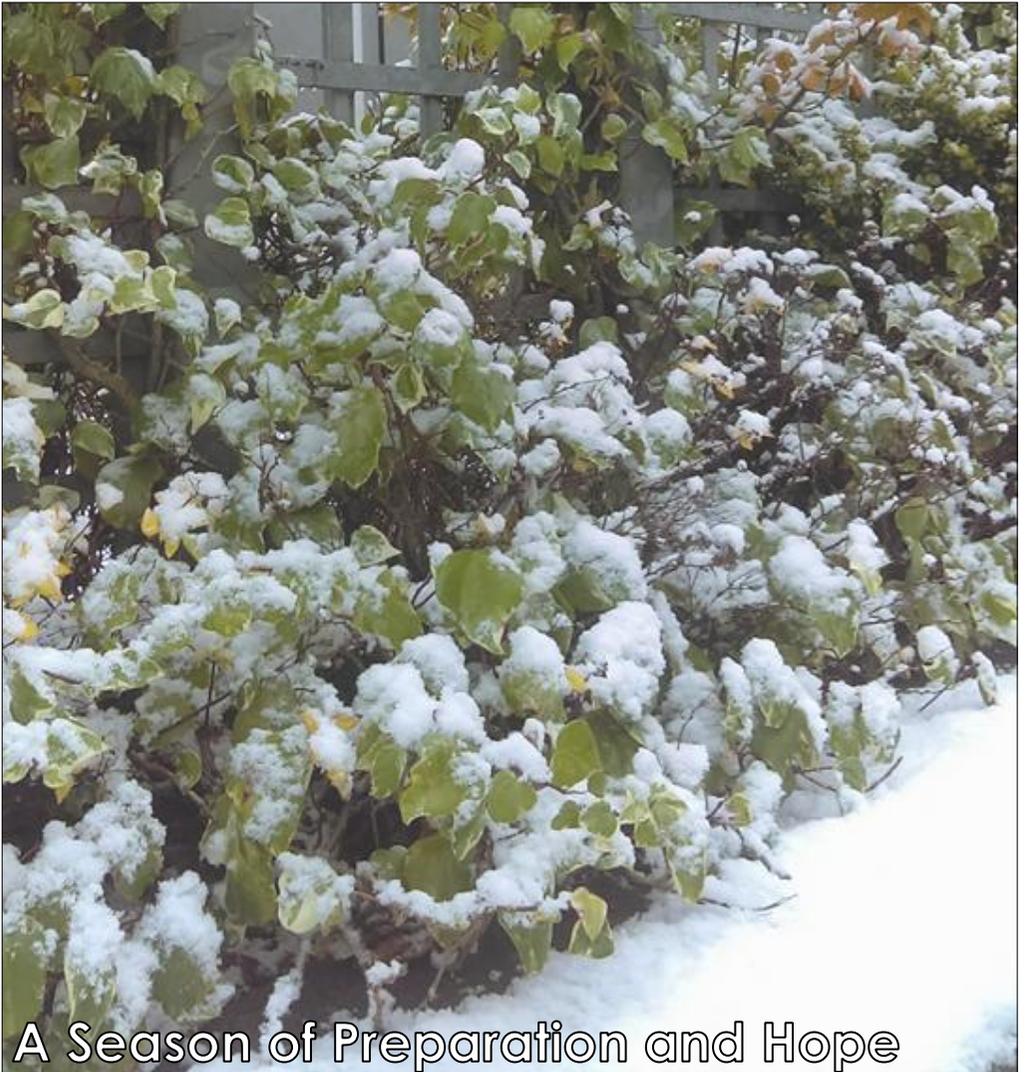


# FOCUS

On St. Andrew's Cathedral  
February 2018



A Season of Preparation and Hope

# The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friends,

We have witnessed something extraordinary in our diocese over the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. You will recall my ponderings in the last issue of the Focus that God grants our prayers in love and that means not always what we want. This is a difficult truth we seldom come to terms with. We pray for God's Kingdom to come, each time we offer the Lord's Prayer and it gets answered because it cannot be anything other than that. We suffer sometimes as a consequence of our prayers and suffering only in that context is redemptive and therefore we must continue to offer that prayer. Our Lord is a prime example of this redemptive suffering in and through prayers. Vicariously our diocese finds itself in that position of suffering with fragmentation.

