



# MID DEESIDE CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



# LETTER FROM REV HOLLY SMITH

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."  
~Luke 2:10-12



Friends,

We worry about so much during Advent: Christmas trees, gifts, yummy food, and the fullness of our diaries. We think about memories, lights, and special songs, and hopefully, we think about that tiny baby that started it all. The moment God entered Mary's womb our world became brighter, and that light shines still today. The light shines amid our busy schedules, it shines in our hopes, and it shines when we share this season with the ones we love.

Let the light of Jesus shine forth from you this Advent. You can do this in big and small ways; when you shop for gifts do it in a way that honours God's creation, and God's children. Think about where the products you love come from and ask yourself did the making of this product harm others? Make yummy food from local sources if all possible, so that this community can benefit from your Christmas cheer.

Join us for the Family Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. or the Watchnight service at 11:30 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>; there we will rejoice together, sing carols that brighten our spirits, and end in candlelight as we walk forth to celebrate the birth of our saviour. On the 25<sup>th</sup> there is a Christmas Day Family Service at 11a.m.

This Christmas, let us remember, ***"Every genuine outbreak of Christmas Spirit" speaks God's blessing. Every gracious act of love, gesture of peace, and inkling of hope proclaims the witness of the shepherds. Each resounding experience of joy cries out with passion the reality of God's creative and redeeming love.*** - Derek Maul

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Holly Smith

## **FESTIVE PERIOD SERVICES**

**Sunday 15th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Pop-Up Nativity Service (see below)

**Sunday 22nd Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Christmas Worship

**Tuesday 24th Dec. 6.30p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Family Service

**Tuesday 24th Dec. 11.30 p.m.**  
Watchnight Service

**Wednesday 25th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Christmas Day Family Service

**Sunday 29th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Service of Lessons & Carols



### **POP UP NATIVITY**

**Come on Sunday, Dec 15th at 11.00am and get involved in an interactive version of the Christmas story with carols. You can even dress up as a character from the Christmas story! Fun for all!**

## PASTORAL CARE CO-ORDINATION

Your pastoral care team are enthusiastic about offering a helping hand and a caring ear to those in our community who are in need. We are delighted to be able to support our Minister Holly to help deliver pastoral care wherever it is needed in our community. This year, as well as maintaining the usual pastoral care visits, we have been developing a card ministry. Through this we deliver messages from our church to celebrate special events or to let people know we are thinking of them and praying for them in difficult times. Looking forwards, we have ambitions to develop a “crisis support” help for those who need an extra helping hand at a particular moment. We can't do that alone of course and whilst we work with our wonderful Elders we very much hope to be working with more of you to encourage our community spirit. We are likely to need your helping hand in whatever way you can, many hands make light work as they say. We also need your support to identify where the need is, so please do come forward and speak to us.

Please contact **Holly, Karen** ☎ 82711 or **Alison** ☎ 82912



### Mid Deeside Church now has a facebook page.

Our worship services are now live every Sunday morning. If for any reason you aren't able to physically be present in church, you can watch the service in real time on facebook - just search for “**Mid- Deeside Church**”. One of the other benefits is that you can watch the service, or any part of it, whenever you like - once the live-streaming is over, the recording remains on the facebook page. There are other posts to the page too – reminders of upcoming events, thoughts for the day, prayers, etc. You can also leave comments either directly on the page or use it as a way to message the church.

If you want to listen to the sermon you can also do so direct from the home page of the church website: [www.middeesidechurch.org.uk](http://www.middeesidechurch.org.uk).

For church news between issues of this newsletter, you can subscribe to our **Keep in Touch** (KIT) news bulletin, issued by email every two weeks. If you don't already receive it and would like to be added to the circulation, please contact me. Although it is essentially an electronic bulletin, if you'd like a copy and don't use email, we can arrange for a “**KIT buddy**” to print off a copy and get it to you.

**Lesley Stone** ☎ 84354 email: [lesley@middeesidechurch.org.uk](mailto:lesley@middeesidechurch.org.uk)

**facebook.**



**Do you want to learn how to use Facebook to communicate with your friends, children, grandchildren and beyond? Do you own a smart phone, tablet, or computer, but only use it for emails?**

**If so, come along to our first Social Media Workshop on January 27 at 1.00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There, Holly will teach you how to use the Facebook Platform and work to get you connected to the community forums and your favourite people. Bring your tablet, smart phone or laptop along.**

**The workshop is free and open to anyone who is interested in learning.**

**Why not check out**

**Mid Deeside Church's Website  
[www.middeesidechurch.org.uk](http://www.middeesidechurch.org.uk)**

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

# Christmas Tree Festival 2019

Here's a good pub quiz question for you.

