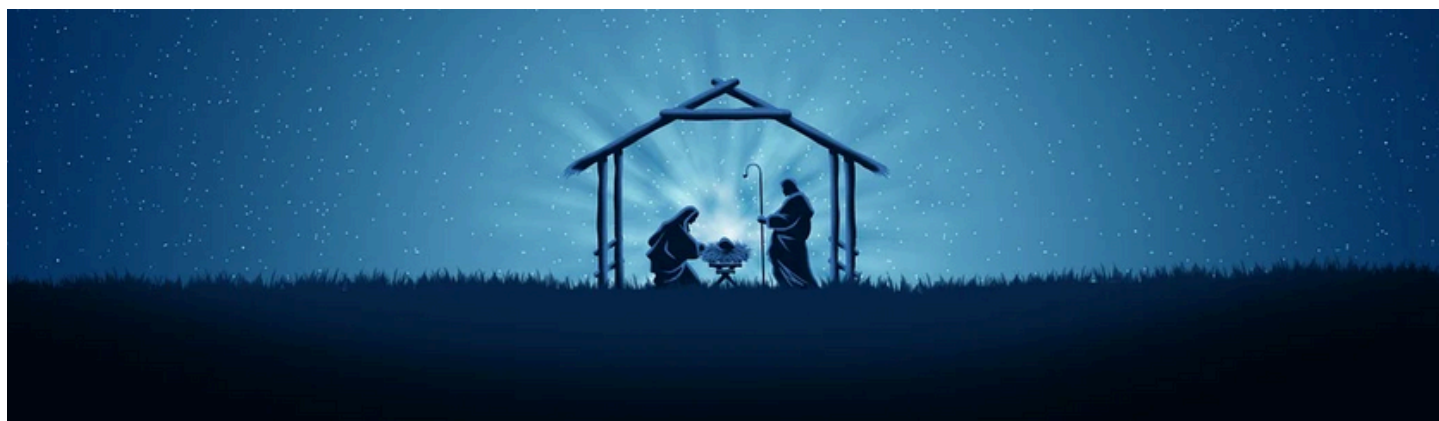


Northesk News



Join us for worship:

In person – Sundays at 11am

YouTube – @NortheskParishChurch

Contact Details:

Minister:

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NORTHESK CHURCH, MUSSELBURGH

Minister's Message

The Rev Hayley Cohen

"O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til he appears and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

One of my favourite Christmas carols is O Holy Night, which was written by Placide Chapeau (who strangely enough was avowed atheist). Placide was a wine merchant and poet and he was asked by his local parish priest to write a poem to celebrate the renovation of the church's organ. Using the Gospel of Luke for research, Placide came up with the now famous words sung across the world at Christmas. Placide's lack of faith did not stop him from being able to capture the very essence of the message of Christian hope – that Jesus breaks into our weary world to usher in a new and glorious morning. It is that thrill of hope, as Placide calls it, that I love about Advent and Christmas.

Advent is a time of waiting, expecting, hoping, longing as we wait for the arrival of Christ at Christmas and yet also anticipate and hope for his coming again. It is that season of waiting that allows us to feel thrilled on Christmas morning as we celebrate God coming to us in Jesus, the hope of light in darkness. Perhaps it is a bit of seasonal sadness or maybe it is the results of the American election but I find myself feeling much more weary this winter than usual. Maybe you ...

Minister's Message cont.

find yourself, for whatever reason, weary as well. It is into our weariness that Jesus comes to be with us, to stand alongside us, to share with us our humanity, and to fulfil the Divine promise that weariness will end and a new and glorious morn is already breaking.

I hope you will join us this Advent and Christmas season for the many joyful things, balms for our weariness, that we have planned to celebrate the coming light in the darkness who is Christ, our Saviour.

Rev Hayley Cohen

The Moderator's Challenge

Attached to the newsletter is information regarding a challenge from the current Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, called "Let your little light shine: Building God's People Through Education in Malawi". The challenge will help provide light to schools, students, and children in Malawi. The Kirk Session would commend this to you if you are looking to support an international mission project this Christmas. Information about how to donate can be found in the supplement attached. Our joint service on the 29th December at St Michael's Inveresk Hall will include a collection for the challenge.

Northesk Guild

The Guild is thriving, with 27 members to date, and we give a special welcome to four new members from St Andrews High. The programme is going well, with interesting talks from Tony and Sheila Thornthwaite on their lives in the RAF and then later in churches in different parts of Scotland; the 900th anniversary of St Giles Cathedral; some fun with favourite hats; a talk on Eglantyne Jebb, founder of Save the Children. We finish with a talk on Unida, one of the Guild projects, in Brazil, (when we will be joined by Portobello Guild) and we end the year with our Christmas party on 18 December.

We will be making donations to Unida and to Chocolate Heaven, as well as to Northesk Church. I am grateful for the commitment and generosity of our members and of friends who come along to our meetings.

We welcome the arrival of the new red chairs in the hall! And look forward to using a new TV screen in future. Our thanks go to Hayley and the Kirk Session for their support, and also for ensuring that we have a warm hall to be in and good facilities.

After a break over the new year, we will be starting up again on 22 January – please look out for the announcements on the screen each Sunday. Information is also on the website. Some of our members are unable to join us due to ill health but we try to keep them in touch with what is happening in the Guild. We also exchange messages and photos with Ruth in Tindharia, and the ladies of the Women's Conference. We welcomed our Guild Link, Wardie Church, in October and we will visit them in March.

Thank you,
Dorothy McCann

Twinning News: St John Tindharia



Bill Stevenson (our Presbytery coordinator visiting St John)



Bill with Mashi Prakash and his wife Martha (young man unknown)



Ladies' choir at a recent Women's Fellowship Conference



The calendar produced by the Conference - Bill will be bringing one to us.

