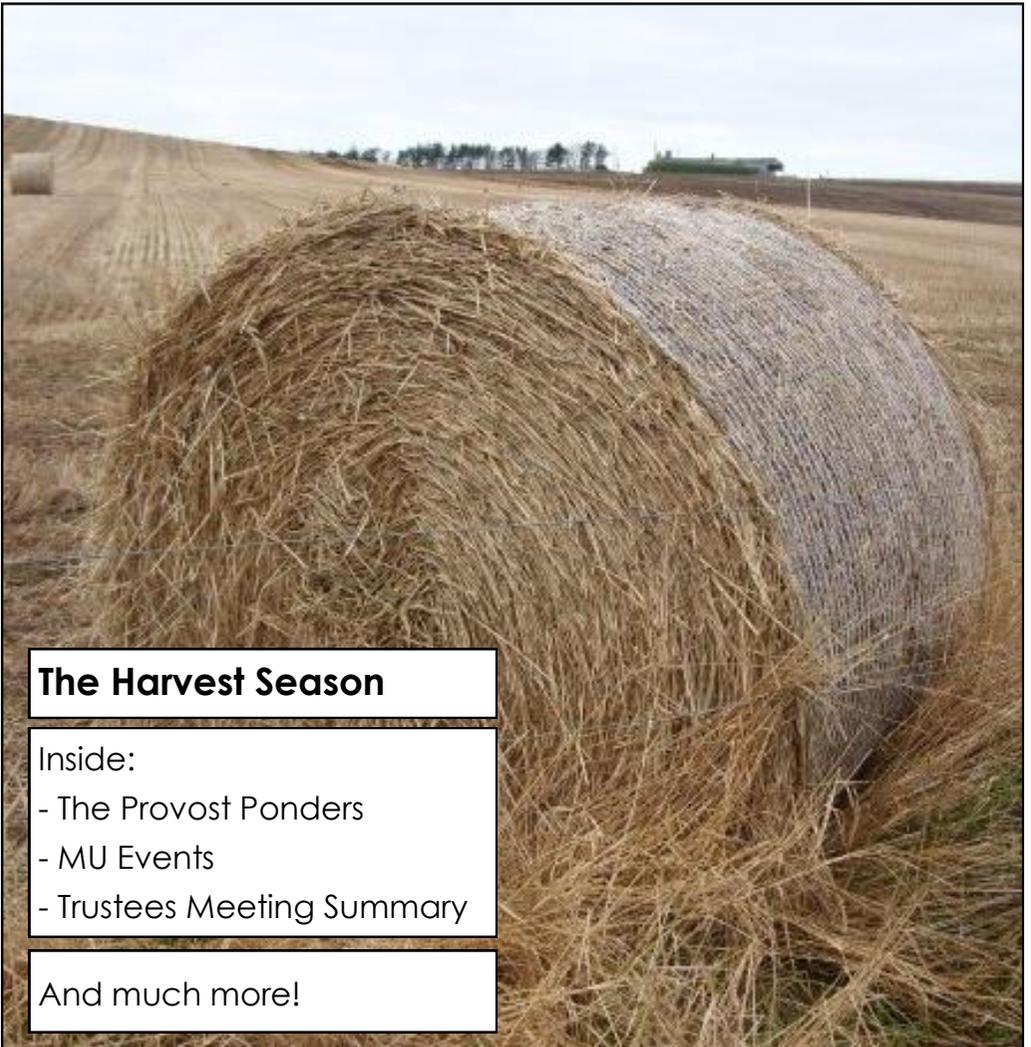


# FOCUS



On St Andrew's Cathedral  
October 2016



## **The Harvest Season**

Inside:

- The Provost Ponders
- MU Events
- Trustees Meeting Summary

And much more!

# The Provost Ponders

By the Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Friends,

On Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September five young people were baptised at the Sung Eucharist in the morning and eight young people were Confirmed by Bishop Bob, in the evening. It felt like a real festal day.