“Where did the idea of decorating a Christmas tree' originally come from?”

And the answer is not Mid Deeside Church Christmas Tree Festival, but it does go a long way to showcasing the talent of the various participants throughout Mid Deeside.

Believe it or not it is upon us again and as I write planning is well underway, we even started the whole process shortly after the summer holidays just to give the dedicated enthusiasts sufficient time to get their thoughts together.

As a group we recognise that the Christmas Tree Festival could be a victim of it's own success, so we try hard to ensure that it remains “fresh”, and I think we may have succeeded yet again this year. Set-up, viewing and closing down Festival are as shown:-

Set up:

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 13.30hrs - 15.30hrs
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 18.30hrs - 20.30hrs

Festival:

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 13.30hrs - 16.00hrs
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10.00hrs – 12.00hrs (including coffee morning)
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 14.00hrs-16.00hrs

Close Down:

- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 12.30hrs - 13.30hrs

Set-up or close-down and visiting out with these hours can be arranged with prior agreement. We are always aware that various groups may wish to visit at non-routine times, e.g. Nursery children, Retirement Homes, adults etc., we're more than willing to accommodate such requests.

The “Programme of Entertainment” has also been broadened and will fall into three categories, Friday afternoon, Saturday Morning and Saturday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon Torphins School Choir will entertain us and those that attended last year will recall that it was a superb afternoon of singing.

On Saturday Morning we have the youngsters, parent and helpers from “Music Box” who have now become a feature for Saturday Mornings at the festival, in addition, rounding off the morning we have added “Storytelling” and a “Puppet Show”, so



Saturday Morning is very much looking like for the “young and young at heart”. Saturday afternoon includes a selection of local talent, some we have seen before and some who will be testing the water for the first time, including I am told, a not to be missed “One Man Ukulele Band”. The afternoon will close with the now regular “Carols amongst the Christmas Trees”.

One new addition to the event will be the “Men's Group” who will hold a “Coffee Morning” which will run during the Saturday Morning, butteries, scones and pancakes with an open plate donation to Christian Aid, could this become a regular feature for future events?

We have also had a gratefully received donation from

“Scotmid” which has allowed us to form the foundation of a “Tree made of tinned food”, which we have christened “The Scotmid Tree”. We plan to continue building the tree through donations of tinned food over the forthcoming weeks with all the products going to Banchory Foodbank after the festival, so if anyone wishes to donate to the construction of the tree, please feel free to bring along tins of food, but we would accept other items as well for around the tree.

Which leads me nicely into another new idea, a “**Reverse Advent Calendar**”, for those not familiar with the concept, it's like an advent calendar but instead of receiving a gift, you give a gift of food with a view to filling a shopping bag, once again for the Banchory Food Bank. Calendars will be available prior to advent and Mid Deeside Church will co-ordinate the receipt of the goods and notify

Banchory Food Bank when pick up could be available. Since the main objective was to “fill the shelves” after Christmas, donations should be limited to the suggested listings on the Reverse Advent Calendar poster and should not include Christmas Gifts, although toiletries could be included. (see page 8)

The chosen charity for 2019 is Christian Aid, so all monies raised through donations to the festival, the coffee morning etc., will all go to Christian Aid. But we also have the added benefit of supporting a local charity in the form of Banchory Foodbank where all donations to the Scotmid Tree and from the Reverse Advent Calendar will be made.





By the way, decorated fir trees were an obscure custom that only a couple of Germanic and Slavic countries practiced, traditionally to decorate their homes, particularly the doors, to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Historical records suggest that the Christmas tree tradition was started in the 16th century by Germans who decorated fir trees inside their homes. Some say the first to light a candle atop a Christmas tree was Martin Luther. It wasn't until the time of Queen Victoria that celebrating Christmas by putting gifts around a fir tree became a worldwide custom. In 1846, Queen Victoria and her German husband Albert were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. German

immigrants had brought the custom of Christmas trees to Britain with them in the early 1800s but the practice didn't catch on with the locals. After Queen Victoria, an extremely popular monarch, started celebrating Christmas with fir trees and presents hung on the branches as a favour to her husband, the rest of us immediately followed suit.

One final thought, the Christmas tree has gone a long way from its humble, pagan origins, to the point that it's become too popular for its own good. Annually, 300 million Christmas trees are grown in farms around the world to sustain a two-billion-dollar industry. But the beauty of the Mid Deeside Christmas Tree festival, as anyone who has visited will agree, the imagination of the contributors will more than likely take us to a more creative and sustainable alternative to the usual "Fir" Christmas tree.

