

F CUS

On St. Andrew's Cathedral
September 2018



**Beginning Again:
Planning for the year ahead**

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friend,

I am delighted to be 'pondering' again in our cathedral family newsletter at the beginning of another academic year. In the life of the Cathedral we have at least four beginnings, the liturgical year at Advent, the calendar year at the New Year, the Academic in August and the financial in October. It gives us an opportunity to start afresh, look to God for blessings and plan for the year ahead. I hope you were blessed with some time off to rest and be renewed for another year of learning, teaching, praying and proclaiming the praises of God. In this issue I have a list of briefs on various things. So, instead of reading this as one long epistle, read it more like the epistles in our modern versions of the scriptures as chapters and verses. Pray about each item as the spirit moves you, commit yourself to something that inspires you and may God bless you in whatever you commit yourself to.

Confirmation: On Sunday the 5th of August 2018 Adam and Caleb Brock were confirmed at the Cathedral by our Bishop, Anne. It marked something significant in the life of the Cathedral in particular and the Christian thought on the Image of God in human beings in general. There will be opportunity to explore our understanding of 'made in the image of God' in the future. But it is sufficient to say that the affirmation proclaimed by Bishop Anne on that day will remain with each of us present at that celebration, 'God places an invisible but permanent mark on us at our Baptism and it is renewed at the Confirmation.'

'Permanent and Invisible Mark of God on You' is the heart of the matter and it was a good reminder for us.

On Sunday the 26th, the day of this publication, 7 people will be anointed with oil to renew the 'Permanent and Invisible Mark of the Holy Spirit' on their soul. Please remember in your prayers, Fiona MacMillan, Chidirim Nneamaka Nwajjuba,

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Chizaram Naogechi Nwajiuba, Davika Rambaran, Hazel Margaret Robinson, Adana Vidya Soronnadi, Chinyere Amita and Chiamaka Soronnadi as they are renewed in God's love and marked as God's own for ever.

The theme of our Confirmation programme is, '**A pilgrimage of Trust towards God who calls us in love.**' The programme is shaped by the reflections of two important theologians of the Anglican Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement (Bp Michael Curry); Henry Scougal (b.1650) of Aberdeen and the Lord Williams (b.1950) of Oystermouth. We pray that those confirmed this season would continue to hear God who calls them in love and take that pilgrimage of trust which is renewed each day.

Choir Camp 2018: Our Cathedral Choir travelled to Oxford to spend a week, learning new Anthems and singing services at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. There will be a detailed report elsewhere. But

the overwhelming feedback is that it was a happy and joyous week of living, praying and singing together, besides the usual fun. For Andrew and Claire this was a farewell camp and the relief, we are told, was tangible. We thank the extraordinary team of friends of St Andrew's Cathedral Choir who made it possible.

Tune Change: It is a sad fact that Andrew and Claire have announced their decision to move down south at the end of 2018 and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday the 23rd of December 2018 will be their very last time in their respective roles in the choir. This is a significant change for the cathedral as their combined talent and commitment is exceptional. It will be a big challenge to cover all that they have been doing. We pray for God's blessings upon them as they make this move and we pray for God's blessings upon those who would step forward to carry on their good work into the future.

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Transition: The weeks and months leading up to the New Year will see many transitions in the Cathedral. Time management, Focus and Rest are key to successful transition management we are told, be it a transition from school to university at an individual level or transition from reactive processes to proactive and responsive processes. In plain English and in conversation with our Cathedral Administrator Lynda Johnston, we are intending to make a planned transition from a reactive form of doing our business to a proactive and responsive form of business. This means setting up processes which enhance good use of the Administrator's time and provide training for avoidance of waste.

Cathedral Office: Lynda Johnston, our Cathedral Administrator works 3 days a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am to 4pm for a total of 21 hours. The range of duties include management of correspondence, administration of financial transactions

and the use of the Cathedral and the John Skinner Centre outside of worship events. There is little or no provision of time for conversations during business hours. Lynda is trained to support people going through crisis and will be happy to meet people out with the office hours over lunch or a cup of coffee. So, please make every possible effort to support the Cathedral business through good stewardship of time of the Administrator. All reimbursement claims of expenses are to be submitted on the 20th day of the month and payments will be made the following week.

