

Welcome!

Queen's Cross is the parish church for our part of the city; as such, Queen's Cross Church exists not only for its members, but to serve all who live within the bounds of the parish. As the Parish Minister for our community, I am also here to be of help to you in any way I can. I'd be glad to hear from you.

We hope that in the years to come this quarterly newsletter will give you not only a taste of life within your parish church, but that it will also be a conduit for wider community news, reporting all that is taking place within the life of our community.

Queen's Cross is proud to be an inclusive community, where anyone is welcome regardless of colour, creed, race or sexual orientation. Rooted in Church of Scotland tradition, Queen's Cross also offers a modern twist to our worship, focused on our journey of faith together. Details are included of the schedule of worship for Easter. I hope you are able to join us.

You are sure of a warm welcome!

I hope you'll find plenty in this first edition that will interest you, and sparking some concern for the community we share, inspiring us all to get involved and give back.



The Rev Scott M. Rennie
Queen's Cross Church



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Easter is coming!

Easter at Queen's Cross is a busy time, filled with the hope and promise of new life in Christ. There are many different events on at the church during Holy Week, including a very unique Good Friday Service which is open to the entire Aberdeen Community.

On Easter morning, we host a welcome breakfast, organised this year by the Young Adult Group at Queen's Cross, with Easter Worship following at 10:30 a.m. For more information about Holy Week and Easter Services, find details on the back page.





Fairtrade Breakfast

Queen's Cross Church got Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 off to a sizzling start! Sizzling bacon butties from locally sourced pork were on the menu for all who attended our breakfast in the church hall on Sunday morning 28th February. We are grateful to the students from the Albyn School Fairtrade Group and our local Co-op, who helped out that morning.

What does Fairtrade do?

Fairtrade is about securing better prices, decent working conditions, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. It's about supporting the development of thriving farming and worker communities that have more control over their futures. It's also about protecting the environment in which they live and work.

So when you buy products with the FAIRTRADE mark, you support farmers and workers as they seek to improve their lives and their communities. The mark means that the Fairtrade ingredients in the product have been produced by small-scale farmer organisations or plantations that meet Fairtrade social, economic and environmental standards.

You can play your part in supporting this worthwhile initiative when next at the supermarket for your weekly shop. Look for the Fairtrade emblem.

Seniors' Lunch

The Pastoral Care Group is organising a Seniors' Lunch, to be held on Friday 22 April from 12 noon until around 1:45 p.m. This will be held in the Hall and will take the form of a simple, tasty, soup-and-pudding lunch with some fine entertainment. Mainly for over-80s and for those who don't get out to church very often, but anyone else (of any age!) in the church or in the parish of Queen's Cross who would like to come along and meet people will be very welcome indeed! Transport will be available if required.

If you would like to attend or know anyone who would like to attend, please let us know by contacting the church office (01224 644742) by 15 April.



Messy Church

All primary aged children and their caregivers are welcome to join us for our Easter themed Messy Church on 21 March. Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. Messy Church meets on select Mondays about once a quarter from 3:30-6:00 p.m. It typically includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy, a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games and similar; and a sit-down meal together. All are welcome.

All elements are for, and should include, people of all ages. It's a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age. To join us for Messy Church, contact the church office (01224 644742).



QX News

Burns Supper

O wad sum power the gift tae gee us, to see our sels as ithers see us? And we all saw ourselves enjoying a fantastic evening. A traditional Burns supper of Haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with copious amounts of amber nectar was held in the church hall on 30 January. Over £1500 was raised in support of the Queen's Cross Redevelopment Campaign. The tartan clad evening's entertainment was provided by The Fyfe Penni Piece and all the speeches, as expected, were hilarious and went down well, making the evening a most enjoyable and resounding success.

Craft Fair

Join us for the next Craft Fair on Saturday 21 May 2016 in the Queen's Cross Church Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Teas, coffees and homebakes will be available, alongside many stalls selling great handmade gifts, including textiles, glass engraving, jewellery, preserves and sweets, pottery, papercraft, millinery, candles, themed hampers and more!



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week 2016 runs from 15 to 21 May. The focus this year is on floods, something which many in our own community have experienced recently. We have all seen the pictures of devastation in homes and businesses very near to us in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, so we can perhaps understand the fears of those living in Bangladesh.

Just £250 is enough for a Christian Aid Home Safety Package, which can provide a safe place for those in Bangladesh to live, keep livestock and grow crops, providing long-term income and a solid foundation for families. Lives can and will be rebuilt.

Donation envelopes will be available from the church and we will also canvas the local community, seeking additional support for this great cause.

Please join us this Christian Aid Week as we love every neighbour.

For more information see:

www.christianaid.org.uk.