**The Epiphany Exchange:** On the day before the Feast of the Epiphany a few clergy and lay people in the diocese sent a Letter of Protest to the College

of Bishops questioning their election of the Revd Canon Anne Dyer as the next bishop of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. The Open Letter of Protest was also sent to various media outlets simultaneously. Two days later the College of Bishops responded in kind. This exchange is now known as the Epiphany Exchange and has attracted reaction and response not only from within the diocese and the church but also in the city and beyond.

The Epiphany Exchange has been painful for a lot of people both within the church and the wider world. It is hard to imagine what it would have been for Anne, Roger and Millie who are preparing to come and make their home among us, in our diocese, in our city of Aberdeen and most importantly for us, in our Cathedral Church. They will remain at the very heart of our prayers and thoughts. Equally, those who made the protest suffer the pain of violation of their hopes and aspirations. We remember

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them too in our prayers. In order to give substance to our prayers, there will be Day of Prayer at the Cathedral on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2018. The day will commence at 8.30am and will end 5pm when the Cathedral will remain open for people to come and go as they wish. Please make a note of the date and times and come to be part of this very core activity of our life. People from both sides of the exchange intend to be part of this Day of Prayers.

**Aberdeen Civic Forum:** The exchange had opened some unexpected doors too hitherto not known. One important and positive response to the exchange was from the Chair of the Aberdeen Civic Forum Jonathan Smith. The Civic Forum is one of a variety of methods through which communities and individuals can have their say, share their views and promote their priorities to Community Planning in the city of Aberdeen, Scotland.

The membership of the Civic

Forum includes Community Councils, Communities of Interest and Community Groups in the city and welcomes everyone to take part in its discussions and projects.

The Civic Forum also encourages further engagement and more direct communication from public services and partners with the city's communities including more accessible information, consultations, co-production, empowerment, representation and participation in decision making.

**Church in the Margins:** The Church often laments being in the margins. Secularisation was highlighted as the core problem by the clergy of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney when they met in October 2017. However, it is often ignored how the church contributes to its own marginalisation. According to Jonathan, the Epiphany Exchange offers an opportunity for the church to engage with its challenges openly. Maybe this is an opportunity for the church (I have

## The Provost Ponders

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the Episcopalians in mind) to transcend its intense desire to survive as little groups with their own little buildings to worry about, and come together to bless the world which God loves so much.

**Food with Friends:** On the business of Transcendence, on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, over 30 people gathered in the John Skinner Centre to celebrate the success of the 'Food with Friends' initiative. In the Autumn of 2017, Dr Amudha Poobalan, an active member of the Cathedral congregation put in an Application for a small grant from the Grampian Health Board to develop the partnership formed between the Cathedral, an Episcopalian farmer in the country and the Aberdeen Drugs Action (ADA) group that meets in the JSC on Fridays. The objective is to bring people together around food and advance wellbeing through friendship. On this first occasion we set it around Burns Supper. Members of the ADA prepared food and friends of the Cathedral made

music, poetry and recitation. Our special thanks to all who made it possible. We also raised £380 for robes of our Sacristy team.

**Shrove Tuesday:** We are a people who party with a purpose. The party we call Liturgy (Work of the People) or Eucharist (A Thanksgiving Life) and our purpose is to proclaim the coming Kingdom of God on earth in justice, love, mercy and truth. Our next party is Shrove Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 from 7 to 10pm. There will be silent Auction. We will party with a purpose for a donation of £10 per adults and £5 for children. Sweet and Savoury pancakes will be available. Please pay your donation in advance to Christine Flett for catering purposes.

**St Valentine's Feast:** on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of February there will be special Valentine evening with food, fellowship and learning love in life conversation in the John Skinner Centre. Love has consequences such as friendship, family and life.

