



MID DEESIDE CHURCH

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2019

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday 11am 14th April

Maundy Thursday 6.30pm 18th April

Good Friday 6.30pm 19th April

Easter Sunday 11am 21st April

Read the Easter Story on pages 32-35

INTERIM MODERATOR'S LETTER



Hi there,

It is a privilege to be your Interim Moderator. Mid Deeside have a talented and committed congregation who are using their gifts and energy to build a loving, nurturing and serving community. This newsletter is full of good news stories about simple, but effective ways that people are building relationships and helping their neighbours.

Our Kirk Session are a joy to work with. I am encouraged by the passion they have for Mid Deeside to be a church community that makes a difference. And as our prayers continue for a minister to be called to join in with what you are doing here I want you to be praying with them, and to be encouraged to.

It is no surprise that when God's people pause and start asking, "What is God doing, and how can we join in?" our church community is led towards simple, meaningful activities, as if by accident. It's interesting how often these kinds of "accidents" seem to happen when people get together, tell stories, build relationships and ask questions around the way of Jesus of Nazareth.

Of course this newsletter can only fit in a few of many good news stories that are ongoing. And we need to keep asking other challenging questions about things that may need to change. Thank you for your willingness to be involved, to be challenged, and to make a difference. Keep praying. It continues to be a privilege to minister alongside you.

Grace and peace

Tony Stephen

Your Interim Moderator

VACANCY NEWS

Since the last update on the vacancy in the November edition of this Newsletter, the Nominating Committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis.

Our campaign of writing personal letters to a number of serving ministers, inviting them to consider our vacancy is continuing, unfortunately there has been no positive response to these.

The committee held a meeting with the presbytery Nominating Committee Advisory Panel. As an outcome of that meeting we contacted various individuals within the CoS requesting whether they knew of ministers looking for a new challenge or being called to move. So far we have had one suggestion and that minister has been contacted. A response is still awaited.

We have continued with our advertising campaign, placing adverts in Life and Work Magazine and other publications. The committee are currently reviewing the content and format of the advert with a view to making it more appealing.

On a more positive note, as a response to our advert and the vacancy details on our website, we have been contacted by two potential candidates. The individuals concerned are not yet in a position to make formal application and do have other vacancies to consider, so may not apply at all. However, members of the committee have had an informal meeting with one of the potential candidates and were favourably impressed. A similar informal meeting is being arranged with the other potential candidate.

Whilst it is possible, with God's grace, that our call may be answered soon, this is by no means certain. We will not become complacent and will diligently continue our efforts to fill 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.

David Cockburn Nominating Committee Convener

Church Growth Team

You may recall that we held our first Congregational Conference on 22nd January 2019, where we discussed, as a congregation, the recommendations for growth that have been accepted by the Kirk Session. The Church Growth Team have now met and considered the feedback received from the congregation, this note outlines the first new steps towards growing God's Kingdom in Mid Deeside.

Wherever possible the Growth Team will work with and alongside the existing structure and not create new teams requiring additional resources and further time commitment. The existing structure includes:

- Worship Support Team
- Youth Ministry Team
- Pastoral Care Coordination Team
- Communications Team
- Facilities Team
- Development Group
- The Garden Gang
- The Bread of Life Team
- The Music Box Team.

To get things moving the Growth Team are progressing several important areas:

The employment of a youth worker – Working alongside the Youth Ministry Team we will move this project forward looking at what this role would be responsible for, and how the recruitment process would happen.

Mainly Men's Club. – A date has been set for the first of what will hopefully become regular events. There will be a ***Fun and Food Night*** on Friday 17th May 2019, timing to be confirmed. The evening will be open to all ages and all people, although Mainly Men, and will be an opportunity to have some fellowship and fun together. Please watch out for further communications.

Messy Church – In an attempt to get more families involved with Church life, we will press on with plans to hold a messy church service, the first service date is yet to be confirmed but a Saturday afternoon looks the likely time slot – More to follow.

A second Music Box session – Our church already runs a successful Music Box on Monday mornings in MDC Hall, Lumphanan. Discussions have begun about how and when a second Music Box could take place in Torphins. In order to achieve this, we are going to have to add to the leadership numbers, so look out you could be asked to become involved!

Community Outreach Projects – Plans are underway to offer a '**Christianity Explored**' course and a '**Living Life to the Full**' course as part of the church's mission to reach out meaningfully into the community. Planning is in its early stages and these courses will involve some investment of time and resources.

It is our hope that you will be encouraged by the exciting areas that the Church Growth Team are focussing on and ask that all these activities will be included in your prayers, remembering that our key bible verse is.

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

MID DEESIDE GUILD NEWS

We started off the 2019 session with a most informative talk and demonstration by **Michelle Garrett** on “**Kilt Making**”. On the **26 January** we held (another) successful **Project Afternoon Tea**, raising funds for the Projects we have chosen this year - **The Free to Live Trust** and **Crossreach**. **Tuesday 12 February** was a busy day for us, with a visit to **Annesley House** for a short service, and wonderful **musical entertainment by the Lodgers**, followed by our evening meeting, when **Mrs Sheila Robertson** came to tell us about **Crossreach**, and in particular an initiative called “**Joining up the Dots**”, which is aimed at vulnerable and lonely people in rural or widespread communities. Our meeting on **12 March** was an open evening and we were joined by members from three other Guilds. The talk by **Pauline Rowett** was on “**Christians against Poverty**” (C.A.P.), which is a charity dealing with debt management, giving hope to those in need of financial help. Our final meeting for this session is on **9 April**, when we shall be enjoying an early **evening buffet meal** at 6.00p.m., followed by our **A.G.M.** Our last fund-raising venture will be an **Easter Coffee Morning** to be held on **Saturday 20 April** in Lochnagar Room.

Do come and support us . . . there will be home baking and a chance to win a hamper. **All are welcome!**

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

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

1. What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.
2. Who was the fastest runner in the Bible ?
Adam. He was first in the human race.



