



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Scottish Episcopal Church
Newsletter – 9 August 2021
From the Dean

On a fine summer day in Aberdeenshire, thirty-one people from various charges of the diocese gathered in the riverside town of Ellon for the second in a series of *Diocesan Get-Together Days*.

Converging on the car park at Saint Mary-on-the-Rock on Saturday morning, 24th July, people, and canine pets came together for a “Guided Prayer Walk.” Commencing at 11:00 with a ‘Gathering Prayer’ led by the Dean of Aberdeen & Orkney, the group set off from the church heading in the direction of the town centre.



‘Rector on the Rock’

Crossing the River Ythan the walk continued alongside the tranquil river before looping back to the cenotaph and the Church of Scotland. Fully accessible even to motorised scooters, everyone participated in this ambulation into the town. Then whilst some returned to sit & chat in Saint Mary’s churchyard, the more agile and energetic members of the group continued on with a longer riverside trek leading up to the old railway viaduct.



The group on the old Railway viaduct (also the site of a prayer station)

The Ythan viaduct used to carry the Dyce-Fraserburgh (Buchan) line of the former Great North of Scotland Railway over the River Ythan.

Throughout the walk there were four ‘Prayer Stations’ focusing on the nation, the departed, creation and education. A common intention linking all four of these prayers was expressed in these words from the opening prayer: *“may today’s shared journey bring us closer together in love and understanding of one another.”*



Three of the prayer stations.

Moot Hill Cairn, Ellon Parish Church (site of earlier places of worship in the town) and Michael Johnson’s sculpture depicting the flora and fauna of the Ythan River.

With appetites increased by the exertions of the “Guided Prayer Walk” we adjourned to the churchyard of Saint Mary-on-the-Rock. As brilliant sunshine now broke through the hazy clouds, we relaxed in chairs set up around the church. Some preferred the cooler shade beneath trees whilst others soaked up the warmth of the sun, but everyone was glad for the opportunity to sit after the walk. In the fresh air our lunches tasted exceptionally good as hungrily we tucked into our food. But what made the *al fresco* dining even better was the shared companionship and conversations that we enjoyed together.