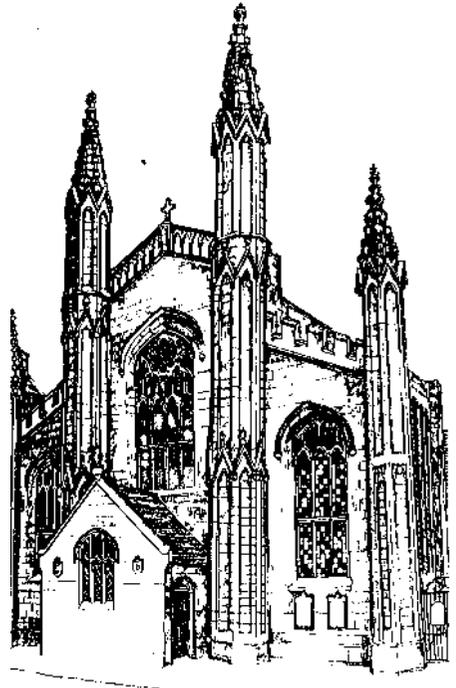
## The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

While we celebrate love and life, it is full of challenges. One of the challenges is nurturing children with special needs. The cathedral congregation has a fair share of it and we rejoice in that privilege. At the event, there will be opportunity to explore that particular vocation in a relaxed atmosphere. Please let Godwin Chimaroke know if you are able to come.

**Ash Wednesday & Lent:** Ash Wednesday this year is rather romantic as it falls on the Feast of St Valentine. It is significant as it is a point in our journey of love with the Lord. The two services will be held as always i.e 10am Holy Communion and 7.30pm Sung Eucharist. Please make every possible effort to come to one of these services to mark the beginning of this blessed and holy season. Throughout the season there will be a series of learning and growing together around soup and bread after the Sunday service. There will be a sign up form.

**And finally a Rectory:** the Provost and the family moved to 27 Raeden Avenue on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. The Trustees and many members of the Cathedral congregation made it possible. The telephone number is 01224 313356. There will be an Open House in due course when the boxes are unpacked. Please pray that this will be a home of blessing to the Cathedral and beyond.



# A Pleasant Evening

By F. B. Cal-Anglia, Photos by Micah Furlong



Robert Burn's evening in the JSC  
Address to the Haggis we came to see  
With gusto and with clarity  
Burn's poems were said with sincerity  
And many of us attentively listening  
Saw the knife in haggis glistening

A young musician, then who could miss  
The poignancy in "Aye Fond Kiss"  
Nor think about a loved one close  
In "My Love is like a red, red Rose"  
Neither could the dancers forget  
The accordion played by Stanley Flett



Delicious meal cooked by our Community  
'Tatties' 'Neeps' and haggis aplenty  
Plus a choir member with a cooking talent  
Sticky toffee pudding mmm down the gullet  
Auld Lang Syne then all present confessed  
Being a church family we truly are blessed.

*(Top photo: Dorothy Taylor addresses the haggis  
Bottom photo: Robert Wilson sings for the group)*

## Access to the Cathedral and JSC

By Claire Morrisson (on behalf of the Trustees)

For security reasons, we have reduced the number of keys to Seabury House and we apologise to those volunteers who held keys in the past and do so no longer. There is now a JSC key available in the cathedral, to allow access to the JSC by anyone with a cathedral key. This can be found in the hymn book cupboard in the Vestry. This is the cupboard next to the entrance to the toilet. The key has a yellow key ring, is marked "1" and is in one of the pigeon holes on the left in this cupboard. There is also a small black book in which you should enter your details. i.e. when you remove the key, please add your name and the time under the "Out" section and do the same again under the "In" section when you return the key. If you are the first person to remove the key on a new day, please add the date too. We realise that this system is time consuming and apologise for the inconvenience it will inevitably cause.

We are making it easier to move between the cathedral

and the JSC immediately before and after Sunday morning services. The south door to the cathedral will be unlocked at about 10 am, until the start of the service. Although it will be closed, turning the door handle on the outside will open it, allowing access, to save people having to go round to the vestry door or the main entrance. The south door will be locked when the service starts and for the duration of the service, apart from when the young people come in at the Offertory, as is the current practice. It will be unlocked again immediately after the service, for a period of about 30 minutes. The key for the south door is in the kitchen, on the hooks by the hatch. It is labelled 'South Aisle Side Door'.



