

Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

SPRING 2022



FROM CLAIRE VAN GEETE, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

On Thursday 3rd February our Pop Up Play sessions began from 1 – 2:30 pm. These sessions will continue through term time. I am putting a shout out on Mastrick Matters and Shmu radio, with posters in various community hubs and partner Face Book pages. What a joy to have the children back in the 'church'!

I am also partnering the Tesco Hub project on the Lang Stracht; I take part in the their meetings online once per week and in the pop up activities every Thursday evening until 9 pm in the Tesco car park. This is a project which will progress to extracting small groups to community centres and I hope to Aberdeen North Parish Church or things like life skills cooking classes.

I am currently writing a programme of simple introduction to Christianity for schools which I will offer as school chaplaincy and hope to soon be able to visit classes in person; meantime I will be offering meetings via Teams with classes where I will share Bible Stories; messages like simply 'Who is Jesus?', 'What does it mean to be a Christian', 'How do I become a Christian?'; and 10 must know Bible stories which is an existing project.

I am currently holding discussions with the NHS Homecoming Project which seeks to support people returning to home and the community after long hospital stays, and also with the Community mental health project around their vision to offer a short 8 week course supporting good mental health.

Finally, I am in the process of devising a Bible based youth club which will be called Champions Club. I have been visiting with Fernielea Gospel Hall who run youth groups and Bible study youth groups and they are being very kind and supportive as I explore this and lay it before the Lord.

Claire

Aberdeen North Parish Church

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

Will take place on
Sunday 27 February 2022



You are invited to share

HOLY COMMUNION

at Aberdeen North Parish
Church

on Sunday 6 March 2022 at
10.30 am

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

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



Aberdeen despite its wealth and status as the Oil Capital of Europe, is no exception. Instant Neighbour provides emergency food parcels to individuals and families in serious need.

On the first Sunday of each month, stay behind after the service for



Dear Friends,

I will begin by saying a big thank you to members and friends of Summerhill Church and more recently to Aberdeen North for these past eleven and a half years. Our time in Aberdeen has been full of happy memories but "time and tide . . . ". After nearly 39 years in the ministry, it is time for me to retire.

Retirement will bring many changes no doubt, but we are looking forward to living in Perthshire and to seeing more of the family in Stirling and Edinburgh. We might even manage a trip to Australia.

Looking to the future is filled with uncertainty in these strange times. Everywhere we look there seems to be turmoil, confusion, and anxiety and even a degree of fear. Our faith will be tested, and we will have to stand firm on the promises of God. Our focus on circumstance must not overshadow the faithfulness of God. We must guard our faith and treasure our relationship with our Lord and that means maintaining a prayerful lifestyle.

Meditation and mindfulness are widely promoted today for our mental wellbeing but for us, we have a focus outwith ourselves as we look to Jesus our friend and saviour in whom we put our complete trust. Jesus is indeed our rock on which we stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

David, the Shepherd King, wrote many of the psalms and they have been a source of comfort and strength to generations. Psalm 91 has a verse worth meditating on: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in Whom I trust".

May the Lord bless and keep you,

Michael.



FROM THE TREASURER

At the time of writing, the church accounts have been prepared and are with the auditor for examination. Copies will soon be available to pick up from the church.

In 2021 there has been a deficit of £32,658 and without any other form of income we are depleting capital.

There is some good news! We have had a reduction of £11,000 in our Ministries and Mission contributions to the central church offices in Edinburgh for one year and this reduces the amount due to £43, 243.

I took on the post of Treasurer at Aberdeen North to bring the finances of the three churches together for Aberdeen North Church. I am now stepping down from that role at the end of February and will present the accounts to the congregation on Sunday 27 February.

Bill Sutherland



We ask you to prayerfully consider these roles to help the church function.

We have vacancies for a:

SESSION CLERK

The formal part of a session clerk's "job" is focused on the Kirk Session meeting – assisting in drawing up the agenda, ensuring that the meeting is called properly, taking the minute of the meeting and following up correspondence as

required. A job description is available and can be picked up from the front door of the church.

TREASURER

The treasurer looks after the congregation's money by ensuring that:

- offerings are recorded and banked
- bills and dues are paid
- annual accounts are prepared
- the Kirk Session is kept informed about the financial situation of the congregation.

