Dyce Flower Rota

DECEMBER 2025		**APRIL**		**JULY**		**OCTOBER**	
7	Mrs S Knight	5	Mrs D Robertson	5	Mrs P Sharp	4	Mrs M Milligan
14	Mrs P Riley	12	Mrs M Roach	12	Mrs C Kelly	11	Mrs A Ross
28	Mrs C Paul	26	Mrs S Reid	26	Mrs E Shand	25	Mrs J Thomson
JANUARY 2026		**MAY**		**AUGUST**		**NOVEMBER**	
4	Mrs A Morse	3	Mrs S Barber	2	Mrs M Cattanach	1	Mrs J Howden
11	Mrs M Mack	10	Mrs W Innes	9	Mrs R Johnstone	8	Mrs W Donald
25	Mrs B Corse	24	Mrs E Irvine	23	Mrs H Barrie	22	Mrs S Knight
		31	Mrs J Baxter	30	Mrs A Marjoribanks	29	Mrs P Riley
FEBRUARY		**JUNE**		**SEPTEMBER**		**DECEMBER**	
1	Mrs A Ross	7	Mrs P Lamb	6	Mr F Morse	6	Mrs C Paul
8	Mrs T Milne	14	Ms M Reid	13	Mrs N Angus	13	Mrs A Morse
22	Mrs J Eddie	28	Mrs G Cheyne	27	Mrs A Ross	27	Mrs M Mack
MARCH							
1	Mrs A Jamieson						
8	Mrs J Harper						
22	Mrs H McCulloch						
29	Mr E Shearer						

Flower Convenor: **Mrs Audrey Ross 01224 771295**
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 (or added to!) 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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Karen Creswell 01651 862477

Dyce Parish Church of Scotland Registered Scottish Charity. Charity No: SC016950 **New Machar Church** Registered Scottish Charity. Charity No: SC024017

The New Vine

news across the pews

FESTIVE 2025

Hello Everyone…

Can you believe it's been over a year now since Manson and Sheena left to their retirement. Although we have all felt their loss, I am pleased to report that the work and mission of the churches in both Dyce and New Machar have continued to thrive – with both churches seeing their membership grow in number – and we thank God for His faithfulness.

In 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 February we were appointed our Interim Moderator – Rev. David Locke – and that set the ball rolling in the process of us finding a new minister. The Nominating Committee were appointed in June and since then they have been working through the vacancy process. Our job, as members of the congregations, is to pray God's guidance for them and ask for His patience upon us all as we wait to see who God will send us.

As we wait, we will carry on with the work we have to do – assured that our future is in God's hands. (Psalm 31:15).

We enjoyed a great summer season looking at the story of Esther during the five weeks of Café Church. Natalie's summer breakfast club was a great success, so much so that she ran another one during the October school holidays. We also had a very successful Summer Holiday Club in August with over 30 children attending the Pathway Centre in New Machar – all Going Bananas!

With Communion and Remembrance Sunday services now behind us – Christmas is almost upon us again. By the time you read this, I'm sure I won't be the only one panicking that Christmas is just a few short weeks away!

As your Locum Minister, I have been working with the Leadership and Worship Teams in both churches to ensure that the Sunday Services continued in our normal pattern providing opportunities for us to come together in worship and I thank them all for their help and support in that. I also thank the Pastoral Care Team who have volunteered their time to visit people in the congregations when my time has been taken up with other things. I am very grateful to you all.

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.

So, 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 2026.

Every blessing, ***Joan***

REGULAR MONTHLY SERVICE DATES

1st Sunday
Joint Service – Dyce

2nd Sunday
Services at both Dyce and New Machar

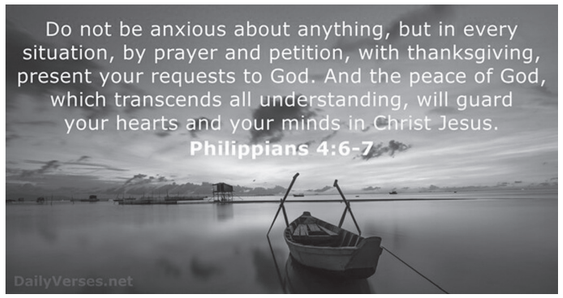
3rd Sunday
Joint Service – New Machar

4th Sunday
Services at both Dyce and New Machar

5th Sunday
Services at both Dyce and New Machar *(if there is a 5th Sunday)*

Letter from our Interim Moderator
Rev David I W Locke MA MSc BD

Hello everyone. Its my pleasure to say a few words to you as Interim Moderator at our two churches. I have much enjoyed being part of your church's life and community, and am really impressed with your congregations and all that is going on, as indeed are my family. My son indeed enjoyed and benefited from some of your children and family activities. I am sure that in time a Minister will be keen to come here and help lead you all forward.



