

ABERDEEN NORTH NEWS



CHRISTMAS 2024

Psalm 63:1

You God, are my God,
Earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
My whole being longs for you.

Hello Friends,

Another year has turned and we are once again approaching Christmas and looking forward to 2025.

As we enter into advent and prepare the way for God entering the world, I would like to reflect on how we make room for Jesus, how we prioritise Him in our lives – not just at this time of year, but every day.

It can be so easy to allow other things to take priority – family, decorations, buying presents, preparing food, organising activities. We get swamped and our focus shifts from the babe in the manger to the man in the red suit.

- ◆ My first encouragement, is don't allow guilt to take over. Guilt is not from God, and it detracts from our worship.
- ◆ My second point is to make small spaces for worship – have that chocolate advent calendar and each day as you open the door, thank God for the blessings of the new day. And as you eat the chocolate, give thanks for the sweetness of his love.
- ◆ Finally, if you are able to, then come and celebrate at church with the Advent and Christmas Services. Enjoy the fellowship of your brothers and sisters in Christ as we sing the carols, pray and worship together.

Starting on the 26th of November we are going to have a weekly bible study on Tuesdays at 7pm in the church office for 4 weeks where we explore Making Room for Jesus – I hope that you can join us at these.

2024 has been a busy year for us at Aberdeen North, and as we enter into 2025 we hope to take some time to enjoy where we are; to continue to build our relationships with local schools, to enjoy the Coffee Pot and Chat 'n' Snack and the fellowship we find there.

Thank you for your prayers over the past 12 months, over the next year I ask you to pray for our missional activity in the communities of Mastrick, Northfield and Summerhill; to pray for the continuing building of connections with other churches in the area and to ask God for His guidance and blessing in all that we do in His name.

I wish you and all your families a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year.

Fiona



*You are invited to share in the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
on Sundays 24 November,
5 & 26 January 2025 at 10.30 am*

All are welcome at the Lord's table!



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 7 December 2024
10am - 12noon
Aberdeen North Church
Greenfern Road

Coffee, tea, mince pies,
stalls, crafts for children &
Christmas Hamper raffle

CHAT'N'SNACK IN A WARM SPACE Wednesdays, 10am-2pm.

Teas, coffees, a lunch-time snack and a fine piece, & chat with friends old and new. No charge though small donations welcome. It's not just for church folks so please pop-in & bring a friend - all are welcome!

If you'd like to volunteer - please contact Rose roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com, 07790288249

Closed for holidays—Wednesdays 18 & 25 December, 1 & 8 January. Look forward to seeing you when we re-open on 15 January!



KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session is responsible for managing the affairs of the congregation, and the Minister and elders are the trustees of the charity of Aberdeen North Church. It meets 4/5 times per year with additional meetings as necessary. Between these meetings, the detailed work of running the Church is carried out by six teams who report to Kirk Session at each meeting— Children, Families & Young People; Fellowship & Discipleship; Pastoral Care; Resources; Vision; and Worship & Music.

Recently Kirk Session has approved the following policies: Data Protection (revised), Safeguarding, Whistleblowing & Donations for Church Social Events. Copies are available in the vestibule at Church & in the Hall; if you wish to have a copy please contact the Session Clerk.

Meetings of the Kirk Session are open and intimated in advance at Sunday worship. If you have any queries or would like to know more about the Kirk Session and what it does, then please contact Jean Bell, Session Clerk

CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS



If you have a favourite Christmas carol, hymn or song, Fiona would like to hear from you!

Please write your suggestion on one of the sheets lying on the tables & pop it in the basket at the back of the church. Many thanks!

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Instant Neighbour's Foodbank has offered emergency food parcels to people in need since 1984, when the charity launched in a back room of Holburn West Church.



Donations of non-perishable food always welcome -

UHT or long life milk	Tinned soup
Tinned meat & fish	Rice & pasta
Tinned vegetables	Jar sauces
Teabags/Instant coffee	Cereals
Diluting juice	Tinned fruit
Dog & Cat food	Basic Toiletries
Biscuits & snack bars	Sugar

MANY THANKS to all who regularly bring along food items for the collection, supporting those in need across Aberdeen!

Aberdeen North Parent & Toddlers Group



Every Friday during term-time, 9.30am —11.30am

Tea & coffee available—bring your own snacks!

THANK YOU to all who donated to this year's Blythswood Shoebox appeal! Thanks to the



generosity of the congregation, 89 filled boxes are now on their way to Eastern Europe, and £220 was donated to help with transport costs.



The Coffee Pot



Aberdeen North Parish Church
FRIDAYS 10.30AM - 1.30PM

Join us at the Coffee Pot, our new community cafe where everyone is welcome for a variety of hot drinks, homemade cakes, traybakes, and scones. Donations welcome but not necessary.

Greenfern Road, Aberdeen AB16 6TR



CFINE Community Food Outlet

Aberdeen North Church, Greenfern Road, Mastrick
Every Friday 10:30am - 12:30pm in the foyer

Looking to buy affordable fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs? Visit the Aberdeen North Church every Friday from 10:30am-12:30pm where CFINE will be selling your five a day!