*Colin Guy*







# Help those in need this Christmas

## Reverse Advent Calendar

**How do I do it?** It's easy, rather than treating yourself everyday, treat someone who really needs it. Simply get a bag and each day of Advent add a new item. See the items in the calendar below for suggestions.

<b>1</b> Tins of Soup	<b>2</b> Pasta Sauce	<b>3</b> Rice Pudding	<b>4</b> Shampoo & Conditioner	<b>5</b> Nappies & Wipes
<b>6</b> Tuna & Salmon	<b>7</b> Toilet Roll	<b>8</b> Juice	<b>9</b> Tin of Vegetables	<b>10</b> Tea & Coffee
<b>11</b> Tins of Fruit	<b>12</b> Fray Bentos Pies	<b>13</b> UHT Milk	<b>14</b> Deodorant	<b>15</b> Tinned Tomatoes
<b>16</b> Tinned Meats	<b>17</b> Tinned Hot Dogs	<b>18</b> Shower Gel	<b>19</b> Toothbrush & Paste	<b>20</b> Cereal
<b>21</b> Jam	<b>22</b> Pasta	<b>23</b> Rice	<b>24</b> Curry Sauce	<b>25</b> Biscuits

**Then What?** After you have filled your bag with items, bring it to Mid-Deeside Church on December 30th or Jan 7th from 10-12 noon and we will deliver it to The Banchory Foodbank to help those in need. This will fill up the shelves after the Festive Period.

Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland, St Marnan Road, Torphins AB31 4JQ Scottish Charity No. SC012967

## MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

Praise band and choir are delighted to have some new members join us recently. If you are interested in contributing to the music in our services, why not come along and join us? We have some good fun learning the music and are a welcoming, friendly group. Our work is mainly to lead worship at our Sunday services and also thoroughly enjoy learning some songs to entertain each year at 'Holiday at Home' which take place in July.

Praise band is an instrumental ensemble made up of different instruments and voice – if you play an instrument, have a chat with me and I'll write parts suitable for your instrument and ability. Praise band play for occasional services, the timing of which is determined mainly by the availability of the players.



The choir lead the singing of hymns in every service and have been spending considerable time learning new hymns which are all expanding our repertoire. We also spend time learning other pieces which can be used for special services. Meantime, we actually have less time to spend on these, but still work on them when we can. If you enjoy singing you are welcome to come and join us.



Praise band has a weekly rehearsal each Wednesday, 6.30–7.30pm in the church. Choir rehearsals take place each week on Thursdays, 6.30–7.45pm in the church. Best Wishes to all for the Festive Season.

**Isobel** 📞 83763



**Praise in the Park Service (Indoors because of bad weather)**

## CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

As you may remember from the August newsletter **Christian Aid** benefits from all of our fund raising this year and have so far received over **£2380** a wonderful amount **Thank you all** so much for your generosity.

christian  
aid

Some of the monies raised at the **Tree Festival** will also be donated and this will go towards helping "**Mothers worldwide use their God-given gifts to escape poverty**"

- **Ranjita** a low cast Indian girl from 9 years old was forced to work cleaning human excrement from latrines and sewers by hand. Thanks to donations she was able to join a self community and eventually set up her own tailoring business and now can support her family.

If we can help just one person she may be able to help others !

**Sheila Blair** ☎ **82593**

## MUSIC BOX

**Music Box** is a music group for pre-school children with parents/carers and meets during term time in **MDC Hall Lumphanan** on **Mondays** from **10.15am** for singing followed by snack and playtime/coffee and chat time.

For more info contact:- **Jayne Clarke** ☎ **82560**,

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

## 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.**



## TRAIDCRAFT

The Rev. Holly Smith, our new minister, is keen that Mid Deeside Church remain a **Fairtrade Church** and has offered her help at a forthcoming event. You may remember that **Traidcraft**, the company we deal with, celebrated its 40th birthday this year but it has had to make many changes to remain viable since supermarkets now sell **Fairtrade** goods. The result: some items are no longer available or have been repackaged so look different. The company is continually trying to find new suppliers and have some new items eg sweets and chocolate.



Our **pre-Christmas event** was on **23rd November** but Holly has asked that we have a stall with gifts on the two days of the **Christmas Tree Festival** to give people an opportunity to pick up a small gift and support **Fairtrade**. She will be there helping on the Friday afternoon and others will man the stall on the Saturday. Thank you for your support and forbearance over the last difficult months and we ask you to stop by some Sunday and try one of the products we have on sale remembering by doing so you are helping someone less fortunate than yourself.

