



DUFFUS, SPYNIE AND HOPEMAN

Church Magazine



CHRISTMAS
WINTER 2022/23

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**If you are able to receive the magazine by email,
saving paper and printing, please let Rev Jenny know.**

Dear friends,

May the peace of God be with us all.

I open funeral services with those words and use them in every communion service. In doing so, I am accepting and sharing a message God repeatedly shared through angels:

"Peace be with you!"

often accompanied by "Do not be afraid!"



This Advent and Christmas season we're reflecting on peace, because we so need it. The world is facing war and conflict, a climate emergency, and the effects of COVID and a cost of living crisis. In our communities, there is fear of how to keep warm and well as prices soar, along with all the usual niggles of life. In the church, locally and nationally, there are divisions as we try to find a shape for church life for the next few years.

We may well be afraid, and we definitely need God's peace. That peace doesn't offer an easy life. Mary was promised peace just as she became an unmarried mother of God's child. God's peace does bring welcome, as was offered to shepherds on a hillside outside Bethlehem. God's peace may be disruptive, turning the world upside down. Living out God's love and peace contributed to Mary's son Jesus being executed by those with power.

With all its complexities, God's peace is something we can hope and long for, trusting that God wants us to know it. God wants deep peace to allow us to be fully ourselves, healed and made new, and in community with others. God wants true peace for the world, for all of creation. And God sends Angels – messengers – to offer us hope and peace, over and over again, as we find in the Christmas story.

May we know God's peace, live in hope, discover deep joy, and be held in the love of God, born with us. Happy Christmas.

With love and prayers, Jenny



Thoughts from the Eco Team



Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman is an Eco Congregation, with a Silver Award that recognises how much we try to integrate care for creation into church life. The Eco team is trying to meet roughly monthly to keep us focused on this important expression of our faith. Everyone is welcome to join us - we're mostly meeting on Zoom just now, just contact me for details.

During Fairtrade Fortnight we will be holding an Eco Information and Coffee morning in Hopeman Memorial Hall on Saturday 4th March 10am-12noon. We hope to have a Fairtrade stall, seeds and plants to share, a chance to swap unwanted gifts & clothes, and information on energy saving. If you're interested in helping, please let me know.

This autumn the Board and Session approved an Eco Policy and an Environmental Purchasing Policy for the congregation. You can find those in full on the church website. Those pose challenges for us all as a church family. But they also raise important questions for each of us.

I think the first question of the purchasing policy would be helpful for all of us to ask in the run up to Christmas: “Do we need it?”

There is so much pressure to buy gifts, to spend on others and to provide lots of special food. That comes at a high cost to us, when many of us will be struggling to make ends meet. It may also come at a cost to the people who make cheap products for little pay. And it will often come at a high price to creation, in terms of resources used to make stuff, energy used to transport it across the world, and waste at the end of the day. To help us love God, God's creation, our local and global neighbours, and ourselves, why not start Christmas celebrations by asking “Do we need it?”

If we do need it, then consider if you can get what you need from a local source. If it has to come from further afield, can you get it fairly traded? If we're not sure we need it, how can we better express our care for folk and offer hospitality? Spending time with someone or using our skills (however amateur) to make something can be a beautiful gift.

What we need most of all is to love and to be loved, which is both simpler and more complex than anything we can buy.

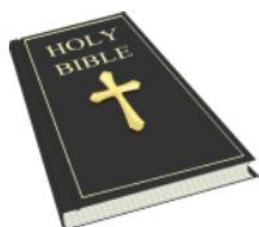
Hello Everyone,

I can't quite believe that it's three months since I wrote a wee introduction from myself for your last newsletter – those weeks since I began my placement at the beginning of October have just flown by. I cannot thank you enough for the very warm welcome myself and my family have received as we've joined with you all for worship every Sunday, we feel very blessed to have become part of your Church family. It's been a very busy time – Jenny keeps me on my toes! – and I'm learning a great deal. I'm enjoying being part of the wider ministry team with Jenny, Christine and Geoff and the ministers, priests, pastors and padres who serve the Lossiemouth area. There's been good fellowship and much ground covered by this ecumenical group over the last two and a half months. I've thoroughly enjoyed visiting both Hopeman Primary School and Lossiemouth High School as part of the chaplaincy team, and working together for the Remembrance services. Recently we joined with a group of senior students from LHS to answer questions they posed based on their Religious, Moral and Philosophical studies – a bit like Gardener's Question Time minus the plants, but with a theological theme. These interactions with the wider community are always fruitful and fun. One thing I'm not very good at is technology and I'm having to up my game to hone recording and editing skills in order to put together the online reflections when my turn comes around, and to provide visual effects for the services where we use powerpoint. Please bear with me, I'm taking a while to grasp the basics but hope to be able to bring meaningful input before too long – watch this space! Finally, I'd like to thank all the kind people who have offered me lifts and transported me to and from meetings and events – particularly Christine who ferries me around, especially when it's an early start in Lossiemouth. Without your generosity I would be unable to carry on with my probation. And I am also greatly heartened by all your words of encouragement, which are very appreciated. I'm always willing to hear advice or criticism, or to answer questions, so please chat to me when you have a chance.