The week we love every neighbour

Anti-Bullying

An 11 year old school girl packs a big punch when it comes to stopping bullying in Aberdeen. Olivia Douglas, a pupil at Albyn School, has written and performed a song she hopes will help victims of bullying cope with their experiences. The video has been uploaded to YouTube in hopes of reaching those in need of support. She hopes that the song will encourage those affected to be brave and to speak out about bullying. All profits from the video download will be donated to an anti-bullying charity.



Olivia, no stranger to the performing arts, is a member of Stagecoach and Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre. She has already appeared on stage at His Majesty's Theatre in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Annie*. Olivia has ambitions to be a singer and an actress.

Ted Talks Series

One Sunday a month, we'll look at different Ted Talks clips in the church lounge, offering the opportunity to have open dialogue about issues of faith in a new, fresh way.

We'll gather with teas, coffees and homebakes while we engage in lively discussion. See the diary inserts for dates and times.

Join us!

DIARY

APRIL

Sunday 3 April

- 9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Nora Davidson Lounge
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall
- 18:30 Sunday @ 6:30 Series
Sanctuary

Sunday 10 April

- 10:30 Worship & Communion
Sanctuary
- 11:30 Monthly Fellowship Meal
Hall

Sunday 17 April

- 9:30 Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 All Age Worship, Sanctuary

Friday 22 April

- 12:00 Seniors' Lunch, Hall

Sunday 24 April

- 9:00 Ted Talks: *Compassion*
Nora Davidson Lounge
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall

Hall Lets

Queen's Cross Parish Church has an extensive suite of rooms and halls available for let. If you would like to enquire about a hall let, please contact the office or email bookings@queenscroschurch.org.uk

Music at QX



At Queen's Cross, we have a deep love and appreciation for music and the arts, and are full of music throughout the year, offering classical recitals, jazz, folk and more. There is something for everyone of all ages. Our informal Sunday @ 6:30 Concert Series evenings, held on the first Sunday of each month, last for one hour, after which everyone has an opportunity to meet with the performers and enjoy refreshments. We feature solo musicians (instrumentalists or singers), ensembles, and wide variety of musicians, including brass band performers, which ensures a unique and wide-ranging musical experience.

Details of the musical events on offer at Queen's Cross are regularly updated on our website. See the diary or homepage for more information.



Upcoming Concerts:

Aberdeen Jazz Festival

Saturday 19 March 2016

7:30 p.m.

Ken Mathieson Classic Jazz Orchestra with Enrico Tomasso.
Further information from www.aberdeenjazzfestival.com

Sunday @ 6:30 Series

Sunday 3 April 2016

Stevenson Robb, Adam Auchie and Ngoni Masiyaurima.
A piano recital by three young scholarship students at North East Scotland Music School under the tutelage of Joseph Long. Tickets £5 or £3 for under 18s, at the door from 6:00 p.m.

Sunday @ 6.30 Series

Sunday 1 May 2016

The Bon Accord Silver Band.

Tickets, £5 or £3 for under 18s, at the door from 6:00 p.m.

Organ Recital by Paul Hale

Saturday 7 May 2016

2:30 p.m. (Doors open 2:00 p.m.).

This performance is part of the events arranged by the Aberdeen & District Organists Association who are the hosts for this year's annual gathering of the Scottish Association of Organists. Tickets £5.

Sunday @ 6.30 Series

Sunday 5 June 2016

Soprano Moira Docherty with Geoffrey Atkinson on piano.
Tickets, £5 or £3 for under 18s, at the door from 6:00 p.m.



#QXREDEV

Planning for the Future

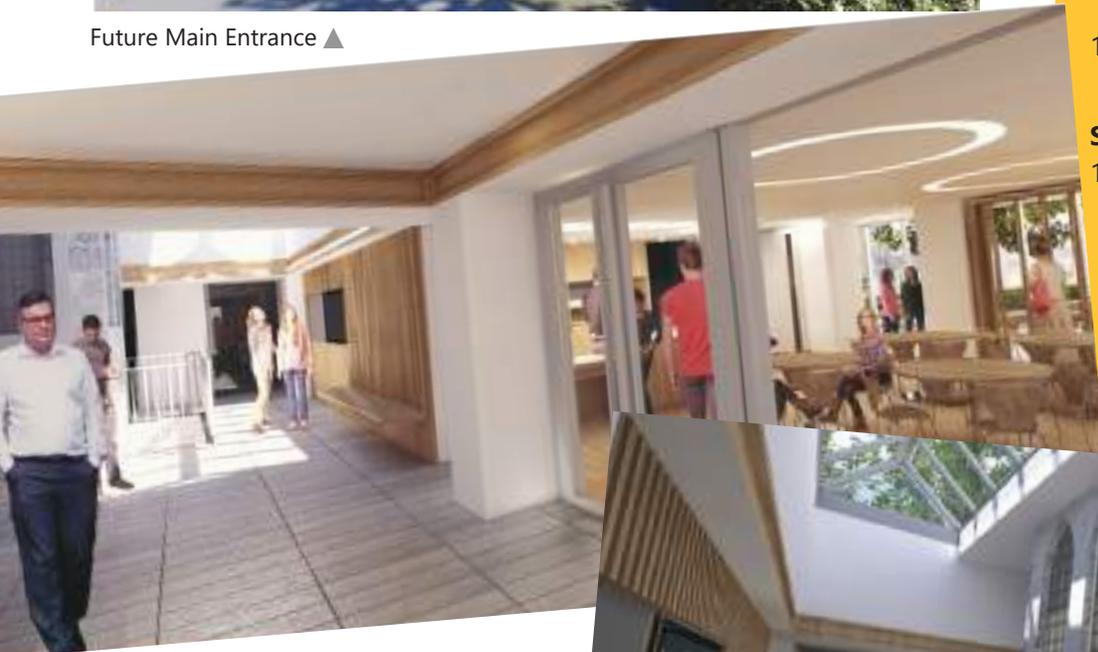
We've decided it's time for a refresh at Queen's Cross, and have submitted plans to the City Council for a remodelling of our facilities to provide a better and more modern community hub in the West End of the city. We hope these new facilities will be of great benefit to all the community groups that currently use our premises, as well as local residents and businesses.

