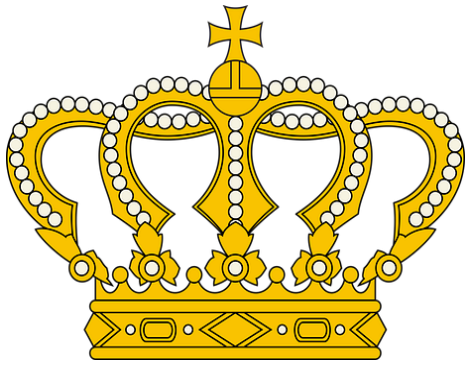


Cullen and Deskford Parish Church

Easter & Summer Magazine 2020





A Message from the Manse

A king once invited his subjects (by the way this is obviously a story from long, long, long ago), to come to his palace. And his invitation was a strange one.

He had a moat around the palace that had dried up - there was no water. So he asked that each one bring a vessel filled with water for his moat. Some brought barrow loads, others took buckets full to the brim, and some even brought thimbles full and spoons full of water for the king. (They must have been very careful not to drop any).

When they gathered and tipped their containers into the moat he then invited everyone into his palace. He opened the gates of a large storeroom, which was full of gifts. 'Now,' said the king, 'the vessel in which you brought water you can load with gifts.'



This could easily have been a parable that Jesus would have shared and it could be used in so many ways. Like all good parables I'll leave the explanation up to you.

Have a joyful Easter and Summer.

Douglas



Guild Photograph from March 1987
How many of the 40 members do you recognise?



Cullen and Deskford Parish Church

Auld Kirk Cullen

will be open for
visitors from
**8th May until 29th
September**



May & September
open days and times
will be every Tuesday,
Friday & Saturday
afternoons from
2pm - 4pm

Guides will be on
hand to tell you the
wonderful history of
this great church



June, July & August
open days and times
will be every
Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday & Sunday
afternoons from
2pm - 4pm

Please Note: Opening times may change due to any Restoration Work being carried out at the Auld Kirk this year. Please check our web page www.cullen-deskford-church.org.uk for full details before you visit.

Dates for your diary!

Fundraising Events



Tubes of Smarties have been handed out at church, enjoy the sweets and then fill the tubes with 20p pieces or £1 coins. The money raised is going towards the Auld Kirk Restoration Fund. Even if you have not yet received a tube of Smarties, a donation can still be given towards the Restoration Fund.

The filled tubes can then be returned at any time or at the Easter Fair / Coffee Morning which is on Saturday 4th April in the Hall Church from 10am - noon. All are welcome.



Thrift Sale - 2020



We are again on the look-out for donations for our Thrift Sale which is being held in the Hall Church from Friday 10th July through until Wednesday 15th July.

Please contact Isobel Addison on 01542 840610, or any Elder, if you have items which need to be collected.



Sorry we cannot accept large items of furniture or large electrical goods or TV's

A photo of our lovely volunteers from the Christmas Fair 2019





Holy Week Services



Monday 6th April at 6.00pm in the Auld Kirk, Cullen

Tuesday 7th April at 6.00pm in the Auld Kirk, Cullen

Wednesday 8th April at 6.00pm in the Auld Kirk, Cullen

Thursday 9th April at 7.00pm in the Hall Church, Cullen

Services on Easter Sunday 12th April

There will be an informal open air Communion Service at the top of Castle Hill in Cullen at 9.00am. Please come along and join us - all are welcome.

Easter service at the Auld Kirk in Cullen at 10.30am

Easter Service at the Jubilee Hall, Deskford at 12 noon

Session Clerks Report

There is not much to report from Session that is not already being covered in the magazine. The convenors of the committees, fabric, fundraising and publicity are working hard as usual and the restoration project is progressing at a steady pace.

I will be drawing up the rota for the Auld Kirk open days in the coming weeks and volunteer guides are always welcome. If you are interested in becoming a guide please let me know.

Jessie Mowat is standing down as Safeguarding Co-ordinator and on behalf of the Session I would like to thank Jessie for all her work ensuring we are all safe and in keeping Session up to date on safeguarding matters over the past nine years.



