


# FOCUS



On GOD @ St. Andrew's Cathedral



## Cathedral Newsletter - February 2019

- Provost says - Thank you
- Trustees set the agenda for 2019
- Call to a Decade of Development



## **Thank you for making your Cathedral beautiful**

Thank you very much to everyone who helped clean up the Cathedral in preparation for Christmas.

The Cathedral looked grand throughout the Season. The Wedding prior to the season added to the atmosphere.

Two full size Christmas trees this year proved popular. Thank you to the Choir for decorating the Christmas Tree in the South Aisle and to Fiona and the Flower Team for decorating the Tree in the porch. Many positive comments were received throughout.



## **February Focus Deadline**



**The deadline for the February issue of the Focus magazine will be Tuesday 28th of February 2019**

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

Please send your articles to Lynda at [cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org)

## The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friend,

I would like to **thank you** for making the Season of Epiphany from Advent to Candlemas a blessing to one another and to the people who were part of our journey. Calling the whole season 'Epiphany' may sound a bit odd because Christmas should be the centre piece. When you come to think of it, what is at the very heart of Christmas is the birth of our Saviour, 'God in Flesh'. God's love for us is revealed in the flesh, to be one of us and thereby taking on our nature and transform it into something precious and loveable. This self-revelation of God is called the Epiphany. Therefore, can we call the whole season, 'Epiphany.'

Now, we got the theology bit out of our way, we can now move to the nitty gritty realities of life at the Cathedral. Please remember that the season reaches its turning point with the celebration of Candlemas over the weekend commencing on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of

February 2019. I wanted to say thank you, before we move from Christmas, because the season as a whole has been a very blessed one.

There was the Advent expectation which culminated in Christmas fulfilment that we continue in the joy of Epiphany. Each step of the way, as we look back, the season was a joy complete.

The Choir filled the season with joyful and reflective music at the **Advent Carol Service**. The Advent uncertainty turned into Christmas gladness when we heard that Andrew and Claire chose to celebrate Christmas in Aberdeen and not end with the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as originally planned. We rejoice in their presence with us now, as our attempt to recruit Andrew and Claire's successor remains a challenge. Please keep this in your prayers.

Sam Paul brought his rich sound to the **Epiphany Carols**. Each of our

## The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

carol event was well attended and well received. Thank you to the Choir militant and a few excellent newly added voices like that of Carol Clarke and others. God bless you and keep you a blessing.

The Sacristy team were at their best as usual, with new additions in Tonye Dikibo and Michael Poobalan. The Flower Team under Moira Middleton's able leadership transformed the Cathedral into the real Festival Theatre, the Splendour of God's glory and beauty in worship.

Someone made a comment after the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** that even the peeling paint work in the candle light of the worship looked in prayed and purposeful. Let's hope it is not the festive refreshments served by our excellent catering team! Each worship event went smoothly because the Stewards pay attention to every little detail and communicate it effectively.

Our **Nativity Godly Play** by our

Young ably directed by our Young Peoples' Ministry Team was one of the highlights of the season. One special moment in the season was the newly established '**Cross-Over**' Eucharist on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. The **Cathedral Gospel Band** now fully established and gaining popularity under the leadership of Godwin Chimaroke led this worship with joy and confidence.

On the social front, the **Cathedral Family Christmas Festival** was a great success when the Cathedral families offered a variety of entertainment. The Trebles made us proud with their range of talents and the Brocks made a legend of the Office of the Provost with their composition of the Twelve Days of Christmas, published elsewhere in this Focus. *On the fifth day of Christmas the Provost said to me, ...* The food was plentiful and the Trebles once again stole the evening, especially with Andrew and Claire joining in the party, singing their best!

## The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

The two **Christmas Trees** this year was an experiment and proved to be popular. There are plenty more to be grateful for and I am mindful that I may have inadvertently omitted events and people for which I apologise. But I remain in prayer that God bless you and keep you a blessing, to one another and to the world around us as we serve to bring about God's Kingdom here and now.

Now, as we turn our face towards the bitter sweet moment at Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which marks the change of mood and intention, may I remind you again that it would be a celebration over the weekend. It begins with the **Candlemas Choral Meditation** I on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February at 7pm. This music would last 30 minutes followed by a short presentation on the new '**Decade of Development**' by Prof Gordon Graham who now Chairs the Cathedral Development. This will

be followed by Question and Answer over a Wine Reception. On Saturday the Cathedral @ Noon will be part 2 of the Candlemas Choral Meditation when the **Aberdeen Vocal Ensemble** will sing choice music. Listening to the rehearsal, I found it most moving and ethereal. Its worth a trip to the Cathedral at noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. On Sunday, we will celebrate Candlemas and bishop will be with us at this Eucharist. Candles will be blessed and distributed both to the Cathedral household and to every congregation in the Diocese. People are invited therefore to bring their own candles to be blessed and be used throughout the year.

Finally, the Trustees met on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January to set an agenda for the year ahead. Two priorities have been set for the year. First, to work towards balancing the books through strengthening our income streams. Second, to



## The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

enable the cathedral congregation to take full ownership of our journey forward and strengthen our partnerships with the Diocese, the City and our network of

friends and neighbours. Please read the informal summary of the meeting of the Trustees along with the dates agreed for their meeting leading up to the next AGM.

### Cathedral Mothers Union

MOTHERS UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BRING AND BUY SALE

Tuesday 12th February at 2pm in JSC.

