



# NORTHERN LIGHT

## News from the Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney





June 2019

Scottish Charity No: SC022180

Issue 105

### Becoming a Dementia Friendly Diocese

In her Lent Appeal, Bishop Anne asked us to think about how we can become more Dementia Friendly. Individuals and congregations around our Diocese have considered:

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

We share a snapshot of some of the wonderful work that has been happening around the Diocese – keep up the good work!

#### St Machar's Church, Bucksburn

Some of the congregation volunteered to attend the Living Well Café, held in Newhills Parish Church on alternate Tuesday afternoons, as their mission in the local community during Lent and hopefully in the longer term.

A full report of these visits is available on Page 5.

#### St Congan's Church, Turriff

The Bishop's Lent Collection 2019 in the Church raised money towards the Diocesan Lent Appeal.

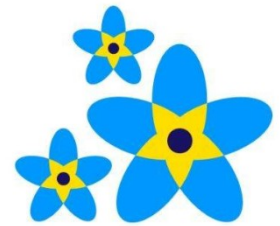
In addition we raised money from a Lent Soup and Sandwich Lunch held at the home of two of our members. This will be sent to a local branch of Alzheimer Scotland in recognition of the support given to our church members.

#### St Ternan's Church, Banchory

We have raised money which has been donated to Banchory's Forget-Me-Not Club.

#### Bishop Anne writes:

A concern for Police Scotland is crime related to dementia. The crimes that occur are usually very out of character for the person living with dementia. Common examples are traffic offences and surprising acts of violence or inappropriate behaviour. This will be one of the subjects discussed with the senior officers of Police Scotland at a dinner with the College of Bishops that I will be attending in June.



Working to become  
**Dementia  
Friendly**

#### St Colman's Church, Burray

On Good Friday, our Lay Rep held a coffee day at her home in aid of the Lent appeal and it raised money toward our Lent Appeal. A cheque for this money, and for some further donations has been sent to Alzheimer's Dementia Charity Scotland, Shetland branch in Lerwick.

#### All Saints' Church, Woodhead of Fyvie

The Vestry of All Saints' Woodhead of Fyvie have made a donation to the Bishop's Lent Appeal

#### St Magnus' Church, Lerwick

We have sent a cheque to Alzheimer Shetland (part of Alzheimer Scotland) with the money we have raised for the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

#### St John's Church, Aberdeen

We have split the money we have raised between the Living Well Café and the Diocese's Alzheimer Scotland Appeal.

#### St Olaf's Church, Kirkwall

We have raised money for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, which has already been donated to Dementia Friendly Orkney.

Dementia Friendly Orkney is managed by Age Scotland, who have a branch based in Orkney.

## St Devenick

This is the first article in what we hope will become a series looking at some of the less well known saints connected to our Diocese. We begin with St Devenick – our church in Bieldside is the only church in the UK to be dedicated to St Devenick.

As with many early saints, the life of St Devenick is somewhat shrouded in mystery. Historians have little to say about him and even that little is not consistent when it comes to dates.

In the foreword to *The Book of St Devenick* published in 1911, Bishop Rowland says that Devenick was a contemporary of Columba and also Machar, with whom he became great friends. This would place him at the end of the sixth century.



According to the 1961 edition of *The Book of St Devenick*, Devenick was one of the last missionaries to be sent out from St Ninian's monastery in Whithorn, and that he ministered as far north as Caithness. It is also said that he ministered for many years in the North East of Scotland though whether that was before or after Caithness is not clear. He founded churches at Methlick and Banchory Devenick where, at his own request, he was buried.

He is said to have died in 887, which does not fit with being a contemporary of Columba and Machar. However, some sources suggest that the handwritten date has been misread, the first 8 actually being a 5, making his death 587, which would fit. A duplicated piece of paper about St Devenick

given to me in, I think, the 1980s, does give the date of his death as 587.

