



NORTHERN LIGHT

News from the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

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Issue 102

A New Centre of Mission in Aberdeen



*Gerry and Jo Bowyer, Kerry Dixon and
Bishop Anne outside Café @ Credo*

The Church Army and the United Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney are together establishing a Centre of Mission in Aberdeen City. The Centre of Mission will build on and extend the work done over a number of years by the Church Army Evangelists Gerry and Jo Bowyer. The Centre, led by the Rev'd Capt Gerry Bowyer, will be resourced from three locations:

- St Devenick's Church, Bieldside, led by Gerry Bowyer.
- Caf4e at Credo on John Street in the city centre led by Jo Bowyer.
- the Missional community Caf4e in Bridge of Don led by a new church army Evangelist to be appointed.

Through this new centre of Mission, the Church Army and the Diocese will look to resource evangelism in partnership with other churches, including Ecumenical partners.

Bishop Anne said:

"I am delighted that the Church Army is investing further resources into the City of Aberdeen. The churches in the city are concerned with sharing the love of God through mission and evangelism in many and varied ways. The development of the Centre of Mission will support and encourage wider engagement, especially among those who are not presently part of church communities."

Rev'd Capt Gerry said:

"This will help bring into reality a vision Jo and I had for many years, to create a Centre of Mission in Aberdeen, which will model a varied way of making new disciples. In the long term we want to see churches in our diocese grow and if the Church Army team can be an advocate, to resource and enable others in mission then we will have achieved our goal."

Canon Neil Brice installed in the Cathedral

The Rev'd Canon Neil Brice has been installed as a Canon of St Andrew's Cathedral in a ceremony on Sunday 2 September. Neil continues to serve as Rector of our Shetland Churches.



Kerry Dixon, of the Church Army said:

"Church Army are delighted at the partnership with Bishop Anne and The United Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney in establishing a new centre of mission in Aberdeen. This follows in a great Church Army tradition of working together to share the gospel so that lives are transformed and those who would never darken the door of a church building have the opportunity to become a follower of Jesus!"

Ready for Harvest

In the quietness of the old church
Propped in the corner
Stands the sheaf of corn
Pale gold, gleaming in the light
Stirred by the breeze, it rustles slightly
The seeds are ripe,
Ready for the harvest
For the planting
For the coming year
Waiting
For future to be decided.

Rev'd Vittoria Hancock

Friends, not servants

Bishop Anne writes:

We are all called in minister in Jesus' name, to be his servants, but we remember that Jesus called his disciples his friends. Friendship in congregations, and between churches, is very important. As I travel from place to place I can see how important this is to you.



In order to deepen the friendships and our common sense of serving together, we are making a change to the pattern of meeting for Diocesan Synod. The Synod meeting will now begin at 2pm on Friday 1 March, and finish around 4pm on Saturday 2 March.

On the Friday afternoon there will be a short conference session, to enable us to learn together. The afternoon will be followed by a Diocesan Eucharist at 5pm in the Cathedral. This service will be a Celebration of Ministry to which everyone, whether a synod member or not, is invited. It will include a renewal of baptism and ministerial vows and promises, and the blessing of the oils used in ministry. On the Friday evening there will be a dinner for Synod members. On the Saturday Synod business will begin with Morning Prayer and run through the day in the usual way.

The conference session, dinner and synod sessions will take place in the Hilton Doubletree, Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen. Overnight accommodation will be available to all Synod members, although those that live in Aberdeen City might travel home.

A more detailed programme will be available by the end of 2018. This article is notice to the Diocese of the change, so that Synod members can plan, and non-synod members can put the Diocesan Service in their diaries.

And other news, the Office is moving:

The Diocesan Office will be moving from the current premises in Mastrick sometime around the end of October. We are moving to offices in Marischal College in the centre of the city, made available to us by the University of Aberdeen. Our new premises will be conveniently close to the train and bus stations for those coming by public transport, and there is parking close by in Gallowgate.

Island Clergy and Lay Readers renew vows

The service took place at St Olaf's Church in Kirkwall.

