

Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021



Dear Friends,

Recently I met up with a school chum whom I hadn't seen for 50 years. He had "found" me on social media and we became friends on Facebook. Another year passed and we finally met last week to catch up with each other. It was an interesting experience because we each knew each other from our childhood but now we were completely different people, at least in looks. We spent a good part of our meeting reminiscing of all the folk we knew and where they were now. People I had forgotten about suddenly came to mind and we laughed together as we remembered our school days. But the lasting impression I had was, "where did the last 50 years go?". It was a strange moment when I realized yet again how short this life is.

At beginning of the year, I embarked on a reading scheme to read the whole Bible in a year and for the last few days I have been reading Job. I am sure you remember Job and his "comforters". In the midst of Job's suffering, he frequently mentions the brevity of this life. It is depressing. But then we come to Job Chapter 19 verse 25, a verse that was made famous in Handel's Messiah, "I know that my Redeemer liveth". The whole verse reads,

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. I myself will see him with mine own eyes".

This is truly an amazing verse. It is a statement of faith that God is Job's Redeemer in spite of all his suffering, and that he looks forward to the coming of God to stand upon the earth which was fulfilled when Jesus came and will be fulfilled when Jesus returns. From these verses we also see that Job believes in the resurrection for he will see God, "with his own eyes".

To think that these verses are found in some of the earliest manuscripts of the Bible is such an encouragement and endorsement of our faith in the resurrection of the body. The resurrection of Jesus is central to the Christian faith as is also the second coming and the resurrection of the dead to eternal life for all who believe in Jesus as their saviour and redeemer. This belief is comforting and gives us the assurance that death is not the end but the beginning of a new life with our Lord and with those who have faithfully gone before us.

So, when that feeling of alarm as to the swiftness of this life gets us down, be of good cheer, Jesus is alive and will come again to receive his own to eternal life. Friends, believe it. It is true. Even Job believed it and he was a wise man.

Abundant blessings to you all,
Michael

SUNDAY WORSHIP

As you are aware the Covid restrictions are being eased by the government and we are now able to seat more people in church, presently with one metre distancing. The Kirk Session has decided to continue with two services until after communion on the 5 September at which time this will be reviewed.

Please continue to phone or text to book your seat each Friday on the designated phone line 07861316643. We still need the list of names and phone numbers for Test and Protect.



Join us on
Sunday 5 September 2021
**FOR HOLY
COMMUNION**
at 9.45 am or 11.00 am

At the end of each service on 25 July we had a time of 'prayer ministry'. Michael had been preaching on the reaction of the crowd to the healing of the lame man in Acts chapter 3 and we felt led by the Holy Spirit to not only talk about it but to put it into practice. We invited people to stay behind. Ten people took up the invitation.

Those who stayed behind were blessed by this ministry and Ron shared his testimony in church the following week of how he was miraculously healed and his peripheral sight was restored after having a stroke 12 years ago.



Michael and I have since talked and prayed about this and have decided that 'prayer ministry' should be offered on the first Sunday of each month – after the second service. This is an opportunity for you to seek prayer for a need for yourself. The Bible tells us in Thessalonians 5:23 that we are 'spirit, soul and body' and we recognise that healing may be needed in any or all these areas.

Susan Sutherland

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2021

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Hardly an appropriate question for a sunny summer afternoon! However, I am inviting you to do just that, by introducing Blythswood's shoebox appeal to Aberdeen North. Many of you will be familiar with the format already. Blythswood Care is a Christian organisation who, for many years have distributed boxed gifts of warm hats and scarves, toiletries, toys, pencils, sweets and all manner of little treats, to many of the poorest across Eastern Europe. For many this parcel is often the only present they will receive at Christmas.

So much of what we take for granted - shampoo, clean socks, a toothbrush - seem like luxuries to people living in extreme poverty; that somebody has cared enough to send something to someone they don't know is a precious gift in itself!

Into each box Blythswood will add a Bible storybook for children, a book for teenagers or a calendar with Bible verses for adults, sharing the love of Jesus at Christmas.