The 1911 *Book of St Devenick* suggests that Devenick may have risen to 'the dignity of the Archdiaconate if not the Episcopal office'. More than one source mentions that St Devenick had an altar in the cathedral church of St Machar.

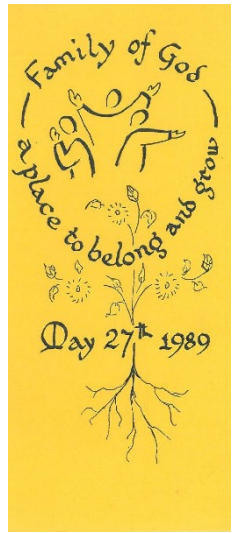
Many lists of saints completely ignore him, but he has long been honoured in the Scottish calendar on 13 November. In Methlick there is a St Devenick's well to which pilgrimages were made and miracles reported from its waters.

Whatever the date of his death, and regardless of the heights to which he may have risen in the church, Devenick preached the good news of Jesus with the enthusiasm that marked the ministry of Celtic missionaries.

*June MacCormack*

## Thirty Years Ago – The first Diocesan Conference Family of God – a place to belong and grow

At the beginning of September 1988, *God's Word and World*, the first Provincial Conference, was held in Glasgow. Not wanting to lose the encouragement of that occasion, the following year our Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney held its first Diocesan Conference in May 1989 at the University of Aberdeen. It was an opportunity to meet and worship with adults and children from almost all our congregations, including the islands.



Bishop Patrick Rodger led the main sessions on the theme Family of God – a place to belong and grow. There were other sessions: The church in the next century led by Bob Gillies; Worship in the church led by Andrew Knock; Personal spiritual growth led by Philip Noble; and Living in the congregation as community led by Robert Shimwell. The worship was led by Andrew Knock and members of St John's, Alloa.

It is interesting to note that two of those present later became our bishop. Bruce Cameron was present, in his then role of Convener of the Provincial Mission Board; and, of course, Bob Gillies.

Everyone attending received a bookmark, designed by Sister Columba. I still have mine (pictured).

*June MacCormack*

### The Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit,  
Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The Hallowing of your Name  
echo through the universe!  
The way of your Justice  
be followed by all the peoples of the world!  
Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings.  
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too sharp to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever.

Amen.

*Jim Cotter*

## Bishop Anne writes:

The Gospels tell us that Jesus was very good at looking and watching. He especially paid attention to small things and noticed how important they were. He watched tiny seeds grow into trees, he watched a woman work a small amount of yeast into bread so that it would rise, he knew that a tiny lamp could light the way.



Jesus could see that these small things could tell us something about the Kingdom of God, which starts small and grows to fill the world. Small things can be signs of how God works. He also knew that small things were important in themselves, essential for life. For this reason nothing that is small should be despised, because God seems to often choose small things.

St Paul tells the Christians in Corinth that God's choices are often surprising:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.'

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Much in life can seem small and ordinary, but it is in these things that God might be at work. Sometimes, in our preaching and in our prayers, we speak about God doing big and wonderful things. We love to look for miracles, although we might not think that we see any. And yet, there might be small acts of God taking place right where we are, God at work in us or others. These might not be very exciting things, in fact they might seem ordinary, but nevertheless God is present.

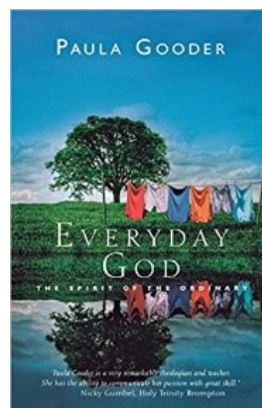
The longest season of the Church's year is called 'Ordinary Time'. As we as a diocese 'look for the coming of the Kingdom', let's not forget to look among all that is ordinary and small. When we recognise the many small things God does without our aid each day, then

we can be encouraged. God is indeed truly present with us.