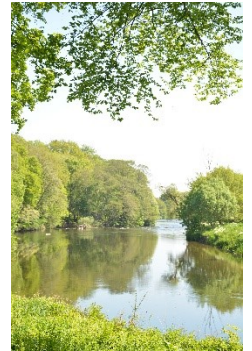
Oils were also blessed for use on the Islands.



A reflective walk in the Fetternear Estate

At the end of May, some members of the Aberdeen Epiphany Group took part in a reflective walk through the Fetternear Estate, Kemnay. A booklet of information, quotations and questions to ponder, assisted the journey.

We stopped at the bridge over the River Don. The river was in "keld" mode: deep, still with an oily smoothness, then ruffling at the bend. It stole the images of the trees and the understory, capturing them in a polished mirror. The 2nd century Greco-Roman geographer, astrologer and poet, Ptolemy of Alexandria, called the river *Anouava Devona*, meaning "goddess", an indication that it was once held to be sacred.



Our focus was Christocentric. The Victorian poet Gerard Manley Hopkins coined the terms 'inscape', the particular features of a certain landscape; and 'instress' which reflects the actual experience of the reader. Hopkins was influenced by Duns Scotus, the 14th century philosopher-theologian who placed Christ at the centre of a universe ordered by love. In Ignation spirituality, all the things in this world are gifts of God, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.

The wild herbs and flowers entangled each other in an ecstasy of praise for their Creator; leaves unfurled in joy; and buds were impatient to bloom; choruses of birdsong burst through the stillness; flowers pulsed scent to butterflies; and the trees pumped out oxygen - and pollen! A little stream murmured, whispered and rattled as it trickled under the road. A short detour took us to the site of Fetternear Palace. The gaunt ruin is of Fetternear House, burnt down in 1919, but includes the remains of a 14th century palace, home of Bishop Alexander de Kininmund. The bishop spent Easter in Aberdeen, summer at Fetternear, autumn at Old Rayne and Christmas at Mortlach, from where he undertook pastoral visitations "to educate his flock and correct their errors".

At the fork of the road a large beech tree enquired of us and our route. In his book *I and Thou*, the philosopher Martin Buber says, "I consider a tree. I can look on it as a picture: stiff column in a shock of light, or splash of green shot with the delicate blue and silver of the background. I can perceive it as movement: flowing veins on clinging, pressing pith, suck of the roots, breathing of the leaves, ceaseless commerce with earth and air - and the obscure growth itself." The beech-lined avenue opened up to a birch wood, and the grassland sparkled with wild hyacinth, wood anemone, lesser celandine, common dog-violet and speedwell, to name but a few spring jewels. Ground elder was also common. It's also called Bishop's Weed, as apparently it has curative properties for sufferers of gout! Medieval bishops evidently suffered.

Climbing up through Cot Town Wood, we paused to take in the view over the fields and woods to Bennachie - from the Gaelic *Beinn na Ciche*: 'hill of the breast' - otherwise known

as 'Mither Tap'. Then we were ready for lunch. The vow of silence was lifted and a group photo taken. After the circuit of the wood we made a short detour to "St Ninian's Chapel",



graveyard and well. The original 12th century parish church, dedicated to St Ninian no longer remains, so what is visible is an unconsecrated church built by the Leslie family adjoining the north wall of the medieval church.

As we returned, Annie Dillard's words from *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* may have prompted some silent thoughts after this 6 mile walk, "I am a frayed and nibbled survivor in a fallen world, and I am getting along. I am aging and eaten and have done my share of eating too. I am not washed and beautiful, in control of a shining world in which everything fits, but instead am wandering awed about on a splintered wreck I've come to care for, whose gnawed trees breathe a delicate air, whose bloodied and scarred creatures are my dearest companions, and whose beauty beats and shines not 'in' its imperfections but overwhelmingly in spite of them, under the wind-rent clouds, upstream and down."

So how are you feeling today?

Richard Murray

St Magnus' is revealing



For many years now St Magnus Scottish Episcopal Church in Greenfield Place, Lerwick has been well known for a number of reasons. For some it is simply the most beautiful church in town. For others it is the fact that it is always open for private space and contemplation. Many visitors come because of the historic stained glass we have, designed by the artist Sir Ninian Comper. There have been a number of people who visit the church who are amazed at the rather "curious" wallpaper that covers the Chancel Walls. Some mischievously describe it as "curry house" flavour.

