

Spring
is coming



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DISCOVER
DEVANA
PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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Spring
2026

Journeying Together by Faith - in Hope - with Love

The Road to Golgotha

In the last issue of Discover Devana we introduced our year-long journey through the whole of the Gospel of Luke which started in Advent 2025. We are now on a very specific part of that journey.

Because the church calendar does not follow a nice neat pattern where we celebrate Jesus' birth at the beginning and then his death and resurrection at the end, as the Gospel account does, we have had to be a bit creative in how we explore the Gospel.

We have thus split the year into sections. First we looked at 'The Beginnings' as we made our way through Advent and to the birth of Jesus. Then we started a section titled 'The Road to Golgotha' which we are in the midst of now and will take us

to 'The Passion' and Holy Week. Our final long section that will take us from Easter all the way through the remainder of the year we have titled 'The Ministry of Jesus'. It will cover most of Jesus' life and teaching.

At the moment we are delving deep into parts of Luke's Gospel that help to illuminate the road to Golgotha: the Hill of the Skull (as Luke calls it) where Jesus was crucified.

What were the actions and words that Jesus was using that prompted many in positions of power and authority to seek to have him silenced? What does that speak to us in our own time?

You are most welcome to join us onsite or online as we continue this journey along the road to Golgotha.



E-News

If you would like a weekly email with news from Devana Parish Church of Scotland you can subscribe at www.devanaparishchurch.org

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2026 Edition of Discovering Devana.

As I write this it is yet another dull, wet day in Aberdeen. Hopefully by the time you are reading it the sun will be shining and the days will be brighter. Looking forward to the months of March, April and May (which this issue covers) I am optimistically dreaming of more outdoor activities in better weather than we have had lately.

Devana's Third Birthday is fast approaching too! We've survived the "terrible two's" and now we're ready to go to Nursery at aged three and learn a lot more.

As we go forward into Spring may we be Rejuvenated and Enlivened.

Happy Reading, and as always, many thanks to those who helpfully contributed.

Mary T

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25 Years Of Ordination



We have 21st Century Ministers! In 2000 Rev David Stewart was ordained as a Minister in Stonehaven and in 2001 Rev Peter Johnston was ordained in Blantyre.

At the Winter Warmer event we managed to surprise David with a cake to celebrate his 25 years as a minister. As April approaches Peter will be looking out for his cake too as he reaches the same milestone!

1
MAR

Morning Worship Second Sunday in Lent 'Seeking Until You Find'

We move to Holburn Street for March services with a service that includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a contribution from Devana Choir.

2
MAR

The Devana Guild

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall (Holburn Street) at 2 p.m. A presentation will be provided on the work of the charity We Too! which we supported in our Christmas Offerings.

"What shall we pray?"

Prayer Ideas

please pray for

People caught up in violence in so many parts of our world as we remember that the Ukraine war has been waged now for more than four years.

For all charities that are providing some tangible hope, especially We Too!, DEC and AberNecessities.

For all for whom life seems burdensome and who long to know God's peace and rest..

Supporting Others

A huge thank you to everyone that has supported our fundraising work for other groups over the last few months. This makes a big difference in the lives of other people both here in our own community and across the world.

Our Christmas Offerings raised over £1,100 to support We Too! and the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

The Christmas Fair raised over £2,000 to support AberNecessities, a 'baby bank' charity providing basic necessities to disadvantaged families.

The Guild held a successful Coffee Morning on Saturday 21 February and raised £818 to support the Guild Projects.

Exploring

Lent 2026 Sunday Evening Discussion Series

We are running another Lent Discussion Group during the season of Lent. The Worship Team has picked what looks like a very interesting course that is based on the internationally-acclaimed true-life film 'Touching the Void'. The film follows the story of two climbers' fight for survival when disaster strikes during an expedition in the Andes.

Using clips from the film as a starter we will explore various themes during Lent that will help us reflect in the Lent season on our own journey through life. Everyone is welcome to

Recognising Long Service

Each year we have an opportunity to recognise the long service of folks in the Kirk. This year we had certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Rosie Frew, and presented to Alison Low and Fiona Firth, both for 30 years of ordination as elders.