Business Plan: a vision, a mission and a plan: The CDP 2020 Fundraising Strategy Team have been working hard to draw up a business plan for the Cathedral Development Programme. It has been presented to the Trustees and is being finalised for wider circulation. In the meantime, the Cathedral needs a basic plan to facilitate effective functioning highlighted above with transi-

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tion planning and improved functioning of the Cathedral Office. We believe God has called us to be a people in Aberdeen to serve our city and our diocese as Scottish Episcopalians. What we do and how we do it are key to fulfilling our vocation. In the coming year we shall engage in conversations to work out in detail that everything we do will serve God and God's Kingdom in the North East of Scotland. Look out for worksheets to have your say and we can own it together in prayer and work towards realising them.

Upcoming Events:

Installation of Cathedral Canon: on Sunday the 2nd of September at the 6.30pm Choral Evensong, the Revd Neil Brice, Rector of St Magnus, Lerwick and St Colman's, Burravoe will be Installed Canon of St Andrew's Cathedral Chapter. All are welcome to the Installation and the Reception afterwards.

Harvest Thanksgiving: our Harvest Thanksgiving will be on

Sunday the 30th of September. It is a time to make special offerings for the ongoing life of the Cathedral (and fill the annual deficit of £20,000). There will be a Bring and Share lunch afterwards coordinated by the LaRCs. Please contact Amu Poobalan for lunch offerings.

Cathedral Calendar: several people have asked for a Cathedral Calendar to be produced with details of Liturgical, Fundraising and Social Events. Please indicate by email to the Office by mailing cathe-dral@aberdeen.anglican.org your event and your interest in a calendar by the end of September. We will need sponsors. If you are associated with a business or organisation with a budget for publicity for a reach of about 2000 people in the North East of Scotland, please contact the office.

Study St Augustine's

'Confessions': There is an open invitation to join the Postgraduate Seminar at the University of Aberdeen with Dr Brian Brock to read the 'Confessions' of St

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Augustine of Hippo. This is an excellent opportunity engage in a systematic study of the Church's Teachings with excellent academic support.

Please see the poster in the Cathedral for details.

Student Placement: Mrs Jean Souter will be part of the Cathedral life and work from now until Easter of 2019. We look forward to welcoming Jean on Sunday the 26th of August and ask for God's blessings upon her journey with us and beyond.

Friendship Fridays: On the first Friday of each month from 10am to 12 noon, the Friendship Café will meet in the JSC. On the last Friday of each month from 7-9pm the Food with Friends will meet in the JSC for a light supper and light entertainment. Please pray for these supportive social events and come and be part of our particular ministry at the Cathedral.

Light up the Cathedral porch: The Provost had received sev-

eral requests and suggestions to make the Cathedral appearance more welcoming and inviting. Lighting up the porch and placing banners outside the Cathedral are two suggestions made. There will be special fundraising events to fund these little projects. Please extend your support.

Seabury Court Garden: You may have noticed that the cobbled space between the Cathedral and the School is now prettier through the quiet work of Fiona Macmillan. It is a perfect example of doing little things in small measures and make a big impact. We are deeply indebted to Fiona and we look forward to St Andrew's hanging garden in the near future.

Youth Fellowship: It is good to see the Cathedral filled with young people. We have an excellent provision in supporting them when they are young. However, we do not have a programme to sustain them. There is a call to develop a Cathedral Youth Fellowship. An

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invitation has been sent to all parents to a meeting on Monday the 3rd of September 7-9pm in the JSC. Please come either as a parent or someone with experience in leading Youth Fellowship or wish to become one. Please remember our young people in your prayers.

Student Welcome Events: on the 1st Tuesday of each month, the Tuesday Fellowship will meet in the Cathedral for Prayer, Praise & Feast from 6-8pm. Please email the Office if you are interested or able to help.

And Finally, I had a few more things to explore but have

committed them to God in prayer in the meantime. We have a gospel to proclaim. We have a God who loves us. Let us commit ourselves to serve God with joy and confidence. May I thank you all for your life, witness and generosity. We thank the couple who donated towards the replacement of the PA System which was stolen in June. We need further upgrades in the future. But for now, let us enjoy what God has given us with thankful hearts.