And of course the Dons managed to beat the Rangers at Pittodrie in between those two Cathedral events. Should you wonder what the connection is? I was at the door after the morning service and found hundreds of Rangers supporters walking past. They started singing when they saw me. I invited them to come in to light a candle and say a prayer. They must have been running late for the game because no one took on my offer. I guess, you see the drift!

Joking apart, keeping the **Cathedral Open for Prayer**, for all people, as much as possible throughout the week is a call I keep hearing increasingly. Ever since the news of my appointment to the Cathedral was made public in July 2015, I

have been inundated with requests to keep the Cathedral doors open for prayer. We have been able to respond to this request throughout the summer months, thanks to the generosity of the band of volunteers who kept the Cathedral open for prayers and visits. On the Doors Open Day we attracted record number of visitors, thanks to the Cathedral at Noon event featuring our very own Jillian Bain Christie and the Peace concert in the evening with Arthur Stewart and Co. I believe, at the heart of it all, there is a deep longing for peace, tranquillity and harmony in our ever fragmenting culture and society. It is no coincidence that people are looking for spaces of quiet and peace for reflection and prayer. St Andrew's Cathedral has that quality of tranquillity that we keep shut behind those doors. Do you, a friend or an active member of the Cathedral believe that we have inherited something which should be kept open? If you do, I appeal to your kindness and generosity to pray and prepare to act.

# The Provost Ponders

By the Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

I believe three practical proposals are being pursued to make this ultimate goal of keeping our Cathedral Open for Prayer possible. I am proposing to call this the Cathedral Development Project 2020 or CDP 2020. This is an updated version of the Working Document which was introduced at the Annual General Meeting in November 2015. We are not far from the next one and in the meantime there have been various developments.

Firstly, the CPD 2020 is a three-part project which includes the refurbishment of the interiors of the Cathedral. This in turn includes the upgrading of the lighting, heating and sound system with little alterations to the general structure. I am consciously avoiding the use of 'restoration' because the Cathedral had been through so many changes in the past two hundred years that it is impossible to restore it to any of those previous states. Should any of us feel passionately about a particular direction to take, towards restoration, we should

come with a funding package to support our passion.

Secondly, and following from my opening paragraph, most of the Baptisms and Confirmations were through our Choir. Choral Worship is our heritage and our missionary tool. Investing in this has two main advantages. a) We gain young disciples who are equipped to witness to the Good News beyond their time in the Choir. b) We give opportunities to our young people which they would not have but for the space, time and the generosity of very talented people in our community. This part of the project is called the Song School. This would be a room kitted out specifically for choir rehearsals and used by the choir for vocal training and teaching music theory. It would also house the music library and the choir robes. The central figure in this project is our Director of Music, Andrew Morrisson. I would like his legacy to be recognised in some form or other in the development of the Song School. The

# The Provost Ponders

By the Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

actual location of the Song School would be the Art Space now used by Peacock Visual Arts and part of the John Skinner Centre. Please note that this is a vision document and no detail has been worked out. So, please read this like a parable and not as a plan or a report. This would enhance our primary objective to keep the Cathedral Open for Prayer.

The final part is the accommodation for the Provost. Here, the idea was to move the Provost's accommodation close to the Cathedral so that there is someone onsite all the time. It would enable the Cathedral to be kept open daily.

All these hopes and dreams need prayer and hard work. Hard work towards raising necessary funds to make our vision, a reality. Thank God, we have one of the three parts already paid for from the sale of the Provost house in Grandholm Village at a time when the property market was in a good place.

Conversion of the upper floors of the 'Merchant's House' would happen when the lease of that building to Peacock Visual Arts ends in March 2017. The Song School and the Cathedral refurbishment would be our main challenge. Thank God, once again, we now have a good team in place to make this possible. Our new Director of the CDP Mr James Lyon is a former Chorister of the Cathedral, and is a real gift from God. He had the oversight of the Westhill Community Church project costing nearly 2 million pounds. He is an Architect by trade with a real passion for God, for the Diocese and now for the Cathedral. He will be joined by Lord Glenarthur and Prof Andrew Morrison in shaping the project and helping us realise it.

CDP 2020 stands for Perfect Vision of God through St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen. It also stands for our hope of achieving our hopes, dreams and prayers by the year 2020. I know you believe this is possible. May God bless it.