All congregations in Moray will be visited as part of a consultation relating to Presbytery re-organising. The Radical Action Plan was drawn up by the Council of Assembly in response to the General Assembly of 2018. One of the recommendations in the plan was the number of Scottish Presbyteries to be reduced from 43 to about 12, focused on supporting local congregations in their ministry and mission. We will have the option of being in the North East Presbytery or Highland Presbytery. This meeting will be held within the next few months and is open to everyone.

The Session meets six times a year to discuss matters of the church. If you have anything you would like us to discuss please let us know.

Sheila Sellar, Session Clerk

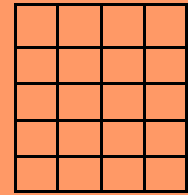
Fabric Report Church Magazine March 2020

Health and Safety Policy

We are currently undertaking an update to our Health & Safety Policy, which we require to be able to keep our Congregation and Hall Lets in a safe environment. This will mean that we have to tighten up on working procedures in our buildings, some of the changes may be seen as being 'over cautious', but we are advised by specialists who know what is now required by law.

We are also undertaking a Fire Risk Assessment on all our properties, as a result of a request from 121 George Street, Headquarters! This is a direct result of some recent major fires in important and Historic Buildings recently, in particular, the Glasgow School of Art, the MacIntosh Building, in Glasgow.

Fire Risk Assessment



This has brought into sharp focus the risks to losing buildings that cannot be replaced, in our case, the Old Kirk. As you all know this is a



very remote site, which, if it were to go on fire, it would be a total loss before any Fire Appliances were able to save any of the building. None of us could contemplate losing the Old Kirk in such a way, but we need to face up to reality and investigate the best solution to this problem, more especially as we are about to start a Restoration Project, that will allow it to survive for many more Centuries.

Everything comes at a cost, but we need to be sure that we find the most cost effective solution to these issues.

Bill Davidson, Fabric Convenor.



News from the Royal Burgh of Cullen Pensioners' Club

**A lovely photo
submitted by
Leslie Mair of the
Pensioner's Club
Christmas
Dinner.**

**A good time was
had by all.**

Auld Kirk Open Days Report 2019



Introduction

The Auld Kirk in Cullen has been open to visitors for many years, with the first recording of a visitor's book in 1958. In the beginning it was open on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon from 2pm - 4pm during the months of June - August. This coincided with the opening of Cullen Grounds on the same days from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Trained volunteer guides welcomed visitors from near and far to the 13th Century church.

In 2016 the Kirk Session decided to extend the number of days and months the Kirk was open and included a Saturday opening to cater for people who worked during the week. The months were also extended to May and September. In 2019, after consultation with the volunteer guides, the Auld Kirk open days were extended to five days during the months of June, July and August. It was also open for four days over the Easter weekend. However the opening hours remained the same.

Volunteer Guides

In 2012 there were 9 volunteer guides. With the introduction of the Saturday opening and extra months in 2016 this rose to 24 (mainly elders) and this year, with the extra days, five new volunteers came forward giving a total of 28 guides available for duty. We already have another new volunteer guide for next year. An induction evening was held for the new volunteers (and old ones if they wished to attend for a refreshment) and experienced guide Brenda Wood gave an overview of the history of the Auld Kirk and points of interest.

Advertising

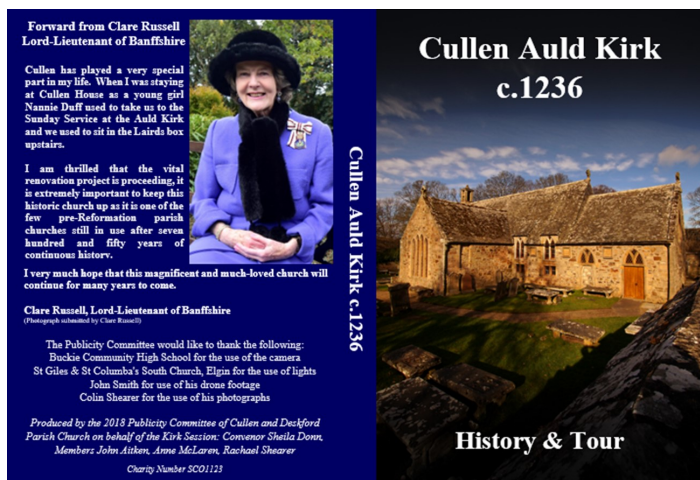
As in previous years posters and flyers were printed and distributed by the Publicity Committee throughout the local area. It was also advertised on our website and in the "Spotlight" magazine. An A-Frame board was purchased and this was displayed in the square in Cullen on the days the Auld Kirk was open. Although difficult to judge it is thought that this contributed to the increase in visitor numbers this year. New signs to the Auld Kirk were also in place this year (erected by Moray Council but paid by the Church).