## Meet Chris Black — Organ Scholar



Hi, my name is Chris and I am the new Organ Scholar at St Andrew's Cathedral.

I first became interested in music at the age of 9 and took up the guitar and went on to take lessons throughout high school. I then did an HND in popular music, only to realize my true calling was classical music. I worked for two years and took piano lessons to build up to apply to do a bachelor's degree in classical music. I was accepted by the University of

Aberdeen in 2014 and have been taking organ lessons with Roger Williams.

The first church services I played for were in Edinburgh. In 2015, I was appointed as organist at St Mary's Carden Place where I held the position for one year. I then moved to St Margaret's Gallowgate and also held this position for a year. While I was at St Margaret's I started playing at the cathedral on a casual basis and was awarded the Organ Scholarship at the close of 2017. I have also given recitals in Scotland and France.

I would like to thank Andrew Morrisson for my appointment at the cathedral, and would also like to thank Bill Henderson for always being at hand to point me in the right direction. I look forward to my time at the cathedral.





*The trebles wishing the audience a Merry Christmas at the end of their very successful lunchtime recital on 23rd December. This was Thomas Cameron's last concert as Deputy Head Chorister and he provided the choir with an eclectic assortment of seasonal head-gear to mark the occasion. We were proud to see him taking his Deputy Head Chorister duties so seriously! We are delighted that Thomas has now graduated to the back row, where he is singing alto, mentored by Regina Jäschke.*

## Can you help?

The Friday coffee shop desperately needs helpers to serve coffee etc. This is a very social job - you would be needed from 9 to 12 am on one Friday in six approx. Baking skills are optional. Give it a try and make new friends at the same time. Contact Kathy on 07703462713 or email [mrskpriestley@gmail.com](mailto:mrskpriestley@gmail.com).

A request has been received for two vacuum cleaners for two new Syrian families who have just arrived.

If you can help please contact Joan Lyon at:

[Joanblyon@gmail.com](mailto:Joanblyon@gmail.com)  
or 01224 487241

# Cathedral Flowers

By Moira Middleton



Time once again to thank everyone for making 2017 such a success. The Flower groups kept things going during Helena's illness and have been a great support to me since I took over in September. Our last big job was decorating for Christmas. With Christmas Day on a Monday it meant that we had to decorate before the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent and as Saturday is such a busy day the decorating was spread over two days to give us enough time to get everything done. Our band of helpers was smaller than anticipated due to holidays and illness but everybody got stuck in on both days and the Cathedral looked

wonderful in time for Christmas Day. Thanks to the arrangers, the decorators, the tea ladies and the tidy uppers, you all did a magnificent job. Thanks also to everyone who brought greenery and Derek for his lovely ivy which looked brilliant round the doors.

Looking ahead our next big task is Easter. I will let you know the arrangements nearer the time. Please come along and have a go. You don't have to be a flower arranger to help. The new rota is on the board in the porch. If you wish to sponsor a particular week for a birthday an anniversary or in memorial of a loved one let me know or put a donation in a gift aid envelope with the details and write Flower Fund on the front.



## Children's Ministry

By Moira Middleton

December was a busy month for the children. They processed and sang each Sunday morning during Advent for the lighting of the Advent Candles. This required a lot of preparation and a few earlier than usual mornings for our families. Thanks to you all for participating and Steph and Caleb for guiding us through the songs. Our Christmas Party was a huge success with 40 children attending. The children had a great time and were delighted that Santa managed to make it along although he was busy preparing for Christmas Eve. Thanks to all the helpers and the people who supplied food for the children and the adults who attended. Special thanks to Dr Ian Long for coming out

on such a horrible day and being so patient with the children and all the photographs he had to endure. Thanks also to those who donated money towards the day it was very much appreciated.

Looking forward to Mothering Sunday on the 11<sup>th</sup> March we would like as many families as possible in church to help us celebrate. There will be creche available but all the children will be brought into church for the handing over of the posies, so put it in your diaries now and we will be delighted to see you all.

