

Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

JUNE 2021



You see, if we don't use our gifts the body of believers will be less effective.

Just as a human body starts off very tiny and grows to maturity, so the Christian church needs to grow up into Christ in every way. He is the head and above all we need to be sure that he really is Lord in our worship, our finances, our organisation and ministry.

God bless you my friends, Susan

This week I cut my finger while chopping an onion. How awkward it was to open a jar of jam when you haven't got the use of that one finger. And it didn't half sting when I used sanitiser! I thought to myself, 'well I know why Paul uses the analogy of a body for the Christian church' because when something goes wrong with one part of the body, the rest of the body is affected.

The body is one – a unity – and so should the Christian church be – 'one body' with 'one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism and Father of all' says Paul in Ephesians 4:4-6. All believers in Christ belong to one body; all are united under one head, Christ himself.

In a healthy body, every part has to function harmoniously, and the same should be true of a Christian fellowship. Everyone should have a ministry and God will give the right gifts when his people are willing to serve Christ and one another. So how can you serve? What gifts do you have?

There are numerous opportunities at Aberdeen North eg on the sound desk, welcoming people to our services, money count, flower arranging, grass cutting and lots more. Your special ability may seem small, but it is yours to use in God's service and you are needed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Fancy operating the sound desk for Sunday worship? Enjoy the photographs displayed on screen, and the variety of music, like to follow the readings, wonder how the sound is managed? If so, here's a chance to help out on the sound desk where all that is made to happen!

We're looking for volunteers to do this on a rota basis! Maybe you would like to try this, or know someone who would be willing to do it—a child or grandchild?

Please contact Helen Gauld to see what is involved in this, and for more information.

 Find us on:
facebook

BOOKING SEATS FOR WORSHIP

Thanks to your co-operation with the booking system, it seems to be working well now! Please continue to book your seats by phone/text to 07861316643 on a Friday.

Please remember to give the name and phone number of every person you are booking for as we need to have that information available for the Government's Test & Protect scheme.

All personal information is securely locked away after each service, and is retained for 3 weeks, as required by Test & Protect.

There are now two people who "man" the phone on a Friday to take your bookings. If anyone else would like to help out with the bookings on a rota basis please do contact the Ministry Team, or your elder, or the Communication Team. It's a great way to get to know members of our Congregation! Many hands do indeed make light work!

**Please join us
on Sunday 6 June 2021
at 9.45 or 11.00 am
as we come together to celebrate**

*Holy
Communion*





THE PRIORITY OF MISSION

At the Sunday morning service, we are currently going through the Book of Nehemiah and following his progress in building the walls of Jerusalem. He faced much opposition, criticism, and ridicule. However, the work continued, and the walls were rebuilt. The building project of Nehemiah is often seen as a picture of building the Church of Jesus. 1st Peter 2:5 likens us to “living stones being built into a spiritual house”. We sometimes forget but fundamental to this process of building is mission.

We do not take mission and evangelism and building Christ’s Church seriously enough. People need Jesus. They need his forgiveness, his healing, his acceptance. They need to know they are loved unconditionally. Are you

not moved when you see the consequence of man’s sin in our society, in our world? Are we not sometimes moved to tears when we read of the abuse, the people trafficking, the drug addiction, and domestic violence – the list is endless? Or do we get accustomed to it? Desensitized? In Luke 19 verse 41 we read, “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace, but now it is hid from your eyes”.

If only people knew. Why don’t they know? Because the Church, you and me, have neglected our duty to be missionaries in our own back yard. For whatever reason, we do not share our faith, we do not point people to Jesus. We assume everyone will be alright at the end of the day. God’s love will save everyone. Does that not make a mockery of Jesus’ death? In Acts 4 verse 12, Peter’s sermon before the Sanhedrin, we read, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved”.

I was thinking about mission recently and was convicted of the sin of idolatry. Idolatry is the worship of other gods as you know. The god I am speaking about is the god of friendship. What prevents us from sharing the full gospel of the good news of Jesus is that we value friendships more than we value obedience to God’s commandments. In other words, we put friendships before God. The reason is obvious, we do not want to lose our friends. We do not want to look like a religious fanatic, a crank in the world’s eyes. The risk is too great. But by withholding the full gospel message, our friends’ eternal salvation is at risk. I will leave that with you to think about. And if someone comes into mind when I am saying these things, then take it that God wants you to speak to that person about their salvation.

The greatest challenge to the church in the west is not its survival but rather the challenge of mission and evangelism. We are told that we live in a post Christian era. God’s commandments are ignored, Jesus Christ is a swear word and people speak of “their” truth as if truth was relative. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.

What would be the consequences if we all became missionaries? If we committed to sharing the full gospel with, even one person a week? Would we see a harvest? Would it make a difference in our community and society? If we believe in the resurrection, have we not got something to tell? I finish with the great commission found in Matthew 28 from verse 16, the words of Jesus spoken to his disciples after his resurrection, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age”.

Michael.

THANKS to everyone who has been bringing along items each week for ‘Instant Neighbour’.

This is much appreciated and helps to provide emergency food parcels to those in need. Furthermore, this is a real and practical way of helping our neighbours.