Open Days

The Kirk was open for 74 scheduled days and it also hosted seven private visits from April to October. 772 visitors from 15 different countries were recorded as visiting the Auld Kirk.

There were only 11 days during the year where no visitors were recorded and the most visitors in one day was 55! Friday and Sunday had, on average, the most visitors.

Merchandise



There were some items of the Auld Kirk available to purchase:

DVD (2018),

Booklet (2016),

Bookmarks (kindly donated by S Webster) and for the first time a Copy of the Timeline was available.

The total amount of income from the merchandise was £761.

Donations

The Kirk Session decided that once again there would be no charge for a tour of the Auld Kirk but visitors would be encouraged to donate to the Restoration Fund.

A beautiful Restoration Box was made and donated by Les Millar in 2018 and a noticeable increase in donations has been apparent since the box was installed. This year £1,058 was banked from the donations box. The average donation per person was £1.37 and the average donation per visit was £13.07.

Comments

Visitors were encouraged to sign the Visitors book and there were lots of compliments on the building, the history of the church, lovely welcome received and the very knowledgeable guides.

Here are a selection of Comments taken from the Visitors Book:

**“Was baptized in church, Sept 19
1953. So happy to be back.”
CM, USA 22/04/19**

**“Married here in 1979 & my
daughter baptised 1982”
FG, Buckie 22/04/19**

**“Wonderful to see the church
and estate where my ancestors
lived/worked.”
J & S H, USA 07/05/19**

**“Probably the most interesting
church I have visited.”
LD, Cumbria 10/05/19**

**“Thanks for the interesting
talk. If only these walls could
speak!”
DW, Kendal 10/05/19**

**“This is an important church
that must be supported”
Heritage New Zealand**

**“A fascinating walk through
history.”
AA. Portknockie 07/06/19**

**“What a story!”
JSM, Banff 19/09/19**

**“Lovely building, very atmospheric,
well worth a visit.”
JL Lossiemouth 30/06/19**

**“Beautiful, peaceful, wonderful
history”
C & AM NZ 16/07/19**

**“Long may you continue to
worship the Living Lord in
this unique place”
RC Burghead 06/08/19**

**“Peaceful and wonderful collection
of history & architecture”
TA, Portknockie 13/09/19**

**“My great, great grandparents were
married in this church 9-12-1837”
B & SD, USA 16/08/19**

**“So important to preserve this
beautiful church & heritage.”
L & E B Rothes 31/05/19**

Report submitted by Sheila Sellar.



Cullen and Deskford Parish Church

Easter Fair



And



Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th April



in the



Hall Church, Cullen

from 10am - noon

Usual stalls:

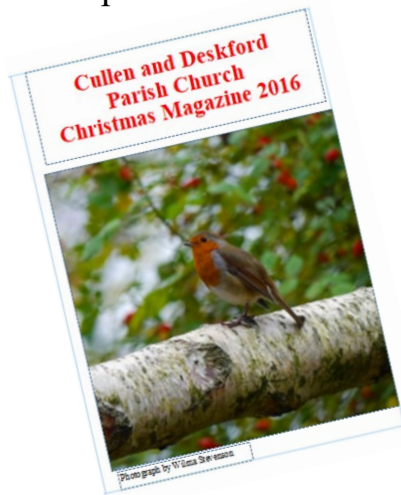
Cake & Candy - Green & Yellow Tombola - Raffle

Come along and enjoy lovely tea, coffee, cake and
the chance to buy some goodies!