In God's everlasting love,

Your servant in Christ,

Isaac

Upcoming Service

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

The Annual Solemn Eucharist for The Faithful Departed will take place on Sunday 4th November at 6.30 pm.

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

Ian Flett

Choir Camp Report

By Lewa Olaosebikan (Head Chorister)



The Trebles in Tom Quad, outside Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

This year St. Andrews Cathedral Choir was given the chance to sing at the historic Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, England. Our Cathedral Choir sang a total of 8 services with around 300 people in the congregation at each service. The trebles stayed in the Christ Church Cathedral School where the resident choristers live. This was an interesting experience as we got a little taste of what life would be like

as a chorister in a boarding school.

We received a private tour of the cathedral by one of the stewards. We learnt about the long and colourful history of the church. From the wide range of elegant stained glass windows to the various memorials and how the cathedral inspired Alice in Wonderland. Not only did we get to see the Great Hall that was replicated at film stu-

Choir Camp Report

By Lewa Olaosebikan (Head Chorister)

dios for the 'grand dining hall' in the Harry Potter Movies but we also got to walk on the staircase that leads up to the Great Hall. This staircase was used for the arrival scene for new Hogwarts students in the first two Harry Potter movies.

Whilst in Oxford, we learned that Ed Jones, our former Assistant Organist, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists – congratulations Ed! Ed accompanied the choir fantastically and helped us greatly in learning the vast amount of new music. Even with the challenge of these pieces, the choristers rose to the occasion and received many compliments from the congregation. All pieces were performed to a very high standard making us very proud.

Although a great quantity of our time was spent singing we also had many opportunities to explore and appreciate the magnificent city of Oxford. The trebles were lucky enough to get a free tour of Jesus College

in the University of Oxford. We stood gawking at the locked door, conceptualizing what it would be like on the other side. Before we knew it, the door swung open and we were asked if we would like to see inside. This was absolutely terrific and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Additionally, the trebles got the opportunity to visit the famous Ashmolean Museum, the most eminent museum of art and archaeology in the heart of Britain. The trebles also took a well deserved day off, as we exchanged the serenity of singing on the beautiful Oxford ground to be sky-high and tossed around so brutally on the roller coasters at Thorpe Park!

During the week we also celebrated the birthday of Adanna Soronnadi, a member of the choir who turned 12. A surprise party was organized with lots of balloons and cake. We hope that Adanna enjoyed spending her birthday with her friends from the choir. Unfortunately, we also had to say goodbye to one of our trebles, Femi, who is

Choir Camp Report

By Lewa Olaosebikan (Head Chorister)

moving to London. All of us wish Femi and her family the best of luck!

We'd also like to say a huge thank you to everybody who helped to make this trip so special:

- Andrew and Claire.

- Mark, Wendy, Jane and Steph.
- The choir and former members of the choir who came to sing with us.
- And a tremendous thank you to everyone else who helped to make our time in Oxford so wonderful.

Harvest Flowers

By Moira Middleton

This year the Harvest Festival is on Sunday 30th September. I hope to get the pedestals arranged on Friday 28th September from 9.30am. Could the Flower ladies let me know if they are available and what they would like to do so I can get jobs allocated. I would like to get as much done on the Friday as possible as time on Saturday is limited because of the Recital at Noon and the Saying Goodbye Service at 3pm. However, volunteers for Saturday are also welcome to finish off the decoration around the Cathedral and ensure the pedestals are

watered.

If you are free on either day please let me know. Volunteers are required for arranging, decorating, assisting the flower arrangers, making tea and of course clearing up. Donations of flowers, greenery with or without berries are also most welcome. If you can't help with any of the above then why not put a monetary contribution in one of the Gift Aid envelopes and mark it 'For Flowers'. Something for everybody.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Monthly meeting for Mothers Union members and friends begin on:

Tuesday September 11th at 2pm in JSC.

Committee member Mrs Kathleen Kilgour is to be our speaker. Kathleen is to tell of her own experiences of living in an orphanage. Her talk is entitled "My time at Aberlour Orphanage in the 60s". This promises to be a very special afternoon - please come along and share her story.

In October we have two very special meetings

October 9th at 2 pm in the JSC

Sister Columba is going to tell us something of her very interesting life. Just as a wee preview - have you watched Call the Midwife on television? Sister

Columba was training as a midwife there at that time! We are truly privileged that she is going to speak to us.