“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it's about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven't really thought about it too much. Perhaps it's now hard to concentrate because you're thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how do you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a 'breath prayer', off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God's presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we're unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life.

Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

Editors Note: This article is from the Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council at the Church of Scotland.

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Christian Aid Week is, as usual, in May but this year we are having a soup lunch in April ! The proceeds of this will be donated to Christian Aid.

The logo for Christian Aid, featuring the words "christian" and "aid" in white lowercase letters on a red background.

However, it was decided at Kirk Session recently that all fundraising money this year (unless specified for Kirk Funds) would be donated to Christian Aid as they support so many projects across this needy world.

Sheila Blair ☎ 82593

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.



Monday House Group

The Monday House Group have just completed a study on the book of Acts and the growth of the early church.

The study has really helped the group to grow as individual Christians as well as providing valuable insight into the challenges and successes that were evident as the early church spread outwards from Jerusalem.

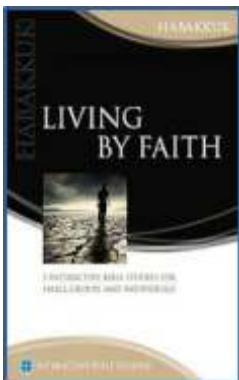
The group meets at the home of Bob and Pam Auckland, we start at 8:00pm with tea and coffee and a small treat, we use the first 30 minutes or so to catch up with each other and find out how our respective weeks have been going and often share a laugh or two.

Around 8:30pm or so our study begins and we follow the outlines that are in the study book but always have time to deal with some areas in a bit more detail.

The Acts study has been particularly helpful in looking at the challenges faced by the early church that carry a remarkable similarity to the challenges faced by the church today.

The book starts with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the birth of the church and goes on to cover.

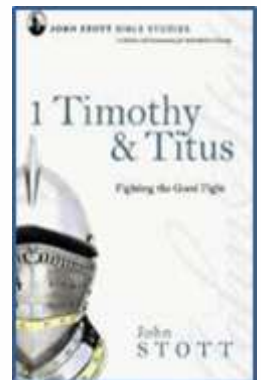
- The activities of the early church.
- The challenges from the religious authorities and the ruling Roman presence within Jerusalem.
- The first Gentile conversion.
- The establishment of elders and positions within the church.
- The conversion of Paul and the spread of the gospel across the gentile territories.
- Gods protection and faithfulness.
- The truthfulness of the Gospel message.



Other studies that the Monday House Group have completed in the past are:

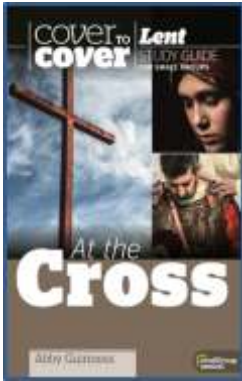
**Habakkuk –
“Living by Faith”**

**1 Timothy and Titus –
“Fighting the Good Fight”**



Over the period of Lent and starting on **Monday 4th March** the Monday House Group will be looking at a short study called "At the Cross".

Current Study – "At the Cross"



Colossians 2:6-7 New International Version (NIV) Spiritual Fullness in Christ

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Growing in our Christian faith is something for all of us to consider and Bible Study is a great opportunity for us all.

If you are interested in joining the Monday House Group or getting involved in a daytime study, please speak to Bob or Pam Auckland. All are Welcome !

TRAIIDCRAFT

At the end of 2018 there were concerns that **Traidcraft** was closing down but with some changes it is carrying on in a slightly different way. At Mid Deeside Church we have tried, where available, to stock basic products but now most common food items are back.



At the start of **Fairtrade Fortnight** I was asked to give a talk to the 'Beavers' on Fairtrade. We had great fun and at the end I let them taste some samples of biscuits and chocolate. However, they voted the jelly beans as their favourite, giving them ten out of ten !

On **Sunday 10th March**, the last day of Fairtrade Fortnight, **Isobel Wilson** gave a short, interesting talk on Fairtrade and **Anne McGregor** set up a great display of Easter Eggs, big and small, and also Easter cards which are available to buy. After the service the group had a **40th birthday party** for Traidcraft with home bakes to buy or enjoy with the coffee and tea. In total **£105** was raised for a Traidcraft project.

Already this year over **£500** which was profit from purchases made by yourselves from the stall in 2018 was sent to help farmers and producers in poor countries. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and look forward to our next birthday !

Alice McLean ☎ **82232** on behalf of the Traidcraft Team.

MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

Music has always been an important part of our worship. In our church, we are fortunate to have dedicated musicians who give their time every week to come to rehearsals to learn hymns and songs which give variety to our services. Thank you all for your hard work. It is all very much a team effort.

The praise band meet every Wednesday for an hour from 6.30-7.30pm, and welcome anyone interested in joining us.

I arrange the hymns we play to suit both the instrument and the player involved making it suitable for players of all abilities. If you are learning an instrument at school, or used to play and would like to take it up again, come and join us for some good fun while playing with others.



We take part in services as often as we can and have already played for some services this year. We will be playing 3 of the hymns in the service at the end of March, **'It's a world of sunshine'**, **'Christ's is the world'** and **'I am weak but Thou art strong'**.

Sometimes leaders of our worship surprise me when they request particular music for a service. This happened in January when I was asked if the choir would sing one of the songs they sang at Christmas time, 'Tell the news'. When I pointed out that it was a Christmas song, I was told that it didn't matter and he particularly wanted the congregation to concentrate on the words which would be up on the screen. Life is definitely a learning curve and I certainly learned something from that.

The choir are now working on 'The Irish Blessing' by Bob Chilcott which we expect to sing in a service in March. After that my intention is to move on to new pieces for the choir which we will sing at an appropriate time in the future.

It is equally important for the choir to lead the singing of the hymns every week and is even more important when new hymns are introduced to the congregation. This is part of our rehearsal every week to ensure everyone is familiar with all the hymns for the Sunday service.



Choir rehearsals take place on a Thursday, 6.30-7.45pm. Singing is especially recognised as a therapeutic exercise. Come along and join us for some 'therapeutic exercise', fellowship and good fun.

