

ABERDEEN NORTH NEWS

Christmas 2025



Aberdeen
North PARISH
CHURCH

Dear Friends

I was speaking to someone recently about the season of advent and the celebrations that we enjoy at the church and we had a laugh about the story not really changing much; in fact there would be a bit of an outcry if I tried to alter it.

It set me thinking about what it is that we do and say and sing about in the church throughout the year. In truth, our whole year is set in the rhythm of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, a summer lull and then Harvest and back round we go to Advent again.

I couldn't have Christmas services at Easter or a Harvest service during Lent. It wouldn't make sense. And yet are we not just repeating the same story again and again?

The answer in truth is yes, we are celebrating the coming of a King, the birth in Bethlehem, the life of the preacher and miracle-worker, His journey to Jerusalem, His death and His resurrection. And we do this every year. There is comfort in this familiar heartbeat of the Christian faith, a predictability in what we will do, the songs we will sing and even the bible passages that we will read.

So why do we do it? Are we just continuously living in the past? What new thing can we say about any of these events?

If we were purely looking at historical events and reliving them each year, then it could become tedious and mundane. But the truth is that we have a living, breathing faith. Yes – Advent, Christmas and all the other festivals are important in grounding ourselves in what we believe. But what is more important than singing Love came down at Christmas, or O Come all ye faithful is that we can have a relationship with God because of the babe in the manger.

Each day we walk with the saviour of the world, our daily lives matter to Him. The substance of the story never changes but our relationship with Jesus grows and develops as we mature in the faith.

So this year when you think about Christmas, if you come to any of the services, or if you are hearing the familiar carols being played as you do your Christmas shop. Think about the real Jesus, the one who was born in a manger, and who grew up and lived and died and rose again and then sent the Holy Spirit, so that you can know God. So that you can have a relationship with Him and so that you can write your own story of everyday life with Jesus by your side.

Every blessing over the Christmas Season and best wishes for 2026.

Fiona



You are invited to share in the
Sacrament of Holy Communion

*on Sundays 30th November 2025
4th & 25th January 2026 at 10.30 am
All are welcome at the Lord's table*



CHRISTMAS FAIR

*Saturday 6 December 2025 10am - 12noon
Aberdeen North Church, Greenfern Road*

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





ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 30 November 10:30am worship - first Sunday in Advent
3pm Service of Comfort and Hope - a joint service with Hillside Church

Sunday 7 December 10.30am worship - second Sunday in Advent

Sunday 14 December 10.30am worship - third Sunday in Advent with Aberdeen Concert Band

Sunday 21 December 10.30am worship - fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December

Christingle & Nativity Service 6.30pm for all the family

Watchnight Service - 11pm for Carols and 11.30pm for the Service



Christmas Day - Thursday 25 December 10am Christmas Day Service

Sunday 28th December 10.30am worship - Lessons and Carols – no communion

Sunday 4th January 2026 10.30 Communion to celebrate the New Year

Advent Bible Study

12 noon Tuesdays 25th November & 9th December at Aberdeen North Parish Church

12 noon Tuesdays 2nd December & 16th December at Aberdeen Hillside Parish Church

Soup and Sweet will be served - all welcome!

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.

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!

Thanks to all those many people 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 Parish Church grows and develops and all contributions to the life of our Church are very much appreciated

GUILD

The theme for the 2025/26 Session of the Guild is Living Stones. Meetings have been well attended and we have enjoyed fun and fellowship. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 10.00am - 11.30am - 17 November, 1 & 15 December.

Further details from Rene



Aberdeen Nativity Scene

The Blessing of the Crib takes place Monday 1st December 10:30am at the lower gardens of Union Terrace Gardens - carried out by Aberdeen Churches Together.

Open daily 1 December 2025 to 4 January 2026



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 £300 was donated to help with transport costs.



PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team would like to hear of anyone who might like an occasional visit from a member of the Team, or anyone unable to attend Communion Services in Church and would appreciate Home Communion. Please speak to me or leave a note in my pigeonhole.

Ann Ewing, Convenor



One Year of Hope

Early Intervention Mentoring Project

Just over a year ago, Aberdeen North Church took a step of faith alongside our neighbouring churches—Sheddocksley Baptist and Northfield United Free—to launch something new and deeply hopeful: an Early Intervention Mentoring Project.

Through a partnership with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG), volunteers from our congregations have been going into Westpark Primary each week to mentor children who need a bit of extra care and encouragement. What began as a small idea—a simple hour of one-to-one time each week—has become vital for the pupils involved.

Last month, we gathered with our partner churches to celebrate the project's first anniversary. The service was led by Jo McIllwane, TLG's Church Relationships Lead for Scotland, who shared stories of how Early Intervention is changing lives.

Jo explained how the programme works: "Each church gathers a small team of volunteers, led by a coordinator, who are trained to mentor one child for an hour every week, over the course of a year. That consistent hour can make a remarkable difference—not just to the child, but to families, teachers, and the wider community."

We've certainly seen that ripple effect locally. Our mentors are not only supporting children but also building relationships with school staff, families, and one another.

Hope and encouragement are quietly spreading through the school, the homes of those involved and our own congregations.

One of our volunteers, Annette Grieve, shared her experience of mentoring: "I was a bit nervous at first—I wondered if I'd connect with the child—but from the start, there was a bond. We do crafts, play games, chat about life... it's been such a joy. I'd encourage anyone with a heart for children to get involved."

It's stories like Annette's that remind us what can happen when we simply show up, week after week. Faithfulness—one hour at a time—becomes friendship, trust, and transformation.

Reflecting on the journey, Rev. Fiona Lister, our minister, said: "It's been wonderful to see what can happen when churches work together. The Early Intervention Project has strengthened our bonds with one another and with our community. It doesn't take a huge commitment from each person, but collectively, it's making a big difference."



From the beginning, collaboration has been at the heart of this initiative. We've been grateful for the partnership and prayers shared across congregations, which has helped shape and sustain the project from day one.

As we mark the first anniversary, we at Aberdeen North Church give thanks for all that's been achieved. This project has reminded us that the love of Christ takes shape in the simplest of ways: through a conversation, a moment of listening, or an hour spent helping a child believe in their own worth.

Together with our friends and partners, we look forward to another year of hope and possibility. Because when God's people step out in faith—one hour, one child, one conversation at a time—lives are changed, and communities are renewed.

Jay Thomas

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 becoming a volunteer? Contact Rose on 07790288249 - roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com

Snack 'N' Chat is closed after Wednesday 3 December 2025 and we return on Wednesday 14 January 2026.



STOP PRESS - our Christmas Film Night is on Sunday 21 December from 4-6pm.

Keep an eye on the noticeboard, Facebook page & Church website for more information!



COFFEE POT - Fridays 10am - 1pm

Everyone is welcome at the Coffee Pot for hot drinks, pancakes & bakes. Donations welcome though not necessary. The last Coffee Pot for 2025 is Friday 19 December & we reopen after New Year on Friday 16 January 2026



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Flowers are displayed in the Sanctuary every Sunday, in a large arrangement, a vase, or the rose bowl. In the vestibule an artificial arrangement reflects the season. It is hoped to encourage more people to help with the flowers - if you would like to help, please speak to either of us; we are in church most Sundays.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports the flower fund allowing a display of fresh flowers every Sunday which are then distributed after the service. The flower rota will be available from the beginning of December. It is difficult to let everyone choose a special date and we endeavour to accommodate people's requests. However, this is not always possible and you may have to choose an alternative date. If you do have a specific date you can contact me on 07847914943 and I will do my very best. Thank you to the small team who arrange and dismantle the flowers every week. Ann & Ron



ABERDEEN NORTH CONTACTS

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