Thank you on behalf of the Traidcraft team.

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

 **BANNER GROUP** 

The banner Group continue to meet in Morven on Mondays at 2pm We have almost finished one of the banners we have been working on, we hope to have it hung up before Christmas as well as our Advent Banners and the Christmas one 'Watch the Walls!'

**"Newcomers very welcome"**  
**Sheila** ☎ 82593 for info.

Knock knock!

who's there?

Luke

Luke who?

Luke through the peephole and find out...



## MID DEESIDE GUILD NEWS



As we go to print for the December issue, we have had two meetings, the first of which was our **"Tea and Chatter"** evening when we met for the first time in the new session. It's always good to see old friends and welcome new faces and have a good blether! Our second meeting in October was somewhat sobering, entitled **"Climate Emergency"**. **Richard Orren** presented us with the facts known to date, and gave us food for thought.

In November we were looking forward to hearing from **Bill High** on one of our Guild Projects..... **Malawi Fruits**. Funds raised by all the Guilds over a three year period provide much needed and appreciated help.....in this case enabling young farmers in Malawi to grow a second crop during the dry season by providing more **solar Futurepumps**, and thus bringing much needed cash into their households. Instead of a Christmas theme for our December meeting (12th), we have decided to celebrate (a little late!) **St Andrew's Night**. Rather than give away any secrets, I'll let you know all the details in KIT after the event!

Our Minister, **Holly**, will be speaking to us on 14 January.....we are very much looking forward to that.

Our **Project Afternoon Tea** will be held in Lochnagar Room from 2-4 pm on **25 January**. This is always a popular event, with home baking to entice you!

A speaker from the **Sailors' Society** will present our February talk. This is our second Project Partner for this year. From Lossiemouth to Leith, Sailors' Society's port chaplains and ship visitors reached nearly **3,400 seafarers** who arrived in Scottish ports in the first two months of 2019!

**"Banjul or Bust"** is the title of the presentation by **Charlie Denny** from Braemar in March. Intrigued by the title? Come and join us!

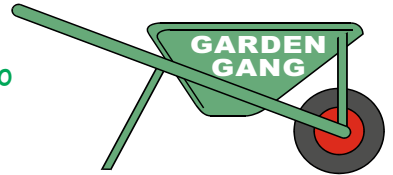
April sees us at the end of our session, when we will have our **A.G.M.** and a **CRAFTATHON**, where we will be involved in various crafts. Saturday 18 April we'll hold a Coffee Morning in Lochnagar Room from 10-12noon. Make a note in your diaries!

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Lochnagar Room. We welcome non-Guild members to all our meetings, and that includes men! We are a friendly group and would make you most welcome.

Any queries, ask **Dorothy Keir**, the Guild Contact Person..... 📞 82179

## GARDEN GANG NEWS

As always the *Garden Gang* have plenty to do around the church grounds and buildings at Lumphanan and Torphins.



Summer drew to a close and as Autumn approached, all the bedding plants were removed and beds tidied up.

Bulbs have been planted for the Springtime and general tidying up has been done. There has been less grass to cut but another cut will be due.

In my *absence*, the *Garden Gang* continued meeting weekly and did a great job trimming the hedges.

Now with the wind, wet and frosts, the leaves are well and truly tumbling down! This is a job which will keep us going for a while as we'll tidy leaves and take them to the compost heaps!

Grateful thanks go to John and Mary Watson who allowed us to take a great many shrubs and plants from their garden recently. They are restructuring their garden to make it easier to look after and kindly offered us plants before the new work took place.

Delighted to have such a selection which will add beauty, variety and colour to our church garden. Sincere thanks once again to John and Mary. Thanks go to all who kept and maintained tubs throughout the year and gave us such a fantastic show of colour around the grounds at Lumphanan and Torphins.

At this time of year it's good to look back and give thanks and so to all the *Garden Gang*, who have been a great support to me - a huge thank you - couldn't do it without you!

We're delighted that Holly often joins us for a cuppa when we stop for a break. It's not all work but fellowship too! We're always on the lookout for helpers and volunteers - so please get in touch if you can help.

May I take this time to wish you all a very Peaceful Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in the New Year.

**Archie Findlay** 📞 82681

## CHURCH FLOWERS

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.

The flowers are always passed onto someone within our MDC family who may be going through a difficult time or who are celebrating a happy event, please let us know of anyone within the Parish who is in need of flowers.