Have a lovely Christmas,

Every blessing,

Anne-Marie



This cutting was found in an old Hymn Book belonging to the parents of Elder Rose Simpson:

Our Father . . . give us . . . forgive us. Matthew 6:9, 11, 12

What is commonly called the Lord's Prayer is actually the disciples' prayer, for the Lord Jesus said, "After this manner . . . pray ye." In it there is praise, thanksgiving, intercession, supplication, confession, and worship. We would do well to keep this model prayer in mind as we come to the throne of grace. It is a thoroughly unselfish prayer.

*You cannot read the Lord's Prayer, and even once find "I";
You cannot pray as He taught, and even once say "my";
Nor can you say the Lord's Prayer and not pray for another –
For when you ask for daily bread, you must include your brother;
For others are included in each and every plea –
From beginning to the end of it, it does not once say "me."*

CONTACTS UPDATE

Have you changed your home address recently? New phone number or Email address? If so, could you please let your Church Elder know, or send details to Christine Smith (salterhill@live.com), or telephone 07599 040478, to ensure Church records are kept up to date.

Livestreaming

Thanks to Michael and Chris Thompson we are now able to "livestream" services from Duffus Kirk. These are available to watch live at the time of the service, and are also available for people to watch afterwards – all through our YouTube channel (see above).

It would be really helpful to have a few others willing to learn **how to use that technology** to share our worship and funerals. It is not sustainable for it to be totally depend on Chris and Michael. If you would be interested in learning more, with time to occasionally help livestream from our buildings, please contact Jenny jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk

Spynie Warm Space

The warm space at Spynie has become a popular meeting place for church regulars & others who have visited the Kirk for the first time.

We have lots of books, games & puzzles available to those who want to participate but others are happy to sit & chat. We have taken time to decorate pumpkins, we have made Remembrance Poppies and we have had a Christmas Wreath making demonstration. On the 15th December we are going to try out making festive door wreaths ourselves.

Materials will be supplied & we will have warm mince pies. On the 22nd of we will have an hour of Carol singing from 2-3pm with alcohol-free mulled wine. In the new year on the 26th January we will be hosting an event entitled "Energy Efficiency / Coping with a Power Cut" this should prove useful for all of us.

The Warm Space at Spynie will be available every Thursday from 10am-4pm all through the festive period. Please come & spend some time with us.

We offer 'cup of soup' at lunchtime & hot drinks throughout the day. If you need a lift please get in touch. Come & join us. You will be assured of a warm welcome & a friendly face.

*Phone Shona, 07908583320 for help with transport.

**WARM SPACE SPYNIE KIRK
26th January 2023
10am-4pm**



'Energy Efficiency/Coping with a Power Cut' workshops
10-12noon & 1-3pm

Soup & Sausage Roll Lunch
transport will be available -please just ask

EVERYONE WELCOME



A Tale of Two Churches

A'lock-down' walk past Spynie Kirk by two Moray residents, who came originally from Italy, led to my involvement in interesting enquiries into coincidences linking two churches.

One of the visitors was a native of Pisa and knew of the Chiesa di Santa Maria della Spina (The Church of Saint Mary of the Thorn). On reading the story of Spynie Kirk, they realised that there were similarities with the church in Pisa; both buildings had long histories and both had been moved from their original sites, but was there a link in the names too?

The church of Santa Maria was built in 1230 on the banks of the River Arno beside an important bridge, the Ponte Novo. Pisan Gothic in style, it was originally known as Santa Maria de Pontenovo.



It was a small oratory (chapel) formed of a loggia, which would have been roofed, but open to the elements on one side. Work was begun to expand the building in 1322 and lasted for 50 years.

In 1333 the church name was changed to Santa Maria della Spina when it received a holy relic, a thorn said to be from the crown of thorns placed on Christ at the Crucifixion.

