

ABERLOUR PARISH CHURCH

KIRK NEWS

DECEMBER 2006

Church Diary

SUNDAY SERVICES

	Craigellachie	9.45am
	Aberlour	11.15am
TIG	Craigellachie	9.45am
SUNDAY CLUB	Aberlour	11.15am
BIG GROUP	1st Sundays of month, 7-8.30pm in The Manse	
BIG Band Practice	As intimated	
SPEYSIDE HOME	Sundays at 3.00pm	
HOME BIBLE STUDY GROUP	–Contact David Anderson (871906) for details.	

PRAYER GROUPS- Small informal groups have been set up
Phone 871027 if you are interested
Boxes for prayer requests are at the back of the church.

- 3 Dec 1st Sunday in Advent
- 7 Dec Congregational Board meeting
- 13 Dec Carol Concert in Aberlour Parish Church
- 17 Dec All Age services led by the TIG & Sunday Circle
- 22 Dec Craigellachie School Christmas service,
Craigellachie Church, 9.45am

Worship for Christmas Eve

Combined Morning Worship at Craigellachie at 9.45am
Carol Service Craigellachie 3pm
Carol Service Aberlour 6.30pm

Christmas Morning

Combined Service at Aberlour Parish Church at 11.15am

Sunday 31 December

Worship for the end of the year at the usual times

- 10 Jan Kirk Session meeting
- 21 Jan All Age Service
- 18 Feb Thinking Day, All Age Service
- 7 Feb Congregational Board meeting
- 25 Feb Communion
- 7 Mar Kirk Session meeting
- 18 Mar Mothering Sunday, All Age Service

Communion Services

Last Sundays of February, May, August &
November – everyone welcome

You are warmly invited to a **Carol Concert**

with the Church Band and choir

On Wednesday 13th December

In Aberlour Parish Church

At 7pm

**Carol singing
Christmas music
Refreshments
Offering**

The concert with Millie Herd and Friends, arranged by the Church Fundraising Group in September was a great success and raised £290. The Group will next be in action at the Saturday Mart in Elgin on 25th November.

Cuppa at Craigellachie

There will be no Cuppa in Craigellachie Church in December but normal service will be resumed on the third Thursday in January.
All proceeds to Christian Aid.

The Elders' Sale raised over £1600. Bob would like to thank everyone who helped before the event and on the night, and anyone who supported it in any way.

Craigellachie Church will be open from 12 noon till 3pm on the first Monday of every month. Come and spend some quiet time for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

Aberlour Senior Citizens

The following are the dates for future events:

Jan.9th Scots Night. Fleming Hall 6.30pm for 7pm

Feb 6th Fleming Hall, usual time of 7.30pm

Mar 6th " "

Apr 3rd " "

July Summer Outing, date to be fixed.

DEATHS

14 August Morag Mackinnon Moffat, 13 Allachy Terr, Aberlour

22 August Anne Bateman, Mount Baker Care Home, Grantown,
(formerly 54D High Street, Aberlour)

30 August Magnus Grieve, 3 Allachy Dr, Aberlour

12 September Ranald Simpson Duff, Speyside Home, Aberlour

9 October Thomas Cuthbert, Hawthorn Cottage, Craigellachie

30 October Ian Gordon, 59 High St, Aberlour

CRAIGELLACHIE T.I.G.

We have had a very enjoyable start to the session starting with our, *Back to School With God Service*. It was great to hear all the holiday news and to welcome some new members to TIG. We hope that they will feel welcome, and enjoy being part of the group. This session we have been learning about creation and God's love for us. We are looking forward to Christmas and we will be taking part in the All Age Service on the 17th December. Children from 3-12 years are always welcome to join us any Sunday.

Margaret & Marianne

The Guild continues to flourish. At our first meeting of this season in September, we had a very interesting and enlightening talk on Alzheimers given by a specialised nurse from a local residential home. At our next meeting on November 30th we shall be holding a St Andrew's Night in the Parish Hall. Performers are local musicians and also Skip to the Beat. It will be an open evening and all are welcome. Our December meeting on December 21st is to be our Christmas lunch at the Dowans Hotel. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact Judith Butterfield.

Aberlour Sunday Circle

Sunday 17 December is an important date for Sunday Circle. That is

the day when the children will perform their Nativity, entitled 'Old Uncle Sam'. The venue is Aberlour Parish Church and the time is 11.15am. We hope to see you there!