# Doors Open Day

By Ann Leith

The last issue of Focus was published at the same time as Doors open Day so there could be no conclusive information, however we had a good day with very favourable weather and I think most people who lent a hand enjoyed the experience.

We had no banner to hang this year but were issued with balloons. Offers to blow them up and tie them came earlier in the week and on THE morning a pair of steps was produced and another offer from someone to hang them. That was fun, passing buses had passengers glued to the windows to see what was going on!!! The mannequins had previously been attired in their vestments with beautifully printed cards of explanation and we were ready to receive visitors.

There weren't too many to begin with but as the morning wore on the numbers increased and it was good that the tea/coffee ladies were ready to offer their wares to anyone in need of

refreshment. And of course someone had offered to do the head count as visitors arrived and indeed there were several "counters" during the day because you cannot keep track of numbers and chatter too.

I have said to several people that it was a busy day and indeed a busy summer, but when you see the end results then it was well worth the effort by not too many volunteers.

Sales from the Queen's Book amounted to: £149.549  
Shop takings: £496.07  
Donations: £634.93

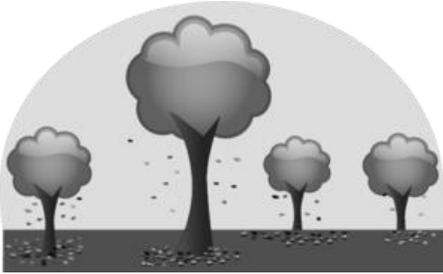
The above numbers are an improvement on last year and the number of visitors this year was also an improvement at 2,511.

Will stop rambling on but I hope participants for next will be encouraged.

Again my thanks to you all.

## Wardens' Corner

By Mark Edwards, People's Warden



I count myself very fortunate to have grown up in rural East Yorkshire, surrounded as we were by fields and fields of cereals and other arable crops. Year after year we celebrated Harvest at Beverley Minster and I must admit, as a young Chorister, the real importance of the Festival passed me by; I never really "got it" even though I was surrounded by all of this farming! Back in the sixties a bad harvest didn't impact my life – maybe Mum had to pay more for the bread and cereals, but in my childhood "bubble" it was of no concern.

Last week I was in North Yorkshire celebrating a major family event. Around us in the Dales were fields of corn and, as we drove home, endless fields stretched out ahead of

us all in various stages of the harvest being gathered. Some were already sporting large straw bales, casting long shadows in the low autumnal sun; others being harvested and some still waiting for the "Combines" to move in.

And finally I think I got it. Several generations back my forebears were agricultural workers, moving from farm to farm, labouring wherever the work took them. Their fields were small, and what they sowed and harvested had to sustain the villages for the coming year; not just the winter as we maybe think, but right through until the following harvest. Not for them the large industrial fields and the easy global supply of food, whatever the season. Rather, the safely gathered and stored harvest was critical for their life and well-being for the coming year; it was indeed a cause for celebration and Thanksgiving.

And so as we hold our own

## Wardens' Corner

By Mark Edwards

Festival Celebrations in this City I hope you can reflect on what it means for you and maybe your ancestors too. And let us not forget that many communities around the world do still depend on their local harvest to sustain them through the coming months.

Let us give thanks then for all that we receive to support us in this life; let us celebrate the Harvest home!

## Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

The annual Solemn Eucharist for the Faithful Departed takes place on **Sunday 6th November at 6.30 pm.**

Lists will be made available for the names of families and friends you may wish to be remembered at this special service.

*Ian Flett*

## Mothers' Union Events

By Kathy Priestley

The winter programme of Mothers' Union begins on **Tuesday 4th of October** at 2 pm. The speaker is Rev J Lyon from St Ninians Church and we are looking forward to hearing her talk. Children are most welcome to come and we understand that some members can only come for a short while as they have children to collect from school. Do come for as little or as long as suits you. The following meeting is on **Tuesday 1st November** again at 2pm. The meeting will be in the form of a quiet afternoon and will be conducted by Carole Phelan. The **December meeting on the 6th at 2pm** is the Advent Service followed by refreshments and we will be inviting members of other churches. All members of our congregation are invited too. More details later. I am attaching to this report a letter from Chris Crosley. Please reply yourself or tell me if you can/cannot attend and I will send a group reply. Looking forward to seeing you all at the meetings.

