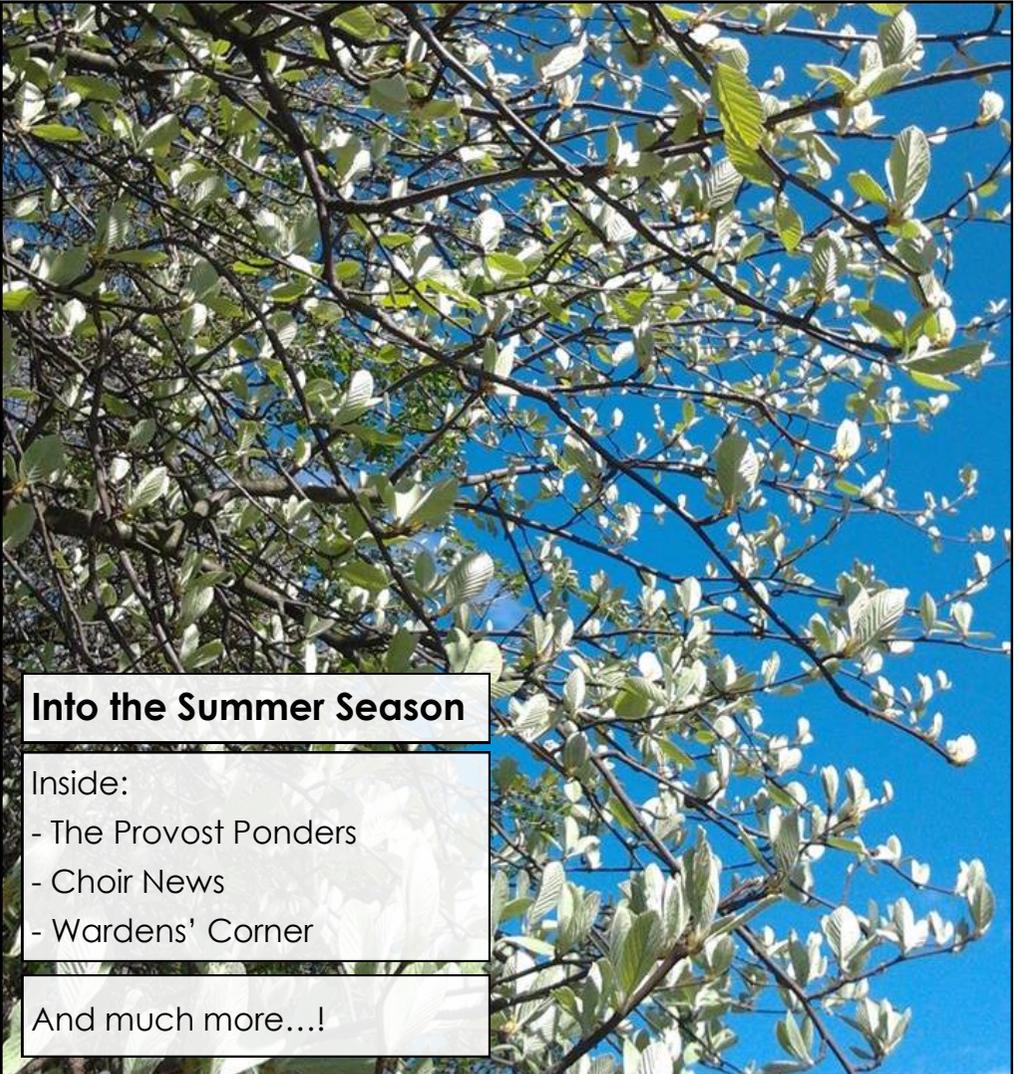


FOCUS



on St. Andrew's Cathedral

June 2016



Into the Summer Season

Inside:

- The Provost Ponders
- Choir News
- Wardens' Corner

And much more...!



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

31st May, 2016.

Dear Dean,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for the kind letter you have sent on behalf of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew in Aberdeen, on the occasion of the Sung Matins which is taking place on 11th June to mark Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday.

The Queen was most grateful for your thoughtful message and the assurance of your prayers. Her Majesty, in return, has asked me to send her warm good wishes to you and to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Sandamas

Christopher Sandamas
Chief Clerk to The Queen

The Very Reverend Dr. Isaac M. Poobalan.

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Friends,

Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Celebrations

You are invited to join Her Majesty's birthday celebrations on Saturday the 11th of June 2016 at 10.30am in our Cathedral Church of St Andrew. Our Organist and Master of the Choristers Prof Andrew Morrison has an excellent line up of prayers and praise set to exquisite music. This will be followed by select pieces of music from the Coronation at our Cathedral at Noon event. We will continue with our celebrations after this musical event with a Wine Buffet Reception when Lord Glenarthur will toast HM the Queen with a Loyal Toast.