At the centre of our redevelopment is an artisan coffee house selling quality coffee and food, and offering a space for local people to meet and relax with friends. We also plan on it being a venue for Coffee House talks on everything from science to the expressive arts. The fantastic Queen's Cross Nursery will also receive new fit for purpose accommodation and outdoor space for the children.

We are in the early stages of progressing our plans and gathering the necessary resources to make our dream a reality. We'll keep you up to date with the progress!



Future Main Entrance ▲



Future Main Entrance / Foyer ▲

Future Atrium ►



DIARY

MAY

Sunday 1 May

- 9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Nora Davidson Lounge
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall
- 18:30 Sunday @ 6:30 Series
Sanctuary

Saturday 7 May

- 14:30 Organ Recital by Paul Hale
Sanctuary
- 19:30 Community Ceilidh, Hall

Sunday 8 May

- 10:30 Worship & Communion
Sanctuary
- 11:30 Monthly Fellowship Meal
Hall

Sunday 15 May

- 9:30 Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 All Age Worship, Sanctuary

Saturday 21 May

- 10:00 Craft Fair, Hall

Sunday 22 May

- 9:00 Ted Talks: *Shame*
Nora Davidson Lounge
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall

Sunday 29 May

- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall

Community Spotlight

Earth Hour



Earth Hour is a worldwide grass roots movement uniting people to protect the planet, organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature. Engaging a massive mainstream community on a broad range of environmental issues, Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 7,000 cities and towns worldwide and the one hour event continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movement.

Earth Hour is a local event in all time zones and here in the UK it will happen on Saturday March 19th at 8:30 p.m. The event is held worldwide annually, encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol of their commitment to the planet.

Want to find out more about how to get active in Earth Hour? Visit the Earth Hour website at www.earthhour.org. Join us in caring for our planet!



Show you care!

Queen's Cross proudly supports the work of Instant Neighbour in our local community and we hope that you will partner with us in offering items to aid those in need. It is a sad fact that many people in the UK increasingly find themselves relying on food banks. Aberdeen, despite its wealth and status as the Oil Capital of Europe, is no exception. Instant Neighbour has provided emergency food parcels to individuals in serious need for over twenty years.

Nonperishable food items, toiletries and baby items can be dropped at the church office between 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on weekdays. Instant Neighbour collects all donations from the church weekly and is most grateful for the support.



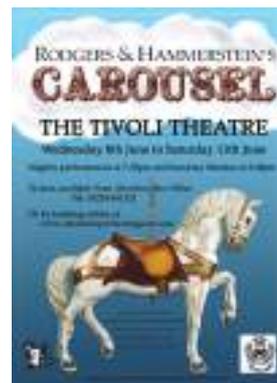
AYMT: Theatre Fun

Over the past 23 years, Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre have built up a reputation of producing high standard and extremely professional productions. It all began in 1992 when Angela Campbell and Karen Berry founded AYMT as they saw the need for an elite musical youth theatre in Aberdeen. Kenny Hossick joined them for the inaugural performance of "Bye Bye Birdie" in the Arts Centre, and two years later Shirley McGill came on board to direct, both of whom are now current directors of AYMT.

After several successful productions, there was a demand for a younger group and so Junior AYMT was born in 1999 and then an intermediate group was established in 2005 to give the maximum progressive training to members.

As a result of having three groups, rehearsal space has had to be sourced, so in 2007, we moved the

intermediates into Queen's Cross, utilising the main hall. These young members, age from 13 – 16 years old, meet every Wednesday, from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. working towards their show which is performed in June every year. For 2016, their show will be the iconic American classic "Carousel", which will be performed at the Tivoli Theatre from 8 – 11 June.