October 30th at 2pm in the JSC

This is an extra meeting as Bishop Anne is coming to talk to us. We are delighted that she is making time for us in her very busy schedule. More details will be available in next months Focus but do make sure to save the date.

Teas - will anyone volunteer to be responsible for the tea at any of the above meetings please?

Looking forward to seeing you all. Everyone, whether an MU member or not, is very welcome.

PS: Children extra welcome!



Welcome

By Kathy Priestley

We are excited to be re-launching the Friday coffee shop as "Friendship Cafe" details of which are on the poster opposite. We do hope the congregation, their friends and the general public will come along to JSC and enjoy morning coffee, refreshments and

chat in a relaxed atmosphere. Use the Friendship cafe to hold your meetings (quiet tables can be reserved), bring the children while you meet up with old friends or just come along yourself, join a table and enjoy friendship.



Wanted Please

By Kathy Priestley

We have already been given some lovely china but if anyone has a china tea set they would be able to donate to the Friendship cafe please phone Kathy on 01224642713. We are also looking for vintage

tea table cloths especially embroidered ones. If anyone can donate any of these please phone Kathy. We are looking for are small teapots - again can anyone help?

The Friendship Café @ St. Andrew's Cathedral

28 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5AX, 01224 640119



We are re-launching our café on 7 September!

If you like home-baking, linen table cloths and tea in a china cup this is the place for you.

Come and meet with us on the first Friday of every month for chats with your friends, work meetings or just a place to do your knitting and a have a cuppa too!

10am to 12 noon



standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk

[@standrews1784](https://www.instagram.com/standrews1784)

Children's Ministry Notes

By Moira Middleton



I would like to welcome you all back after the Summer Break. The next meeting of the Children's Ministry Team will be on Monday 3rd September 2017 in the JSC at 7.15pm.

We will be catching up on how things are working out for the new session and planning for Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas time. This meeting is open to all parents and anyone interested in helping out with any of the Children's Groups. Please notify me of anything you would like on the Agenda asap.

Harvest Sunday will be on Sunday 30th September and

children are requested to bring along food for the food appeal.

CRECHE ROTA

September 2nd :- Christine, Oge, Nan

September 9th :- Kathleen, Julie, Blessing

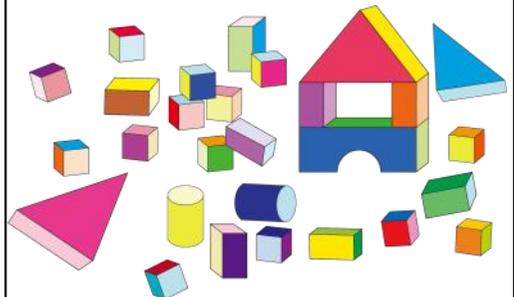
September 16th :- Tracey, Mimi, Davika

September 23rd :- Moira, Faustina, Catherine

September 30th :- Christine, Chioma, Linda

Parents are reminded to pick up their children from Creche during the Peace.

God Bless - Moira



LaRCs Call

By Amu Poobalan



Bollywood Theme Fundraiser



Let us bring the community that is united by the CROSS together on the Holy Cross day on **Friday the 14th of September...7pm in JSC**. You can come as colourful as you can!! Let us make a rainbow! You will have an Indian meal (poppadum's and chutney; Pilau rice; chicken curry; Veg curry) with Bollywood Dancing and raise some funds for the Cathedral. £15.00 per person; Children £5.00. Bring your own bottle. Tickets will be available next Sunday. This is supported by Jewel in the Crown Restaurant and Ms Adhya Regmi (dancer). Hollywood and Nollywood fundraisers hopefully to follow in Oct and Nov.

Alcohol and Drug Action (ADA) Friendship meal: As you all know, the Cathedral plays a significant role in supporting our Anne from ADA, in extending the hospitality to those who are going through difficult journeys during their recovery. We have a 'Friendship meal' event on the last Friday of every month at 6.30pm. If you can spare an hour on the last Friday of the every month, please come and support this ministry by just being there and chatting to people. Next meal is on **Friday 31st of August in JSC at 7pm**. It brings friendship, trust and confidence in those who come to the friendship meal....ultimately the healing we hope and pray for.

