



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Scottish Episcopal Church
Newsletter – Wednesday 31 March 2021
From the Bishop

Do you remember Easter 2020? A year ago we had been in the first lockdown for just three weeks. We worshipped at home, connecting to churches through on-line worship or zoom events. My Easter was very home-spun – I made my own paschal candle, had an Easter fire outside, and planted my own Easter garden. We come to Easter this year in different circumstances.

Worship will be for many of us much more of a 'mixed-economy', some face-to-face worship and some worship on-line. Many of our churches opened on Palm Sunday, some will open this weekend. Wherever we are coronavirus restrictions will be shaping what we do. There will be no foot washing for example, and no sprinkling with water from the font when we renew our baptismal promises. And again, we will not all be able to be present. We remain spatially divided communities, even though we understand ourselves to be united in Christ.

In some ways this past year has felt like a very long Lent, through which we have had an imposed fast from so much that keeps us alive spiritually in more usual times. Gradually we are emerging from this restricted and disciplined time into a new season. Finally we can say (although not yet sing together!) alleluia!

In the Easter stories in the Bible, many of which we will begin to hear again from this Sunday, those that had followed Jesus for some time were surprised where and how they encountered the risen Lord. My prayer for us all is that we will be expectant, ready to meet with Jesus wherever we encounter him, ready to follow him from the garden of resurrection to re-engage with service and mission in our communities. Happy Easter!!

EASTER BLESSINGS FROM THE DEAN

As we make our journey through a second Holy Week being celebrated whilst a global pandemic continues to loom over us, the experiences of injustice, tragedy, grief and loss weigh heavily upon us as we draw near to Good Friday and Christ's crucifixion. On Calvary's cross our Lord Jesus Christ embraced the harshest reality of our lives. As Easter of 2021 arrives the restrictions and limitations placed upon us by Covid-19 are readily apparent to us. This year we each carry to Calvary all of our lost endings, unmet hopes, unfulfilled longings and heart-breaking grief. But it is there that Christ's crucifixion leads to a glorious resurrection which heralds God's new creation. Sin and death do not prevail: they shall not have the last word. Why? Because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead so that we may enjoy eternal life. Alleluia!

Very Revd Dr Dennis Berk, Dean of Aberdeen & Orkney





Safe on the Streets

We all have been affected in one way or another by the tragic death of Sarah Everard and women young and not so young are right to voice their concerns at a situation where individuals feel afraid to walk or be left alone on the street, in a park or anywhere else in the community.

Whilst thinking about the devastating effect on one family this is far from an isolated occurrence for in addition to the many women who are attacked there are the victims of knife crime and in particular the many young men seriously injured or killed which are a regular occurrence. Remember also the rough sleepers, the individuals with substance or mental health issues who are easy targets and regularly abused. It's so easy to say individuals should be cautious or we need more police on patrol to keep people and the streets safe but is this the answer? We may need more police officers or other protection but we may have also reached the time and stage for a culture change and an in-depth look at our community.

It isn't good enough to leave it to others or say it's not my problem, we are community each one of us, me and you and it's our responsibility to create a society where women need not worry about walking alone, mothers know that their son or daughter will come home, walking past a group of people does not make you afraid, someone on a park bench or in a doorway will not be attacked, a substance user or eccentric is safe.

Is this too much to ask or a dream world? It's up to us.

Alan Lee, Banff Outreach. St Andrew's Church Banff

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

The date of next issue will be:

Wednesday 14 April 2021

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

Easter Pictures and Stories will be very welcome!!

Provincial Services

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter

On **Maundy Thursday**, Thursday 1 April, the Rt Rev Andrew Swift, Bishop of Brechin will lead a Celebration of the Eucharist at 6.30pm. This will be followed by the Vigil which begins at 7pm and lasts until Midnight. On the hour, and on the half hour there will be a reading from scripture, finishing with the Gospel of the Watch at Midnight. The Vigil will be live streamed and will take place in a Zoom meeting. Those who wish to participate in the vigil are welcome to come and go from the Zoom meeting as they please. The Zoom details for the vigil will be published here in advance of the service.

On **Good Friday**, 2 April, the Rt Rev Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney will lead reflections on the Stations of the Cross from 12 noon. At 2.30pm the passion narrative and Good Friday liturgy will be broadcast from a recording made in 2020. Between 2-3pm all who wish to are asked to find a cross in their own home, and to sit with the cross in reflection. These services will be broadcast via Youtube and Facebook.

On **Easter Sunday** there will be a Celebration of the Eucharist at the normal time of 11am. This service will be led by the Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and will feature the Scottish Episcopal Virtual Choir. This service will be broadcast via Youtube and Facebook.

'**Children's Chapel**' is available on-line from early Sunday morning every week.

Provincial Worship - Sunday 11 April

11am, The Bishop of Edinburgh, Rt Revd Dr John Armes, leads a service of Holy Communion
For the link, visit the Scottish Episcopal Church website.

Diocesan Services

Services at St Mary's Pro-cathedral.

Maundy Thursday: 7pm Holy Communion, followed by shortened Watch.
Good Friday: 2pm Liturgy of Good Friday
Easter Sunday: 6am Dawn Service with Renewal of Baptismal Promises
10am Holy Communion with Renewal of Baptismal Promises
Preacher and President: The Bishop

To reserve a seat, contact: Terry_t_2000_uk@yahoo.co.uk

There will be a service on-line at 10am on Easter Sunday, link from the diocesan website and facebook page.

Other services

Details of services live-streamed or broadcast by churches across the diocese and province are available from the churches' websites and facebook pages.