Isobel 📞 **83763**

CHURCH ORGAN

Many people have been asking when our lovely pipe organ is coming back into action.

Well, we still need to raise about £4,500, to get it repaired, and working beautifully, as it should. The repair fund total now stands at **£11,675.66**. as at 10th March, 2019. The 2017 estimate for repair is **£16,000**, excluding VAT.

In the meantime, we had another successful pancake tea, on 2nd March. This raised **£274.82** Many thanks to the hardworking pancake makers, and to all who have contributed money, and enjoyed pancakes! We are very grateful for Charlie's creative hard work producing the "sponsor a note" fundraiser, that's been in the foyer for many weeks. Feeling it had run its course the lucky number was drawn at the last

Soup Lunch - the winner of the Gift token towards a meal at the Learney Arms Bar & Eatery was Lesley Stone - this fundraiser raised a total of **£271.15**.

Alan Bainbridge, on behalf of the team – *Isobel Robertson, Isabel Wilson, Jayne Clarke*.



A big event is being organized for
Saturday, 15th June, 2019,

to raise funds and have an enjoyable musical evening.

Look out for Posters for info !

Generously giving of their time and talents will be:

- **Granite City Community Band** (10-12 musicians, conducted by Isobel, our organist), playing well-known tunes.
- **Torphins' singer and pianist, Callum Geddes**
- **Banchory Singers**

Be there! Make a note in your diary.

YOUTH MINISTRY in MID DEESIDE CHURCH

Hello! As we look towards Easter and the lighter nights and warmer weather it is also a time to reflect on the joys that Christmas brought. Here at Mid Deeside Church, the children enjoyed a lively Christmas fun night with crafts, games of all sorts, a story and plenty of tasty treats. If you managed to visit our Christmas Tree Festival, you will have seen the entry from our Junior Church. It was decorated by the visiting children from the villages around us. The finished tree was wonderful with all the children's hand-prints decorated and glued on to the tree. Please take a look at our photos.



Mid Deeside Church have decided to extend the "Year of Youth" into 2019. With this in mind, Junior Church is working with new materials and fresh resources and we have put together an exciting programme of events for the year ahead. Starting with an **Easter Fun Night on Tuesday 16th April** from 6pm to 7.30 pm. There will be an egg hunt, egg painting, 'eggciting' games and the Easter story. Look out for us at the Torphins Gala too where we will have giveaways, games and crafts for the children to do.

We very much look forward to seeing you at one of our events and keep an eye on the Church website for further information and upcoming dates.

Heavenly Father,

Please let your blessings and Word shine on our children and families.

***Please protect them from the harmful temptations of this world
and guide us in your ways.***

In Jesus name. Amen.

Michelle Garrett for Youth Ministry Team



'Crafting' at the Christmas Fun Night



**Junior Church
Christmas Tree**

Kincardine and Deeside Presbytery article by Sally Lawton, Pilot Lead, Aberdeenshire



The charity, Playlist for life, was set up in 2013 by the broadcaster, Sally Magnusson. She cared for her mother who had dementia, using music to calm her and said, *“when I was looking after my mother, I would have given anything for someone to say, 'Try this. It's not a cure but it can help. You can still have moments of happiness and flashes of joy'.....no-one says that very often to people living with dementia.”*

Personal playlists are a cheap, simple and powerful way to harness meaningful music to lessen anxiety, improve mood and comfort for the person with dementia and strengthen relationships and communication with family, carers and friends.

Playlists are fun to create as you recall the music that has provided the soundtrack to your life. For example, songs that were sung in childhood, a theme tune that is a reminder of a specific event or people, for example, meeting a partner, having children, going out with friends etc. Ideally, the person recalls the piece of music themselves.

However, if the person is unable to recall specific music, there are some 'music detective' skills that can be used to help identify potential playlist songs. This may be compiled by a family member, a carer or a trained volunteer at a Playlist for Life Help Point.

If you think your group would like to know more about Playlist for Life, or have a talk, please contact the charity through their website, www.playlistforlife.org.uk. The website is full of useful information about the charity's work, help points, other training opportunities and resources to help create a playlist.

GARDEN GANG NEWS

The Garden Gang has re-started after a Winter break. We are currently working on cleaning the borders and giving a good general tidy up in preparation for Spring!



We have been generously donated some mature azaleas and herbaceous plants by church members from their own gardens and are transplanting them now. Grateful thanks for these beautiful plants which will enhance the borders once established and provide colour in the months ahead.

We are also preparing ground for sowing seeds and planting bedding to provide lots of colour over the months and through Summer. Hopefully the weather will be as kind to us as it was last year - what a bonus that would be!

We continue to meet every Tuesday and new recruits are always welcome. You do not have to commit to every week - it can be on an ad hoc basis. Please give me a call if you would like to join us - a warm welcome awaits!

Archie Findlay ☎ **82681**

A Jewish businessman in America decided to send his son to Israel to absorb some of the culture of the homeland. When the son returned, the father asked him to tell him about his trip. The son said, "Pop, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity."



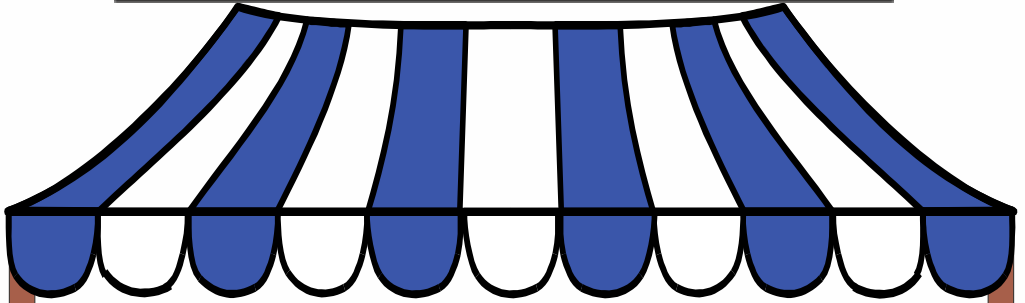
"Oy vey," said the father. "What have I done?"

