

Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2022



Dear friends

We are entering that time of year when on the one hand we are surrounded by the sights and sounds of Christmas and yet as Christians, we know that before we get to Christmas, we have the time of waiting we call Advent.

I am sometimes accused of being a bit like the Grinch in that I appear to want to steal Christmas. This is because I will be one of the last to put my tree and decorations up and I will make my congregation wait a few weeks before we sing any Christmas carols. But honestly, I am nothing like the Grinch – I want us to wait because I love Christmas so much! Christmas is too important to rush into. Advent allows us the time and space to build up the anticipation, so that when Christmas night arrives, we can celebrate joyously, and not be over it before it begins. My tree will be up in good time and it will stay up until Twelfth Night. Not for me taking the decorations down on Boxing Day (I know people who do this. Honestly?)

You have been in a time of waiting as the search for a new minister continues. This can be frustrating but what a wonderful celebration there will be when we find who it is that God is calling to love you and lead you.

Waiting does not mean doing nothing and certainly your Kirk Session is keeping busy. Plans for the Christmas Fair are well in hand and we have begun some of the changes to the buildings. You will have noticed some pews have been removed and replaced with chairs. This has allowed the church to be used in a more flexible way, necessitated by the hall being out of commission. We are grateful to Mannofield Church for their kind donation of the chairs. More chairs are planned and we hope to have them in place in the early months of 2023.

For now, I want to wish you all a very blessed Advent and a truly wonderful Christmas when it come. Jesus is worth the wait!

Yours in love, Rev Shuna Dicks

CHAT'N'SNACK

Wednesdays from 11am—1pm, for older or isolated folks who would like some company.

Do drop-in for a snack, teas, coffees and a fine piece, to play cards or dominoes, and the chance to chat with friends old and new.

Interested in coming along or in volunteering?
Then please contact Rose on 07790288249 or
roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 26 November
10.00am – noon

Stalls, Tombola, Raffle, etc. Teas/
Coffees, Mince Pies/Shortbread

Tickets £3 – do come along!



*You are invited to share in the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
on Sunday 15 January 2023
at 10.30 am*



Carols, Christmas Readings, & a Christmas floral demonstration



5 December at 10.00am in the
James Tyrrell Centre



A warm welcome awaits you!

Contact Rene on 07775690360

Dear Friends,
It is an honour to be your locum and a pleasure to be with you. Thank you for the warmth of your friendship and your fellowship in this caring congregation with a loving commitment to follow the word of God.

Recently we listened to Luke's Gospel about Jesus' journey south from Galilee to his fate on the cross in Jerusalem, learning from his conversations with others. So many stories, so many people: the man possessed by demons, the confused lawyer, the troubled woman, the arrogant religious leaders, the family tucked up in bed at midnight; Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Was he a good soul or not?

We also heard about troubled or unwell individuals, looking for help. It seems Jesus was surrounded by crowds and friends everywhere; never alone, never on his own. Because of our faith, we are never alone. Jesus reminds us God's love is always with us and those we care about so no one should feel abandoned, an important message especially right now.

At Advent and Christmas we remember Jesus was born into a loving caring family, and celebrate the birth of God amongst us as a tiny vulnerable baby in Bethlehem; we focus on the joy of heaven coming to earth.

Over the next few weeks, we will sing familiar Christmas carols and remember the happiness Jesus brought to his family, to you, to me and all of humanity. The door of the church is open every Sunday for worship at 10.30 – please join us for prayer and praise.

I look forward to welcoming pupils from local schools for Christmas services in church; it's good to have the building full of young people, enthusiastic and keen to learn about the love that came down at Christmas - and that will never leave us.

I wish God's blessings of peace will be with you and yours.

Martin

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday 27 November at 10.30 am - Advent worship

Sunday 4 December at 10.30am - Advent worship

Sunday 4 December at 2pm - a special service to remember those who have died and whom we miss, especially at Christmas and New Year when memories can be strong. There will be hymns, a time for reflection and prayers, and a chance to light candles as we think of those who matter so much to us.

Sunday 11 December at 10.30am - Advent worship

Sunday 18 December at 10.30am - Advent worship



Saturday 24 December at 6pm – a special service of Christmas Carols. Please do come along to join in music and singing - it will be great to see you!

Sunday 25 December at 10.30am – a short Christmas Day service – all are welcome!

Sunday 1 January 2023 10.30am - worship for New Year's Day – all welcome to this short service!

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH



Thanks to all who donate money for flowers each week to brighten the Sanctuary every Sunday. The flowers are then distributed to church members and the wider community.

