

Greetings from Mid Deeside Church

December 2025

The Church is not just a building!



Built 150 years ago, and completely modernised 10 years ago, the Church complex in Torphins is the place we go to worship each Sunday. But it isn't just for Sundays, or for weddings, baptisms and funerals. The building is available every day, for everyone, and our Church reaches much wider into the community.

The regular activities at the Church Complex are:

Mondays – exercise class; yoga; sewing group; Guild (second Monday of the month)

Tuesdays – two yoga sessions; Pilates; knit and natter; garden gang

Wednesdays - bridge club; Notes from Torphins choir

Thursdays – Pilates; coffee and chat with home bakes - free!

Fridays – yoga and mahjong; youth club (first Friday of most months)

Saturdays – a quieter day, but available for parties and other private events

And on **Sunday** of course there is our regular morning worship at 11.00, with Sunday Club for school age children, starting in church and then leaving for their own activities after the first part of the service. Communion is held on the first Sunday of every second month, and Messy Church family activities sessions take place roughly quarterly on Sunday afternoons.



The Church complex is also the emergency hub for Torphins run by TORCH (Torphins Community Help). In addition to the church complex in Torphins our church hall in Lumphanan is also used by community groups and we have parish pantries located in our three villages from which people can freely take what they need, and anyone can support by donating to them.

MDC also runs a busy charity shop, the **Bread of Life**, at 6 Craighour Rd, Torphins.

Whether you come to worship or to be part of the many activities going on in our buildings we hope you find a warm welcome here. For more information on any of these activities, contact our Session Clerk, Pam Auckland (tel 013398 82722), who can put you in touch with the responsible person.

Minister's Christmas Message

Merry Christmas!

Can you believe that it is Advent 2025? A quarter of this century gone! I guess what they say about “time flying” when you are having fun must be true because this past year at Mid Deeside Church has disappeared in a flash. We have celebrated new babies and lives well lived, we have danced and crafted with our primary school children, we have eaten a lot of cake as we prayed for the world, and we have cherished new relationships and dreamed big dreams. We know that we could not have done it without the community that supports us, that's you! Thank You!

I hope you know that you are loved and always welcome to join us for worship on a Sunday morning or a cuppa on a Thursday morning. We hope you will consider joining us this Christmas for our **All-Age Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 6:30 pm.**

It is a magical time to be part of this parish. ***Love, Rev. Holly***

Christmas Special Services

Sunday 30 November at 2.00pm - Advent Messy Church

Sunday 14 December at 11am – Nativity Service led by Sunday Club

Wednesday 24 December at 6.30pm – Christmas Eve Family service

Thursday 25 December at 11am – Short Christmas Day Family service

Sunday 28 December at 11am – Service of Lessons and Carols

All are welcome to join us in church - or watch on **Facebook** or **Youtube**.

Our Christmas Charities

This year we are supporting **CrossReach** and **Shelter Box** with the offerings from our Christmas Eve Family service, the proceeds from the **Christmas Brunch** (Sat 6 Dec) and the **Tractor Run teas** (Sat 20 Dec).

CrossReach is the social care arm of the Church of Scotland and has been providing a wide range of services for over 150 years.



In 2024 CrossReach supported 28,500 people across Scotland with needs including dementia, learning disabilities, mental health problems, homelessness, and substance misuse as well as offering services for children, families and older people.



ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that provides emergency shelter and essential household items to some of the world's most vulnerable people displaced by natural disasters and conflict, most recently in Jamaica following hurricane Melissa.

Christmas Brunch

Join us in the Lochnagar Room between 10 and 11.30am on **Saturday 6th December** for our delicious Christmas Brunch - bacon rolls, pancakes and fruit, tea and coffee, great company. Adults £5, children £3.



All proceeds will go to our Christmas charities- **CrossReach** and **ShelterBox**.

Parish Pantries

Our church manages pantries in each of our three villages: by the Bowling Pavilion in Kincardine O'Neil, next to the church hall in Lumphanan and in the church garden (village side) in Torphins. These pantries are open 24/7 for anyone to take what they need. We are very grateful to Aboyne Fareshare, Scotmid and the Bread of Life for their regular support as well as members of the community who quietly donate items to the pantries.

