

QX

CONNECT

Queen's Cross Community News



Christmas Cheer

Another year has almost passed and another Christmas beckons.

I love Christmas and I'm completely unapologetic about it. I love everything about Christmas – the story, the lights and tinsel, the food and festivities.

At a dark time of the year we all need a bit of Christmas cheer, and I really do believe that Christmas can bring out the best in people. It's a time of the year when our thoughts turn more towards other people, and when attention is brought more readily to the needs of others in the community – especially any in difficulty, want or need.

This year we are teaming up with our friends at Instant Neighbour to host a Giving Tree in our new foyer, where everyone can collect a tag from the tree and return with a present for a child (as specified on the tag) who otherwise might not receive a gift at this special time of year. Poverty is a stark reality in parts of our city, and we are pleased to support the work of Instant Neighbour to make even a small difference for children in our city.

2018 has been a fractious year in public life across the world. Christmas is a time for us to come together, and remember the Angels' song of peace and goodwill to all. In this edition of QX CONNECT you will find details of lots of events for the Christmas Season. I hope you may be able to join us at any or all of these, and bring family and friends with you. On behalf of everyone at Queen's Cross, may I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas, and peace in the New Year.

Rev Scott Rennie
Queen's Cross Church

In this issue:

News	2
Music at QX	4
Community Spotlight	6
School Report	7
Christmas at QX	8

QX DIARY

December	3
January	5
February	7

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



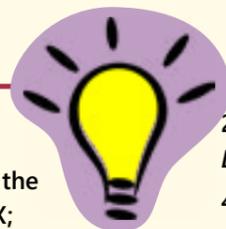
QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH

Think | Explore | Grow | Connect

LIVELY MINDS

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Garden Room and Main Hall @ QX; Buffet lunch at Noon; at 12:30 pm talk

Liven up your Tuesday afternoons and come along to our arranged programmes of fortnightly talks. You will meet up with new people, listen to our specially invited and stimulating guest presenters and have opportunities to contribute to stimulating discussion.



20 Nov - *Reflections on the Care of the Injured and Dying in World War I* with Sally Lawton, author;

4 Dec - *The Foodie Quine* with Claire Jessiman, food and travel writer and blogger;

18 Dec - *Wines, Canapes and Music* with Fountainhall Wines & Steve McQueen, wines for your Christmas festivities;

8 Jan - *The Shetland Bus, the secret traffic between Norway and Scotland in World War II* with George Watt.

CRAFT FAIRS ARE BACK AT QX

Saturday 1st December, 10 am to 1 pm

Starting to think which presents to buy for Christmas? Looking for the unusual, the unique, the charming? Look for inspiration in any of the craft fairs that take place around the city at this time of the year. And the one at QX will not disappoint you!

We are glad to announce that Craft Fairs are back at Queen's Cross by popular demand! In October our first Craft Fair after the redevelopment was held in the new refurbished Main Hall and Garden Room. The partition wall between the Coffee House and the Garden Room was pulled away, creating a bigger interactive open space with a greater synergy between both spaces and activities, the craft fair and

the coffee house.

Also adding the extra space of Garden Room to the craft fairs provides scope for an even greater variety of stalls, all selling high quality items made by local crafters.

So if you are struggling to find ideas for your presents or simply you want to come around for a coffee, come to see us. The doors of the fair will open from 10 am until 1 pm on Saturday 1st December. Come along and join us for what's been described as a "Christmas Cracker" of a fair!

Dates for 2019 Craft Fairs: January 26, March 9, May 4, July 6, September 21, November 23.

THE MONDAY GROUP

Every Monday, 10 am to Noon, Garden Room @ QX

The Monday Group is a drop in group for adults with additional needs and their carers. Some of our Monday Club friends come along on their own if they are in assisted living accommodation.

The main aim of the group is to offer a chance for people to get together and socialise. Having asked the group members what they would like us to offer, they said that the flexibility to play games, listen to music or just chat was what they liked best. Chatting with the volunteers over tea or coffee and lovely home baking seems to be the aspect they enjoy most.