Thank you also to Moira Robertson, who helps every Sunday to dismantle the arrangement.

Next year's calendar will be available in the Church very soon, so if you would like to donate flowers for a specific date either write your name against the date requires or speak to one of us.

Ronnie & Ann Ewing

**Seasons
Greetings
to you all!**

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Messy Church resumed, with support from local schools and growing numbers. Louisa Low taught a 'new' song - "God is always near me" - which went down well with parents, grandparents and children. Messy Church is on Tuesdays in term-time from 5pm - 6:30pm.

Messy meal will be free to families this winter; we are grateful for a donation for that. Linda Barron assisted with the meal; if you are interested in helping with this and chatting to Messy Church families perhaps once monthly, please speak to me.

Shuna, Martin and I discussed including a more modern praise song in services and opportunities for children to participate in the service. I would also like to see an intergenerational family service once a monthly, involving Messy Church – what do you think?

Thanks to Links Nursery, for a donation of equipment which DeeJay and Drew from Four Pillars transported to church; we responded with items for the children's corner they were setting up. Hopefully we can develop further connections and a partnership with them.

The Time For You parent/carer group, in conjunction with Family Services also resumed, for those in the area with children at primary stages. An assessor for the SVQ level 4 enterprise qualification also attends, allowing parents/carers to develop work/life skills by taking a qualification.

Tesco Hub project goes from strength to strength; a visiting funder was delighted by the engagement with local young people. A board beside our weekly base shows logos of all the partners in the project, including Aberdeen North Parish Church; a new mural will eventually surround this, so look out for it in the car park.

Thanks to colleagues from Scripture Union, the Free Church, Sheddocksley Baptists and Martin for attending an Ecumenical school chaplains' meeting which I hosted; we plan quarterly gatherings with other school chaplains.

Bible Clubs in Muirfield Primary and Westpark Primary have resumed with support from colleagues. I plan to develop the Bible Clubs into a Bible Alive approach (having undertaken the training).

Children, Youth and Family prayer time has moved to Wednesdays at 2pm usually; please pray for our work, even if you can't be there.

Please feel free to chat with me at Sunday service/tea times about our Children & Family Development work.

Claire

WARM SPACES

Aberdeen City Council is working with partner organisations across Aberdeen to provide a range of public warm spaces that will provide an opportunity for people to come together, share and use resources. In the Aberdeen North area:

Cummings Park Centre, Cummings Park Crescent, AB16 7AS – open 9am - 8pm Monday – Thursday. It offers activities, baby changing facilities, book borrowing or swap, hot drinks, outdoor space, quiet work space, wifi.

Mastrick Library, Greenfern Road, AB16 6TR - open Monday & Wednesdays - 10am - 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 10am - 5pm, Saturday - 10am - 1pm. It offers advice, information & guidance; book borrowing or swap; Library Corner; quiet work space; newspapers, wifi

Northfield Library, Byron Square, AB16 7LL - open Thursday and Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. It offers book borrowing or swap, Library Corner, wifi.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Would you like to send Christmas Greetings to everyone in the congregation?



Then please do put a card on the board at the back of the Church for everyone to read!

GOING GREEN

Churches, like everyone, are trying to be greener towards the environment, and so at a recent Kirk Session meeting, it was agreed that we would start to recycle waste paper, plastic & glass etc.



Recycling containers have therefore been placed at the James Tyrell Centre and in the kitchen beside the Pearl Cowie Room.

Please use these and help us to become a '**GREENER CHURCH**' by recycling as much as we can.

Thank you - the Re-Cycling Team



Nativity Scene

St Nicholas Kirkyard
28 November 22 – 5 January 23,
open daily from dawn to dusk

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 Property	Rose Clayton	roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com
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

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Nowadays many people in the UK find themselves relying on food banks, especially as we all face difficult times this coming winter.

At Aberdeen North we continue to be humbled by the regular and steady donations of food and items, especially when everyone is finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet, and there is growing anxiety about staying warm this coming winter.

A very special thank you to everyone who donates — every single item is very much appreciated by someone in Aberdeen!



Find us on:
facebook



..... to all who volunteer in any way to help keep our Church running smoothly - cleaning, serving

teas after worship, tending the garden, donating & arranging flowers, taking on additional roles, counting and banking money, doing door duty, running groups, visiting & all those other wee jobs which are not always visible!

All contributions are very much appreciated, especially during the vacancy!

www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

For news, Sunday messages and copies of the Newsletter.