At our Devana service on 15 February we also celebrated this and presented the certificate for 40 years of eldership to Marjorie Lord, plus a wee recognition of 30 years as a Session Clerk to Lorna Glen. Well done, good and faithful servants!



Sunday Club

Got kids aged 5–15? We'd love to welcome them to our fun and friendly Sunday Club with Bible stories, games, activities, and more!

Sundays (term-time) 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We usually start in the morning service and then go out to our own room.

For more information, please speak to either Cecilia Young or Carolyn Johnston on a Sunday morning.

If you would like to join our Sunday Club leaders team then please do also speak to Cecilia or Carolyn.

World Day of Prayer Service

6
MAR

This annual service will be hosted at Fonthill Road at 2 p.m. The service is prepared by women from Nigeria with a theme of 'I will give you rest—Come!'

8
MAR

Morning Worship Third Sunday in Lent 'On Fig Trees'

Morning Worship planned by William Rae as part of his Worship Leader's Training course.

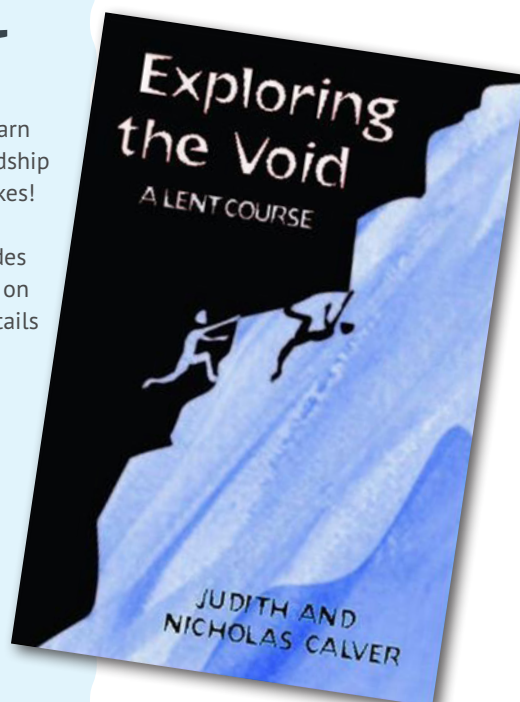
the Void

Join this journey, in which we learn together, with some warm friendship and, often, some lovely homebakes!

Audio introductions and postludes from each session are available on the website as well as Zoom details if you wish to join us online.

Sundays 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Foyer (Fonthill Road) or Jubilee Hall (Holburn Street)

**22 February (Fonthill)
1 March (Holburn)
8 March (Fonthill)
15 March (Holburn)
22 March (Fonthill)**



Devana Choir Appeal

We need your voices! Devana Choir would love to add some more singers.

Particularly we are looking to add to the high voices (soprano) and low voices (bass). Please do speak to Kevin, our organist and choir leader, if you are interested to find out more.

Rehearsals are usually on a Thursday evening in the Small Hall at our Fonthill Road site.

If you are worried that you cannot read music, don't worry! You are not alone and we have other ways to learn the parts such as with audio guide tracks.

Come along and join the fun!



Listen To The Flowers

A Spring Poem

The Snow silences nature with a white blanket.
But look and listen...
Can you hear that whisper?
Look again... Really listen... There it is.
The Whisper of the delicate Snowdrops
as they bravely wave through the snow.
"Winter is coming to an end soon. Spring is on its way."

As the days get slowly longer another sound is heard.
Listen... Look... Can you hear it?
Is that Giggling?
It is!
It is the Giggle of the Crocuses as they cluster together,
in their brightly coloured groups.
Chuckling.

"The Spring sunshine is getting warmer."

Craft Group

11
MAR

The Craft Group meets at 2 p.m. in the Den at Fonthill Road. Note that it meets fortnightly.

Morning Worship Fourth Sunday in Lent 'Insurrection or Revolt?'

15
MAR

We continue our journey along the road to Golgotha in our service as we hear Jesus' story of the rebellious tenants of the vineyard.