The invitation is open to all and a copy can be found on the Cathedral website. Please extend this invitation and make every possible effort to be present at the celebrations. **The Servant Queen**, a book celebrating the life and witness of Her Majesty will be issued at this celebration. It is given freely as

a token of our joy in celebrating this wonderful life.

Royal correspondence

Her Majesty the Queen had very kindly responded to our letter of good wishes and prayers on her 90th birthday which is printed on the inside cover page of this Focus. The letter to HM informed her of our plans to hold the Sung Matins on Saturday the 11th of June at 10.30am in celebration of her devout and holy life, dedicated to God and service to the United Kingdom and the world. It also thanked HM for her words of inspiration on each occasion when she addressed the nation.

It said, 'Your decree made at the State Opening of the Parliament, 'my government will continue to work to bring communities together and strengthen society' has inspired us to commit ourselves to serve the living God, revealed in Jesus Christ and exemplified in your life. We rejoice that we your humble servants were able to fulfil that your vision in welcoming Syrian

Refugees and we pledge ourselves to continue to do so. Your Majesty will be pleased to know that your guests are settling well.'

It concluded, 'May the Most High bless you, Your Majesty, for inspiring us with your walk of life in words and deeds. We believe, one day, the generations to come will remember your holy life and call you 'Blessed' and behold you with those who are of that holy and blessed society of Saints.'

We are delighted with Her Majesty's kind response and we pray that she will be blessed with health and life to continue her service.

Open for Prayer – a vision for the Cathedral Development Project

The Summer opening of the Cathedral for Pilgrims and Visitors will be launched at the Loyal Toast on the 11th of June. We will keep the Cathedral open from Tuesday

the 14th of June 2016 from 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday inclusive. Ann Leith had already written about this in the last issue of the Focus. We are delighted with those who have volunteered already and grateful for your generous help and support. We need plenty more volunteers. So, please sign up to help. Volunteer training will be given and we are in the process of developing a presentation for those wanting to learn the history of the Cathedral and the Scottish Episcopal Church, in detail.

Open for Prayer is one of our running themes around the Cathedral Development Project. This comes from three sources i.e. our history, our heritage and our vocation. It is the set of prayers that our forerunners insisted on praying that set us apart as a people. 'Plucky Piski on her knee' is a rhyme that Miss Durno of Broomhill Road used to sing to me each time I visited her with the Sacraments of the Holy Communion, which I believe she learned from her time in Orkney. The audacity of

the Episcopalians to pray in Spirit and in Truth and asking for God's blessings on what they believed, in order that they may show forth in their lives, is something we have inherited. The consequences of this heritage is our history, where we learned to live in the margins and pray under persecution, for peace in our land. The first St Andrew's Chapel could only have four people gathering in one room of a dwelling house at one time. We have come a long way from those days and I believe, God is calling us to journey beyond our times. I earnestly ask you to take this journey with joy and hope as we make preparations for months ahead.

Leading Intercessions

Continuing the theme of prayer, prior to Christmas 2015, I encouraged a number of people to lead Intercessions at our 10.45am Sung Eucharist. It was very well received and I am grateful to all who took part in that series. This has fallen by the wayside and I

apologise for not following it up. We are now approaching Summer and it would be good to form a team of people who will be willing to share in this ministry of Intercessions before the summer break. The first step to make this possible is to invite those who are willing and or interested in leading the intercessions on Sundays and other occasions. If you feel called to this ministry, please write to cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org and indicate your availability for a week day evening meeting. In the meantime, you could prepare for training by learning the form of Intercessions in the Scottish Prayer Book especially the ones set within the service of Holy Communion. There is a distinct form and pattern to these prayers so that they may correspond to the context in which they are set. Please be encouraged to take part in this ministry.

Pentecost Celebrations

The Pentecost Sunday worship was a memorable experience in a number of ways and we

The Provost Ponders

are grateful to Liz Gillies our First Lady and her wonderful team for making it possible. The theme was Pentecost and we had a pretty good taste of it. A lot of hard work had gone in preparation and the celebration was very colourful. All Age Worship is the purpose behind the event. We are delighted with the grown number of young people in the church. Please pray that God will give us wisdom and skill to equip our next generation into the ways of God as we generally understand in the Episcopal Church.

