



NORTHERN LIGHT

News from the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

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Issue 104

Bishop Anne's Easter Message

The resurrection of the one who was crucified

We come again to Easter, when through our reading of Scripture, hymns and music, as well as our preaching, we hear the life and world-changing story of the resurrection. We rejoice on the Day of Resurrection, and then through the season of Easter reflect again on what this means for us.

The image here is of a sculpture by the artist Paul T Granlund. It depicts the moment of resurrection when the power of God fills the body of the crucified and buried Jesus, and he bursts out of the tomb. The tomb is depicted as a box, and the resurrection causes the tomb itself to be destroyed. The place of death, as well as death itself, cannot hold the risen Jesus.

As Jesus emerges from this tomb his arms are beginning to stretch out, as they had done on the cross. The artist is telling us that the one who is resurrected is the one who was crucified, this is the same body, the same person. This was the message of the first witnesses to the resurrection, Mary and Peter and the other followers of Jesus. This is very good news indeed. In this moment God acted in an unprecedented way in history, and the one who suffered is raised to life.

St Paul wrote: 'We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus to life, will also raise us up with Jesus and take us, together with you, into his presence.' (2 Corinthians 4:14)

This message is a reassurance at the time of death, of our loved ones and of our own, but also as we live as Christians. This same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us, individually and collectively as the Church. The Easter Season gives us an opportunity once again to consider together what this means for us. Here and now we can experience new life in Jesus, life that transforms our trials and suffering and leads us into joy.

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow:

Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst His three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
but now has Christ arisen!

George Ratcliffe Woodward 1894



Easter

Most glorious Lord of Lyfe! that on this day
Didst make Thy triumph over death and sin
And, having harrowed hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, deare Lord, with joy begin;
And grant that we, for whom Thou diddest dye,
Being with Thy deare blood clene washt from sin,
May live for ever in felicity!
And that Thy Love, we weighing worthily,
May likewise love Thee for the same againe;
And for Thy sake, that all lyke deare didst buy,
With love may one another entertayne!
So let us love, deare Love, lyke as we ought,
- Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Edmund Spenser
(c. 1552-1599)

Reflections on Diocesan Synod held 1 – 2 March, 2019

The Rev'd Dr Dennis Berk writes:



This year the United Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney gathered for two days, and that extended time enabled us to have a conference entitled “Towards Becoming a Dementia Friendly Diocese.” After Bishop Anne welcomed us and commenced the Diocesan Synod on the Friday afternoon when we first gathered, this conference’s

keynote speaker addressed us. From his career’s vantage points first in the medical care profession and then as a theologian in the University of Aberdeen, Professor John Swinton brought both a breadth and a depth of information and insights into the topic of dementia.

The day immediately preceding our Diocesan Synod, I had attended a Safeguarding Training Day at the Café@Credo and this already had put me into a perspective of looking at the diverse groups of vulnerable people whom we are called to protect and for whom God asks us to care and love. That day’s training event instilled in me a greater awareness of the vulnerability of certain people, so it was with this heightened sensitivity that I arrived at Diocesan Synod.

John Swinton skilfully turned the “problem” of dementia around so that the focus was not merely upon the individual who has this but also upon the people around that person and what constructive actions they can take in response to someone’s dementia. When Prof Swinton said, “The problem for many people with dementia is not so much that they forget but that they are forgotten,” I was made poignantly aware of the responsibility of each one of us to live as a caring community of love for everyone with dementia. Isolation and loneliness are two things that we in the Church definitely can help to combat by reaching out in supportive friendship to those who are elderly and frail in body or in mind. Let us not compound the debilitating effects of dementia by further exacerbating a person’s decline through avoidance of them. Instead may we strive to continue reaching out, engaging them, and including them within as many of our activities as is possible.

Dreadful though dementia is, as Christians we can find it reassuring to know that even dementia cannot separate us from the love of God. Unfortunately, a time may come when those suffering from dementia no longer seem to know themselves, to know you, or even to know Jesus. Yet how comforting it is to rest in the assurance that God never forgets us. Just as we are written upon God’s hands, and etched on his heart, so too may we hold each person with dementia in our hearts and enfold them within an environment of love. When John Swinton asked the question, “Who will remember you when you have forgotten who you are?” the realisation hit home to me that dementia could possibly come my way at some point in the future. There but for the grace of God am I at this moment, but if eventually dementia comes to me then I earnestly hope that the family of God will reach out with arms of love and hold me even though I might not recognise who they are.