The proximity of the River Arno was a constant threat to the church and surrounding structures. The Ponte Novo collapsed during the 15th Century and was never rebuilt. From that time the church underwent repeated restorations to repair flood damage to the foundations and to consolidate the architecture of the building.

However, in 1871 the building was completely dismantled and rebuilt, still on the riverbank, but one metre higher in an attempt to save it from flooding. In the process, the church was altered, not without controversy, and many sculptures were removed to be replaced by copies.

The thorn relic was removed for display in the Chiesa di Santa Chiara (Church of St. Clare) a short distance away on the Via Roma.

This tiny, ornate, marble-clad church still perches on the banks of the Arno, dwarfed by surrounding buildings. It is an internationally important example of Gothic architecture.

The first Spynie Church, dedicated as 'The Church of the Holy Trinity', was built some time between 1150 and 1215. It was probably built of wood and clay bricks with very little actual stonework. It stood on the banks of Loch Spynie, a substantial shallow body of water with access to the sea and to the River Lossie which ran through the loch.

For a short time, around 1200 to 1222, Spynie was the cathedral (from the Greek 'kathedra' = seat) of the bishops of Moray but when the cathedral was removed to Elgin in 1224 it took the name 'Holy Trinity' with it.

Loch Spynie was an arm of the Moray Firth until at least 1337 and the River Lossie flowed through the loch until around 1500. There is documentary evidence of a sizeable town and harbour on the banks of Loch Spynie which was a burgh of barony by 1451, subsequently elevated to a regality with significant power to trade, make by-laws, administer justice and raise taxes. However, blown sand from the west as well as longshore drift of a shingle bar from the east eventually cut off Loch Spynie from the sea and the old burgh began to fall into decay due to lack of water to maintain a harbour.



The church building was 'upgraded' over the centuries and it was partly built of stone by 1691, with a stone gable and stonework round the doors. A belfry was added in 1723.

By the early 1700s, most of the population in the parish lived around Quarrywood (New Spynie) and a decision was made to relocate the Kirk to a more central position in the parish.

In 1735 stones from the doorways and belfry were used to construct the Kirk at New Spynie, but the stone gable remained at the original site until it collapsed around 1850. No doubt the canny parishioners recycled the stone for other building projects as there is now no trace of the building at the old site. The position of its east door is marked by a stone cross in the churchyard.

It is almost 300 years since the kirk was built at New Spynie but it has undergone only minor structural alterations in that time and would still be recognisable to those 18th Century parishioners. It is a typical post-Reformation T-plan building without ornamentation that put the pulpit and preaching at the centre of worship.

Regarding the name, 'Spynie', first rendered as Spyny in old manuscripts and also as Spinie or Spiney, it has been suggested that this is derived from the word '*spiath*'. This has roots in early Gaelic, probably derived from an earlier British (P-Celtic) language which may have been spoken by the Picts. As Burghead was a noted Pictish settlement, there is a compelling argument that this was the language of the early inhabitants of Spynie. *Spiath* is related to *sgitheach*, the modern Gaelic word for hawthorn and also related linguistically to the Latin *spina* – a thorn.

Hawthorn is a native tree species that grows in the locality. It is a powerful symbol in pre-Christian/Celtic culture as well as in Christianity.

Whilst they are very different architecturally, there are parallels between the stories of these two old churches. Forces of nature influenced their histories over many centuries (repeated flooding in the case of Santa Maria della

Spina and the loss of a navigable channel in the case of Spynie) which resulted in removal of both buildings to alternative locations; their names linked with the thorn; and not least the enduring faith of the parishioners and their determination to preserve their places of worship.

Susan Scott

You are invited to Communion

We are continuing to celebrate communion every four weeks. We are doing what we can to make it safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone. To include everybody, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and bread that is free from gluten, wheat and milk.

Whenever, wherever and however we gather for communion it is the family meal of the church in which we are fed and nourished by Jesus for the journey ahead. A sacrament is a visible sign – in this case, visible, edible, tastable and touchable – of God's invisible grace. God loves us first and always, and the sacraments enable us to know that through our senses, as well as our minds. Jesus invites us to come, take, eat – we are all invited. You are invited.



Be blest; prepare the way!

When out of poverty is born
 a dream that will not die,
and landless, weary folk find strength
 to stand with heads held high,
it's then we learn from those who wait
 to greet the promised day,
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.
 Be blest; prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God,
 forget to share their bread,
they find their wealth an empty thing,
 their spirits are not fed.
For only just and tender love
 the hungry soul will stay.
And so God's prophets echo still
 'Be blest; prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth,
 the world turned upside down,
and in the strength of woman's faith
 the Word of Life was born.
She knew that God would raise the low,
 it pleased her to obey.
Rejoice with Mary in the call,
 'Be blest; prepare the way!'