*(\*Please note: There are no tear-off slips enclosed in the Focus, so addresses have been edited out, but if you wish to attend either event please contact Kathy Priestley for details.)*

Dear Friends

I am fully aware that I am no longer your Diocesan President but I am also saddened by the way we appear to be drifting and with this in mind I met with Olga, Doreen, Moira and Pat to discuss how we could rectify this especially as most of you have expressed a desire to continue as members of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese.

As seems to be our habit, we were unable to reach any conclusions re our future but we did agree that it was essential to have yet another meeting to discuss whether and how we continue as a Diocese. Importantly we need to make a decision on Diocesan Subscriptions for next year. I received a letter from

Mary Sumner House with the details of next year's subs, which would normally be discussed at Trustees but as we no longer have a Board to do this, the only alternative is to have a Council Meeting and to put the options to the membership when a vote can be taken by Diocesan Council.

It would be useful to know how many of you can be at the meeting and I would also ask you to bring your copy of the constitution with you. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 October 2016 in the John Skinner Centre at 2.30 p.m. There is a tear off slip enclosed, so please do complete and return to either of the addresses below.\*

We will be having our annual Advent Quiet Day on Saturday 3 December 2016. This is being organised by Olga Robertson who continues in her role as Prayer & Spirituality Coordinator and she will be assisted by Doreen Baillie. The Very Rev. Isaac Poobalan is leading us in meditation and it will be taking

## MU Letter from Christina Crosley

place in the John Skinner Centre starting at 10.30. We will provide further information nearer the date, however, it has been agreed that we will arrange for sandwiches to be provided at a nominal cost to members and for those with young children who may not be able to come for the day, we hope you will join us for lunch when a crèche will be provided. Please plan to come it is an excellent time of peace before the bustle of Christmas preparation.

There is a tear off slip for this event enclosed as well, to enable as to cater for everyone, so please do complete and return\*...

We do hope you will be able to come to these events and look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely  
Christina Crosley



## Informal Summary of Trustees Meeting

### 1) *Update on roof repairs:*

Cheyne have completed the pointing and the roof repairs are scheduled to commence in the w/c 22nd August. This will include work on making the outlets. The final clean up ready for inspection is scheduled for the w/c 29th August.

### 2) *Maintenance:*

We have been unable to get a satisfactory response from Mutch regarding the outstanding repairs and maintenance, therefore we have terminated our agreement with them. We are now sourcing local tradesmen to provide estimates for the repairs to the JSC to make good the damage done during the 2015 burglary.

### 3) *Update on our funding application to the John Anderson Trust:*

The Trust allocates funds in November of each year and the Bishop will make a case for funds for us in September/October. He believes demonstration of

# Informal Summary of Trustees Meeting: 24th Aug 2016

By Claire Morrisson

progress with the project since May (when we initially contacted the Trust) will strengthen our case for funds. Andrew reported that, since the May submission, the 2016 phase of the work has been completed, Nicholson (organ builders) have visited to cost the replacement of the organ electrical system and Nicholson have also advised us that there is insufficient room in the organ loft to rebuild the swell box.

#### 4) *Forthcoming cathedral events:*

25<sup>th</sup> September: Baptism in the morning service, Confirmation in the evening service. Both services to be Eucharists.

2<sup>nd</sup> October: Harvest Thanksgiving, with donation of toiletries and non-perishables to CFINE, as last year.

30<sup>th</sup> October: Bishop's Farewell – Diocesan Choral Evensong at the request of the Bishop.

27<sup>th</sup> November: It has

been decided to use the Advent Carol Service to showcase the Cathedral Development Project, therefore local dignitaries will be invited to that event. A small working group will be set up to organise publicity for it.