Margaret S

The Aberlour Church Walking Group

Saturday, 9th December at 11 am Meet at Victoria Bridge, Aberlour.

As this is the walk nearest to Christmas we stop for a soup and sandwich lunch at the Auld Mill Restaurant, Catherine Braes (£5.50 per person). It would be helpful if you could let David/Maureen 871906 or Jane 871515 know by Wed 6th if you are coming so that we can book places for lunch.

We take same route out as last year by path (gradual climbing) and quiet tarmac road then short distance on main road to Auld Mill for lunch.. Please take care, especially if you bring children or dogs. Our way back, depending on condition of paths, will probably be through the woods from Skite Neuk. Total distance 5 miles approx (allow an hour each way plus lunch).

Saturday, 13th January at 11 am Meet at Craigellachie Tennis Court car park (just off to left from road into Craigellachie from Aberlour). People from Aberlour may join at Victoria Bridge at 11.50 am.

We walk to Aberlour by river path and Speyside Way, then cross Victoria Bridge and follow other side of Spey back to Craigellachie via Macallan fishing hut. To finish there is a short distance on road (please take care especially if you bring children or dogs). Distance 5½ miles.

Bring packed lunch. There is one farm gate to climb but helping hands will be available. There is an uphill section from fishing hut to Distillery. Route muddy in places – boots or strong shoes.

Shorter Walk: from Macallan Distillery entrance to fishing hut and back (uphill). *If you wish to do this please speak to Maureen or David in advance to make arrangements for later start.*

Walks are open to anyone - all are welcome to join in. Everyone is responsible for their own safety, and for children they bring with them. For any other information contact David/ Maureen or Jane.

A Christmas Message

Are you looking forward to Christmas? Think you'll be disappointed? The media's hyped-up expectations of Christmas cheer can cause more problems than we realise.

At Christmastime there is more alcohol consumption, more violence and more depression than at any other time of the year. It appears that people try to 'drown' their disappointments and artificially manufacture 'joy'. Psychologists warn us to not expect too much 'merriment'. The letdown, they say, can lead to real disappointment and depression.

At the heart of this problem there is loneliness. You can be lonely when in a crowded room, or even with an 'ideal' family. Loneliness leaves you feeling isolated, disconnected, of little self-worth and significance. No wonder we can end up depressed.

So, what is the solution to loneliness? A meaningful relationship! That, of course, is the heart of the Gospel. God created us to have a relationship with him, one of love and dependence, praise and delight, which is available to ALL people.

Jesus came to those he created, to all of us. That is the meaning of the name Emmanuel, 'God with us'.

He has come to forgive sins, and completely remove all guilt and shame, making us his children forever (Look up Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:1; 8:1.). We have a new sense of significance and worth, realizing God's love for us.

When we become children of God we receive the Holy Spirit. Through him, Jesus lives within us and we are never alone again. (Read John 14:15-21).

Because Jesus came for us all, we ought to have real joy at this Christmas Season - and all the year round.

The message of the angel to the shepherds can apply to each one of us:

"Do not be afraid (we could add, depressed, lonely, guilty). I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

CRAIGELLACHIE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The last meeting of the Village Council was the AGM and a few new members have joined the committee. After many dedicated years of service to the village council Edith P has stepped down as Chair. A big thank you is extended to Edith for having filled the post for so many years. Brenda and Ken are continuing as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Other committee members are Jane T, Moira T, Lynda C, Isobel D, Dave McH, Rosemary G, Rae S, Donna S, Andrina T and Rosie T.

The village council are holding a Christmas Bingo in the village hall on Sat. 9 December. Instead of holding a Bottle Bingo at New Year it is hoped to hold it just after New Year on 6 January 2007. Please keep an eye out for posters nearer the time.

The Village Council are trying to get Moray Council to put dropped kerbs at the entrances to Craigellachie Distillery and the Lorry Park adjacent to the Distillery, which should make it easier for disabled, elderly and pram users to negotiate this busy route in the village.