Registered Scottish Charity No: SCO11231

This is your Magazine!

The Cullen and Deskford Church Magazine has been on the go now for quite a few years and here are a few of the front covers to remind you of what it has looked like in the past:



Moving with the times we can now send you the magazine by e-mail.

If you would like to received your copy of the magazine in this way then please let us know by dropping an e-mail to cullenauldkirk@gmail.com and we will send you our next Autumn & Winter Magazine by e-mail.

You can also check out our most current magazine on our website: www.cullen-deskford-church.org.uk



If you have any wee stories or photos that you would like to share with us we would love to receive them from you and include them in the magazine.

You can get in touch through our website or via out e-mail address cullenauldkirk@gmail.com

A great big thank you to everyone who has contributed to these past magazines we could not do it without you!

THANK YOU



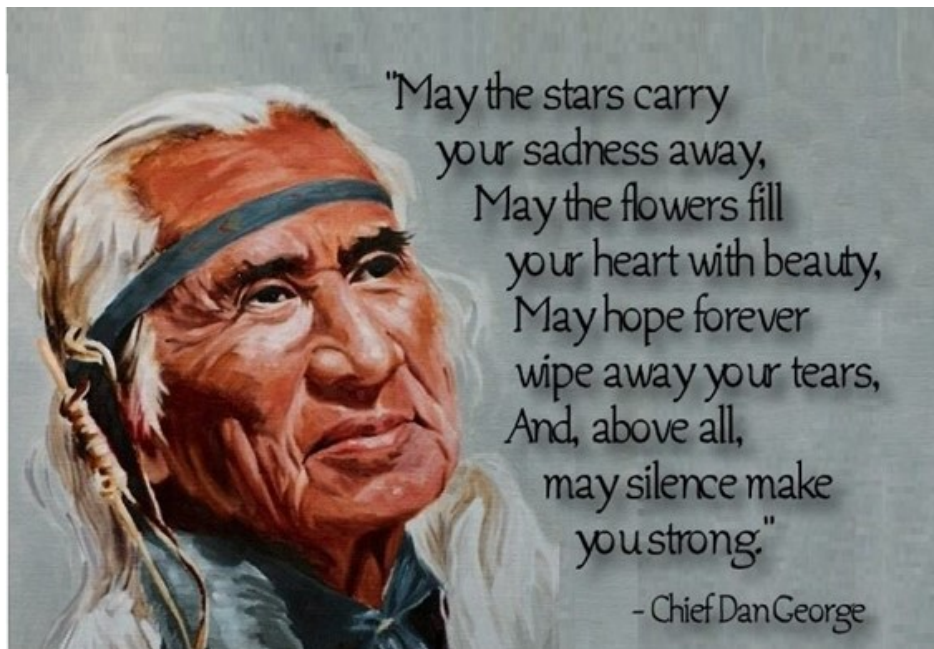
Celebrations

Congratulations to Vera & Doddie Reid who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 30th January 2020.



Here is a family photo taken at their party in the Cullen Bowling Club on Saturday 8th February where you will see Doddie and Vera surrounded by their four Daughters and Son-in-Laws, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. Instead of presents £1,100 was donated to Doddie and Vera's chosen charities for Parkinson's and Dementia.

Vera and Doddie would like to thank all family and friends for their kind donations.



A couple of quotes for you:

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

Oscar Wilde

"Women are like teabags, you never know how strong they are until they're put in hot water."
Eleanor Roosevelt



Treasurers Report

As I write this article Rachael Shearer and I have just completed the End of Year Accounts for 2019. These have to be examined by an Independent Examiner before being sent to Presbytery, Church of Scotland headquarters and OSCR. I can report that we are keeping “our head above the water” and the approved accounts will be presented at our AGM (date yet to be set).

Although all is well, this current year has seen another rise in our Mission and Ministries contributions to £31,769. A quick calculation shows we need a monthly income of approx. £3,800 to cover our day to day costs. This does not take into account any fabric or additional/quarterly/annual expenses. Another quick calculation - if every member gave £2 per week that would generate an income of approx. £2,200 per month and £3 per week would generate £3,250 per month. This would lessen the shortfall which at present is covered from hall lets and fundraising events.

