

The New Vine

news across the pews

Festive
2024

Hello Everyone...

As I write this, it's been almost a month since Manson and Sheena left to their retirement. We have all felt the loss of our minister in the church communities of Dyce and New Machar, and we are naturally still navigating our way through a period of mourning.



In Acts, chapter 20, we find the Apostle Paul telling the Ephesian Elders that they would never see him again, because he had been compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem where he would face imprisonment and suffering. After hearing the news, Luke records that they all cried as they hugged him and kissed him goodbye. (Acts 20:22, 37).

Many did the same with Manson, although his destination is very different to Paul's! Manson has gone to a well-deserved more restful and stress-free life and lots more golf!

When we lose someone, we love, it's normal and appropriate to mourn that loss and Jesus knows exactly how we feel. When we feel sad and burdened – He invites us to – come to Him...and He will give us rest. (Matthew 11:28).

However, Manson didn't want us to wallow in the past. In his last message to us – he asked us not to look back, but to look forward to whatever God has planned for us in the future.

Repeatedly in Acts 20, Paul reminds the Ephesians that it is God who builds His church – and although we no longer have Manson's leadership – God hasn't left the building! The Chief Shepherd is still with us – and He's going nowhere!

Jesus said, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

God still has a plan for us – and it's a good plan – a plan to prosper us – a plan to give us hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11).

In the interim, we carry on with the work we have to do – but it will also be a time for reflection and waiting. As I write, we are waiting for an Interim Moderator to be appointed and permission from Presbytery to call a new minister. But we are not sitting back on our laurels – we have started the preparatory work needed for entering into the vacancy process.

In the meantime, I have been appointed as your Locum Minister and will work with the leadership in both churches to ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of Dyce and New Machar are met. Services will continue in the normal pattern and all the normal outreach activities and other events will continue unchanged.

We are likely to be in this vacancy period for a some-time, probably around 18 months to 2 years, so we will all need to patient and pull together during the weeks and months ahead.

Continues overleaf



DYCE AND NEW MACHAR CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monday 9th December 7.30pm
Dyce Community Music Group
Concert (Dyce Church)

Sunday 15th December 2 – 4pm
Christmas Party for Dyce and
New Machar
(Pathway Centre New Machar)

Monday 16th December 7.00pm
Service for the bereaved
(Dyce Church)

Tuesday 17th December 6.30pm
Carols round the Christmas Tree
(Ron Clark Community Garden)

**Wednesday 18th December
7.00pm**
Christmas with the Chosen
(Pathway Centre New Machar)

**Sunday 22nd December
10.30am** Nativity Service
(Both churches)

**Tuesday 24th December
Family Service 6.30pm**
(Both churches)
Watchnight Service 11.15pm
(Dyce Church)

**Wednesday 25th December
10.30am**
Christmas Day Celebration
(Dyce Church)

Sunday 29th December 10.30am
Lessons & Carols
(New Machar Church)

Manson has left us a great legacy and while our loss is still acute and the wound still fresh, we can stand firm on the promises of God.

The start of Advent is only a week away. Can you believe that? But it gives us a focus and something joyous to look forward when we take time to remember and celebrate the wonder of the incarnation of our awesome Lord and Saviour.

The planned Christmas events are detailed in this publication, so I hope you will manage to join us for those to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

As we look forward to experiencing what God has in store for us in the future, I wish you, and those you love, a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, for us.

*Every blessing,
Joan*

Dear Friends

To borrow a phrase that I used on 25 June 1983, "On behalf of my wife and I", can I say a huge 'thankyou' to you all for the wonderful send-off we received last month, at the New Greentrees and also at the reception following church. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and your good wishes. We have decided that part of the money we received will go towards a tree, probably a small Acer or something colourful for the front garden, to remind us both of your love and friendship down through the years.

We are slowly settling into retired life in Inverbervie, and have already connected with the local church, albeit from the 'back benches' (pews), for the time being. If you are ever passing through Inverbervie then please do pop in past 21 Brighead Way. We would be delighted to see you, and the kettle is constantly on the boil.

Once again, thank you for your most generous gift, but more than that, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your love and prayerful support over the years.

We shall continue to hold both congregations in our thoughts and prayers, trusting that God has plans to prosper you in the coming years.

*May God richly bless you all.
Manson & Sheena*

Vacancy

Well, we are in a Vacancy. This is my third vacancy since I became Session Clerk at Dyce in 1997. Going into a Vacancy may feel daunting to a congregation, and members will inevitably ask what happens now? Another question I hope you will ask. Is there anything I can do to help? The answer to that is YES, but more of that later.

