

Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

SUMMER2022

Dear 'new' friends

I took on the role of your Interim Moderator at the beginning of April and it has been a real pleasure to start to get to know some of you. Your welcome at worship the other week was just lovely and what a joy to have the baptism of little Arlo.

I thought I would tell you a little about myself. As you may know I am minister at Cults Parish Church and have been there for just over 4 years. Prior to that I was at Aberlour in Speyside.

I am married to Neil who works in the whisky industry. We have a wee joke that he deals with one kind of spirit and I deal with another. We have two grown up children, Kirsti and Andy. Kirsti is a social worker with North East Sensory Services and works with people with hearing and eyesight loss. Coincidentally the area of the city Kirsti covers includes the parish of Aberdeen North. Andy is a graphic designer with an agency in Manchester. Both Kirsti and Andy were baptised by Rev Scott Guy when he was minister at Lhanbryde prior to coming to Northfield. It can be a wee world sometimes.

I know that Aberdeen North is at a new stage of its life and that a vacancy can be a difficult and worrying time. But it is also a time for reflection and for visioning. I hope as we work together, we can see a path for you and I can help you on your way.

I was recently at a talk about how we encounter God in our daily lives. One of the questions posed was 'where is God leading us?' And there was a reminder to always remember that God is with us and to trust in God. Not bad advice for a time of change.

I wish you every blessing and look forward to being with you again soon.

Yours in love, Shuna



Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to become locum for the Aberdeen North Church family; thank you for this opportunity to share in your journey of faith during the vacancy. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. It will be good to get to know you, to talk together and to hear your stories.

My job is in local government, as a member of the city council for the past nineteen years.

Since 2007, I have been an elder at Holburn West Church, currently Session Clerk. Over the years, I have led worship on many occasions in my own church and others in the city. In 2019, I was ordained as a Presbytery Reader, a form of ministry in the Church of Scotland involving worship and pastoral responsibilities.

During my training for the readership, I was lucky to have a positive and genuinely rewarding experience at Northfield Church, with warm and effective guidance of Rev Scott Guy who provided an excellent example of caring, friendly spiritual leadership. I benefited from accompanying him as he ministered to the congregation and wider community, with pastoral visits in care homes and schools. I learnt a lot and gained strength in my faith from Scott and the kind, supportive people of Northfield Church, at an important stage in my life, so it will be especially good to see familiar faces at Aberdeen North Church.

I look forward to praying and worshipping with you, and sharing God's abundant love and grace together. As my time with you approaches, I think of the words in Psalm 37: "The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace." I pray God's blessing and peace will be with everyone in the Aberdeen North family.

Please contact me at any time by email or phone; if I'm not available you can please leave a message.

God's peace to you, Martin

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

April and May proved busy yet blessed months as we continue to engage with children, young people, families and schools in Aberdeen North Parish.

Before the holidays, I led two school assemblies on "Why do we eat Easter, the story of the egg", thinking about who Jesus is, and the Easter story, and a lunch time Bible club will start with one school and both will visit Church for an end of year Thanksgiving service – members who would like to support these services are welcome!



During the Easter holidays we hosted Pop-Up Play for Primary Age children and parents/carers, with volunteer support. Children discovered the Easter story through activities, craft, stories, interactive media and song; they enjoyed snacks, an Easter egg hunt and Bonnie Easter Bonnet competition. Thanks to a donation children took home their own egg for Easter Sunday. A very exciting, buoyant and blessed day. I discussed Messy Church and a Bible based primary age club after the holiday, with the idea of Messy Church particularly well received.

Messy Church started with three families (one of three generations!), swelled to five and we pray for more. During planning discussions, families asked for it every Tuesday. God is so good! Adults have taken ownership of food preparation, with children setting the table and leading the blessing. We began at the beginning, in the book of Genesis; children made gloop to show how the world looked before God spoke, and a large creation 'frieze' with fruit, vegetables and sweets. In the church garden we thought about the garden of Eden, then made fruit kebabs for dessert. What a delicious world God had created for us to look after. The story continues ...

Pop-Up Play is going strong – very special thanks to volunteers who turn up every week. From my contact with wider volunteer agencies three new volunteers have started induction for this and Messy Church. Please give thanks and pray the Lord will send workers for the harvest. To Him be the Glory.

