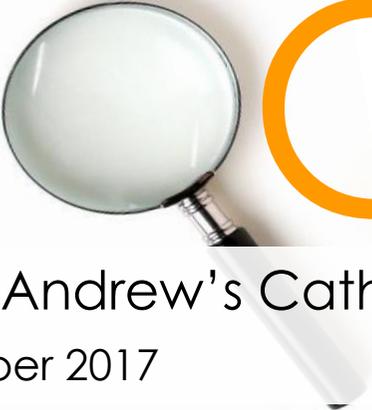
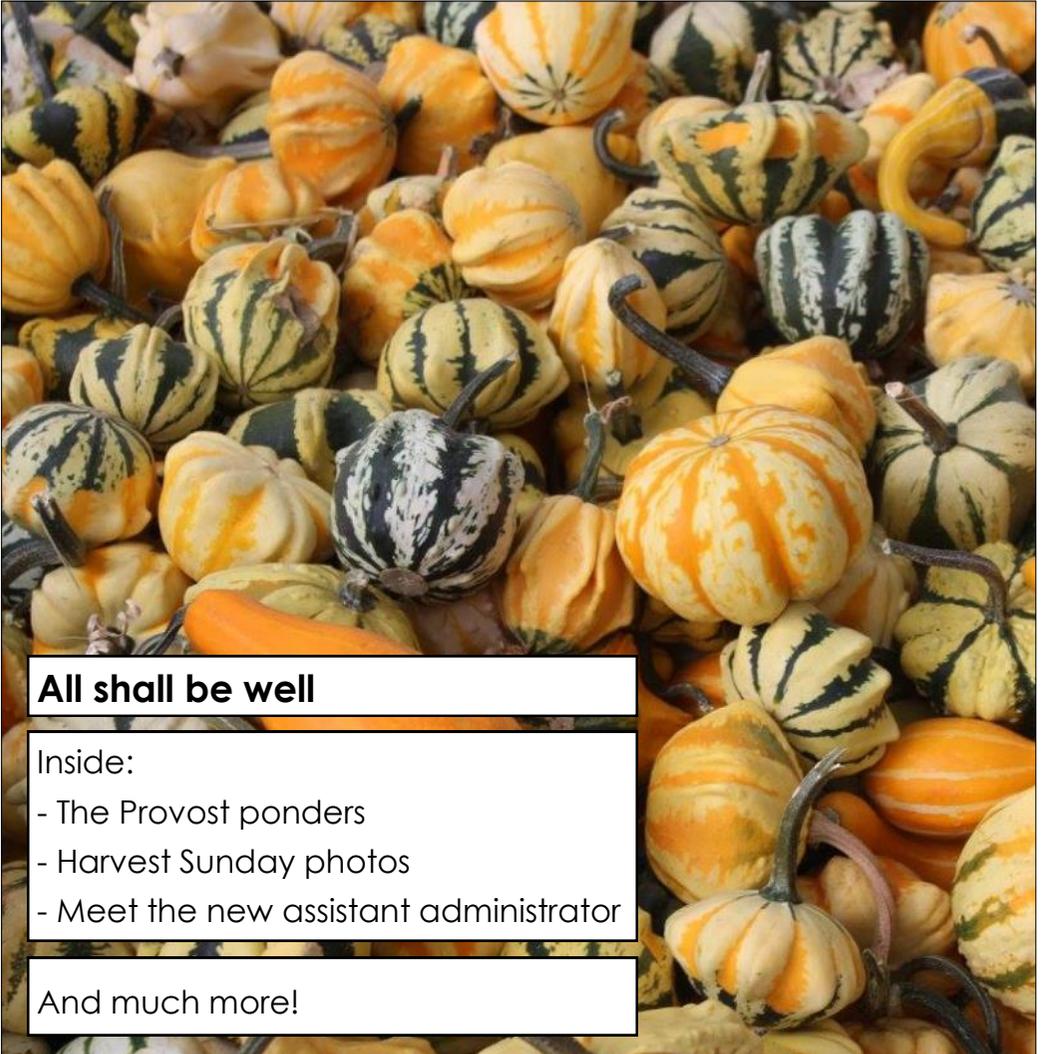


FOCUS



On St. Andrew's Cathedral
November 2017



All shall be well

Inside:

- The Provost ponders
- Harvest Sunday photos
- Meet the new assistant administrator

And much more!

