



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Scottish Episcopal Church

Newsletter – 2 February 2022

On the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Today the Season of Epiphany comes to a close, bringing to an end the period where the Church celebrates the revelation ('epiphany' or manifestation) of God in Jesus Christ. In many churches the feast is named 'Candlemas' because, traditionally, this was the day when candles were brought to church to be blessed for use in the home.

On the Feast of the Presentation we hear from St Luke how the child who had been revealed to the magi at his birth in Bethlehem is recognised by two faithful and prayerful people, Simeon and Anna, when he is brought by his parents to the Temple to fulfil the requirements of the Law of Israel.

Simeon rejoices, and announces that the infant Jesus is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. On seeing the Christ child, Simeon declares 'my eyes have seen your salvation'. This prompts each of us to consider where we have seen Christ present among us, where we have known his salvation.

Many churches and homes continue to display nativity scenes through Epiphany. Today they will be taken down and packed away, as the people of God begin to turn toward Lent and the journey to Holy Week. Simeon reminds us all that salvation comes with suffering, and that Incarnation leads to Christ's Passion. On this day we pray that we for whom Lent is near might enter deeply into the Easter mystery. We pray that the light of Christ will shine into our hearts and lives as we seek to follow Jesus.

Aberdeen and Orkney Diocesan Synod
Saturday 26 February 2022
9.30am – 3pm

Facilitated on-line by Sanctus Media

This year's Diocesan Synod will take place on-line, as it did last year. This decision was taken by the Diocesan Standing Committee before Christmas, when the number of covid cases was rapidly increasing. After such a long period of pandemic, with countless meetings on-line, we appreciate that many were looking forward to meeting face to face once again. We also note that zoom meetings can be considerably more tiring and stressful than in person meetings.

Alongside the usual reports and elections, this year we will be giving time to discussing our response as a diocese and in charges to the challenge of climate change. In this we will be led by the newly formed climate change group. We will also look ahead, again as both a diocese and individual charges, as we emerge from the pandemic, and begin to make plans for worship, ministry and mission in our churches for the next five year period.

All communicants in the diocese are welcome to attend synod.

To register contact the diocesan office at: office@aberdeen.anglican.org

**Revd Roger Dyer commissioned to serve
at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral**

On Sunday 16 January the Bishop commissioned her husband to serve as assistant priest with Canon Terry Taggart at St Mary's.

Revd Dyer (right) was ordained priest in England in 1987, where he served as vicar of several parishes. He stepped back from public ministry in 2004 to care for the Dyer's daughter Millie.

Following their recent bereavement, Roger is taking up public ministry again.

The Bishop and Roger are very grateful for the prayers and support of so many in the diocese at this time of change and transition for them both.





**Church in the New Normal? An Introduction to
Pioneer Ministry
Thursday 10th March 2022**

**Led by Revd Dr Richard Tiplady
Scottish Episcopal Institute**

A free event open to everyone in the diocese.

How could pioneer ministry thinking help us to rethink church and mission in a post-Covid 'new normal'?

Pioneer ministry thinking is based on asking the question, "What do we do if we want to start anew?". Churches across Scotland have sought to adapt to the changing circumstances caused by Covid-19. Are we all hoping for some kind of resumption of "business as usual"? If so, it's going to be a long time coming, so how do we adapt in the meantime? And is "business as usual" really what we want to get back to? If Covid-19 offers us anything, it is an opportunity to rethink what we do in a changed world.

This day event will provide an overview and introduction to the principles of pioneer ministry. It is an adapted and shortened version of the *Introduction to Pioneer Ministry* course taught at the Scottish Episcopal Institute and will be led by SEI's Director of Mixed Mode Training, Rev Dr Richard Tiplady.

There will be three 90-minute sessions, all on Zoom:

- An Introduction to Pioneer Ministry
- Getting Started
- Developing a Pioneer Culture in the Local Church

There will be some required pre-reading beforehand (no more than 2-3 articles or papers), and there will be lots of time allocated for discussion and practical application.

And remember, even if the way ahead looks challenging, you can usually find a path. Although, as the Spanish proverb has it, sometimes there is no path, and we make the path as we walk.

The link to the eventbrite registration is here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/church-in-the-new-normal-an-introduction-to-pioneer-ministry-ao-tickets-208145307217>

Provincial Services

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

Sunday at 11am Services from the Dioceses

‘Children’s Chapel’ is back on the first Sunday of every month.

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.