Here are some suggestions:

Milk (UHT or powdered)
Teabags & instant coffee
Instant Mash Potato
Tinned vegetables & fruit
Soup

Jar sauces
Rice & pasta
Tinned meat & fish
Biscuits & snack bars
Cereals



DATA PROTECTION

Many thanks to those who have returned their signed Consent Form, which gives the Church permission to use your personal information for purposes related to your Church membership. If you haven’t returned your form yet that is not a problem—please just bring it next time you come to Church, or return it by post, or give it to your elder. If you have mislaid the form there are spares at the door—please just ask for another one.

The agreed policies on Data Protection and Data Retention will be available on the Church Notice Board, along with the Privacy Notice which explains how the Congregation uses the personal information of members.

If you have any queries, please contact Jean Bell, Data Protection Officer

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

As someone once said “we live in strange and amazing times”. Who could have imagined the impact of the COVID pandemic and the effect it has had on our daily lives? It is a challenge in our church lives also but I am heartened by the weekly attendance at Sunday services and our productive zoom meetings as the new session team. I want to thank all the office bearers for their commitment to Aberdeen North Parish Church and our joint aim to bring the message of the gospel to our communities. We must also acknowledge the leadership we have in Susan and Michael and wish them every strength as they work together to serve the combined parishes.

I look forward to the time when we can chat and meet normally and I can get to know faces rather than masks!

As we move forward into the future and a potential new church building we all need to consider what we can do and where our talents lie. I have taken the Session Clerk role for Aberdeen North for six months and I really hope someone will come forward to take over the role permanently from me with my support.

Brian Gauld

GIFT AID

Did you know? Gift Aid is good news for the Church because:

- It increases our giving by 25 per cent
- No minimum contribution is required
- No particular amount has to be promised
- There is no fixed term during which contributions must be made
- Tax may be recovered retrospectively.

All that is required is that the donor must pay UK income tax or capital gains tax, at any rate, at least equal to the amount of tax being reclaimed, and give their offering or donation through offering envelopes or by bank standing order.

Donors must also sign a Gift Aid declaration form, which are available at the Church, or by contacting me.

All existing donors on the Gift Aid Register will be provided with declaration forms which have been updated to represent Aberdeen North Parish Church.

Completed declaration forms should be returned to Aberdeen North Parish Church.

Peter Ewen

WORRYING ABOUT MONEY! CONTACT—

Aberdeen City Council - 01224 522709

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/benefitsand-advice/get-money-advice

Citizens Advice Bureau - 01224 569750

Bureau@aberdeencab.casonline.org.uk www.aberdeencab.org.uk



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Usually, a flower calendar would be distributed and displayed with requested dates for donations for 2021 but that just didn't happen whilst churches were closed and unable to meet until Easter.

Since the Union in February, and getting back to in person worship, I've not really had an opportunity to discuss options around collaborative working with the flower teams from Northfield and Summerhill though I'm sure we are all committed to decorating the church by making arrangements that not only look attractive but can be delivered to members after worship who are in need of cheering up!

In the meantime, I have been supplying flowers from the pre-existing Mastrick flower fund and propose to do that until we are in a more 'normal' situation. Ad hoc donations have been received which are very welcome though as yet I have not designated any dates to specific donors as would be routine. However, that said, if anyone has an event or a milestone they would like to commemorate by donating flowers please do get in touch, and if you are itching to arrange flowers for a Sunday your help will be greatly appreciated!

We will get back to a more normal way of working soon, I hope, and it will be exciting to share ideas and form a new team for flowers.

We have a new website!

www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

for recent news, Sunday messages and copies of the Newsletter.
As restrictions ease, further information will be available there.

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

Throughout this newsletter you will have read a number of requests for volunteers to share in the life of our Church community by taking on a task to help in the smooth running of our Church.

As we settle in to life as Aberdeen North Parish Church, volunteering to do a specific task is a great way of getting to know our Congregation and make new friends at the same time!

If you would like to volunteer for any task mentioned here, or offer your time and talents in some other way, please do contact the Ministry Team or your elder—there is a job for every one of us in building our Church community!

Volunteers' Week is from 1—7 June this year, and is an opportunity to say thanks to all volunteers for the contribution especially during this exceptionally difficult year, when people have made a huge difference to people a their communities – just as they do every year.

THANK YOU!



WHO'S WHO IN ABERDEEN NORTH PARISH CHURCH

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Michael Shewan, 36 Stronsay Drive, Aberdeen AB15 6JL, 01224 324669,
MShewan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Susan Sutherland, 8 Corse Wynd, Kingswells AB15 8TP, 01224 279562,
SSutherland@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk	Brian Gauld	brian.gauld@sky.com
Minute Clerk	Jean Bell	bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Sutherland	william.sutherland@sky.com
Roll Keeper	Linda Henderson	tarlair227@yahoo.co.uk
Presbytery Elder	Ian Ingram	ianingram890@gmail.com
Data Protection Officer	Jean Bell	bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Safe Guarding Officer	Fiona Sales	fiona2202@icloud.com
WFO & Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Peter Ewen	peter.amigo@btinternet.com
Property		
Mastrick	Rose Clayton	roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com
Northfield Deputy	Ian Ingram	ianingram890@gmail.com
Summerhill Deputies	Bill Laing & Linda Henderson	billaing52@gmail.com tarlair227@yahoo.co.uk
Communication	Helen Gauld Jean Bell Fiona Sales	helen.gauld@btinternet.com bjeanbell15@gmail.com fiona2202@icloud.com
Christian Aid Convener	Judith Christie	perth3@icloud.com