



Christmas is here!

What are your most poignant memories of Christmas past? One of mine is a young girl in a nativity play, dressed as Mary, singing with the most beautiful voice 'Little Donkey.' By the end of the song the congregation were all in tears- amazed by the voice of this little girl and moreover moved by her performance. This young sole voice miraculously reminded us that in the Christmas story God comes to be with the meek, the innocent, the poor and those who often get the raw end of the deal. In that moment her song reminded us, of the true meaning of Christmas and our responsibility, if we are to celebrate it, to all in our own time who find themselves refugees, outsiders, or downtrodden in any way.

For over 30 years we have been collecting items of clothing for the Cyrenians, as a way of living the Christmas story, and recognising that we meet Jesus today in the faces of those who have need. If you can help we would welcome from you donations of new warm winter clothes, hats, gloves, scarves and underwear for men, to give to the Cyrenians in the run up to Christmas.

In this month's QX CONNECT you will find details of the many and varied opportunities to celebrate Christmas at your local community church. Whoever you are, wherever you're from and whatever your story, this I can promise you – you will be made most welcome at Queen's Cross.

With all good wishes for the festive season,

Rev Scott Rennie
Queen's Cross Church

Celebrate Christmas with us!
Check all the dates for your diary in the last page.

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QX DIARY

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THE GUILD

Church of Scotland Guild is an organisation across Scotland that raises funds for charities for both home and around the world.

In the last two years the Guild has raised over £470,000 for six such charities, three here in Scotland and three overseas.

In Kenya, *Feed the Minds*, a charity to enable bursaries be awarded for girls and women to continue their education was given £102,000 and closer to home *Street Pastors* was given over £88,000 to further their support for young people and families in times of crisis.

Such selfless dedication by members of the Guild must be applauded by all and especially so to our very own Queen's Cross Guild members who meet **every Tuesday at 2.15 pm in the Session Room** and will extend a warm welcome to new members both men and women alike.



BLACK GOLD Documentary

Approximately 30 people attended a showing of the film *Black Gold* at Queen's Cross Church on Friday 3 November organised by the Eco Group.

The story follows the efforts of an Ethiopian Coffee Union manager as he travels the world to obtain a better price for his workers' coffee beans.

For a comparison in costs, each cup of coffee bought in a coffee shop in the West, Ethiopian coffee growers receive less than a one US cent. Is that a fair deal....?

Fairtrade refreshments were provided and contributions received were given to the Redevelopment Fund.



Scottish Government set to announce deposit return scheme for plastic bottles.

The Scottish Government has announced that it will introduce a deposit return scheme for drink packaging including plastic bottles and cans.

This is the culmination of campaign Eco-Congregation Scotland has been part of for the past eighteen months. When we first mentioned deposit return in our social media accounts and newsletter it received the biggest response of any issue we have been involved in. It seems to strike a chord with Christians and churches so we officially joined the *Have You Got The Bottle* campaign.

We now need to wait for the official announcement and see how such a scheme will operate in Scotland.

QX REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE



If you have been walking up Albyn or Carden Place lately you'll have noticed great changes are taking place at Queen's Cross. We are busy redeveloping our facilities to transform it into a new centre for community life in the heart of our neighbourhood.

Our vision is to create a hub in the centre of our community where residents and workers alike can find a place of hospitality and welcome, and a variety of activities and interests to stimulate their wellbeing, health and intellect.

New Coffee House

We are partnering with our friends at Cognito to create a new coffee house on Albyn Place with a great vibe – a place where you can meet friends and catch up, have some lunch or a coffee through the day, or find a space to chill on your own and find some time for yourself. Nicki and her team at Cognito will provide us with a destination of choice when it comes to food and ambience, and we look forward to the opening of our signature Coffee House along with the rest of our facilities in the Spring.

New Community Meeting Place

This is only the beginning. As part of our renewal we are creating a new Lounge where community groups and concerns can meet together along with a Living Well group for people with dementia and their families, people with learning difficulties and their carers, and seniors in our community who might want to meet up with others to prevent that feeling of isolation that often comes with living alone.

We are also currently planning a series of events that we hope to run over the course of the year in our new community facilities – speakers and music that will stimulate the mind and provoke thought in us about how we live in today's world - around issues like ecology, economics, politics and social justice.

