



# NORTHERN LIGHT

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

December 2019

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### Bishop Anne's Christmas Message

## “Sing Choirs of Angels”

As we come to Christmas we know ourselves to be in a season of singing. More than any other time of the year, in the church and in society around us, we hear the music of the season.

We know that friends and neighbours who might not think of coming to church at any other time of the year will come to be with us at Christmas. For many it will not feel like Christmas unless they have been in a church and sung a familiar carol.

Across the diocese we are busy preparing services, choosing the carols and other music that we will sing together. We join our voices to those of the heavenly host, who sang in joy at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Through the singing of carols we tell the story of the first Christmas once again. We do not tire of this, as it is good news.

As we are busy singing our cheery carols we might notice other kinds of music in this season. In shops and public spaces we hear a more secular music, Concerned with jingle bells, and sleighs and snow. And far away from our churches there is a different kind of song, more of a lament. In many places the sound that rises to heaven is a sad song, from the dispossessed and from refugees, from the lonely and those without family or comfort.

In Advent we hear much from the prophet Isaiah. Through this prophet God speaks to us today, saying: ‘comfort, comfort my people’. In this verse God speaks the desire that those who are desolate might be comforted. The call is to transform a sad song into one of gladness.

We can be confident then that as we invite friends and strangers to come and sing with us, there will be those who find this invitation comforting, and for whom the sung story of Christmas will be reassuring. May God bless us all as we raise our voices in song.



### In this issue:

Page	
2.....	Editor
3.....	Diocesan Library
4.....	Out of the Soup
5...	Special Relationship
6...	Retreat in daily life
7.....	John Whittall
8.....	Hartford &
9.....	Aberdeen
10.....	SARAC
11.....	Obituaries
12.....	Drum Castle



Michael Price  
Editor

## The team wish all our readers joy at Christmas

As retiring Editor, a big "thank you" to the editorial team of Mary, June and Stuart. Special thanks to the many who have contributed articles and photographs and to all of you who have supported and encouraged us over the last few years.

The spring edition will have a new editor at the helm. At this stage we do not know who that person will be. We need volunteers - may be just one! Please step forward, talk to Bishop Anne or a member of the team. This is a non-technical role, coordinating the work of others and seeking out news and contributions. It is a most rewarding task.

The deadline for the next edition is Friday 20 March 2020. Please submit contributions to the Diocesan Office: [office@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:office@aberdeen.anglican.org)



Ferdinand von Prondzynski will be serving *as Acting Honorary Diocesan Secretary* from this date through to Diocesan Synod, where he will stand for election.

I am very grateful indeed that Ferdinand has offered to serve the Diocese in this role. Ferdinand is a member of the Cathedral congregation, where he is also a Patron and Trustee.

He can be contacted at present through the diocesan office. Further contact details will follow.

+Anne Dyer

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*Serving the Kingdom of God, connecting with our communities*

*The Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney is registered as a charity in Scotland.*

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## Compensations (For My Uncle Stanley)

By Gráinne Smith

I'm wearied o winter,  
The lang dark, the caul.  
I'm wearied o winter  
It's sic a lang haul.

I'm wearied o winter,  
The dreich creepin licht.  
I'm wearied o winter,  
Nithin feels richt.

I'm wearied o winter,  
Soughin an wheekin.  
I'm wearied o winter,  
Aye shivrin an greetin.

Cam - draa the curtains  
gainst grey win and sleet.  
Cam- dra the curtains,  
We'll mak oor ain haet.

Shut oot the winter,  
Shut oot the dark,  
Shut oot the caul,  
We'll mak oor ain spark.

Forget aboot winter,  
Forget aboot sighs,  
Enjoy the lang dark—  
The spring's on its wye.

*Taken, with permission, from Here's Til's, Faa's Like Us! A Collection of Doric Poems. Produced by and available from St Margaret's Gallowgate*

# The Aberdeen Diocesan Library



Leafing through a copy of  
**Elphinstone's**  
*Aberdeen Breviary*

The story begins around the year 2000 by asking Sue Pike, Bishop's Secretary at the Diocesan Office in Kings Crescent, for a book I was interested in reading. I was shown up the stairs to the library and when the door opened, I saw a right shemozzle on the shelves, one book on top of the other. I was told, if I wanted it, find it myself, there was no-one to help!