The Rev'd Canon Jeremy Paisey writes:

This year's new format facilitated good natured friendly atmosphere, which helped members address the challenges posed by Bishop Anne in her Charge to Synod outlining the approach to Mission the Diocese and its Congregations will be following over the next few years.



A new challenge for the Synod members was presented in Morning Prayer: being asked to participate in group Lectio Divina by sharing their insights into the appointed reading with the others on their table, I thought that the group I was among did really well given that for most of us it was a new venture, and no advance warning had been given – we will do even better next year after some practice.

The only item where the Synod went "off message" (and we have "form" for this) was the refusal to endorse the Provincial desire to abolish the Information and Communications Board – our protest may be in vain, let us see what happens at General Synod.

I have been at some rather tense Synods over the years, by contrast this was a positive, forward looking enjoyable event, and I hope this augurs well for the Synods of years to come.

Bishop Anne’s Charge to Synod

Bishop Anne set out her vision for the Diocese during her charge to Synod. Text and Video copies are available on the website or text copies are available from the Diocesan Office:



<https://aoepiscopal.scot/videos/bishops-charge-to-synod-2019/>

Early Attendance

This article was printed 100 years ago in March, 1919 in the Aberdeen Buchan Churchman, the diocesan publication that pre-dates Northern Light. It was written by the then Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev John Kempthorne (1864-1946) We reprint it here:

We sometimes see persons stroll lazily into Church after the service has begun. I wonder why. Church-goers should know better. Every part of the service is needed to make the whole complete, The General Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer are the proper preparation of the congregation for joining in the praises and thanksgivings that come after. Come to Church in good time; compose your mind by private prayer before the service begins; remember that you are in the presence of God; join devoutly in the service from the very beginning; give glory to God throughout by the reverence of your outward demeanour, and the sincerity of your inmost heart. – *The Bishop of Lichfield.*

Aberdeen City Centre of Mission

What does a Church Army Centre of Mission look like? Church Army train and release evangelists into the church to work on the margins of the church serving the community. You might say their aim is making Jesus known through faith, words and actions. You will often find evangelists working with people on the margins of our society, the homeless, the addict, and they invest a lot of their work in poverty-stricken areas. Gerry and Jo's first ten years in Aberdeen were spent in Seaton, one of the deprivation areas of Aberdeen.

Church Army's strategy is to create and support teams of people working in geographical locations to further mission. While supporting each other, the team engages in a breath of ministry, encouraging the established church and planting new churches with the sole aim of making disciples and creating communities of Christian faith.



The Centre of Mission in Aberdeen includes three Staff: Gerry who is an ordained evangelist, Jo (Gerry's wife) who is a commissioned Church Army evangelist and Venessa Pinto. Gerry's responsibilities include being the

Missionary Priest for St Devenick's in Bielside, and Caf4e Christian Community in the Bridge of Don. He also oversees the running of a charity called Aberdeen Street Pastors. Jo manages our city centre Christian Coffee Shop (Caf4e @ Credo) and her ministry is to those who frequent the coffee shop. The Coffee Shop also acts as the base for the Street Pastor teams. Venessa has recently arrived in Aberdeen and is passionate about the Gospel and a natural evangelist, she is beginning to work in the Bridge of Don with Caf4e Christian Community. Venessa has already engaged with a local primary school and volunteers in the local community centre with the aim of building relationships and being the church in the community.

Aberdeen Centre of mission is a network of relationships between organisations and with people. Within those relationships we aim to initiate our **D.A.R.E.** strategy to **Do, Advocate, Resource** and **Enable** evangelism. If you would like to know more, please contact us.

Diocesan Print Publications Review

The Diocesan IT Officer, Mary McKinnell writes:

I am embarking on a review into our print publications. At present, the Diocese publishes two publications: this quarterly *Northern Light* magazine which aims to share news and views from around the Diocese, and the monthly *Centrepost* bulletin which shares information about upcoming events in the Diocese and its Churches.