I was privileged to help lead worship at New Machar on the last Sunday of October. The focus was on how we can and should limit our worrying with God's help. Jesus said [in Matthew 6 v33-34], "Seek first His kingdom and righteousness… do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." This implies we will have worries day by day but we can limit them partly by focusing on His kingdom, his goodness and sharing that with others. And especially by praying, we can pass our fears to a loving God who will help us know His peace.

We were thinking about this as it was the time of clocks changing, the darkness of winter approaching and indeed also Halloween and Guy Fawkes. Amidst the darkness there may be things people fear or worry about, but Jesus offers us His Peace amidst storms, light amidst darkness, and guidance to move forwards; with his goodness and help that can overcome fear and evil. Indeed Halloween is a precursor to all Saints and all Souls days, when we can remember God is stronger than evil. His goodness is at work in Christ's followers, and we can start to look forward to the light of Christmas, and the Hope the Christ child brings us.

I recently restarted as a Street Pastor, and after training, was out on the night of Halloween in Aberdeen's central streets – they were mobbed full of people in all sorts of costumes. Some said they had never seen it so busy.

It was a real eye opener for me. I did not do much but as we went about, it was amazing how many young people thanked us for the good work being done and for how Street Pastors had helped them in the past, even in one or two cases saving their lives. On the whole people were well behaved and some wanted to explore Christianity. Its an example of how we as Christians go forward on the shoulders of the saints who have gone before us, and who pave the way for us. We face the dark, not alone but especially with the spirit of Jesus at work in and through us, as we open up in faith and let his peace be shared so young people can notice.

As I write, Remembrance Sunday is past, and for me part of the remembering is how God was with us, with our forebearers through the horrors of world war and helped them know peace. That peace may be very fragile now globally, so its up to us, to carry on as light bearers, in whatever we can God's light shines even amidst the darkness because God sent his son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world for you and me, whatever trials we may be facing. At a Street Pastor online prayer gathering recently, we were joined by fellow Street Pastors in Jamaica, as they faced their recent torrential storm and massive damage. Our prayers helped them know and share Christ's peace in practice – I was amazed at the calm they maintained, and at their focus not on themselves but on how they and we could help others.

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. [Luke 2 v 10] the light shines in the darkness .. the true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world [John 1 v 5,9]. At Christmas we can hear again the truth that God came from heaven as one like us, Jesus, to share real life with us, its joys and hardships, and share his grace, hope, peace, joy, love, and truth. In the Christmas bible readings, although there is much fear, trouble, doubt, worry – joy is also found and a key message repeatedly comes across; do not be afraid God is with us – that is what Immanuel means. And 'do not be afraid, is a message that

We will remember them

We held our annual service of remembrance for the men, women and animals who served in WW1, WW2 and other wars led by Rev Dr Bruce Gardner at Dyce Church followed by the laying of the wreaths at the Cenotaph on Gordon Terrace. Lest we forget. We will remember them.

Coats Appeal

Dyce Church is now in the 18th 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 in Bloom Gardening Group

By the time you read this, a few hundred bulbs will have been planted by Dyce folks who have adopted areas of green spaces or planters to look after. If you look carefully you'll find smaller species of flowers grown from bulbs. A popular one is chionadoxa, which comes up as the prolific blue flowers in the diamond beds in front of Dyce Church.

Also the Dyce Christmas lights should be evident on lamp posts, Council permission having been given. Volunteers have done the annual tests and used donated equipment to let erectors place the traditional designs up high for our pleasure. We thank them all sincerely.

Everyone is welcome at the monthly meetings in Carnegie Hall at 7.30. In November, the topic was The Heritage of Torry with Fay Morrison and Margaret Wright.

10th December – Gardening Group Christmas Knees Up
16th December – Carols in the Garden for all ages, 6.30pm with mince pies and hot chocolate
13th January – Anna Christie, Gardener, Fyvie Castle

This is a plea for more folks to give some time to making Dyce nice. Please note that unless new volunteers come forward, the Group will be unable to carry on maintaining the green areas and projects such as the hanging baskets and Christmas Lights.

The Gardening Group Wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.
dycegarden@gmail.com or 07786 917840.

Could you lay an extra place at your table this Christmas?

Experiment in International Living UK

Each year charity EIL UK receives hundreds of applications from international students studying at British universities hoping to experience Christmas or New Year in a British home. We are looking for more volunteer families in Aberdeen who could host an overseas university student for a 3-night stay between 24th and 27th December 2025.

We would like to invite parishioners to be part of this rich and rewarding experience and continue the traditions that HOST UK started in 1987 by offering a student who is far from home, hospitality and friendship through a Festive Stay.

