

Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

SUMMER2022

Dear friends

I hope you have been having a lovely summer. We have certainly had some lovely weather.

I wanted to give you a few updates. Firstly the Nominating Committee having been elected have begun their work. The committee's work is confidential, so they will not be giving any updates until such times as they have a candidate to bring to the congregation as sole nominee. As tempting as it is, please do not be asking them how they are getting on, as they will not be able to tell you anything.



The second update is with regards to the buildings. Outline planning permission is being sought for small housing developments at both Northfield and Summerhill. The idea is to market them with this in place. This process has taken longer than anticipated but the Kirk Session were pleased to hear from Ian Murray the North East Presbyteries Buildings Officer about progress to date at their meeting on the 9 August.

With regards to the church at Mastrick, we sadly have had to take the hall out of commission because of a woodworm infestation. This has pushed the Kirk Session to think of how to make the Sanctuary useable for things other than worship. To that end they are looking at the removal of the pews and replacing them with comfortable seating. Be prepared for some changes to take place shortly. I anticipate this be done in stages.

One further update is to let you know that Claire has been off work following a wee accident which caused damage to her shoulder. Claire will hopefully be back to work around the 24th of August. I hope you will join me in praying for her recovery.

We're grateful for the work Martin has been doing as he carries out his duties as Locum. It certainly makes my life easier knowing that you are well looked after.

I continue to be inspired by the dedication and hard work of folks around Aberdeen North. You have faced the challenges of establishing the union and the buildings issues with determination and grace. You are an example of how to be church. It remains my pleasure to be your Interim Moderator.

In all we do, we do it with God by our side. Psalm 139 reminds us that God is on every side, there is no escaping God's love. It is a Psalm I turn to when things get tricky as it reassures me I am not alone. It is equally a Psalm for the good times too, reminding us that God is in everything. Maybe a Psalm to look up for yourselves.

With every blessing

Shuna

*You are invited to share in the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
on Sunday 11 September 2022*



ABERDEEN NORTH PARISH CHURCH

Session 2022 – 2023



LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH

Year 2 – Wee Seeds. Big Trees

AIM

The Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

Sept 5	Welcome	<i>Exploring the Theme</i>
Oct 3	Archie Foundation,	<i>Cassie McGunnigle</i>
Nov 7	Police Scotland	<i>Frauds and Scams</i>
Dec 5	Christmas Readings and Carols	
Jan 9	Unrequired Gifts Sale	

Feb 6, March 6, April 3, May 1 – to be arranged

Meetings are held in the James Tyrrell Centre from 10.00 – 11.30am

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

On Sunday 14 August, worship was a Songs of Praise which was based on a service shared by Shuna, led by various members of the congregation, and with music provided mainly on CDs for some favourite hymns.



This was all organised at short notice after we learned that both Martin and Karen had tested positive for Covid - best wishes to them both! A real team effort - warm thanks to all who contributed in any way!

Ian Ingram

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

It is a sad fact that many people in the UK increasingly find themselves relying on food banks.

Aberdeen is no exception, especially as living costs are increasing daily; people find it more and more difficult to make ends meet, and there is increasing anxiety about staying warm this coming winter when faced with such high energy prices.

Instant Neighbour has provided emergency food parcels to individuals in serious need for over twenty years. Whenever someone requests a food parcel, Instant Neighbour carries out a brief, informal assessment of their needs and provides a food parcel containing 2-3 days of emergency provisions.

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate so regularly—every single item is appreciated by someone in Aberdeen!



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.

THANK YOU

To all who came along to “Looking Forward @Aberdeen North” on Sunday 3 July, and to all those who made it happen, especially to Anne Smith who prepared the session and led our discussions.



You will find the report of the discussions enclosed with this edition of North News.

As we move forward together in Aberdeen North, it is hoped that further sessions will bring the congregation together to share their hopes and ideas for the future.

Watch this space!