There is always room for more people on the flower rota once or twice a year at the most is all that is required and if people wish to do their 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.

Thank you for your support

**Maureen Mearns** ☎ 82192 Flower Rota Co-ordinator

## Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2019

At the time of going to print **72 shoe boxes** had been received, all beautifully wrapped in Christmas paper and filled with gifts for people less fortunate. In addition I have received baby items, a **wicker baby's crib, Royale Coach Baby Pram and nursery equipment, 2 bags** of useful items, **toys, baby clothes** and two large bags of **Men and Ladies Toiletries** some **Kitchenware, Utensils etc.** There were also **cash donations** amounting to **£104.**



A big **"THANK YOU"** to all directly concerned and to the people who donated on-line.

Arrangements are in place for everything to be uplifted by the **Blythswood Trust** in the very near future. I'm not too sure that you realise how your wonderful

generosity will help so many who are not as fortunate as we are! You are helping to make their Christmas time a little brighter,

**May I wish you all a very Healthy and Happy Christmas.**

**Margaret Stewart** ☎ 82595



# CHRISTMAS STORY WORD-SEARCH

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her **first born son**, and wrapped him in **swaddling clothes**, and laid him in a **manger**; because there was **no room** for them **in the inn**. And there were in the same country **shepherds** abiding **in the field**, keeping watch over their **flock by night**. And **lo**, the **angel of the Lord** came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, **Fear not**: for, behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy**, which shall be to all people. For unto you is **born this day** in the **city of David** a **Saviour**, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the **heavenly host** praising God, and saying, **Glory to God** in the Highest, and on earth **peace** and **goodwill** toward men.



Try and find the words in **bold** in the text above in the grid, the words can be found vertically, horizontally or diagonally and can go up or down, some letters in the grid may be used more than once.



## COLOURING PAGE

Colour in this picture of the Three Wise Men presenting their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

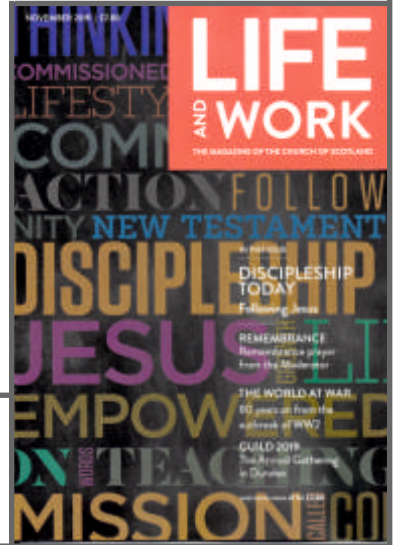


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Mrs. Edna Wildgoose ☎ 82266

## WORD FOR TODAY

The latest editions of the “**Word For Today**” and “**Word For You**” magazines are now available.

If you enjoy 2 or 3 minutes of contemplative thought at the start of each day, then the “**Word for Today**” booklet (published quarterly, and pictured on the right) is recommended to you.

In this booklet is written, against each calendar date, about 250 words about everyday things we can all experience and gives encouraging words for every day. **Give it a try - pick up a copy!**

On the right is the **YOUTH** version “**Word For You**”, written with the next generation in mind.

Copies are available in the Church vestibule, if you would like one, or both, just help yourself and leave a donation in the box provided !



## SOUP LUNCH/GAMES THURSDAY'S

Our "Soup Lunch" season has started again, the next date on the calendar will be **12th December** when we will serve a selection of "festive soups", mincemeat pies, shortbread etc.

You are also invited to take part in our ever popular **quiz**, where the winners are awarded a small prize (chocolate)

The Soup Lunch takes place in the Lochnagar room at Mid Deeside Church from 12noon - 2.00pm "Everyone is welcome"

**Admission Adults £4** and all profits are donated to MDC.

It's a great opportunity to meet up with friends or to make new ones !

The remaining dates for the season are:-

- Jan 9th 2020 • Feb 13th • Mar 12th • April 9th •

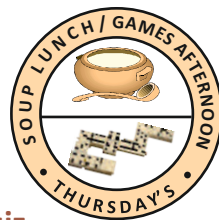
Do you enjoy Card or Board Games ? If so the Games Afternoons are for you ! Come along and join in Whist, Scrabble, Dominoes - whatever is your choice ! If you have a favourite game take it along and introduce it to others ! We meet in the Lochnagar room from **2.00-4.00pm** ending with a cuppa and biscuits ! **Admission £2** "Again everyone is welcome" Dates as follows:-

- Jan 23rd 2020 • Feb 27th • Mar 26th • April 23rd •

Irene Bonner ☎ 82481

Lesley Stone ☎ 84354

Charlie/Anne Hilton ☎ 82130



## MID DEESIDE NEWSLETTER

The next edition will be early March, 2020.