He decided to go ask his friend Jacob what to do. Jacob said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came back a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi and ask him what we should do."

So they went to see the Rabbi. The Rabbi said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel. He also came back a Christian. What is happening to our young people? Perhaps we should go talk to God and ask him what to do."

The three of them prayed and explained what had happened to their sons and asked God what to do. Suddenly a voice came loud and clear from Heaven. The Voice said, "funny you should ask, I too sent my son to Israel..."

MDC FUN DAY



Mid Deeside Church will be organising a

**FUN DAY AT TORPHINS
on Saturday 25th May**

in and around the Church at Torphins

There will be many stalls including:

a Garden Stall, a Book Stall

& lots of activities for Children.

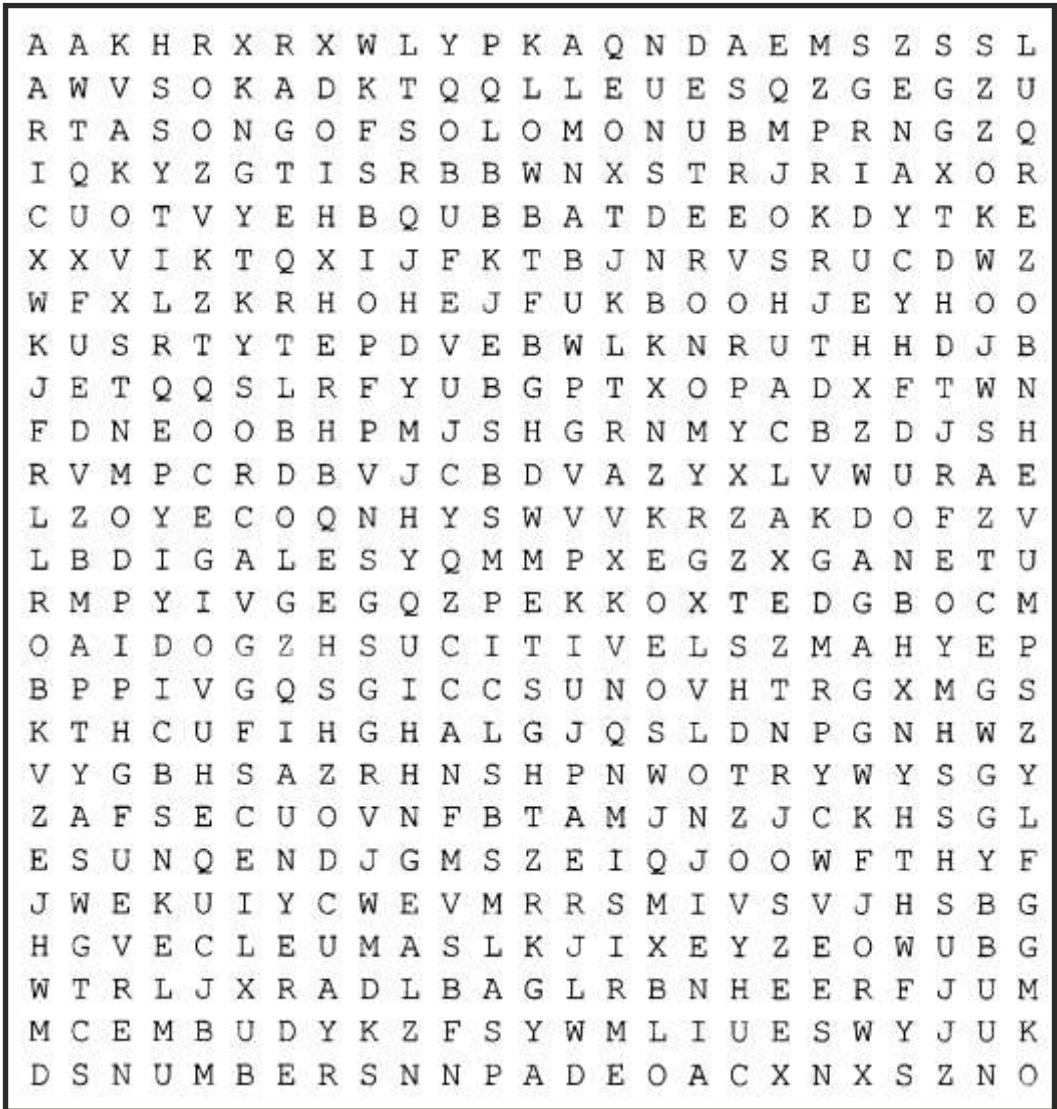
Of course there will be the usual Teas.

**Look out for Posters
nearer the time for details.**

WORD SEARCH -:BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT GENESIS TO SOLOMON

