



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Scottish Episcopal Church
Newsletter – Wednesday 18 November 2020
From the Bishop

Stir-up Sunday

**Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord,
the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

For many of us this coming Sunday will always be 'Stir-up Sunday', because of this Book of Common Prayer Collect of the Last Sunday before Advent. This Sunday (weekend) has for many years been the time when Christmas puddings were made. Hearing, and so praying, the collect reminded us that Advent was about to begin. It is one of the many 'year-markers' of Anglicanism, whether we make our own puddings or not!



Christmas puddings, as many of you know, are best made in advance, and then reheated on Christmas Day. Today we might buy our puddings, but we are reminded that Advent and Christmas are now very close. In this year when so much that is normal has been disrupted, keeping the rhythm of the church year will be a great help to us. So, buy an Advent candle, and get ready to count the days. Set aside time to be intentionally still, so that you can wait for God.

For those of us using the Revised Common Lectionary, and the 1982 Scottish Liturgy, this coming Sunday we celebrate Christ the King. This feast looks ahead not to Advent, but to the time when Christ will rule in peace, and in all places and in all things 'all shall be well'. As we end our church year, which has known such disturbance because of the virus, we remember that we have so much to be thankful for. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have opened churches again for worship in the last few months. The dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church, alongside other faith groups, have shown the Scottish Government that they can be trusted to work within the law and guidelines. This has led to the churches remaining open (even in tier 4), in marked contrast to how things are in England. Continued compliance is a good and helpful approach.

Stuart Donald retires as Honorary Diocesan Archivist after twenty years of service.



It is with gratitude that we thank Stuart Donald for his service as Honorary Diocesan Archivist. Over twenty years Stuart has immersed himself in the history of this diocese, and together with a team of volunteers, has kept his eye on a diverse range of records and papers related to our activities.

For many of us the regular point of contact has been through contributions to Northern Light, and then to this newsletter. We are all better informed on our rich episcopalian history because of his efforts.

As Bishop I am particularly grateful for the time Stuart has given to special research projects. He has been extremely generous with his time, paying great attention to the smallest details. I have appreciated Stuart's wry style, and insightful asides. He will be greatly missed in this role, and we pray for him as he has more time for other interests.

Annual General Meetings

In the majority of our Charges, the constitutions require the Annual General Meeting to take place in the three months following 30 September. This year face-to face meetings cannot take place. Some churches will be able to hold their AGM on-line, but only if they are convinced that no one would be excluded and so disenfranchised.

Vestries can make a request to the bishop that the AGM is postponed until face-to face meetings are allowed. I am happy to give consent to those who ask for this delay. In these circumstances the Vestry will be required to make a report to members on the state of the Charge, including the sharing of a financial report.

Although AGMs might not take place, any Vestry member who was intending to step down is encouraged to do so. In many places there are those who have offered faithful service, but now need to lay down this responsibility. We express our thanks to those stepping down, as well as those coming forward to take on responsibilities at this demanding time.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

I am sad to report that gender-based violence has greatly increased across the world this year. Very many women (and children) have not had a good experience being locked-down with a violent partner. Every year faith-leaders give special attention to this issue during the 16 Days. The SEC Mothers' Union will have material appearing through the days, and I will be writing and speaking on the issue.



Join us to mark #16Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Global theologies of gender-based violence - the role of faith leaders

7 December 2020 ~ 17:00 - 18:00 GMT ~ Sign Up via Eventbrite

Opening remarks: **Rev Sally Foster Fulton**, Head of Christian Aid Scotland

Rev Dr Elaine Neuenfeldt, ACT Alliance Global Gender Justice Programme

Right Rev Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, Scottish Episcopal Church

Rev Nicqi Ashwood, Programme Executive, Just Community of Women & Men,
World Council of Churches

Rev Elitha Moyo, Gender & Justice Coordinator, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe

Moderated by: **Dr Marianna Leite**, Global Lead, Gender & Inequality, Christian Aid



Provincial Sunday Services will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Province is no longer providing a Service of the Word on Thursdays

Provincial Worship – Sunday 22 November – Christ the King

11am: A celebration of the Eucharist, led by Rt Revd Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway.

Provincial Worship – Sunday 29 November – Advent Sunday

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

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

The dates of next issues will be:

Wednesday 9 December

Wednesday 23 December (Christmas Issue)

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