

# Aberdeen NORTH NEWS

SUMMER 2023

Dear Friends

It was a great privilege to be ordained and inducted into the role of minister at Aberdeen North Parish Church – a wonderful time of firsts! My first charge and the first ordination and induction into the new presbytery of Northeast and Northern Isles, I am now the first minister to be called to Aberdeen North Church and just a few weeks ago, we ordained our first elder into the new church too.



A fresh start, a time of new beginnings and new experiences. When I first arrived, I was clear that I didn't want to know where people had worshipped historically – we are no longer the constituent parts of Mastrick, Northfield and Summerhill, but something new, something different. We get to make new traditions; we get to decide what we want to hold onto – and what we want to look back on as a treasured memory. It is an exciting time in this parish.



Change can be hard; it can be overwhelming, and it can be sad to leave behind things which we have treasured through the years. When I was in primary school, we learnt about Janus – the Roman god of transitions. The ancients had a god for everything, but I think that this image accurately represents the whole church in this time. We are discerning what we want and need to bring with us from the past, whilst also trying to work out how the church can move forward, in modern society, in a way which is relevant.

My contribution to this discussion is quite simply that we bring our faith in the risen Christ with us at every step, and that we pass that faith onto future generations.

How we do church, what songs we sing, when and where we meet, what the building looks like comes secondary to our worship of God.

The passage which Rev Darren Jalland preached on at the service of ordination and induction was from 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26:

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

In our worship, we take what we have received from the Lord Jesus Christ, down the generations, and we pass it onto those around us and onwards to future generations. That is my focus and commitment as minister to this parish. How we do this is something which we can create together.

Please know that my door is always open, I am here to serve the people of this parish and I am excited about working with you all in the months and years to come.

Every blessing,  
Rev Fiona Lister

*You are invited to share  
in the  
Sacrament of Communion  
on Sunday 11 June  
at 10.30am.  
All are welcome!*



## **WELCOME TO REV FIONA LISTER**

Thursday 2 March 2023 was a very happy occasion for Aberdeen North Parish Church as it saw the service of Ordination & Induction for Rev Fiona Lister, our new Minister, followed by a social gathering of the congregation, Fiona's family and friends, and members of Presbytery.

The service was led by Rev Stella Campbell, Moderator of the Presbytery of the North East & Northern Isles, with a sermon by Rev Darren Jalland, minister at Oldmachar Parish Church, and contributions by members of the congregation; it included formal aspects where Fiona answered various questions, acknowledged her beliefs and faith, accepted her role as pastor for our congregation, and promised to play her part in the Presbyterian government and administration of Aberdeen North's affairs.



Members of the congregation then promised to welcome, support and encourage Fiona in her ministry with us, and to share responsibility with her for following and serving Jesus in the parish and the wider world.

Promises were made and gifts given to Fiona by representatives of the Presbytery and our congregation as symbols of our commitment to her and her ministry; Fiona then responded by pouring water into a bowl, symbolising her promise to love and serve the congregation and Presbytery.

Refreshments were served and teas, coffees and lots of home bakes were enjoyed by all!

The Welcome Social was our opportunity to welcome Fiona as our new Minister, and also to express our thanks to Rev Shuna Dicks, Interim Moderator, who had guided us through the vacancy, and to Martin Greig, Locum, who led Sunday worship and provided pastoral support to the congregation.

On behalf of the congregation, Ian Ingram presented a home communion set to Fiona, and Ann Ewing presented flowers; Fiona responded, then the Rev Joshua Mikelson, Kemnay Parish Church (Fiona's home church) gave a warm and humorous introduction to Fiona.

A Singing Group of members of the congregation, accompanied by Raemond Jappy, sang "You Are the Vine".

Ian Anderson, MC offered votes of thanks to both Shuna and Martin, recognising their contribution to Aberdeen North over the preceding year, and introduced presentations to both on behalf of the congregation.

Muriel Burnett explained the gift to Martin is a piece of pottery specially commissioned from AJ, winner of the Great Pottery Throwdown 2022; a very appropriate gift as Martin had recently focused on the beauty and individuality of pottery for his sermon, and AJ grew up in this parish, is a graduate of RGU, and grandchild of Muriel and Frank! Audrey Lawrence then presented Martin with flowers.

Louisa Low presented Shuna with a pendant of rainbow quartz in a silver setting, made by Celda Mae, also a graduate of RGU, and Rose Clayton presented Shuna with flowers.

Ian Anderson presented items which he had created using wood from the pews; for Shuna a wee side-table, and for Martin a wooden chain in reference to another recent sermon.

Fiona concluded this very happy evening with prayer and the Benediction.

Ian Ingram

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**STRAWBERRY FAIR  
in the Sanctuary  
on Saturday 22 July  
from 2-4pm!**

**Tea, coffee,  
home bakes,  
stalls**



### **PENTECOST CELEBRATION**

#### **Songs of Praise**

On Sunday 28 May at 2.00pm,  
followed by tea/coffee and homebakes.  
We'll be joined by friends from other faith groups in the area.