Here's hoping that 2018 will be as successful as last year.

## Mothers' Union

By Kathy Priestley

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2PM in the JSC. The meeting will be followed by a Bring and Buy sale. Next months meeting is the Lenten Service on

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March in the Cathedral at 2pm.

REMINDER Annual fees of £20 are now due. To pay, please see our Treasurer, Moira Middleton.

New Year Review of CDP2020: Progress in 2017, Plans for 2018 and Efficient Giving, By Claire Morrisson (on behalf of the Trustees)

**Review of 2017**

Many of you have given very generously to the CDP2020 appeal, which raised just over £100,000 for the development project in 2017, and the Trustees are very grateful for these donations. Over the past year we have used the money on a range of development project work.

We have installed new boilers which heat the Cathedral much better than in recent years. We have upgraded the Cathedral lighting, whilst doing essential re-wiring to make the electrics comply with current building regulations. We have improved safety with better emergency lighting and by fixing a hand-rail to the lectern steps and rails to the steps outside the vestry door. As well as making the cathedral more comfortable for ourselves, these activities enable us to bring in revenue by continuing to rent out the building and increasing its use by paying organisations.

In Seabury House, we have

installed a new boiler for the JSC and office heating, although the work on the heating in the JSC itself is not finished yet. The heating controls are now in the kitchen so that they are more readily accessible to all. We have also refurbished the Gents and Accessible toilets, bringing them up to current buildings standards.

Less visibly, some of the money has been used on preparatory work for the main Cathedral refurbishment – surveying and repairing drains, surveying the undercroft, asbestos surveys, analysis of paint samples from the walls, assessment of the state of the armorials on the ceilings of the north and south aisles, preparation of architect's plans etc. Public buildings are required to comply with current building regulations as soon as any new work is undertaken on them. This has already necessitated 'invisible' electrical work in both the Cathedral and JSC, to upgrade the distribution boards, for example. Although there are other ways we would rather

New Year Review of CDP2020: Progress in 2017, Plans for 2018 and Efficient Giving, By Claire Morrisson (on behalf of the Trustees)

spend our money, these activities become essential as soon as we start development work and to enable us to pass inspections by members of the Aberdeen Council Planning Department prior to granting us a licence to host events such as concerts on the premises.

### **Plans for 2018**

The emphasis in 2018 will shift to applying for funds from external grant awarding bodies to progress the development project, and a fundraising group has been formed to plan our application strategy and make the applications. We are delighted to have the assistance of several professional fund-raisers from ACVO, who have agreed to help as volunteers on the fund raising team. We cannot undertake any further major work until funding is secured.

Many of the cathedral's regular activities are expanding, with increasing numbers of participants, and new initiatives are emerging, such as the

Food with Friends meetings on Friday evenings. I find it very encouraging that numbers are increasing and people are eager to use more space for their activities. It convinces me that the development project is not a white elephant, but a much needed upgrade.

In 2017 we re-possessed the section of Seabury House previously leased to Peacocks Visual Arts, to give ourselves more space for all these activities. There are two large rooms on the first floor which we intend to convert into an area for young people's ministry and a Song School. We will also convert the top floor into an open plan office for our administrative and fund raising teams. By taking this space back for our own use we have accepted a reduction in the rental income we receive from Peacocks. The ground floor (the old Art Space) will be let out again, to a Dance School and a Girl Guides pack, to restore some of this lost revenue. Bringing these spaces up to current buildings regulations will take

New Year Review of CDP2020: Progress in 2017, Plans for 2018 and Efficient Giving, By Claire Morrisson (on behalf of the Trustees)

more money, therefore the work will be phased. The ground floor will be tackled immediately, so that we can get revenue by hiring it out as soon as possible, with a target completion date of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The upper floors will be progressed subsequently as funds become available. Funds will be sought from grant awarding bodies as well as individual benefactors.

### **Efficient Giving**

While we focus on the CDP2020 appeal, it is important that we do not forget the regular activities of the cathedral. To keep the cathedral running during this challenging time of expansion, it is essential that we increase our regular giving and ensure that what we give is donated as efficiently as possible. The most efficient way to give regularly is via a Standing Order, set up with your bank, and a gift-aid declaration if you are a UK tax payer. Gift Aid Declaration forms are available at the back of the cathedral and completed forms can be handed to the

Provost or one of the Wardens or posted to the cathedral office.

