee is usually served after the service so why not stay and enjoy a few moments of fellowship, a friendly chat and a refreshing cuppa!*

A man is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?"

God answers, "To me, it's about a minute."

"God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny."

"God, may I have a penny?" God says "Wait a minute."



# WHO'S WHO

in

## MID DEESIDE PARISH CHURCH



Interim Moderator	Tony Stephen	☎	07866 704 738
Session Clerk	Mrs. Pam Auckland	☎	013398 82722
Treasurer	Mr. Bob Auckland	☎	013398 82722
Music Director	Mrs. Isobel Robertson	☎	013398 83763
Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs. Alison Orren	☎	013398 82912
Junior Church	Mrs. Michelle Garrett	☎	013398 89186
“	Mrs. Sheila McMurtrie	☎	013398 82022
Fairtrade Convener	Mrs. Alice McLean	☎	013398 82232
Flower Convener	Miss Maureen Mearns	☎	013398 82192
Life & Work Magazine	Mrs. Edna Wildgoose	☎	013398 82266
Guild	Mrs. Dorothy Keir	☎	013398 82179
Hall Bookings	Mrs. Pam Auckland	☎	013398 82722
Christian Aid Coordinator	Mrs. Sheila Blair	☎	013398 82593
Property Convener	Mr. Archie Findlay	☎	013398 82681
Presbytery Elder	Mrs. Pam Auckland	☎	013398 82722

### Church Team Coordinators:-

Worship Support	Mrs Sheila Blair	☎	013398 82593
Pastoral Care	Mrs Karen Whyatt	☎	07730341664
Communications	Mrs. Lesley Stone	☎	013398 84354
KIT (Keep In Touch) by E-mail	Mrs. Lesley Stone	☎	013398 84354
Facilities Team	Mr. Bob Auckland	☎	013398 82722

### General Information:-

Church Office Telephone:-	013398 89160
Mid Deeside Church Website:-	<a href="http://www.middeesidechurch.org.uk">www.middeesidechurch.org.uk</a>
Scottish Charity Number:-	SCO12967
MDC postal address is:-	St. Marnan Road, Torphins AB31 4JQ.

As at NOVEMBER 2018.

# Christmas Tree Festival

Excitement is mounting for this year's **Christmas Tree Festival** which will be held on **14 and 15 December, Friday 1.30 to 4.00** and **7.00 to 8.30** and **Saturday 1.00 to 5.00 pm**

Both last year and in 2016 our church was filled with a wonderful display of imaginatively decorated Christmas trees which were much admired by all who came to see, adults as well as children. We have again invited local groups, clubs, businesses and individuals to contribute a tree and we expect to have over 30 beautiful trees on display – each one unique.

Whilst you view the trees there will also be lots of entertainment on offer from “performers” **aged 0 to 101**. **Torphins School Choir will sing on Friday at 2.00**. **There will be a “Music Box” session for pre-school children and carers on Saturday at 2.30**, and the Festival will close with half an hour of carol singing led by the church choir on Saturday at 4.30 pm. Between times, we have a number of talented young people playing piano, violin, bagpipes and possibly tuba; as well as talented adult performers.

Light refreshments will be provided free of charge. Our church youth leaders will be on hand throughout for craft activities with children, the results of which will be added to the Rocking Stones Christmas Tree.

**Entry to view the trees is free but donations will be welcomed** and will all be given to **Home Start Deeside & Donside**, a local charity which helps families with young children.

The **Home Start children** will themselves be decorating one of the trees. We invite any of you who wish to do so to put small presents round this tree for distribution by the Home Start volunteers to the families they are helping. Home Start have told us that small luxuries for adults as well as presents for the children would be most welcome as the parents of families who are being helped themselves often don't receive anything. **Any presents you wish to give will be very much appreciated** – you can bring them to church ahead of the Festival or simply put them under the tree when you visit. Please include a gift label indicating whether the gift is for a boy, girl, man or woman and, if for a child, the approximate age of child.

