

**Aberdour St. Drostan's Church.**



**New Aberdour**

# **Winter 2019 NEWSLETTER**



**Website: [www.aberdourstdrostan.org.uk](http://www.aberdourstdrostan.org.uk)**

**Aberdour Parish Church**  
**Registered Scottish Charity: SC007197**



### A Christmas Message from Miss Ruth Mackenzie Interim Moderator.

Here we are again, the clocks have been turned back an hour so it is dark earlier in the evening and we are noticing a difference in the morning too, the last hardy plants are just hanging on in the garden, we have marked Harvest and Remembrance Day, with the next 'big' event being Christmas.

Christmas is a time when many look forward to sharing with family, having special meals, giving and receiving cards and gifts but we also need to spare a thought for those who dread Christmas, because they are not part of a family, they maybe don't know where their family is, or this is the first Christmas they have been without a key family member. There may be a mother on her own, with two or three children, not knowing how she is going to manage to keep them warm at Christmas never mind give them presents. There are people who will not be in their own homes as a result of flooding and fire.

It is good in the general busy time of Christmas, to take a few moments of quietness to go right back to the beginning of Christianity and to just give thanks for that special baby born in the stable and to remember what he was to later go through for us. God sent his son, Jesus, into the world for such as these, for all of us. Take time to read Luke chapter 2.

*'Everyone's out shopping late every night,  
For candles and presents and Christmas tree lights.  
This is the Christmas that everyone sees,  
But Christmas means more to me.*

*It's Somebody's birthday, I won't forget,  
As I open the things that I get.  
I'll remember the inn and the stable close by  
For Joseph took Mary there.'*

(Rev. Ian White)

### Important Date for your diary

On February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 there will be the start of a new luncheon club in the Parish Hall New Aberdour Everyone is welcome. It will be an opportunity to have a warm meal in the company of others. The start will be 12.30 – 2.00pm.

**(There will be a charge for each meal.)**

Look out for further details nearer the time.



## **DIARY DATES**

### **Church Services**

**Every Sunday Morning for Worship at 10.00am Everyone is very Welcome**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, Auchmedden Church Pennan @ 3PM**

**22nd December 2018 St Drostan's 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**To be led By: Rhoda McDonald**

### **Christmas Eve**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Carols around the Christmas tree At the Village hall 6.30pm**

**(Music supplied by Fraserburgh Salvation Army Band)**

### **Followed by**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Christmas Nativity Service** at the end of the service there will be refreshments warm mince pies and shortbread

A warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join us at any or all of the Services and Groups. We also have a cup of tea/coffee and a piece at the end of the Service on the first Sunday of each month and following any special services Please feel free to join us in fellowship at this time

### **Church Groups**

**Guild Meetings 2.00pm New Aberdour Village Hall  
First Tuesday of the month**

**3<sup>RD</sup> December Boys Brigade (Guild Projects)**

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Homestart (Melinda)**

### **Singing Group**

**We are a dedicated group who just like to sing if you are interested in joining us please contact:**

**Mrs Ruth Reekie 01346 561464**





## SUNDAY SCHOOL SOWING SEEDS FOR CHRIST

our time of attending Sunday school and church as youngsters is a new edition to our Newsletter, it is hoped to get many of you within the parish to write about your experiences and memories.

If you want to add your memories and need help please contact anyone from the final page.

### MY SUNDAY SCHOOL DAYS

My Sunday School days started when I was very young, probably about three years old. My family church was half an hour away through a park and down a very long road. The bells would start to ring as we got to the bottom of the hill and we knew we were going to be on time. There were no buses on a Sunday and we didn't have a car.

We sat with Granny and Grandad in their pew until after the children's address and then walked down a side street to the church hall where there were lots of little dark rooms for the Sunday School.

We sat in rows of tiny wooden chairs. I loved listening to the stories of far off lands and the pennies we would be sending to the children abroad. When there was a birthday, the child would collect the pennies, singing "Hear the pennies dropping, listen while they fall, everyone for Jesus, He shall have them all, dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping, hear the pennies fall, everyone for Jesus, He shall have them all". They would then get a sticker of an African baby to stick on the world map. My birthday was in the summer when there was no Sunday School, but it was better because I was asked to collect the pennies every time someone was off ill, so I got quite a few turns.

Our Sunday school teacher was a lovely chubby spinster, who smelled of lavender and we all loved her.



The family would all go back to Granny's house for our "fly" and I know that's where my interest in baking came from. I used to ask Granny what the recipe was for her scones and pancakes and she would just say "a puckle be guess". I still measure my scones in handfuls. We would be given Oor Wullie and the Broons to read while the adults caught up with all the gossip. Then we would walk back through the park race our parents over a bridge and through a cometary to beat them back to the road again. What fun!

Our Sunday School picnic was a major event and we went to Balmerino Park, near Wormit on the "Fifie" and then a bus. There was a huge picnic basket with everything from ropes to balls and cricket bats and we had our races before the cups came out for tea and a baggie with a sausage roll and a paris bun.

I became a Sunday School Helper when I was 14 and it stood me in good stead to become a Sunday School Teacher in later years.