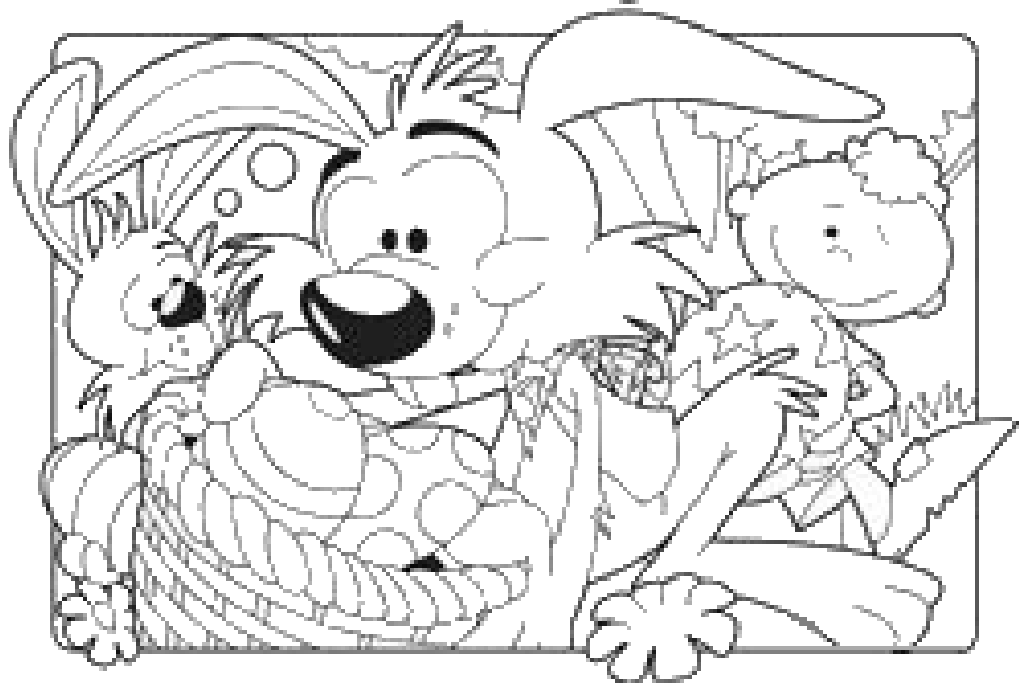
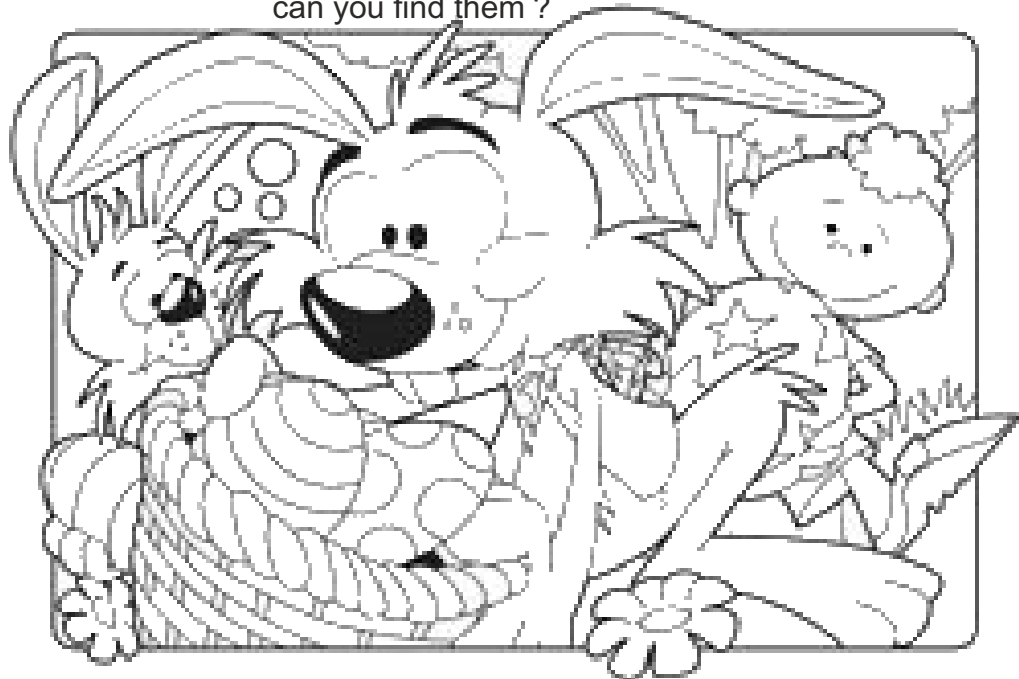
Find the names of the Old Testament Books between Genesis and Song of Solomon in the word search puzzle:

- Genesis•Exodus•Leviticus•Numbers•Deuteronomy•Joshua•
- Judges•Ruth•Samuel•Kings•Chronicles•Ezra•Nehemiah•
- Esther•Psalms•Proverbs•Ecclesiastes•SongofSolomon•



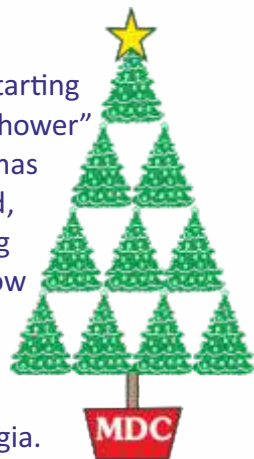
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are at least ten differences in the two pictures
can you find them ?



Christmas Tree Festival 2018

I would assume with the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils starting to show and bloom, even if it is through the current “lambing shower” of snow, that by now most of us will be looking back at Christmas with distant memories. Christmas trees are all dismantled, decorations neatly stored and in all probability both gathering dust in the loft. Although I have to admit as I gaze across a snow covered garden towards the “butterfly patch”, mine is still lying beside the compost heap waiting to be recycled, taking a positive spin, there is a little Robin who often perches in its now brown branches which does bring back a touch of nostalgia. And that allows me to segue nicely into what this little piece is actually about, the **Mid Deeside 2018 Christmas Trees Festival**.



Now an annual event, last years (2018) was probably the most successful; building on the experiences of previous years we managed to show **35 trees** within the entrance, Lochnagar and the sanctuary. As usual the standard was extremely high and the imagination of the individuals in preparing the trees astonishing, this ranged from decks of cards telling a biblical story to waste water bottles that had been discarded and gathered locally, some hand made, some bought (or otherwise) and decorated with such care and attention, so many different shapes and forms from groups within the community.

What was exceptionally gratifying was that **2018** was the “**Year of the Youth**” and some **12 trees** were from **youth organisations** or individuals throughout Mid Deeside, this ranged from the uniformed **scouting organisations** right through to the established **playgroups** and **nurseries**, including the **local schools**. At the other end of the age scale we had the older generation contributing through the **British Legion** and the **Care Homes** with individuals and other community organisations, all too many to mention individually.

