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Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Scottish Episcopal Church
Newsletter – Tuesday 20 October 2020
From the Bishop



The consolation of God

During the last month, we have experienced two very sad bereavements in my family. In each case the death was that of a person who had been a friend and encouragement to each of us. We are more sad than we can say. Each death was caused by cancer, and there was good warning that death was close. In other times one or more of us would have made the journey (in each case to England) to say goodbye. We would have been able to hold a hand, say a prayer, and say thank you for the wonderful example that each of these friends were to us. We know we are better Christians, better people, for knowing and being loved by these friends. This year no such goodbye was possible.

We have added the names of each of these dear departed friends to the list of those whose names will be read at the All Souls Eve service, at 6.30pm in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on 1 November. I will be present, but my family will not. It will be a comfort to us all to know that the faithful departed will be remembered with thanksgiving in this way. Although only 35 people will be able to be present, we will light candles and say our prayers as we would do in any other year. This is a great consolation, so I remember what St Paul wrote:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

1 Corinthians 1:3-4

Now is the time to be actively asking church members, friends and neighbours, if they have names that they would like included in such a service. If your church is not open, or it is not possible to hold an All Souls service this year, then please do send the names to me. I will read them in the service.

The names could come to me by email or post:

bishopanne@aberdeen.anglican.org

Rt Revd Anne Dyer, 16 Ashley Gardens, Aberdeen, AB10 6RQ

Those wanting to attend should contact Canon Terry Taggart (details on third page below)

From Alan Lee, Methodist – friend of St Andrew's Banff



It was 10am on Saturday morning when we left the cars at the foot of Bennachie. There were fourteen in the party, three adults and eleven young people. The activity came about with a suggestion from a parent who attends Beulah Café “Can you arrange an outing for the kids during the holidays? The young people were a mixed group from a variety of backgrounds. One parent said at pick up “Behave yourself and don’t be cheeky!”

We had asked all to come in strong shoes with a waterproof as part of our risk assessment. Jean and Moira said, “Are we climbing to the top of that mountain?” We had chosen the steepest but shortest route through the woods. During our climb every so far we stopped to take in the views in essence really to allow the adults to catch their breath.

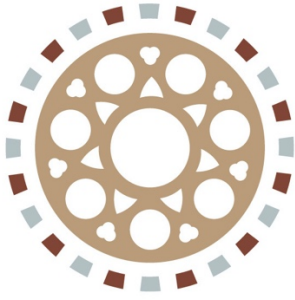
The group had separated into two, the lead party reluctantly waiting periodically for the others to catch up. We reached the top, “summit of the mountain” as Jean said. The mist had cleared and the party gazed at the view of miles in all directions. Moira suddenly said, “Look at the colours it’s like a giant patchwork quilt. Isn’t God wonderful! I can almost see forever.” Jean looked at Moira and said, “What God! If I can’t see Him I don’t believe!” (I for one had heard that before.)

We had a light lunch, a break and then started down. We were about halfway down; it was becoming quite cold. Jean said “Gosh the winds picking up.” Moira answered, “I thought you said if you can’t see it you don’t believe it! Well you can’t see the wind, only like God, the results of its existence.” After a short pause Moira added “Isn’t God wonderful!”

We looked at each other thinking, out of the mouth of babes.

The visit took place before lockdown. The young people’s names have been changed.

Worship from St Mary's Pro-Cathedral



SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PRO-CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF
ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

Sunday: 10am in the church

Seats must be booked

Sunday: 10am, recorded service is broadcast, with link from the Diocesan website.

<https://aoepiscopal.scot>

Wednesday: 10am in the church

Seats must be booked

Seats are booked by emailing Canon Taggart (see below)

Because of coronavirus restrictions seating is limited at St Mary's at present. The congregations of St Mary's and St Andrew's are worshipping together, but there are often a few seats available.

If you would like to attend any service then please email Canon Terry Taggart:

Terry_t_2000_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Provincial services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Provincial Worship – Thursday 22 & Thursday 29 October

6.30pm Service of the Word

Provincial Worship – Sunday 25 October

11am: A celebration of the Eucharist will be led by the Rt Revd Dr John Armes from the Diocese of Edinburgh.

Provincial Worship – Sunday 1 November

11am: A celebration of the Eucharist will be led by the Most Revd Mark Strange from the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness.

7pm on a Sunday – as the nights are getting darker now, consider lighting a candle at this time, and joining the ecumenical prayer initiative to pray for the nation during the pandemic.

Lighting candles on the Eve of All Souls, and All Souls Day itself, is encouraged.

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 4 November. 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