If you have been given regularly to the cathedral for several years, either using the Free Will Offering envelopes or via a standing order, please consider whether you might be able to increase the amount of your donation to offset the impact of inflation. I estimate that inflation has increased costs by 20% over the last 5 years, or 40% over the last 10 years. This means that if your donation has been constant for 5 years, you would have to increase it by 20% to make it worth the same amount in real terms as when it was set up, or 40% if it has been unchanged for 10 years. Standing orders can generally be changed by a simple phone call to the bank, or on-line.

With best wishes for 2018.



## **1. OPENING BY PROVOST**

Note for the Record: 27 Raeden Avenue, Aberdeen has been purchased for use as the Cathedral Rectory, for a sum of £422,500. The transaction will be completed on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, after which the Provost and his family can move in. The purchase was secured using the funds from the sale of the previous Rectory, supplemented from the sale of £150,000 of stocks and shares.

## **2. ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 13 NOVEMBER MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

- a. Protocol for unlocking and locking the south door: The Provost asked that access be restricted according to the current system during the actual Sunday morning service. The door will be unlocked, so that it can be opened using the handle from the outside for periods before and after the service.
- b. Position of Organ Scholar: Chris Black has taken the position of Organ Scholar at the Cathedral, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.
- c. Fund raising progress. The Provost reported that Amu Poobalan has successfully applied for a grant of £576 from the Health

Improvement Fund, towards the catering of the Friday evening 'Food with Friends' shared meals. This allows us to use the Health Improvement logo on our applications to other funding organisations.

## **3. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION**

Following the purchase of the new Rectory, the estimated balances are £13800 in the General Fund and £2600 in the St Andrew's Development Fund at the end of January. The Trustees agreed that this operating margin is uncomfortably small. The cathedral also holds an estimated value of £64,000 of stock and shares (at 14/12/17 prices). The Trustees had previously agreed that a minimum of £50,000 should be retained in case of emergency and agreed to increase the cash reserve by reducing these holdings to £50,000.

An estimated figure of £124k is required to run the cathedral for the current year. There is a predicted shortfall of £44k in the General Fund income. This could be reduced to £27k by diverting some income streams from the Development Fund to the General Fund and the Trustees agreed to do this. Individual giving by the

cathedral congregation could be increased in four ways:

- Increasing the amounts current regular donors give (e.g. by explaining the impact of inflation)
- Getting a larger percentage of eligible people to gift-aid their donations
- Persuading people to convert from FWO/white envelopes to STOs, because this generally makes the payments more regular
- Persuading more people to start giving.

The Trustees agreed to pursue all these options.

#### **4. LEASE OF FORMER ART SPACE TO DANCE SCHOOL**

The Trustees agreed that we try to get the former Art Space into a useable state for the consecration of the new Bishop on 1<sup>st</sup> March and negotiate with Claire Cheyne, the owner of the Dance School, that they move in after that date. The Trustees agreed that we should accept the quote of £3893 including VAT from 24-7 Electrical Services for the electrical work and the quote for £4200 including VAT for the floor repairs from McKain Joinery. It will also be necessary to repair/replacement/commission the fire

and intruder alarm systems and we are currently negotiating with Tyco to do this. The porch at the Art Space entrance is leaking and several attempts have been made to get Graeme Cheyne Ltd to quote for these repairs but nothing has been received from them yet. It may also be necessary to apply to the council for change of usage for the space. The Dance School will not hold sessions on Friday evenings and the space will be offered to a Girl Guides Pack run by Shona Mutch on this evening.

#### **5. POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

The Trustees agreed to set up a working group convened by Regina Jäschke, tasked with drafting a job specification, recruitment strategy and funding strategy for the Director of Music position and reporting back to the next Trustees' meeting.

