

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ALL FINISHED & WRAPPED?



Perhaps not - but it is as far as the Blythswood Shoebox appeal is concerned! Many thanks to all of you who contributed in any way, whether it was donating gift wrap, sourcing or wrapping boxes, shopping, knitting, sorting or packing - all donations of goods were very gratefully received. Cash donations, whether specified for filling a box on your behalf or for transportation costs, make a huge difference to the success of this project.

I am pleased to report that we completed 100 gift boxes, and sent nearly £200 towards transport, and I thank you for your kindness and generosity.



The contributions from Aberdeen North will be going to Romania this year, so please continue to pray for the work of Blythswood as they are transported and distributed this winter. Looking ahead, I would be very grateful if through the months to come you could look out for any empty shoeboxes you and your friends and family have no further use for? I'll find somewhere to store them! See me at Church any Sunday!

Many thanks again, on behalf of Blythswood Care and their partners in Eastern Europe, for bringing the love of Jesus to those in need.

Sybil Anderson

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.



Sadly nowadays even more people find themselves relying on foodbanks, especially as we all face difficult times again this winter.

Donations of non-perishable food are always welcome - thanks to all who so regularly bring along food items for the collection!

Non-perishable items that you can donate:

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

Thank you for supporting those in need in Aberdeen!

CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY ABERDEEN NORTH PARISH CHURCH

Kirk Session agreed in August 2023 to support the following charities until August 2024:

- Harvest Thanksgiving donations (dried food and cash) for Barnabas Aid— & a large number of very heavy parcels were sent off in October.
- Foodbank donations, ongoing throughout the year, to be given to the Instant Neighbour Foodbank.
- Shoebox Christmas gifts for Blytheswood Appeal — see above for Sybil's update
- Givings from special collections at Christmas 2023 worship for Charlie House as that is being built within this parish.
- Christian Aid to be supported in May 24—look out next year for details.

At Aberdeen North the generosity of members of the congregation in responding to the needs of others is humbling, especially when everyone is finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet, and there is growing anxiety about staying warm this coming winter.

Many thanks to everyone whose donations help and support so many others here in Aberdeen and elsewhere in the world.

CHAT'N'SNACK IN A WARM SPACE Wednesdays, 10am-3pm.

Pop-in for teas, coffees, a lunch-time snack and a fine piece, & chat with friends old and new. New activities this autumn - bocce & curling in the mornings, so why not give them a go? No charge though small donations welcome. It's not just for church folks so please bring a friend - all are welcome!

If you wish to volunteer - please contact Rose
roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com,
07790288249

Closed for holidays—Wednesdays
20 & 27 December, 3 January.
Look forward to seeing you when
we re-open on 10 January!



FROM THE SESSION CLERK

We were delighted to welcome Rev Fiona Lister as our new Minister, the first to be called to Aberdeen North; since her arrival in March, Fiona has been busy getting to know the congregation and introducing us to new and different ways of worship.

Thank you Fiona!

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 was very important during the vacancy and still is as Aberdeen North Church grows and develops. All contributions to the life of our Church are very much appreciated - thank you.

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.
Ian Ingram



Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2023

“Christmas is coming, the shops are getting fat, you’re going to need an overdraft to pay for all of that. If you haven’t got an overdraft, a credit card will do. If you haven’t got a credit card then God Bless you”

My daughter came home from her drama class one year reciting this as her Christmas poem.

Christmas is indeed coming. What does Christmas mean to you? Is it parties and presents, cards and gifts? Or is it worry? Anxiety? How are we going to pay for everything?

If we have children or grandchildren then the list gets longer and more expensive with each year. Christmas lunch itself costs an arm and a leg, and then there are the snacks and the alcohol.

Will there be an argument over monopoly on Christmas afternoon? Or will it be a competition for who chooses what is on the TV?

And how is it all to be paid for?

What have we done to Christmas over the past 2000 years? How have we changed it from God touching the earth with divinity into a feast of gluttony and greed? What would happen if we didn’t have decorations, if there was no turkey and our stockings hang empty? Would it still be Christmas without the trappings? Would it still be Christmas if no one visited? If there were no Christmas specials on tv?