MUSICAL CONNECTIONS

1st & 3rd Monday of the month, Garden Room @QX, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm

Musical Connections is a group for adults living with dementia and their carers. Music and singing are a wonderful way of encouraging people living with dementia to join in and communicate. There is a vast amount of evidence that, even in quite advanced stages of dementia, favourite, familiar songs will lead to a response and a chance to communicate. As the group develops we are taking part in Playlist for Life - a Scottish initiative started by Sally Magnusson, whereby adults living with dementia (and indeed any of us!) are encouraged to choose songs which are meaningful to them and we will play them and encourage conversation. This is an exciting new venture for us and we are delighted that the music department at Albyn School is partnering us in this. Tea and coffee and a warm welcome will be provided by volunteers from the Queen's Cross Community.

THE FLY CUP

Every Thursday, 10 am to Noon, Garden Room @ QX

The Fly Cup is a drop in group for anyone who wants to pop and have a cuppa and chat. Drivers may be available to pick up people who don't have any means of getting to us and people are encouraged to just drop in for coffee, tea, home baking in a warm, friendly setting. We are very conscious that loneliness is a huge problem and we are keen to address this by making this an informal group where everyone is welcome. If people would like a "buddy" to take them along initially then we are keen to offer that too.

BURNS SUPPER NIGHT

Friday 25 January 2019, 7 pm @ QX

Join us once more on the evening of January 25 at QX for our traditional Burns Supper. There will be plenty of haggis, neeps and tatties and not forgetting the amber nectar of course. And after such gastronomical delights enjoy the "Immortal Memory" of the bard most eloquently delivered by the Rev Bob Brown with the "Toast to the Lassies" by Elizabeth Brown. All the proceeds to the redevelopment fund.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY: PLASTICS WATCH!



Plastics Watch is a great new online resource from the BBC, sharing ideas for all of us to take action on reducing the use of plastics, with information on beach cleans and volunteering, plastic-free living, changing the plastic-based economy and the latest United Nations research. For more information, check BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

DECEMBER

Saturday 1 December

10:00 Craft Fair @ Main Hall

Sunday 2 December

9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Kid's Minecraft Club @ Cognito at the Cross

10:30 Worship & Gift Service @ Sanctuary

Monday 3 December

19:30 Aberdeen Chamber Music Concert @ Sanctuary

Tuesday 4 December

Noon Lively Minds Talk @ Garden Room & Main Hall

Sunday 9 December

10:30 Worship & Communion @ Sanctuary

Wednesday 12 December

19:30 Granite City Chorus @ Sanctuary

Sunday 16 December

9:30 Traditional Worship @ Sanctuary

10:30 All Age - Advent Service with Nursery Nativity @ Sanctuary

18:30 Carols round the Tree @ Church Forecourt

Tuesday 18 December

Noon Lively Minds Talk @ Garden Room & Main Hall

Wednesday 19 December

12:30 Business Community Carols @ Sanctuary

Sunday 23 December

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

18:30 Beer & Carols @ The Dutch Mill Hotel

Monday 24 December

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

18:30 Family Worship & Christingle Service @ Sanctuary

23:30 Watchnight Service @ Sanctuary

Tuesday 25 December

10:30 Christmas Day Service @ Sanctuary

Sunday 30 December

10:30 Worship @ Rubislaw Church

Our Best Wishes for 2019!

Sunday 23 December - 6.30 pm

Beer & Carols @ The Dutch Mill Hotel



QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH
Think | Explore | Grow | Connect
Albyn Place AB10 1YN - Phone: 01224 644742



Monday 19 November

Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts

Leonore Piano Trio - Piano, cello, violin

7:30 pm

The Leonore Piano Trio brings together three internationally acclaimed artists whose piano trio performances under the umbrella of Ensemble 360 were met with such enthusiastic responses that they decided to form a piano trio in its own right.

Music by Haydn: *Piano Trio in E flat op 86 no. 3 (Hob. XV no. 29)*; *Hands Gal: Piano Trio in E op. 18*; *Beethoven: Piano Trio in B flat op. 97.*

Tickets: £15; concessions: £7.50; from Aberdeen Box Office or on the night at the door from 7 pm.

Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org

Monday 3 December

Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts

Maxwell String Quartet

7:30 pm

1st Prize winner and Audience Prize winner at the 9th Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition in 2017, the Maxwell Quartet is now firmly regarded as one of Britain's finest string quartets, with a strong connection to their folk music heritage.