I started to hunt amongst the shelves and became very interested in some of the books I encountered. There was no apparent catalogue and so, after a few hours, I decided to go back to Sue and despite the fact I hadn't found the book, offered to put a bit of order into the shelves.

Now, I am no librarian, but my professional training in the Chartered Institute of Secretaries stood me in good stead as to how to organise filing, and so I made a start on that basis. Today with a computerised catalogue, we have around 4,000 volumes on the shelf at Mastrick Archive, and very handy too. Imagine how convenient

it is to turn round from your desk and grab a book from the shelves on a subject which will help you with the history or the construction of situations germane to the Scottish Episcopal Church. Indeed we go further, as we have a fine selection of directories for the Scottish Episcopal Church and of other denominations dating from 1856. Also on the shelves is the largest selection of ecclesiastical journals north of Edinburgh!

Only a few years ago, I was astounded to know that we also own about 12,000 volumes at Special Collections within Aberdeen University. These were given to the University on free loan in 1915 by the Diocese as they were unable to find suitable premises to house the entire collection, it being split up into smaller establishments, the Crypt of St James' being one such place. These books cover a publication period of around 1500 to 1850, some of which are priceless in terms of their scarcity, rarity or age, and very valued by the historian.

It is fortunate that Francis Carolus Eeles, Diocesan Librarian in the first few years of the twentieth century saw the value of the collection and persuaded the Diocese to offer it to a wider public. Eeles, a Stonehaven man, became the founding secretary of the Council for the Care of Churches in England from 1917-1954 and was made OBE in 1938.

There is no longer a 'lending' element to the collections but you are welcome to come and have a look, do some study or just an interesting read. We can also arrange to have articles copied for home use.

**Stuart Donald**

*Stuart Donald is 'Keeper' of the Diocesan Library  
and honorary Archivist*



# Out of the Soup and on to the BBQ

*Nick Bowry*

In April this year I attended a wonderful evening at Aberdeen Soup. Aberdeen Soup is based on a concept started in Detroit in 1995. It is a micro granting dinner celebrating and supporting community and creative projects in Aberdeen. For a £5 donation those attending receive food and a vote and hear up to four presentations ranging from art, urban agriculture, social justice, social entrepreneurs, education, technology and more.

Each presenter has five minutes to share their idea and answer three questions from the audience. At the event, attendees eat, talk, share resources, enjoy some entertainment and vote on the project they think will benefit the local area the most. At the end of the night, the ballots are counted and winner goes home with all of the money raised on the night to carry out their project.

I was one of the four presenters. I pitched for funds to support some community barbeques in Mastrick and Northfield over the summer holidays. The aim was to encourage neighbours to come and meet with each other to start making and re-making connections, as a small step towards greater community resilience and self-help. We know that people lead more isolated and compartmentalised lives than ever before. People know fewer of their neighbours and because of that people are less likely and able to call on neighbours to help them when they need support; support that could be as simple as watching a child for 20 minutes, or helping change a light bulb or could be as profound as being a listening ear to a neighbour who is grieving the loss of a loved one. For many of us, our neighbours know so little about us that they wouldn't know when we were in any form of distress, to be in a position to offer help.

I was fortunate to win the 'pot of money', a massive £505 that night, and was able to buy BBQ equipment, a second-hand gazebo, a few chairs, water-proof rugs, a water carrier, charcoal and some starter food items. Along with a community development worker we identified the green spaces we would use for the BBQs and then set about leafleting about 150 doors in the vicinity of each BBQ. It was educational to visit parts of my 'patch' I hadn't been to before, and talk with

people – we knocked on the doors, we didn't just put leaflets through the doors as we knew personal contact would make a difference.

