



# Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

## Scottish Episcopal Church

### Newsletter – 8 April 2022

#### From the Bishop



#### Jesus is given his cross

*A sonnet by Malcolm Guite*

He gives himself again with all his gifts  
And now we give him something in return.  
He gave the earth that bears, the air that lifts,  
Water to cleanse and cool, fire to burn,  
And from these elements he forged the iron,  
From strands of life he wove the growing wood,  
He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion  
He saw it all and saw that it is good.  
We took his iron to edge an axe's blade,  
We took the axe and laid it to the tree,  
We made a cross of all that he has made,  
And laid it on the one who made us free.  
Now he receives again and lifts on high  
The gifts he gave and we have turned awry.

This year we come to Holy Week knowing that the world is convulsed by dreadful war. This current week began with the images of mass graves and evidence of the execution of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine, and is coming to a close with stories of further war crimes around Kyiv. If we want to know what hell is like, then this is it. Next week we will follow Jesus' journey to the cross, hearing again of his death and descent into hell. When we wonder what God might be doing, and whether God cares, then this is what we know. It is here, in these dreadful places, amongst the most distressed people in the world, that we will find Christ.

The sonnet above, by the Anglican poet, Revd Dr Malcolm Guite, considers how the Son was present at the creation of the world, and as John 1:3 says 'Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'

The contrast offered is that those things that were made for good, for the blessing of the whole world, have been taken and weaponised. There are many victims of this violence, but Jesus Christ is present in the world suffering the consequences of people taking iron and wood, and fashioning a cross on which to hang the Son of God.

This then is what we have made of what God has given us. And as we move from Good Friday through to Easter Sunday we see what Jesus Christ makes for us in response. We watch again to be reminded that death and hell are defeated, and that even in the darkest places there is the possibility of new life and renewal. Through the resurrection we hear that death does not have the final word, rather it is life that does.

This year might bring a sobering Holy Week, but this cannot diminish the joy of the resurrection victory seen in Jesus Christ rising from the dead. For as the Psalmist said 'Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning'.

### **From the Bishop's Diary – for your prayers**

Friday 8 – Wednesday 12 April – Shetland Visit

Saturday 9 – Church Day, St Magnus Lerwick

Sunday 10 – ecumenical walk and service for Palm Sunday

Monday 11 – pastoral meetings

Tuesday 12 – Visit to Mother Mary, Society of Our Lady of the Isles, Unst

Wednesday 13 – begin in Fetlar, then to Yell, then home to Aberdeen

Thursday 14 April – Pastoral visiting St Peter's Fraserburgh

Friday 15 April – Good Friday Service 2pm, St Mary's Pro-cathedral

Sunday 17 April – 6am Dawn Service, 10am Holy Communion for Easter Sunday, St Mary's Pro-cathedral

Monday 18 – Wednesday 27 April: Easter break

Thursday 28 April: Provincial Standing Committee

Saturday 30 April – Thursday 5 May: Orkney visit

## Meeting the New Diocesan Honorary Secretary: Dr Lizzie Finlayson

Dr Lizzie Finlayson has become our new Diocesan Secretary. She is well known in Banchory and Royal Deeside. We have asked her some questions so that wider in the Diocese we too may also be able to put a face to a name.

*Have you always lived in Aberdeenshire?*

Came to Aberdeen from Surrey aged 15 in 1973. Left 1988 and returned to live in Banchory in 1992

*Please tell us something about your working life?*

Graduated from Aberdeen in medicine 1980 and married 3 days later. Started off doing a 2-year rotation in Medicine at ARI and then after a job which involved domiciliary visits I realised I was more interested in General Practice. Continuity of care and the wide range of patients and conditions attracted me. Holistic care in a community where you become part of their lives and families through thick and thin, cradle to grave. Stopped working when we left Aberdeen in 1988 to live in Saffron Walden and then Glasgow. Left with one son returned with three! Joined Aboyne medical practice in 1993 until now. I retired at the end of March this year.

*Have you always wanted to be a doctor?*

I don't come from a medical family but do love jigsaws/puzzles. Medicine is a scientific puzzle with psychosocial elements.

*What would you tell today's young doctors?*

Never forget people behave in a challenging way usually because they are distressed. Listen and hear what they are saying. It's a privileged job with amazing experiences but inevitably there are times when it's frustrating, tiring and tiresome

*What will retirement bring?*

I am looking forward to the freedom and flexibility to see family and friends and enjoy walking with our 5-month old puppy

*How do you spend your leisure time?*

Walking - here and abroad, theatre, swimming, entertaining, decorating, gardening and hopefully time to read



*What have been your greatest achievements in these hobbies and interests?*

I cycled from London to Paris to raise funds for *Medecins de Monde* and across Scotland from Ullapool to Bonar Bridge for Children 1st. Also, crossing the Dolomites from refuge to refuge in unseasonably inclement weather.

*How have you been involved with St Ternan's Banchory?*

Treasurer and more recently Rector's Warden for Canon Lisa Eunson and Canon Lysay Downs.

*What helps you in Sunday worship?*

I am a member of our 8am Holy Communion congregation. The peace and contemplative style in an otherwise busy life is valued. Sermon is invariably thought provoking.