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Following the success of last year's appeal, Kirk Session has agreed to support the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal— and you can see in the photo just some of the 169 shoeboxes filled and beautifully wrapped by the congregation in 2021!



Blythswood Care is a Christian organisation, based in Evanton, north of Inverness; for many years it has distributed boxed gifts of warm hats and scarves, toiletries, pens and pencils, sweets, toys and treats, to the poorest across Eastern Europe. So much of what we take for granted, like clean socks, shampoo or a toothbrush is a luxury beyond their means. That someone has cared enough to send something to someone they don't know is itself a precious gift!

Blythswood adds to each box a Bible storybook for children, a book for teenagers or a calendar with Bible verses, so that the precious love of Jesus is shared at Christmas.

There are many ways in which you can help. If you would like to prepare a gift, there will be a supply of empty boxes available at the church from early September, along with leaflets outlining what is required. However, any donations of suitable items for inclusion such as sweets (but no chocolate), stationery, new clothing items or toiletries would be very welcome!

Any cash donations, which can either be used for top-up items or go towards the considerable transport costs, would be very much appreciated. Please either place in a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate, see me or speak to any of the Elders.

All filled boxes and donations should be returned to the church by Sunday, 23 October. For any further information please phone me any evening on 07802 449797 - I'm happy to deliver or collect if required!

Sybil Anderson.

CHAT'N'SNACK

Starting from 7 September 2022, Chat'n'Snack will be open on Wednesdays from 11am—1pm, for older or isolated folks who would like some company.



We'll be offering a snack, teas, coffees and a fine piece, and there will be a box for donations. Do drop-in for games, cards, dominoes and the chance to chat with friends old and new.

If you are interested in coming along or would like to volunteer at the Chat'n'Snack please contact Rose on 07790288249, roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com

DO YOU HAVE THESE SKILLS? COULD YOU OFFER SOME HELP?



Powerpoint Slides & Materials for Worship -

- preparing powerpoint slides for projection during worship,
- word-processing hymn sheets & Family News sheets, then copying them.

Reading during Worship

Operating the sound desk during worship -

- managing the sound desk and
- running the powerpoint slideshow.

We're looking for volunteers for these, on a rota basis! The more people we have, the less often everyone does the task!

Maybe you would like to try this, or know of someone who would be willing to do it—a child or grandchild?

If you would like to find out what's involved or try it out first if you'd be interested in being part of a rota to do this or would like to find out more, please speak to any elder or contact Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com 07745 471434.

WHO'S WHO IN ABERDEEN NORTH PARISH CHURCH

MINISTRY TEAM

Interim Moderator Rev Shuna Dicks, 07736232119, sdicks@churchofscotland.org.uk

Locum Martin Greig, 07920 806332, mgreig@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Children & Families Development Worker Claire van Geete, 07526 465105, CVanGeete@churchofscotland.org.uk

OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk Ian Ingram ianingram890@gmail.com

Minute Clerk Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com

Treasurer Cheryl Brankin ANTreasurer@aol.com

Roll Keeper, WFO & Gift Aid Co-ordinator Peter Ewen peter.amigo@btinternet.com

Presbytery Elder Ian Ingram ianingram890@gmail.com

Data Protection Officer & Communication Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer Rose Clayton roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com

Property

Mastrick Rose Clayton roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com

Northfield Deputy Ian Ingram ianingram890@gmail.com

Summerhill Deputy Bill Laing billaing52@gmail.com

Guild Rene Cowie renecowie775@gmail.com

Christian Aid Convener Judith Christie perth3@icloud.com

OFFERINGS

Thanks to all members who continue to support our church with their offerings.

Offerings can be made in envelopes or by standing order. If you would like to change from envelopes to a standing order for your offerings, please ask at the church door for a form, speak to your elder, or leave a note for the Treasurer at the Church.

Paying by standing order is convenient for both you and the church, and it is very easy to set it up.



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www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

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