Following the premise of asset-based community development, we asked people to bring out food to put on the BBQ, and to bring themselves. The numbers attending varied considerably across the four events. A Monday late afternoon proved the most popular, whereas Saturday afternoons proved far less popular. We asked people to tell us what they liked about the area they lived in, what would make living there even better and to write down what they could offer to their community to help it be better. To help people consider this last question we prompted people to consider what they could offer as a gift to their community; a gift of the head (knowledge to pass on), a gift of the hand (something practical) or a gift of the heart (something the person was interested in). These questions and the conversations we had when people were considering their responses were great at engaging with people and drew out a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

We know this small project hardly scratched the surface of the issues of isolation, loneliness, community connectedness and resilience. But as a small-scale project it taught us some lessons:

1. Weekday late afternoons/early evenings was a good time in the school holidays to hold an event.
2. Despite being intensive, leafleting and door knocking was worthwhile on two counts; to gain a better knowledge of the community and meeting and chatting to people on the doorstep overcame some of the suspicion and hostility.
3. People are generous. Some people who couldn't join us donated food or sweets. People came to help us when we made a complete mess of putting up the gazebo and helped stop it from flying off.
4. People who had been thinking about doing some sort of community event were greatly encouraged by our small-scale event and plan to do their own in future.

5. Asking positive questions drew out a lot of interesting responses and some people surprised themselves with their responses when they had time to stop and think.

6. It is worth taking a risk. There was no failure in this project; every event had learning points.

7. We did the best we could with the resources we had. The right people came out and they made best use of the resources we offered and they offered back the resources they were able to give – food for the BBQ, their life stories, rugs and chairs, games for the children, a place to store the BBQ until the following day when it had cooled down, etc.

This project also means we now have equipment that is available for the local community to use in the future for running their own BBQs. We can store it and respond to requests for its use. It creates a point of contact between the congregation and the community.

This style of mission was not based on us doing something good for the community in isolation. We were offering the BBQ equipment but looking for people to respond by offering something of themselves; food and their time. This is the basis of asset-based community development – discovering and mobilising the community's own 'assets' and working to help themselves improve their lives, in partnership with us.

What might you want to pitch for funding at an Aberdeen Soup event? What is stopping you going along on a Sunday evening three or four times a year and supporting the event, buying your bowl of delicious soup and voting for one of four presentations? Or thinking bigger, could you set up a soup event in your town, especially if you are not based in Aberdeen?

NB: The three gifts questions was devised by Cormac Russell. See Russell, C (2017a) The Good Life Conversation. Accessed on 21.01.19 from <https://www.nurturedevelopment.org/blog/abcd-practice/good-life-conversation/>

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# God's Special Relationship with Us

*by Revd Dr Dennis Berk*



In mid-September I travelled over to Canada in order to meet someone who has a special connection to me – my new grandson. Previously I'd only seen him on Skype, so it was with eager anticipation that I looked forward to meeting him in person. One of the primary reasons for my journey to Ontario was to participate in his baptism. To my great pleasure my daughter and son-in-law had asked me to preside at the baptism. It was a double privilege to wear simultaneously the two hats of "priest" and "grandad" on that Sunday morning when I stood at the font holding my grandson in my arms.

The baptism was held in the Cathedral Church of Saint George, and it was a nostalgic experience for me to be back there because that is the same place where I had been ordained as a deacon and then as a priest. Although I have done quite a few baptisms throughout my years of ordained ministry, I must confess that this one was a truly special experience. Why? Because I have a special personal relationship with the baby who was being baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. After pouring water upon my grandson's head, and signing his forehead with the chrism oil, I proudly held up four-month old Erik Allan Alexander Schizkoske so that the entire congregation could see and greet the newest member of the Body of Christ.

Later, when reflecting upon the elation that I felt whilst baptising my grandson, I realised that God must experience the same thrill. Why? Because God has a very special relationship with each one of us! Indeed it probably is an even more fantastic elation than what I'd experienced because we are not God's grandchildren. Instead we are his own beloved child: created in God's image, redeemed by the precious blood of his only begotten Son, and thereby made heirs with Christ to the kingdom of heaven. How amazing, and how wonderful, that we can have such a special relationship with God.

# What is a ‘Retreat in Daily Life’?

Traditionally, a ‘retreat’ has meant an extended time of silent prayer and reflection, away from home, in a monastery or retreat house. But not everyone can spend the time or money on a residential retreat.

A Retreat in Daily Life is an alternative way of being supported in prayer and reflection in the midst of ordinary life with the assistance of a one-to-one prayer guide. There are three elements to a Retreat in Daily Life. Everyone meets together at the start and at the end of the retreat. Each retreatant has weekly one-to-one meetings with their guide and, in between, takes time on their own to pray and reflect.