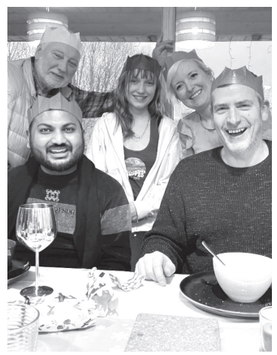
Please see the following news release showing the joy that host families bring to their student guests:

Could you lay an extra place at your table this Christmas for an international student? Each year the charity EIL UK receives hundreds of applications from international students studying at British universities hoping to experience Christmas or New Year in a British home.

Calvin Hewitt, EIL UK's Volunteers Manager says "Volunteer hosts tell us how much international students add to their Christmas and New Year festivities. Hosts enjoy sharing their festive traditions and the students are so appreciative and grateful for the friendship and fun at a time of year when everyone who's far away from their family hopes to find a home from home."

Christine and Gervin have been hosting international students for 28 years for festive and weekend visits. Christine told us "We have enjoyed meeting people from all over the world giving us a greater understanding of the students' countries and cultures and even tasting food cooked by some of the students. They in turn have much appreciated meeting a British family and learning about our traditions and food, especially at Christmas."

Would you like to welcome an overseas student into your home this year? If you could offer friendship and host an overseas university student for a 3-night stay between 24th and 27th December 2025 or a weekend stay at any time of the year, email host@eiluk.org to find out more about this rich and rewarding experience and how you can be part of the HOST UK programme.



Notes

1. The charity EIL works with partner organisations, groups and individuals of all ages across the world to enrich lives, promote understanding of other cultures and foster personal growth.
2. Founded in 1936, the Experiment in International Living UK (EIL UK) is the UK's oldest homestay organisation. A registered charity, today EIL provides intercultural learning opportunities to create a more peaceful, accepting and understanding world. EIL's cultural immersion programmes include study abroad, family homestays, group educational programmes, training and language courses for more than 1,000 participants a year (in Covid-free years).
3. If anyone is interested in finding out more about hosting for EIL UK, visit www.eiluk.org or email host@eiluk.org. EIL offers host families training, support from a local coordinator and a contribution towards the costs of hosting.
4. EIL UK is part of Federation EIL, a global network of organisations that have been awarded peace messenger status by the United Nations.

Rotary Club of Dyce

One of the main purposes of Rotary is community service. A large part of this is fundraising so we can support local and international charities. Every year our fundraising activities, especially the Santa Sleigh at Christmas time, raise a substantial sum of money through the generosity of the local community.

In August, at the start of the new Rotary year we distribute this to a number of local charities, nominated by club members. On 12 August representatives from these charities were invited to our meeting at the Riverview Café in Dyce to receive their cheques.

The photograph shows our immediate Past President, Nick Flippence, with representatives from Aberdeen Cyrenians, the Breadmaker, Archway, Newmachar First Responders, UCAN and Charlie House. The donations to these organisations along with donations to Duthie Park wheelchair friendly swing, Camphill School, Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus came to a total of £6250.

We don't just collect money, we also do things in our community. On a windy evening in September a group of us collected 6 black bags of litter in the Central Park in Dyce. It's a pity that this is necessary but, sadly, some folk just don't care about the mess they make.

We look forward to seeing you all over the Christmas period. We will be rattling our cans at Asda as we do every year to Christmas music in the presence of Santa and his sleigh. He will also be touring around the streets of Dyce and visiting local nurseries and schools. The dates of these activities will be posted on our Facebook page.

We are a club which enjoys meeting together every Tuesday evening for a meal and a chat and getting involved in a number of interesting activities, including fundraising to support local charities. If anyone would be interested in joining us, please get in touch with me.

Mike Taylor

seemingly is repeated in the bible some 365 times.

It seems a few got to see an angel, a few got to see the baby, but the real good news was spread by ordinary people; we can all be sharers of good news if we want, if we have eyes open to see the signs, and do what we can to let his Peace in and share it.

There are a number of Aberdeen Street Pastors representing our congregations and at least one more joining them. Well done all of you, and our churches for supporting them. They remind us what we do in our spare time, in our openness to others, in the way we share our faith, matters. We can all in our own way be street pastors, "caring, listening, helping" as in the motto of Street Pastors. If we cannot help physically, most of us can do something to help the light shine, especially to encourage others. Maybe with a phonecall, a letter, a card to a neighbour we don't normally contact; a word, a smile, a decoration shining out from our windows.

So whatever is going on, know Jesus comes to help us, not escape life's trials, but find and share inner strength and yes even moments of peace, hope and joy. Immanuel; God with us.

May God bless you in your prayers with peace to get through whatever you face and help you share His goodness with others
David

Dyce Church Christmas Tree Festival

People and groups have been invited to sponsor and decorate a tree which will sit in the windows of Dyce Church. Bringing light through the darkness of December as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Light among the branches

Tuesday 9th December 7pm – 8pm Dyce Church

A quiet space for personal reflection, prayer and stillness beneath the glow of the Christmas Trees.