We have known that under this paper lies an amazing story, and this is now beginning to get told.

In 1864 when the church was built, the Rector of that time was Reverend Robert Walker. He set about designing and then painting the Chancel walls. It would have been a huge

task and it is thought he had help from a retired priest who happened to be in the choir at that time, Reverend McKay. The wall paintings stretched from floor to roof level and were intricate and interesting, often showing various religious themes such as white lilies, which symbolise Jesus' mother Mary. Evergreens and other symbols were also included.

As time passed some of these paintings probably faded, some plaster may have been damaged by damp, some paint may have fallen away. By 1964 people in the church must have begun to feel that something should be done, and apparently some of the congregation began to restore some of the painting. However, and we do not know yet why, the process came to a halt, it would appear quite abruptly too! The walls were prepared and then papered over with "1970 style flock wallpaper" (probably at the time it was thought quite welcoming and seemly). It is possible that an important visit from a bishop caused this to be prompted.

In 2010 in the recent major restoration of the church fabric, some of the paper was removed and some of the East wall was repainted following the designs of Robert Walker. Some other paper was also removed to reveal interesting designs underneath as well as less interesting panels of orange.

In more recent months we have removed other paper from the North and South Chancel walls to reveal quite beautiful lilies and decorations.

Two weeks ago we took a further plunge and removed more paper from the East Wall and have now revealed even more beauty and interest. Now both Robert Walker's work as well as some 1960s hastily finished restoration is revealed and the story literally is unfolding.

We are delighted by what we can now see. It tells a wonderful story stretching down the years. A story of creativity, a story of sadness as the paint faded, a story of how tastes change, and how people work with what they have.

Needless to say we are now taking advice as to what to do next and how to do it! Certainly more can be revealed and the story can continue to unfold.

Do call in a take a look if you are passing

Neil Brice, Rector of St Magnus', Lerwick

A Note from the Editor:

Your editorial team have been delighted to receive news and pictures from all over the Diocese. Thank you for all the contributions, please keep them coming. Have you thought of sending poems, memories or letters to the editor? Northern Light could be a vehicle of encouragement and discussion.



The next edition will cover Advent and Christmas. Your inputs please by 16 November 2018, sooner if possible.

Michael.

FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

Marking the Anniversary of the Piper Alpha Tragedy



The bells of St. John's in Aberdeen were rung 167 times July 8th in memory of the lives lost at sea when Piper Alpha exploded.

A Lunch at Crathes



On Saturday 30 June Alex and Vinnie Burnett invited Bishop Anne and the congregation of St Ternan's Banchory to the grounds of their home in Crathes for a welcoming lunch party in their garden. Excellent food was served and the weather was beautiful. A day to remember.

Rev'd Lynsay Downs instituted at Banchory

The Rev'd Lynsay Downs was instituted by Bishop Anne as Rector of St Ternan's Church in Banchory on Saturday 11 August. We were glad to welcome Lynsay and her family from the Diocese of Edinburgh.



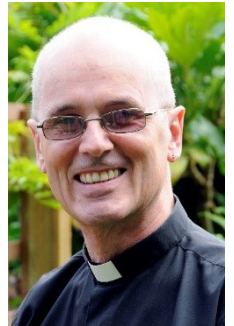
Ellon Local Voices



The church was full as St Mary-on-the-Rock in Ellon held a concert to celebrate local talent, featuring singers and musicians from the local community.

Rev'd Terry Taggart appointed at St Mary's, Carden Place, Aberdeen

The Rev'd Terry Taggart has been appointed as the new Rector of St Mary's Church, Carden Place in Aberdeen. Terry has been serving as Rector of St Peter's Church, Stornaway with St Moluag's Church, Eoropaidh on Lewis, and with responsibility for Christ Church, Harris.



Terry's institution service is at St Mary's on Thursday 27 September, 2018 at 7:30pm. We hold Terry and his wife Sam in our prayers as they move to Aberdeen and Terry begins his ministry amongst us.