Renewed Queen's Cross Nursery Premises

For over 40 years Queen's Cross has provided a nursery for local families – a place where our youngsters can be nurtured, grow and bloom in their early years. Part of our redevelopment sees the creation of a brand new purpose built nursery space and garden to provide the very best standards in nursery care. We and our staff pride ourselves on the quality of care and experience we offer our children, and we look forward to new opportunities in a brand new facility to provide an environment in which our children can learn and grow.

Sunday 3 December
 9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Kid's Minecraft Club
 10:30 Worship & Gift Service
 Sanctuary
 Sunday Club
 Session Room

Monday 4 December
 19:30 Aberdeen Chamber Music Concert
 Sanctuary

Sunday 10 December
 10:30 Worship & Communion
 Sanctuary
 Sunday Club
 Session Room

Sunday 17 December
 9:30 Traditional Worship
 Sanctuary
 10:30 All Age - Advent Service with Nursery Nativity
 Sanctuary
 Sunday Club
 Session Room
 18:00 Carol Singing around the tree with hot chocolate from Cognito
 Church Forecourt

Wednesday 20 December
 12:30 Business Carol Service followed by tea, coffee & mince pies.
 Sanctuary

Sunday 24 December
 10:30 Readings & Carols
 Sanctuary
 18:30 Family Worship & Christingle Service
 Sanctuary
 23:30 Watchnight Service
 Sanctuary

Monday 25 December
 10:30 Christmas Day Service @ Rubislaw Parish Church

Our Best Wishes for 2018!



Meetings normally at 7pm on 2nd Tuesday of the month in St Joseph's School Queen's Cross See Website for Dates

ALL WELCOME!

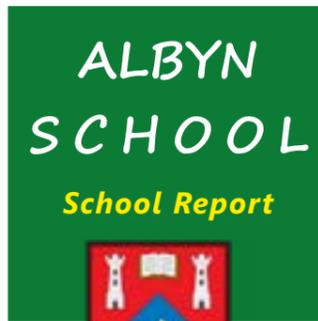
Website

WWW.QXCC.WEEBLY.COM

See important new Update on HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE Aberdeen West Locality PLUS

Minutes, Police Reports, Councillor Reports, Planning Applications, and events in the area

Our two schools in the Parish have had a busy Autumn with fundraising activities and now plan for a busy fundraising Christmas too.



Albyn School, after celebrating 150 years with their Gala concert in October, took the highlights of the Gala to Midstocket Church for a special concert. The event organised by Pam Michie and Joy Broccoli, was well rewarded raising £555 for Lupus Scotland.

Carol Singing Season

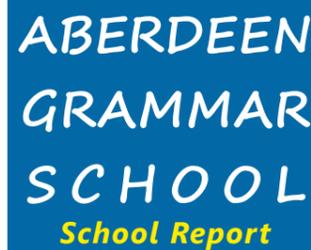
Albyn School is well known in our community for contributing in many ways through its music department. The Christmas season is a particularly busy time for them as they prepare for their own Christmas carols celebration in St Mark's Church as well as sharing their musical talents in the wider community.

One such event, not to be missed, is **Carols around the Tree** takes place at Queen's Cross Church on **Sunday the 17th of December at 6 pm** and is another opportunity for the community to sing in the open air. This is a lovely, informal and short service around the church's Christmas tree. Café Cognito very kindly will be offering hot chocolate and mince pies to warm us all up.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Well done Jenna McDonald! An Aberdeen Grammar S5 student received Volunteer of the Year Award at the recent Aberdeen Sports Awards. And this is why...

"I was nominated because I have completed over 750 hours voluntary service with Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust. During my volunteering I have done football coaching with people from all over the City and Shire aged from between



runs various programmes for underprivileged young people and I really enjoyed helping with these. During the time that I have volunteered with AFC Community Trust I have been privileged to work with so many members of our community and can't thank the Trust enough for all the opportunities they have given me. I was thrilled

to be awarded 'Volunteer of the Year' at the Aberdeen Sports Awards"

Aberdeen Grammar School's Charity Group

3 and 70 years old. I have also been helping with dementia friendly techno gyms for the over 65s and for dementia friendly health walks around the City for over 65s. One of the participants I really enjoyed meeting was 104 years old. AFC Community Trust

The new school year brings more opportunities for students to excel as good citizens within the community and one Aberdeen charity that the students supported was Charlie House, a local children's charity that supports babies, toddlers and young people with a range of complex disabilities and life limiting conditions. The school's charities group organised a range of activities and events to participate in throughout the year and in so doing raised £7223 for Charlie House.