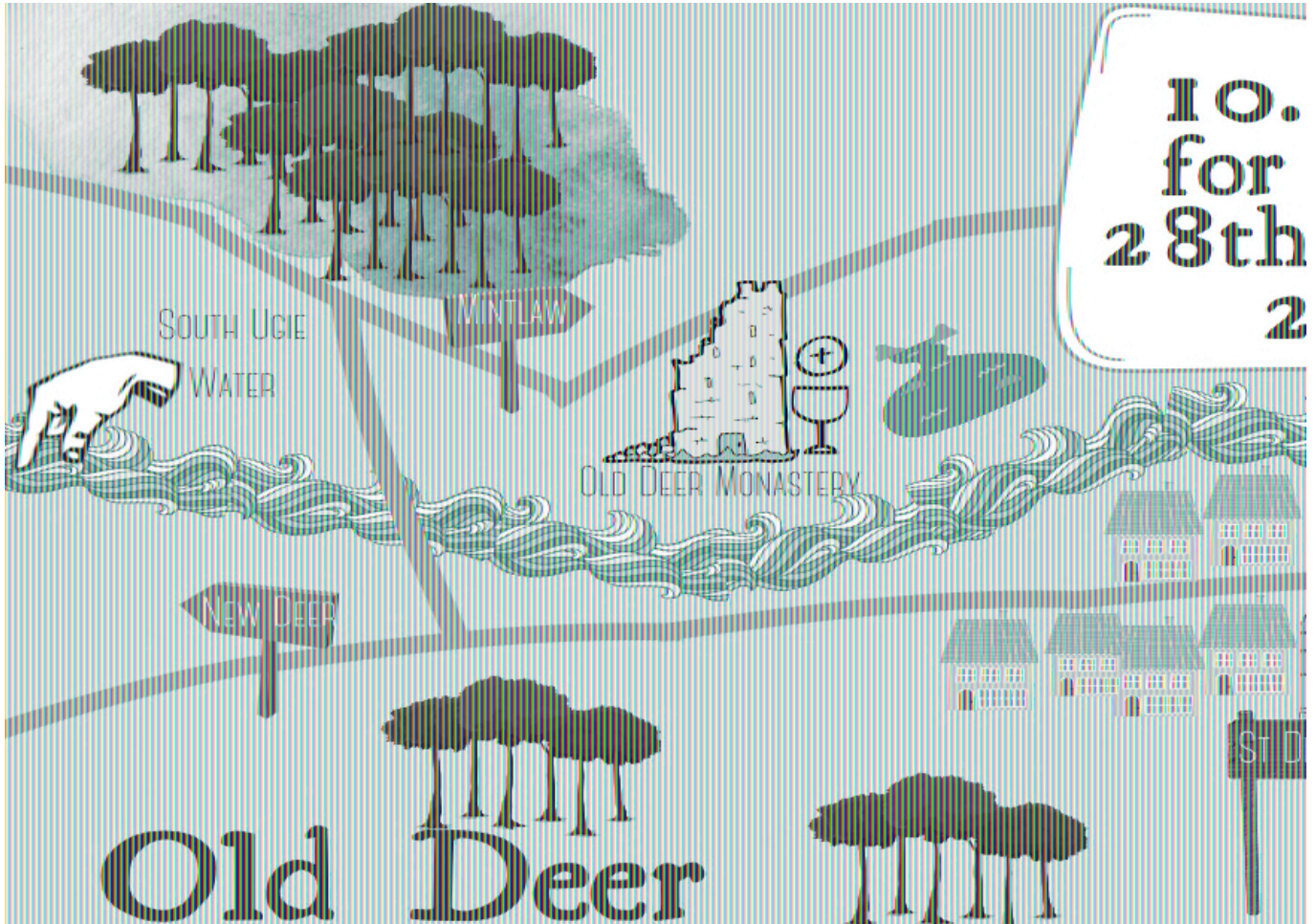


The Statue of Our Lady of Ellon

It was a *Diocesan Day* filled simultaneously with prayer, chatting, walking, and eating – all of which were enhanced by the pleasure of sharing the whole experience with others. Hopefully you will be able to join in the next one being held on 28th August in Old Deer.

Image of Moot Hill Cairn by Iain Cameron from Flickr, others by the Dean and Revd Dr Jenny Holden.

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Let's get together
for communion and a picnic



*Saturday 28 August : St Drosc
- gather from 10.30am, for st
After opening prayers, there i
pilgrimage to Old Deer M
We will hold an open air Eu
monastery ground
After this we will picnic*

More information to follow

Look out for information on the Diocesan website and via email.

The Bishop in Shetland

Bishop Anne is currently spending some time in Shetland, including time at St Magnus' Lerwick and St Colman's Burray. The image shows Bishop Anne with Revd Neil Brice and Helen Randall outside St Magnus' Lerwick.



Helen is beginning her first year as an Ordinand at the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI). She joins fellow Aberdeen and Orkney ordinands Godwin Chimara and Ferdinand von Prondzyski.

Please pray for Helen, her fellow students, and staff of the SEI as they begin the academic year, looking forward to the Orientation Residential in Perth at the end of August.

An SEI prayer diary is available as a way of praying daily for all involved in the SEI Community. <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/>

A Prayer for the Beginning of the School Year

adapted from Ian Black's Prayers for All Occasions.

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.
Be with all children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow,
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding,
and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Many of the schools in the Diocese start the new academic year in the week following 15 August.



Provincial Services

Service links available from the Scottish Episcopal Church website, and on the Provincial Facebook page

Sunday 15 August – 12th after Pentecost

11am A service of Holy Communion from the Diocese of Edinburgh.

Sunday 22 August – 13th after Pentecost

11am A service of Holy Communion from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Sunday 29 August – 14th after Pentecost

11am A service of Holy Communion from the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles.

Sunday 5 September – 15th after Pentecost 11am

A service from the Diocese of Moray, Ross, and Caithness

'Children's Chapel' is taking a break for the holidays but will be back soon!

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.

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