Music by Haydn: *Quartet in B flat Op. 71 No.1*; *Tchaikovsky: Quartet No.1 in D Op. 11*; *Beethoven: Quartet No.13 in E flat Op. 130.*

Tickets: £15; concessions: £7.50; from Aberdeen Box Office or on the night at the door from 7 pm.

Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org

2019

Wednesday 12 December

GRANITE CITY CHORUS CONCERT

7:30 pm

The multi-award winning male chorus from the Granite City Chorus will be performing here in the Sanctuary on Wednesday December 12 at 7:30 pm. For more information about the group, go to <http://www.granitecitychorus.co.uk>

Tickets costing £10 are a giveaway when considering mulled wine and mince pies are also included.

All the proceeds to the redevelopment fund.

Monday 14 January

Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts

NAVARRA STRING QUARTET

7:30 pm

Since its formation in 2002, the Navarra Quartet has built an international reputation as one of the most dynamic and poetic string quartets of today.

Music by Vasks: *String Quartet No. 4*;
Ravel: *String Quartet in G major*;
Schubert: *Quartet No.14 "Death and the Maiden"*

Tickets: £15; concessions: £7.50; from Aberdeen Box Office or on the night 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

Sunday 3 February

Queen's Cross Sunday @ 6:30 series

NEWHILLS STRING ENSEMBLE

Conducted by Geoffrey Atkinson

6:30 pm

with Colin Sinclair (piano) & Moira Docherty (soprano).

Programme: Gustav Holst: *A Moorland*;
Gerald Finzi: *Eclogue & Dies Natalis*;
Geoffrey Atkinson: *Suite on Scottish Folk Songs* (first performance)

The audience is invited to stay after this informal evening for refreshments after the performance, and meet and talk with the performers.

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

Proceeds in aid of North East Scotland Music School

Monday 19 February

Aberdeen Chamber Music Concerts

JESS GILLAM and ZEYNEP ÖZSUCA

- saxophone & piano

7:30 pm

A finalist from the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year with a renowned Turkish pianist.

Tickets: £15; concessions: £7.50; from Aberdeen Box Office or on the night at the door from 7 pm.

Further details from www.aberdeenchambermusic.org



*Carols
round
the Tree*

with hot chocolate from

— CAFÉ —

Cognito



QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH

Think | Explore | Grow | Connect

Albyn Place AB10 1YN - Phone: 01224 644742

Sunday 6 January

9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Kid's Minecraft Club @ Cognito at the Cross

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

Sunday 13 January

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

Monday 14 January

19:30 Aberdeen Chamber Music Concert @ Sanctuary

Sunday 20 January

9:30 Traditional Worship @ Sanctuary

10:30 All Age Worship @ Sanctuary

Friday 25 January

19:00 Burns Supper Night @ Main Hall

Saturday 26 January

10:00 Craft Fair

Sunday 27 January

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!

For options and pricing, contact us.

QUEEN'S CROSS TO ZAMBIA IN 21 DAYS

by Michelle Stephen, Queen's Cross Nursery Manager

On the 10 July this year I made the long journey from Aberdeen to volunteer in Zambia with orphans and vulnerable children. The trip was only possible with the help and support from the Rev Scott Rennie, World Mission (Church of Scotland), my fellow nursery colleagues, Queen's Cross Nursery Board and of course my friends and family.

Trip to the heart of Africa

My journey started at Aberdeen International Airport and took me to Paris and then on to Kenya – easy so far or so I thought. Due to delays I missed my connecting flight to Zambia and had to spend a night in Nairobi catching up on my sleep. I was soon on my way but not before flying over Mount Kilimanjaro and Victoria Falls both on the same day. What an experience!!!!

After 54 hours travelling I made it to Mwandu, a village in Zambia around 3 hours from Livingstone their main city. My wee cottage had been built by volunteers from all over the world and was very basic compared to our living standards, but very comfortable. I loved the solar powered shower and soon realised that it was best to use it at night rather than first thing in the morning.

Mwandu: my new home, my new family

The Mwandu Mission is situated in Mwandu, in

the bottom left-hand corner of Zambia between Livingstone and Sesheke. It is overseen by the United Church of Zambia. The Mission consists of a church, a hospital, a group of schools and a nursery, a retirement home and a centre for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

The people of Mwandu are very poor, but what they lack in material resources they make up with shared love, smiles and welcoming arms which I witnessed every single day I lived there. In the mornings I helped in the pre-school which is attached to their church.

