

ABERDEEN NORTH NEWS

Summer 2025



Dear Friends

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:22-25



This summer season we are exploring the fruits of the spirit. We are dipping into stories from the bible and meeting characters like David, Saul and Jonathon. We are dwelling in the psalms and hearing from the congregation what each of these fruits mean to them – whether it is the goodness of the gift of music or exploring the gifts of love and patience. We all have a story which we can tell relating to these gifts.

In June the elders had an away day and Jay asked us to think about where we came from, what gifts and experiences we have to offer. When he had collated what had been said, most folks couldn't believe how many talents and skills were embodied in the session. And that goes for the whole church, if we did the same exercise with every member, every attender; then I am sure that we would quickly find a deep well of skills talents and experiences, which would cover almost every aspect of life.

Aberdeen North needs to be proud of its heritage and proud of what it has to offer to the community which it inhabits. It is so encouraging when we start to see greater engagement with the community, through various activities and we have the opportunity now to dream big.

As I write this, I am sitting in a tent at the Refuel festival in Fochabers. This Christian festival gathers Christians from across Scotland as well as other parts of the UK. It is a place of teaching, worshipping, discovering and exploring. This is the third year we have had a wee group from the church attend and each time I have been challenged by the expressions of faith and the testimonies of other attendees.

The Holy Spirit will give us the gifts that we need, at the time that we need them – whether that is the patience we need as we wait for the next stage in the plan; or whether it is the ability to love unconditionally those who we find difficult to draw alongside. This parish has been blessed down the years by the faithful recipients of these gifts – maybe they haven't named them as the fruits of the spirit, but that is what they are; God's blessings to His people who live in the parish of Aberdeen North.

Let's continue to celebrate who we are; God's people, who deserve to receive his good gifts as we look hopefully and prayerfully into the future. Amen

I pray that all who receive this newsletter may know God's blessing in their hearts and in their lives.

Fiona



CONGREGATION SUPPORT WORKER

I am excited to be in the post of Congregational Support Worker and look forward to getting to know the congregation, and learn how best I can support them.

A bit about myself: I live in Dyce with my husband Chris and our daughter Florence.

Previous to starting this role, I worked in administrative roles at Petrofac and also for the Scottish Parliament.

I feel incredibly blessed to have come across the opportunity to work for the Church of Scotland and especially to have found myself at Aberdeen North Parish Church, where I have received a very warm welcome. I look forward to all the opportunities that we will share as a church.

Rebecca

GUILD

The Guild will meet again on 15 September at 10.00am in the James Tyrrell Centre. It is open to ALL - so do come along and try it out.

This year our theme is **LIVING STONES**.

Future meetings are on Mondays 6 & 20 October, 3 & 17 November, 1 & 15 December.

At the end of last session we were delighted that Louisa Low was presented with a Long Service Badge; she has been a faithful, loyal member of Northfield and now Aberdeen North Guild since 1955.

Congratulations Louisa on this well-deserved recognition of 70 years of service to the Guild!



ABERDEEN NORTH BUILDINGS - UPDATE

Following the fire at Northfield Manse in October 2023, it was refurbished through the insurance. Now that has been completed, the Church of Scotland General Trustees have the permission of Aberdeen North Kirk Session to put both the church and manse up for sale.

We pray that once the signs are up we will quickly attract a buyer so that the site can once again have a purpose.

Moving on to the next stage of the process, it was exciting to be able to have an initial meeting with an architect and to share some of the Vision Team and Kirk Session's blue sky thinking for what a refurbished Aberdeen North building could look like.

Watch this space as we share more of this process in the coming months!

Communion is celebrated on the last Sunday of the month. Alcohol-free wine and gluten-free bread served at all communions.

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.

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Aberdeen North Parish Church will be held on Sunday 17 August 2025, immediately following worship.

Wee Jars are available for people to fill with 5p & 20p coins and return to Church, for the Refurbishment Fund. Thanks!

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.

Thanks to all who give their offerings by standing order. If you would like to do this instead of 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!