A prayer from the Scottish Confirmation Liturgy:

The light of Christ is within you.  
Shine as a light in the world.

**As the seed grows secretly in the earth,  
As the yeast rises in the dough,  
May the power of God be at work in us.  
Like a city on a hill,  
Like a lamp in the darkness,  
May we witness to the glory of the kingdom. Amen**



## Recommended reading from Bishop Anne:

Everyday God: The spirit of the ordinary

Written by: Paula Gooder

Publisher: Canterbury Press

## A Note from the Editor:

Welcome to the Summer Edition. We have listened to feedback received from the diocese and have enlarged the size of both the font and the pictures in response to comments that these have been too small in recent editions. We are always glad to receive feedback on how we improve Northern Light.



Sadly, there is a shortage of articles from our congregations for this edition. The ongoing review of print communications within the Diocese is currently considering if and how Northern Light will be sustained.

Personally, I wish to see Northern Light continuing to flourish with four issues as at present. However I cannot sustain an argument for this unless the congregations and others organisations and people within the Diocese demonstrate a need for this by contributing material.

The deadline for contributions – articles, news, photos, events, plans, verses, memories, appeals – to the Autumn Edition is Friday 30 August 2019. This your magazine, please keep it alive!

Michael

## Deeside Climate Action Network (CAN)

### What is Deeside CAN?

CAN stands for Climate Action Network. It also stands for Care And Nurture for our community, environment and planet.

We are a group of people living in and around Deeside, who passionately want to do something to minimise climate change with all its damaging consequences, reduce waste and decrease the loss of biodiversity.

We want to raise awareness, and help our local community reduce our carbon footprint and make a significant difference in the short term. Whilst an 80% reduction in carbon use may seem unachievable, if we all reduced our carbon footprint by 10% each year, we will get there by 2030.

We want to increase the resilience of our local communities and countryside so that we can adapt to and survive the rapid climate change that is coming.

We want to encourage each other to re-discover a joyful connection with nature so that we can consciously live more sustainably, and safeguard our world for coming generations. We want to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of all while reducing unnecessary consumption and waste.

We want to show that we CAN.

### What are we doing?

We are focussing on three actions - using our:

- **Voices:** to help people talk about climate change, waste and loss of biodiversity, and to share the practical actions we can take
- **Votes:** to encourage people to pressurise politicians to enact bills that will make a difference in the short as well as long term
- **Choices:** to help each other identify and make choices that will lower our carbon footprint quickly and effectively,

There are already many great initiatives that are happening in our area aimed at reducing waste and tackling climate change, but it is difficult to get the overview of everything that is going on, and to understand how to get involved. With your help, we can connect people in the community, highlight existing projects and identify gaps where projects are missing.

We want to provide a Forum, but we do not want to control what is happening. We aim to get as many people involved as possible, in as many different ways as they have energy for. This is about supporting and enthusing each other.

As a first step, we are organising a public meeting on Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Barn. This aims to bring people together to share ideas and experience, to create links and a sense of we CAN do this if we all pull together.

This discussion may lead us towards joining the Transition Network as this provides a tried and tested framework that is flexible. For more information on Transition Networks, see: <https://transitionnetwork.org>

## Easter Flowers

Many (if not all) of our churches were beautifully decorated with flowers and other decorations as the church celebrated Easter.

This is one of the many beautiful decorations from St Ternan's Church in Banchory.



## The Effective Church

*This article was printed in The Aberdeen Buchan Churchman, the predecessor to Northern Light 100 years ago in June, 1919. It was written by Bishop William Lawrence (1850-1941), the Bishop of Massachusetts from 1893 to 1927*

I have emphasised the Church as an organisation, a country-wide organisation; not for money, but for spiritual forces. We are a spiritual unit, if only we can idealise ourselves as such and make our contribution to this country. And we have a peculiar contribution to make. We can make it in the first place only by each parish providing self-respecting support for itself; but, in addition, each parish is as much bound to the whole Church, and to advance its interests, as it is the city of Boston bound to defend the nation. We are one; and we want to hold our loyalty to the Church: and that loyalty to the Church can only be held to by those who are personally convinced that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Saviour.