Confirmations at the Cathedral

Bishop Anne has led two services of confirmation at St Andrew's Cathedral this summer.

Our congratulations and prayers are with all those who were confirmed.



St Drostan's Old Deer rededicated

St Drostan's Church in Old Deer was reopened in June and rededicated in a service led by Bishop Anne after extensive work to refurbish the building was completed.



Fraserburgh Patronal Festival



Gifts for the younger members of the church as our church in Fraserburgh celebrated its Patronal Festival on St Peter's Day. The children are pictured with the Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd Keith Suckling

Cathedral Choir tours round Diocese

Once again, the Cathedral Choir have spent Sunday evenings during the summer break offering services of Choral Evensong around the Diocese. Erica Steele reports on their visit to St Machar's Bucksburn:



The celebration of Choral Evensong on Sunday 26 August with members of St Andrew's Cathedral Choir was a beautiful service. Our Priest in Charge, Rev Dr Duncan Heddle, officiated

and welcomed the choir under their director Professor Andrew Morrisson. We were also pleased to welcome the Provost from St Andrew's, Very Rev Dr Isaac Poobalan, our neighbouring minister from Bucksburn Stoneywood Church, Rev Dr Nigel Parker, and visitors from other local churches in Bucksburn, Dyce, Middlefield, Powis and other areas. The congregation was also in good voice for the hymns and readings were by Mr Stewart Thain and Mrs Jenny Coleman. There was an abundant supply of cakes to go with the tea and coffee afterwards and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed.

In Search of Trinity Lights

The Vestry of St. Peter's, Peterhead, is trying to trace 2 Brass Standard Lights which used to take pride of place in the chancel prior to a refurbishment of the Church between 1976-1979. These "lights" were removed from the Church and put into storage, but sadly, have never been returned.

The Lights were donated to St. Peter's, Peterhead, in memory of Rev Dr Gilbert Rorison, who was Rector there from 1845-1869. Dr Rorison was the author of the hymn "Three in One and One in Three" which was first sung in St. Peter's on Trinity Sunday. Next year, 2019, marks 150 years of Dr Rorison's death, and also the 40th Anniversary of the Rededication of St. Peter's. It would be lovely to have these "Trinity Lights" back to where they belong in St. Peter's, Peterhead. Anyone who can "Shine a Light" on the missing lights, please contact either Richard O'Sullivan or Alistair Buchan via the Diocesan Office.

Kemnay's Green Initiative

This past summer has seen busy Monday mornings for the small congregation at St Anne's. Kemnay. For the 7th successive year we have opened our doors each Monday for our Green Initiative, our Garden



Produce Exchange. Berries (gooseberry, black and red currants), potatoes, lettuce with many other vegetables, as well as eggs, chutneys, marmalade, jams and homemade vegetable soup, all making an appearance on the exchange table. Although it is mainly about simply swapping, some are bought and the money together with a small donation for coffee and a 'fine piece' is largely given away. Over the years we have supported local concerns, such as the Scouts and Greener Kemnay. The latter was for establishing new allotments on waste ground and also for constructing new paths leading to attractive walks out of the village. We have also given to some cancer charities.

Thirty or more folk may turn up for a good 'blether' and it is a happy event, in which we are simply offering our building for use to the community, at the same time as offering, if wanted, a listening ear, or the offer of a prayer for someone in need. I very much believe that God is there in our conversations.



On one of the hottest Thursdays in July (St Anne's Day, July 26th) Bishop Anne joined our congregation for the first time to celebrate the Eucharist. It seemed entirely appropriate that the subject of her sermon was, of course, St Anne. It was good to relax outside in the church garden afterwards over lunch, to chat and for our Bishop to be able to meet us informally.

There is no documentary evidence as to why our church is named after the mother of the Virgin Mary, but it is believed St. Anne was a favourite of the Douglas family who held that lands of Kemnay in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries and that it was at that time that St. Anne was adopted as the patron saint of Kemnay.

Now for the next fortnight you will see two hedgehogs on our notice board outside the church. In fact, a visit to the village will see hedgehogs all over the place - 70 of them! Ours are psychedelic. Don't ask why but you could always take a run out along the Don to see for yourselves.