St Mark's Church History

Devana Parish, as you may know, is a union of St Mark's, St John's Deaf Church, South Holburn and Ferryhill.

Each Church has its own history. In this issue we will explore St Mark's.

South Holburn and Ferryhill and St John's will be explored in future issues.

When St Mark's was built it was designed by A. Marshall MacKenzie, constructed of Kemnay Granite with the façade modelled on St Paul's Cathedral in London.

It famously later became known as the 'Salvation' amongst the three local buildings—Education, Salvation and Damnation—with the library to

the west and the theatre to the east.

In 1892 the original congregation of the South Church moved into their new building.

They flourished under many ministers for the next decades.

When the Rev Dr James Wood MA DD retired in 1972, after serving for 19 years, the South Church formed a union with East & Belmont. It was at this point they became St Mark's Church.

The Rev Walter Gordon from East & Belmont took charge of the united congregation.

Nearby Trinity Church suffered a

fire in their building during the late 1970s and so began to share worship with St Mark's while repairs were undertaken. Unfortunately, dry rot was discovered which made the Trinity building unviable.

Thus in 1981 Trinity united with St Mark's.

As the 20th century progressed into the 21st progress was made with the installation of St Mark's first lady minister in 2010, Rev Diane Hobson. Her time there was relatively short as she had to retire due to ill health in 2017. This left St Mark's without a minister.

They united with Queen Street Church in November of 2017.

The Clocks change.

Time marches on.

But what's that NOISE!

The Daffodils have arrived
with a LOUD flourish,

as they Trumpet
the news,

"IT'S SPRINGTIME!"



Opening Times

Both our Café and Coffee Shop are open for their regular times and provide a warm welcome.

The Coffee Shop at Fonthill Road is open 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Café at Holburn Street is open each Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Devana Guild

16
MAR

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall (Holburn Street) at 2 p.m. and with a talk about the Operation Hope Project.

22
MAR

Morning Worship Fifth Sunday in Advent 'Pretending to be Honest'

This week we find Jesus in a direct confrontation with some spies sent by the authorities to try to trap him.

Valiantly the congregation soldiered on with Rev John Watson, a former minister, serving as Locum Minister and with various Interim Moderators, including our own Rev David Stewart, until in 2023 they united with Ferryhill and South Holburn to form the new Devana Parish Church. The last service for the St Mark's congregation was held on 21st May 2023.

The St Mark's Church building currently remains the responsibility of the Kirk Session of Devana Parish Church as a new purpose and owner is sought for the building. Many conversations and viewings have been undertaken, but as yet without successful conclusion.



Church Administrator

At the time of preparing this issue of Discover Devana, the congregation's staffing group are in the process of recruiting someone to take on the role of Church Administrator. We hope to be able to intimate some news about that in due course.

In the meantime we take the opportunity to thank Julie Mackie for her service and her contribution to the congregation and parish life over the last three years and nine months. We all wish her well as she explores the next phase of her life and career with God's guiding hand. After much thought and prayerful consideration, Julie decided it was time to move on from her role as Church Administrator.

Julie passed on her appreciation for all the support she had received from the congregation during her time with us.

Palm Sunday Labyrinth

This year Palm Sunday falls on 29 March. In addition to our Morning Worship we will also be creating a reflective journey through some of the events of the upcoming week in our Palm Sunday Labyrinth.

This is open for people to drop in to between 3 and 5 p.m. on Sunday 29 March in the Sanctuary at Devana Parish Church (Fonthill Road). Please come along and spend a bit of time away from the busy-ness of life to remember the events of Holy Week.



Palm Sunday Service and Reflective Labyrinth

29
MAR

Two very different opportunities to worship on Palm Sunday with our morning worship at Holburn Street and reflective labyrinth in the afternoon (see article above).

30
MAR

The Devana Guild

Meeting for an Easter-themed event at the usual time of 2 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall (Holburn Street).