At the outset, can I say that we are in a better position than in previous vacancies, as our locums were not known to us before appointment. Joan who has been our OLM for 5 years has been appointed locum, and we are very fortunate in this regard, since we already know her, and she knows us.

Joan as OLM was assigned to work pastorally for 10 hours a week, but this will now be extended by another 2 days per week and 2 Sundays per month. This means she will continue to be able to take services at Dyce and Newmachar. To enable worship services to be covered in both churches in the current pattern, the Worship Teams in each congregation will be required to conduct one service per month, when Joan is required to be in the other church, and when there are five Sundays when the **WORSHIP TEAMS** will both conduct services in their respective Churches.

Although the Kirk Sessions are keen to move things forward quickly, we are obliged to follow Church of Scotland procedures laid down by Presbytery. We await the appointment of an Interim Moderator, and once that happens, the following chain of events will occur.

The Presbytery will establish permission to call a Minister for the Vacancy. If this is approved a Vacancy Advisory Committee is appointed, which consists of 3 members of the Presbytery's Vacancy Procedure Committee and meets with the Kirk Sessions. A Nominating Committee (max of 13) will then be appointed from the congregations of Dyce and Newmachar. The Interim Moderator will oversee this process.

In the meantime, we are working on preparing a Parish Profile for the linked charge which will be issued to interested candidates. Electoral Registers for members/adherents is being finalised for submission to Presbytery.

In conclusion can I request that **the linked congregations give Joan all the encouragement and support we can during the transition of this vacancy.** If you are aware of any member struggling spiritually or with health issues please contact Joan, myself, Pastoral Care Teams or any member of Session so that we can assist and provide support or visit.

Joan said at the recent joint Kirk Session meeting that God already knows who our next Minister will be for our linked charge. We just need to be patient and work together until He reveals to us who that will be. In the meantime, please uphold the churches and all the work ahead in your prayers.

Raymond Mack
Session Clerk



FAMILY FUN AT DYCE CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS



**Christmas Family Together, Sunday 15th December,
Dyce Church Hall, 10:30am.**

Our usual monthly family meet up but with Christmas treats and crafts.

**Children's Nativity, Sunday 22nd December,
Dyce Church, 10:30am.**

Come and watch our children and young people perform the annual retelling of the Christmas story.



**Family Film Afternoon, Monday 23rd December,
Dyce Church Hall, 3pm-5pm.**

Take a break from the busyness of Christmas and join us for a festive family film, popcorn and hot chocolate.

**Christingle Service. Tuesday 24th December
Dyce Church, 6:30pm.**

Come and find out what an orange, candle, piece of red ribbon and some sweets have to do with the story of Jesus birth. We will be creating our own Christingles during the service.



Youth Minister

Seasons Greetings!

This is your friendly neighbourhood youth minister, Chris, and I wanted to take a moment to share and encourage during this season. We find ourselves in the seasonal space between gratitude and generosity, not that the whole year shouldn't be filled with these two essentials, but this season are reminders to us to draw back and find ourselves once again.

One of my favourite books is Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol". I am a big fan of Christmas, just get me talking about it! (I have quite the extensive Christmas movies and music collection if you ever want to talk about it!) In "A Christmas Carol", Ebenezer is confronted with the human side of his decisions. He sees the hurt of his life that began to harden his heart and that led him to moments of decisions, but as well the past, present and future consequences of the way he has lived. That's not all though...he receives the gift of seeing real gratitude and generosity lived out in the lives of those who have much less. In it, his heart begins to soften and he vows



that, "I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."

The message we must hear and learn is the same. It's easy to fall into a hardened heart, to shut others out, to walk down the road of being critical, judgemental, stingy, unforgiving, but believe we have just cause for it. As it's said, "...if I have not love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal" (1 Cor 13) Pause this season and draw back to the heart of Jesus, actively live out gratitude and generosity in your life as they are two of the weapons we have to fend off the darkness. Rather than negative speech, commit to encouraging talk as we are commanded in scripture. And we remember that it's not a seasoning thing, it's an every day and every hour thing! Following Christ isn't just about Sundays, it's every breathe of our life! I hope this encourages you this season! Feel free to stop me and talk Christmas anytime!

Get to Know Chris:

Chris grew up in Southeast Texas, has seven children and has been married to Shannon for almost 20 years. Chris attended Bible college in Texas and has served in ministry since 2002 from youth ministry, children to preaching and everything in between. Chris loves movies and just begun trying to learn to paint as a hobby.

NEW MACHAR CHURCH Cool Club

We meet at the Pathway Centre once a month on Sunday afternoon from 4pm – 5.30pm.

We play games, sing, craft, stories, and generally have lots of fun! Oh – and lots of food too!