#### 5) *Update on PVA developments:*

Isaac has met Nuno Sacramento, the new Director of PVA and the conversation proved useful and positive. Nuno has been to view the 'Artist's Pad' which has a shop front on Castlegate and is currently unoccupied. The cathedral solicitor (Philip Anderson) has advised PVA'S solicitor that we will not grant a new lease on the 'Merchant's House' when the existing one expires, but would be prepared to grant a lease on the Old School Building, provided conditions relating to the dilapidations are met. We have also requested an updated estimate of the dilapidations from

# Informal Summary of Trustees Meeting: 24th Aug 2016

By Claire Morrisson

Graham and Sybald.

Drawings of the new Provost's house and guest flat in the Merchant's House by the architect, James Roy, were tabled and accepted by the Trustees.

Isaac informed the Trustees that Jim Lyon, a retired architect and member of the Westhill Episcopal Church congregation, has agreed to be the Project Manager for the Cathedral Development Project. His remit will include the development of the cathedral itself, the Merchant's House and all the other buildings owned by the cathedral. Mr Lyon has previously managed the £2 million Westhill Church project. He has very kindly agreed to act on our behalf without remuneration. The trustees confirmed this appointment.

6) *New bookings for the JSC:*  
Isaac reported that several organisations have made bookings to use the JSC for

the first time. They will require access at times when the property would not normally be occupied. The Trustees agreed that he should get three new keys cut and issue them to the organisations provided they each sign a memorandum accepting responsibility for the keys and agreeing to pay the cost of replacing the locks if they lose them.

7) *Report on choir summer trip to Coventry:*

Andrew reported that 'choir camp' in Coventry from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August to sing the daily services at the cathedral had been very successful. He warned the trustees that our accommodation had fallen through several times and the flats we eventually secured for the trebles were relatively expensive, therefore the trip had made a loss this year.



# My Daily Church

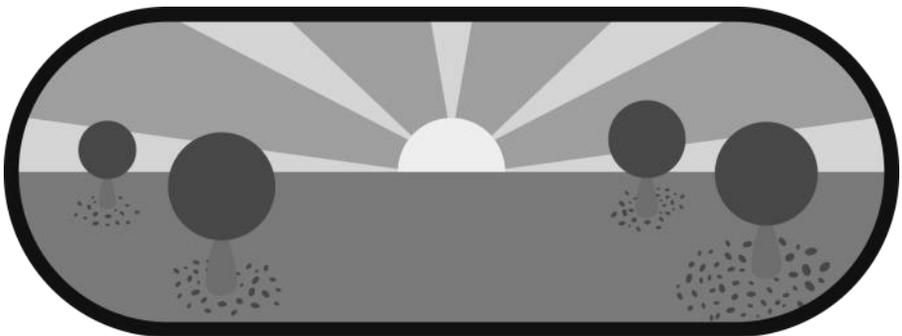
By Jeanette Allen

Inspired by early morning walks around Aden Park, a beautiful place in the quiet of the morning.

## **My Daily Church**

To walk the wooded path at morning's birth,  
To feel beneath my feet the yielding earth.  
To glimpse the shy roe deer through misted air,  
As fox and badger both return to lair.  
Avian hymns resound from lofty bower  
And steeped clock chimes seven times the hour.  
To gaze on nature's ever changing scene,  
Fashioned by that mighty hand unseen.  
Upon my face a gentle smur of rain,  
Pride of the morning cleanse my soul again.  
To walk, to touch, to see, to hear,  
Alone yet not alone, His presence near.  
In this my daily church a time to share,  
As fruit trees bow each laden branch in prayer.

*Jeanette Allen*



## Notes and Forthcoming Events

A Thank You  
From Jean Leiper

My thanks to all members of the congregation who sent get-well cards, telephone calls, and visits. All were much appreciated. I look forward to returning to take up my various duties again soon.

Advent Carol Service and launch of the Cathedral Development Project on **Sunday 27th November**, a showcase event for our friends and partners to introduce "CDP 2020", the Cathedral Development Programme.

Service at 6.30 pm.

