

# Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman Church Magazine



## Christmas WINTER 2023/24

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Dear friends,

By the time you read this we will be in Advent – a new year in the church calendar, preparing us for Christmas. Four themes that we often explore in Advent are hope, peace, joy and love. We tie those into the advent candles we light over the four Sundays, ahead of the Christ candle on Christmas day itself.



With all that's going on in our wounded world, in a hurting church, and in the messiness of our human lives, these themes seem a helpful framework for our hopes, prayers and actions just now.

May we find hope that gives us the inner spark and motivation to keep working to make things better. May we know the hope that comes from Jesus leading us in God's ways of love.

May we know that God is with us when we are making peace. May we find the courage to open our hearts and minds to different people and perspectives, so we can listen, learn and play our part in reconciliation.

May we have moments of joy, amongst all the complexities of this world and season. May we pause and pay attention to what we can see, hear, smell, touch and taste and to who we are with, so we can be filled with wonder and love for all of God's creation.

May we love and be loved – the greatest of all things. May our love find expression in a myriad of ways, as we love God, creation, others and ourselves.

May we know ourselves loved in just as many ways.

May we join the dance of love of God who is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, loving and being loved, finding hope, peace and joy, this Advent and Christmas and into 2024.

Love and prayers,  
Rev Jenny

## From the Assistant Minister

Dear friends,

With longer nights, and colder weather encouraging us to look out our winter coats, gloves, hats, and footwear, we find ourselves approaching Advent and Christmas time.

Many of us, will have various traditions at this time of year, some which may be new, and others may have been with you as an individual, or as family, or with friends, for many years. Singing carols, is a tradition many of us share, and can be a significant part of us acting out our faith throughout the community as we gather for worship and various events.

The carol 'O come, o come Emmanuel' came to my mind recently after discussion for chaplaincy planning and the theme of God being with us. Emmanuel means that God is with us, and is at the heart of Christian preparations for reflection and celebration of Christ's birth.

I'm sure that, for many of us, the festive season brings a spectrum of feelings and thoughts. I invite you, for a moment, to explore some festive thoughts through the theme of God being with us, Emmanuel -

E – emotions. Many things can encourage our emotions, poignant and joy. Perhaps it is the Christmas music which stir our thoughts, or the familiar smells of mince pies and family recipes.

M – memories. Opening the box of Christmas decorations used throughout the years, or delving in our wardrobes to find the festive jumper a loved one knitted or sourced, may evoke both poignant memories of loved ones, and memories of playfulness and laughter.

M – morale. Valuing workers and volunteers is important and is a large part of positive morale. I pray throughout Christmas time, workers, and volunteers in their variety of roles and responsibilities, are valued.

A – appreciated. I'm sure there are many things we appreciate at this time of year, including warm clothes. May we pray for and remember all who experience the challenges of poverty and often go without, so that others may be warm, and not feel hunger.



N – need. All of us as human beings have needs and, this time of year encourages us in our giving and loving. May we pray and remember those who may feel lonely, unsafe, illness, or discouraged.

U -unwrap. We may wrap or unwrap various presents in the coming weeks. May our giving and receiving be in and through gifts of love and grace, in the example of the gift of Christ.

E – elves. Just as elves are a symbol of helpful and busy beings during Christmas, may we all be as helpful, kind, and inclusive as we can be, and remember to find time for rest.

L -light. May the candles of Advent remind us, that Jesus Christ, is the light of the world.

I hope in our Advent and Christmas preparations we can all be as eco-friendly and considerate as possible. I wish you all joy and the festive spirit, sharing the Good News of Christ with all, as far as we humanly can, in God's love and grace.

With blessings, love, peace, and prayers,  
**Christine**

### **Millennium Youth Fund**

Do you know of any young people who are doing interesting things and need some financial assistance? Perhaps the congregation's Millenium Youth Fund can help.