The timing of this review is good. June MacCormack has stepped down as *Centrepost* editor after more than twenty years in post. The editor of *Northern Light*, Michael Price, has also signalled his intention to step down from the role before the end of the year. I take this opportunity to thank them both for all of their hard work over the years.

I am aware that there are many varying views across the Diocese on a wide range of related issues. It would be good to hear from as many individuals as possible to allow us to best decide how to move forward in this time of change for both publications – please therefore consider returning the questionnaire that is included with this publication.

2019 Bishop's Lent Appeal

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Diocese



My appeal this Lent is that in every Congregation and Charge, and in the Diocesan Office, we work to become more Dementia Friendly.

Dementia is an illness that affects the brain, making it harder to remember things or think as clearly as before.

Dementia can affect every area of human thinking, feeling and behaviour, but each person with dementia is different, how the illness affects someone depends on which area of their brain is damaged.

I have issued a leaflet, available on the website, that sets out some of the ways we might become more Dementia Friendly:

-  by making a donation to a local Dementia Charity, or through the Diocese to Alzheimer Scotland
-  by considering how we might make our churches more welcoming to those suffering from Dementia
-  by becoming involved in Dementia support in our localities
-  by offering the resources of our buildings or people for events related to Dementia support.

Bishop Anne

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.



Canon Kerr is a member of the Lambeth Palace team, and is experienced in helping congregations engage with this season of prayer. She will be helping us all consider what we might do.

The Introductory day takes place on Thursday, 2 May. The daytime event (10:30am – 3:45pm) is for all clergy and lay-readers, but open to others in churches who would like to attend. In the evening there will be a shorter session (7:00pm – 9:00pm) for those not able to attend during the day.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided by the diocese. Please register if you are coming. Registration forms are available from the office at office@aberdeen.anglican.org.

A Note from the Editor

Again, we have had the challenge of squeezing into this edition all the articles, reports and photos that have been sent in. My thanks to all our contributors.

To the left, you will read of the survey concerning our means of communication within the Diocese. Please give this careful attention and respond. We need to be sure that we spend our resources wisely, that they meet your needs and take best advantage of the technologies available to us.



The copy date for the next edition is **Friday 17 May 2019**. It would be most helpful if this time is kept.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

St Margaret's Gallowgate supporting Embrace the Middle East



Embrace the Middle East is a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths and none to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice. Together with local Christian communities it is bringing lasting change to the Middle East through education, healthcare and community development projects. Join us as it helps people reach their God-given potential.

More information can be found at www.embraceme.org

Meet Dr Mark Calder



The Middle East is Mark Calder's personal and professional passion. He has studied and volunteered in the region spending time in Yemen, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Lebanon. He spent 16 months in Bethlehem focusing on Syriac Orthodox Christians and has researched peace-building in Syria.

Mark lives in Aberdeenshire with his wife and two young daughters. Alongside long distance running, he enjoys music - his PhD was part-funded by working as a singing waiter, so he can sing whenever he talks about Embrace the Middle East!

Running home 2019

For most people just finishing a single marathon would be a challenge. Finishing an ultra-marathon would be beyond us. But 14 in one year ... That is superhuman! That is the challenge that Mark, one of Embrace's Regional Managers, has taken on in 2019. He will be running pilgrimage routes across Scotland and the North of England in honour of 14 saints to raise money and awareness about the even bigger challenge that Iraq's Christians face as they try to rebuild their country after war.

Mark's visit to St Margaret's

Mark was invited to St Margaret's on Sunday 3rd March to speak and to sing. Our Rector Fr Emsley went to see him off on his first Run in January starting at Dunfermline Abbey, having previously met him last year to talk about pilgrimage.

Mark spoke about the times he spent in the Middle East and the privilege of being with the people as they rebuild their lives after the devastation of war. He said how it is not right to think of them as the helpless victims and ourselves as those who can help them because in fact the example they give of working together and helping and sharing is a lesson for us. We can give practical help to them but we can appreciate what a lot they have to give us. It was an uplifting talk and Mark linked in the readings for the day particularly the parable Jesus told about the plank needing to be removed from one's eye before helping remove a splinter from another's eye (Luke 6).

