



*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11*

Warm Christmas greetings from the Rev Holly and congregation of Mid Deeside Church. We pray that whatever your circumstances you may find joy and comfort in the peace and promise of the season.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 11am**

Morning worship - Second Sunday in Advent

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**

Messy Church Christingle and Christmas activities



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11am**

Sunday Club Nativity service- join us as the children lead us through the age-old story



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11am**

Service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**

Christmas Eve Family service

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11am**

Short Christmas Day Family service

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 11am**

Morning worship



Everyone is welcome at any or all of these services and we would be very happy to have you join us.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

Mid Deeside Parish Church  
St Marnan Road, Torphins AB31 4JQ

Mid Deeside Parish Church Hall  
Perkhill Road, Lumphanan, AB31 4SE

**Christmas offerings** The offerings from our Christmas Eve Family service and donations from the Soup Lunch and the Christmas Tree Festival will be shared between CrossReach ([crossreach.org.uk](http://crossreach.org.uk)) - the social care arm of the Church of Scotland, and Christian Aid ([christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)).



## CROSSREACH

**CrossReach** works with adults, children and families and older people and provides services and advice on topics such as homelessness, mental health, physical disability, counselling, dementia, learning disabilities and support for prisoners and their families.



**Christian Aid** is the relief and development agency of 41 Christian churches in the UK and Ireland, and works to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

**Messy Church** is for families of all ages and is a time to come together to learn about the love of Jesus in a fun and relaxed environment. Why not join us on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December from 2 to 3.30pm in the church complex in Torphins for some Christmas fun and make a family Christingle together to remind you of the meaning of the Christmas celebrations. All welcome.



## **Soup Lunch**

There will be a special Christmas Soup Lunch on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from noon- 1.30pm in the Lochnagar Room. Join us for soup with bread and oatcakes, tea or coffee and a mince pie all for the bargain price of £5. All profits will go to our two Christmas charities.



## **Blythswood Shoebox Appeal**

Thank you everyone who prepared a Christmas Shoe Box for the Blythswood Appeal. This year the boxes will be sent to Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Bosnia. A total of 32 boxes were collected from Mid Deeside along with some hats, children's clothes and toys and games. We hope these items will go a little way to making a happier Christmas for those in dire need in these countries.



## **The Bread of Life Charity Shop**

The continuing support of the local community through volunteering in the shop, donating goods to sell and coming in to buy has meant we have been able to give out a total of £24,000 in grants to good causes within the Parish during 2023. Huge thanks to all who have supported us in any way- we couldn't do it without you! The shop will close for Christmas at 1pm on 16<sup>th</sup> December and re-open at 10am on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Christmas Tree Festival** Our Christmas Tree Festival will be open for viewing on the following dates:



**Sunday 17th December 2.30-4.30pm** Tea and coffee in Lochnagar

**Wednesday 20th December 5-6pm**

**Saturday 23rd December 10am-noon** Coffee morning in Lochnagar

**Saturday 23rd December 5.30-8.00pm** during the Tractor Run

**Entry is free but donations to our Christmas charities are welcome.**

**Torphins Tractor Run** We will be welcoming the tractors to the church car park on 23<sup>rd</sup> December from around 6pm and stalls will be set up inside the building. Refreshments will be served by the Torphins Paths Group. Please take extra care coming into the car park and building when the tractors are there.

**Parish Pantries** MDC manages pantries in each of the villages - beside the bowling club in Kincardine O'Neil, beside the church hall in Lumphanan and in the church garden at the left of the church in Torphins. This is a resource for anyone to use in time of need. The pantries are kept supplied by donations from individuals in the parish, from Fareshare in Aboyne, and thanks to generous cash donations from, among others, the Bread of Life Charity Shop and Torphins Golf Club Senior Men. Donations of food or cash are always welcome. Why not consider taking part in our reverse advent calendar initiative (see next page) by adding a few extra items to your regular shopping trolley and place them in the pantry directly or in the box at the church door.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** Let's make 2024 better for folks in our parish! Participate in the 2023 Reverse Advent Calendar Project to help stock our Parish How do you do it? It's easy. Simply get a bag, and each day in Advent add a new non-perishable item. (It doesn't matter if you can't put something in every day -any donations large or small will be most appreciated!) After you have filled your bag with items, bring it to Mid Deeside Church on a Sunday morning or place it in the plastic box by the front doors.