I am more and more convinced that the getting of money is dependent upon personal religion. Until this Church can instil into all her children and men and women the love of Christ; until they can come down upon their knees and give themselves to the Master, the Church may make scheme after scheme, but the life of a scheme is in the heart of the Christian who loves Christ.

## Ordinations to the Diaconate



Jenny Holden (to serve at St John's Church, Aberdeen) and Mike Blake (to serve at St Andrew's Church, Alford) are to be ordained to the order of the diaconate in a service at the Cathedral on Saturday 28 September at 3:00pm

Both are coming to the end of their initial training for future ministry as priests in the Scottish Episcopal Church, and we keep them in our prayers as they prepare for ordination.

## Emsley Nimmo to be made Dean Emeritus

The Bishop has announced that the Rev'd Canon Emsley Nimmo, Rector of St Margaret's Church, Aberdeen, is to be Dean Emeritus of the Diocese. He joins the Very Rev'd Gerald Stranraer-Mull in holding this title.

This is an honorary title given in recognition of Emsley's ministry to the Diocese as the Dean.



## St Machar's Church, Bucksburn at The Living Well Café (Newhills)

Some of the congregation volunteered to attend the Living Well Café held in Newhills Parish Church on alternate Tuesday afternoons, as their mission in the local community during Lent and hopefully in the longer term.

Living Well Cafés are held in four venues across Aberdeen, our local Newhills Church being one of them.

They provide a welcoming, safe and supportive place for people living with Dementia and/or memory problems and their caregivers.

They offer information and help in many ways. Each session has or offers a range of activities such as reminiscing, puzzles, sing-alongs and sometimes entertainment as well as providing helpful information whenever possible, not to mention the wonderful teas and home baking.

There is no charge for these sessions and donations are always welcome. Our congregation therefore also decided to give the money donated to the Bishop's lent appeal to this wonderful cause.

We have all found the experience of volunteering at the Café extremely rewarding and it is such a joy to see the pleasure and support sufferers and their carers gain from these sessions.

*Paula Fogiel and Jenny Coleman*

## New Chairs for Aboyne

St Thomas's Church has been discussing the renewal of our chairs for some time, the ones we had were very ancient, not particularly comfortable, and we thought that with



stacking chairs, we could use the space in St Thomas's Church more flexibly. So we now have new chairs in a rich red, padded ones for the centre aisles, very comfortable, and lighter chrome ones in the same colour, that can be in use or stacked easily to one side, and still amazingly comfortable.

In addition, we have had installed a brass handrail in the centre of the steps leading up to the chancel, to add to the safety of our proceedings, especially for the more elderly among the congregation. This is removable, so does not get in the way when the whole space is needed, as in weddings or funerals. The congregation is delighted with this updating of the church.

*Sheila Maxwell*

## Sedar Meal at St John's, Aberdeen



*The congregation of St John's Aberdeen enjoyed their annual sedar meal.*

## Ruth Salthouse

Ruth Salthouse moved to Ballater from Hertfordshire with her husband Ken in 1990, following Ken's early retirement due to ill health. After seeing an advert in *The Times* for a Scandia Hus development in the village, they spent a Bank Holiday weekend visiting the area and



instantly fell in love with it. An important factor in their choice was the presence of a Scottish Episcopal church in the village, as their faith had always been a central part of their lives, and they became active members of the congregation. Ruth served on the Vestry for a number of years, and soon became involved in the work of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. She felt very honoured to be elected as one of the Diocese's lay representatives to the General Synod, serving on its Faith and Order Board; although at times this could be challenging, the work meant a great deal to her. She also enjoyed the many friendships she made throughout this time, and she and Ken appreciated the way in which this was extended to him when he accompanied her around the Diocese or to Edinburgh. The family much appreciated the presence of some of these friends at Ruth's funeral in Ballater.