Kathryn Galloway

This thoughtful and powerful hymn was written by Kathryn Galloway, Church of Scotland minister and former leader of the Iona Community. It's one that we tend to keep as an advent hymn, but I would happily sing it at any time because it speaks of social justice in a truly Christian context and it reminds us that we wait and prepare in hope, each day throughout the year, for Christ's coming again.

The hymn reflects sadness at the plight of so many people in the world today, poverty-stricken, “landless” and “weary”, but finding strength to carry on through their faith that Christ will come, and everything will be put right; that people will be able to walk in dignity. The image of “those who wait to greet the promised day” reminds us of the words of the prophet Isaiah, that the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light – all the darkness of poverty, hunger, disease, violence and unfairness will disappear when God’s kingdom comes. We are encouraged to wait with patience, faith and hope, not losing heart but looking forward to the good things to come. This is also a hymn which challenges our own behaviour. In verse two we think about those who “wander far from God” and we can’t help but ask whether this might be us. Do we willingly share what we have with the hungry? Are we so caught up in thinking about material things that we don’t notice, or fail to consider, the needy? Are we ourselves left spiritually hungry by the way we live our lives? What constitutes “wealth”? And we are reminded to look to the words of the prophets who wrote of the world as it will be, when Jesus comes to rule. So, it is up to us to act as he taught us to do, with compassion for everyone we meet, and love for God and neighbour in equal measure.

We come, then to consider how Jesus came to live among us, born as a human baby to a humble mother, into a world where the plight of the poor and oppressed was just as dire as it is now, two thousand years later. And we think of the role played by Mary – very young, unmarried, vulnerable in the social strictures of her time when being a pregnant, single girl carried the harshest of penalties. Mary’s life is turned upside down by the birth of this baby, and the whole world is too. And why does Mary agree so dutifully to do what God asks of her? – because she knows that God will “raise the low”, her and her people, from the hardships that befall them. It is her faith that allows her to face up to all that will happen and she recognizes that life will not be easy, knows that there will be grief and sorrows, but also that her son will be the promised Messiah, Saviour of the world. This Advent season, may we all know the Word of Life in our hearts, and the fullness of spirit which comes from giving, sharing and loving in his name, and may we rejoice with Mary as we work together to prepare the way for God’s kingdom to come.

With every blessing,

Anne-Marie



B^{*}R^{*}R^{*}
STAY WARM
THIS WINTER

During services in November, we collected a number of hints and tips about keeping warm with the idea in mind that sharing in this way might help combat the rising cost of fuel for heating our homes as well as expressing our love for one another and planet earth. There have been some great suggestions and we hope that these might be of help, or serve to begin conversations around the subject. Some are obvious, others less so.

There were many suggestions around clothing:

- socks – bed socks, wearing two pairs, wearing tights and socks together;
- onesies, hoodies and oodies (oversized fluffy hoodies);
- vests and thermal underwear;
- fleece-lined trousers/leggings;
- layering-up;
- anything cosy – hats, gloves, scarves, ear-muffs, pyjamas, slipper-socks.

Other useful layers:

- blankets or shawls for wrapping-up in when sitting, lap-blankets;
- crocheting or knitting large items which keep us warm as we work on them;
- sitting or sleeping in a sleeping-bag;
- extra layers of covers in bed;
- hot-water bottles and heat packs;
- hair! – some gentlemen are jealous!

Dealing with draughts:

- foam sealing-tape for windows and doors - cheap, simple to use;
- door curtains/ keeping curtains drawn/ using thick linings;
- home-made draught-excluders for doors;
- screw-on brush draught-excluders for doors;

Food related ideas:

- hot food heats us up – soup, stews, casseroles;
- hot drinks;
- spicy food is super warming – curry, chili etc;
- inviting a neighbour for a warm meal;
- if heating the oven, perhaps bake at the same time as making a meal;
- kettle - boil only what's required/ save extra in a flask for later;
- air-fryers cook food more quickly than an oven – no preheat time;
- microwaves are cheaper to use than an oven;
- cook large batches, freeze then reheat in microwave;
- silicone food pouches can be washed and reused many times;
- steamer – cook stew, tatties and veg all together;
- pressure cookers and slow cookers seem to be useful.