Finally ... Picnic

The Summer is threatening to arrive in Aberdeen and it is time to rest and refresh ourselves. To help us celebrate, the Young People Ministry Team is organising a Picnic on Sunday the 19th of June 2016, immediately after our Sung Eucharist. The plan was to go to Foot Dee Mission Hall for the picnic. However, some leaders feel it could prove to be a challenge and hence shall have the picnic in the



Seabury Court with sandwiches, drinks and nibbles or even a BBQ. It would be good to gather as many people as possible and have the picnic outside the Cathedral. Should it rain, (the Provost is negotiating for a good day with the Almighty) there is enough space in the JSC for refreshments. The Trebles will be singing later that afternoon at the Rubislaw Care Home.

We thank God for all God's bountiful blessings and we pray for those affected by floods in parts of Europe. Let us rejoice in our call to be witnessed to the Good News in Christ Jesus and show forth in our words and deeds. May God bless you.

As ever,
Isaac

Choir News

By Andrew Morrisson



Nina and John with their proud choir trainers Andrew and Claire after their promotions at the morning service on Sunday 29th May.

Nina Morgan

Congratulations to Nina who, following an examination by the Scottish Chairman of the Royal School of Church Music, has been awarded the bronze St Andrew Award. Nina is one of the youngest choristers ever to receive this award and she was presented with it during the Sung

Eucharist on Sunday 29th May.

Sadly Nina will be leaving us as she has been accepted into the famous Durham Cathedral Girls' Choir and will be joining the Cathedral boarding school. We are very proud of Nina's achievement and hope she will still come

Choir News

and sing with us during the holidays.

John Styles

We welcome John to the choir. John is a pupil of St Joseph's School and he received his surplice on Sunday 29th May.

Caleb Brock and Chidirim Nwajiuba

We are delighted that Caleb and Chidirim are trying out the choir and hope they both enjoy singing with us.

Emily Harrison

Emily, one of our former choral scholars has been



John and Nina cutting a cake to celebrate their achievements in the JSC after morning service on Sunday 29th May.

Choir News

accepted into Genesis Sixteen. Genesis Sixteen is the training programme for the world-famous choir "The Sixteen". The programme is designed to nurture the next generation of talented young voices and specifically bridges the gap from student to professional practitioner.

It is the UK's first fully-funded choral programme for young singers and the idea is to identify and nurture students with exceptional musical ability and the potential to become professional ensemble singers, an area in which The Sixteen is internationally renowned.

Congratulations to Emily.

Jenni Halliday

This month we will say goodbye to Jenni who is one of our choral scholars and has sung in the Cathedral for the past four years, initially for the Wednesday Choral Evenings. Jenni is graduating this Summer with a first class

honours degree in music and has been awarded a scholarship to study vocal performance at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, USA.

We thank Jenni for her excellent contribution to the worship over the years and wish her well in the future.

Jillian Bain Christie

Jillian sang with us regularly whilst studying music at Aberdeen University before moving to London to study Performing Arts at Trinity Laban College. She still sings with us when she is in Aberdeen and is a popular recitalist in the Saturday at Noon series. We are excited to announce that she releases her debut album 'Ae spark o' Nature's fire' on 25th June 2016. The album features songs of Robert Burns with piano accompaniment by Catherine Herriott and more information is available at www.luckenboothmusic.co.uk.

Congratulations to Jillian.

Wardens' Corner

By Mark Edwards

I'd like to take the liberty this month of opening my musings on a personal note. Emma and Ricky have asked me to express their heartfelt thanks for the wonderful reception that they, Olivia and the wider family were given when we celebrated Olivia's Baptism. At the family reception afterwards several members of the family specifically commented on the very special atmosphere that they felt when they were with us and I know that the day will be remembered not just for Olivia's Baptism! The Lord does indeed move in mysterious ways. And from me a personal thanks to our catering team who I know had to go to extra lengths to host us in the South Aisle after the Service; I do appreciate it – Thank you!

I know that I am only the messenger but I'm sorry to report [as you have no doubt seen] that the various works that I have rambled on about have still not started. I will be addressing this in the coming days and hope that soon you

can see the benefit.

On a more positive note I am delighted to report that just last evening the Board of Trustees approved the expenditure for the repairs to the roof to be completed. Our Architect has notified the contractor already and we are now simply waiting for a date in their schedule. With this first phase of our long awaited renovation program about to start I have moved the thoughts of the Project Working Group onto the next stage of work which will see us considering the lighting and heating. With this comes the necessity to also consider what we want/need to do with the floor and the pews. I know that these subjects will generate much debate. I need to work with experts and contractors to explore our options and when I have that information I will be starting a consultation process to ensure that everyone who wants to be, can be engaged in the decisions we must make to move forward.

