



# Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

## Scottish Episcopal Church

### Newsletter – Wednesday 19 August 2020

From the Bishop



### Scotland to fall silent to remember Stonehaven train crash victims

The response to the accident came partly because the line is so well known and well used by Aberdeen people, but also because rail safety has increased to an extent that such events are now rare. We remember the bereaved and the injured as they continue to make sense of the trauma that has happened to them, and pray for all who work to keep rail travel safe for all.

#### Stonehaven Derailment

One minute of silence was kept across the city of Aberdeen today, as it was across the nation, as we remembered those who lost their lives or were injured in the train derailment last Wednesday.

The gathering at Aberdeen Station was particularly notable, where staff and regular passengers have been very shaken and upset by the accident.

#### Provincial services will continue for the foreseeable future.

##### Provincial Worship – Thursday 20 August

6.30pm Service of the Word

##### Provincial Worship – Sunday 23 August – Pentecost +11

11am: The service will be led by the Rt Revd Anne Dyer from her home in Aberdeen, assisted by members of St Mary's, Carden Place.,

7pm Sunday, light a candle, place it in your window, and pray for all affected by the coronavirus crisis.

This newsletter comes as a PDF, and an on-line copy can be read on the Diocesan website.

There will be an issue next Wednesday, 26 August. After that the newsletter will be published every fortnight. I am always delighted to receive contributions, which could be news, poetry, history – whatever is interesting to you, and might be to others.

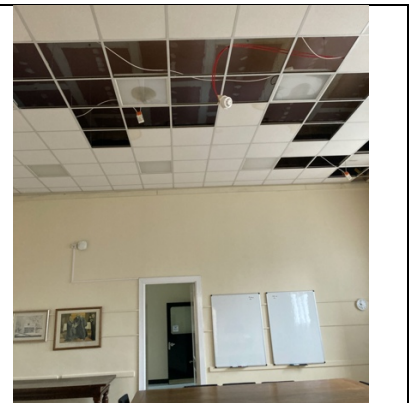
Please send your news to me at : [bishopanne@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:bishopanne@aberdeen.anglican.org)

#### Diocesan Office Flooded

The torrential rain of last Wednesday morning brought down the ceilings in the diocesan office. Although there was not a great deal of permanent damage, there was a great deal of mess.

Euan Thompson, assistant treasurer, has been working in the offices occasionally through the lockdown so that he can see to essential work for the diocese. He did a sterling job clearing up the mess, almost entirely on his own.

The office is let from Aberdeen University, who will add these repairs to their very long list of storm damage from last week.



## September Ordinations



The Revd Dr Jenny Holden and the Revd Mike Blake with me last summer, 2019, when they were preparing for their ordinations to the diaconate.

The Revd Dr Jenny Holden will be ordained priest (presbyter) at a service at 3pm on Saturday 12 September at St John's, Aberdeen.

The Revd Mike Blake will be ordained priest (presbyter) at a service at 3pm on Saturday 26 September at St Andrew's, Alford.

Because of coronavirus restrictions, attendance at the service will be by invitation only. Jenny and Mike will both be taking time to retreat in September and prepare for their ordinations. This is a very busy time for both of them as St John's and St Andrew's will each open again for collective worship (all being well!) before the end of August. Please add them to your prayer lists, together with the congregations they serve.

The ordination prayer:

Bishop: Pour now upon her/him your Spirit  
for the office and work of a presbyter in your church.

Grant her/him authority to loose the bonds of sin,  
that what is wounded may be healed,  
what is divided, reconciled,  
and what is lost, restored.  
Renew her/him in holiness,  
that others may be led to you.  
In the power of word and sacrament  
may she/he serve and sustain your Church.

Through Christ who died for us, rose again,  
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## Open Churches

Across the diocese some congregations and their vestries have decided to wait longer before considering reopening. The decision whether or not to open has to begin locally, where people know if they have the resources to manage the protocols around hygiene and social distancing that are required. Often the decision to delay reopening is the right decision!

Where churches are opening a very considerable amount of work has been done by clergy and vestries. This activity, although time consuming, is being done with great care. Every church is aiming to reduce as much as possible the risk of catching or passing on the virus. When vestries are ready the detailed documents, including photographs of layouts, signage and sanitizer stations etc are sent to the bishop. Once all is well then consent is given to reopen.

**In the city of Aberdeen** St Clement's Mastrick and St James Holburn had opened for collective worship, only to close again temporarily because of the Aberdeen lockdown. St Margaret's Gallowgate, St John's Crown Terrace and St Mary's Carden Place are ready to reopen once the Aberdeen lockdown is eased.

**In the shire** a number of churches are open: St Mary's Inverurie, St Drostan's Inch, St Mary's Auchindoir, and St Ternan's Banchory. **In Buchan** St Peter's Fraserburgh, All Saints Strichen, and St John's Longside have re-opened.

**On Orkney** both St Olaf's Kirkwall and St Mary's Stromness are open.

St Andrew's Alford and St Anne's Kemnay have consent to open and will resume services very soon.

Other churches planning to reopen shortly are St Magnus Lerwick, St Thomas Aboyne, St Kentigern Ballater, St Devenick's Bielside, St Mary-on-the-Rock Ellon, and St James Cruden Bay.

In every place congregations are limited. The churches that are managing best to fit in good numbers, appropriately distanced, are those with chairs.

Where congregations are worshipping again, the message is the same – how good it is to be together again! There is also always comment on the strangeness of being in church but not singing, and how odd it feels for some (but not all!) to sit so far apart from each other. Social interaction is discouraged in church, but can take place outside, although this might prove more difficult as the weather turns towards winter.

If you have a re-opening story, then do send it to the bishop.

St Mary's Carden Place is ready to reopen once the Aberdeen lockdown is eased.

To allow for appropriate social distancing pews have been removed, they are now 2 metres apart.

The church has been stripped of all the extras, including the many items that are commonly found at the back of churches. Books are stored away.

Throughout the church there is appropriate signage.