The aim of the Millennium Youth Fund is to assist pupils of secondary school age, residing in the parish of Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman, to participate in high quality and challenging activities (drama, sport, music, travel etc.) which they might otherwise have difficulty in attending due to financial constraints.

Please contact Ron Duncan [duncanbegrow@gmail.com](mailto:duncanbegrow@gmail.com) tel. 830238 for more information or to apply for funds.

**Church Benevolent Fund** - This Benevolent Fund is for anyone connected with the congregation who would benefit from financial help which cannot be provided from other social funding or agencies. It is strictly confidential and administered by the minister and session clerk.

For more information, contact Rev Jenny

Hello Everyone,

Since I last sat down to write a few words for the church magazine, I've been having an exciting time. First, I was given an amazing send-off from my probation placement with you – I was overwhelmed by your kind words, gifts and cards. Then, only a few days later I received notice that presbytery would deploy me to the Lossiemouth Area Church Grouping – and so I never went away after all. I did take a couple of quiet weeks off to prepare for my new role and to plan for my ordination.



And what an ordination it was! For me to be left speechless is quite something, but I really was. So many of you came along to offer support and to join in the celebration; family and friends travelled from all over the country and many people tuned in to watch the livestream – from Glasgow, Bermuda, Shetland, Brussels, Oban to name a few. I received so many cards and gifts, flowers and words of encouragement, and the fine-pieces were amazing. Thank you for making all the visitors on the evening feel so welcome. The concept of church family has always been very important to me, and this was such a wonderful example of that fellowship and togetherness. I am so glad to be part of this church family on a permanent basis now. Thank you all so much!

Since then, I've been really busy and although I haven't been with you regularly for Sunday morning worship, I have been busy in the parish. Jenny and I have been sharing Bible stories in Hopeman Primary School and reflecting on Remembrance in Lossie High with the chaplaincy team.

Spending time with the young people of our communities is very important. I've been doing some bits and pieces with the eco-team, including planting bulbs in pots for the grounds of Spynie Kirk with help from the Toddler Group (fun and not too messy) and have been taking part in Forest Church, the Remembrance service at Spynie and the online reflection.

And, of course, there are many people for me to get to know in the Lossiemouth congregations, where we lead two services on a Sunday morning. It was lovely to see some of you at the St.Gerardine's torchlit walk recently. Now, as we come into the season of Advent, I'm very much looking forward to all the Christmas events on the calendar and hope to be able to join in with as much as possible and to see many of you then. In the current dark place of war, disunity and hardship which the world faces, we need that hope of Light so much, and to remember that we are sent to reflect Jesus' light into the darkness.

I wish you all every blessing of the festive season to come, shine bright,  
**Anne-Marie**

# **Presbytery Mission Planning Update**

The Moray part of the Presbytery Mission Plan for the Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles has been approved by Presbytery and by the appropriate national bodies. Presbytery recorded that agreement at its meeting on 7 November 2023. The plan for the Lossiemouth Area is still as agreed by Moray Presbytery in September 2022:

- *the eventual union of Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman congregation with the two Lossiemouth congregations, forming one new inclusive congregation with one set of office-bearers and finances*
- *an eventual team ministry of 1 full-time Minister, one half-time pastoral assistant, one part-time Ordained Local Minister, and trained local leadership*
- *the potential for Local Mission Churches in the Hopeman and Duffus areas, where local leadership can get on with worship, service and outreach with less administration*
- *the retention of Duffus Kirk building and Lossiemouth St. James' Church and hall*
- *the disposal (probably sale or transfer) of Hopeman Kirk, Spynie Kirk and Lossiemouth St. Gerardine's High buildings by August 2027*
- *worship, service and outreach in all parts of the parish will continue, at times and in places that are available, accessible and make sense in each community*
- *October Session meeting*

On 12 October a letter came to the Kirk Session from the Hopeman "Kirk Action Group" asking the Session to revisit the decision the Board and Session made in June 2022 – which was to recommend to Presbytery the retention of Duffus Kirk and the disposal of Hopeman Kirk (alongside the proposed disposal of Spynie Kirk). This was discussed at the Session meeting of 30 October, which was attended by members of the Congregational Board and 16 members of the wider congregation and community.