## Who is it for?

A Retreat in Daily Life is open to all. No particular familiarity with prayer or faith is needed or expected. Each person begins from where they are, no matter what their experience of life or prayer. If you are new to taking personal quiet time you are very welcome to join us; if you have experienced a retreat before you are also most welcome. Those who are hurting, angry or anxious may desire healing and peace; those who have been praying for many years may be looking for encouragement and renewal. All are welcome!

## What are the benefits?

There are many reasons to come on a Retreat in Daily Life. These are just some of them:

- Find new meaning or a new way of being.
- Exploring what God means to you
- Being accompanied on your spiritual journey
- Trying out different ways of praying
- Being supported as you make a decision
- Discovering the mystery of inner transformation
- Finding a way out of a spiritual rut.

## How is the retreat organised?

At the start, we will have a short gathering of retreatants and prayer guides at Credo Centre, John Street, AB25 1BT on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

at 17.00. We shall begin with introductions to one another and to some ways of praying. You will meet your own prayer guide for the retreat and be able to arrange the suitable time and venue to meet each week.

These weekly meetings with your guide will last around 45 minutes, at a time and place mutually convenient. Away from these individual meetings, you are encouraged to take regular time to pray and reflect in a way that feels intentional but manageable within your particular daily routine.

We gather again all together for a final celebration at Credo Centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30. when there will be a chance to reflect on what has emerged through the time of retreat. You are welcome to stay for a sandwich lunch afterwards.

## What is the role of the Prayer Guide?

The starting point for your conversation with your guide is your own felt experience in life and prayer. Guides are not advice givers, but will listen carefully and help you discern for yourself what is emerging within you, what is helpful to you, and what hinders. Your guide may suggest ways of praying or a bible passage or other material to reflect on. The conversation is confidential.

## What is the cost?

Prayer Guides undertake training for this ministry as well as ongoing formation and supervision. They may incur travel expenses to guide on this retreat. Cost of hiring our venue for our gathering and, in some cases, the one-to-one session will be incurred. We therefore suggest a voluntary donation of £35 for the retreat. All are welcome so please do not let finances deter you.

**To book** a place or ask any question please contact Carole Phelan, 01224 895 033, 07714 091 418, or [Carole.phelan@talk21.com](mailto:Carole.phelan@talk21.com) Please send payment of £10 (cheques *Epiphany Group, Aberdeen*) to: Carole Phelan, 2 Loirston Road, Cove Bay AB12 3NS by 31 January, 2020

# John Whittall: An Appreciation on his retirement



As John Whittall bows out as Diocesan Secretary it is a great pleasure to reflect on his contribution to our common life. The Diocese has been blessed by many distinctive characters, and I would count John very much as one of them. For me, John is the epitome of a country gentleman. Regardless of whether Synod (our Diocese “AGM”) meets in the City or the Shire John always appears immaculately dressed in tweed and tie. John’s very presence reminds us how rural a Diocese we are.

In playing a key role organising our Synod meetings John has discharged his duties with considerable courtesy and charm. Even in the best run events things can go a little awry and utilising John’s personal reserves of goodwill have helped get us back on track with a minimum of fuss. His kindly manner has been no less welcome in Standing Committee.

Little known is that John’s contribution over the years has included organising the maintenance of Ashley House (the Bishop’s home). Notwithstanding his chartered civil engineer background, John has been more than happy to engage himself with getting our leaky windows fixed. Perhaps an example of God’s sense of humour given John’s wife’s family have the care of a former Bishop’s palace.

Work that was not mundane was the Diocesan Secretary’s role as a key link between the Aberdeen Diocese Office and the General Synod Office in Edinburgh. In that role John proved an able emissary and advocate, helping keep all well informed and working together in our common mission.

Whilst Saga holidays and gardening could have claimed him many years ago I, along with many across the Diocese, thank God for John’s faithful and enduring service amongst us. I look forward to his tweed and tie continuing to be a familiar sight at Diocese events, and to John continuing to be good example amongst us for many years to come.

