



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



Minister's message

Hi Friends! We hope this newsletter finds you well. As we come into the 2024 Christmas Season, I want to remind you of how very loved you are by God and our community. I look forward to seeing you out and about over the coming months and wish you the very best Christmas.

I know, for some, the holidays can be difficult and lonely. If Christmas time is a struggle for you, please reach out to me. I would be happy to come sit down with you and listen.

As always, you are all invited to join us for all our Christmas services and activities. Merry Christmas!

Holly

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 1st December at 11am - First Sunday in Advent Service

Sunday 8th December at 11am - Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday 15th December at 11am - Nativity service

Sunday 22nd December at 11am - Fourth Sunday in Advent



Tuesday 24th December at 6.30pm - Christmas Eve Family service

Wednesday 25th December at 11am - Short Christmas Day Family service

Sunday 29th December at 11am - Service of Lessons and Carols

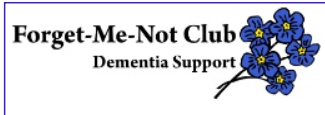
We would be delighted to have you join us at any, or all, of these services. Everyone is welcome.

If you can't make it in person, do join us live, or at a time that suits you, on Facebook or YouTube, (search for Mid Deeside Church)

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

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

Christmas offerings This year the offerings from our **Christmas Eve Family service**, donations from the **Christmas Tree Festival** and proceeds from the **Soup Lunch** on 5th December, and the **Tractor Run** Teas will be shared between the **Forget-Me-Not Club** and the **DEC Middle East Appeal**.



The **Forget-Me-Not Club** is a registered charity, based in Banchory, which provides support, not only to those living with dementia, but also their carers, helping make life that little bit easier. It supports many people within Mid Deeside Parish.

DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. Conflict in the Middle East is devastating lives. Millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region urgently need shelter, food and basic supplies. All our donations help. The UK Government will match pound-for-pound up to £10 million donated by the public to this appeal.

Soup Lunch – 5 December

There will be a special **Christmas Soup Lunch** on **Thursday 5th December** from noon to 1.30pm in the Lochnagar Room. Join us for soup with bread and oatcakes, tea/coffee and a mince pie, all for the bargain price of £5. By popular request, there will also be a special, non-obligatory table quiz to enjoy over lunch.

Christmas Tree Festival and Tractor Run

The Christmas Tree Festival will take place on **Saturday 21st December** alongside the **Tractor run**.



The church will be open from 6.30pm for viewing and the tractors are expected around 7pm. MDC members are organising tea, coffee, hot chocolate and fine pieces and the proceeds from this will go to our Christmas charities.

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.

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, Rev Holly Smith, and is entirely confidential.

Please contact Holly directly on 07834 218203

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to everyone who prepared a **Christmas Shoe Box** for the Blythswood Appeal. The boxes will be sent to various countries in Eastern Europe.

A total of **42 boxes were collected from Mid Deeside Parish along with £141 in donations** towards the transporting of these and two large bags of useful items to be added to other boxes.

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 on the left of the church in Torphins. This is a resource for anyone to use in time of need. Thanks go to **Aboyne Fareshare, Torphins Community Council, Scotmid** and **The Bread of Life** for their regular support and to the individuals who quietly ensure the pantries are filled.

To help keep our pantries stocked, we invite you to take part in our **reverse advent calendar** initiative by simply getting a bag or box, and each day in Advent adding to it 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 or box with items, bring it to Mid Deeside Church on a Sunday morning or place it in the plastic box by the front doors. On the next page are suggestions of suitable items, but don't feel limited to these.

We really need the regular support of everyone who can spare a bit to keep the pantries going all year round. All types of longer life food, toiletries and household cleaning materials are very welcome.

If you are donating food please be sure to check it is still within the “Use Buy” or “Best Before” date.

1. Corned Beef	2. Tinned Peas/Corn	3. Kitchen Towel	4. Box of Cereal	5. Pasta Sauce
6. Tinned Tomatoes	7. Washing Up Liquid	8. Tinned Ham	9. Packet of Biscuits	10. Tin of Fruit
11. Children's Drink Boxes	12. Dried Fruit	13. Cereal Bars	14. Toilet Cleaner	15. Mincemeat Pies
16. Tinned Chilli /Bolognaise	17. Long Life Milk	18. Milk Alternatives Oat, Almond, Soya etc	19. Gluten Free Pasta	20. Pot Scrubbers
21. Crisps	22. Chocolate Treats	23. Laundry Powder	24. Salt & Spices	25. Christmas Cake

The Bread of Life Charity Shop has had a very successful 2024. Our annual Christmas Sale, which commenced on Wednesday 6th November, raised the fantastic sum of **£1,131.30** on the first day of opening- an achievement which was made possible by the support of our loyal customers and the hard work of our team of volunteers.

In 2024 the Bread of Life has, over two funding rounds, awarded grants totalling **£17,407** to **seventeen good causes** within the Mid Deeside Church Parish.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join our team of volunteers and Volunteer application forms are available at the Bread of Life Charity Shop.

The Management Team wish all our customers and volunteers a very happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2025.

The shop will close for Christmas at 3pm on Wednesday 18th December reopening at 10am on Wednesday 8th January.

REGULAR HAPPENINGS

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.

Mondays

Mid Deeside Guild meets in Lochnagar on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2pm. (October to April)
We extend a warm invitation to everyone to join us.



From 2024 to 2027 the work, worship and focus of the Guild falls under the strategy of 'Let's Build a house'. All of the projects supported by the Guild over the next three years relate to the theme of the strategy. The new project partners from January will be:

Bear Necessities. Build my Church (supporting the building of a community church in Bulgaria)

Cross Reach. Playful Beginnings (supporting children with additional needs)

Release International. Operation Hope (supporting a Christian community in Egypt)

Scottish Bible Society. Bibles for Bairns The Guild will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 1st February and Saturday 26th April to raise funds for the projects.

Tuesdays:

The **Knit and Natter** group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 2-3.30pm in the Morven Room to... knit and natter! They either bring their own projects or knit items to support Joyful Motherhood in Malawi. Anyone is welcome to come along.

Wednesdays:

Lumphanan Music and Play takes place in the church hall from 10am to noon for playtime, crafts, music and stories as well as snack-time. It's a fun session for all pre-schoolers and their adults.

On the **third Wednesday** of each month Rev Holly holds a short worship service at **Annesley House**. The residents always appreciate having a few members of the congregation join them to boost the hymn singing. Why not go along?

Thursdays: Everyone is welcome to the **weekly coffee morning** in the Morven Room at Mid-Deeside Church between 10am-12noon. Come join us for a cuppa, homebakes and a blether in a warm space.

Free, but a wee donation is very welcome to help keep the coffee mornings running.

Fridays:

The Youth Club meets on the **first Friday** of most months in the church complex at Torphins. It's for all young people P3 to S6 and meets from 7.00 to 8.30 pm. There are games, crafts, dance videos and snacks for all, as well as a calm space in an extra room for those who would like a wee while of quieter fun too.

MDC News

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

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:-

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