General tips:

- turn off lights when leaving a room;
- not leaving things charging longer than necessary;
- charge gadgets while using public transport;
- not leaving things on stand-by;
- taking turns to visit one another;
- turn down the central-heating thermostat;
- programme central-heating for maximum efficiency;
- get outside for exercise – all-round health benefits;
- shorter shower time/ shower less frequently;
- showers rather than baths;
- line-dry washing rather than using the tumble-drier;
- halogen heaters;
- coming along to our warm spaces at Hopeman and Spynie!

We hope that we can continue to add to this list, showing our care for each other as we discuss what works best for us!

Christmas bits & pieces

Take a look at the calendar for the variety of Christmas services. The offering at the special Christmas services will be shared between Moray Food Plus and Barnabas Aid.

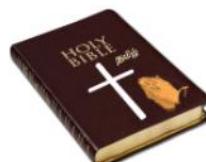
Barnabas Aid works to provide hope and aid for suffering Christians. As part of the family of God, Barnabas Aid stands with our Christian brothers and sisters around the world, wherever they suffer discrimination or oppression as a result of their faith. In this way we witness to the love of Christ and build His Kingdom.

As in recent years, our Christmas services include a Blue Christmas service. This is a quiet reflective service, making space for anyone who finds the Christmas season difficult for any reason, which may include low mood, stress, worry, loss or grief. There will be an opportunity for everyone to light candles to remember particular people and situations.

From the Assistant Minister

Dear friends,

As this year journeys on, we come to be on our collective and individual journeys in Advent, towards Christmas and the new year. This year, like many other years, to many folk, seems to have gone by quickly. I have now been in the temporary Assistant Minister post for Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman and Lossiemouth for three months and have been privileged to build on existing relationships, form new relationships, and develop my ministry. Some highlights for me in the past few months have been to be involved in the Remembrance events in Lossiemouth and in seeing the development of the 'warm spaces' in both Spynie and Hopeman churches. Remembrance and the 'warm spaces' bring people together in different ways and in different contexts, however the key themes they share is people respecting each other, caring for each other, and inclusion. Respecting, caring and including each other prompted me to consider the words of Luke 2:10, where the angel greeted the shepherds in the field, "...the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people." 'Good news and all the people', echo the respect, caring and inclusion, and are key parts which I hope are influential for us all in our Advent and Christmas journeys and preparation. In our faith, spiritual and practical preparations, it is easy to struggle to find the time and dates in our diaries to connect with everyone we would wish to, and attend all the seasonal events and festivities we would wish to, and find a time of peace and rest for ourselves. During the Advent and festive period and beyond it can help us to pause, to remember all the people who are not enjoying basic human rights and freedom to practise their faiths and traditions.



To remember all the people who are volunteering or working. To remember all the people who cannot be with loved ones. To remember all the people who are struggling to afford the basic necessities and dignities of life. May the Good News of Christ's birth be a time of inclusion, love, peace, forgiveness, grace, and joy. I pray each of us can be as involved as we would wish to be with the events of the season, whilst ensuring time for peace and rest. May our inner and outer selves shine as examples in the busyness and the peace, being as eco-friendly and considerate as possible in our Advent and Christmas preparations. I wish you all love, joy, peace, and the festive spirit during this Advent and Christmas time, sharing the Good News of Christ with all the people, as far as we humanly can, in God's love and grace. With blessings, love, peace, and prayers,

Christine

Sunday Worship

As part of its annual review, the Kirk Session has agreed that for 2023 we will continue the three-weekly pattern of Sunday worship across our three buildings. This allows us to gather as one larger congregation, only needs us to heat one building each week, and reduces the workload of the volunteers who do cleaning & door duties.

We are aware that means that folk have to travel further for worship on many Sundays. We would ask that if you can't walk or cycle to church, please share lifts wherever possible. For those who don't drive, please do ask for a lift – but even more importantly, those of you who do drive, please offer others a lift. The Session also agreed that from the end of November we would try worshipping in Hopeman Kirk Hall through the coldest months. Despite many years of effort seeking solutions, the Hopeman sanctuary requires heating to be on for an incredibly long time and doesn't always get to a safe temperature for sitting in. We will continue to monitor the Kirk Hall arrangements, to ensure there is space and everyone feels safe and comfortable.