#### **6. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF THE FUND RAISING GROUP**

Michael Stone reported that he will soon interview for an Events and Publicity Coordinator and a Communications and IT Coordinator, as agreed previously by the Trustees. Both positions would be volunteer posts. The two new

## Informal Summary of Trustees Meeting on 17 January 2018

By Claire Morrisson (Provost's Warden), on behalf of the Trustees

Coordinators will work closely with the Fund Raising Team, though they are not part of it. Visit Scotland will be including us in all their publicity literature this year, helping us to advertise and putting us on the tourist map. They will be working with Bill Henderson to extend our summer opening hours. Students from the RGU tourism course may help as volunteer stewards for the summer opening. The Fund Raising Group has held two meetings and clarified roles, responsibilities and an action list. The first task is to develop a fund raising strategy. This will be based on the Business Plan. The new fund raising volunteers will need office space. We will convert the top floor of Seabury House into a combined, open-plan administrative and fund raising office as soon as funds are available. Before then, temporary accommodation can be arranged in the existing Administrator and Provost's offices.

### **7. PLANNING FOR CONSECRATION AND ENTHRONEMENT OF NEW BISHOP**

Mark Edwards, acting as People's Warden and Manager of the Event from the Cathedral perspective, reported that all

aspects of the planning are moving ahead as planned, and are on time; the COLT are fully engaged in the process. He is working with Michael Stone and Mary McKinnell to provide enhanced audio-visual provision for the event, at the request of the Province. Replies to invitations are due back at the beginning of February at which point attendance numbers for the Congregational members will be confirmed. The number of acceptances from robed-clergy will decide the spaces required for robing and assembly of Processions. It had been previously agreed by the COLT that areas within or close to the Cathedral precincts (e.g. Seabury House ground floor and the Comedy Club) should be used if possible. Robing and other practical information will be issued with the tickets.

The final team of helpers to be organised are the Stewards. Mark has received several offers of help for stewarding from members of other local churches. He will hold organisational meetings from the end of January. The Trustees asked whether consideration had been given to security and, in particular, handling any protests by people objecting to the new

Bishop. Mark responded that the police had been notified of the event as a matter of routine and that he would discuss security with the Primus.

## **8. BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

Claire Woods reported on maintenance, repair and improvements since September 2017. £18669 had been paid to tradesmen so far, and work to a value of £13490 was still ongoing, making a total committed spend of £32,159, including VAT. Approximately £1150 of the VAT can be reclaimed on work in the Cathedral. The current status of the work was as follows:

- The boiler for the JSC and office heating and hot water has been replaced and the controls have been relocated in the kitchen. Heat Connection are still working on servicing the convection system central heating in the JSC.
- The electrician has 1 more day of work to do on the cathedral lighting.
- The Trustees agreed that the plan to extend the upper floor level in the JSC over the steps across most of their width be shelved at the moment due to lack of funds.
- The ground floor corridors in Seabury House have holes in some of

the walls, made by door handles and generally require re-decorating. Claire Cheyne has offered to help with this, to make the areas more attractive before the launch of her Dance School and the Trustees agreed to accept her offer.

## **9. AOCB**

- a. Car parking: Regina Jäschke suggested that, now that Queen Street Church has closed, we might use their car park. This would be particularly useful at times when the nearest council car parks are not free. Regina will supply the name of the person to contact to the office.
- b. Meeting with representatives of the Diocese: Ian Long gave a brief report of this meeting. Attending for the Cathedral were the Provost, Dr Long and Professor Morrisson. Attending for the Diocese were Professor Atkinson and Dr Paisey. Professor Atkinson felt that the Cathedral's role should be in ministering to and supporting the small rural congregations and that the Cathedral's activities should be designed to support the work of the parishes. A second meeting has been scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> January, at which the Provost will present a paper.

## Informal Summary of Trustees Meeting on 17 January 2018

### 10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 at 7 pm in the Suther Chapel.

## Notices

We are looking for volunteers to help clean the cathedral in preparation for the service on Thursday 1st March when the Rev. Canon Anne Dyer will be Installed as our Bishop. We plan to do this on Friday 23rd March from 9.30a.m. onwards and we require volunteers to help our small cleaning team.