Annual Solemn  
Eucharist for the Faithful  
Departed

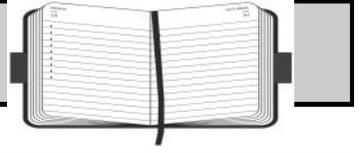
**Sunday 6th November at  
6.30 pm, in the Cathedral**

**The Diocesan Choral  
Evensong to say farewell  
to Bishop Bob.**

Service at 5 pm  
on Sunday 30th October  
in the Cathedral.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU.  
ABERDEEN COMMUNITIES  
WELCOMING SYRIAN FAMILIES**  
Saturday 22 October 9.30am  
to 3.30pm  
Salvation Army Citadel, 28  
Castle St, Aberdeen  
A day event for current or future volunteers and interested parties. The new Syrian Scots have arrived after their long journey! Come and find out more about Syria, its culture, its conflict, its people, and how we can welcome them into their new home. Lunch will be provided. Wheelchair access available. Attendance is free but booking is essential. Register by email  
joanblyon@gmail.com  
or phone 01224 740 791

# October 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 - October**

*Please see the tables at the back of the Cathedral for the most recent Cathedral at Noon postcards.*

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.

# November Focus Deadline



**The deadline for the November issue of the Focus magazine will be the 3rd of November.**

Please send your articles to Amber at [a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk](mailto:a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk).

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

# Contacts

St. Andrew's Cathedral, 28 King Street, Aberdeen,  
AB24 5AX Tel (01224 640119)  
email : office@standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk  
www.standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk

<b>Bishop</b>	Rt. Rev Dr Bob Gillies, Diocesan Office	01224 662247
<b>Organist &amp; Master of the Choristers</b>	Professor Andrew Morrisson, a.morrisson@rgu.ac.uk	01224 581151
<b>Trebles Choir Trainer</b>	Dr Claire Morrisson, c.woods515@btinternet.com	01224 310980
<b>Organ Scholar</b>	Kevin Cameron, c/o Cathedral Office	
<b>Sacristan</b>	Margaret Buyers, mlbuyers@icloud.com	01224 319544
<b>Treasurer</b>	Contact cathedral office	
<b>Trustees</b>	Victoria Angoe (Trustee), vickieangoe@gmail.com	01224 329268
	Mark Edwards (People's Warden), edwamar@btinternet.com	07769 21026
	Derek Elliott-Jones (Trustee), elliotdm@hotmail.com	07779 173178
	Regina Jaschke (Trustee), r.jaschke@abdn.ac.uk	
	Andrew Morrisson (Lay Representative), a.morrisson@rgu.ac.uk	01224 581151
	Claire Morrisson (Provost's Warden), c.woods515@btinternet.com	01224 310980
	Kelechi Nwajibu (Trustee)	
	Michael Stone (Trustee)	
	Sylvia Simpson (Trustee), sylviasimpson40@hotmail.com	01224 315695
<b>Diocesan Trustees</b>	Canon John Walker (Diocesan Trustee)	
	Captain Derek Whatling (Diocesan Trustee)	
<b>Trustees email</b>	standrewstrustees@googlegroups.com	
<b>Website email</b>	website@standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk	
<b>Focus Editor</b>	Amber Shadle c/o Cathedral office, a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk	
<b>Catering Coordinator</b>	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
<b>Flower Secretary</b>	Helena Thomas, helenathomas26@gmail.com	01224 487265
<b>Gift Aid</b>	Contact Cathedral Office	
<b>Gift Shop</b>	Jackie Hughes	01224 702901
	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	The Cathedral Office	01224 640119
<b>Readers</b>	The Cathedral Office	01224 640119
<b>Servers</b>	Contact—Sacristan	
<b>Summer Stewarding</b>	Ann Leith	01224 635493
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
<b>Godly Play</b>	Liz Gillies	
<b>Crèche &amp; Jr Church</b>	Christine Flett	01224 572232
<b>Tuesday Fellowship</b>	Ikenna Asogwa, iasogwa@yahoo.com	07881 766434
<b>Provost</b>	Very Revd Dr Isaac M Poobalan, Provost, c/o Cathedral Office provost@aberdeen.anglican.org4	01224 640119