If you wish please bring your picnic and stay on after morning  
worship!

All welcome!

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES DEVELOPMENT WORK

Messy Church was busy over the winter with up to 20 families attending regularly for the meal provided which was much appreciated. A reduced number attend now the weather is better so fortnightly meetings were proposed; however, the family vote was to keep meeting weekly! Activities are planned around a weekly scripture, posted in advance on Aberdeen North's facebook page, and link to outdoor Messy Church Goes Wild nights. Messy Church families and children were delighted to meet Fiona and her daughter. The Easter Family Fun Day followed our Lord's journey to Jerusalem via games, Easter activities from around the world and picnic lunch. Great fun was had by all, culminating in egg rolling at the front of church and an Easter egg hunt in the Sanctuary! We were pleased to see a few at Sunday Easter service a few days later.



The Time For You Parent & Carer Group plans to pursue an SVQF Level 4 core skills qualification, with participants revisiting a craft learnt previously and preparing to lead a workshop in this for another community group; they are excited about the prospect of this qualification. Fiona has also joined in with this group.

School Bible Club and Scripture Union groups followed a Lenten journey from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of our Lord, exploring the Biblical journey to Jerusalem. An Easter Assembly at Westpark School was led by Fiona; at Muirfield School, Bible Club continues to go strong; and at Northfield Academy, Scripture Union partners have been able to build good relationships with about a dozen young people. The Schools Chaplaincy Team, involving both Fiona and Claire, continues to grow in depth and collaboration with regular meetings giving everyone time to share progress, pray and make forward plans.

Claire continues to be involved in the Tesco Hub Project, which is looking forward to a range of different activities over the lighter nights. The Children and Families Development Worker role in these enables strong relationships, and discussions about faith, children, hopes, fears and aspirations for work in a kind, caring, and prayerful way.

Prayer Time for Children and Families Development Work underpins and covers all that I do, thanks to those who participate for their commitment, faith and love. All are welcome to join in prayer time for this work, on Wednesdays at 2pm in my office.

Claire van Geete

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Flowers can say so much – “we’re thinking of you”, or “congratulations”, “get well soon” or “thank you” and so the ministry of flowers in Aberdeen North Church is very important!

Our latest — and youngest! - volunteer to arrange the flowers which she and her family donated, Jessica, puts the finishing touches to the arrangement she created!

Maybe you would like to arrange flowers for Sunday worship? You would be a great asset - no skill or experience required. You can pop the flowers in a vase or give arranging a go. Help is available if you would like a few tips.

If you too would like to help, please speak to me or Ron.

Ann Ewing



## CHURCH UPDATES

Communion - 11 June & 10 September, with informal communions after worship on the last Sunday of the month, gathered around the communion table. Alcohol-free wine and gluten-free bread will be served.

Wee Jars for Saving 20p & 5p coins are available for people to fill with either 5p coins or 20p coins and return to the Church. All coins donated will go to the Refurbishment Fund.

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.

Aberdeen North will host a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August from 8.30am-10.00am, and we look forward to welcoming friends from other faith groups in the area.

Aberdeen Concert Band  
(formerly Northfield community Band)  
**SUMMER CONCERT**  
Cults Parish Church,  
Wednesday 28 June, 6.30-9pm  
More information from Muriel Burnett

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



## GUILD

We are now at the end of year 2 of our Look Forward in Faith theme, and have enjoyed our Topic "Wee Seeds, Big Trees".



In September our topic will be "New Wine, New Wineskins".

Numbers have been very encouraging with an average of over 20 each month - 4 men have joined us – the Guild is open to all. We meet on the first Monday of each month, except July and August, at 10.00am in the James Tyrrell Centre.

If you would like more information please get in touch - Rene 07775690360

## CHAT'N'SNACK / WARM SPACES

Wednesdays, 10am-3pm.

Do drop-in for teas, coffees, a lunch-time snack and a fine piece, games, and the chance to chat with friends old and new.



If you wish to volunteer - please contact Rose on 07790288249 or [roseclayton\\_mbe@hotmail.com](mailto:roseclayton_mbe@hotmail.com)



## MESSY CHURCH

**Tuesdays in term-time, 5-6.30pm**, for children accompanied by an adult or someone aged 16+. A time for to eat together, for bible activities, craft & music.

Please book with Claire:  
Email [CVanGeete@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CVanGeete@churchofscotland.org.uk),  
Mobile 07526465105

## TIME FOR YOU

**Wednesdays in term-time, 9.30-11.30AM**, for parents/carers of primary age children in the Aberdeen North area

## PRAYER TIME

**Wednesdays 2pm**, for Children & Families Work, in Claire's office

## 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	<a href="mailto:FLister@churchofscotland.org.uk">FLister@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
Children & Families Development Worker	Claire van Geete, 07526 465105,	<a href="mailto:CVanGeete@churchofscotland.org.uk">CVanGeete@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
Session Clerk	Ian Ingram	<a href="mailto:ianingram890@gmail.com">ianingram890@gmail.com</a>
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