Other Services

Within the church there will be other services you can access and enquire about. You can also visit the CFINE website for more information about our support services: www.cfine.org

Contact Us:
01224 596156 info@cfine.org



Final Coffee Pot for 2024 is 13 December & we return after the new year on Friday 10 January!

Thanks to all volunteers who help keep our Church running smoothly - not only by doing the tasks we can all see, but also doing these other wee jobs which are not always visible! This is very important as Aberdeen North Church grows and develops and all contributions to the life of our Church are very much appreciated - thank you all!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN ABERDEEN NORTH CHURCH

- Sunday 1 December** 10.30am Morning worship for the first Sunday in Advent
2.30pm Service of Comfort and Hope
- Sunday 8 December** 10.30am Morning worship on the second Sunday in Advent, with Aberdeen Concert Band playing
- Sunday 15 December** 10.30am Nativity for the third Sunday in Advent
- Sunday 22 December** 10.30am Morning Worship for the fourth Sunday in Advent



Christmas Eve -

Tuesday 24 December 6.30pm Christingle Service

Christmas Day -

Wednesday 25 December 10am Christmas Day Service



- Sunday 29 December** 10.30am Morning worship Lessons and Carols – no communion
- Sunday 5 January 2025** 10.30 Communion to celebrate the New Year

Advent Bible Study - Making Room for Jesus

Tuesday 26th November 7pm in Church Office

Tuesday 10th December 7pm in Church Office

Tuesday 3rd December 7pm in Church Office

Tuesday 17th December 7pm in Church Office

Serving our Community Together

The past few months have been incredibly busy as we've embarked on a variety of new projects to serve and connect with our community.

During the October school holidays, we were thrilled to host our Pizza Pilgrims Pizza Making workshops for children from across the city. The kids had so much fun getting hands-on with food, learning new skills, and expressing their creativity. The workshops were a huge hit—so much so that we were over-subscribed! I'm delighted to share that due to popular demand, the workshops will return during the school in-service days in February.



In early November, we also welcomed the Riding Lights Theatre Company for a special performance of Cups on a String, a heart-warming and powerful play. The performance marked the launch of our involvement with Transforming Lives for Good's (TLG) Early Intervention Mentoring Project. This programme will see us working alongside Northfield UF and Sheddocksley Baptist Church to mentor children at Westpark Primary. The Cups on a String performance, set the tone for what we pray will be a transformative partnership.

Thanks to a successful application to the Co-op Community Fund, we've been awarded a minimum of £1,000 to enhance our café with a community fridge and food pantry. This amount could increase as people become members of the Co-op and choose Aberdeen North as their local cause.

We were also able to partner with CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East), by adding a Community Food Outlet to our Friday café provision. The initiative offers affordable fresh fruit and vegetables, promoting healthy eating and supporting families across our parish.

It's incredible to see how God is working through these projects, and we know there's still so much more ahead. We'd love for you to join us on this journey! Whether it's through your prayers, volunteering your time, or simply sharing a smile and spreading the word, there's a way for everyone to get involved.

Together, we can continue to make a real difference in our community, showing God's love in practical, and tangible ways.

Jay Thomas

NATIVITY SCENE Union Terrace Gardens,

The Nativity Scene will be open daily from
Monday 2 December 2024
– Sunday 5 January 2025.

A service of Blessing for the
Nativity Scene, organised
by Aberdeen Churches
Together, will take place on

Monday 2 December at 10.30am beside the
arches on the upper level of the gardens.



GUILD

Let Us Build A House Sure foundations

2 December	Christmas Carols
6 January	Unrequired Gift Sale
2 January	Fotos & Facts
3 February	Behind the Scenes Rose Clayton
17 February	Discussion



For more information please get in touch
Rene 07775690360

*A very warm welcome awaits you so please come
along to any or all meetings.*

CHURCH UPDATES

Communion - Alcohol-free wine and gluten-free bread served at all communions.

Wee Jars are available for people to fill with 5p & 20p coins and return to Church, for the Refurbishment Fund. Thanks to all those who have been busy filling up those wee jars throughout 2024!

The **congregation is asked to stand** as the Bible is carried in to the Sanctuary at the beginning of Sunday worship and carried out at the end of the service following the benediction.



GIFT AID

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

STOP PRESS.... our Christmas film night is on Sunday 22 December from 4 –6pm, showing Miracle on 34th Street. Keep an eye on our facebook page & Church noticeboard for more information!



Thanks to all members who give their offerings by standing order. If you would like to do this instead of using the envelopes, please pick up a form at Church, speak to your elder, or leave a note for the Treasurer.

Paying by standing order is convenient, and is easy to setup. Thanks!

MINISTRY TEAM

Contact the Church Office on Aberdeen 694121

Minister	Rev Fiona Lister, 07905 770259	FLister@churchofscotland.org.uk
Church & Community Development Worker	Jay Thomas, 07526 465101	jthomas@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Jean Bell	bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Data Protection		
Treasurer	Elaine Mitchell	antreasurer@aol.com
Safeguarding Officer	Rose Clayton	roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com
Resources Team Convener	Bill Laing	billlaing52@gmail.com
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Guild	Rene Cowie	renecowie775@gmail.com
Christian Aid Convener	Judith Christie	perth3@icloud.com



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www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

For news, and
copies of the Newsletter.