Given the lengthy and detailed processes already gone through by Presbytery, Board and Session, including excellent presentations of all positions in June 2022 and further discussion by the Board in November 2022, it was not competent to revisit the decision as requested. However, in the interests of fairness and transparency the meeting did allow lengthy consideration of whether there were any grounds for the Kirk Session to request a review of the Presbytery Mission Plan, which would have been possible in November.

There was extensive discussion, involving members of Session and observers at the meeting. Some parties argued that there were grounds for review because Presbytery had not been presented with some material facts about the Hopeman Church building. It was noted that those material facts had been presented to the Board and Session on 6 June (when the recategorisation of Hopeman and Duffus church building was proposed) and were included in the appendix to the briefing paper distributed to Moray Presbytery ahead of its meeting of 6 September 2022. Eventually the Session voted not to revisit the matter of building categorisations. There was therefore no review requested of our part of the Presbytery Mission Plan.

### **Way forward?**

The next meeting of the Kirk Session, on 22 January 2024, will explore the way forward with the adjustments and buildings that the Presbytery Mission Plan requires. While there are formal processes to be worked through (over time), and legal matters to be explored, most important will be engagement in the congregation and our communities. We all need opportunities to mourn losses, share stories and envisage our future mission. If you require any further information about these meetings and discussions – or if you have any ideas about the best ways forward in 2024 – please get in touch for a chat.

### **You are invited to communion**

We are all invited to gather for communion - the family meal of the church. In communion we are fed and nourished by Jesus for the journey ahead. A sacrament is a wonderful mystery that engages our bodies and spirits as well as our minds. Communion is a visible, edible, tastable and touchable sign that God loves us first and always. Jesus invites us to come, take, eat – we are all invited. You are invited. The Kirk Session has decided that for 2024 we will celebrate communion every eight weeks. Whenever we share communion, we do what we can to make it safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone. To include everybody, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and bread that is free from gluten, wheat and milk.

Please join us if you can. And if you are unable to join us, please speak to your elder or contact me about home communion.

Rev Jenny



**November/December 2023**

**Linda Gillies of Hopeman – funeral 17<sup>th</sup> November**

**Rita Sutherland of Hopeman – funeral 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**Calum Mackenzie of Cummingston/Lossiemouth**

**Funeral 1<sup>st</sup> December**

*We remember them with love,  
give thanks for their lives,  
entrust them to God's loving arms,  
and hold their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.*



We also remember others who have died in our communities and families.

## **Zoom Fellowship Meetings**

It has been very encouraging to meet and to get to know folks from Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman through the course of the last eighteen months as Board members from the three New Lossiemouth Area parishes have met for fellowship.

At the beginning of 2024, St. Gerardines' High and St. James' parishes in Lossiemouth will unite in advance of the wider union agreed in the new Presbytery Plan. We now have an emerging ministry team that is working across the three parish boundaries and we wish to encourage wider fellowship in the area. During the pandemic, the Lossie churches met for a time of on-line fellowship on Wednesday evenings and this has continued using the Zoom platform.

Already folks from Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman have joined the meeting and I would like to extend a warm invitation to everyone to join with us. The meeting begins at 7pm and lasts between half-an-hour and forty-five minutes. It consists of Bible readings, prayers and a time of reflection.

If you would like to join with us please drop me an email at [GMcKee@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:GMcKee@churchofscotland.org.uk) and I will send you the link and details for the meeting. I look forward very much to welcoming you.