Mark sung the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic (the language of Jesus) and it touched us all. It was truly moving and both his talk and his singing blended in perfectly with our Scottish liturgy, emphasising the liturgical connection between Scotland and Syria.

Rev'd Dr Ruth Green Licensed at St James' Church, Aberdeen

The Rev'd Dr Ruth Green was licensed by Bishop Anne as Priest-in-Charge of St James' Church, Aberdeen in January.

We welcome Ruth and her husband Michael to the Diocese from Ruth's previous charge in the Diocese of Edinburgh.



Three Cathedrals Service in Aberdeen



The Three Cathedrals service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place in the Cathedral Church of St Machar.

The three choirs singing as one sent harmonies ringing into the ancient arches of a cathedral built before the western church fractured into multiple denominations. Led by the minister of St Machar's, the Catholic Bishop, Hugh and our own Bishop Anne. It was both a beautiful service of celebration in its own right and a splendid symbol of our shared faith and hopes for growing unity.

In his sermon, Bishop Hugh mentioned that the cathedral itself was scarred by the violence of the reformation. He suggested that the 20th century drive to Christian unity had lessened in the face of pressing challenges. As we embrace a shared salvation, we are under a shared obligation to work towards unity in the 21st century with renewed and matured vigour.

The service concluded with excellent Presbyterian bakes enthusiastically enjoyed by the diverse congregation present.

As individuals, as a diocese, as a faith in a divided church, in a divided country, in a divided world we must work towards unity in the name of a saviour who prayed that his church might be forever one. I hope this service is start of a new commitment to work for the healing of division.

Penny Hopwood

Ecumenical Work on Orkney



Marion Murray, a member of St Mary's Church, Stromness, has recently completed a year as a Pastoral Assistant at Kirkwall East Parish Church. Marion writes, "This has been a time of considerable vocational growth and fulfilment for me far beyond my expectations. I leave with both a sense of gratitude for being able to share in the lives, faith journeys and worship of those at Kirkwall East."

Alan Finch moves to Caithness



Alan with his wife Margaret and the Rev'd Nick Bowry, the curate at St Clement's

Alan's cheery grin and friendly demeanour will be much missed in our diocese, coupled with his strong Christian faith which shines through all he does and all he is.

Unfortunately for us, he and his wife Margaret are now to move back to Caithness, a place they know well from having lived and worked in those parts in the late 80s. Alan felt the call to ministry a long time ago and in 1983 after completing a 3 year training course in the Church of England, he was licensed as a Lay Minister. On his move to Scotland this was translated into Lay Reader ministry. From Caithness Alan moved south to Aberdeen in the mid 1990s, first to St Peter's, Torry, and from there to St Clements, Mastrick.

Through St Clements Alan has worked with a number of priests, covered interregnums, and generally been willing and available to cover services in other churches within the city, when required. He even survived the roof being blown off! He is delighted to see the recent slight growth in numbers.

Alan not only covers the traditional preaching, teaching and leading of worship requirements of a Lay Reader, but very importantly he sees it as his vocation to also take this ministry out of the church into the streets. For many years he has faithfully carried out the "Hot Chocolate Ministry" once a month to a local shopping area, from where he has the opportunity to meet young and old, to chat, to listen. For 7 years he has been a Street Pastor taking to the streets of the city after dark, and he is also trained as a Response Pastor, to be available if needed should any major disaster occur. All of this truly illustrates the diversity of Lay Reader ministry. He also works as a Pupil Support Assistant in schools.

Humbly, he talks of his Reader's blue scarf as both a huge privilege and responsibility, not only because of being allowed to take part in acts of worship, but also giving him opportunities to talk with folk, to answer questions, perhaps questions that they feel too intimidated to ask the person wearing the dog collar!

Alan describes himself as just an 'ordinary guy in the congregation' but I have no doubt that not only will the Moray diocese enjoy having Alan and Margaret with them, but that God will find new ways of using this 'ordinary guy' in extraordinary ways, to make use of the gifts that He has already bestowed on Alan.

*Avril Hern,
Warden of Lay Readers*

New Convent Buildings Consecrated in Shetland

After morning mass on 18th February on Shetland's most northerly inhabited island, Unst, two new hermitages and the ground on which they stand were consecrated for sacred use by the Society of Our Lady of the Isles (SOLI). Officiating at this quite special occasion was Bishop Bob Gillies, formerly Chair of the Trustees of SOLI with Reverend Mother Mary Agnes. Sister Mary Aidan and Caim members of the Order were present as

was Mother Mary Elizabeth, an Orthodox nun resident on the island along with other worshippers from the island.