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friends,

On Saturday the 31st of October 1517, according to the Julian Calendar, a 34 year old Augustinian monk and university professor in Wittenberg, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the doors of the Castle Church. What may have been an insignificant act in the remotest part of Germany turned out to be an historic and world-transforming event. At the heart of this historic moment lies the core of our Faith, i.e. Christ Crucified. Anything and everything that obscures this central event in human history should be removed, so that the power of the cross is revealed once more in our time.

The sustained uncertainties of our time seem to take its toll on our communities, our families and ourselves. It is natural to look for certainties in little things. Today, the 26th of October 2017, trying hard to keep to the deadline for our cathedral magazine, Focus, I look around and find certainty in

the most uncertain realities. The day had been typical of an Aberdeen Autumn day. There was sunshine and showers that drench and dry the brilliant colours of the autumn leaves, reminding me of the certainty of the Seasons and yet that certainty comes through those ripe autumn leaves ready to fall, almost magically, one at a time, in its own time. Occasional autumn wind may force some leaves to fall. But in the stillness of the tree, one can still see the leaves, leave the branches behind to be reunited with the soil from whence they got their existence. In between those falling leaves, I had a glimpse of a rainbow in absolute splendour but incomplete and broken. Yet again, the uncertain rainbow reminded me of something beyond all certainty, which Julian of Norwich put it so eloquently, 'that all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

'The certainty of the uncertainty' which was the theme of a recent seminar I was invited to

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

attend, invited those in attend, invited those in attendance to take our days of uncertainty and turn them into opportunity for new certainties. The Cathedral, for example, is surrounded by a number of uncertainties. We have a Cathedral without a bishop, although we would be delighted if Bishop Mark could continue as our bishop. The five Aberdeen City Centre Episcopal Churches have entered into a journey not knowing where it will lead us to. Our own Cathedral Development Programme 2020 has a definite destiny but the path to that destiny is paved with uncertainties.

I presume, as you read this 'Pondering on uncertainties' you too wonder if there is a point to this pondering? All I can say is, our certainties are inalienably bound to those things in life that are full of uncertainties. The flimsy and transient rainbow in the autumn sky remind me of those words of YHWH who said to Noah that it is to remind us of God's unflinching love. With that in mind,

one thing we could do with absolute confidence is to let go of things that fill us with care, trusting in God that all shall be well. This is the season when the Saints of God remind us of this simple truth.

May God fill your hearts and minds with the joy of journeying with the Saints in the fellowship of Christ our King, born as a child, lived like a servant, crucified like a criminal and risen as the son of righteousness. This season of darkness is a time to be still and see the mystery of the Incarnation unfold in brilliance and beauty. Take each day, cherish each moment as God's bountiful gift to you. The rest will fall in line as we give ourselves in the enfolding arms of eternal love. May God's transforming love continue to Reform us and the Church of our time.

God bless you.

As ever,
Isaac

Harvest Flowers - Thank you

By Moira Middleton

Thank you to everyone who contributed money, greenery, flowers and time to decorate the Cathedral for Harvest Sunday. I was very nervous about the task as this was my first big occasion on taking over the role from Helena. I need not have worried as yet again the Flower ladies and helpers from the congregation came along with flowers, greenery, decorations and a great enthusiasm for the task ahead. We had very little time as there was a service until 9.45am and we had to be finished by 12 noon for the concert. Thanks to Christine Flett who helped me get organised the day before. Things were in place for an immediate start and as helpers arrived they were allocated tasks and soon the place was buzzing. There was a wonderful feeling in the Cathedral and soon it was looking magnificent. Thanks to Fiona for bringing along her fox, hare and harvest mouse which led to a woodland scene at the Font which the children loved.

Looking forward we have the

Service on the 5th November and thanks to the people who have offered to help Kathy as there will be more flowers than usual.

Next big task will be the Christmas Decorations and I hope you will all come along and support us yet again. More details in next month's Focus.

If you wish to sponsor flowers for a memorial, birthday, anniversary etc please put your donation in a Gift Aid envelope and write 'Flower Fund' on the front. You can put in a note of the date and the occasion or let me know by phone, text or email what you would like.



Harvest Flowers - Thank you

By Moira Middleton



*Some of the beautiful
flower arrangements from
Harvest Sunday.*

Harvest Festival, 1 October

By Lucy Macdonald



We were delighted that on 1 October we had 22 children join with us at the Cathedral, leading us in worship by telling the story of Isaac and Rebecca as part of the Harvest Festival Celebrations. The story centred around journeys, a theme which we have continued with the children throughout the winter term, looking at the journeys made in the bible, the journeys we make at home with our family and friends, and

our own personal journeys with God.

Stephanie is already working on our next event for Advent as we begin to think about a very special journey (by donkey...), we hope to see you on 3 December to share this with you! If you would like to know more about the children's work, or would like to help out, please get in touch with a member of the team.