Messy Church

Saturday 6th December
2pm – 4pm Dyce Church

Come along to the church where we will have some Christmas crafts and learn about the 1st Christmas.

Family Carol Singing

Monday 20th December
7pm – 8pm Dyce Church

Come and join us for some carol singing, followed by hot chocolate and mince pies

Breakfast Clubs

This summer we decided to try something different in place of our traditional week long holiday club. As well as providing a fun outreach to children in the village and beyond, we also wanted to help alleviate some of the pressure on parents that the holidays can bring.

We trialled having a Breakfast Club on a Monday morning over 4 weeks of the holidays.

The format was very simple – breakfast in the blue room, served by the teen helpers, followed by table top games, toys and crafts in the main hall.

We tidied up at 11 and then had a bible story and a couple of songs. Then each child left with a packed lunch.
Over the 4 weeks we reached out to 18 different families, only 4 were church families.

Following the success of the summer, we decided to run 2 sessions in the first week of the October holidays. It proved to be just as popular. We had 18 families attend over the 2 sessions – 27 children on the Monday! The format was the same – Breakfast, crafts and games, a Bible story and a packed lunch.

We are going to run a Christmas themed session on Monday 22nd December. I am praying it will prove to be as popular as the previous sessions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have volunteered, not just at the breakfast clubs, but, in all the children and youth ministry this year. Without your help we wouldn't be able to run any of the groups and events we do. So thank you for giving up your time to help!

Natalie

Christmas Breakfast Club

At Dyce Church Hall 10am–11:30am on Monday 22nd December

The format will be the same, come along for breakfast, crafts and games and take a packed lunch away with you.

For children P1-P7
(Children in ELC are welcome too, however, they will need an adult to stay with them.)

Contact Natalie: natangus@hotmail.co.uk to sign up.

Meet the latest New Machar Church Members

Our twins are unique in that they love the same things. When you meet them next try and find out if there is anything that one likes that the other doesn't!
What's your favourite food? **Macaroni Cheese**
What's your favourite colour? **Royal Blue**
What's your favourite bible verse? **John 3:16**
What's your favourite hymn/song?
10,000 Reasons Bless the Lord
What do you do to relax? **Listen to music, cooking, baking, and going for walks.**

New Machar Church Emeritus Elder

We had a wonderful service on Sunday 25th October 2025 led by our Interim Moderator Rev David Locke, where we celebrated our oldest Elder Alexander P Cran (Sandy).
Sandy was ordained as an Elder in 1957, and celebrated his 93rd birthday on the 12th October 2025 at which point Sandy decided to step down from the Kirk Session having served on it for 68 years.
He now earns the title of Emeritus Elder.
We presented Sandy with a canvas of New Machar church.

As we approach the busy Christmas season which commercialism would have us believe begins in late August early September let us as Christians remember what we are truly celebrating. The birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I often wonder if we really appreciate the miracle of this event. The following is a quote from Max Lucado which I thought was very humbling:

WHAT AN ENTRANCE
Jesus could have become a voice in the air
Jesus could have become a message in the sky
Jesus could have become a light in the night
But He became more, so much more, He became flesh
Why? Why did He take the journey? Why did He go so far?
Might the answer include this word: YOU
Jesus came to be near you. Any concerns you might have about His power and love were removed from the discussion
The moment He became flesh and entered the world.
What a beginning, what an entrance what a moment.
So whenever, during this season you are feeling overwhelmed by the things you have to do, by the cost of the season, by whether or not you have remembered all the many tasks that are now an integral part of the season just remember something
Joan said in a sermon a few weeks ago
Be Still and know that I am God
Give all your concerns over to Him in the sure and certain knowledge that He will hear you.

God bless you all
Merry Christmas

Life & Work Magazine

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sheena and Alison Rosie for all their hard work with the Life & Work Magazine, particularly during covid where they hand delivered the magazines to ensure our Elders received a copy.

Starting in September 2025 the regular compilation of news regarding Ministries and Eldership will be found on the Life and Work page of the Church of Scotland website and will be updated every two months.

Thank you Sheena and Alison for your dedication!

Song in a Teacup

This group is open to anyone in our communities who would like to come along, including those with memory difficulties or dementia. It is an afternoon for singing familiar songs together, following the words on a screen and accompanied by the music. Mid-way through we enjoy a blether and a cuppa – with afa fine pieces! There is no entry fee, but a small donation can be given on the day.

We meet in the Pathway Centre approximately every six weeks on a Friday afternoon, 2 pm until 3.30 pm.

Our next singalong will be on Friday 12 December and the first one in 2026 will be on Friday 30 January.

During these cold winter months it's good to enjoy fellowship in a cosy place. A warm welcome awaits.

For further information please contact Linda Rendall, 07745 834359.