"I have been privileged to work with so many members of our community and can't thank the Trust enough for all the opportunities they have given me"

Jenna McDonald, S5 Aberdeen Grammar School

Music @ QX

Monday 4 December - Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts *Lorena Paz Nieto & Johan Barnoin* - Soprano and Piano 7.30 pm

Winners of the Oxford Lieder Young Artists in 2016
Music by Brahms: *Frühlingslied*; Schumann: *Three songs*;
Mendelssohn: *Der Mond*; Wolf: *Four songs*; Ginastera: *Seven songs*
& Villa-Lobos: *Five songs*.
Tickets: £12, and £6 for under 25s at the door from 7 pm.
Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org

2018

Monday 15 January - Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts *The Castalian String Quartet* 7.30 pm

The Castalian String Quartet has won top prizes at major international competitions, including 1st prize and three special awards at the 2015 Lyon International Competition.

Music by Haydn: *Quartet op 76 no 2*; Dutilleux: *Quartet Ainsi la nuit*;
Beethoven: *Quartet in A minor op 132*.

Tickets: £12, and £6 for under 25s at the door from 7 pm.
Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org

Sunday 4 February - Queen's Cross Sunday @ 6.30 series *The Newhills Ensemble* 6.30 pm

with Colin Sinclair (piano). Conducted by Geoffrey Atkinson
Grieg: *Holberg Suite*; Barber: *Adagio for Strings*; Holst: *St Paul's Suite*;
G Atkinson: *Elegy on Scottish Folk Songs*; M Dring: *Festival Toccata*
(with piano).

Tickets: £5, £3 for under 18s, at the door at 6 pm

Monday 19 February - Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts *Piano Trio Isimsiz* 7.30 pm

Schubert: *Piano Trio in B flat D28*; Beethoven: *Piano Trio in C minor op 1 no 3*; Brahms: *Piano Trio no 1 in B op 8*.

Tickets: £12, and £6 for under 25s at the door from 7 pm.
Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org

Sunday 4 March - Queen's Cross Sunday @ 6.30 series 6.30 pm

Further details to follow

Monday 12 March - Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts *The Schubert Ensemble (Piano Quartet)* 7.30 pm

Dvorak: *Piano Quartet no 1 in D op 23*; Charlotte Bray: *Piano Quartet*;
Chausson: *Quartet in A op 30*.

Tickets: £12, and £6 for under 25s at the door from 7 pm.
Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org

Please visit our Website: www.queenscrosschurch.org.uk
for updates on these events and future performances

DIARY

JANUARY

Sunday 7 January
9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast &
Kid's Minecraft Club
10:30 Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room

Sunday 14 January
10:30 Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room

Monday 15 January
19:30 Aberdeen Chamber Music
Concert
Sanctuary

Sunday 21 January
9:30 Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
10:30 All Age Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room

Sunday 28 January
10:30 Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
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For options and pricing,
contact us.

- Sunday 4 February**
- 9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Kid's Minecraft Club
- 10:30 Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room
- 18:30 Sundays @ 6.30 Concert Series
Sanctuary
- Sunday 11 February**
- 10:30 Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room
- Sunday 18 February**
- 9:30 Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
- 10:30 All Age Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room
- Monday 19 February**
- 19:30 Aberdeen Chamber Music Concert
Sanctuary
- Sunday 25 February**
- 10:30 Worship
Sanctuary
Sunday Club
Session Room



30 years working together

As long-time supporters of the Aberdeen Cyrenians, Queen's Cross Church hopes to bring more attention to the essential work of this service in our community.

Aberdeen Cyrenians is a voluntary organisation that opens doors for homeless people by alleviating homelessness through the provision of accommodation and support services and by raising awareness of the issues which lead to and perpetuate homelessness, thus influencing strategies to prevent homelessness.