Those who attended this service then returned the next day, the Feast Day of St Colman of Lindisfarne, and patron of the Episcopal Church on the neighbouring island of Yell with others from Mainland, Fetlar and further friends from Unst. Twenty people filled the beautiful new Chapel of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the Door and the Way.

Assisted by Reverend Mother Mary Agnes, Bishop Bob anointed font, lectern, organ, pews, the statue of Our Lady and the Altar with holy oil in the context of scripture, prayer and a celebration of mass.



Set in spectacular, windswept scenery on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean the new hermitages and chapel overlook earlier Norse Christian sites. Plans to establish these new facilities for SOLI began almost five years ago when the Community's decision to leave the island of Fetlar was made. Workmanship on the facilities is of the highest standard with worship at the chapel being open to island residents and visitors alike.

+Bob Gillies

Dr Anne Brunt

Dr Anne Brunt died in early February aged 85. She and her husband Peter were members of St Devenick's Church for 36 years until they moved to the Lake District in 2006. They both helped at St Clement's for a while, Anne playing the organ. Both Anne and Peter were doctors, Anne specialising in diabetes.

Anne served on several committees and boards in both the Diocese and the Province and served as a member of General Synod. One of Anne's many contributions to the Diocese was in the 1980s as convener of the Sustentation Programme. This was all about money, or rather the lack of it, in both congregations and Diocese. Something had to be done and Anne was passionate about improving matters. The Sustentation Programme committee published a newsletter for several years, The Gazette, which kept everyone up to date with what the problems were, explained what quota was for, and encouraged congregations and individuals to improve. Alongside tables of how each congregation was doing in reaching its quota payment, Anne wrote of what the Bible had to say about giving, and giving generously. It is a great tribute to Anne and the tireless committee that, one year into the programme, she was able to record her personal thanks to the Diocese as a whole, for personal giving was up by 23% and contributions to quota by 68%.

Anne's interests weren't confined to finance. She was involved in the Spirituality Group, Julian prayer meetings, ran a Diocesan training programme for leading intercessions and had a great concern for the Aberlour Child Care Trust. She was also a trained Christian counsellor. Although it is some 12 years since Anne and Peter moved away, Anne's contribution in the Diocese laid a foundation on which others have been able to build. We give thanks for her life and her passion for the Lord. Well done, good and faithful servant, rest in peace with your Lord.

June MacCormack

Reflections from the Cathedral Warden



“How does the role of People’s Warden at the Cathedral differ from that in a Parish Church”? My reply? “I don’t know; I’ve never been a Warden in a Parish Church”!

That could have been the end of the conversation, but it was the start of a series of reflections on the role as it is today and how my various experiences in the Church

and my working life have brought me to this point.

Let me start with an apology to my friends at the Cathedral who have held this post through the years before I did; what it is now, and what it used to be are different and it has evolved to meet the needs of the Cathedral under the leadership of our current Provost. The current role covers three distinct facets: Representation, Organisation and Ceremony.

Representation

The People’s Warden is elected annually by the Congregation at the Annual General Meeting. It is my belief therefore that the primary role is to be the Warden of, and for, the People; to represent them and their interests to the Provost and to the Board of Trustees, the position being one of the two Officers of the Cathedral, and thereby being an ex-officio member of the Board.

My main aim is to be accessible as possible, to everyone in the Cathedral, and technology allows me to be just that; I try to be as visible as I can be both at regular worship and with my visits for Cathedral business. I endeavour to be available “at the back” to greet worshipers as they enter the Cathedral but the need to attend to organisational issues often takes me away; but I always make a point of being in the Porch at the end of services to bid everyone farewell. I hope that everyone knows that I am there to hear their concerns and to carry those forward on their behalf as appropriate.

A significant change in terms of visibility has been the robing of the Warden; maybe confusingly I wear a Verger’s gown, though occasionally this is appropriate as I will explain later. Being robed marks me out, easy to spot and importantly being readily identifiable as “someone” for visitors and guests to approach for help.