*You can have 12 hrs with a Christian saint of any era - who would it be?*

St Mungo - a thoroughly decent chap. Non judgemental and considerate

*Three guests for dinner?*

Mungo Park, Florence Nightingale, Paddington Bear

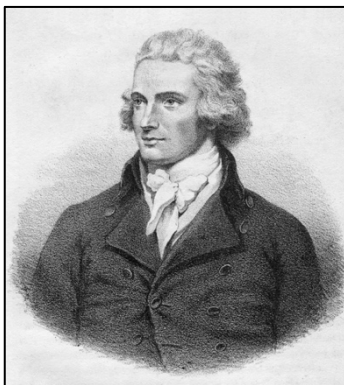
*What would you eat?*

Hearty no fuss roast lamb or beef with masses of vegetables/salad

*Red or white?*

Love red but it doesn't love me any longer. A crisp dry chilled white or vinho verde.

Dr Finlayson, thank you very much for helping us to get to know you a little better.



*Three Guests for Dinner:*

*Mungo Park (Scottish Explorer), Florence Nightingale & Paddington Bear*

## Visitors to Orkney March 2022

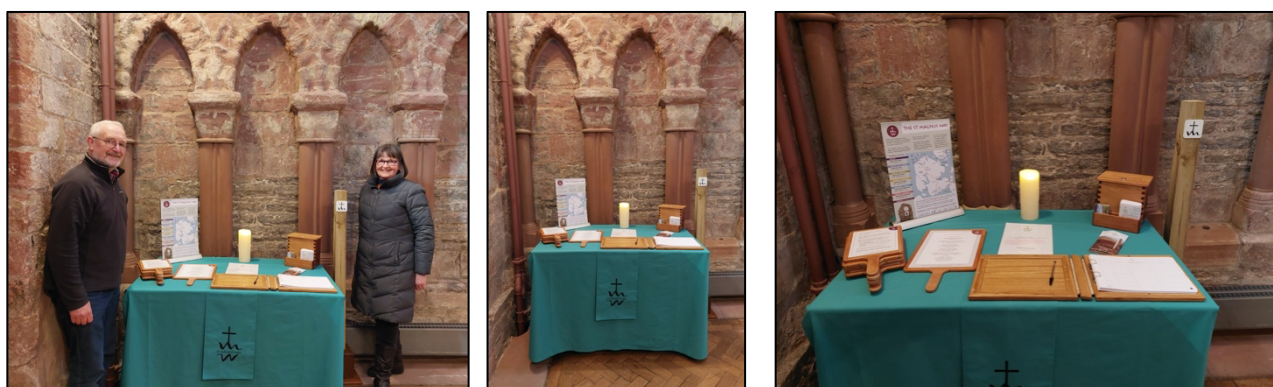
Following on from leading the Diocesan 'Church in the new normal: An introduction to Pioneer Ministry' day Revd Dr Richard Tiplady visited Orkney 28-30 March. Richard met with various people and walked part of the St Magnus Way from near Douby to Finstown. He was accompanied by Stuart and Pirjo Little and Revd Dr Jenny Holden. Jenny (Assistant Curate at St John the Evangelist, Aberdeen) was based in Stromness 18<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April covering services at St Mary's Stromness and experiencing ministry in an island context.




*Stromness from above the town; a St Magnus Way marker; Richard, Stuart, Pirjo and Jenny on the St Magnus Way.*

### St Magnus Way Table in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

There is now an information table in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall for the St Magnus Way. It holds information on the St Magnus Way and when the Cathedral is open serves as the end point for the pilgrimage. More information on the St Magnus Way can be found at <https://www.stmagnusway.com/>



*The St Magnus Way information point in St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall with Stuart and Pirjo Little.*



**Mon 16th May 7pm  
With Dr. Brian Brock  
Professor of Moral and Practical  
Theology  
University of Aberdeen**

**St Marys Pro-Cathedral  
Carden Place, Aberdeen AB10 1FX**

## **Is this a 'time for war'?**

**Thinking together as Christians about war in the  
context of armed conflict in Ukraine.**



# LET'S GET TOGETHER AGAIN!

After the much-appreciated events last summer we offer another three times to meet friends old and new from across the diocese through the coming months.

## **25th June - Cruden Bay.**

Enjoy the seaside village vibe; stroll down Harbour Street to St Erroll Harbour; cross the Ladies Bridge to the Cruden Bay beach or take the gently rising path on to the cliff-tops and the ruined New Slains Castle.

In the centre of the village turn into Main Street (signposted Beach and Harbour). As the road bends right you will find free parking on the right and WCs on the left.

Meet 13:30. Shortly after those who would like to walk as a group will leave for the castle (3km, 1 hour max). Be ready for great sea views, nesting seabirds and possible porpoise sightings.

Worship 15:30. Our afternoon draws to a close with an invitation from Fr Dennis and members at St James to join them for Evening Prayer. You will see St James standing on Chapel Hill one mile west of the village. Adjacent car park.



*Cliff tops near Cruden Bay, New Slains Castle, Cruden Bay*

## **16th July - Old Aberdeen**

An easy walk through Old Aberdeen from St Machar's Cathedral to King's College Chapel. A short distance but rich with its' historic buildings, cobbled streets and botanic gardens.

Meet 13:30. St Machar's Cathedral South Door, The Chanonry, Aberdeen AB24 1RQ. There will be a short guided tour of the Cathedral.

Close by the Cruickshank Botanic Gardens will be in full bloom. We pass the Old Town House on our way to the Powis Gates and King's College Chapel. The Chapel, built in the late 15th Century, is one of two Scottish churches with a surviving medieval open 'crown' spire.

King's College Chapel will be open for us from 14:30. You are invited to Evening Prayer at 15:45. Before that we plan a guided tour and short organ recital. Exact details to be confirmed in next month's Diocesan Newsletter.



*St Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen & King's College Chapel*

## **August or September - Royal Deeside**

A late summer walk in glorious west Aberdeenshire. Date and venue to be confirmed.





## **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.

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### **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.