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

## YOUTH MINISTRY in MID DEESIDE CHURCH

***Hello everyone!***

It was lovely to meet so many of you at the Gala this summer. We hope you enjoyed taking part in our craft activities and meeting our new minister Holly Smith and her family.



Our regular junior church have been busy learning about God's provision and love for us all. The group have been planting and growing seeds as a demonstration of how our faith can grow along with making a growth chart to show how much the children grow. We also had our first crop of plums from the trees planted last year.



Over the next year the children have

decided to support two charities - **Save My Smile & Book Aid International**.

**Save My Smile** is an organisation that performs surgery for children born with a cleft in areas around the world where the treatment is difficult to obtain.

**Book Aid International**, provide books around the world to public community libraries, schools, refugee camps, hospitals, prisons and universities. Literacy and access to information have been shown to reduce poverty, providing opportunities for work, increasing household income and even improving health.

We will keep you updated on how the fundraising is going in our next edition.

We will be running a **Christmas Craft Table** again at this years **Christmas Tree Festival** on **13/14 December**. Please come and visit us and make a tree decoration for the **Junior Church** entry. Activity is for all ages and will be lots of fun and probably messy!!

You are all invited to join us for our all age family nativity service on **Sunday 15th December**. Nativity clothes will be available for anyone who wants to dress up and you are also welcome to come dressed in your favourite nativity outfit too! This promises to be a fun and lively re-telling of the birth of Jesus, **The Reason for The Season!**

Thank you God for sending your son on one glorious night to be born of a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and peace to you all.

***Michelle Garrett** for Youth Ministry Team*



Preparing the Craft Tent at Torphins Gala



Fun & Games at the Gala

## What is the Foodbank

**Aberdeenshire South Foodbank** is a charitable organisation, **set up in 2013**, run entirely by volunteers and hosted by the **West Church, Banchory**. We occupy the **Old Fire Station in Mount Street** and are open on **Wednesday and Friday 1 – 3pm**.



We are part of the **Trussell Trust**, a nationwide organisation supporting over **420 foodbanks** across the UK provide emergency food to people in crisis, offering additional support and campaigning for change.

Today in South Aberdeenshire there are people struggling to put food on the table. For those on low income, a sudden crisis – redundancy, benefit delay, illness or even an unexpected bill – can mean the family going hungry. Low income and benefit changes/delays are the most common reasons for referral. The Foodbank is able to provide three days worth of emergency food to local people in such crisis.

### **Donations.**

Non-perishable in-date food, toiletries and pet food is donated by individuals and organisations such as schools, churches and businesses. There are also collection points at various supermarkets. Cash donations are used to buy extra food and toiletry items not in stock or to meet special dietary needs.

### **Food Vouchers.**

Trussell Trust Foodbanks operate a Food Voucher system where our partner agencies of care professionals such as health visitors, schools and social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with the food bank voucher. Support can be needed several times before the crisis is resolved. Vouchers can then be exchanged for three days worth of emergency food either from the foodbank in Banchory or from one of our distribution 'satellites' in Stonehaven, Inverbervie and Aboyne (where standard boxes of food and toiletries are held).

### **Area Covered**

We cover the **Mearns, Aboyne and Upper Deeside, Banchory and Mid Deeside, Kincardine, Stonehaven and Lower Deeside**.

### **How many helped**

**In the year to March 2019**, ASFB provided food parcels to **878 people**, 345 of whom were children. This was a 14% increase on the previous year. Volunteers are also aware that many of our clients may have special dietary needs due to allergies. As in previous years, before Christmas we ask our main referral agencies if they have clients who would like extra support at this time, and almost a quarter of our food goes out at this time.