Best wishes,

**Geoff McKee**

Minister of St. Gerardines' High and St. James' Lossiemouth

## **Looking After Each Other**

There are lots of us in the extended church family and at any time many of us will be experiencing low and difficult times (as well as more life-giving events and moments). In these times, it helps to have others alongside us, listening to us and offering any other support that might be helpful. Mostly that is something I hope we do for each other – in the congregation, communities, groups, friends and families. We can all listen, without trying to fix problems – simply being with each other, walking alongside one another.

If there are matters that need a greater level of support, please reach out to your church elder and/or to the ministry team. Anne-Marie, Christine and I are all here to do what we can to walk life's difficult journeys with you, with our skills and experience to add to your own.

Rev Jenny Adams tel. 01343 830276, [jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Rev Christine McWhirter 07842141164 [cmcwhirter@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cmcwhirter@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Rev Anne-Marie Simpson 07713200915

[AMSimpson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMSimpson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## **Children & Young People**

Members of the Kirk Sessions and Congregational Boards of the Lossiemouth area congregations – that's ourselves, Lossie St. Gerardine's High and Lossie St. James' – have been meeting to get to know each other and to begin to work together towards our eventual union.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October we gathered to chat about working with children and young people, identified by us all as really important. We recognised how much we are already doing to reach out to children, young people and their families. I joined the Lossie summer holiday club this year, our Forest Church engages some families regularly, and we all try to offer something for all ages in Sunday worship.

However, we also recognised that it isn't easy for younger folk to be the only one in their age range in church. This led to chat about the importance of the welcome of the entire church family to people of any age – a question for all of us. Do you offer a welcoming smile and word to people you don't know, whatever age? Are we serious about being an intergenerational body?

One significant contact we have with young people is through schools chaplaincy. All our ministry team are involved in Hopeman Primary and Lossie High School, regularly engaging with young people. (Our parish also includes parts of Elgin school catchments - chaplaincy there is led by the Elgin Area churches.)

However, school chaplaincy and support is not just for ministers to do. Our local schools are always looking for community support – to attend events, to share skills, to support pupils with reading, and to get involved in projects/committees.

Is that something you can get involved in? Why not contact our local schools if you have time to give?

Anne-Marie has offered to convene a wee team to explore our support of children and young people. So far it has one volunteer!

If you are interested in this conversation for the future, please contact Anne-Marie 07713 200915 [AMSimpson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMSimpson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Rev Jenny

## **Quiet mornings**

Spynie Kirk hosts quiet mornings most months, on Saturdays 10.30am-1pm. These mornings are gatherings of an ecumenical group of local Christians, offering time for individual reflection while experiencing the strength of silence with others.

For more information or to attend, please contact Sandra Black 07792 920707 [sandrajblack6@gmail.com](mailto:sandrajblack6@gmail.com)

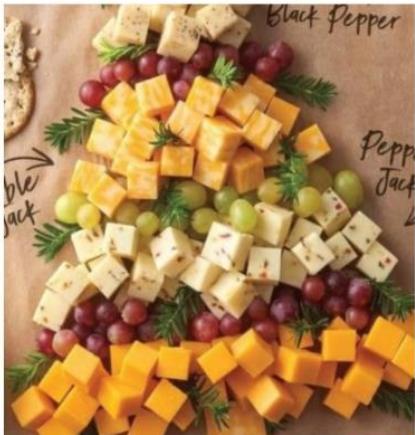
## **SPYNIE SOCIAL HUB**

The Spynie social hub continues to thrive as we move into the colder, darker days of winter. It's good to have that regular social contact with such a diverse and friendly little group and to have the opportunity of welcoming anyone else who may turn up. We've only had to cancel twice, once because of really stormy weather and once because the power was off all day in that whole area. On that occasion, although we couldn't follow our usual open door policy, some of us, including two who also had no power that day, were able to meet in Grace's house so didn't miss out. A few weeks ago we had a really nice farewell party for a lady who came along regularly once she had found us. People brought different things so as well as a home baked cake there were a couple of retro "hedgehogs" of things on cocktail sticks, tablet, non alcoholic prosecco and various nibbles. She lived locally but had decided to move back down south to be near her family and was really touched that we had done this for her and all signed a card. She said she wished she had met us sooner and will keep in touch.