Avril Hern

General Synod – A view from on high

In a change from the norm, this year's General Synod article does not come from the Synod floor, but rather from the public gallery. It's written by Carol Graham, a member of St Mary's Church, Carden Place in Aberdeen:



I attended this year's General Synod in full as a visitor, something which I have been doing for the last few years. While the subject matter of this Synod was not as divisive as it has been in the past few years, there was still plenty of worthwhile items to discuss. Thursday started the ball rolling with the Eucharist and Primus' charge, and this is something that should not be missed. It is an awe-inspiring event, to be a part of such a large gathering worshipping God, particularly if you come from a smaller congregation. This year, visitors sat downstairs during the Eucharist and it gave a unique insight into what it is like on the "shop floor".

After the Ecumenical guests had been welcomed by the Primus, it was straight down to business and into budgets, quota and personnel issues, the kind of stuff most people find a little dry – but I personally enjoy. This year, there were a lot of spirited speakers on the wording of the personnel amendments resulting in them being withdrawn by the proposer. I was encouraged that Synod delegates were being proactive and examined each item thoroughly. The rest of the day's business was devoted to GDPR (boring!) and buildings committee, the technicalities of which went over my head, so I was ready for Evening Prayer, which was said together by members and the visitors sitting in the public gallery.

It was an early start the next morning with morning prayer at 9am – not good if you are a night owl – but it is still worth getting out of bed in time. The major thing that struck me just how empty the public gallery was compared to previous years. The lack of people present was also mirrored in the lack of social media interactions online. Social media, in particular, Twitter, has been fairly active during Synod in previous years and is the only platform that visitors, and those watching online, have to express their opinions in real time. The lack of activity was worrying particularly as that day as there was a motion to disband the Information and Communication Board. There were a lot of speakers against this and it was debated at length which caused lunch to be delayed but eventually the motion went through for its first reading, but with more work to be done if it is to get through its second reading.

I was thankful visitors can join members during coffee breaks because I was in need of a caffeine fix to get through the rest of the day, which got me through the last session of the day. It was about pensions, which as someone trained in accountancy, can be too technical for even me to follow.

In the evening, I was invited along to the Diocesan Synod dinner and spent time with the delegates present relaxing

with a few glasses of wine and talking about the events so far.

On Saturday morning, as members of the provincial youth noisily descended on the public gallery, it was an enjoyable experience talking with some of them as my home congregation has only one young person. I am not so sure they enjoyed the accounts section of the morning as much as I did. For me, the highlight of Saturday was the SEI Valedictory Service. It was a special service put together by the ordinands and was an engaging worship event.

It was then time for Synod to close and everyone departed for another year.

Personally, I think attending Synod as a visitor, or listening and watching online, is something that should be encouraged, as it is by taking an active interest in the life of the church that we can affect the outpouring of the love of Christ in our dioceses and throughout Scotland as a whole. For those who may be considering attending next year, you will find me in the gallery's top corner – do come and say hello.

50 Years of Dedicated Service

In July this year, Mrs Carol Buchan celebrated 50 years as Organist at St Peter's, Peterhead, and was thanked for her dedication and professionalism which the congregation has



been so fortunate to enjoy during those years. Carol was formerly a member of Peterhead Trinity Church, where she was an organist for some 5 years prior to her marriage to husband, Alastair, an Episcopalian. Following their marriage, she became a member of St Peter's and one Sunday on her arrival at church, she was asked to play the organ there as the usual organist was ill and unable to attend. She was only too pleased to help out, assuming it was a temporary arrangement but, as they say, the rest is history and apart from a brief break, she has continued to be organist at St Peter's ever since. She says she thoroughly enjoys playing the magnificent pipe organ at St Peter's, which is considered by many to be a particularly fine example of its type. It has been well maintained over the years and has seldom, if ever, let her down.