Harvest Lunch: LaRCs have been invited to co-ordinate the **Harvest Lunch on the 30th of September** (bring and share) ... Let us do it in style yet again and open our hospitality to friends. While we enjoy God's bountiful blessing, please bring dry food to support

LaRCs Call

By Amu Poobalan

the 'Food bank'. A list will come around in the next couple of weeks for the contributions to have a good spread.

Intercessions for Blessed days of our Cathedral family: It will be good to remember the blessed days of our congregational members during the weekly intercessions. This can be Birthdays, Wedding anniversaries, Death anniversaries. A book will come around in the next couple of weeks and also be left at the back of the Cathedral until the end of October. If you would like your special days to be offered up at the intercessions, please indicate the dates in the book. These dates will be collated and be included in the intercessions....hopefully for the new liturgical year.

Stay blessed and spread your blessing!

Happy Birthday!



A very happy (belated) birthday to Christine Flett, who celebrated in the JSC during the summer months!



St Andrew's Cathedral Organ Bicentenary

A series of recitals celebrating the Opening of the Cathedral organ on 30th August 1818.

SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

Cathedral at Noon

A recital by our Cathedral Organist
Andrew Morrisson

The recital will feature music played on significant occasions in the history of the organ.

Admission free followed by buffet lunch.

There will then be an informal recital by members of the Aberdeen & District Organists Association from 1.30 -2.30.

Next Concert in the Bicentenary Series:

Saturday 15th September

Dr Ed Jones from Bradford Cathedral -
former Cathedral Assistant Organist.



Saying Goodbye

When a baby is lost, whether during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, it is a devastating experience for the parents and the extended family.

Sadly for people that lose prior to 24-weeks gestation, services to commemorate the life that has been lost are seldom held, while for parents who lose later in pregnancy, at birth or in early years, the parents are usually in the depths of grief when a service is held.

The Saying Goodbye services are the first international set of remembrance services, for people who have suffered the loss of a baby at any stage, and whether that be recently or decades ago. **They provide a time and place to acknowledge and remember your baby, whilst collectively 'saying goodbye'.**

The services also welcome anyone grieving the fact that they have been unable to have children.

The services are for people of any faith or no faith, are free to attend, no tickets need to be booked, and people are invited to bring family, friends and children with them. Held at cathedrals and similar venues across the globe, chosen for their beauty and grandeur; a wonderful tribute is created for all lost babies.

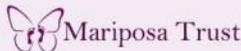
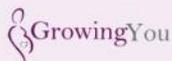
Together we will stand and say, "our children may have only been on this earth for days, weeks, months or years, but they were truly loved, and will always be missed!"



29 September 2018 | 3.00pm | St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen

For up to date service details, please see www.sayinggoodbye.org

The Mariposa Trust is the charity that runs the Saying Goodbye services, and is supported by wonderful Ambassadors including Professor Robert Winston, Nigella Lawson, Jools Oliver, Mary Nightingale, Kym Marsh, Caroline Quentin, Julie Etchingham and Professor Lesley Regan.



September 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

Events

First Tuesday of each month at 6.00 pm	Fellowship: Prayer, Praise & Feast Cathedral
First Friday of each month 10am - 12 noon	Friendship Café, JSC
Saturdays at 12 noon	Cathedral at Noon (30 minute recital followed by refreshments)

Cathedral at Noon - September

25 Aug	Cathedral Choir and Friends <i>How Lovely Bright: Choral Works by Aburn, Tay and Taylor</i>
1 Sept	Andrew Morrisson <i>Cathedral Organ Bicentenary Recital</i>
8 Sept	The Cathedral Trebles' Choir <i>Popular Sacred Music</i>
15 Sept	Ed Jones <i>Organ Music including J. Guridi's 'Triptych of the Good Shepherd'</i>
22 Sept	Mark Spalding <i>Piano music from Scotland</i>
29 Sept	Adrian McBurnie (Baritone) and Andrew Bruce (Piano) <i>The Gift to be Simple: 250 Years of American Song</i>

The **deadline** for the October issue of the Focus magazine is the **27th of September**. 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!

Cover photo: *Harvest Flowers*, by Amber Shadle

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