One of the concerns raised at the AGM was the issue of doggy poo. Whilst most dog owners in the village can be clearly seen to pick up after their dog, (thank you to all these people), there are still some owners who think it is okay to leave the "doggy deposit" behind! What is particularly annoying is that the dog mess is being left on a route that a lot of the children use to go to school. Children are more interested in chatting to friends on the way to school than surveying the ground to avoid dog poo, which means the mess ends up on the school carpets! Dogs need to go to the toilet and are not capable of cleaning up after themselves: it is up to owner or dog walker to do this for them. So, for the health and safety of not just our children, but also other pedestrians and pram users, could errant dog owners please clean up after their dog - thank you.

On a positive note, we were successful in gaining a National Lottery Grant of just over £2,800, which will be used to replace the dilapidated fencing surrounding the tennis courts. Also, thank you to Moray Council for providing daffodil bulbs which we intend to have planted in the village.

Craigellachie Senior Citizens' Club

Christine L

For our first meeting of the session, we visited the Marine Aquarium at Macduff, followed by afternoon tea in Portsoy. The Greenbrae Gaugers provided excellent entertainment at our October meeting and in November we combined our meeting and annual shopping trip to Inverness where, this year, there was a Continental Market. The Windsor Hotel in Nairn provided a lovely High Tea on the way home. We are now looking forward to our Christmas Meal in the Village Hall on 14th December.

Aberlour Community Association

(Pamela W)

Following our AGM in October 2006 we would like to welcome our new committee members on board. Mrs Mabel Donald is in chair, Mr Sandy Henderson as vice, and new secretary is Pat Dolan so if you have anything you wish to be brought to a meeting please do not hesitate to contact any one of them.

Mr Mike Grant, after 30years, has decided to give up the job as hall cleaner! We are hoping to have a collection for him, so if anyone would like to donate please contact Pamela (871853).

The Moray Council and Deveron Coaches have arranged to slightly amend the route taken by bus service 401, Keith to Inverness, on a Monday morning. From 6 November, instead of going from Craigellachie to Archiestown via the Dandaleith Brae, the bus will go from Craigellachie to Aberlour (9.55) and to Carron (10.05) and then to Archiestown (10.10), from where it will continue on its usual route to Inverness. The bus leaves Inverness on its return journey at 3.20pm.

COMMUNITY DIARY

- Dec 1 Aberlour Community Assoc. St. Andrew's Night Fleming Hall
- 2 Traidcraft Coffee Morning Craigellachie Church 10 till 12.30
St. Margaret's Soup & Sweet Fleming Hall 12-2
Concert Masonic Hall 7 for 7.30 BYOB
- 7 Pensions Surgery Health Centre 10-12
- 9 Aberlour Primary School Christmas Fayre 10-12
Aberlour Church Walking Group
Christmas Bingo Craigellachie Hall 7.30
- 11 Aberlour Senior Citizens Christmas Meal Fleming Hall 6 for 6.30
Friends of Guiding Christmas Shopping Evening Aberlour Pharmacy 6.30 –7.30
- 13 Carol Concert, Aberlour Parish Church 7.30pm
- 14 Craigellachie Senior Citizens Christmas Meal Village Hall 5pm
- 17 Christmas Party Edinville Hall
- 18 Craigellachie School Play, Village Hall 1.30am & 6.30pm
- 19 Aberlour Primary School Nativity Play 10am and 6.30pm Aberlour Church
- 21 Guild Christmas Meal Dowans Hotel
- Jan 6 "12th Night " Bottle Bingo Craigellachie Hall 7.30 pm
- 9 Aberlour Senior Citizens Scots Night Fleming Hall 6.30 for 7pm
- 11 Craigellachie Senior Citizens Entertainment by Craigellachie School 2pm
- 13 Aberlour Church Walking Group
- 18 Cuppa at Craigellachie Church 2.15 till 3.15
- Feb 6 Aberlour Senior Citizens Meeting Fleming Hall 7.30
- 8 Craigellachie Sen.Citizens Entertainment by Jim Bartlett & Concert Party 2pm
- 10 Aberlour Church Walking Group
- 15 Cuppa at Craigellachie Church 2.15 till 3.15
- 17 Craigellachie Senior Citizens Coffee Morning 10 till noon
- Mar 6 Aberlour Senior Citizens Meeting Fleming Hall 7.30
- 8 Craigellachie Sen.Citizens Entertainment by Maggie & Mike Paul, Grange 2pm

**The Kirk News is published in March, June, September & December.
Deadline for entries is the 14th of the month prior to issue date.**