Although originally from a Methodist background, Ruth attended St. Maur's Convent School in Weybridge which helped to shape her character and faith, especially with the kindness shown by the nuns following the death of her father when she was young. However, at the age of 13 she was encouraged to join the choir of the local Anglican church, St. Michael's, which was where she first set eyes on Ken and decided he was her future husband (being nine years older he didn't reciprocate the feeling at that time!). After their marriage, they moved to Hertingfordbury in Hertfordshire, where their four children Diana, Richard, Catherine and David were born. The village church of St. Mary's became an important part of the family's life, which for many years made up a good percentage of the choir. Ruth served on the PCC, and was again involved in the wider church life in Hertford and the Diocese of St. Albans. She started investigating the idea of some form of ministerial training while still living in Hertford, but this was put on hold with the move to Scotland and she didn't return to it.

Ruth was diagnosed with amyloidosis and myeloma in autumn 2014, which ultimately resulted in kidney failure; however, despite deciding not to undergo

dialysis, she proceeded to outlive all the timescales she was given by her doctors. Following Ken's death in July 2015, she had no hesitation in staying in Ballater and, with the help and support of the local community and medical services, she remained at home where she died peacefully on 4th April - exactly 29 years to the day since they both moved to Scotland. Her deep faith and the belief that she would be reunited with Ken had sustained her throughout the latter stages of her illness. Her ashes were interred with his at St. Mary's, Hertingfordbury at the beginning of June.

*Diana Salthouse  
(Daughter of Ruth and Ken Salthouse)*

## David Irvine of Drum

David Irvine of Drum was a clan chief, golfer, genealogist, heraldist, banker, gardener and a much-loved father and grandfather who doted on his family throughout more than half-a-century of marriage. He and his wife Carolyn were long-time members of St Ternan's Church in Banchory.



David's connection to St Ternan's was close: his great-grandfather funded much of the interior, including the splendid woodwork of the pulpit, and generously made funds available for the fabric of the building.

Until he became ill in recent times, David proved a familiar face at services and church events, with Caro a staunch member of the choir.

David loved history, particularly making it relevant to modern times. He famously put an end to a 600-year clan feud; and at the sixcentennial of a notable battle, exchanged swords with the descendant of his own ancestor's adversary.

In private life, David of Drum was quite the most personable of clan chiefs. He and Caro headed across the world to participate in Clan Irvine activities. At home, he served as treasurer of various bodies including the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs; Wallace 700 (the charity remembering Sir William Wallace); and the Scout movement. He was a patron of Aboyne Highland Games and a regular face at the great gatherings of Braemar, Ballater and Lonach.

His friendliness and charm were at odds with an unashamedly bloody history involving a centuries-old feud with neighbouring Clan Keith. It began in 1402 when Irvines slaughtered an invading war party of Keiths at the Battle of Drumoak. It concluded only on 4

August 2002 when David and his Keith opposite number Michael, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kintore finally met to shake hands and sign a peace treaty. This they did on the only piece of neutral ground between their original holdings: the middle of Park Bridge over the river Dee. Overseeing the accord as impartial witness was the Marquess of Huntly, chief of Gordon.

The fighting talent of the Irvines was notably displayed when Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum in his role as chief led his clan in the battle of Harlaw in 1411, an Aberdeenshire event remembered in the ballad *Gude Sir Alexander Irvine the much renounit Laird of Drum*. Sir Alexander engaged in a duel with Red Hector of the Battles, chief of Maclean of Duart. Both warriors died from wounds inflicted upon each other. It became a tradition that on the date of the battle every century, the laird of Drum and the chief of Duart would exchange swords as a sign of peace. At the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harlaw in July 2011, David and Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart maintained the custom.