When it is time to decorate the kirk for Christmas we will probably do that on a social hub Thursday which will be fun for us all, especially Blair and Lenox. We are also planning a Christmas lunch for the regulars but not on a Thursday which will always be open door for anyone who appears. That includes all the Thursdays around Christmas and New Year as we intend to stay open.

If you feel like a bit of company on a Thursday afternoon please just drop in. We're there from twelve to four and you will be given a very warm welcome.

Helen McKidd



## Festive buffet lunch 17th Dec.



### Spynie Kirk

After the Kirk Service on Sunday 17th Dec. At around 12 noon there will be a cold festive buffet provided by the Spynie Kirk Social Hub. Everyone will be welcome with all donations being added to the Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Christmas Appeal. Moray Food Plus & Barnabas Fund.



## **HOPEMAN KIRK HALL SOCIAL HUB**

**MONDAY AFTERNOONS AT HOPEMAN KIRK HALL 2-4pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

**COME AND JOIN US AT OUR SOCIAL HUB FOR HOT DRINKS,  
COMPANY, GAMES & TIME TO CHAT.**

**A SAFE & WARM SPACE TO SPEND THE AFTERNOON**

## The Guild

Everyone (of all genders) is welcome to The Guild which meets at Lossiemouth St. James' Church Hall (Prospect Terrace, Lossiemouth) every second Monday afternoon. Meetings begin at 2pm, running till about 3.30pm. There is a short worship and prayer time first, any business, and then a speaker. The meeting concludes with refreshments. The programme so far includes:

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January - Carolle Ralph**

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> February - Liz Tait**

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> March - Distribution of Funds**

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> March - AGM**

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> April - Fish supper and Holy Communion**

A reminder that the Hopeman Community Minibus is available for lifts – call them on 07485 561007.

There is also the Moray Council m.connect bus service, bookable up 2 weeks in advance or just an hour before – call 0300 123 4565 or find the m.connect app on a smartphone.

### **Blue Christmas**

As we celebrate Christmas – the promise of God with us – we also know that it can be a very difficult season for many of us for many reasons. The pressures on finances and families, the awareness of losses, the long dark nights, global crises, ill health in body and mind, uncertainty about the future – all of these can make it hard to find the Christmas cheer that society seems to expect of us all.

We make space for the complexities of these feelings in our Blue Christmas service. This will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm in Hopeman Kirk – just past the longest night. This is open to anyone who wants to attend and is a quiet reflective service. It includes the opportunity for everyone to light candles for any people or situations we want to remember.

God is with us, always – including in the valley of the shadow of death – and the birth of Jesus shows us God coming into all the complexities of life. May that give us all hope.

## **Moray Food Plus**

**As part of our harvest thanksgiving this year we collected £265 for Moray Food Plus, from offerings and a fabulous soup lunch after worship in Spynie Kirk. This is in addition to our regular gathering of food and toiletries on the first Sunday of every month. Thank you to everyone who supports this work, which is unfortunately so essential for people just now.**

Moray Food Plus provides a variety of services to those either experiencing or at risk of food insecurity. They also work with partners to reduce the amount of local food waste taking surplus food and redistributing it amongst the community.

Food poverty is on the increase in Moray. Moray Food Plus is working hard to support people who through no fault of their own find themselves in crisis. Reasons for this are varied but include changes in personal circumstances, illness, welfare reform, low income, and unexpected bills.

The crisis service works on a referral basis from agencies such as social work, housing and health. They also accept self-referrals. Once a referral is received a team of volunteers make up a food parcel containing three days' worth of food (including pet and baby food on request).