If you would like to set up a direct debit, receive a Weekly Free offering envelope or review your Gift Aid please speak in confidence to myself or Rachael.

Lastly a big thanks to everyone who supports our church either through donating or supporting events - it is very much appreciated.

Sheila Sellar
Treasurer



easyfundraising .org.uk

**Do you do your shopping online?
Why not support Cullen and Deskford Parish Church as you shop?**

By using easyfundraising to access over 2000 well known retailers, savvy shoppers generate a free donation to the church. If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, Vodafone, eBay, Boden and Play.com, then we need you to sign up for free to raise money while you shop! It's an easy way to help raise money for Cullen & Deskford Parish Church.

To support this please visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cullendeskfordchurch> and follow the instructions.



Christian Aid Report from Moira Legge

It is hoped to have a retiring collection during Christina Aid Week to support the work of the charity.

Focusing on the climate emergency hanging over our planet it is suggested that we read Genesis 1: 1-2 "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters"

A prayer for Christian Aid Week: God, forgive us for ignoring the rhythms of nature, for over extending the Earth and each other. Instill in us sustainable ways of resting and enjoying the goodness of your creation and protecting the Earth with all our Brothers and Sisters. Amen

Moira Legge

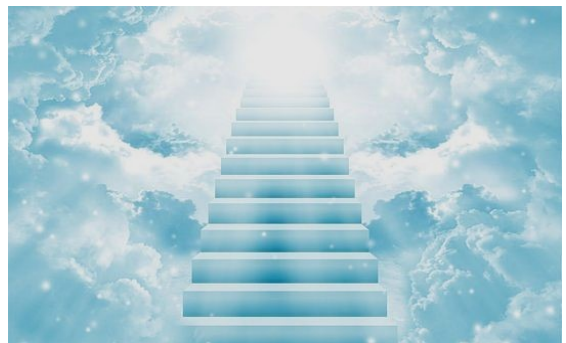


Deskford Folk

This lovely photograph was submitted by Jimmy Stewart from Deskford.
Can you name everyone in the picture?

Funerals: *I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever has faith in me shall live, even though he dies; and no one who lives and has faith in me shall ever die.*

6th December 2019 - Nellie Findlay
10th January 2020 - Jean Riddoch



Co-op Community Fund - Boosts Restoration Funds

A big thank you to the Co-op Local Community Fund team for choosing the Auld Kirk Restoration Project as one of its beneficiaries for 2018/19 and to every member who supported our cause. Over £1,700 was raised throughout the year. Receiving the second payment on behalf of Cullen and Deskford Parish Church are (from L-R) Isobel Addison, Fundraising Convenor, Rev Douglas Stevenson and Sheila Sellar, Session Clerk/Treasurer. Photograph courtesy of Cullen Co-Op.



A beautiful wee poem submitted by Isobel Addison which she found amongst her Mum's papers:

My days are days of small affairs, of trifling worries, little cares
A lunch to pack, a bed to make, a room to sweep, a pie to bake
A hurt to kiss, a tear to dry, a head to brush, a lace to tie
A face to wash, a toy to mend, a meal to plan, a fuss to end

I, who had hoped some day to gain, perhaps success, a bit of fame
Must give my life, to small affairs, of trifling worries, little cares
But should tomorrow bring a change, my little house grow still and strange
Should all the cares I know today, be quite suddenly swept away
Where now a hundred duties press, be but an ache of loneliness
No child's ribbon to be tied, no wayward little feet to guide -
To heaven then would rise my prayers -
"Oh God give back my little cares."



Author unknown.



Restoration Committee Report

(An exercise in patience and restraint)



Waiting on a bus? it certainly feels like it. We are reasonably certain it's on the way, but it has been coming for the past few years and the idea that it might arrive punctually on the 31st of March it's almost too much to hope.