Rev Jenny



November/December 2022

*We remember them with love,
give thanks for their lives,
entrust them to God's loving arms,
and hold their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.*

Kenny More, Seapark, Hopeman – funeral 11th November

Jean Reay, Spynie Care Home/Jock Glass Court, Elgin 11th November

Andy Mackenzie, Cummingston – 15th November

Iris McPherson, Forsyth St, Hopeman – 23rd November

Bertha McBean, Duff St, Hopeman – 6th December

Jan Nowell, Pickylaw, Hopeman – 12th December

These are the Church Funerals.

We also remember others who have died in our communities.

'PETER KIRK'

St Peter's Kirk stands south of the road leading to Gordonstoun School, about a quarter of a mile east of the Village of Duffus. It is sometimes referred to as St Peter's Church; as Duffus Old Parish Church; as Duffus Old Kirk; or just as 'Peter Kirk'. The origins of St Peter's Kirk date back to the establishment of **Duffus Castle**, on a site 1½ miles to the south-east, in the mid 1100s.



Castles were often accompanied by churches, and by 1226 a church dedicated to St Peter stood on the location of the church you see today. Around the church grew a village which today is known as **Old Duffus**. Some time later a tower was built at the west end of the church, which probably reached a height of three storeys. In 1524 the rector, Alexander Sutherland, oversaw the building of a rather fine porch on the south side of the church: his initials and coat of arms are engraved on the keystone at the centre of the vaulting in its ceiling. The outer door of the porch is surrounded by a strikingly pointed and highly decorated arch. The church seems to have continued to function as a place of worship through the disruption caused by the Reformation of 1560.

In the 1650s it is said that Cromwellian troops based in the area built a paved road around the church, in what at the time would have been the village of Old Duffus. No trace of this has been found in modern times. Some time in the 1700s it was decided to rebuild what by this time was a 500 year old church. This was something that happened to many medieval Scottish churches when funds became available: sometimes to give the congregation something more weathertight, but more usually to provide a space more suitable to the needs of Presbyterian worship. At St Peter's Kirk much of the earlier church was removed, with the stone presumably being recycled for use in the replacement church you see today. The main elements retained from the earlier church were the porch on the south wall (which perhaps implies that parts of the south wall were also retained), and the lower part of the tower, which became a burial vault.

Whereas the original church would have had its focus at the eastern end, in the new church, everything revolved around the pulpit. This was placed, as is often the case in Presbyterian churches, mid way along the south wall. The pews on the ground floor would have faced in towards the pulpit from the east and west ends, and across the church from the north side. Meanwhile, galleries were inserted at both ends and on the north side of the church.

Today the external stairs that gave access to the north and east galleries still remain, and climbing them gives an excellent impression of the space available within the church. The church fell out of use after a new parish church was built in the "new village" of Duffus in 1869.



The surrounding churchyard is fascinating and is heavily covered by grave markers. Just to the south of the church stands a stone shaft which, together with its massive stone plinth, measures some 14ft in height. This is the mercat cross (or market cross) of Old Duffus and is believed to date back to the 1300s. Its presence here is a reminder of an age in which it was common to hold markets in the churchyard if that happened to be the largest available space in the village or town.

Many of the grave markers carry the traditional emblems of mortality often found on Scottish gravestones from the 1600s and 1700s. The Christian cross was considered too "papist" by the post Reformation Scottish Kirk, so until the 1800s, skulls, crossbones, angels, hour-glasses and other emblems stood in instead. Equally interesting are the emblems often used to represent the trades of those interred below. In one corner of the churchyard stands a watch house, with a date of 1830 inscribed above the door. The exterior and churchyard can be explored at any time, and you can get good views into the interior of the church without entering.



Sadly, our Messy Church has become another casualty of the pandemic. Much as we would like it to restart, it is proving too difficult as some of our already small team, including me, no longer feel able to give it the time and energy it requires. So, unless more volunteers come forward, we simply don't have enough people.



Messy Church sessions took a lot of time, inspiration and creativity to deliver a wonderful variety of crafts, games and activities, all designed around stories from the Bible – some messier than others! I will never forget the story of the Prodigal Son and the bucket of pigswill (green jelly) with things hidden in it for the children to rummage for. You can imagine the mess and the fun they had with that. So I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to its success. As I wasn't involved right from the start, I'm not going to try to give all the names in case I miss anyone out. There was the story telling and the music, the people who dreamed up and supervised all the crafts and other activities, the people who prepared and served the simple suppers we enjoyed at the end of

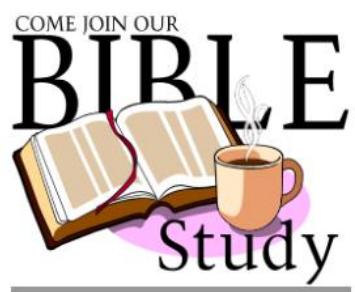
each session, people to co-ordinate it all, the members of the congregation who responded generously to our requests for donations of ingredients and craft materials and of course the parents and grandparents who brought their children to enjoy the fun and learn about the Bible. It was a pleasure to meet you all and spend time with you. I hope you felt you gained something from being part of such a positive experience. I certainly did.