Communication, and the quality of it, is the key to the success of all organisations. The monthly magazine Focus usually contains a report on the most recent deliberations of the Trustees, but I often support the “feedback process” by providing more detailed explanations of decisions and discussions on a one-to-one basis.

Organisation

At the Cathedral we are blessed with a team of people who run the various operational aspects of our daily and monthly being; we operate as a self-directed team. Our Stewards play a crucial role in welcoming everyone into the Cathedral and ensuring that aspects of the services continue without a hitch! As People’s Warden I liaise with the Provost, the Sacristy and Choir to ensure that the Stewarding team are aware of specific plans for each service and that the service runs according to plan from the perspective of “the front of house” as The Provost affectionately refers to us!! And of course, when things do not go to plan, the People’s Warden is expected to take control and guide things forward, hopefully without anyone noticing!!!

When it comes to significant services it usually falls to the People’s Warden to act as a focal-point for planning; not that

the Team Leaders need organising, but to ensure that none of our individual plans conflict in terms of space or timings. Without doubt, the Consecration and Installation of Bishop Anne epitomised, for me, the way that the Cathedral works as a Team and welcomes everyone through its doors. We all know that, despite months of meticulous planning the weather conspired to test our resolve and those who joined us in the Cathedral would have witnessed the rare sight of the People’s Warden running around, mobile phone to his ear, trying to re-seat guests as yet another call from stranded friends came in! If ever there was a day for decision-making on the go, that was it!

Ceremony

Perhaps the most significant change in the role that The Provost has requested is that relating to the ceremonial role played by the Warden. The Cathedral no longer maintains the role of a fulltime Verger, but as I have mentioned before I am always robed for services. I do not normally form part of routine Processions or escort the Clergy as would be normal in other Cathedrals.

But for those bigger occasions I do fulfil the role of a Verger; I will always welcome our significant guests, be they visiting clergy, Ministers of other traditions or our Civic Leaders; and I extend that welcome on behalf of the Congregation as a whole. When appropriate I will lead these guests in Procession and ensure that they are extended the courtesy that that position dictates.

Reflection

As I reflect on the role of Warden, how the role has evolved under The Provost’s leadership and how I work in that role, it strikes me that it blends skills and experiences gained through a lifetime of service in the Church and in my working life in industry. One thing I am certain of, is that I am honoured and humbled to serve in the Cathedral as I do.

I was born into the Church. At the tender age of eight I became a Chorister in Beverley Minster choir progressing to the “back row” as a Lay Clerk until the family moved away when I was sixteen. I was immersed in the sublime music of the Anglican Choral Tradition which, to this day, shapes my worship and brings an inner calm that is difficult to express in words. I grew up in the “normal” cycle of worship from the weekly round of services to the major Festivals and the occasional civic events. To me, being “at the front” was normal and perhaps my comfort in the big occasions at the Cathedral reflects this; I am comfortable and at peace no matter what the occasion, and whatever my role.

My working life saw me filling multiple supervisory and managerial roles in a large multi-national organization. Taking responsibility and making decisions at a corporate level, sometimes unpopular ones, seems to have equipped me with some of the skills necessary for working in and for the Cathedral, with all of the challenges it faces today.

I hope I have many years left in me yet, but this reflection does seem to present my life of service in the church as a Recessional Procession – starting at the front and moving slowly to the back!! I hope that the West Doors do not open too quickly!!

So, how does the role differ from that in a Parish Church? I still do not know, but those unknown and unseen fellow Wardens will surely be answering that question for me now!!

*Mark Edwards, People’s Warden
The Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Aberdeen*

Farewell and Happy Retirement to our Assistant Treasurer



There are those who maintain that accountants have no poetry in their soul. In conformity with that cliché, I intend to write – not a farewell Ode to Ian – but what is Owed to Ian by the Diocese.....

Ian Fraser was appointed Assistant Diocesan Treasurer in 2004, starting in the Diocesan Office in August of that year. In those days the Diocesan Office was in Kings Crescent, in the former nursing home attached to the Convent. Bruce Cameron was the Bishop (and Primus), and Sue Pike his secretary.