Meet the new Assistant Administrator!



Hello, my name is Jennifer Taylor and I have recently been appointed assistant administrator at the cathedral.

I am a Masters student at the University of Aberdeen studying music, composition. I have been a Choral Scholar at the cathedral for the last three years, and am very much looking forward to working here.

My office hours are:
Tuesday 9-12
Friday 9-1
Saturday 9-12

Upcoming event:

On November 16th at King's College Chapel, 19:30, music by this year's composer in residence, Sir James MacMillan, will be performed by the University of Aberdeen's contemporary music ensemble, Spectrum and the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir.

Also at this concert will be a new commission by Choral Scholar, Jennifer Taylor, winner of the 2017 Carlaw | Ogston Composition Award.

We are very sad to hear of the death of Mrs May Clark. May has been a faithful member of Mother's Union for many years. She played a very active part in all aspects of MU life. May was a brilliant pancake maker and must have made thousands over the years for sales and also for our teas during the meetings. She was a great friend to many and will be greatly missed. Fond memories. May she rest in peace.

At our October meeting Isaac gave a memorable talk about his young life and his pathway to serving the Lord. Thank you. It is good to get to know each other and the MU members really appreciated this sharing.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 7th November at 2pm in the JSC. Florence will give a talk on her visit to the General Meeting which was held on September in Edinburgh. This is a great opportunity to hear about the work of MU throughout the country. We will also be planning the advent service - see below.

Advent service, followed by festive tea is to be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 2pm in the Cathedral.

Everyone is invited to all of the above meetings - you will be very welcome.

Call for Volunteers

Want to get involved in the Cathedral Community?

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

Flower Team

Junior Church/Godly Play

Weekday cleaning

and more...

For more information please contact the Cathedral Office, or one of the team leaders (contact information is on the back page of the Focus).

Crèche Rota 2017/18

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
5 th Tracey Blessing Joy	3 rd Advent Sunday Tracey Nan Blessing	7 th Kathleen Blessing Joy	4 th Moir Nan Julie	4 th Jackie Mimi	1 st Easter day Moir Faustina Chioma
12 th Kathleen Catherine Anthonia	10 th Moir Joy Catherine	14 th Moir Catherine Anthonia	11 th Jackie Blessing Joy	11 th Mothering Sunday Moir Nan Julie	8 th Jackie Oge Mimi
19 th Moir Faustina Chioma	17 th Kathleen Anthonia Faustina	21 st Tracey Faustina Chioma	18 th Lent Tracey Catherine Anthonia	18 th Tracey Blessing Joy	15 th Tracey Nan Julie
26 th Jackie Oge Mimi	24 th Christmas Eve Jackie Chioma	28 th Kathleen Mimi	25 th Kathleen Faustina Chioma	25 th Palm Sunday Kathleen Catherine Anthonia	22 nd Kathleen Blessing Joy
	31 st Tracey Mimi Nan				

If you cannot come on your allocated Sunday please arrange a replacement or a swap. You should be in JSC by 10.30am to welcome parents and children and set out toys.

1. REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

a. Mark Edwards reported that it is feasible to have keypad access to the Cathedral via the south door without compromising its function as a fire escape. The Trustees agreed to proceed but also that we would require locks on the door to prevent keypad access when the cathedral is not occupied by people without keys but with knowledge of the keypad code. The action is ongoing.

b. Peter Murray is of the opinion that setting up Seabury House as a separate charity would not yield benefits commensurate with the amount of effort required. The Trustees agreed not to pursue this further.

c. The Provost reported that Michael Stone has kindly agreed to take over from Andrew Morrisson as cathedral representative on the Cathedral CDP2020 Project. Gordon Graham has indicated that he will only be available in an occasional, high-level consultative capacity for any fund raising advice. The Provost will ask Jane Russell (ACVO) to help the Cathedral Project team with

fund raising. Andrew Morrisson and Claire Woods will focus on the Seabury House development.

2. PURCHASE OF NEW RECTORY

Michael Stone and Derek Whatling had circulated a progress report to the Trustees on 25th September shortlisting four properties, 432 King Street, 77 Gray Street, 68 Ashgrove Road West and 9 Devanha Gardens South, of which they considered 432 King St and 9 Devanha Gardens to be worthy of serious consideration. The Provost had also circulated details of 19 View Terrace. The Provost informed the Trustees that he and his family had viewed 432 King St and 9 Devanha Gardens from the outside and 19 View Terrace from the outside and inside. They prefer 19 View Terrace. This is on the market for OIEO £440k. Andrew Morrisson has noted an interest in it on behalf of the cathedral. It was agreed that Andrew should instruct our solicitors to make an offer of £400k for the View Terrace house.