**This is a true account written by Mrs Ruth Reekie.**

#### Sunday School at Aberdour Church

When I attended the Sunday School it was held after the Church Service and all who attended waited in a line outside the church. The reason it was held after the Church Service was Mrs J Knox who was in charge of the Sunday School was the church organist. She was assisted by her youngest daughter, Amy.

I can remember having to learn the books of the bible and we had to be able to recite them all. We also had Sunday School picnics.

**This is a true account written by Mrs Sheila Duguid**

#### A Christmas memory

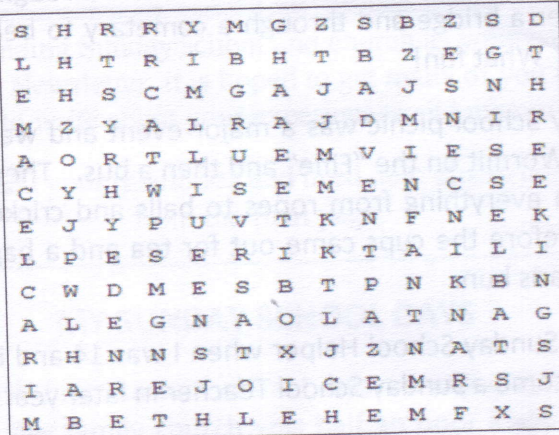
My first Christmas Eve service was when I was a teenager in Coatbridge. There was carol singing before the service. The church lights were dimmed during the service and on the stroke of midnight the lights came up and everyone wished the people around them a Merry Christmas. On leaving the church we were given a cup of soup as the first flakes of snow fell.

**This is a true account written by Mrs May Merry**





## Joy to the World



ADVENT  
ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
BLESSINGS  
CAMELS  
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MIRACLE

MYRRH  
NATIVITY  
REJOICE  
STABLE  
STAR  
THREE KINGS  
WISE MEN

### On This Day

On this day, bring back to mind, God's love and mercy for all mankind.

On this day May you recall, a tiny babe, in a manger lay.

On this day remember when Christ died and rose again.

On this day thank the Lord in heaven above for His sacrificial gift of Love.

On this day May you be blessed with quiet peace and holy rest.



If I have to pick up one more scrap of wrapping paper, a pair of scissors, ribbon, or write another gift tag I will scream! Sound familiar? Each year the task of getting ready for Christmas seems to start earlier. I can recall this year seeing Christmas cards in the shops as early as August. Christmas is a busy stressful time decorating the tree, who's cooking what and not least the logistics of where everyone will be on the actual day and whose table shall they sit around and who will be extra for the meal. Then there is the never ending shopping list, it is totally mad. The shops do open again! if not Boxing Day the day after, yet we fill our trolleys to bursting point as if food and drink was going to be scarce we will all likely buy far too much.

When most of you think back a few decades everything would come to a standstill for the whole week between Christmas and Hogmanay families came together for the seasonal celebrations the only people you saw or heard of working were the emergency services and those who were caring for others less fortunate in hospitals or nursing homes. Farmers and anyone who has animals also have to still do the same as all the other 358 days in the year feed and water, walk or ride. All these people have to have their celebrations around their work, but they still manage to spend time celebrating. There is portion of us who will pass the responsibility of the meal to a restaurant, Pub or hotel again there will be staff working leaving their own families until later, but still having the usual celebrations.

At this time WE all need to spare a thought for those who will not have a roof over their head a tree to decorate, gifts to wrap and unwrap, and will certainly not have a trolley full of goodies to eat and drink, they will possibly be on their own, cold and feeling despondent and unloved. WE should spare a thought for these. If you can offer help in whatever way you will be doing what the bible tells us.

Deuteronomy 15: 7-8. Giving Sufficiently. If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut our hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.



**From the Editor:** Here we go into winter. As warmer days ebb away we seem to do similar things that animals do "nest". In an evening when the curtains are drawn closed and the fire is crackling away, we are dry snug and warm often surrounded by our families. This is the same as wild animals, they have their own "nests" built out of the autumn leaves and stored full with the harvest fruits that they need to take them over the cold winter and into spring. We are the lucky ones!

2 Corinthian 9: 6-8 There are many people who will be out in the cold all this winter. I don't think we can even begin to imagine what this must be like. During this harvest in church we all donated non-perishable food to be given to the local Salvation Army food bank; this is to help the less well off during times of hardship a thing that is all too common these days. Some people find that through no fault of their own they lose everything including their home. There are many ways as we can help those in need. It is not always about money which can sometimes go on drugs or alcohol a good gesture comes in all kinds of ways. If possible try this Christmastime to give to someone less fortunate, a kind word, food, hot drink, maybe warm clothes or blankets. Take a look around there is plenty of charities who will accept items on their behalf. We also have people who are lonely, even on our own doorstep these may also need support or company, try helping by popping in and just giving time to chat, take a piece and share, if you have known them for some time invite them to your home to meet your family.

**"WE ALL NEED SOMEBODY, SOMETIME"**

The Kirk Session and Board Wish Everyone a Happy Christmas and  
\*\*\*\*\* Healthy New Year \*\*\*\*\*

**St Drostan's Office Bearers contact details:**

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Mr Gordon Duguid 01346 561411

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Mrs May Merry 01346 561304

Mrs Irene Stephen 01346 561216

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**Editor: Miss Heather Gibson**