Reverse Advent Calendar

To help stock the pantries, we invite you to take part in our reverse advent calendar. Simply get a bag or box and add an item each day during Advent (suggestions below). Don't worry if you can't put something in every day. All donations, large or small, will be most appreciated. When you have filled your bag or box, bring it along to Mid Deeside Church. If the building is open you can leave it inside, if closed please place in the plastic box at the front door.

1. Tins of Soup	2. Washing-Up Liquid	3. Tinned Rice /Custard	4. Shampoo or Conditioner	5. Toilet Roll
6 Tinned Fish	7. Kitchen Roll	8. Diluting Juice	9. Tinned Vegetables	10. Tea or coffee
11. Tinned Fruit	12. Instant Noodles	13. Long Life Milk	14. Toothbrush & Paste	15. Tinned Tomatoes
16. Tinned Meats	17. Baked Beans	18. Body Soap	19. Laundry Liquid/Powder	20. Salt or Sugar
21. Pasta Sauce	22. Biscuits	23. Jam	24. Chocolate Treat	Thank You!!

Torphins Tractor Run - 20th December

The annual Torphins Tractor run will once again finish up at Mid Deeside where the tractors can be viewed once they are parked up. Look out for the mini tractors too.

There will also be stalls by local charities and crafters and teas will be served by MDC in aid of our Christmas charities.

MDC Guild

Mid Deeside Church Guild meets in the Lochnagar Room at the church in Torphins on the second Monday of each month at 2pm (October to April).

In 2025 and 2026 the projects supported by the Guild will be CrossReach, Playful Beginnings (supporting vulnerable families and children with additional needs), Release International, Operation Hope (supporting a Christian community in Egypt)

The Guild will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 31 January and Saturday 26 April to raise funds for these projects.

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to join us at our meetings and coffee mornings.



Julie and Sue, Guild contacts

The Bread of Life

The Bread of Life Charity Shop has had another very successful year.

In 2025 The Bread of Life has, over two funding rounds in May and October, awarded grants totalling **£18,800** to 23 good causes within Mid Deeside Parish. The annual Christmas sale which commenced on 5 November raised **£1201.10** on the first day of trading.



This success is made possible by the continued support of our very loyal customers and the hard work and dedication shown by our fantastic volunteers. The Management Team pass on their heartfelt thanks to you all. We would be delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in joining our team of volunteers. Application forms are available at the Bread of Life.

The shop will close for the Christmas break at 3 pm on Wednesday 17 December and reopen at 10.00am on Wednesday 7 January.

Youth Ministry

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Kimberley Daly** as our new Youth and Children's worker. Kimberley has a wealth of experience in working with children and families and is really looking forward to getting to know our young people and welcoming families into our church space.



Our grateful thanks go to Elizabeth Coulter who has established this local role and done a great job making contacts and encouraging the young folk in our congregation and community.

Messy Church for Advent will take place on Sunday 30 November starting at 2pm. Everyone is welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

New volunteers to help with our youth activities are always welcomed and, as the saying goes, many hands make light work. Please get in touch if you are able to help out, even occasionally, with any of our youth activities.

Hardship Fund

Mid Deeside has a small hardship fund, funded mainly by grants from the Bread of Life. It is for anyone in immediate need within the Parish, not just church members. It is administered by our Minister, Holly, and is entirely confidential. Contact Holly on 07834 218203, if you are in need. She may be able to help.



House Groups



We have two house groups which meet regularly- one every Sunday at 6.30pm in the Manse and the other every second Monday at the Aucklands. These are opportunities to meet in smaller groups to discuss the Bible and how we live out our faith. Anyone is welcome to come along to either group. For

more information contact Holly (07834 218203) for the Sunday group or Pam (013398 82722) for the Monday group.

To keep in touch with all that is happening in Mid Deeside Church visit our website, follow us on Facebook, and/or sign up to our regular Keep in Touch (KIT) e-mail by contacting Sharon Guy, sharon@middeesidechurch.org.uk

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Youth Worker:	Mrs Kimberley Daly	tel: 07789 437945
Session Clerk:	Mrs Pam Auckland,	tel 013398 82722
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