



New Aberdour

Winter 2018 NEWSLETTER



Website: www.aberdourstdrostans.org.uk

Aberdour Parish Church
Registered Scottish Charity: SC007197

There is one particular Carol that has always baffled many of us “ what on earth does Leaping lords and French Hens and a Partridge in a pear tree have to do with Christmas”.

It goes back to 1558 until 1829 When Roman Catholics in this country were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that period wrote this carol as a catechism. Especially the young enjoyed the song. Members of their church only knew the hidden meaning. Each element has a code word for a religious Bible element.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French Hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Contribution Leadership and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and self Control.
10. The Ten Lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

So now you can enlighten your friends and family over the oddest carol you may know

Let the Heavens
Rejoice and the
Earth Be Glad

Psalm 96: 11

The beauty of
Christmas is not in
the presents but in His
Presence

Matthew 1: 23

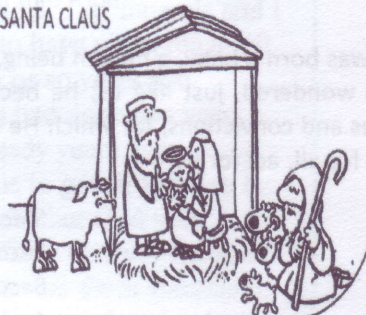
The word gave life to
everything that was
created, and His Life
brought life to
Everyone.

John 1: 4

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K
L	A	B	T	S	D	M	R	U	H	T	O	N
A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G

CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATIONS
HOLLY
REINDEER
TINSEL
MANGER
BABY
JOSEPH
JESUS
SHEPHERD
KINGS
STAR
STABLE
SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT
CAROLS
ANGEL
CRIB
HOLY
NOEL
MARY
BALTHAZAR
MELCHIOR
CASPAR
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH



A Prayer for Christmas

Loving God
During this holy season of Christmas,
We ask for your blessing on all our families.
Let the openness to your wondrous ways be
inspirations to place all trust in you.
Let courage provide hope during times of anxiety
and uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of
light and love.
May the grace that encircled the Holy family
widen to embrace all families.
For this we pray.

Amen

Nothing will
bring you
greater peace
than minding

Remember "
nothing is
worth it, if you
are not happy"

A.S.A.P
=
Always Say A
Prayer

Christmas 2018: From Miss Ruth Mackenzie (Interim Moderator)

Another year has come and nearly gone in the life of your church, and it has been a momentous year. We have celebrated this year – the whole community has celebrated with us, 200 years of worship in the church building on the present site; back in July, we had a visit from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Right Rev. Susan Brown, who attended worship so ably led by Dorothy Mair; we welcomed two new members to the congregation 'by Resolution of the Kirk Session', because they were simply transferring from another denomination; Mr Allan Gibson & Mrs Tressie Gibson. We had the joy and privilege of being witness to a baby being brought for baptism Charlie William Scott Porter. All of this, and when the congregation is in a vacancy situation. God has been good.

This makes our thoughts turn to the coming Christmas season when we celebrate the coming of the Baby Jesus, God's special gift to us

'Born that Man no more may die'

He was born a baby, a human being, just like us; he grew into a child who watched and wondered, just like us; he became a grown up, just like us. He developed ideas and convictions, for which He could die and did die on the cross, in that once and for all, act for us.

*'Because He lives, we can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives.'*

Let us go into the Christmas season sure in the knowledge that as He has been with us in the past, so that the same Lord is with us now, and will be with us in the future.

Gifts

We are nearing Christmas and thoughts will be turning to the buying, giving and receiving of gifts. However, how often do we think of the gifts that God may have given us or perhaps we do not think that he has given us any? Speaking for myself – I never in a million years would have thought that I would be taking church services or conducting funerals. I tended to be the girl that struggled at school and could be found huddled away in a corner with a book, rather shy and not very confident. Oh, I could talk nineteen to the dozen when with some of my older relatives but not so easily amongst my peers.

Cont...

When our Minister, Rev Massie left I had just been appointed Session Clerk and on a couple of occasions during our long vacancy I found myself having to prepare a service as we had no pulpit cover. As a result I found myself wondering if this was something that I might be able to do. One Sunday a Reader we had preaching gave a sermon on unclaimed gifts and I spoke to her about how I was feeling and she basically said if that was where I felt I was being called to then to 'go for it' which in due course I did.

To cut a long story short, having subsequently been accepted for the training and studying which took me 3 years, I found myself being admitted as a Reader with the Church of Scotland in March 2014. I thoroughly enjoyed the training but the study was hard – nothing has changed there since my school days, I'm afraid.