In partnership with Family Support, we began Cuppa and Catch Up! for parents/carers of primary children, now already evolved to offer weekly activities, and renamed by participants as 'Time for You'. Planting tomatoes and indoor plants clearly relaxed people, opening a range of conversations. One participant who enjoys creative writing has agreed to lead sessions as we learn to develop story characters.

I continue as part of the Tesco Hub team and was delighted to welcome them to meet in church with some circus play - plate spinning, juggling and diablo - followed by snacks and juice. There was so much enjoyment we almost forgot to have the meeting! I was asked if we could have the next one here too. Bless the Lord.

Finally, I am contacting other local ministers and pastors to revive the ministry team for schools to enable us as a Christian community to support more of our schools with the Gospel and help develop faith and friendship.

Claire van Geete



ABERDEEN NORTH GUILD

Meets at the 2nd Monday in
January) in the James Tyrrell
Room.

It is open to anyone – do
come along, you are assured
of a warm welcome.

Do please contact Rene on
07775690360 if you wish any
further information

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

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



Aberdeen is no exception, especially as living
costs are increasing daily, and people find it more and more
difficult to make ends meet. Instant Neighbour provides emergen-
cy food parcels to individuals and families in serious need.

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR A STRAWBERRY FAYRE!

It is hoped to hold a Strawberry Fayre on
Saturday 23rd July at 2.00pm in Aberdeen North Church Hall
Keep an eye on the Notice Board, & in the weekly Family News, for
further details nearer the date.



Sunday 19 June at 10.30am
You are invited to share in the
Sacrament of Communion
During the service we will also
celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism



FROM THE SESSION CLERK

We're delighted to welcome Rev Shuna Dicks as our Interim Moderator and Martin Greig as our locum during the vacancy & hope they will enjoy their time with us in Aberdeen North!

At present we are waiting for confirmation from the Presbytery of Aberdeen & Shetland, and the Church of Scotland that we can begin the process of seeking a new Minister; it is hoped that we will have more information over the coming weeks.

Work continues to prepare for the sale of the church buildings and manses at both Northfield and Summerhill, and it is expected they will be advertised over the summer. Once we know how much is raised from the sale, we will be able to start planning for the development of the buildings on the Mastrick site, and consulting with members of the congregation.

Elsewhere in North News you will see your personal invitation to "Looking Forward @Aberdeen North" on Sunday 19 June after the communion service - please try to come along as it's important for as many people as possible to share their views.

I'll look forward to seeing you there!

Ian Ingram



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Flowers can say so much – “we’re thinking of you”, or “congratulations”, “get well soon” or “thank you” and so the ministry of flowers in Aberdeen North

Church is very important!

I’m writing now to ask for your help –

Maybe you would like to arrange flowers for Sunday worship? You would be a great asset - no skill or experience required. You can pop the flowers in a vase or give arranging a go. Help is available if you would like a few tips.

Maybe you know of someone who would appreciate the church flowers after Sunday worship? If you can give advance notice that would be really helpful!

Maybe you would like to help by delivering the church flowers after Sunday worship?

Please do speak to me or Ron, or leave a note in one of our pigeonholes if you would like to help in any way with the ministry of flowers!

Thank you.

Ann Ewing



**A PERSONAL
INVITATION -**

YOU ARE INVITED!

“Looking Forward @Aberdeen North”

On Sunday 3rd July 2022

This is your chance to have your say as we look ahead in

Aberdeen North, to reflect and share, & connect God’s vision to ours

The session will begin after worship and finish by 3pm

Please bring your own sandwich - teas/coffees & fine pieces will be available!

Please SAVE THE DATE & do come along!

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, 0756 465105, CVanGeete@churchofscotland.org.uk

OFFICE BEARERS

Session Clerk Ian Ingram ianingram890@gmail.com

Minute Clerk Jean Bell bjeanbell15@gmail.com

Treasurer

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

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.

Thanks to all members who give their offerings by standing order. If you would like to do this instead of using envelopes, please speak to your elder, or leave a note in the Treasurer's pigeonhole in the vestibule of the Church.

Paying by standing order is convenient, and it is easy to set it up.



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For news, Sunday messages and copies of the Newsletter.