**If you or your family are experiencing a food crisis** and need the support of the Moray Food Plus, please get in touch with them: 01343 208293 [request@morayfoodplus.org.uk](mailto:request@morayfoodplus.org.uk)

*For those with the technology, you can download the “Bank the Food” app which lets you see what items Moray Food Plus are most urgently needed at any time.*

## **Other support available**

Here are some useful local contacts offering advice and support:

### **Advice on benefits and budgeting:**

Moray Citizens Advice Bureau 01343 550088

Moray Council Income Maximisation Team (for those of working age)  
0300 123 4563

### **Affordable low cost loans:**

Moray Firth Credit Union 01309 676735

### **Money in a crisis:**

Scottish Welfare Fund 01343 563456

### **Energy advice:**

REAP (Rural Environmental Action Project) 01542 888070  
[reapscotland.org.uk/benefits-energy](http://reapscotland.org.uk/benefits-energy)

## **Spynie Toddler Group**

The group continues to meet on a Wednesday from 9.30-12noon. Numbers vary but most weeks see around 9 or 10 Toddlers. After receiving a generous donation from a member of the congregation we were able to buy a few new toys which have been well received by the children. At the end of October the children came dressed in their Halloween Costumes & we had scary cakes & little gift bags for the children.

Anne-Marie came & joined us a few weeks ago & planted spring bulbs in pots with the children. The older ones have been checking the pots looking for growth. One little girl was delighted this morning to see something green popping through the earth. With Christmas approaching we plan to sing some easy Christmas songs & read the Christmas story. Hopefully Santa will visit us on our last Wednesday before we break up for Christmas holidays.

We will be off the same 2 Wednesdays as the local schools and will restart on the 10th January. The Toddler Group provides company for the adults as well as the children. We often have extra adults with us who are happy to make tea or just sit & chat.

We are a friendly lot & look forward to welcoming you anytime.

Shona Rowand



## Eco Team Reflections

Our Eco team continues to meet – with friends from Lossiemouth now joining us. We're meeting on Zoom, avoiding travel and allowing that wider gathering. The Eco team next meets on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.30pm on Zoom. Everyone is very welcome, please email Rev Jenny for the Zoom link. As part of our Eco Congregation work, Anne-Marie has helped the toddler group at Spynie to plant bulbs – something we can all enjoy in the spring, and an early treat for insects. We are also hoping to extend bird feeding – if anyone has spare bird feeders that could be hung in our church gardens, please let me know. As we approach Christmas, we are very aware of the pressure to consume more. While that often comes in the form of giving and sharing, it can have significant impact on the wider web of life we are part of. So we offer a few questions – which I know will seem obvious to many of you, but may be helpful prompts to the rest of us...

- Refuse – Do you really need to buy it? And do you really need another bag or lots of packaging?
- Reduce – Can we buy or use less? Small is beautiful.
- Reuse – Call it vintage, pre-loved, secondhand, charity shops, refurbished, leftovers – how can you give new life or find new homes for things?
- Repurpose – Can leftovers be transformed into something different? Is transformation possible for something tired or broken? Do you know someone with skills to help?
- Recycle – If something is really finished its useful life, can we access all the local recycling facilities? Remember there are boxes in each church building collecting batteries, light bulbs, spectacles and printer ink cartridges.
- Is it local? We have amazing food and drink locally, thanks to very hardworking farmers, growers, fishermen, producers, processors and more. We can support them, minimise food miles and enjoy the cycle of seasons.

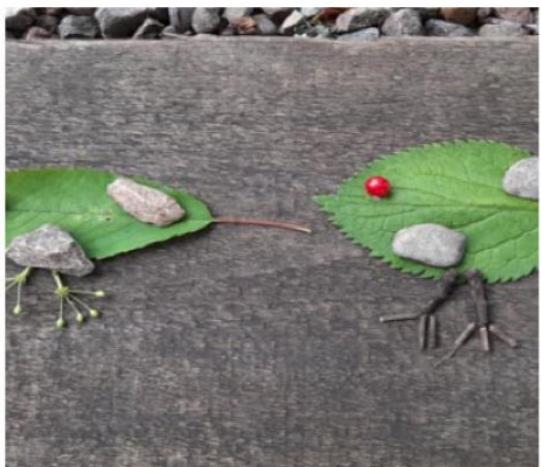
Is it fairtrade? Where things have to come from further afield, like our tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar and bananas, are the people producing them being fairly paid so that they can flourish?