Ian's first task in post was to computerise the finance function. His predecessor, Jim Taylor, kept the most meticulous accounting records, all in long hand. Those congregational treasurers new in post since then, and used to all correspondence being by email and very little additional information on top of the annual accounts being requested, may marvel at the fact that all correspondence was snail mail and that the submission of annual accounts was supplemented by detailed returns to be completed laboriously in long hand. In pre-OSCR days the additional information was very necessary, to interpret the wildly different formats in which congregational accounts were prepared. As quota even then was based on income, the fact that some accounts disclosed intromissions between deposit accounts (remember interest bearing accounts???) and current accounts as income the Assistant Treasurer had a lot of analysis to do.

With an office staff of two, it was agreed that Ian would be responsible for the Finance and Property work of the Diocese. I don't think anyone had anticipated what the Property side of things would entail. Organising routine repair work at the office – yes. Acting as security guard for various empty properties – the office itself before the final conclusion of the sale of the office; the Bishop's house during two interregna; the Kingswells property when it lay empty on various occasions – no. But Ian did that. Then there was the long-running saga of the wall of the house adjacent to the office in Kings Crescent – the wall threatened to collapse – Ian took that on board too. And organising quinquennials for various Diocesan properties. And acting as first point of contact when tenants of those properties had property problems. And arranging for work to be done to resolve those problems.

The interregnum following Bruce Cameron's retirement took longer than had been expected, with a failed election (sound familiar, folks?). The team of Ian and Sue kept all the day-to-day background organisation of the Diocese ticking over and played a significant role in organising the arrangements for Bob Gillies' consecration. Shortly thereafter Ian and Sue organised and oversaw the removal of the office to St Clements House. And so another chapter in Ian's time with the Diocese began.

Ad hoc property work and changes in the Diocese notwithstanding, some things remain constant on the finance side of things. Ian took on board the task of preparing the accounts in full, a job which had previously been part of the auditor's role, and which benefitted the Diocese financially (lower audit fee). In doing so he produced accounts which were fully compliant with accounting regulations (it was not just congregations who were guilty of a certain idiosyncrasy in terms of accounts prep) and significantly polished the

presentation of the accounts. And he dealt with queries from congregational treasurers. Many treasurers over the last fourteen years have benefited from Ian's advice on accounting problems, grant applications and a host of other issues. And in addition to that he has prepared accounts for congregations and examined accounts for others when requests for this have been forthcoming. I might add that that is not part of his job description, but is another example of how Ian has consistently gone the extra mile in the performance of more than his duties. Ian has also ably represented the Diocese at the meetings of Diocesan Treasurers which periodically take place in Edinburgh. Ian is now retiring after almost fifteen years of service to the Diocese. In that time much has changed – +Anne is the third Bishop Ian has worked for; the Diocesan Office is the third location he has worked in. OSCAR is an established fact of charity life. HMRC has gone digital (and Ian organised that transition for the Diocese). The process of collecting and disseminating financial information in the Diocese is (relatively) smooth and is electronic.

And so I end where I started – what is owed to Ian by the Diocese? I think it will be clear from this very brief resume that what is owed is a great deal of heartfelt thanks for Ian's professionalism, dedication to duty, willingness to help and many achievements in modernising how the Diocese operates financially.

Our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Lorraine Paisey
Hon Diocesan Treasurer

June MacCormack retires as Centrepost Editor

June has been at the heart of communication within the Diocese for over twenty years. In that time she has represented the Diocese on the Provincial Information and Communication Board, been a regular contributor to Northern Light and a wonderful encourager of so much in the Diocese.

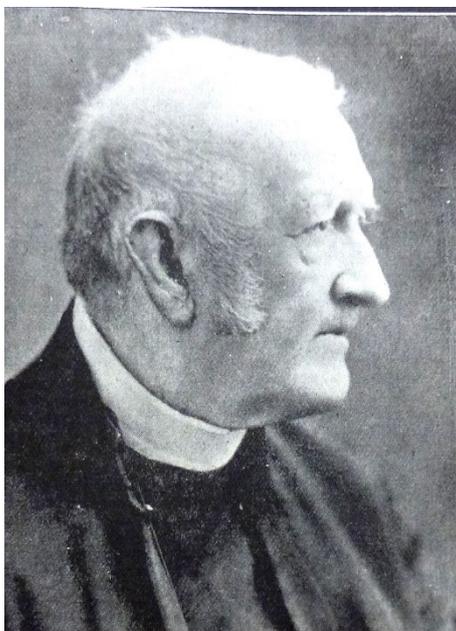


However, it is perhaps via Centrepost that she has become most well-known. Those planning things need to know if their potential date will clash. Those wanting to get involved need to know when and where. Centre post provided this. It was in a very real sense one of the things which held a very diverse Diocese together. Her contribution to communication discussions and to Centrepost will be missed.