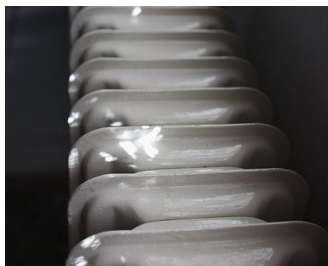
The work of your committee continues. They are disappointed that to date the Heritage Lottery Fund have not seen fit to visit the church as had been planned. This is not necessarily a bad sign. So, are we despondent? - not a bit of it. We already have a great deal to show for the efforts of the past few years.

Our work has been summarised in a splendid file which is available for all to see at the Auld Kirk. It is worth very much more than a passing glance. If you would like to take it away for a closer and longer look please ask Bill Davidson who is responsible for its creation.



For the first time we now have detailed drawings of the church and the surrounds including both services and general drainage this being a relic of the Victorians. Bill has brought together a summary of the work to be undertaken, melded with a history and explanation of the church as we know it. The file will serve future generations for many years to come.

It would be irresponsible for your committee not to consider the future of our plans should the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund not be forthcoming. There will always be the possibility of seeking new funds but given our current experience this is not a speedy process.



In the meantime, we have a heating system which has come to the end of its life, and an equally serious problem, not helped by climate change, whereby the paths surrounding the church are positively dangerous.

Somehow these issues will be addressed but given the amount of energy expended to date nothing is planned until we receive word from the Lottery Fund

Blair Ritchie , Committee Coordinator
1st March, 2020



Back in the Auld Kirk

March 2020 and we are back having our services in the Auld Kirk! God willing we will soon received the funds to restore our beloved church! This would be great in one way as it would see the church saved for future generations but bad in another as we would not be able to worship in the church for ages until after the work was all done. On the right is a picture of our wonderful choir having a practice before