There are many ways in which you can help. Preparing a gift box can be fun; and encouraging friends and family to contribute spreads the work. However, I appreciate that some prefer to give a cash donation to allow a box (or several!) to be filled in their name, or donate towards transportation costs. Or simply bring in donations of a few goods, such as sweets (other than chocolate, please), toiletries, new items of underwear etc. which can be added together. In the past I have been grateful to several lovely knitters who have provided a supply of warm hats, scarves and gloves for men, women and children. Please consider if this is something you could do. Cash donations, in a clearly marked envelope, can be deposited with the offering. There will be a box or a table available for all other donations.

I am hoping that the congregation will embrace this worthwhile project! I plan to have ready-wrapped boxes and information leaflets available at the church from the start of September and ask that all boxes and donations are returned by Sunday 24 October. For any further information please phone me any evening on 07802 449797 - I'm happy to deliver or collect if required!

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Many thanks to everyone who has been bringing along non-perishable items of food each week. This is greatly appreciated, especially during the school holidays, and helps to provide emergency food parcels to those in need in our city.



Non-perishable items are welcome — such as Milk (UHT or powdered), Jar sauces, Instant Mash Potato, Tinned meat & fish, Tinned vegetables & fruit, Biscuits & snack bars, Soup, Cereals, basic toiletries

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.



Congratulations

Margaret and David Gee celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on the 23 July 2021. We give thanks to God for this remarkable couple

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.

Gift Aid donors must pay UK income tax or capital gains tax, and give their offering or donation through offering envelopes or by bank standing order.

Donors must also sign a Gift Aid declaration form, available at the Church, or by contacting Peter Ewen.

AMAZING GRACE

On 22 July 2009 I suffered a stroke which caused me to lose the use of the left side of my body and part of my eyesight.

Happily, I regained the use of my left side of my body but sadly I had lost my peripheral vision – leaving me with tunnel vision. In October 2009 I was registered partially sighted when I sadly relinquished my driving licence. Over the years, I have adapted to my lack of full vision, but always prayed that my sight might return one day.

On Sunday 25 July 2021, Michael was preaching on Acts chapter 3 where Peter heals the crippled beggar begging outside the Synagogue when he was healed. During the service Michael & Susan felt they were being drawn to offering a very short service of prayer & healing after the early service. I was nearly out the exit when I said to Ann my wife that I had a feeling I should stay behind.

When Michael & Susan anointed my head with oil, laid hands on me and prayed over me I had my eyes closed. They moved on to do the same to others who had also stayed. I was aware of a brightness and what I can only describe as an “odd feeling”.

When I opened my eyes, I knew immediately that I had full vision. I was overwhelmed and turned to Susan who was close to me. I also went over to inform Michael. We were all very emotional. My prayers had been answered after 12 long years with Tunnel Vision.

I have since been to the Optician, I have no scarring on my eyes and the Optician was curious to know if I had any idea why this had happened. When I told her about what had happened on 25 July 2021, she repeated that where there had previously been scarring on the eyes – the scarring was no longer visible it had gone. I am awaiting more intensive tests to be able to meet the criteria required to have my driving licence returned.

Ann and I give thanks to God for using Michael & Susan as channels in which to pour out His blessing, and enabling me to regain my sight. Never give up on your prayers as no matter how long it takes God does listen and answer not in your time but his. Amazing Grace.

Ron Ewing

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

We are now over 6 months since the formation of Aberdeen North. Despite COVID we have met faithfully for worship and worked hard to come together as a union despite not being able to meet in person for meetings and social events.

We have conquered some of the technicalities of Zoom meetings which has been a lifeline in being able to communicate with the Kirk session and used technology in our weekly messages on Facebook, and YouTube and the website have allowed to reach out to our members, friends and wider community. However it's not the same as a cup of tea and a face to face discussion which hopefully will be able to restart soon. We have so much to look forward to building the church up in spirit and we hope physically as a new build in the future.

We can congratulate ourselves on all our achievements to date though we still have a lot of work to do, and we all need to consider what each of us can do as individuals to be part of the team. We all have talents that can be used. Don't wait to be asked instead ask what you can do!

I volunteered as Session Clerk for 6 months which is almost up. Could you take up this duty? There is support for you and it can be a shared role. Please give it your prayerful consideration.

Brian Gauld

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	
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 & billaing52@gmail.com Linda Henderson tarlair227@yahoo.co.uk
Communication	Helen Gauld helen.gauld@btinternet.com Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com Fiona Sales fiona2202@icloud.com
Christian Aid Convener	Judith Christie perth3@icloud.com

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.



www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

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