In 2009, we joined forces with Aberdeen Magic Circle to showcase all three groups by hosting a two night event in the Sanctuary at Queen's Cross. This was to be a one off event but proved popular with

our audience. We have made this an annual event, going solo with just an AYMT showcase from 2012.

In June each year, AYMT holds auditions for new members. If anyone would like further information, please contact the AYMT mobile on 07905 359468.

From the Back of the Pews

In each QX CONNECT, we will be featuring individual members of our congregation that contribute to the work of the church or local community in some way.

Whatever one thinks about technology, it is with us today in all walks of life and the church is no exception. The experience in our morning service on a Sunday is made all the more enjoyable and uplifting by the introduction and use of suitable technology and it's thanks to people like David McKinlay, one of our Audio Visual Technicians, who makes it possible. David, a former Aberdeen Grammar School pupil, takes up his Sunday morning position at the back of the pews in front of the church's audio visual console, where he is responsible for the visual content projected on the Sanctuary screens.

At twenty years old, David has been a member of Queen's Cross Church for a number of years. His family who are also active members of the congregation. During the day, David works as an administrator at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in the same department as his father, a consultant Gastroenterologist. However, it's not all work as he finds time out for playing tennis and keeping fit in the gym. David says he finds that the transition from being a former member of the Sunday School develops citizenship skills and he now finds becoming an active member of the wider church community and operating the AV equipment very rewarding.



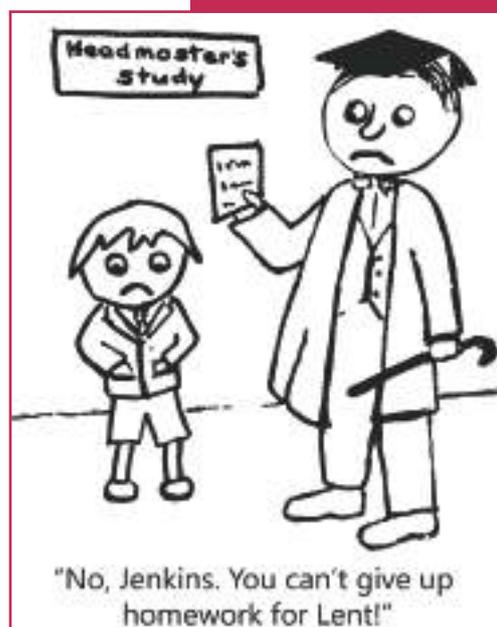
Passage to India



Lina Veille, a former social worker from Laval in North West France now residing in Aberdeen and a member of Queen's Cross Church, heads off to India on a good cause mission. Taking a month's sabbatical from her nursing auxiliary work at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Lina will be volunteering as a care worker in the Leonard Mission Hospital in Tamil Nadu in the South West of the Indian sub-continent.

Although it's very much a busman's sort of holiday for Lina, she knows all too well the hard and selfless work she will be undertaking, as this is not the first time that she has travelled overseas to undertake such work. Her previous volunteering work has taken her to Vientiane in Laos.

As Lina is funding this trip out on her own, further assistance has been raised through a quiz night and individual private donations, for which she is very grateful. Lina is an inspiration to all of us and she heads to India with our goodwill and blessing.



A Touch of Humour

DIARY

JUNE

Sunday 5 June

- 9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Nora Davidson Lounge
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall
- 18:30 Sunday @ 6:30 Series
Sanctuary

Sunday 12 June

- 10:30 Worship & Communion
Sanctuary
- 11:30 Monthly Fellowship Meal
Hall

Saturday 18 June

- TBD Silent Auction
Hall

Sunday 19 June

- 9:30 Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 All Age Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday 26 June

- 9:00 Ted Talks: *A Good Life*
Nora Davidson Lounge
- 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
Sunday Club, Upstairs Hall

LENT at QUEEN'S CROSS HOLY WEEK

21-25 MARCH 2016

Monday: Movie Viewing

7.00pm in the Lounge

Tuesday: Movie Discussion

7.30pm in the Session Room

Wednesday: Final Study Group

7:30pm at St Mary's Carden Place

Thursday: Maundy Thursday Service

7.00pm in the Sanctuary

Friday: Seven Words from the Cross

Good Friday Service

12.00-3.00pm in the Sanctuary

Come-and-go worship service and lunch.

EASTER SUNDAY: 27 MARCH 2016

Welcome Breakfast

9:00am in the Hall

Easter Worship Service

10:30am in the Sanctuary



Queen's Cross Parish Church

Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YN

www.queenscrosschurch.org.uk

[@queenscross](https://www.facebook.com/queenscross)

Find us on iTunes!

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Queen's Cross Church of Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland. No. SC002019