As part of the celebration, for the first time Mid Deeside Church also had a **crafts table** which was managed by the **Junior Church leaders**. This allowed all children both young and old to design and decorate a drawing of their hand and stick it to a large paper Christmas tree, the end result was astonishing. (see pictures on page 11) Every group of youngsters and all the nursery children gladly contributed, plus some of those who are still “young at heart” made their mark. Even today, almost three months after the event I keep noticing that little

bit of glitter on the floor, you all know the one, it works its way into the carpet never to be seen again until midsummer. Always brings on a wry smile of recollection.

As well as the contributions of those that donated a Christmas tree, we should also recognise the contributions of those that entertained throughout the event. This ranged from an accompanied **“sing – along”**, to **individuals playing solo instruments, piano vocals** to a full **Torphins School Choir** and of course the **Church Choir** and **Praise Band**. You all know whom you are, you are all so talented, so wonderful to listen to and you made such a contribution, and for that I thank you.

As with previous years, the organising committee chose a Charity that would benefit from any donations received during the event. This year it was **“Home-Start”**. Home-Start is one of the leading family support charities in the UK. It helps families with young children deal with the challenges they face. It helps support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. The organisers provided a tree and Home-Start volunteers and families decorated the tree. As a little something extra we asked the congregation and community to wrap up small presents for both children and adults, for distribution at Christmas, and once again Mid Deeside didn't fail to deliver, the tree not only looked magnificent, but more so the **hundreds of gifts under the tree brought much joy to families at Christmas and the total amount raised through donations was £586.**

I always believe that an event such as the **“MDC Christmas Tree Festival”** brings out the true nature of people at Christmas, not only as a religious festival but also in the generosity of those that contribute and those that attend. It exemplifies human nature and kindness and to see such generosity and pleasure in giving makes all the effort for the organisers worthwhile. They have taken up the call these past three years, are they ready for this next Christmas, we shall have to wait and see.

It remains for me on behalf of the “team” to thank the organisers, contributors, entertainers and visitors, without whom this wouldn't have been a resounding success.

And so we come a complete circle, still snowing and the old tree is still waiting to be recycled, but recycled with fondest memories.

Colin Guy



PHOTO GALLERY



**Garden Gang
at work**



Malawi Knitters



Christmas Fun Night



COMMUNION TOKENS

Today when we celebrate Communion in Church “all who love the Lord Jesus Christ” are welcome to take part. But it was not always like that.

Especially in Scotland, in times gone by you had to earn the right to take communion. It all goes back to John Calvin, the founder of the Scottish Presbyterian church in the 1560s who suggested that tokens be used “to prevent the profanation of the Lord's Table”.

In the early days the minister and elders on their visiting rounds questioned the members of their congregation about their beliefs and behaviour. Only members who had a reasonable knowledge of the faith and had been of good behaviour over the past six months or so were given tokens to present in church on Communion Sunday to show they were eligible to take part.

Church Session (the elders and minister meeting together to agree Church business) minute books up into the mid 19th Century regularly record cases of members who were punished for bad behaviour (usually of a sexual nature) by being 'banned' from Communion for a period of time.

Communion in the Church of Scotland, especially in rural parishes, used to be celebrated only once or twice a year – and members were expected to turn up. If folk were absent from Communion too often without good cause they could have their Church membership taken away. In the days before motorised vehicles this could mean a long walk – for example until the mid 1870s, when Torphins Church was built, the Kincardine O'Neil Parish went all the way to Tornaveen so some folk were walking 5 miles and more to the church in Kincardine O'Neil.

From around the middle of the 19th century tokens were gradually replaced by communion cards distributed to members in the weeks before the Communion Services to bring along and hand in on Communion Sunday. Typically, these became used not to prevent folk from taking communion but to record that people had come to church to take communion and to remind folk when Communion was going to take place.

Most tokens were cast or stamped, first out of lead or tin, and later pewter. There were many types issued in Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Both Kincardine O'Neil and Lumphanan Churches used them and MDC has a few samples of 18th Century tokens and a lot of the more recent tokens which for Kincardine O'Neil date from 1847 and for Lumphanan from 1851. We have no evidence that the Torphins Church, only opened in 1875, ever used tokens.

Use of the tokens seems to have stopped in Lumphanan in the middle of last century but continued in Kincardine O'Neil Church in a commemorative way right up until the union of the three churches in 2002. Communion cards were distributed and when folk came to church they exchanged them for tokens which the elders then collected in the traditional manner on long handled ladles during the service. Of course by then, "everyone who loves the Lord" was given a token and invited to celebrate communion.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS – FREE COMMUNION TOKEN

Kirk Session has agreed to distribute, free, one communion token each to any current or past members of Mid Deeside Church or the previous Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins Parish Churches who would like this memento of times gone by.

The tokens on offer are the 1847 Kincardine O'Neil Church ones for any members from the Kincardine and Torphins Parish areas and the 1851 Lumphanan Church Tokens for any members from the Lumphanan Parish area. (See photos above).

If you are or were a member and would like a token please get in touch with Lesley Stone (email lesley.stone90@gmail.com Tel 013398 84354). Lesley will need your contact details and which token you are eligible for (if this is not obvious from your address). We have a lot of Tokens but if more members want them than we have tokens we will distribute based on when requests are made.

Why not check out Mid Deeside Church's Website

www.middeesidechurch.org.uk

for up to date news, and see this newsletter in glorious colour!

HOLIDAY @ HOME

Planning is about to begin for the popular **Holiday @ Home week** at M.D.C. As in previous years, it will take place at the end of **July (22nd to 26th inclusive)** from 2pm to 4.30pm each day. Every afternoon involves a short period of games, followed by some chair exercises, various kinds of entertainment and refreshments but most of all **FUN!!** It is **FREE OF CHARGE** to all 'holidaymakers' attending – places are limited so please book in advance by telephoning the Hilton's Box Office at 82130.