Since then I have taken many Sunday services and a fair few funerals and I find my faith growing ever stronger. God appears to have given me a gift for something that I would never have imagined 15 or so years ago.

Someone did once ask me 'don't you wish that you had done this years ago?' my answer, however, was No, as I was not ready years ago.

Something I do feel very strongly about and it seems to get stronger as I get older and as I travel further through my journey is that God very definitely has a plan for us and everything happens for a reason. I would encourage anyone who feels that the Lord is trying to tell them something, take them in a new direction, or whatever and they are wondering whether or not to act on it, please be strong in your faith and go for it, take God's gift with both hands – God never asks us to do more than he knows we can.

I'd like to finish with this Quote given to me by a dear friend, a fellow Reader, who was very supportive of me during my training:

"Today may there be peace within.

May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others.

May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content with yourself just the way you are.

Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us." **GOD's GIFT**

Written By: Mrs Margaret Grant

Ideals are like Stars

In this world of casual carelessness it's discouraging to try to keep our
morals and standards and our ideals high....

We are ridiculed and laughed at by the smart sophisticate who
proclaims in brittle banter that such things are out of date....

But no life is worth the living unless it's built on truth, and we lay our
life's foundation in the golden years of youth....

So allow no one to stop you or hinder you from laying a firm and
strong foundation made of faith and praying....

And remember that ideals are like stars up in the sky, you can never
really reach them, hanging in the heavens high....

But like the mighty mariner who sailed the storm-tossed sea, and use
the stars to chart his course with skill and certainty, you too can chart
your course in life with high ideals and love,

For high ideals are like the stars, that light the sky above....

You cannot ever reach them, but lift your heart up high and your life
will be as shining as the stars up in the sky.

xxx

Have friends,
not for the
sake of
receiving, but
of giving.

xxxx

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"Don't you
wish you could
put the spirit of
Christmas in
jars and then
open a jar
every month"

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Christmas

Each Christmas finds me dreaming

Of the smells that used to be

Mums Christmas cakes, and mince pies

To offer the visitors and family, I love to recall the
hours when all the family, decorated our Christmas
tree, the fairy lights were first and lots of glittering
tinsel, a good array of decorations, not forgetting the
fairy Who sits at the top of the tree.

Our stockings hung all in a row

Especially mine that had a brightly coloured bow;
As presents are put all around the tree we could hardly
wait, I wonder which ones are for me?

When Christmas comes I remember the fragrance in
the air; Satsuma's and candles, roasting turkey and
chestnuts, and bowls chocolates everywhere.

Every Christmas finds me remembering the ones now
long past Just as this year memories will be added to
my memories of the past.

By Miss Heather Gibson

Looking Forward

Church Services

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

16th December 2018, Auchmedden Church Pennan
Celebrate the Season 3pm To be led by: Mr Graeme Bruce

23rd December 2018 St Drostans 4th Sunday in Advent
To be led By: Mr Andrew young

Christmas Eve

24th December 2018 Carols around the Christmas tree At the Village hall 6.30pm Music supplied by Fraserburgh Salvation Army Band

30th December 2018 Morning Worship at 10am Pulpit Supply to be confirmed.

Followed by:

24th 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 Group

Guild Meetings 2.00pm New Aberdour School Community Room
First Tuesday of the month

4th December 2018 2pm Subject: St Drostans and Aberdour - Mrs Corrine Cox

5th February 2019 2pm Subject: Scammers - Julie Galloway and Ewan Simpson

From the Editor: Has I was getting ready to go visit my parents it got me thinking that at this time of year we are either wrapping, to keep warm or wrapping gifts. The word wrapping is even mentioned in the Bible. St Luke 2 v12 "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" this was a type of wrapping in those early days all babies were wrapped in bands of material, it was finely woven cloth of which the quality and cleanliness depended on the wealth of the parents. As children I am sure most of us will have taken part in the School or church Nativity, helping us to understand and remember the Christmas story, about the stable in which Jesus was born, the animals surrounding the new baby, the Wise men, the Shepherds. I am sure that in this day the Midwife might just have something to say and object strongly about being born in a dirty stable and for certain they would fetch in Health and Safety. Everyone would have to be clean and certainly not covered in the dust and sand from the desert in which they lived and travelled. Today a new baby would be wrapped in soft blankets and nice new clothes. Family and friends would visit bearing gifts suitable toys, cards clothes and flowers. The birth of a child has come a long way since Jesus was born, but never has any birth story been told so many times and in so many languages. I am so glad that I was told this story when I was a small child. I am very thankful that the Bible has given me a strong Faith and I have been wrapped safely within the Christian Family. Happy Christmas and New Year from the Editor.

The Session and Board would like to Wish Everyone a Good Christmas and
***** Healthy New Year to Everyone *****

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