



Happy Christmas Friends,

I hope this wee newsletter finds each of you well. I wanted to take a moment to let you know about what is ahead at the Church this Christmas season and share with you some church joys over the past year.

Just after Christmas Day (2020), the country once again entered lock down that lasted up until Easter of 2021. During that period, all of us went home, stayed in a bit more, and perhaps ate more than we should have in anticipation of the storm named Covid 19 to blow over. During this time, the church found a way forward by continuing our online presence and reaching out to those in need through our flower ministry, prescription delivery, and of course the wonderful wee food pantries in each of the villages. Cautiously but optimistically, the church once again opened for worship on Easter Sunday beginning with a lovely Sunrise service in the carpark.

Since then, we have begun to find a way forward that hopefully allowed life to continue while keeping everyone safe. Allowing those that feel ready and able to come to 'in person' worship to attend and keeping our online ministry going for those not quite ready to. Hand sanitizer, masks, and social distancing play a big part in keeping our doors open. We are so thankful to have received a grant that allowed us to put in a much better livestreaming system that can be used not only for worship, but for funerals and all events! We invite you to consider hiring the church building if you are looking for a space in the village for an activity. (for further information call Pam Auckland ☎ 82722)

In September, Elizabeth Coulter became our new youth and families' worker! She organized our first ever Messy Church in October which went off fabulously! The Christmas Messy Church will be equally awesome. Please think about bringing your families along.

As always, I hope you know that you are loved this Advent Season. If you need me, please reach out; I am here to help. We have funds to help if you are experiencing a hardship and have set up food pantries in all three villages to combat hunger. No questions asked, you can access these 24 hours a day. You are not alone this year or any year, as God promises to be with us always.

This year, we will celebrate in anticipation of the birth of Christ at church on Sunday Mornings as we light the advent candles, at our homes as we count down the days, with our hands as we reach out to serve those less fortunate than us.

I hope you will join us for one of our Christmas Eve services this year in the church, or by watching on facebook or youtube. The Candlelight Family Service is at 6:30pm and the Watch Night Service at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve. I am always delighted to worship right along beside you.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Holly Smith

**Everyone is invited, even if you have never stepped foot in a church before!**

# EVERY ONE IS WELCOME AT MID DEESIDE CHURCH

St Marnan Road, Torphins, AB31 4JQ



## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 11 am

All Welcome

All our Sunday services are uploaded to facebook and youtube :

[www.facebook.com/middeesidechurch/](http://www.facebook.com/middeesidechurch/)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC62CDBgMnLMIFzSJ0eLrZAQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC62CDBgMnLMIFzSJ0eLrZAQ)

or just search for "Mid Deeside Church" in either Facebook or youtube.

For more details of the Services over the Festive Period  
see the information in the enclosed Christmas Card

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

During each 11am Sunday Service in term time

For all children and young people up to 18 years old

Held in one of the multipurpose rooms in the church

## Christmas Messy Church

Sunday 12th December 2021 4pm - 6pm

An afternoon of fun, faith and food

For All Ages



## Instant Nativity

Sunday 19th December at 11 am

"The Impossible Promise"

Christmas story told by our young people

## Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms

Holly, our minister, is available and very willing to take these important services for you. Please contact Holly direct on 013398 82915.

## PLEASE DON'T GO WITHOUT

The church has set up “parish pantries” in each of our three villages, stocked with non-perishable foodstuffs. **Torphins** - on the north side of the church extension.

**Kincardine O'Neil** - by the Bowling Pavilion/Tennis Court. **Lumphanan** - by the Church Hall.

The pantries are free to use by all who need them. They are open 24 hours a day. Just take what you need – and please don't leave money in the pantry. You are also welcome to use the pantry if you've simply run out of something – there's a fair chance of finding it in the pantry.

Many thanks to Aboyne Fareshare for helping to stock the pantries.

If you are able and wish to donate to the pantry please feel free to add any non-perishable, in-date, items on the shelves. If you wish to make a financial donation, please contact: **Margaret Stewart** ☎ **013398 82595**



## BLYTHWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you to all who contributed to this years Appeal.

Items collected and sent off were as follows:-

- Christmas Shoeboxes 31
- Cash donations for postage £63
- Large bag of baby hats booties & mitts
- Large bag of children's clothes
- 2 large bags of toys
- 5 bags of clothes
- 1 bag of toiletries.

*Thanks again for helping to brighten up someone's Christmas.*



## MID DEESIDE CHURCH GUILD

**We would love to have new members** . . . . . would you be interested in joining us? We are a friendly group and we meet on the **second Tuesday of each month** in the afternoon **2-4pm**. There will be an introductory informal meeting in January. For more details please contact: **Dorothy Keir** ☎ **82179**.



## KNIT & NATTER GROUP:

- This meets weekly in the church building on Tuesdays from 2 -3pm. All knitters and stitchers in the community will be made most welcome - bring what ever you are working on - or maybe come along and learn how to crochet !

**Shirley Crichton** ☎ **84229**

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Let's make 2022 better for folks in our parish! Participate in the 2021 Reverse Advent Calendar Project. The calendar is full of items readily available for distribution.

Last years project was a great success so please join in again this year!

How do you do it? It's easy. Rather than treat yourself every day, treat someone who really needs it. Simply get a bag, and each day in Advent add a new item. (If you can't put something in every day, no problem, any donations large or small will be most appreciated!)

After you have filled your bag with items, bring it to Mid Deeside Church on a Sunday morning or place it in the plastic box by the front doors. We will use the items to fill up the parish pantries and give the rest to the Banchory Foodbank to help those in need. This will fill up the shelves after the Festive period.

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

### Hardship Fund

Do you know that Mid Deeside Church has a small hardship fund? It is to help anyone in need within the Parish - not just for church members. It is administered by our Minister, Holly, and is entirely confidential. Only she knows who the beneficiaries of the fund are. Please contact Holly direct on 013398 82915

Holly is also able to make referrals to Banchory Foodbank for those in need.

*A Christmas Story*

### Counselling

Our Minister, Holly, is a trained counsellor. If you want someone to speak to, she is available and more than happy to do this – by telephone, by Zoom, or face to face.

Minister: Rev Holly Smith ☎ 013398 82915  
Session Clerk: Mrs Pam Auckland ☎ 013398 82722  
Website: [www.middeesidechurch.org.uk](http://www.middeesidechurch.org.uk)  
Mid Deeside Parish Church of Scotland SC012967