The Ministry Team

An Update From The Ministry Team

David writes: "Just now I am thinking a lot about Presbytery Committees. My term as convenor of one of the committees comes to an end in June and I am trying to make sure that all the different tasks that are on our current agenda are all completed, so that the next convenor can start with a clean slate. So, I am currently re-reading the most recent decisions of the General Assembly regarding the choosing and training and supporting those in the ministries of the Church—which is fun (sort of!).

"As we approach another Devana Church birthday in May, Peter and I have been thinking and talking about

how Devana Parish Church plans for the future. The Church of Scotland has asked each congregation to prepare a five-year plan. Of course, this could easily become just a 'paper exercise'! But we think that it would be good for us as a Church to think about what we want to achieve over the next few years. This covers all aspects of our Church life from our buildings to our worship to our place in the community. With this in mind, we have asked all the various Church Teams to nominate someone from their membership to be part of a 'development group' which will begin meeting soon. We will keep you up to date with the discussions."

Mary has been busy trying to find a

new home for the Elgin Deaf Church and Club who found themselves without a place to meet and has had some success! She is also planning for a Scottish Deaf Choirs Festival for the autumn, about which more in the months to come as it will be hosted at Devana (Fonthill Road).

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You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.



Devana Neighbourhoods

We have been busy delivering letters and a flyer out to all the households that are part of our congregation over the last month or so. This introduced our Devana Neighbourhoods.

Recognising both the challenge and the need to support the congregation, the Kirk Session agreed to work towards creating Devana Neighbourhoods, areas of the city and shire. Part of that process has been letting you all know about this through the flyer that has been circulated.

The purpose is to create neighbourhoods where folks will begin to get to know each other and thus be able to support one another as needs arise.

Should you not want to take part in this then please do indicate this on the flyer and send back to us. We would hope that most of us will want to participate as we remember that great commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves.

The flyers also give you an opportunity to let us know of any contact detail changes and to update the contact information we hold if, for instance, you have an email address. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Holy Week Services

30
MAR

We will be holding evening services starting at 7 p.m. each evening of Holy Week (please see back page for details of venue).

5
APR

Easter Sunday

A full day of celebration starting at 8 a.m. in Duthie Park with breakfast following and then Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m. in Fonthill Road which will include Holy Communion and be followed by a congregational lunch.

Easter Craft Gift Stall

The Devana Craft Group is gearing up to create some wonderful Easter gifts that they hope will be on sale from Sunday 22 March after worship in the Main Hall and at the Coffee Shop in our Fonthill Road site.

You will find fun and thoughtful gift ideas for the season with funds raised going towards a resource for the church of the Ministers' choosing. They are pondering that at the moment!

So please do browse the stall when it appears. The Craft Group are aiming to have it available after worship on Sundays 22 and 29 March and during the week in the Coffee Shop at Fonthill Road.

Thanks to all in the Craft Group for offering this to us all. If you would like to know more about joining the Craft Group, they meet regularly in The Den at Fonthill Road and always welcome anyone to join in.

Skills are learnt from each other, so you do not need to be an expert crafter to have some fun and pick up some new ideas.





Holy Week & Easter Worship

Palm Sunday

29 March 2026

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship (Holburn Street)

3-5 p.m. Reflective Space for Palm Sunday
(Fonthill Road)

Monday

30 March 2026

7 p.m. Evening Service (Holburn Street)

Tuesday

31 March 2026

7 p.m. Evening Service (Holburn Street)

Wednesday

1 April 2026

7 p.m. Evening Service (Holburn Street)

Maundy Thursday

2 April 2026

7 p.m. Evening Service with light supper
and celebration of the Lord's Supper
(Fonthill Road)

Good Friday

3 April 2026

7 p.m. Evening Service with Passion
narrative (Fonthill Road)

Holy Saturday

4 April 2026

2 p.m. Short Service in Allanvale Cemetery
(meet at the main entrance by the
gate house)

Easter Sunday

5 April 2026

8 a.m. Dawn Service in Duthie Park (meet
near the cafe) followed by breakfast
rolls in the Large Hall (Fonthill Road)

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship including
Sacrament of Holy Communion
(Fonthill Road)

12 noon Congregational Easter Lunch in the
Large Hall