*Peter Murray, Registrar to the Diocese*

## Deeside Climate Action Network

‘Hope Through Action’ is the by-line for the Deeside Climate Action Network (CAN) that was initially set up in Banchory by four eco-congregations, including St Ternan’s. A public meeting was held in the summer in The Barn at Banchory, and over ninety people attended. After a short presentation, eleven discussion tables, providing a broad spectrum of topics including raising awareness, spiritual and political activism, food and home energy advice, transport, the circular economy, plastic waste, and the health benefits of reconnecting with nature. There was some high-energy discussion and everyone was keen to do something. As a result a number of initiatives have begun including a zero waste shop, up-cycling and repair workshops, food

growing, a community pantry and links to civil society.

Deeside CAN has decided that it will continue to provide a forum for groups, disseminate information and best practice, and investigate potential issues, in partnership with other like-minded organisations in the Aberdeenshire area. What has begun in Banchory is an articulation of the love we have for one another as neighbours and citizens, putting creative energy into providing resilience in the face of the climate emergency. If you would like to keep up to date with what is happening a Facebook page has been created.

*Richard Murray*

# A Hartfordian at Aberdeen Cathedral



Dearest friends in Christ,

It was a week of firsts, indeed.

On the last weekend in October, in Hartford, Connecticut, USA, hundreds of Episcopalians gathered from across the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) for our annual convention. We heard voices from around our diocese vibrantly address questions centred around the rapidly shifting face of our Church for part of our time together; and – a first for me – had the chance to hear and be in the presence of The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, first woman ordained bishop in America. Walking alongside us for our convention weekend were our guests from the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, just emphasizing the excitement the coming days would bring.

A flight through the night found us all in Aberdeen, eagerly anticipating the gathering of clergy and lay readers from around the Diocese. Bishop Laura Ahrens from ECCT, Jilda Aliotta, lay leader at our Cathedral in Hartford, and myself all settled in for some time with our new friends in Aberdeen. Clergy conference gave me my first chance at sharing new and engaging tools for trying on different ways of being “Church”. As it turns out, no one seems to be alone in wondering how we might be better Gospel-bringers; no one seems to be alone in seeking ways to bring about God’s Kingdom. Our work together at the clergy and lay readers programme reminded me, at the very least, that we’re absolutely in this together with God; God’s Holy Spirit right in the middle. We all were treated to generous hospitality, staying on for the remainder of the week in homes with gracious hosts. Good food and good company were never in short supply.

Yet another first – a trip to St. Andrew’s Cathedral in Aberdeen. Quite an incredible space with a rich and notable history. We were enthralled by the stories “those walls could tell”, and, at the same time, know all too well the challenge of continued relevance for our beloved spaces. It was a highlight of my trip to be in that space, and I’m grateful for the chances to worship, there, among more of my siblings in Christ.

And, a final first – though one that represents a chapter only begun. I was seated as the honorary Seabury Canon to the Cathedral in Aberdeen in a Sunday morning service that was nothing short of glorious. Paul Mealor’s Seabury Mass added a depth of sacred texture to our worship for which the Cathedral’s choir should be immensely proud.

Blessings abound as we continue our journey together. Until we meet again.



Faithfully,  
Rebekah+

# An Aberdonian at Hartford Cathedral

On the 25 October Bishop Anne, Provost Isaac, Dr Lizzie Finlayson (my Rector's Warden here at St Ternan's Banchory), and myself flew off to Hartford, Connecticut via Dublin. We were going to join the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Conference and the centennial celebrations for Hartford's Christ Church Cathedral.

Every encounter began with being thanked for blessing people by spending time with them, before we had actually spent any time at all. Their confidence that this encounter would be a blessing was both disconcerting and deeply encouraging. We had the opportunity to meet people from many different walks of life and with differing connections to the church, a fact reflected in all the public worship.

The centennial celebrations began with musical offerings from: the "Hands on Hartford" housing and food insecure choir; one of the diocesan churches' choirs; the cathedral musicians in residence; the Latino music group and then the cathedral choir led the music for Evensong. Readings were in Spanish and English. Young children were altar attendants, whilst more senior members acted as Thurifer. This was the service at which Bishop Anne presented me to Bishops Laura and Ian, who seated me as Seabury Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford.

Sunday's Eucharist included a steel drum band, Haitian Creole in addition to Spanish and English, young people leading intercessions as well as dancing the cloths and all necessary items onto the table at the offertory. Four bishops shared the leading of the worship alongside numerous lay people and a large choir.

