

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Aberdeen City Council – Benefits and Money Advice
<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/moneyadvice/>

Citizens Advice Bureau
<http://www.cas.org.uk/bureaux/aberdeen-citizens-advice-bureau>

Cairns Counselling Service
<http://cairnscounselling.org.uk/>

Community Food Initiatives North East
<http://www.cfine.org/>

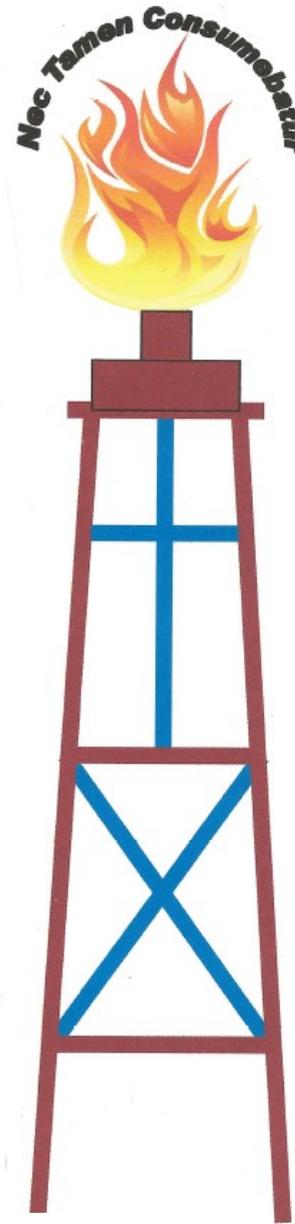
Instant Neighbour
<http://www.instantneighbour.co.uk/>

The Lighthouse
<https://lighthouse-abdn.org.uk/>

The Trussell Trust Food Bank
<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/aberdeen-south-foodbank/>

UK Oil and Gas Chaplaincy
<http://www.ukoilandgaschaplaincy.com/>

CITOI - Christians In The Oil Industry
<http://www.citoy.org/>



Church of Scotland **PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN**

Some suggested prayer points for congregations and individuals to use, when reflecting on the current challenges facing the North East economy and community.

The Presbytery of Aberdeen's Church and Society Committee has produced a pastoral report, highlighting the impact of recent cutbacks in the UK oil and gas industry on the North East economy and community. The report recognises that the recent downturn has had widespread effects on the lives of people in Aberdeen and beyond.

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to reflect on the report which is available from the Presbytery Office. You are also invited to make use of the prayer points in this leaflet as we remember the needs of people in our churches and parishes.

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbour. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. (Deuteronomy chapter 15 verses 7 and 8.)

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. " (Matthew chapter 11 verses 28 to 30.)

Please pray for:

- Any from the oil and gas industry who have experienced redundancy as a result of the downturn.
- People in the industry whose jobs are uncertain, or who are coping with changed shifts or reduced salaries.
- Those who are facing serious financial hardship through loss of income.
- Any whose health and wellbeing are affected by work-related stress or redundancy.
- Children who are experiencing disruption in their home lives and education.
- Local people who are struggling to sell their homes in a depressed property market.
- Students and school-leavers who are struggling to get placements and jobs.
- Those who work in local retail and service industries which have experienced a downturn.
- Those who work for agencies which provide practical support, advice, or counselling for people in need.
- The UK Oil and Gas Chaplaincy in its pastoral work in Aberdeen and beyond.
- Those who were already experiencing the effects of poverty and who may be further disadvantaged by the trickle-down effect.
- Leaders in the oil and gas industry who endeavour to keep the industry operational in difficult times.
- Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and the those who work for government in Holyrood and in Westminster, as they seek a sustainable future for the North East of Scotland.