Rev Jenny

## Forest Church

Forest Church gathers every month, alternating between Hopeman East Beach and the woods around Duffus House. Our ages currently range from 2-92 and we gather looking to encounter God in the big book of creation.

In October, we met at Earthtime, celebrating the amazing comings and goings of autumn - the birds that migrate to and from Scotland at this time of year. We searched for leaves, twigs and berries to make a colourful and varied flock of birds.



November took us to the beach, considering the changes that come with every wave and through the tide. We considered more of life's comings and goings, and the promise that God is with us in every time and season. As well as looking for interesting things in rock-pools and tidelines, we offered very practical worship through picking up a bagful of rubbish – mostly very small bits of plastic – from the high tide mark.

**Rev Jenny**

## **Christmas Offerings Charities**

The Kirk Session has agreed that the offerings at the special Christmas services will be shared between two charities this year: Barnabas Aid and Elgin Street Pastors. There will also be a festive buffet lunch after worship on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December in aid of them.

### **Barnabas Aid works to provide hope and aid for suffering**

**Christians.** Barnabas Aid is an international aid agency that aims to support Christian communities, churches and individuals around the world who face persecution and discrimination because of their faith.

The main ministry of Barnabas Aid is to send financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. The projects aim to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material support (such as food and medical supplies) and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders.

They seek to encourage and facilitate prayer by providing prayer information, prayer requests and resources in many different forms and formats – see [www.barnabasaid.org/gb/pray](http://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/pray)

They also raise awareness of the plight of the persecuted Church by a wide variety of means, in order to educate Christians and others about the current situation and needs as well as the background and causal factors.

### **Elgin Street Pastors – Caring, Listening, Helping**

Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who care about their community. They patrol in teams, usually from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on a Saturday night in Elgin town centre, to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets.

Street pastors are an approachable and non-judgemental presence engaging with everyone out in the town. They offer a chat and practical support for anyone who wants it – they are well known for sharing water, lollipops and flip-flops. They provide safety for folk who are vulnerable in any way and work alongside business staff, the police and other services.

Elgin Street Pastors also have teams of School Pastors in Elgin High School and Forres Academy. In those contexts they care for and support the school communities. They promote safety and aim to reduce anti-social behaviour through listening, caring and helping young people to become good citizens.

Rev Jenny

## **Church Calendar December 2023**

- Sun 3 Dec All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am plus Moray Food Plus collection
- Mon 4 Dec Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Wed 6 Dec Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 7 Dec Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Thu 7 Dec Out of the Box family musical, St. James' Church, Lossie 6.30pm *"Mary and Joseph and a donkey called Hank"*
- Sun 10 Dec All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am
- Sun 10 Dec Forest Church, meeting at Earthtime by Duffus House, 2-2.40pm
- Mon 11 Dec Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Wed 13 Dec Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 14 Dec Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sun 17 Dec All-age "Come & Join Nativity" worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am followed by festive buffet lunch in aid of Moray Food Plus & Barnabas Aid
- Sun 17 Dec Community carol service, St. Gerardine's High Church, Lossie 4pm
- Mon 18 Dec Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Tue 19 Dec Hopeman Primary School carol service, Hopeman Kirk
- Wed 20 Dec Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Wed 20 Dec Carol service, Duffus Kirk 7.30pm
- Thu 21 Dec Lossie High School Christmas Fayre 9.30am-12.30pm
- Thu 21 Dec Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Fri 22 Dec Blue Christmas service, Hopeman Kirk 7.30pm
- Sun 24 Dec All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am Communion
- Sun 24 Dec Family "light" service, Duffus Kirk 6pm
- Sun 24 Dec Watchnight service, Spynie Kirk 11.15 for 11.30pm
- Mon 25 Dec All-age Christmas morning celebration, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am