The accounts are set up on excel. A job description is available and can be picked up from the front door of the church. We have a Gift Aid Co-ordinator in place, Peter Ewen, and he recovers tax from HMRC.

ROLL KEEPER

As the job title suggests, the "job" of the roll keeper is to keep our Communion roll and Adherents' roll updated electronically. It is all set up on 'excel' and is not an onerous task.

SOUND DESK OPERATOR

We are looking for more volunteers to go on a rota to help on a Sunday morning. Training is available.

Dear Friends

It is with mixed feelings that I am retiring at the end of March. But I feel the timing is right. Goodbyes are difficult. Being separated from folk after being with them for some time means change will happen. And change is always uncomfortable.

I answered the Call to Mastrick which was in deferred union with Summerhill and was inducted to the charge in June 2017. I have enjoyed ministering to you and spending time getting to know you. We have had many memorable times with Harvest Suppers, Afternoon Teas, Fashion Shows, the Welcome Café, church holidays. Out in the parish I have always enjoyed going to the shopping centre and industrial estate to hand out hot cross buns at Easter and sweets at Christmas with an invitation to celebrate these special occasions with us.



On 1 February 2021 Mastrick, Northfield and Summerhill became a union and the church was renamed Aberdeen North Parish Church. It has been a privilege to be part of that and the ministry team.

The last 2 years have been difficult with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic but it forced us to be more creative and I have enjoyed posting messages on social media. 'In person' meetings and gatherings have stopped and started and it looks like that is how things are going to be for the foreseeable future. It is good that teas and coffees have resumed after our Sunday services as this gives everyone the opportunity to get to know one another.

I am looking forward to going to the Philippines for a couple of months to visit family sometime in the near future. The country has just opened up to tourists. Bill and I haven't seen Vivien, August and Isaiah for 2 years. Baby Samuel is now a year old and we have never seen him. Social media and emails keep us connected but these do not take the place of personal presence and getting a hug.

We will be moving to Westhill and will be round the corner from Craig, Linsey, Noah and Maisy. I am sure we will see a lot of them!

The 20 March will be the last Sunday for Michael and myself. Thank you for playing such a special part in my journey. As you begin another stage of yours and go through the vacancy, I will keep you in my prayers. Shuna Dicks, the Interim Moderator, will keep you right. Perhaps by the time you read this a Locum will be appointed.

God bless you my friends, I love you and keep working for the Kingdom.

Susan x

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who, though unable to attend church, continue to send freewill offering envelopes to the manse in King-swells.

From **1 March 2022**, please address these to

**The Treasurer,
Aberdeen North Parish
Church,
Greenfern Road,
Aberdeen AB16 6TR**

PRAYER HOUR

- Tuesdays at 11am in the Learning Zone (enter via car park doors and turn left). All are welcome!

Prayer points for those praying at home -

- For our Pop Up lay sessions which have re-started
- For our schools that we can strengthen and develop our chaplaincy and service to pupils, families/carers and staff
- For our community partners that we can continue to work together in service and care for our community: with the community centres, the Tesco Hub project and local church youth groups
- For our Champions Club which I would like to start - a faith-based youth club for young people
- For our Learning Zone Pop Up Drop In for children and families needing support with home learning and tutoring which I would also like to start soon

Claire will open a list for volunteers willing to be on a rota to support the running of these groups as they spring into life - it's an exciting time!

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
Children & Families Development Worker	Claire van Geete, 0756 465105
Session Clerk	VACANCY
Minute Clerk	Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Treasurer	VACANCY
Roll Keeper	VACANCY
Presbytery Elder	Ian Ingram ianingram890@gmail.com
Data Protection Officer	Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Safe Guarding Officer Interim	Rose Clayton roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.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 billaing52@gmail.com
Communication	Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Christian Aid Convener	Judith Christie perth3@icloud.com

GIFT AID

Signed up for Gift Aid yet? If not please pick up a form at the Church door, or contact Peter Ewen for more information.



Find us on:
facebook®

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service will be held in Holy Family Church,
Upper Mastrick Way, on Friday 4 March 2022
at 2.30pm

All are welcome!

I know the plans I have for you

www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

For news, Sunday messages and
copies of the Newsletter.