Maybe one day it will be possible to get it going again with new people and fresh ideas. Thank you for the fun and the friendship.

Helen McKidd

Bible study group For Duffus Spynie and Hopeman

We are a wee group that meet weekly for prayer, fellowship and to read what God has to say to us. We will hopefully be resuming our weekly Bible Studies in January, and would love to hear from any in the congregation of anything that would like to be discussed and prayed about in the New Year, and for folk to join us now that COVID restrictions have eased and we can meet together again. Please feel free to ask me or David about the group.



Pat & David MacKay

Financial Support Available from Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church

Millennium Youth Fund - The aim of the Millennium Youth Fund is to assist pupils of secondary school age, residing in the parish of Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman, to participate in high quality and challenging activities (drama, sport, music, travel etc.) which they might otherwise have difficulty in attending due to financial constraints.

Church Benevolent Fund - This Benevolent Fund is for anyone connected with the congregation who would benefit from financial help which cannot be provided from other social funding or agencies. It is strictly confidential and administered by the minister and session clerk. For more information, contact Rev Jenny

Moray Food Plus

Moray Food Plus provides a variety of services to those either experiencing or at risk of food insecurity. They also work with partners to reduce the amount of local food waste taking surplus food and redistributing it amongst the community.

Food poverty is on the increase in Moray. Moray Food Plus is working hard to support people who through no fault of their own find themselves in crisis. Reasons for this are varied but include changes in personal circumstances, illness, welfare reform, low income, and unexpected bills.

The crisis service works on a referral basis from agencies such as social work, housing and health. They also accept self-referrals. Once a referral is received a team of volunteers make up a food parcel containing three days' worth of food (including pet and baby food on request).

If you or your family are experiencing a food crisis and need the support of the Moray Food Plus, please get in touch with them: 01343 208293 request@morayfoodplus.org.uk

Donations of food and toiletries can be made in most supermarkets, and we collect items for the food bank at the service on the first Sunday of every month. Half of the collections from our Christmas services this year will support the work of Moray Food Plus.

For those with the technology, you can download the “Bank the Food” app which lets you see what items Moray Food Plus are most urgently needed at any time.

Other support available

Advice on benefits and budgetting:

Moray Citizens Advice Bureau 01343 550088

Moray Council Income Maximisation Team (for those of working age) 0300 123 4563

Affordable low cost loans:

Moray Firth Credit Union 01309 676735

Money in a crisis:

Scottish Welfare Fund 01343 563456

Energy advice: REAP 01542 888070 reapscotland.org.uk/benefits-energy

Gathering by phone & online

**Along with other people in the Moray-wide church family, we share in offering a 10 minute reflection on a phone line:
(01309) 484774**

This phone line has weekly reflections from many local churches, and is accessible through a local number without any additional charges of need for the internet.

For those with access to the **internet or YouTube**:

Find us on **YouTube at youtube.com/**

@duffusspyniehopeman. That will offer a weekly 10 minute “bite-sized” video reflection, plus livestreams/recordings of services in our buildings whenever possible.

Find “Duffus Spynie Hopeman” or “Jenny Adams” on **Facebook** for the YouTube reflections and other information

Our neighbours in the Lossiemouth congregations have a weekly Zoom Fellowship on Wednesday evenings, 7pm.

Please contact Rev Geoff McKee

GMcKee@churchofscotland.org.uk for a Zoom link if you'd like to join any of those sessions.

Online church www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk shares weekly and daily worship, discussions, reflections and music to explore Many churches locally, nationally and globally share worship and reflections online. Jenny would love to hear more about what you are finding helpful and inspiring.

Watch with others?

We are aware that many of those unable to attend worship in our buildings may not have skills or technology to access YouTube.

One option is for people who do have the skills and equipment to **visit and sit with others**, watching and sharing in worship together. Perhaps even a couple of visitors – friends and elders alongside someone who can work the technology – either on a Sunday morning or at times that suit.

To do this on behalf of the congregation we would ask volunteers to get appropriate Safeguarding checks for work with vulnerable groups, which we can assist with.

