



# Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

## Scottish Episcopal Church

### Newsletter – Wednesday 26 August 2020

#### From the Bishop

Aberdeen has come out of lockdown, and in the last couple of days I have been on the bus again. I am very pleased to see those who Maureen (my PA) calls my 'bus-buddies' once again. Everyone is well. This is especially reassuring because some of those I speak to regularly are well into their nineties. We try to have conversations in our masks over the noise of the bus – very difficult!

As you might imagine, there was lots to say about the causes of the lockdown. Strong feelings were expressed about the 'Soul Bar' on Union Street, which we pass on our bus. Several signs outside this establishment say 'Covid safe and compliant', which has turned out not to be the case. This was no surprise at all to those who passed the bar regularly. It is easy to be over-confident with regard to this virus.

The lifting of lockdown has meant that more of our churches in Aberdeen are confident to open. Yet we do this with great care. I have yet to lead my first Sunday service in a re-opened church, but I hope to be able to do this in September. One of the things we have learnt in the city is that only a little of the virus needs to be present for it to quickly run from person to person. We take the 'care of souls' seriously!



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

#### **Provincial Worship – Thursday 27 August & Thursday 3 September**

6.30pm Service of the Word

#### **Provincial Worship – Sunday 30 August – Eve of St Aidan**

11am: A celebration of the Eucharist will be led by the Rt Revd Kevin Pearson from Glasgow.

#### **Provincial Worship – Sunday 6 September**

11am: A celebration of the Eucharist will be led by the Primus, the Very Revd Mark Strange, and will include contributions from children in SEC schools.

#### **Epiphany Group – Reflective Days**

The Epiphany Group plans a series of reflective days on the theme "Encounters with Jesus'. The first of these is on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August. The other dates so far are the last Saturdays in September, October and November. If you would like to participate via zoom, please contact Carole Phelan (carole.phelan@talk21.com) You will be sent material for your own reflection during the morning with an option to meet on Zoom at 12.00. If you plan to join in on Zoom at 12.00 on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August please email Carole now.

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

The newsletter will be published fortnightly from now on. The date of next issue will be **Wednesday 9 September**. 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)

## International Overdose Awareness Day



**Monday 31 August is  
International Overdose Awareness Day**

**Sunday 30 August – Overdose Awareness Sunday**

Aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of drug overdose. Thousands of people die each year from drug overdose. They come from all walks of life.

My thanks to Alan and Jenny Lee for drawing our attention to this day. Alan and Jenny are a Methodist couple who run the Beulah Café which meets (in other circumstances) beneath St Andrew's Banff. They are among those who seek to assist those with a history related to drug overdose.

### **And a poem from Caroline Fowler - GOD GUIDES MY HAND:**

God guides my hand, in all I do  
He gives me strength, to carry through  
The tasks before me, unbeknown  
I cannot do them, on my own.

Oh for the children, hear me pray  
Shine light upon, my work today  
For from the darkness, and despair  
The fragile threads, of Hope we share.

Such rapture when, our work is done  
Warm smiles abound, from everyone  
The beauty of, His wondrous ways  
When joy surrounds, a loving gaze.

Be thine my eyes, so I may see  
The path to follow, unto Thee  
Be thine my lips, your wisdom sings  
Angels enfold us, in their wings.

With tender heart, I do His will  
May there be Peace, when hearts beat still  
Full well I know, life journey's planned  
For blessed am I, God guides my hand.

~\*~\*~\*~

Caroline says:

Following Evelyn telling me the words her brother-in-law said, whilst working as a heart surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital, having held the heart of a one day old baby in his hand;

'God Guides My Hand' - Set to the tune: O Waly, Waly. (The Water is Wide)



## The Scottish Episcopal Church 'Year of Pilgrimage' becomes a 'Season'.

The College of Bishops designated 2021 a year of pilgrimage. Plans for a variety of pilgrimages around the province and beyond were in planning before the coronavirus pandemic.

This year is not cancelled but extended.

We will encourage pilgrims to make holy journeys through a 'season, which will begin at Epiphany 2021, and continue through 2021 and 2022.

Potential pilgrims are encouraged to make provisional plans now. Those that have already signed up to join pilgrimages should check with the organisers concerning arrangements.

**The Season of Pilgrimage** is intended to encourage as many as possible to make some kind of intentional spiritual journey.

Every member of the Scottish Episcopal Church is encouraged to make a pilgrimage in some way. Wherever possible our pilgrim journeys will be made in company with ecumenical friends.

There will be various options:

1. **Longer and lengthier pilgrimages.** These might take place within a diocese, across a region or overseas. (e.g. walking all or part of a pilgrim route, pilgrimage to the Holy Land.)
2. **Shorter pilgrimages.** These would take place within a diocese, and usually last less than 24 hours.
3. **Pilgrimages linked to quiet days.** Some might make a short journey, others might be present at the end location to pray.
4. **On-Line resources:** for those who are not able to leave their homes.

Clergy and laity, Charges and vestries, are encouraged to consider how they might become a pilgrims. Small and local plans are encouraged. What might you do? Where might you go?

### The Bishop's Pilgrimage

Sunday 16 May – Sunday 23 May (Pentecost) 2021  
Orkney



Walking will begin on Monday 17 May, with the final leg walked on Saturday 22 May, ending at Kirkwall Cathedral. Those who would like to walk with the Bishop might come for the whole period, or for a single or couple of days.

Each day pilgrims will walk one leg of St Magnus Way. Details of the route can be found on the St Magnus Way website.

Pilgrims should organise their own accommodation, which might be in a hotel, a B&B, camping or caravan, hostel, and so on. As accommodation in Orkney is limited, pilgrims are advised to make their plans now. Bishop Anne will be resident in Kirkwall.

Pilgrims should inform Bishop Anne if they plan to join her.