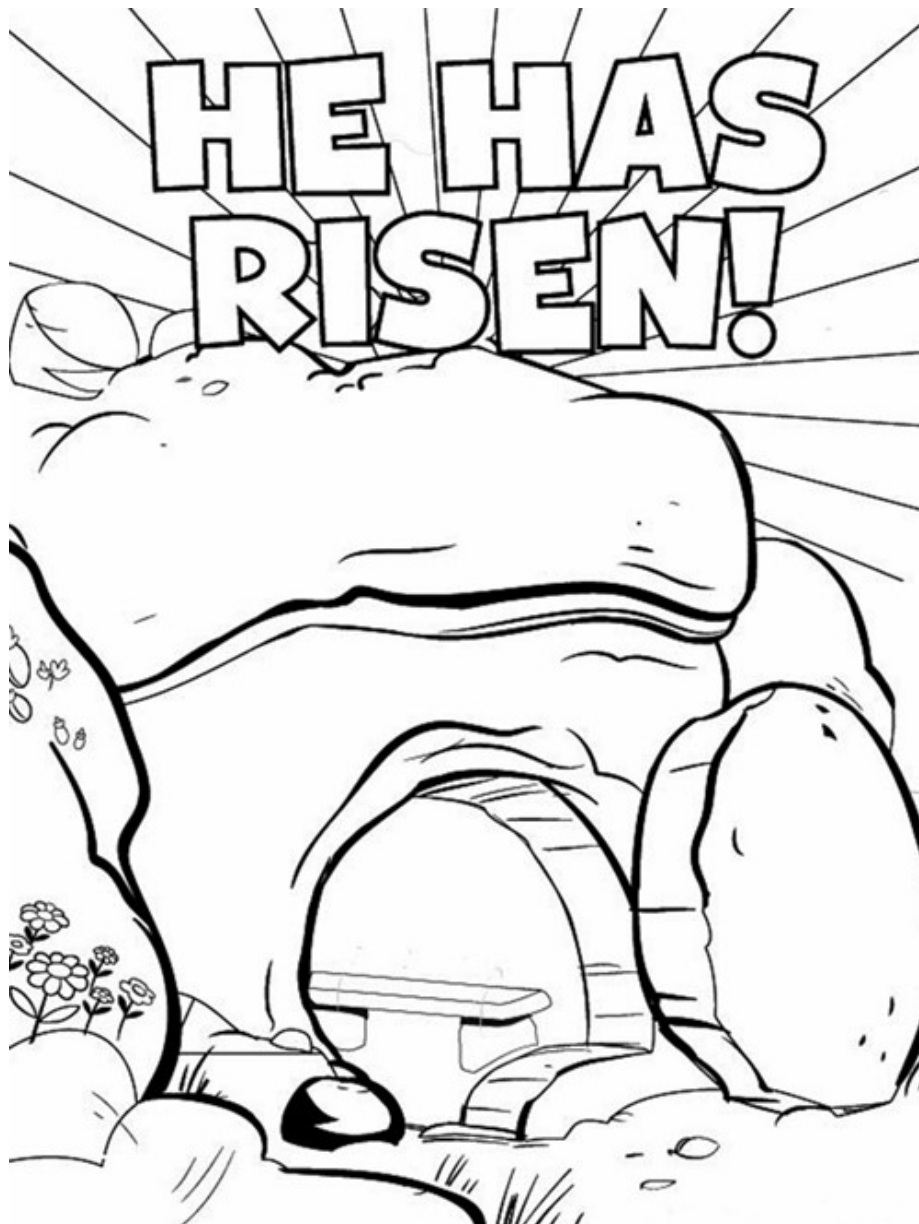


the service today Sunday 8th March. On the left is a picture of where we have our Teas and Coffees after the services. A big thank you to everyone who donates money for their cuppa as over £250 was raised last year for the Restoration Fund from this wonderful fellowship.



Thank You

A little something for the kids to colour in this Easter



A wee thought from Rachel!

The following piece of information was read to me by my Mother when I was about seven years old:

“The late Gilbert Harding (broadcaster and chairman of ‘The Brains Trust’) maintained that he prevented clods and ‘flu’ type infections by poking two soapy fingers up his nostrils, followed by clean water, when he washed his face.”.

This has become a natural habit of mine for many years now, with considerable success. In these troubled times of Coronavirus, it must be worth a try!

Submitted by
Rachel Emmott

**Here are some
photos from our
last performance
'Dreamland'**





We couldn't manage without
our back stage helpers and
volunteers.

A great big

Thank You

from us to you

Some questions for you

What would you like to see us do for our next performance?

Do you think it's better to have the show before or after Christmas?

Who has been your favourite character in all the shows we have done so far?

Please e-mail any suggestions or comments you may have via our website
www.cullen-deskford-church.org.uk or via our facebook page.

If you would like to become involved in the Drama
Group you would be most welcome - we need all the
help we can get!!!



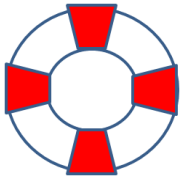
Don't think this
volunteer



realised what he
was letting himself
in for!!!



All photos by Colin Shearer



Hall Church, Cullen

Are you looking for a venue for your event?

Then why not book the Hall Church.



**Facilities include a large hall, small hall, modern kitchen,
sound system, projector, screen, Wi-fi plus
disability access.**



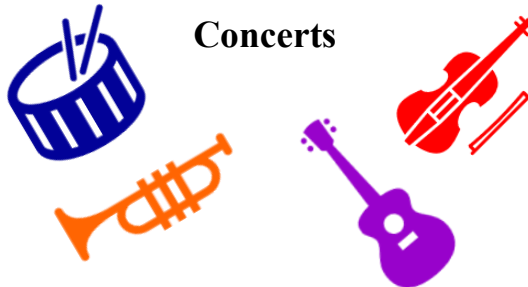
Check availability via

**our website www.cullen-deskford-church.org.uk
our Hall Keeper, Davie Sellar, on 07484 393355 or
e-mail: hallkeeper1@gmail.com**

Coffee Mornings



Concerts



Birthday Parties



Minister: Rev Douglas Stevenson, 14 Seafield Road, Cullen AB56 4AF

Tel: 01542 841963

Email: dstevenson@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Session Clerk: Mrs Sheila Sellar, Ben Vrackie, Ellyside
Lintmill, Cullen, AB56 4XQ**

Tel: 01542 840760 Email: sasellar@btinternet.com

www.cullen-deskford-church.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No: SCO11231