ABERDEEN NORTH NEWS

Autumn 2026

Aberdeen North PARISH CHURCH



In October, the Kirk Session took the opportunity to review our 5-year congregational plan which we agreed in the first half of 2026. This document has been created in response to the 2025 General Assembly which instructed presbyteries and congregations across the church to put their vision for the future into an action plan.

As part of the creation of this document we explored our congregational values. Everything which the Kirk Session agreed on came under the umbrella of these values of kindness, generosity, welcome…..

In 2026 it has been great to see some of the fruit of these hopes and dreams as we have welcomed young families into the building for pizza-making and burger-building workshops; we have explored what is going on in the neighbourhood for all generations from bowling, to community gardens, to walking the neighbourhood – and a fantastic church family picnic.

We continue to listen to the groups we are in regular contact with to hear what they feel is missing from this community, to see where we can step-in, step-up and work alongside.

Whether that is helping the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides celebrate their long association with the building as a place to gather; partnering with the local council and the priority neighbourhood partnership to conduct research and meet needs; renting out our space to 3rd sector organisations; introducing our pop-up pantry – The Shoppie – to support those just needing food top-up in a busy month, or hearing from the local schools.

Aberdeen North is forging its place in this community and this is something which we want to continue with and expand on in the years to come. But as we dream, it is important that we don't try to do this on our own – because if we forget to ask God for His direction and His plans then we run the risk of falling flat on our faces. So next year we will be having a year focused on prayer – not that we haven't been praying up to now!

But in 2027 we will take an opportunity to explore what prayer is and how different people might pray.

At the end of the day prayer is about taking time to spend with God, to learn from Him and to listen for His voice. And there are as many ways of doing that as there are people. But sometimes it is good to try out new approaches which may help us to expand our prayer life.

All of this is very necessary as we are exploring our own future in Aberdeen North. I mentioned in the last North News that we were hoping to have plans to share with you soon about our building plans.

*Now I am really excited to be able to invite you to the **ABERDEEN NORTH FUTURE** event on Saturday 21st November between 1pm and 3.30pm.*

This is a drop-in event where you will be able to see the first draft of plans and the possibilities for the buildings in the future. It is also an opportunity to see all the great things that are going on in the meantime. And we would like to hear your voice - what do you want to see, what do you like the idea of, do you have anything you would like to suggest.

We want to build not just in bricks and mortar but in hopes, dreams and ideas as we seek to build a sustainable future for the whole community, focused on identified priorities and partnering with other organisations.

This is our community, our future, so please come and share your vision with us.

Fiona

THE GUILD

Monday 16 November, 10am - Tearfund
Monday 7 December, 10am - Christmas Readings
Monday 21 December - Christmas Meal

A warm welcome is assured and we hope to see you there! Please contact Rene on 07775690360 if you have any queries.

LET'S GET TOGETHER

is a monthly informal time of worship and fellowship at Rosewell Gardens with residents and folk from Aberdeen North Church.

We meet on the third Friday of the month 2.30 -3.30pm. We enjoy praise, prayer, and reflection in a relaxed friendly atmosphere and everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Dates to the end of 2026
20th November 2026 – theme Miracles
18th December - theme The Gift of Christmas

Aberdeen North Parish Church invites you to a

Service of Comfort & Hope

A space for reflection for those who find the Christmas season difficult

Sunday 29 November 2026 at 3pm

Aberdeen North Parish Church,
Greenfern Road, Aberdeen AB16 6TR

CHAT'N'SNACK

Wednesdays 10am - 2pm

Snacks, fine pieces, tea, coffee, and friendly chat.

Donations welcome though not necessary.



Please pop-in & bring a friend - all are welcome!

COFFEE POT community cafe

Fridays 10am - 12pm

Everyone is welcome at the Coffee Pot for hot drinks, pancakes & bakes.

Donations welcome though not necessary.



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 start of Sunday worship and carried out at the end of the service following the benediction.

To ensure a safe & welcoming environment for all, Aberdeen North operates a "no pets policy" although guide & assistance dogs are welcome.

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, or leave a note for the Treasurer. Paying by standing order is convenient, and is easy to set up. Thanks!

Thanks to 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 so visible!

If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Jean Bell, Session Clerk.

A Hope Taking Shape

This November marks three years since I interviewed for the role here at Aberdeen North. I've been thinking back to something I said during my presentation that day. When asked about my hopes for the church, part of what I shared was:

"My hope for Aberdeen North is for it to be a church at the heart of the local community, sharing God's love in action. A church that intimately knows its community, and that embodies welcome and hospitality. A place where local people of all ages feel a sense of belonging, knowing that they are cared for, valued and loved."

Looking back on those words, there's still plenty I'd love us to do, and much we're continuing to learn. But when I look at what's happening across the life of our church, I can see something of that original hope taking shape.

Take *The Coffee Pot*, for example. On a Friday morning, you'll find people enjoying a cuppa, a fine piece, and a good blether. But spend a little time there and you'll notice it's about much more than tea and cake.

Friendships are forming, people are getting to know one another, and for some, it's become a familiar part of their week. Somewhere they know they'll find a warm welcome and a friendly face.

The same is true of *Chat 'n' Snack*.

More recently, we've been exploring how we can build on these relationships while responding to some of the challenges facing families and individuals across our parish.

The Shoppie, our new pop-up community pantry, is one example. Building on what we learned through our Community Fridge pilot earlier in the year, it's a practical way of helping address food insecurity and the cost of living.

I'm also delighted to share that we recently received a grant from the Co-op Community Fund in October to help develop *The Good Food Kitchen*.

This new initiative will bring together kids cooking workshops and take-home recipe and ingredient kits, giving families opportunities to learn new skills, prepare affordable and nutritious meals, and enjoy cooking together.

We're hoping to build on previous activities such as *Pizza Pilgrims* and *Burger Builders*, with plans to seek additional funding for a wider programme of workshops in 2027.

There's something particularly exciting about the possibilities this opens up. Not simply teaching children how to cook, but creating opportunities to share skills, build confidence, and learn from one another.

When I look at these different initiatives, I think there's something important connecting them. They're not really about coffee, groceries or cooking alone. They're about people. They're about creating spaces where people can meet, build friendships, and feel that they belong.

None of these projects might seem particularly remarkable in themselves. But for someone who has been feeling lonely, facing the difficult choice between heating their home and putting food on the table, or simply looking for somewhere they feel welcome, they can matter more than we might realise.

When I spoke about my hopes for Aberdeen North almost three years ago, I wasn't imagining a church that simply had more activities on its calendar. I was imagining a church whose life was so closely connected with its neighbourhood. A church that knows its neighbours, listens to their stories, recognises their gifts, and finds ways to share in the things that matter to them.

We're not there yet, of course. Relationships take time, and there's always more to discover about the people and places around us. But I do believe we're moving in that direction.

One of the final things I said during my interview was that I hoped people who might never read a Bible could still see something of who God is through the way we live and treat one another.

Almost three years on, that remains my hope.

Jay Thomas
Community Chaplain

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 5th December | 10am-12noon

Tea, Coffee, Mincemeat Pies & Shortbread, Christmas Wreaths, Hamper Raffle, Tombola, Home Bakes, Crafts & more



Donations welcome, though not necessary

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In 2027 we would like to explore sending North News to members of the congregation by email. If you wish to receive an emailed copy, rather than have a paper copy delivered by someone from the church, please send your name, address & email to office@aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk. Your contact details will only be used to send you North News and other communication from Aberdeen North, and will be kept confidential .

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