Carol feels privileged to have played at several major events in the history of the Church, such as the Rededication Service in 1979 following major repairs to the building and rebuild of the organ, the 200th Anniversary at Christmas 2016 and of course, everyone's favourite "HYMNATHON" which is again planned for November this year to mark Carol's 50 years of service. The picture shows Carol being presented with gifts from Mrs Nancy Wyness on behalf of the congregation with Richard O'Sullivan, Rector at St. Peter's, looking on and it is hoped that Carol will continue to play for many years to come.

Farewell to the Rev Joan Lyon

In September 2015 St Ninian's welcomed the Rev. Joan Lyon. Her first service was to be the celebration of St Ninian's Day. This September on St Ninian's Day, three years later, Joan is leaving us to take the well-earned retirement she could easily have started before she came to us. We have been so fortunate that she decided to serve us as Priest in Charge for these last three years as St Ninian's has been a lively and friendly Church as a result.



Joan has proved to be a wonderful friend as well as looking after us all both spiritually and pastorally, working hard for St Ninian's, while also acting as one of the Hospital Chaplains and working towards the welcoming of the Syrian refugees to Aberdeen. She has also found time to be on a number of committees and attend numerous meetings. During her time with us we haven't just kept ticking over, but the congregation has increased. We have also managed improvements to our building and grounds including a new and much more prominent Notice Board, the garden wall fronting onto King Street has been rebuilt, and the lovely wooden floor of the Church has been cleaned and treated. Just in case she didn't have enough to do she acquired a lovely dog, Bella, who, of course, needs regular exercise, and moved house from Kingswells to Seaton to be nearer the Church.

A number of older and less able members of the congregation have benefited from home visits from Joan and regular home communions. At the same time the number of our student members has increased a little to swell the congregational attendance. Family members have been encouraged by the formation of Steps, a form of Sunday School, with the children of members of the congregation being involved in the service and show any work they have been doing. Joan has helped us by setting up or encouraging various new fund raising ideas and actively helped in promoting these. She has also supported the existing monthly services and fellowship at Lord Hays Court, the Young Adults Group and the fortnightly Craft Group.

Although our congregation is largely from outwith the immediate Seaton area Joan has been active throughout her ministry in keeping in touch with local Seaton affairs. She has worked closely with the Rev. Elsie from St Mary's, Church of Scotland (our neighbours) at Seaton Primary School, bringing pupils into Church to explain the features of the building and for services. She has also been an enthusiastic member of the Donside Christian Partnership.

Joan has been a good friend and counsellor, a good listener and helper, and we have been privileged to have had her with us for the last three years. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement and look forward to the next phase in the life of St Ninian's from the sound footing with which she leaves us.

Janet and Paul Lawrence - St Ninian's Church, Aberdeen

50 years of **tearfund**

In 1960 40 million people worldwide were made refugees by war or disaster. Increasing media coverage of these events touched many hearts in the UK and Christians sent money to the Evangelical Alliance (EA). The EA were not involved in overseas aid or development work but they established a fund to distribute the cash they received, the money being sent to existing evangelical agencies around the world already caring for the needs of refugees.

As money continued to come in the decision was made to develop the fund and, on 29 May 1968, the members of the Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund met for the first time. They determined to combine Christian compassion with practical action and so Tearfund came into being.

So 2018 is particularly special for Tearfund, as it marks 50 years of following Jesus where the need is greatest. They help communities overcome the worst effects of poverty and disasters, believing that the same people who face these issues, also have the best idea as to how they can overcome them. Tearfund works alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations in over 50 countries to help people realise their plans for a better future. I have seen this for myself in Ethiopia. In these 50 years millions of lives have been transformed, with hope restored and potential released.

From small grants in a few places, Tearfund has grown, working in more countries as God has opened doors. They have responded to disasters all over the world, whether natural or man-made, partnering with hundreds of local church-based groups on hundreds of projects. In the last 12 years they envisioned and mobilised more than 154,000 local churches to get involved in bringing change to their community. Their self-help groups have transformed communities from being dependent on aid to becoming food secure, working hard and often giving generously in time and practical resources to help those around them still trapped in poverty.