Day to day routine

The first thing that struck me was just how happy the children are and each day I would be greeted to loud "Good Morning Teacher Michelle". They deliver their curriculum with a huge lack of resources, in just one room for 48 children with 2 adults, with their main emphasis being on learning to write at a very young age.

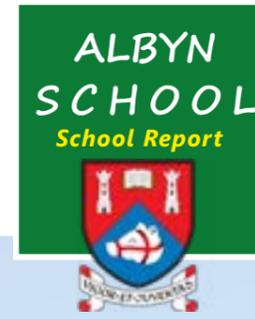
At lunch time I would make the mile-long walk to the OVC centre to help with the feeding project. Children between the ages of 2 and 18 who have been affected by HIV or aids can be referred to the project. This secures them a hot meal once a day along with milk and multi vitamins.

I helped the kitchen staff to prepare and serve the food, distributed the medication and lead activities afterwards such as drawing, singing, football and stories. I met many different characters – shy, smiley, mischievous and happy and they were all polite and thankful for their time at the project.

Singing and colourful Sundays in Zambia

On the 3 Sundays I stayed in Zambia I attended the UCZ (United Church of Zambia). Services began at 9am sharp and would continue for around 3 hours with beautiful singing, congregational interaction and sore bottoms!!!

Although I missed my family and friends during my time away, my experiences and memories will stay with me for a lifetime. I made so many new friends and am already planning my next trip for 2020.



ON THE TOP OF THE WORLD...

Albyn School students are on top of the World, well nearly.....

With the help of Outlook Expedition and two adventurous staff members a group of Albyn 6th form students consisting of four girls and five boys set off in early October for a trip of a lifetime flying off to Kathmandu and then on to Lukla airport, with the world's shortest

runway. From here they set off on foot to Everest Base Camp. The team prepared themselves for what was to be an arduous and breath searching twelve-day trek up to Everest Base Camp by climbing closer to home mountains Ben Nevis and Ben Macdui. It was to be an experience of a lifetime with the memories created on the journey up and down the mountain, working with the in-country trekking guides, the Nepali people that they met on the way and the time spent together will never be forgotten.



Wednesday 19 December 12.30 pm

Business Community Carols

Followed by tea, coffee & mince pies

with the Grammar School Band



QUEEN'S CROSS CHURCH

Think | Explore | Grow | Connect

Albyn Place AB10 1YN - Phone: 01224 644742

DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sunday 3 February

9:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Kid's Minecraft Club @ Cognito at the Cross

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

18:30 Sundays @ 6.30 Concert Series @ Sanctuary

Sunday 10 February

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

Monday 11 February

19:30 Aberdeen Chamber Music Concert @ Sanctuary

Sunday 17 February

9:30 Traditional Worship @ Sanctuary

10:30 All Age Worship @ Sanctuary

Sunday 24 February

10:30 Worship @ Sanctuary

Celebrate Christmas with us!

Advent Service with QX Nursery Nativity **Sunday 16 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!

Carols round the Tree **Sunday 16 December, 6:30 pm**

Singing carols is something we all love to do at Christmas. Join us on Sunday 16th 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 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 Carols **Wednesday 19 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 neighbourhood this coming festive season. So why not take part in the real spirit of Christmas and come along to our special Queen's Cross Business Community Carol Service on Wednesday 19th December at 12:30? 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!

Beer & Carols **Sunday 23 December, 6:30 pm**

This year for the first time we are joining with our friends at The Dutch Mill to host a new community event – 'Beer and Carols'. A lot of traditional Christmas Music has its origins in folk tunes which would have been sung in pubs in centuries gone by. So we thought, why not get everyone together in our 'local' to sing some Christmas Songs, share some Christmas festivities over a beer or glass of wine, get everyone in the mood, as well as raise some funds of charity. Why not come and join us on Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm (straight after the footie!) for some fun and song at 'the Dutcher'. It's sure to be great fun!



Christmas Eve Family Service with Christingles **Monday 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 **Monday 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.

Wishing you
a lovely festive
season!

Queen's Cross Parish Church

Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YN
Office opening times:
Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
01224 644742

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

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