Throughout the weekend hospitality around food was warm and generous, from the grand centennial dinner to the tacos of our arrival dinner. Lizzie and Isaac also had the chance to be part of Church by the Pond, a service of Communion held weekly in Hartford's Park, led largely by cathedral staff and supported each week by different churches from around the diocese who provide 70 lunches for the people (mostly homeless) who attend.

The buzz from these services, the World Cafe discussions of the conference and our meeting with the female clergy of the diocese carried us safely through the return flight, where we paused in Dublin to see the Book of Kells.

Bishop Laura and Rebekah, my counterpart, led energetic sessions at the Aberdeen and Orkney Clergy Conference before gathering on All Saints Day to install Rebekah as Seabury Canon here in Aberdeen at a magnificent High Eucharist.

These ten days have filled me with hope and the sense of new possibilities. It will be interesting to see how this new relationship grows in the coming years.



Blessings from one who feels thoroughly blessed,  
Lynsay

# *The Scottish Association of Retired Anglican Clergy*



*The Scottish Association of Retired Anglican Clergy* (SARAC) is not as widely known as it might be. This is a pity for various reasons. The principal reason is that retired, and soon to retire, clergy may not be aware of the benefits that are available to them by joining SARAC. Perhaps congregations could draw the attention of these clergy to this article?

- SARAC offers prayerful fellowship
- SARAC offers support and encouragement
- SARAC offers intellectual and spiritual stimulus
- SARAC offers social interaction and activity
- SARAC offers resources to the Church at large

Promoting fellowship among retired clergy has been a primary aim of SARAC since its foundation in 2009. This has proved to be a much-valued feature of our life as a welcoming association. Prayer is our beating heart.

The later years of life inevitably bring greater hardships and often unexpected difficulties. At times of disappointment, frustration, sorrow or loss it makes a real difference to know that friends are at hand to give a word (or send an email or letter) of encouragement, support and understanding. Discussion in a group context of common issues affecting the elderly can also help by preparing us for difficulties that may lie ahead.

SARAC *Occasional Papers*, which are published to the membership regularly, provide the intellectual stimulus and enlightenment that can inform our preaching and pastoral ministry. A recent example was written specially for SARAC by our own Bishop Anne, with the benefit of her considerable knowledge of art and well-known paintings.

For spiritual support, our annual Residential Retreat at Kinnoull Monastery in Perth, with its beautiful surroundings and space for quiet meditation, offers a haven of renewal and refreshment within a liturgical framework. And, the pleasant accommodation is superbly complemented by the wonderful and plentiful food!

Social activity does play a huge part in the life of SARAC, and such outings as have been enjoyed have taken us to Pitlochry for some old favourites of theatrical comedy and a hearty meal together at the Festival Theatre.

As can no doubt be imagined, within the fellowship of SARAC there is a wealth of knowledge and experience across the membership. This represents a true cornucopia of resources for a wide range of projects within the SEC which is there for the asking throughout the Province. Our President is the Primus (Most Rev Mark Strange) and he has recently undertaken to share within the College of Bishops his appreciation of the value and potential of this “human resource”.

I will gladly send a copy of our *Introductory Leaflet* to anyone who would like to know more, and will reply to any comments, enquiries or requests sent to me.

Kenneth D. Gordon, *Chairman of SARAC*

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# OBITUARIES

## **Mrs Dorothy Mary McIntosh (1933-2019)**

On Friday 15 November the congregation of St James' Holburn Junction gathered for the funeral of one of their longest serving members, Dorothy McIntosh. Dorothy was for many years a member of the Vestry and in addition also served as the people's warden. Her most outstanding contribution to the church however was to the church choir. She joined the choir in 1944 and remained a member until shortly before her death. She could sight read and had perfect pitch, and had committed to memory most of the canticles and psalms encountered in the Book of Common Prayer. She therefore provided an important lead to those less skilled in the choir as well as acting as one of the choir's most outstanding soloists.