3. PVA DILAPIDATIONS

The Provost, Andrew Morrisson and Claire Woods met with Numo Sacramento and two other representatives of PVA on 15th

Informal Summary of the Trustees Meetings, 27 Sept & 10 Oct 2017
By Claire Morrisson

September. PVA informed us that they have no funds to address the situation and do not anticipate securing funds in the foreseeable future. An internet search of published accounts had shown PVA have reserved £50k for contingencies in their most recent accounts. This is inconsistent with their position at the 15th September meeting. Consequently, at the 10th October meeting, the Trustees asked Andrew to instruct the Cathedral solicitor to send a formal letter to PVA, to deal with the dilapidations under threat of irritancy.

4. SEABURY HOUSE PROJECTS

a. Safety assessment

Mark Edwards and Claire Woods had performed a safety assessment of Seabury House on 25th September and e-mailed the report and recommended actions to the Trustees. The Trustees agreed on the following actions:
--Electrical: A professional audit of electrical safety should be performed and work to make the building safe undertaken urgently. The space previously used by PVA cannot be used by us until remedial electrical works are complete and a safety certificate issued on completion.

--Plumbing: A professional safety audit is desirable, but not such a high priority as the electrical audit. This will be discussed with the company that wins the contract for the JSC central heating.

--Cathedral office safety: The Trustees agreed that all files and boxes that are not in frequent use be removed to the top floor of Seabury House to reduce the fire risk in this room. Any re-location of the office must wait until the electrical work is complete and the top floor can be heated safely.

--Mark Edwards contacted Tyco and asked them to extend our contract to cover Seabury House as well as the Cathedral.

b. Discussion with Architect

Claire Woods reported that the 1st and 2nd floor of Seabury House are currently designated as office and workshop space. We would need to change this to use the first floor for the Song School and Young People's Ministry. The change of usage would automatically trigger the application of current building safety and disabled access regulations. It would be possible for the young people and choir to use the old Art Space as soon as it is declared electrically safe, because this already has an

Informal Summary of the Trustees Meetings, 27 Sept & 10 Oct 2017
By Claire Morrisson

appropriate designation.

c. Refurbishment of Gents Toilet in JSC

The Trustees accepted the CAS Duncan quote of £5326.75+VAT for this work, to be completed before 5th November.

d. Replacement of boiler/new CH system for JSC

Sparks and Heat Connection had sent engineers to assess the job and an engineer from Mutch was scheduled to visit on 5th October. The new system is unlikely to be functioning until the new year, therefore the Trustees agreed that the cathedral buy some oil-filled electric radiators to heat the JSC until then.

e. Refurbishment of the 1st and 2nd floors of Seabury House

The Trustees agreed to progress this stage by stage, starting with the electrical survey and remedial works. The Trustees agreed that the children should have emergency evacuation drills periodically and that the muster point should be the JSC car park.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT ON CHOIR SUMMER TRIP TO ROCHESTER

Andrew Morrisson tabled the accounts for the choir's summer

singing trip to Rochester. The trip had made a loss of £988.98p. The Trustees agreed to make this up from the Cathedral General Fund.

6. CDP2020 DEVELOPMENT

This was the focus of the extraordinary meeting on 10th October.

The Trustees endorsed the shared vision, developed with the congregation in late 2016 and early 2017, as explained in the CDP2020 brochure. The plans for developing the Cathedral Sanctuary have not changed. The decision to purchase a house near the Cathedral as the Rectory has released space in Seabury House which can now be developed for the Song School and Young People's Ministry on the first floor and as the Development Office on the second floor. The Trustees agreed to establish the Development Office from January 2018 and to increase Lynda Johnston's hours to 3 days/week, with the additional hours to be devoted to the Development Project. Plans to accommodate the Song School in Seabury House mean that it will no longer be necessary to add a second floor over the Sacristy for that purpose.

7. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES – CATHEDRAL TREASURER

Informal Summary of the Trustees Meetings, 27 Sept & 10 Oct 2017
By Claire Morrisson

The Trustees agreed that financial administration would be simplified if we had a nominated individual acting as single first point of contact for all financial enquiries. The role would be clearest, both to members of the congregation and those outside the cathedral if the individual were entitled 'Treasurer'. The Trustees approached Lynda Johnston, the Administrator, who agreed to take on the position of Treasurer. All financial enquiries will be directed to Lynda as the nominated point of contact, who will forward them to the appropriate person. The actual financial management duties of Treasurer, as defined in the Constitution, will continue to be shared between Andrew Morrisson, Claire Morrisson and our accountants, Johnston Carmichael LLP, as is the current practice.

8. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE INCLUDING STAFFING

Michael Stone reported that we could get help with some tasks from ACVO (Aberdeen City Voluntary Organisations) or other sources, provided the tasks were sufficiently well defined. One example would be help with fund raising, which is one of the ACVO

core skills. They can also provide help with catering. He had discussed with Bill Henderson the idea of getting volunteers from the tourist industry to help as cathedral guides. It may also be possible to get volunteers to help with cathedral maintenance. It would be essential that volunteers were properly and proactively trained and managed, so that they felt involved, for them to remain engaged, and this managerial activity takes effort and time. Increasing the amount of activity (e.g. by enlisting the help of volunteers) will also require increased administrative support.

9. Date of Next Meeting Ordinary Meeting

Monday 13th November 7 pm in the Suther Chapel.

Claire Morrisson
On behalf of the Trustees



November 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)

4 Nov	Cathedral at Noon - November sound festival 2017: Lesley Wilson <i>New Music for Bassoon</i>
11 Nov	Learig Orchestra <i>Schumann's "Rhenish" Symphony</i>
18 Nov	Bowtied String Quartet <i>Dvořák's American Quartet</i>
25 Nov	Cathedral Choir and Friends <i>Sarah Rimkus' St Andrew's Mass</i>
2 Dec	Martha Hayward and Matthew Lazenby <i>Songs of Blighted Women – Music for Soprano and Piano</i>

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.

Upcoming Events

The Annual Solemn Eucharist for the Faithful Departed will take place on **Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm.**

Please note the change of time and date.

Choral Evensong 5th November

Installation of the Revd Canon Dr CK Robertson as Honorary Canon of St. Andrew's Cathedral

In order to assist with catering, if you plan to come along to this special service could you please confirm with Lynda Johnston in the Cathedral office that you will be attending.

Mothers' Union meeting

Tuesday 7th November at 2pm in the JSC, featuring a talk by Florence Cal-Anglia.

The deadline for the joint December/January issue of the Focus magazine is the 30th of November.

Please send your articles to Amber at 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

Acting Bishop	Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, Diocesan Office	01224 662247
Organist & Master of the Choristers	Professor Andrew Morrisson, a.morrisson@rgu.ac.uk	01224 581151
Trebles Choir Trainer	Dr Claire Morrisson, c.woods515@btinternet.com	01224 310980
Organ Scholar	Kevin Cameron, c/o Cathedral Office	
Sacristan	Margaret Buyers, mlbuyers@icloud.com	01224 319544
Treasurer	Contact Cathedral Office	
Trustees	Mark Edwards (People's Warden), edwamar@btinternet.com	07769 210260
	Andrew Morrisson (Lay Representative), a.morrisson@rgu.ac.uk	01224 581151
	Claire Morrisson (Provost's Warden), c.woods515@btinternet.com	01224 310980
	Regina Jaschke (Trustee), r.jaschke@abdn.ac.uk	
	Stephanie Brock (Trustee)	
	Ian Long (Trustee)	
	Kelechi Nwajiuba (Trustee)	
	Chioma Ojinna (Trustee)	
	Michael Stone (Trustee)	
Diocesan Trustees	Canon John Walker (Diocesan Trustee)	
	Captain Derek Whatling (Diocesan Trustee)	
Trustees email	trustees@cathedral.aberdeen.anglican.org	
Website email	website@standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk	
Focus Editor	Amber Shadle c/o Cathedral office, a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk	
PVG Officer	Victoria Angoe, vickieangoe@gmail.com	01224 329268
Catering Coordinator	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
Flower Secretary	Moira Middleton, mo.middleton@hotmail.com	01224 820898 or 07871 991028
Giff Aid	Contact Cathedral Office	
Giff Shop	Jackie Hughes	01224 702901
	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
Hall Bookings	The Cathedral Office	01224 640119
Readers	The Cathedral Office	01224 640119
Servers	Contact Sacristan	
Summer Stewarding	Bill Henderson	01224 480349
Mothers' Union	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
Godly Play	Contact Cathedral Office	
Crèche & Jr Church	Christine Flett	01224 572232
Tuesday Fellowship	Ikenna Asogwa, iasogwa@yahoo.com	07881 766434
Provost	Very Revd Dr Isaac M Poobalan, Provost, c/o Cathedral Office	01224 640119
	provost@aberdeen.anglican.org	