What makes it Christmas for you?

Is it expensive gifts, food which you won’t eat most of and a dwindling bank balance and expanding waistline and credit card? Or is it about God’s love? Is it about celebrating that God cares enough about His creation to draw near to us, and to encourage us to draw near to Him?

I really hope that you have a blessed Christmas this year and that you can relax and rest on Christmas Day. I pray for our children to have stockings which are bulging with good things and that you are surrounded by family and friends.

But more than anything, I pray that you will remember that Christ entered history, that God touched the earth with His divinity and he did it all for love of you and love of me.



*You are invited to share in the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
on Sundays 26 November,
7 & 28 January 2023
at 10.30 am*



We are looking forward to celebrating God’s greatest gift to us this Christmas time and would love you to join us – at our regular Sunday services, our Gingerbread Village Christmas celebration, at our Christingle Service, at our pop-up nativity or for 30 minutes on Christmas morning.

Every blessing to you and yours this Christmas season.

Fiona

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

ADVENT SERVICES IN ABERDEEN NORTH CHURCH

Sunday 3 December	10.30am	Worship for the first Sunday in Advent
Sunday 10 December	10.30am	Worship for the second Sunday in Advent with Aberdeen Concert Band & a pop-up nativity
	2.30pm	Service of Comfort and Hope—a special service to remember those who have died and whom we miss, especially at Christmas and New Year when memories can be strong.
Sunday 17 December	10.30am	Worship for the third Sunday in Advent
Sunday 24 December	10.30am	Worship for the fourth Sunday in Advent



CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

Christingle Service in
Aberdeen North Church 6pm

Watchnight Service at
Aberdeen Hillside Church 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER

Short Service at 10am

Bring along a gift you
Received!



SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

10.30am Lessons and Carols (no communion)

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

10.30am Communion to celebrate the New
Year

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER – Service of Reflection, 4pm at Northfield UF church

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER – look out for members of the congregation who will be distributing invitations to Christmas services and activities at shopping centres in Mastrick, Northfield and Summerhill!

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER – Build a Gingerbread Village at our Christmas celebration! Activities including crafts from 4 - 6pm in Aberdeen North Church & refreshments. All are welcome!

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER – Northfield Community Church Carol Concert 3pm-5pm in Northfield Community Centre



Aberdeen North Parish Church
Greenfern Road AB16 6TR

Christmas Fair

Stalls
Tea
Coffee
Mince Pies

Saturday
25 November 2023
10am - 12 noon



Scottish Charity No SC013459

NATIVITY SCENE Union Terrace Gardens,

Blessing at 10.30,
Monday 4 December 2023.

Open dawn
until dusk
daily from
then until 5
January
2024



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Thanks to all who donate flowers or money to brighten the Sanctuary every Sunday; these are then given to church members and others in the community, and are very much appreciated. Thanks also to Moira Robertson, who helps every Sunday to make up bouquets.



Next year's calendar will be available in the Church very soon, so if you would like to donate flowers for a specific date please write your name against the date required or speak to Ron or Ann Ewing.

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 2023!

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.

GUILD

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



New Wine, New Wineskins

4 December	Christmas Carols/Readings & Sugarcraft with Fiona Mackie
8 January	Unrequired Gift Sale
22 January	Games
5 February	Power of Attorney, Craig Pike
19 February	Quizzes

For more information please get in touch
Rene 07775690360



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.

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.

MINISTRY TEAM

Contact the Church Office on Aberdeen 694121

Minister	Rev Fiona Lister, 07905 770259	FLister@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Ian Ingram	ianingram890@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elaine Mitchell	ANT@ekm.scot
Data Protection Officer	Jean Bell	bjeanbell15@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer Property	Rose Clayton	roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com
Guild	Rene Cowie	renecowie775@gmail.com
Christian Aid Convener	Judith Christie	perth3@icloud.com



Find us on:
facebook

www.aberdeennorthchurch.co.uk

For news, and
copies of the Newsletter.