David spent a happy childhood at Drum Castle, home of his line since 1323, soaking up knowledge of his family history. He would point to his surname as being the only one he knew whose variations started each of the five vowels, plus the consonant Y, and could nimbly identify the 19 ancestors named Alexander out of 26 heads of the family.

David's eldest son and heir Hugh, now 27<sup>th</sup> of Drum, follows the tradition of chiefly Irvines in assuming the additional name of Alexander, with Hugh's eldest son Thomas, David's grandson, already bearing the name.

David was schooled at Blairmore, Aberdeenshire and Radley College – and to the end of his days, he remained a proud Old Radleian. Determined on a financial career, in 1958 he joined Cunard as a purser, sailing all seven seas, and completing a world cruise on the *Caronia*.

Transfer to the Queen Mary brought an introduction to a Carolyn Colbeck, fellow crew member serving as a physiotherapist, and granddaughter of Captain William Colbeck, the Antarctic explorer. They married in 1964, after which David entered the Midland Bank, ultimately becoming a senior manager in Manchester and settling his family in Cheshire.

David's heart was never far from family matters, and in 1996 he and Carolyn moved to Banchory on Deeside, within sight of the ancient lands of Drum to be closer to family and his seven grandchildren.

Chief or no chief, David proved the ultimate democrat. He knew everyone, and everyone knew David. David once partnered fellow chief (and another member of St Ternan's) Jamie Burnett of Leys in a Commoners v Peers golf match against the Marquess of Huntly, chief of Gordon, and Lord Forbes, chief of that name. As

David later related: "In tune with these democratic times, we commoners won!"

A veteran non-dancer, David became an almost overnight convert to Scottish country dancing after his move to Deeside, and rarely a Wednesday passed without the chief of Irvine being on the dance floor at Kirkton village hall.

A lover of the Scots language, he described himself as "a lifetime learner of Doric", and rejoiced in conversing, dram in hand, in the native speech of Aberdeenshire. He appeared in *Who's Who In Scotland*, cheerfully christening the latter *Fa's Fa*.

His motto *Sub Sole Sub Umbra Virens* (Flourishing alike under sun and shade) reflects the ability of the holly adorning his coat-of-arms to thrive in times both good and bad – as has the family down the centuries.

Gordon Casely

## Word for the world – Bible 2020

The Scottish Bible Society (SBS) has a vision to see God's Word being read aloud every day, everywhere and by everyone in the year 2020.



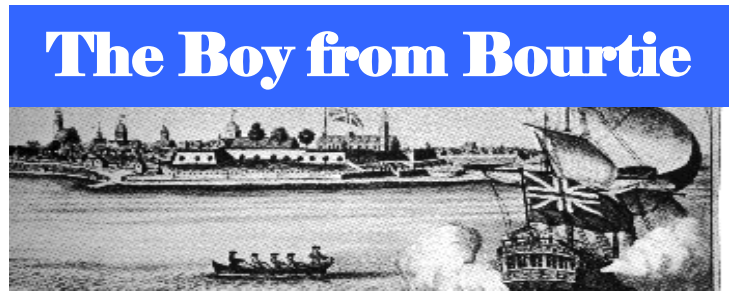
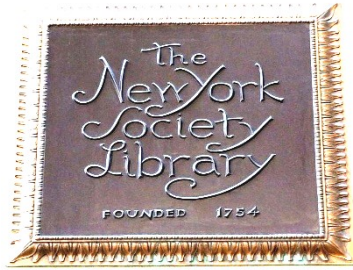
SBS, having undertaken several large Bible Advocacy projects in recent years, believed there was an opportunity to create something contemporary and innovative that would cover Scotland in God's Word for the 366 days of 2020, *Bible 2020*.