Rev'd Prof David Atkinson

Upcoming Dates and Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 19 April: | 3 Hours Devotions led by +Anne (12 Noon-3pm), Cathedral |
| 21 April: | Easter Sunday |
| 2 May: | Thy Kingdom Come Introductory Day, Bieldside |
| 12-18 May: | Christian Aid Week |
| 30 May – 9 June: | Thy Kingdom Come |
| 2 June: | +Anne and Cathedral Choir leading worship at Haddo House Chapel |
| 6 – 8 June: | General Synod, Edinburgh |
| 9 June: | Diocesan Choral Festival at the Cathedral |
| 10 June: | Pentecost |
| 22 June: | Ministry Day at St Mary's, Inverurie |
| 23 June: | Bishop Wendell Gibbs, Bishop of Michigan and Canon Chuck Robertson visit to Cathedral |



‘the last Jacobite’

Arthur Ranken (1806-1886) MA DD Dean of the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney,

Dr Ranken, was a strong Conservative in politics — a Conservative of the old-fashioned type that cannot tolerate any radical notion whatever. Combined with his Toryism was an extraordinary enthusiasm for the Jacobites and the cause they represented, one might even be tempted to say that in this matter he sometimes allowed his zeal to outrun his discretion

He was possessed with something like the Jacobite spirit, sympathised with the sentiments and devotions of the followers of the Pretender, and was thoroughly acquainted with all the history and poetry associated with that Romantic Movement: and he was never happier than when recounting the exploits and sufferings of the men of the '45.

Dean Ranken was a widower, Mrs Ranken having predeceased her husband by some twenty-six years. They had six of a family, one son, and five daughters, the youngest acting as her father's companion for the last quarter of a century of his life. It may be mentioned that on the occasion of Dean Ranken completing the jubilee year of his incumbency at Old Deer, his congregation presented him with a phaeton and pony, with the view of affording him increased facility for the visitation of his widespread flock.

He was a man of imposing outward appearance of cultured mind and of a decided and somewhat unbending type of Churchmanship. His reminiscences were interesting, going back as they did to the days of religious struggles in the eighteenth century. Indeed, he almost led a lifestyle, in something more than mere memory and sentiment, as a veritable Jacobite and he stood out in the midst of what he condemned a modern Conservatism as a genuine Tory of the old school. He was probably the last in our enlightened days, to be a man who believed in the ‘*Divine Right of Kings*’:

It was well known that the Dean was one of the last of the most loyal of the Jacobites, and that he had a great admiration for Claverhouse. The body of Dundee was taken to Athol and placed in the vaults there. Many years later, a friend of the Dean's gained admission to the vaults and, while there, managed to get possession of some of Claverhouse' bones. These he sent to the Dean, thinking he was doing him a great kindness! Horror struck, the Dean's first impulse was to send them back to Athol but he didn't see how he could do so without getting his friend into trouble. He did not care to return them to his friend, in case they would not be reverently treated.

So at dead of night he went to Saint Drostan's and managed to prise up some of the tiles of the chancel and dug a hole—just under the present window—where he deposited the prized remains. Then, he could not bear to think that the place was unmarked, and so he installed the stained glass window with the inscription below. There was a legend in the district that the ‘*chapel folk*’ had an image of ‘*Bloody Clavers*’ mounted on his black horse in the middle of the chapel in which they worshipped! Another apocryphal story tells of the local's belief that the ivy that grows over St. Drostan's came from the place where Claverhouse was buried.

Stuart Donald

Acknowledgements
The Picture of Arthur Ranken and of St Drostan's Old Deer is taken from the Diocesan Archives. The text, edited, is taken from Obituaries and the Scottish Standard Bearer

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