And to close this month I'd like

Wardens' Corner

to move across the precinct to the building we own that is currently the Gallery [Art Space] and offices of Peacock Visual Arts. The eagle-eyed would have spotted in Claire's report in the last edition of Focus that we are referring to this building as "The Merchant's House". The Project Working group needed to clearly identify this building in their discussions and at the time it was believed that a City Merchant once lived there – hence the name! Several of us have been conducting research into the building and it is now starting to yield its historical secrets. It appears to have been the home of Alexander Scott, a ship owner, merchant and supporter of the Jacobite cause. He and his wife bought the property in 1696, the year they married in the city, and it is said that part of the property was a Tavern.

It gets better! It is recorded that on December 23rd 1715 the "Skipper" received three guests in French Naval uniforms. He is said to have

bowed to one of them - a certain Prince James Francis Edward Stuart, the son of James II. The exiled "Old Pretender" to you and me!! The dates and facts have been extracted from work published by Dr Fiona-Jane Brown, who I'm pleased to say has agreed to work with us!

We have secured the support and services of local historians, archivists and the City Council in our quest to confirm the above as fact [according to Dr Brown there is a similar story circulating in Peterhead], and to understand more of the history of this building of which we are the current custodians. I know that some of you knew of Skipper Scott and if anyone believes they have a nugget of history to share please contact me and we can follow it up.

Watch this space ...!!

Mark Edwards
People's Warden

Wardens' Corner

By Claire Morrisson

The Trustees met on 1st June, which hasn't given me time to write a summary for this month's Focus, so I am including a few nitty-gritty operational updates in Wardens' Corner and will produce the summary for the July edition.

Car parks update

Thank you for your forbearance while we locked the car parks for the week commencing 9th May. This has reduced the amount of unauthorised parking significantly, although there is still one offender in the JSC car park. We will repeat the exercise if the amount of unauthorised parking increases, giving due warning beforehand. Meanwhile, please give me any feedback and keep me informed of unauthorised parking.



New FWO envelopes

The new Free Will Offering envelopes start on 5th June and are available on the table at the back of the cathedral. Almost everyone has a new number. This is because we have significantly reduced the number of envelopes we order, to save money. The numbers in use had become very spread out over the years, with many lower numbers no longer allocated. There are now just enough envelopes for those requiring them. We are very grateful to all who give via this scheme and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would prefer to transfer to giving by Standing Order. If you pay tax in the UK and have not completed a Gift Aid Declaration Form, please do so (copies on the table at the back of the cathedral) and return it to myself or one of the Stewards on a Sunday morning.

Donations for specific purposes

Wardens' Corner

If you wish to donate money for a specific purpose within the cathedral (e.g. flowers or the choir) please put it in an envelope (preferably a gift-aid one) and indicate the purpose on it. You can then put it in the collection plate or hand it to Margaret, Athol, myself or another of the trustees. The money will be ring-fenced and used as instructed by you.

New part-time administrative assistant

Yutaka Osakabe will help in the office for five hours a week, generally from 10 am to 12.30 pm on Tuesdays and from 8 am to 10.30 am on Thursdays. Yutaka regularly sings tenor in the choir, usually standing between Regina and Alistair MacDonald. Regina and I will be showing him the ropes over the next few weeks. We welcome him to the cathedral admin team.

*Claire Morrisson
Provost's Warden*

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the various ministries that keep the Cathedral running.

**Volunteers are needed for:
Sunday Reading Rota**

Flower Team

Junior Church/Godly Play

Weekday cleaning

Cathedral at Noon lunches

and more!

Please contact the Cathedral Office or one of the team leaders to learn more about what would be required and to register your interest.

(For contact information please check the back page of the Focus.)



Cathedral Services

Saturday 11th June

Diocesan Mattins for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th
Birthday at 10.30 am

Followed by the Cathedral at Noon concert featuring
a selection of the music sung at Mattins plus some
other ceremonial music, including Parry's *I was glad*
and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*.