Thu 28 Dec	Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
Sun 31 Dec	All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am
<b>January 2024</b>	
Thu 4 Jan	Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
Sun 7 Jan	All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am plus Moray Food Plus collection
Mon 8 Jan	Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Mon 8 Jan	The Guild, Lossie St. James' 2-3.30pm
Wed 10 Jan	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 11 Jan	Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
Sun 14 Jan	All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am
Sun 14 Jan	Forest Church, meeting at Hopeman East Beach 2-2.40pm
Mon 15 Jan	Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Mon 15 Jan	Eco team meeting, online via Zoom 7.30pm – contact Rev Jenny
Wed 17 Jan	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Wed 17 Jan	Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm
Thu 18 Jan	Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
Sun 21 Jan	All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am
Mon 22 Jan	Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Mon 22 Jan	The Guild, Lossie St. James' 2-3.30pm
Mon 22 Jan	Kirk Session meeting, Spynie Kirk 7pm
Wed 24 Jan	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
Thu 25 Jan	Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
Sun 28 Jan	All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am
Mon 29 Jan	Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
Wed 31 Jan	Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon

## **February 2024**

- Thu 1 Feb Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sun 4 Feb All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am  
plus Moray Food Plus collection
- Mon 5 Feb Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Mon 5 Feb The Guild, Lossie St. James' 2-3.30pm
- Wed 7 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 8 Feb Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sun 11 Feb All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am
- Sun 11 Feb Forest Church, meeting at Earthtime by Duffus House, 4-4.40pm
- Mon 12 Feb Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Wed 14 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 15 Feb Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sun 18 Feb All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am - Communion
- Mon 19 Feb Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Mon 19 Feb The Guild, Lossie St. James' 2-3.30pm
- Mon 19 Feb Congregational Board meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7pm
- Wed 21 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Wed 21 Feb Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm
- Thu 22 Feb Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sat 24 Feb Quiet morning, Spynie Kirk 10.30am-1pm
- Sun 25 Feb All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am
- Mon 26 Feb Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Wed 28 Feb Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 29 Feb Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm

## March 2024

- Sun 3 Mar All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am  
plus Moray Food Plus collection
- Mon 4 Mar Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Mon 4 Mar The Guild, Lossie St. James' 2-3.30pm
- Wed 6 Mar Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 7 Mar Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sun 10 Mar All-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am  
Forest Church, meeting at Hopeman East Beach 4-4.40pm
- Mon 11 Mar Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Wed 13 Mar Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Thu 14 Mar Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sun 17 Mar All-age worship, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am
- Mon 18 Mar Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Mon 18 Mar The Guild, Lossie St. James' 2-3.30pm
- Mon 18 Mar Kirk Session meeting, Duffus Kirk Hall 7pm
- Wed 20 Mar Toddler group, Spynie Kirk 9.30am-12noon
- Wed 20 Mar Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm
- Thu 21 Mar Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Sat 23 Feb Quiet morning, Spynie Kirk 10.30am-1pm
- Sun 24 Mar All-age worship, Duffus Kirk 10.30am – Palm Sunday
- Mon 25 Mar Open Door social hub, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2-4pm
- Thu 28 Mar Open Door social hub, Spynie Kirk 12noon-4pm
- Thu 28 Mar Maundy Thursday communion service, Hopeman Kirk 7pm
- Fri 29 Mar Good Friday reflective service, Duffus Kirk 7pm
- Sun 31 Mar Easter early service, St. Peter's Kirk, Duffus 7.30am
- Sun 31 Mar Easter all-age worship, Spynie Kirk 10.30am

Plus Thursdays 2-4pm, Open Door social hub, St. James' Church Hall,  
Prospect Terrace, Lossiemouth