Born in 1933 as Dorothy Mary Shirreffs she was baptised and married in St James'. As a child she joined the St James' pack of Brownies and later moved on to membership of the Girl Guides. In 1955 she married Ronald McIntosh and set up home in Aberdeen. Ronald was a marine engineer and so was away at sea a lot so it must have been hard work for



her bringing up their four children. Sadly Ronald died in 1997. She was a stalwart member of the St James' branch of the Mother's Union. She contributed much to the social life of the church and regularly organised lunches and coffee morning refreshments as well as dealing with events such as beetle drives, sales and decorating the church for

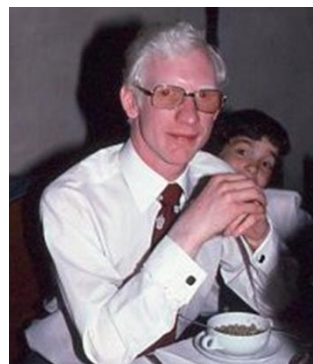
Christmas. She regularly donated and put up the Christmas tree as well as organising the production of hot mince pies for the annual carol service! Outside the church activities Dorothy was also very active, especially in her membership of the Seafield Bowling Club. She will be sorely missed not just by her family and the St James' congregation but also by her many friends in the local community and beyond.

## **Doreen Dawson (1932-2019)**

We record with sadness the passing of Doreen Dawson on 27 November 2019. For many years she was the lay representative to St Ninian's Mar Lodge and locally supported her husband's ministry there.

## **William Henderson (1944-2019)**

The music world in Aberdeen was delivered a severe blow on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019, with the death of 'Bill' Henderson at 3.00am aged 75 years.



After a very short illness, Bill was admitted to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and died there seemingly from pancreatitis, an illness which moved in a few days to a swift conclusion.

Born an Aberdonian, he married Jean and they

had two children, Peter (now a serving police officer in Aberdeenshire) and Kathleen (who is married and now lives in New Zealand).

Bill's love of organ music began when he became a pupil of Pearce Hoskins at Queen's Cross Church in the city and after having played there, began a career of playing at virtually all the big organ jobs in Aberdeen City. In the early eighties, he and son Peter joined the St Andrew's Cathedral Choir as choristers and became one of three sets of father and sons in the choir at that time. Later Bill took on organ duties and latterly did most of the playing for services.

His work life was spent in the furniture trade and rose to become Head Salesman at the prestigious Archibald's in Great Western Road. In a change of policy in the way the firm did business, he reluctantly resigned and later was to 'modernize' the famous Alexander's Furniture business in Rosemount Place. His retirement from business allowed him to spend more time on his music and although holding diplomas from Trinity College London, he began studies for a degree in music. He also took on congregational duties by organising the Summer Stewarding at the Cathedral.

A past president of that august body, the Aberdeen & District Association of Organists, and as an indispensable and extremely well-liked member of St Andrew's congregation, he will be sadly missed for his gentlemanly behaviour, pawky humour and sensitive, profoundly expressive organ playing leading the worship at St Andrew's console week by week. *Requiescat in Pace*

ACSD



## Chapel at Drum Castle

The original 13th century tower of Drum Castle is thought to have been the work of the medieval architect Richard Cementarius, who built the Bridge of Don in Old Aberdeen. Drum is believed to be one of the three oldest tower houses in Scotland. A large wing was added in 1619 by the ninth laird affording enlarged accommodation. The private Chapel, which is situated quite close to the main castle building, is believed to have been erected in the fourteenth century. The chapel is in perfect condition and is still in use. Many of the Irvines were baptised in the font within the chapel and occasionally a marriage ceremony is celebrated.



Under the floor of the chapel is the crypt, where members of the family have been interred, although several of the Irvines have been buried in St Nicholas Churchyard in Union Street, Aberdeen. The transept separating the 'East' from the 'West' Church of St Nicholas is known as 'Drum's Aisle'

The name of Bruce has been associated with Drum since the year 1383, when land was granted by Robert the Bruce to his armour-bearer and secretary, William de Irwin, and the lands have been in the possession of the family ever since. Before that date, William de Irwin had received from Bruce the device which he had borne as Earl of Garrick, namely three bunches of holly leaves supported by two savages, with the motto 'Sun solew, sub umura verens'.



The original charter of the estates of Drum at Berwick on Tweed, dated 1st February 1323 is still in the possession of the Irvines at Drum Castle, as is another from Robert I, dated at Kynros, on 4th October (1324). Prior to Drum coming into the possession of the Irvine family it was part of a royal forest and one of the hunting grounds of the Kings of Scotland.

***Stuart Donald***

*Stuart Donald is honorary Archivist  
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### Acknowledgements:

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