Saturday 25th June

Gaelic Mass for the Feast of St Moluag at 2pm

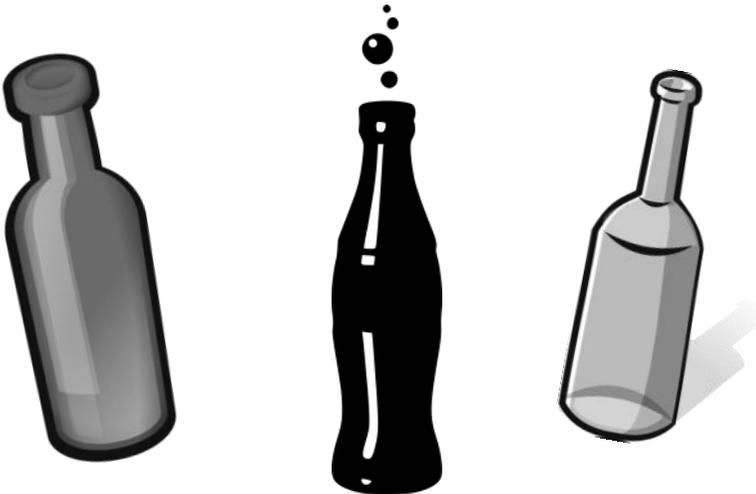


The Gallowgate Fair

We have again been invited to have a stall at the Gallowgate Fair on Saturday 6th August and like last year we have decided to make it a Bottle Stall. In order to attract as many people as possible we need to have a good display of bottles etc.

Please start gathering them now or handing them to Moira Middleton or Christine Flett.

Due to the generosity of the congregation in 2015 we raised £446 so let us make huge effort to beat this total.



**Joint Fundraiser Ceilidh with St. Margaret's
Church and St. Andrew's Cathedral in
St. Margaret's Church Hall**

11th June 2016, 8pm to 11pm
Tickets are still available from Christine Flett!

This is a golden opportunity for us to socialize with
other members of the Episcopal Church and at
the same time make some well-needed funds to
the Restoration Coffers.



Events Around the Diocese

MINDFULNESS AND MYSTICISM

Saturday 11 June 10.00am to 3.30pm

St Devenick's Church, Bielside
Led by Carmel Byrne. Contact,
Carole Phelan: email
carole.phelan@talk21.com

DIOCESAN YOUTH SUMMER LOCK-IN

Friday 17 June 8.00pm to Satur-
day 9.30am

St Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon
For ages 10 to 18 years. Cost
£5.00. For details and
permission forms contact Hen-
na, email:
youthandchildren@aberdeen.
anglican.org

MOTHER'S UNION PRAYER CIRCLE

Tuesday 21 June 2.30pm
St Mary's Church, Carden
Place, Aberdeen

COFFEE SHOP

Saturday 25 June 10.00am to
12.30pm
St Luke's Church hall,
Cuminstown. Home bakes, a
variety of books and goods on
our sales table.

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Saturday 25 June 7.00pm
St Peter's, Fraserburgh
With Fraserburgh Churches
Together.

SUNG EUCHARIST AND SUN- DAY SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING

Sunday 26 June 11.00am
St Peter's, Fraserburgh
With a visit from St Peter and St
Paul.

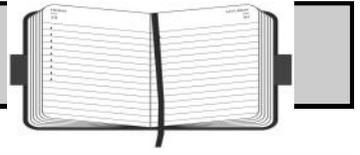
MIDSUMMER MUSIC AT MIDDAY

Sunday 26 June 12 noon
St Ninian's Church, 696 King
Street, Aberdeen
45 minutes of free musical
entertainment and light
refreshments. Includes music
for piano and
classical guitar and we hope
to cater for all tastes!

CLAN GATHERING

Saturday 9 to Thursday 14 July
Kelburn Country Park, Largs
Last ever Gathering. Further
information and prices
from web:
www.clangathering.org.uk

June Diary



Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sundays at 8.00 am	Holy Communion (1970 Liturgy)
Sundays at 10.45 am	Sung Eucharist (1982 Liturgy) followed by coffee in the JSC
Sundays at 10.45 am	Crèche available in the JSC
Sundays at 6.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Weekly Events

Tuesdays at 6.00 pm	Fellowship, JSC
Fridays 10.00 am to 12 noon	Cathedral Coffee Shop (Teas/ Coffees, and a whole range of homebaking, as well as sandwiches available)
Saturdays at 12 noon	Cathedral at Noon (30 minute recital followed by refreshments)

Cathedral at Noon - June/July

- 11 Jun Cathedral Choir and Friends from the Diocese**
Music in Celebration of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday
- 18 Jun Cathedral Musicians**
Vocal and Instrumental Music from the Reign of Queen Victoria
- Summer Organ Music Series:**
- 25 Jun Andrew Morrisson**
Organ Music by Bach and Mendelssohn
- 2 Jul Chris Black**
Organ Music

All are welcome to attend the Cathedral at Noon performances held every Saturday at noon!

This is a free event, with a light lunch provided afterwards.

July/August Focus Deadline



**The deadline for the joint July/
August issue of the Focus
magazine will be the 30th of
June.**

Please send your articles
to Amber at
a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk,
or hand them in to the
Cathedral office.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to make this
issue of the Focus Magazine possible!

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