SBS focused on the idea of daily bible readings being read and spoken aloud across the nation. The ideal way of achieving this would be through a smartphone app. The app will display the daily Bible verses in a language and Bible translation chosen by the participant. The project will be launched on 1 January 2020. Once the verses appear on the phone screen there is the option to record a video (a bit like a selfie) of the participant themselves reading the Bible and then uploading it to Facebook or another digital channel that everyone can access.

Other Bible Societies around the world have expressed interest as, by 2020, statistics say that over 80% of the world's population will have a smartphone.

To find out more and to register interest, go to [Bible2020.org](http://Bible2020.org).

June MacCormack



On 18<sup>th</sup> May 1700 at age 20, John Sharpe and his father, Alexander Sharpe, incumbent of the parish church in Bourtie, near Old Meldrum, set out to walk to Aberdeen, a distance of 16 miles. The younger Sharpe was setting out on a journey to London for ordination at Fulham Palace. By July, he had reached Pencaitland and after a stay at Tranent, was bound for Kelso and the borders. August saw him at York and then Cambridge where he stayed six weeks before going to London.

He was positively received at Fulham Palace where he was ordained to the Deaconate on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1701; three months later he was ordained to the Priesthood there on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May by Henry Compton, Bishop of London.

Sharpe then boarded the ship *Southampton* landing nine weeks later at Jamestown, Virginia, on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1701. One of the first to be sponsored by the recently incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (S. P. G.) to work in the colonies, Sharpe was sent to Maryland to work with the founder of S. P. G., Revd Thomas Bray. Initially he worked in the local mission field and in so doing became immersed in Bray's ideas about Parochial Libraries as a means to raise the standards of living and piety of clergy and people.

Sharpe quarrelled with Bray over his stipend so he quit, travelling upstate to become Rector of Broad Neck Parish and then as Incumbent at Snow Hill Parish, getting a glowing testimonial from both congregations. This stood him in good stead for a further move northwards to New Jersey to assist Revd John Talbot, successor to reformed Quaker, George Keith. In October 1704 Sharpe began evangelising the townships, on one occasion baptising 40 persons in one day.

On the death of the Military Chaplain at New York, the job was offered to Talbot, whose refusal allowed Sharpe to accept the commission. Sharpe was commissioned as Chaplain to the Fort and Forces at New York on October 1704, on condition he assist the Rector of New York's Trinity Church. It was here that he first formulated the idea of a public library for the city.

He accompanied the Troops on their missions during the 1709 and 1711 forays against the French, in the northern part of New York State. Sharpe had nurtured a long standing promise to himself that he would return home to see his mother and arrived at S. P. G. in London in 1713 to unfold his plans to use his book collection as a Public Library for New York citizens. Later he travelled to Aberdeen in time to be laureated *Doctor of Divinity* at King's College, Aberdeen on 2nd January 1714.

In June of the same year he allowed two of his College friends to intrude him into Oldmachar pulpit, (the former cathedral) in opposition to the Presbytery of Aberdeen who were trying to settle Revd Alexander Mitchell, Minister of Belhelvie into the charge. Supported by the King's College establishment, he was nevertheless deposed by the Lord Advocate and stood trial at Edinburgh for intrusion where he was sentenced to banishment from Scotland.

Rejected by his native country, he returned to London but sadly not much more is known about the fate of Dr Sharpe, except a burial in his name made in a London churchyard on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1726. Sharpe's destitution '*reduced him to a state of misery*' He was an upright, earnest, and conscientious person, tender and kind - and far in advance of his times.

The founding of the New York Society Library didn't happen until 1754, but they are proud of the *John Sharp Collection*, perhaps the earliest collection of Pre-Reformation books published between the fifteenth and eighteen centuries to survive the Revolutionary American War - the Boy from Bourtie - a public benefactor!

***Stuart Donald***

**This summary was made from the full 4,500 word essay by the author available on request.**

**for further information, email [archives@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:archives@aberdeen.anglican.org)  
Aberdeen Diocesan Library & Archives**