COFFEE POT - Fridays 10.30am - 1.30pm

Everyone is welcome at the Coffee Pot for hot drinks, pancakes & homebakes. Donations welcome though not necessary.

Re-opens after summer on Friday 22 August – hope to see you then!

A WEEK IN THE PARISH

Jay Thomas

It began on Pentecost Sunday. The day the locked room opened, and the early church stepped into the streets. In the same spirit, I walked the parish. Not to observe from a distance, but to notice – gently, truthfully – where life was still happening, and where the Spirit was already at work.

And life is happening. It's in the strawberry tea at Grays Court, where older neighbours gather – not for programmes – but because someone put the kettle on.

It's in Springhill Community Garden, where soil is turned again after someone tried to ruin it. Because that's what hope does: it plants again.

It's in the butteries at Byron Bakery, the pool table at Grays Inn, the boxing gym tucked inside Northfield Community Centre – where young people learn control before contact.

Some places were quieter. Cummings Park Community Flat, still carrying the silence left by the pandemic. Bressay Brae – where a small group still puts out chairs, even if few come.

There were churches. Not all full. But still open. Still putting on coffee. Still trusting that small acts of welcome can be sacred too.

At Fernielea Gospel Hall, the Connections Café spills warmth like a blessing – a place where parents linger, children run free, and tea tastes like home.

At Northfield United Free, the school visits weekly – no agenda, just relationship, a gentle rhythm of trust rebuilding itself over time.

At Aberdeen North, the Coffee Pot offers welcome without ceremony – a place where stories are passed across tables and no one needs a reason to belong. Just outside, CFINE arrange fruit and veg like a quiet offering – enough colour and kindness to remind you that dignity can look like a full bag and a friendly smile.

There were places that didn't quite know what they were yet. A café that didn't feel like a café. A pub that felt more like a chapel than expected. A sheltered housing complex with a noticeboard full of events, and rooms that stay quiet.

And then there was Sheddocksley – different somehow. The streets felt quieter, slower, as if the place was guarding something of itself. A kind of quiet heaviness hung in the air – not unwelcoming, but watchful.

I walked in Summerhill and was struck by the green. So much land. So much breath. The kind of space that asks, What's possible here, if we slowed down enough to ask together?

And I found myself asking, over and over again: Where does life gather? Who is holding it together, quietly? What's already here that we've forgotten to see?

This parish isn't empty.

It's alive with quiet resilience. It's full – of care, and fatigue, and flickers of firelight. Of neighbours who are doing more than coping – they're keeping watch over something deep and old. The quiet holiness of making space.

The community is not waiting to be fixed. It's waiting to be seen. To be joined. To be loved without needing to perform.

So what now?

Maybe it's not about starting something new. Maybe it's about honouring what's already true. Belonging isn't something we design. It begins with seeing. And showing up.

This was a week in the parish. But it felt like something deeper. A kind of remembering. That the Kingdom doesn't arrive with noise. It shows up in the ordinary – in the breaking of bread, the pouring of tea, and the sound of someone realising – maybe for the first time – that they matter.



CHAT'N'SNACK

Wednesdays, 10am-2pm

Teas, coffees, a lunch-time snack & a fine piece, a 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!

Interested in volunteering? - please contact Rose 07790288249
roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com

Re-opens after summer
on Wednesday 20 August
- see you then!



CH4 HYMNBOOKS – Aberdeen North Parish Church inherited a large number of these, far more than we can ever use. Available now at the back of the Sanctuary for anyone who might like to have one – please help yourself! - or ask your elder.

FLOWER NEWS

We are blessed to have some very talented flower arrangers in the church and we have all appreciated their skills each Sunday.



Recently Kirk Session agreed that we would love to see a display in the entrance hall to brighten it up and raise a smile as folks enter the church.

After some consultation we have agreed that this will be an artificial display which will change with the seasons. In the Sanctuary we will still have fresh flowers but you may find them displayed differently as we make use of the rose bowl as well as various vases around the church.

If anyone would like to join the flower team then they are very welcome to speak with Ann and Ron Ewing.

ABERDEEN NORTH CONTACTS

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**For news, and
copies of the Newsletter.**

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