



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Scottish Episcopal Church
Newsletter – Wednesday 4 November 2020
From the Bishop

A renewed garden entrance for St James, Aberdeen



A new garden which includes an area of seating has been installed in front of St James, Aberdeen. The cost of these works has been covered by 'Aberdeen Inspired Business Improvement District', as a social and visual enhancement of part of the city.

Those of you that know Aberdeen well will remember that the entrance to this church is adjacent to the traffic lights at the top of Union Street. The land there is open to the public and previously was difficult to keep tidy.

The new garden includes diverse planting of plants, shrubs and trees, together with a public seating area including five benches. The whole is welcoming and attractive, drawing those who live locally, as well as passers by, to a place to stop for a break.

The Rector of St James, Revd Dr Ruth Green, is delighted with the improvement, which is entirely funded by the city. The entrance was on her list of things to be improved, but the provision from outside the resources of the church unexpected

The space enables people to relax and meet with each other. Located as it is by the door of the church, it is an encouragement for those using the garden to come into St James, where they receive a warm welcome.

Presently St James is open for private prayer at designated times during the week, as well as collective worship.

If you are passing the end of Union Street, on foot or in a vehicle, do take a look.



Confirmations for St Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon and St James, Cruden Bay

All Saints Day – 1 November 2020

On Sunday morning seven candidates were confirmed at the church of St Mary-on-the-Rock, a service for the two charges in the care of the Dean, the Very Revd Dr Dennis Berk. The confirmation preparation group had taken place on-line, and had included nine candidates, two of whom have moved away from Ellon during the lockdown period. The candidates came from both churches, with the service taking place in St Mary's, which has been open since the end of September.

Those confirmed were Thomas Griffin-Walker, Nia Griffin-Walker, Kirsten Morrissey, Erin Morrissey, Alexander Morrissey, Grace Riddell and Eve Riddell. The socially distanced photograph here below is of the Bishop and Rector with Alex Morrissey.



Although worship had necessarily been reshaped because of coronavirus restrictions, it was a very great pleasure to be out with the congregations in the Shire. The limited congregation, which included as many family and friends of the candidates as possible, were friendly and welcoming, as is ever the case in Ellon. It is a great encouragement to see aspects of regular church life continuing, even in the current challenging circumstances.

Those confirmed are commended to your prayers.

Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020



This year no acts of remembrance will be able to take place outside on either Remembrance Sunday or Remembrance Day.

The Scottish Government are, among other things, directing those who would like to attend a special service to go to church!!

Any of our churches with available seats should make it known that these would be available to visitors this Sunday, who would like to come to share the act of Remembrance with us.

The Scottish Government directions are as follows:

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions to manage the pandemic, local remembrance events will not be able to proceed as they have in previous years.

Instead, those who want to honour the fallen are able to do so in the following ways:

- joining the two-minute silence at 11.00 on Sunday 8 November from their doorstep as part of their community
- by invite to a service at a place of worship with numbers strictly limited by organisers
- giving to the [Scottish Poppy Appeal](#) to support the important work it does with the Armed Forces community across Scotland

Provincial services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Provincial Worship – Thursday 5 & Thursday 12 November

6.30pm Service of the Word

Provincial Worship – Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday

10.55am: A celebration of the Eucharist, beginning with the two minute silence, will be led by the Rt Revd Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrew's Dunkeld and Dunblane from St Margaret's, Leven.

Provincial Worship – Sunday 15 November

11am: A celebration of the Eucharist will be led by the Rt Revd Anne Dyer from St John's, Aberdeen.

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 18 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