Carol Singing around Musselburgh

Ecumenical Carol Singing led by our friends at St Peter's Episcopal Church will take place on the 14th December in the morning starting at 10am. We'll begin at the Spar on Pinkie Road then head to St Anne's Care Home and then on to St Peter's. All are welcome! Carol sheets will be provided.



Christmas Eve Pop Up Nativity



It's becoming a much beloved Northesk tradition! Join us on the 24th December at 4:30pm for our Pop Up Nativity Christmas Eve Service. This year the 'star' of the show is the 'star' that led the Shepherd's and Wisemen to baby Jesus! Come dressed in your Christmas finest, a starry outfit, or as a character from the Christmas story.

Christmas Day Service

Our Christmas Day service will be at 10:30am on the 25th December. Join us for a short service to celebrate the coming of Christ on Christmas Day.



Christmas Fayre

You look forward to it every year! Our Christmas Fayre is back and will be on the 7th December from 10:00am-12:00pm in the church hall. We'll have our famous Christmas Hamper Raffle, home baking, Christmas gifts, Men's Shed, tea and coffee, filled rolls and more! We'll get in the Christmas spirit with music by our very talented, Jeonghee Min. Come along and join the fun.



A Christmas Fantasy: Christmas Concert



Join us for an evening of wonderful Christmas music on Wednesday, 11th December at 7pm. Programme includes Jeonghee Min on piano and organ, Penicuik and Musselburgh Boys' Brigade Pipe Band, Alex Elgin and Jane McWhirter, Rev Hayley Cohen, Northesk Church Choir, Ukulele Band and more! Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children. They are available for purchase from the Social Activities Committee or you can pay at the door (cash only). Refreshments will be available in the Hall afterwards. This is a Christmas event not to be missed!

Christingle Service at St Michael's Hall

St Michael's Inveresk are hosting a Christingle Service on the 22nd December at 4pm in St Michael's Hall. The service which will appeal to all ages but is designed particularly with younger ones in mind will be led by representatives from all three Musselburgh Church of Scotland Churches.

Advent Family Nativity Sunday

Join us for worship on the 15th December at 11am for a special 12 Days of Christmas Pop Up Nativity for our Family Sunday service. Help Hayley tell the Christmas story and learn about the very noisy night that Jesus was born!



Musselburgh Pantry Appeals

This Advent and Christmas, we're supporting the work of the Musselburgh Community Pantry based up at MECA. The Pantry offer a non-referral service to people experiencing food poverty in our community. They operate Mondays 12-1 and 6-7, Tuesdays 6-7, and Thursdays 6-7. Giving people dignity and choice, the Pantry offer 5 items for £2 or a maximum of 10 items for £3.

We have two ways you can support their work this season:

First is the Blessings in a Bag appeal. Buy a shopping bag or use one you've already got at home and fill it with items to help provide Christmas Dinner for someone in need. You can do it by yourself or team up with a friend or a group to fill the bag. Return your filled bag to Northesk for the service on the 15th December where we will say a prayer for the people who will receive them.

Items for the bag are:

- Gravy granules
- Tinned ham/meat
- Tea
- Box of chocolates
- Tinned soup
- Crackers
- Tinned vegetables (potatoes, peas, sweetcorn)
- Tinned soup
- Shortbread/biscuits
- Custard
- Christmas pudding or cake
- Optional extras (to be put in a separate bag so they can be allocated to those who need them):
Christmas crackers, crisps, children's snacks/treats



The second is our Trim the Tree appeal. Buy new or donate good condition hats, gloves, and scarves for adults and children and pop them on the Christmas tree which will be located in the prayer corner. Underneath the tree, we're asking for children's books for all ages new or in good condition. Our offerings will trim the tree for those in need. All items will be donated to the Musselburgh Community Pantry and anything excess will be donated to local children's charities to benefit families in need in our community. Again, items need to be in by the 15th December for our service so we can say a prayer for the people who will receive them.

You're welcome to contribute to both these appeals or one and please do consider teaming up to help fill a bag.

Joint Service at St Michael's Hall

We will be joining with our siblings across the Church of Scotland churches in Musselburgh on the 29th December at 11am at St Michael's Hall on Dalrymple Loan. There will be no service held at Northesk this day.

Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

St Andrew's High is hosting a Watchnight Christmas Eve service at 11:30pm until just after midnight. Witness the arrival of that blessed Christmas morn with our friends at St Andrew's.

Carols by Candlelight Service

St Peter's Episcopal Church is hosting a Carols by Candlelight Service on the 22nd December at 630pm. Anyone interested in helping with their music would be appreciated and is welcome to contact their priest, Daniel, clergy@stpeters.scot.



Congregational Church Christmas Tree Festival



Join our friends at the Congregational church for their Christmas Tree Festival. Open 1st Dec from 12:30–3:00pm, 6th December from 12:30–3:00pm and 8th December from 12:30–4:00pm. 8th December will include a 4pm service of story and song. Refreshments and children's crafts will be available.

St Andrew's High Midweek Advent Service

Join St Andrew's High at 2pm on the 3rd December for a short midweek communion service to mark the season of Advent. This service is particularly designed for those who might struggle getting to church in the mornings or prefer not to go out in the evenings but all are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Members of Northesk and friends have been very busy knitting angels that will be appearing on the railings outside the church every Sunday throughout Advent. Passersby from the community are encouraged to take an angel home with them as a Christmas gift from Northesk and a reminder of the birth of Christ which the angels heralded. A huge thank you to everyone who has knitted the angels and arranged for them to appear each Sunday!