1. Tins of Soup	2. Wash-Up Liquid	3. Tinned Pudding	4. Shampoo & Conditioner	5. Nappies & Wipes
6. Baby Food or Baby Milk	7. Toilet Rolls	8. <b>Juice</b>	9. Tin of Vegetables	10. Tea & Coffee
11. Tins of Fruit	12. Fray Bentos Pies	13. UHT Milk	14. Deodorant	15. Tinned Tomatoes
16. Tinned Meats	17. Tinned Beans	18. Body Soap	19. Toothbrush & Paste	20. Household Cleaner
21. <b>Jam</b>	22. Children's Snacks	23. <b>Rice</b>	24. Children's Juice	25. <b>Biscuits</b>

## Mid Deeside Hardship Fund

Did you know that Mid Deeside has a small hardship fund? It is for anyone in need within the Parish - not just church members- to help in the short term with food, fuel or other essentials. It is administered by our Minister, Holly, and is entirely confidential.

**Please contact Holly directly on 07834 218203**

## **Chimwemwe Mu'berekhi- Joyful Motherhood**

Members of the congregation and community continue to knit baby jumpers, hats and blankets to send to the Joyful Motherhood project in Malawi which gives home based care to high-risk mothers and babies.

The garments are packaged up and posted and are always gratefully received. Any donations of knitting or cash towards the cost of posting can be given to Charlie Hilton or dropped off at the church.

## **Sunday mornings at Mid Deeside**

A warm welcome awaits you every Sunday at 11am for our weekly worship service with time for a chat and a “cuppa” afterwards. Sunday Club takes place during this time and the young people are invited to move to the Morven Room for their own activities after the first part of the service. There is a baby area in the sanctuary with quiet toys for use throughout the service.

Sunday worship is also streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.

## **In need of a quiet space for a time?**

Our open prayer space in the Clachnaben Room is on Thursdays from 7-7.30pm. Come and be inspired to pray for our community, our church and our world and find encouragement from others. We also have a prayer request box in the church entrance hall. Prayer requests can be placed here by anyone- signed or anonymous.

**MDC Guild** The Guild meets in the Lochnagar Room at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month through to April. All are welcome. The Guild will be hosting an afternoon tea on 27 January from 2.00 to 4.00 pm to support Guild charity projects.



**Youth Club** The Youth Club meets on the first Friday of most months in the church complex at Torphins. Young people in classes P3-P6 are invited to attend from 7.00-7.55pm and those in P6-S6 from 8.05-9.00pm. There are games, crafts, dance videos and snacks for all.

**Knit and Natter** The Knit and Natter group meets on Tuesday afternoons from 2-3pm in the Morven Room to....knit and natter! They either bring their own projects or knit items to go to Malawi or to sell. They also have a coffee morning and sale of knitted items from time to time to raise funds for the posting cost of the knitting to Malawi. Anyone is welcome to join in. Please contact Shirley Crichton on 013398 84229 for more information.



### **Lumphanan Music and Play**

Little ones and their adults are invited to join us in the church hall from 10am to noon on Wednesdays for playtime, crafts, music and stories as well as snack time.

## **MDC News**

To keep up to date with all that is happening at Mid Deeside be sure to look at our newly refreshed website

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

and follow our Facebook page - Mid- Deeside Church.

You don't need to be a member of Facebook to view the page.

**K I T** You can also sign up to our “Keep in Touch” newsletter which is issued fortnightly.

For more information contact:-

Sharon Guy, [sharon@middeesidechurch.org.uk](mailto:sharon@middeesidechurch.org.uk)

### **Minister:**

**Rev Holly Smith**

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**Pam Auckland**

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### **Youth and Families worker:**

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