If you can help even for an hour or so on that day we would be pleased to see you. BYOD (bring your own duster) Anyone interested in helping please get in touch by email or telephone both listed on back of Focus or on a Sunday after morning in service.

Margaret Buyers,  
Sacristan



## Cleaning Volunteers Required!

If you can spare some time each week to help Chioma clean the toilets in the John Skinner Centre, please contact either Rose Hall or Chioma Ojina via the Cathedral Office (01224 640119). This job won't take long and you can sing while you work!



## New Office Hours

Lynda's office hours have increased and she's now working Tues-Thurs 9 am - 4 p.m.

## Volunteers are needed for: Sunday Reading Rota, Flower Team, Junior Church/Godly Play, and more...

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

# Recruiting Community Chaplaincy Listening Volunteers

The Community Chaplaincy Listening service in NHS Grampian is looking to recruit further volunteers to continue to deliver this service within GP Practices.

Community Chaplaincy Listening (CCL) promotes spiritual wellbeing by offering a listening service in health and social care settings for patients, relatives and staff:

- who are affected by issues of loss and transition, such as grief, relationship problems, stress of work or unemployment
- who need someone to listen to them in confidence

This listening service supports patients to identify and draw upon personal assets that can improve their wellbeing.

Specific qualities required of a CCL Listener:

- recognition of a spiritual dimension to life in self and/or others
- personal resilience
- receptiveness to the pain of others
- high degree of reflexivity
- ability to recognise their own inner process

presence

- commitment to person-centred ways of being and doing
- advanced communication skills
- ability to handle raw feelings and emotions
- ability to foster wellbeing and autonomy rather than cultivate neediness and dependency
- ability to hold clear boundaries about issues and relationships
- ability to demonstrate previous experience in active listening

Closing date for applications will be Friday 2nd March with interviews in mid-March.

Training will take place from April – June.

It is essential that an informal conversation takes place with the CCL Coordinator before applying.

For more information and an application form, please contact:

Katrina Blackwood, Healthcare Chaplain, CCL Coordinator NHS Grampian.

Email: [katrina.blackwood@nhs.net](mailto:katrina.blackwood@nhs.net)

Phone: 01224 551016

University of Aberdeen

## **2018 Gifford Lectures**

12 February - 7 March

In this series of eight lectures Professor N.T. Wright (University of St. Andrews) develops a distinctive approach to natural theology.

The lectures will take place in the King's College Conference Centre on the University of Aberdeen campus on successive Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, beginning 12th February and concluding 7th March.

Lecture 1 The Fallen Shrine: Lisbon 1755 and the Triumph of Epicureanism

Lecture 2 The Questioned Book: Critical Scholarship and the Gospels

Lecture 3 The Shifting Sand: The Meanings of 'History'

Lecture 4 The End of the World? Eschatology and Apocalyptic in Historical Perspective

Lecture 5 The Stone the Builders Rejected: Jesus, the Temple and the Kingdom

Lecture 6 A New Creation: Resurrection and Epistemology

Lecture 7 Broken Signposts? New Answers for the Right Questions

Lecture 8 The Waiting Chalice: Natural Theology and the *Missio Dei*

*To register your interest in attending the lectures or for more information, please visit the website [www.abdn.ac.uk/gifford](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/gifford), or email [amber.shadle@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:amber.shadle@abdn.ac.uk).*

# February 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 - February

<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>Katherine and Roger Williams</b> <i>Music for Mezzo-soprano</i>
<b>10 Feb</b>	<b>Megan Cormack and Dermot O'Connor</b> <i>Traditional Music from Scotland and Ireland</i>
<b>17 Feb</b>	<b>George Coghill and Tim Tricker</b> <i>"Mostly Messiah" – Arias for Baritone Voice</i>
<b>24 Feb</b>	<b>David Walsh</b> <i>Music for Tenor Voice</i>
<b>3 Mar</b>	<b>Aberdeen Diocesan Choir</b> <i>Sacred Choral Music</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.

## Next Focus Deadline



**The deadline for the  
March issue of the  
Focus magazine is the  
1st of March.**

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!

*Cover photo taken by Amber Shadle*

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