What was once an organisation operating from an old building offering a place of refuge for the homeless and needy has now, nearly 50 years on, evolved into a fit for purpose place with a focus on prevention of homelessness, alleviation of homelessness, rehabilitation and resettlement located at their premises on Summer Street Aberdeen.

Queen's Cross Church first became involved with the Cyrenians at Christmas 1985 when the Guild asked what they could do to help, and what better way in doing so at this festive time? Well, by producing over 70 fresh cream trifles of course. And for the last thirty years the guild continues serving these tasty treats along with monetary donations and much needed warm clothing.

If you're interested in volunteering your time with the Cyrenians, visit www.aberdeen-cyrenians.org.

Community Spotlight



Business Community Carol Service Wednesday 20 December 2017 - 12:30 pm

 **QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH**
 Think | Explore | Grow | Connect
 Albyn Place AB10 1YN - Phone: 01224 644742
www.queenscrosschurch.org.uk

Christmas Appeal



Continuing our collaboration with Aberdeen Cyrenians for the last 30 years, we are collecting warm outdoor clothes, including hats, scarfs, gloves and underwear for men, also gifts towards the 70 individual trifles for Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



 **QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH**
 Think | Explore | Grow | Connect

Christmas Carols around the Tree

Sunday 17 December 6.00pm

at the Giant Christmas Tree in Queen's Cross Church's Forecourt

Accompanied by Albyn School Choir

Hot chocolate sponsored by Cognito



 **QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH**
 Think | Explore | Grow | Connect



Celebrate Christmas with us!

Advent Service with Nursery Nativity

Sunday 17 December, 10.30 am

What would Christmas be without a nativity? Join us for Queen's Cross Nursery nativity and all age service as we look forward to Christmas. This Sunday we'll have songs and fun to get us thinking about the Christmas story for ourselves. Do come and join us!

Christmas Carols around the Tree

Sunday 17 December, 6.00 pm

Singing carols is something we all love to do at Christmas. Join us on Sunday 17th around the giant Christmas tree outside in the Church's forecourt, where we'll sign our hearts out accompanied by a choir from Albyn School. We want you to join us! And to keep us all warm and in tune, our good friends at Cognito (a neighbourhood coffee house in St Swithin Street) have agreed to provide hot chocolate for everyone. So bring your family, children, grandchildren for some music and hot chocolate to get you in the Christmas Spirit.



Business Carol Service

Wednesday 20 December, 12.30 pm

Christmas is a time for celebration and festive good cheer, so no doubt there will be many an office party held within the QX Parish this coming festive season. So why not take part in the real spirit of Christmas and come along to our special Queen's Cross Church Neighbourhood Business Community Carol Service on Wednesday 20th December at 12.45? Afterwards join in the Christmas Spirit with other members of the business community with tea, coffee and hot mince pies. We look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Eve - Readings & Carols

Sunday 24 December, 10.30 am

Join us as we sing through the Christmas Story accompanied by the choir and soloists. Come and enjoy a live choral Christmas celebration.

Christmas Eve Family Service with Christingles

Sunday 24 December, 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve wouldn't be the same without our family Christingle service. The church is always packed with people of all ages, coming together on Christmas Eve to join together and celebrate. We will finish off with Mince Pies and Coffee, and there's still plenty of time to get home and be in bed before Santa Claus gets to the Granite City! It's an occasion not to be missed!

Christmas Eve Watchnight Worship by Candlelight

Sunday 24 December, 11.30 pm

A very busy Sanctuary is filled with people joining together to usher in Christmas, and to reflect by candlelight on the meaning of the Christmas Story and what it has to say for our lives in the world today. This service is always a very thoughtful and moving experience as we welcome Christmas Day with others, and even if strangers that night we become friends.

Everybody is welcome!

**Wishing you a
lovely festive
season!**

Queen's Cross Parish Church

Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YN
Office open Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
01224 644742

www.queenscrosschurch.org.uk
[@queenscross](https://www.facebook.com/queenscross)
Find us on iTunes!

Administrator: Marina Vega
office@queenscrosschurch.org.uk
Minister: Rev Scott Rennie
srennie@churchofscotland.org.uk