Do you think you'd enjoy sharing in worship with someone unable to come to our buildings? Do you think you can (or could learn how to) watch the church's YouTube channel on a tablet or laptop to share? To help, please contact jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk

Commencing Wednesday 11th January 2023

TODDLER GROUP SPYNIE KIRK

WEDNESDAY 9.30-12noon

company for parents & carers
as well as for toddlers

EVERYONE WELCOME

Warm Space



Hopeman Kirk Hall
Mondays 2-4pm
Tea & company

Everyone
welcome

Duffus Spynie & Hopeman Church of Scotland Charity No. SC004853
dshchurch.co.uk
Rev Jenny Adams tel. 01343 830276 jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH NEWS



SONGS OF PRAISE SPYNIE KIRK



SUNDAY 15th Jan. 2023

1-3pm

From 12 noon

enjoy a cup of warming soup & a roll

Everybody Welcome.

PULLOUT CHURCH CALENDAR

Mon 27 Feb	Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
March 2023	
Wed 1 Mar	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 2 Mar	Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sat 4 Mar	Eco Information & coffee morning, Hopeman Memorial Hall 10am-12noon
Sun 5 Mar	All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am plus Moray Food Plus collection
Mon 6 Mar	Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 8 Mar	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 9 Mar	Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 12 Mar	All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am Forest Church, meeting at Hopeman East Beach, 4-4.40pm
Mon 13 Mar	Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 15 Mar	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Wed 15 Mar	Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm
Thu 16 Mar	Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 19 Mar	All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am - Communion
Mon 20 Mar	Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Mon 20 Mar	Kirk Session meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm
Wed 22 Mar	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 23 Mar	Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 26 Mar	All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am
Mon 27 Mar	Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 29 Mar	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 30 Mar	Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm

December 2022 – March 2023

We know that attending Sunday morning worship is not possible for everyone. We hope you continue to find ways to encounter God and to share in reflection and prayer. Here are some options:

Phone (01309) 484774, for “Call to Worship”, a 10-minute recorded reflection.

- At youtube.com/@duffusspyniehopeman find a video reflection for each Sunday, including livestreams & videos of services in Duffus Kirk.
- **Find Duffus Spynie & Hopeman (or Jenny Adams) on Facebook**, for the YouTube videos and livestreams, and other posts.
- **BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Scotland TV, BBC One TV** on Sundays.

December 2022

Sun 18 Dec	All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am “Come & join” nativity
Wed 21 Dec	Blue Christmas service, Hopeman Kirk 7.30pm for those who find Christmas difficult
Thu 22 Dec	Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm (with carol singing & non-alcoholic mulled wine from 1-2pm)
Fri 23 Dec	Carol service, Duffus Kirk 7pm with collection for Mission Aviation Fellowship
Sat 24 Dec	Family “light” service, Hopeman Kirk 6pm
Sat 24 Dec	Watchnight service, Spynie Kirk 11.15 for 11.30pm
Sun 25 Dec	Christmas morning service, Duffus Kirk 10.30am – Communion

Thu 29 Dec Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm

Sun 29 Jan All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am
Mon 30 Jan Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm

January 2023

Sun 1 Jan All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am plus Moray Food Plus collection
Thu 5 Jan Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 8 Jan All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am
Forest Church, meeting at Hopeman East Beach, 2-2.40pm
Mon 9 Jan Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 11 Jan Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 12 Jan Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 15 Jan All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am, followed by Soup & roll, Spynie Kirk 12noon, followed by Songs of Praise, Spynie Kirk 1-3pm
Mon 16 Jan Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 18 Jan Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Wed 18 Jan Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm
Speaker: Lynda Dean on local history
Thu 19 Jan Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 22 Jan All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am - Communion
Mon 23 Jan Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Mon 23 Jan Kirk Session meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm
Wed 25 Jan Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 26 Jan Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
with 'Energy Efficiency/Coping with a Power Cut' workshop 10am-12noon and 1-3pm. Soup & Sausage Roll lunch.

February 2023

Wed 1 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 2 Feb Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 5 Feb All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am plus Moray Food Plus collection
Mon 6 Feb Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 8 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 9 Feb Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 12 Feb All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30
Forest Church, meeting at Earthtime by Duffus House, 4-4.40pm
Mon 13 Feb Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 15 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Wed 15 Feb Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm
Thu 16 Feb Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 19 Feb All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am - Communion
Mon 20 Feb Warm space, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Mon 20 Feb Congregational Board meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm
Wed 22 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 23 Feb Warm space, Spynie Kirk 10am-4pm
Sun 26 Feb All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am