Contact: Karen Creswell for more info.
krcreswell44@gmail.com



DCMG Events Present

dyce community music group



Festive Cheer!

A collection of your favourite popular festive music mixed with Christmas carols for all to join in with

Tea, coffee & cakes

Monday 9th December

7.30pm

Dyce Church
Victoria Street, Dyce

Doors open 7.15pm

Tickets £7 each

Tickets available from all band members and Dyce Church

All proceeds to chosen charities

Reaching out

This is a season for reaching out.

Making quality time for loved ones,
family and friends.

Offering gifts, help and encouragement.

Creating space to meet with our Creator-God.

Seeking to engage our finite minds and lives with
the Infinite One ~ our Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparing hearts and homes to receive Him anew.

As the Advent season of watching and waiting,
reaching out and receiving draws to its glorious
ending, reach out with gratitude for all God has
done in your life this year.



R.B.ROSS STEEL FABRICATORS



Can I record my appreciation to Robbie Ross and Jack from the above named Company for repairing the rusted hinge on the door of our tool shed at West Church Graveyard, Pitmeddan Road.

Can I also applaud them for spraying weedkiller on the entire pathways at the Graveyard, and also for assisting to cut back lengthy grass when inclement weather meant that this could not be regularly done.

It is much appreciated that a Firm is willing to engage with the Community at no cost to the Church, and to continue to offer their support.

Thank you.

Raymond Mack

EXPLORERS

KIDS CLUB

MEET NEW FRIENDS!

FREE ENTRY!

Age 5-12

AMAZING BIBLE STORIES!

ACTIVE GAMES QUIZZES & FUN!

TUESDAYS 6.15-7pm
Pathway Centre, Newmachar
For info contact Graeme or Fiona 07745 953806

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EXPLORER'S CLUB HAS NO AFFILIATION WITH ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

CRUMBS

BY DEBORAH ANNE BELKA

Crumbs morsels of hope
for us to spread
all over the globe.

Crumbs,
little bits of peace
for us to scatter
and daily release.

Crumbs,
scrapes of light
for us to sow
to give new sight.

Crumbs,
shreds of what we believe
so the Good News
others can receive.

Crumbs,
put them all together
oh what a great harvest
we could truly gather!

Meet the latest New Machar Church Elders



(Left to right) Lynn, Shirley and Katie

LYNN

What's your favourite holiday destination? Tenerife and Newcastle
What's your favourite food? Pizza
What's your favourite colour? Blue
What's your favourite bible verse? Romans 15: 13 is one of my favourites. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

What book are you reading just now? The Family Remains by Lisa Jewel

SHIRLEY

What's your favourite holiday destination? Tenerife
What's your favourite food? Ice Cream – any flavour as long as it isn't chocolate!
What's your favourite colour? Blue
What's your favourite bible verse? Philippians 8: 13 I can do all things through him who gives me strength.
What book are you reading just now? Sisters under the Rising Sun – by Heather Morris – Novel based on true events of WWII and Japanese POW camp.

KATIE

What's your favourite holiday destination? Italy – for its scenery and cities, amazing food and warm sunshine. UK – East Neuk – we visit every year and I love it there.
What's your favourite food? Moussaka (but it's a real faff to make!)
What's your favourite colour? That's a tricky one and it changes the whole time, sage green is very calming.
What's your favourite bible verse? I don't have a favourite, different ones speak to me at different times. A recent one that inspired me is Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
What book are you reading just now? American dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Its about a Mexican bookseller and her young son fleeing to America as illegal immigrants. A powerful page turner.

Dyce in Bloom/Gardening Club 

join us for

CAROLS IN THE GARDEN



Tuesday 17th December
6.30pm Ron Clark Community Garden
 followed by hot chocolate and mince pies

1st Dyce Scout Group Christmas Fayre

Saturday 7th December 2024
10am – 12pm

Dyce Church Hall

world famous bacon rolls, festive refreshments,
 home bakes, games, face paints and lots more

Entry £3 adult/£1 child
 Includes tea/coffee/juice & mince pies

come along and join in the festive cheer








Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 14th December 2024

**At the Pathway Centre
Newmachar From 10am**

All Welcome







Dyce in Bloom Gardening Group

Happily, the dry weather this autumn has allowed volunteers to prepare the Adoptacorners for winter and then for spring when we can look forward to the reemergence of bulbs from previous years and new ones bought recently. School children enjoy outdoor time planting bulbs around the central park area.

The railway station is always on show and deserves additions to the evergreen plants. The group is given a small annual budget by Scotrail to help with the year-round display. Apart from watering in summer the Station needs little attention.