Horse Racing & Playing Card Bingo at last years H @ H



Anne Hilton ☎ 82130

WIDEN YOUR CHURCH HORIZONS

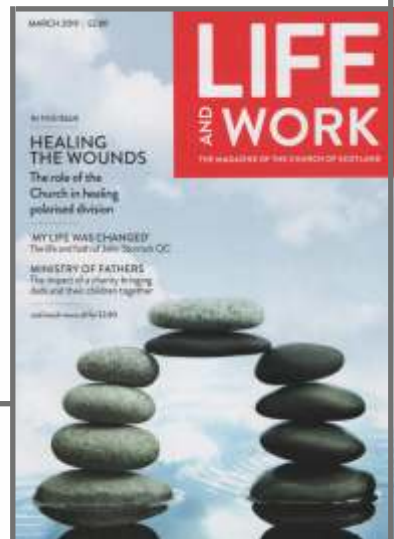
Subscribe to the
Church of Scotland magazine

“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



The Bread of Life

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

The **Bread of Life Charity Shop** opened for business **4th June 2014**. Since then it has generated total sales of **£109,299** (up to 28th February 2019) and given **56 grants** to **36 different good causes in the parish**. The total of all these grants amounts to **£62,638** and includes **£22,746** for church specific projects!

"A wonderful achievement I'm sure you will agree."

**To mark the Bread of Life's 5th anniversary
the Shop will open Saturday 1st June 10am - 3pm.**

Everybody is invited to pop in for piece of cake and a cuppa!!

The Management Team are in the process of renewing the lease for the Bread of Life Charity Shop for another 5 years so that we can continue to provide funds to groups and other good causes within the parish.

Closing date for **Grant applications** for the next disbursement of funds is **30th April 2019**.

If you know of any local group or good cause within the parish 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 Management Team would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all the volunteers for their hard work. Without the volunteers we would not be able to continue. We would also like to thank all our customers and everybody who gives donations.

Please note the Bread of Life will be closed

Good Friday and Easter Saturday (17th and 18th April).

If you would like to volunteer in the shop pop in and ask for an application form. A full induction is provided to all new volunteers and you would be joining a very happy group!

Best wishes to all.

Joan Donald

For the Management Team

CHIMWEMWE MU'BEREKI (Joyful Motherhood) MALAWI

The knitters of MDC continue to support this Malawi charity and we send them garments for babies who are vulnerable to the low night-time temperatures in their country. Our own Bread of Life charity shop have donated good quality children's cotton tops, dresses and trousers, all of which are most appreciated. All goods are posted out to their Post Office Box in the capital city of Lilongwe. As they are in a rural setting they have to pick up their own post or parcels when they are in the city. Of course, there's no Postie service such as we enjoy here in Scotland !! I receive e-mails and some photographs of the babies along with details of the circumstances of mothers and babies. These reports are in the foyer of the Church on a "read-and-return" basis.

Here is a picture of baby 'Clever Fletcher'

modelling some of the clothes. He was born on 5th November 2018 and weighed 2.8 kgs. Sadly, his mum is HIV +ve and has a severe cancerous leg wound necessitating her referral to Kamuzu Central Hospital for chemotherapy and baby 'Clever' being referred to Chimwemwe Mu'berekki for care and formula supplement. The baby's general condition, however, is good and we wish both him and his mum well for the future.



Thanks to all who continue to support this initiative – be assured you really are making a difference.

Anne Hilton ☎ **82130**

PS – A special thank you to the 2 Lumphanan ladies who take the many blanket squares donated, and sew or crochet them together into blankets.....they make my task so much easier !

MID DEESIDE NEWSLETTER

The next edition will be early August, 2019.

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

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


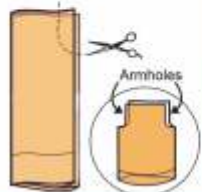
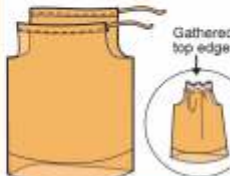

☎ 82130 or e-mail to Cha4DTP@aol.com

ROBERT KALEBE Orphan



POSSIBLE PROJECT FOR MALAWI

Pillow Case Dress - Instructions

<p>1 Cut off the sewn end of the pillowcase.</p> 	<p>2 Fold pillowcase in half and cut armholes. Cut through all thicknesses, about 4 inches down and 2 inches in.</p> 	<p>3 Fold down the top about 3/8" at the front and the back. Edgestitch to make a casing. Slide 6 inches of 1/4" elastic through to cause it to gather in the front and repeat for the back.</p> 	<p>4 Cut two 38-inch lengths of double-fold bias tape for armholes. Fold each in half casing. Slide 6 inches of 1/4" elastic through to cause it to gather in the front and repeat for the back. leaving extra at the top to tie dress at the shoulders. Trim is optional.</p> 
--	--	--	---

Editor's note: I was given this pattern a while ago - thought it might be a simple project as something extra we could send to Malawi - they are always very thankful for anything we send them.

Are there any of our congregation who enjoy sewing and have a spare pillow case ?

Anne Hilton ☎ 82130

P.S. Anyone needing a bigger copy of the pattern please contact me.



KNIT 1 PURL 1 (K1P1)

K1P1 meets for an hour between six and seven, on the first Wednesday of every month, unless otherwise advised via KIT. We are a small group who meet to knit and to enjoy the fellowship of other knitters. We have skilled knitters and beginners, young and old, men and women. Everyone is welcome and all materials can be provided for anyone who just wants to have a go!



Often folks will buy a pattern and yarn, then run out of steam and abandon the project. If this sounds familiar, do consider bringing everything along for advice on getting started again.

Sometimes knitters will want to learn some crochet and vice versa. Sometimes a pattern will require a spot of interpretation, and sometimes a knitting project will require sympathy and the application of some TLC.

Do come along for any of the above, or simply to explore a new skill and a rewarding and relaxing hobby, and of course, for a blether and some company.

Isabel Wilson



BANNER GROUP



The above group continue to meet on Mondays at 2pm in Morven and have three new banners in the pipeline at the moment as we hope to place banners in the other church rooms. These will take some time to put together so don't expect them in the immediate future.

Do YOU enjoy sewing - then why not join us! "All very welcome"

Sheila ☎ 82593 for info.

1. Why did God create man before woman?

Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.

2. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Samson — he brought the house down



M.D.C. FLOWER ROTA

To all who provide flowers each Sunday thank you, your support is appreciated.

Church flowers are an important part of Pastoral Care work in Church, and each week after the service the flowers are passed on to someone who may be going through a difficult time or to someone celebrating a happy event. Please let us know of anyone within our MDC Parish who should receive flowers.

New names on the flower list is always appreciated and if you have a special date you want to do flowers this is easily arranged.

Vases, flower diary and the current rota are in the cupboard beside the wash basin in the kitchen, please enter the Recipient name in the flower diary and deliver accordingly if possible however, if this is difficult speak to a member of the Congregation who will be happy to help.

Thank you.

Maureen Mearns 📞 82192 Flower Rota Co-ordinator



A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Anne and Charlie Hilton would like to thank all who contribute to the Newsletter. We receive articles, photos, reports, updates etc in many different forms, such as electronic, handwritten or hard copies. Most come in emails which is fine (we don't have to type them out) - unfortunately people use different packages (and versions) for writing their articles which can sometimes be a problem but we usually get there ! As we put the newsletter together (ready for the printers) it never fails to impress us just how much is going on in Mid Deeside Church. Considering we have no Minister just now with input from so many people we seems to be keeping the ship sailing along nicely. It would be nice if we could have a new minister soon so that we can find out where the ship might take us next! Once again "Thank You All".

Anne & Charlie Hilton 📞 82130



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.
Noted below are special services.
NB No Monthly Evening Services during the vacancy.

Palm Sunday/Communion
Sunday 14th April - 11.00am

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday 18th April - 6.30pm

Good Friday Service
Friday 19th April - 6.30pm

Early Morning Service on Pitmurchie Hill
Sunday 21st April - 7.30am

Easter Sunday Service
Sunday 21st April - 11am
(Including All-Age Decorated Egg Competition)

**Congregational Annual Meeting
during Morning Worship**
Sunday 28th April - 11am
(Followed by a Soup Lunch for Christian Aid)

Church Garden Praise
Sunday 18th August
Morning Worship in the Church Grounds
Accompanied by Granite City Brass

*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!*

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:-	www.middeesidechurch.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number:-	SCO12967
MDC postal address is:-	St. Marnan Road, Torphins AB31 4JQ.

As at MARCH 2019.



AN

**EGGSCHELLENT
EASTER**



FUN NIGHT



**Tuesday 16th April
6.00pm - 7.30pm**



at

**MID DEESIDE CHURCH
FOR ALL PRIMARY CHILDREN**

It's FREE

**No need to book, just turn up!
Registration starts at 5.50pm**

- EGG GAMES • EGG PAINTING • STORY •**
- CRAFTS • CAKE DECORATING •**



The Easter Story

Day 1: Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday

On the Sunday before his death, Jesus began his trip to Jerusalem, knowing that soon he would lay down his life for our sins. Nearing the village of Bethphage, he sent two of his disciples ahead, telling them to look for a donkey and its unbroken colt. The disciples were instructed to untie the animals and bring them to him. Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and slowly, humbly, made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem

On Palm Sunday, Jesus and his disciples spent the night in Bethany, a town about two miles east of Jerusalem. This is where Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, and his two sisters, Mary and Martha lived. They were close friends of Jesus, and probably hosted Him and His disciples during their final days in Jerusalem.

Day 2: On Monday Jesus Clears the Temple

The following morning, Jesus returned with his disciples to Jerusalem. Along the way, He cursed a fig tree because it had failed to bear fruit. Some scholars believe this cursing of the fig tree represented God's judgment on the spiritually dead religious leaders of Israel. Others believe the symbolism



Jesus clears the Temple of money changers

extended to all believers, demonstrating that genuine faith is more than just outward religiosity. True, living faith must bear spiritual fruit in a person's life.

When Jesus arrived at the Temple he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, "The Scriptures declare, ***'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves.***

Day 3: Tuesday in Jerusalem, Mount of Olives Jerusalem

On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. They passed the withered fig tree on their way, and Jesus spoke to his companions about the importance of faith.

Back at the Temple, religious leaders, upset at Jesus establishing himself as a spiritual authority, organized an ambush with the intent to place Him under arrest.

But Jesus evaded their traps and pronounced harsh judgment on them, saying:

"Blind guides! For you are like whitewashed tombs - beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy".



Jesus' Rebuke to the Pharisees

Day 4: Silent Wednesday

Tomb of Lazarus

The Bible doesn't say what the Lord did on the Wednesday of Passion Week. Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent this day resting in Bethany in anticipation of Passover.

Just a short time previously, Jesus had revealed to the disciples, and the world, that he had power over death by raising Lazarus from the grave.

After seeing this incredible miracle, many people in Bethany believed that Jesus was the Son of God and put their faith in him. Also, in Bethany just a few nights earlier, Lazarus' sister Mary had lovingly anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume.



The Tomb of Lazarus

Day 5: Passover and Last Supper on Maundy Thursday

Holy Week takes a sombre turn on Thursday.

From Bethany, Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to make the preparations for the Passover Feast. That evening after sunset, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how believers are to love one another. **Today, many churches practice foot-washing ceremonies as a part of their Maundy Thursday services.**

As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion, instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of bread and wine (*Luke 22:19-20*).



Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin. He was taken to the home of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the whole council had gathered to begin making their case against Jesus.

Day 6: Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial on Good Friday

Good Friday is the most difficult day of Passion Week. Christ's journey turned treacherous and acutely painful in these final hours leading to his death.

According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment known at the time.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spat on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the wooden cross.



Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

By 6 p.m. Friday evening, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and laid it in a tomb.

Day 7: Saturday in the Tomb

Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus:

While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation:



Day 8: Resurrection Sunday!

On Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, we reach the culmination of Holy Week. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event, the crux, you might say, of the Christian faith. The very foundation of all Christian doctrine hinges on the truth of this account.



Early Sunday morning several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced:

"Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead.

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.



The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, believed to be the burial place of Jesus.