## Volunteers

We have some **40 volunteers** who come from churches and communities across the area. When the foodbank is open, four volunteers will be on duty - two in reception to meet and greet and offer a cup of tea and a chat and two in the store sorting and making up food parcels/boxes. Other work involves picking up, checking and storing donations from organisations and store collection points. Although we are quite strong in numbers, we are always on the lookout for other volunteers. Anyone interested then please do contact the Aberdeenshire South Foodbank at [info@aberdeenshiresouth.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@aberdeenshiresouth.foodbank.org.uk) Further details are also available on our website [www.aberdeenshiresouth.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.aberdeenshiresouth.foodbank.org.uk)



**Foodbank Collection - Tesco**



**Banchory Foodbank  
Reception Area**

## Our Christmas Shopping List

- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Ham
- Rice Pudding
- Jam
- Biscuits
- Dried Milk
- small jars of Coffee
- small packets of Tea Bags (40/80)
- long life Fruit Juice
- Sweets
- Shower Gel and Shampoo
- Adult Toothbrushes



**Busy in the Store**

***MDC would like to thank George Montgomery, Volunteer Coordinator at the Foodbank for the above information.***

## CHIMWEMWE MU'BEREKI (Joyful Motherhood) MALAWI

The MDC knitting needles are clicking fast just now, getting the **Malawi Christmas "Treefest" decorations ready** – lots of pairs of **baby booties** will hang on the branches of the Malawi tree this year !! Afterwards, they will be posted out to Joyful Motherhood.

During the month of **October** 2019, **FIVE** parcels (each weighing approx. 2 kgs) were posted out to the Malawi charity. It was a very busy month indeed. We send the parcels to a **PO box in Llongwe** (the capital city) and they are collected by the charity's staff when they come into the city (there are no posties to deliver their mail)! To give you some idea what these 5 parcels contained, there were:- **45 popover jumpers, 11 cardigans, 11 blankets, 43 hats, 4 dresses and some toys** (see picture).

Apart from the dresses which were sewn, all the garments and toys were hand-knitted.

Also included in the five parcels were clothes from our own Charity Shop, **The Bread of Life**, including **babygrows, T-shirts, bibs, leggings and dresses**, all in lovely condition.

Reading their e-mailed monthly reports, I am convinced that everything we send is of benefit to the kids of **Chimwemwe Mu'bereki**.

And so we move on into 2020 with the firm intention of keeping up the good work.

We will be entering our **10<sup>th</sup> year of MDC's association with them**.

All donations of money go towards postage costs and are most gratefully received. Thank you to all who donate.

Every report we receive from Malawi closes with these words....."May God bless you all". Amen to that!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Anne Hilton** 📞 82130



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."





# The Bread of Life

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

At the time of writing this we are very busy in the Shop preparing for our **Christmas Bonanza 13th November**. We will let you know how successful it is in the next newsletter. We are also in the process of distributing funds to worthy causes within the Mid-Deeside Church parish boundary. The distribution of funds happens twice a year. **Closing dates for Grant Applications** are **30th April** and **31st October** each year.

**The Bread of Life will close for the Christmas break at 3pm Friday 13th December then reopen at 10am Friday 10th January 2020. This allows all the hard working Volunteers a well earned rest!**

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

We try to sell as much of our donations as possible.

Linda Holland - a Volunteer in the shop sold a lot of jewellery for the Bread of Life at a car boot sale at Thainstone Mart raising £161. We dealt with a company which bought old cameras and cutlery etc raising £52 and we sold brassware to a firm in Aberdeen for more than £30.

Clothing, shoes, bags, belts, linens and soft toys that we can't sell are picked up fortnightly by a firm called Nathen's Wastesavers. They pay us by weight. They are one of the UK's largest textile recycling companies.

All these things help us raise more funds to distribute into our community.

The Shop continues to be a real hub in the community and tries hard to help out wherever it can. You may not be aware of some of the things we do so I thought I would share some of our "acts of kindness" with you!

We recently donated warm coats and jackets (which we were unable to sell) to the Aberdeen Homeless Community.

Baby clothes which again are surplus to what we can sell are given to Anne Hilton to send on to the Joyful Motherhood, Malawi.

Good quality bras are donated to Oxfam who can use them in deprived countries.

Educational books are donated to Books Abroad.

School uniforms are given to the School Council to sell for their funds.

We also accept used stamps for Mid Deeside Church to give to the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland.

I hope this gives you an insight into more of the work that happens in The Bread of Life.

The Management Team would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Volunteers, customers and all who donate to the Shop a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

If you would like to volunteer with us please ask for details in the Shop.

Full induction training is given and you would be made very welcome.

Best Wishes to all - **Joan Donald - For the Management Team**

## PHOTO GALLERY - HOLLY'S INDUCTION



*Fish-Eye Lens view of the congregation*

## PHOTO GALLERY - KINKER SALE



*The usual beautiful array of flowers from Robert Reid*



*There's allways time for a cuppa and a fine piece*

## PHOTO GALLERY



*Holiday at Home 2019 - usual fun & games and fine pieces*



*Walk way decorated for Remembrance Sunday*

PHOTO GALLERY - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY





## MID DEESIDE CHURCH SERVICES

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

Children attend the first part of worship, then after the Children's  
Message if they so wish they can go out to their own activities.