Christmas lights belonging to Dyce, not the Gardening Group, are being repaired in October and November by a faithful helper. Since there are many new lamp posts not every one on Victoria Street has been fitted with a socket to accommodate a Christmas light. Other sockets do not work at all but be assured that the display will brighten up the Village and bring joy to many.

Every year the number of volunteers able to look after the green areas in Dyce is fewer. New helpers would be so welcome.

Green thumbs are not needed, just enthusiasm for keeping Dyce nice. Why not join the helpers who are usually in the **Community Garden Thursday 10 – 12 and Saturday 10 – 12** to find out all the areas where you could make a difference.

December 10 Christmas Fun and Games

December 17 Carols in the Garden 6.30 with mince pies and hot chocolate

January 14 Norman Watson, Oyne, safari leader and wildlife photographer

All are welcome to monthly meetings held in Carnegie Hall. Join for £5 or come as a visitor for £2 per night.

Hoping to see you at some of these activities.

More info from dycegarden@gmail.com or **07786 917840**

Evelyn Shearer, Secretary.



Song in a Teacup

This continues to flourish in The Pathway on a Friday afternoon approximately every six weeks.

It is a community-based event where we sing popular songs from over the years and enjoy an interval with a cuppa and home bakes.

The next Sing-Along will be on **Friday 13th December from 2pm until 3.30pm** and will consist of Christmas songs and Carols.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us. For further information phone **Hilary Andrew 01651 862046** or mobile **07908 186706**.

Coats Appeal

Dyce Church is now in the 17th year of collecting coats for the Cyrenians and Somebody Cares. Time flies and waits for no-one is a famous saying and how true! During the past years it has become a very difficult time for many, be it the economy or just life generally.

My plea for coats and warm clothing is usually at the time of year when most needed, but it has escalated to any time of the year now, and many types of clothing.

If you have any coats or warm clothing collecting dust in your cupboards, please be assured that somebody, somewhere can make good use of the item. Shoes and boots are also welcome.

As Dyce and New Machar are now in a linkage my plea also goes out to the New Machar community.

It's amazing what you find when you have a rummage or a clear out even a spring clean.

If you can donate, you can take the items to church or contact your Elder. I can also collect and be contacted on **07733 212905**.

Thanks,
Graham Paul.



Dyce Flower Rota

DECEMBER 2024

1st Mrs N Angus
8th Mrs A Marjoribanks
22nd Ms M Reid
29th Mrs G Cheyne

JANUARY 2025

5th Mrs S Knight
12th Mrs P Riley
26th Mrs M Strachan

FEBRUARY

2nd Mrs P Sharp
9th Mrs J Howden
23rd Mrs C Paul

MARCH

2nd Mrs A Morse
9th Mrs M Mack
23rd Mrs B Corse
30th Mrs A Ross

APRIL

6th Mrs E Shand
13th Mrs K Simpson
27th Mrs J Eddie

MAY

4th Mrs A Jamieson
11th Mrs J Harper
25th Mrs J Thomson

JUNE

1st Mrs E Shearer
8th Mrs D Robertson
22nd Mrs M Roach
29th Mrs S Reid

JULY

6th Mrs M Cattanach
13th Mrs S Barber
27th Mrs W Innes

AUGUST

3rd Mrs E Irvine
10th Mrs J Baxter
24th Mrs P Lamb
31st Mrs C Duncan

SEPTEMBER

7th Mrs H McCulloch
14th Mrs M Parley
28th Mrs Annan

OCTOBER

5th Findlay Morse
12th Mrs H Barrie
26th Mrs N Angus

NOVEMBER

2nd Mrs A Marjoribanks
9th Ms M Reid
23rd Mrs A Ross
30th Mrs G Cheyne

DECEMBER

7th Mrs S Knight
14th Mrs P Riley
28th Mrs C Paul

JANUARY 2026

4th Mrs A Morse
11th Mrs M Mack
25th Mrs B Corse

FEBRUARY

1st Mrs K Simpson
8th Mrs J Eddie
22nd Mrs A Jamieson

Flower Convenor for November 24, December 24, March 25, April 25, July 25, August 25, November 25, December 25:
Mrs Audrey Ross 01224 771295 dyceparishchurch@outlook.com

Flower Convenor for January 25, February 25, May 25, June 25, September 25, October 25, January 26, February 26:
Mrs Heather McCulloch 01224 771295 dyceparishchurch@outlook.com

Please remember if the date is not suitable you are required to arrange a swap with another person. It is the duty of the provider to collect and deliver the flowers after the 10.30am service. Please arrange for someone else to deliver if this is not possible.

If you would like to be removed from the rota or require any information, please contact Audrey via the church office on 01224 771295 or dyceparishchurch@outlook.com leaving your details and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

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