Three years ago widow Maria, mother to six children, joined a church self-help group in Rwanda. Each group member saves RWF200 (20p) a week, so that – as the money increases – they can offer loans to start small businesses. Maria took out a loan to buy a sewing machine to make reusable shopping bags from sacks. Her sales bring in RWF112,000 (£100) a month. She says, 'I am no longer lonely. Jesus has done great things. I used to be extremely thin. Now I've started putting on weight and feel good about myself. I can afford to buy what I need – even good shoes. I used to wear dirty, torn old flip-flops.'

This year each edition of *One Voice*, Tearfund's weekly online prayer bulletin, includes a story from one of 50 countries where they work, celebrating God's provision and power to transform: https://www.tearfund.org/en-SC/stories/fifty_years_fifty_countries/

June MacCormack

The Archway to St Paul's Chapel, Aberdeen

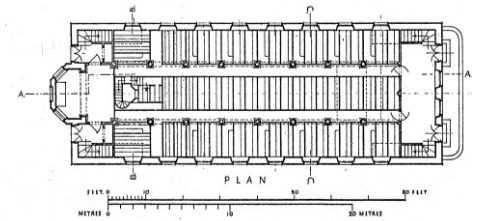


FIG 1 St Paul's Chapel, Aberdeen: plan, longitudinal section and location map

Just across from the street at the back of John Lewis department store on land now called Berry Street, there stands an archway without any notification of its history or purpose. In fact the rebuilt gateway was the only access to the Episcopal Meetinghouse built in 1721, dedicated to St Paul, the foundations, now hidden forever from sight, buried amongst the Bon-Accord Centre opened in 1985. The archway stood originally on the Gallowgate and was the only entrance to the church as Loch Street was not built until 1840. The architect of the original St Paul's Church was Alexander Jaffray, the 4th Laird of Kingswells, who interestingly was married to Christine, daughter of the Quaker apologist, Robert Barclay. The Archway is the sole remaining example of Alexander Jaffray's work in the city.

Many famous people have passed through this dignified gateway to the pend off the Gallowgate, leading to Jaffray's '*handsome and commodious*' chapel, including the famous preacher, John Wesley. On the Sunday before being accorded the Freedom of the City of Aberdeen, Dr Samuel Johnson, the diarist, visited the chapel along with his travelling companion, James Boswell. In their comments on their visit they remarked on the large congregation and the competent playing of the organist, Andrew Tait. Another regular visitor was Francis Peacock the father of Scottish Country Dancing and his family. Regular worshippers such as the Gregory family of Drumoak, the Bannermans of Elsie House, the

Gordons of Haddo, the Buchans of Auchmacoy, and the Innesses of Learney attended Sunday by Sunday.

The ardent Jacobite supporter, Henrietta, Duchess of Gordon was also a regular worshipper and her third son Lord Lewis Gordon, about whom the Jacobite lament, '*O send Lewis Gordon Home*', had attended St Paul's since a babe in arms until he had to flee after involvement in the '45 Rebellion, leaving Scotland to die in exile.

Striding through the archway walked another youth destined to become famous, namely, George Gordon Byron, (later Lord Byron), pupil at Aberdeen Grammar School, who lived with his mother at 64 Broad Street.

According to architect and antiquarian, Edward Meldrum, the archway, now with modern iron gates, was part of an early 18th century tenement in the Gallowgate and dates from 1721. Meldrum describes the gateway as built in the Renaissance-style with rusticated Roman Doric pilasters topped by a bold cornice.

The 1721 chapel was replaced by Aberdeen architect, J. Russell Mackenzie in 1865 and the church finally closed for worship on Sunday 30th January 1966, almost all the indigenous congregation of over 100 worshippers transferring to St Andrew's Cathedral, the first combined service taking place on the Sunday following, the 7th February.

Stuart Donald

Acknowledgment to the following authors and publications for information on this subject:
Kenneth Chilles' article in Aberdeen & Buchan Churchman; the Scottish Dictionary of Architects;
Edward Meldrum D Arch FSA Scot (1986) *Old Aberdeen*; Sean [Scottish Episcopal Church newspaper]
Stuart Donald (2012) Incumbents of St Andrew's Cathedral Vol III part two
further information from
archives@Aberdeen.anglican.org
Aberdeen Diocesan Library & Archives