### Services to Note

**Sunday 8th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Morning Worship - with Communion



**Sunday 15th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Pop-Up Nativity Service

**Sunday 22nd Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Christmas Worship



**Tuesday 24th Dec. 6.30p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Family Service

**Tuesday 24th Dec. 11.30 p.m.**  
Watchnight Service

**Wednesday 25th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Christmas Day Family Service



**Sunday 29th Dec. 11.00 a.m.**  
Service of Lessons & Carols

**Sunday 9th Feb. 11.00 a.m.**  
Morning Worship - with Communion



*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



<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev Holly Smith</b>	 <b>013398 82915</b>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>Mrs. Pam Auckland</b>	 <b>013398 82722</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mr. Bob Auckland</b>	 <b>013398 82722</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Mrs. Isobel Robertson</b>	 <b>013398 83763</b>
<b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b>	<b>Mrs. Alison Orren</b>	 <b>013398 82912</b>
<b>Junior Church</b>	<b>Mrs. Michelle Garrett</b>	 <b>013398 89186</b>
“	<b>Mrs. Sheila McMurtrie</b>	 <b>013398 82022</b>
“		
<b>Fairtrade Convener</b>	<b>Mrs. Alice McLean</b>	 <b>013398 82232</b>
<b>Flower Convener</b>	<b>Miss Maureen Mearns</b>	 <b>013398 82192</b>
<b>Life &amp; Work Magazine</b>	<b>Mrs. Edna Wildgoose</b>	 <b>013398 82266</b>
<b>Guild</b>	<b>Mrs. Dorothy Keir</b>	 <b>013398 82179</b>
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	<b>Mrs. Pam Auckland</b>	 <b>013398 82722</b>
<b>Christian Aid Coordinator</b>	<b>Mrs. Sheila Blair</b>	 <b>013398 82593</b>
<b>Property Convener</b>	<b>Mr. Archie Findlay</b>	 <b>013398 82681</b>
<b>Presbytery Elder</b>	<b>Mrs. Pam Auckland</b>	 <b>013398 82722</b>

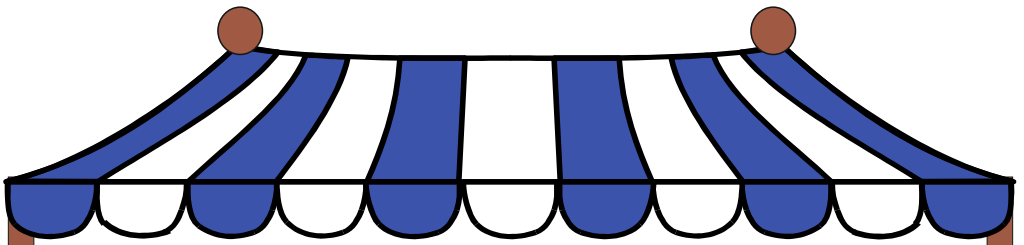
### Church Team Coordinators:-

<b>Worship Support</b>	<b>Mrs Sheila Blair</b>	 <b>013398 82593</b>
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Mrs Karen Whyatt</b>	 <b>07730341664</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Mrs. Lesley Stone</b>	 <b>013398 84354</b>
<b>KIT (Keep In Touch) by E-mail</b>	<b>Mrs. Lesley Stone</b>	 <b>013398 84354</b>
<b>Facilities Team</b>	<b>Mr. Stewart Keir</b>	 <b>013398 82179</b>

### General Information:-

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

As at NOVEMBER 2019.



## MDC ANNUAL SALE IN KINCARDINE O'NEIL

Another successful day for the Annual Sale in Kincardine O'Neil on the second Saturday of September despite the weather being too windy for the usual marquees to be erected. There was great support from the community with generous donations filling the stalls, and a large team of folk helping to set up ahead of the sale, running the stalls and the ever popular afternoon teas, and ensuring a swift tidy up process. Then a busy time for the person "in the counting house counting all the money." We raised **over £1800** that afternoon. That's not the end of the story though - there is always a lot of value left in the goods remaining when the sale is finished and with on-line sales of these items, and the sale locally of some specialist items the total is now **over £2350** – all going to **Christian Aid**. It is very pleasing that we were able to raise so much for this good cause. Many thanks to all involved.

*Lesley Stone, Sale Convener*

## Season's Greetings

Newsletter Editors Anne & Charlie Hilton

wish all our readers

the Love, Peace and Happiness

that the true meaning of Christmas brings

and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