Voting for Committee members and Office bearers will take place. Please, members make every effort to attend.



**VESPERS OF LOVE 2019**  
Theme: His banner over us is LOVE  
{Songs of Solomon 2:4}

Venue: John Skinner Centre,  
St Andrew's Cathedral  
King Street, AB24 5AA.

Date: Sunday 10th February 2019  
Time: 6pm - 8pm

Ministering:

- Cathedral Gospel Band
- Comedian

## Children's Ministry

By Moira Middleton



December was a busy month for the children. Instead of lighting the Advent candles in the Cathedral, the Godly Play children had their own ceremony in the JSC. This was more intimate and enjoyed by helpers and children. It was decided to perform an Advent Nativity the Sunday before Christmas. This required a lot of preparation and a few earlier than usual mornings for our families. Thanks to you all for participating it was appreciated by all.

Our Christmas Party was a huge success with 34 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. Special thanks to Mr Chris Priestly for 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 31<sup>st</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 cake and flowers, so put it in your diaries now and we will be delighted to see you all.

Here's hoping that 2019 will be as successful as last year.



## CRECHE ROTA FEB-APR 2019

### February 2019

FEB 3	Tracey	Nan	Mimi
FEB 10	Moira	Faustina	Davika
FEB 17	Christine	Blessing	Catherine
FEB 24	Kathleen	Chioma	Oge

### March 2019

MAR 3	Tracey	Linda	Mimi
MAR 10	Moira	Faustina	Nan
MAR 17	Christine	Davika	Blessing
MAR 24	Kathleen	Catherine	Chioma
MAR 31	Tracey	Oge	Linda

### April 2019

APR 7	Moira	Nan	Mimi
APR 14	Christine	Faustina	Davika
APR 21	Kathleen	Chioma	Blessing
APR 28	Tracey	Oge	Linda

### Dates for your Diaries

On Friday the 1st of March, the Diocese will gather for the **Synod Eucharist** at 5pm in the Cathedral. The Eucharist is open to all while the business afterwards will be for the members of the Synod.

Wednesday the 6th of March is **Ash Wednesday**. There will be imposition of ashes at the 10am Holy Communion and the Sung Eucharist at 7.00pm.

On Friday the 29th of March, Prof Gordon Graham will give a public lecture on '**Serving God in the City**'.

Our annual **Mothering Sunday Celebration** will be on Sunday the 31st of March 2019. Please make note of this date.



## Choir News

By Claire Morrisson

The Trustees' attempt to recruit a new Director of Music last year failed, therefore Andrew will continue in post a little longer, and Claire will continue to train the trebles. The post is being re-advertised on the same terms and will appear in the 1<sup>st</sup> March edition of Church Music Quarterly, with a closing date for applications of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The intention is to have a new Director of Music in post at the start of the 2019/20 academic year, at the latest. We apologise for the uncertainty and confusion this has caused, which was beyond our control.

The trebles were very busy in the lead up to Christmas, singing at Rubislaw Care Home and St Anne's Kemnay in addition to their Saturday at Noon recital and their participation in all the major Advent and Christmas services. The photo shows those who were promoted at the sung Eucharist on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December wearing their new medals: Zuzanna Prusik and Caleb Brock - red ribbon; Chizaram Nwajiuba - dark blue ribbon; Adrian Dongo, Chidirim

Nwajiuba, Adanna Soronnadi and Chinyere Soronnadi - light blue ribbon. Congratulations to them all!

We are delighted to report that Andrew Morrisson will be awarded an honorary Doctorate of Music by the University of Aberdeen in recognition of his many years of service to the music of the City, and his work nurturing music skills in young people and providing performing opportunities to music students through the Cathedral choral and organ scholarship schemes and the Saturday Cathedral at Noon Recital Series. The date of the ceremony at which the degree will be conferred is to be confirmed.

Sales of the 'Mappa Mundi' record of choir tours during Andrew's tenure as Director of Music have raised £800 towards the new Song School. A copy of Jillian Bain-Christie's amazing art work is on display in the Adult's Vestry and everyone is encouraged to view it. Copies are still available and may be ordered through Claire.

# Cathedra Flowers

By Moira Middleton

Time once again to thank everyone for making 2018 such a success. With Christmas Day on the Tuesday it meant that we had to decorate before the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent and as there was a wedding on the Saturday morning the decorating was spread over two days to give us enough time to get everything done.

Our band of helpers was sadly depleted due to holidays, illness and people working but thanks to Christine and Janette who came along on Thursday to help organise the flowers we were able to get stuck in on the Friday and get things done and the Cathedral looked wonderful in time for Christmas Day.

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped you all did a magnificent job and to Florence who came along and provided us with a nice cup of tea on both days. Thanks also to everyone who brought greenery and who contributed money towards the cost of the flowers.

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.



## Summary of the Trustees' Meeting

The Trustees met on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January in the John Skinner Centre to set an agenda for the year ahead. It was a well-represented meeting. Two priorities have been set for the year. First, to work towards balancing the books through strengthening our income streams. Second, to enable the cathedral congregation to take full ownership of our journey forward and strengthen our partnerships with the Diocese, the City and our network of friends and neighbours.

The minutes of the meeting prior to the AGM suggested a serious shortfall in our income which failed to service our expenditure. *The Trustees then decided to form a Finance subcommittee to review the budget.* The total shortfall for the year is £30k which is approximately £600 a week. The trustees have asked the sub committee to make a full review of our income and expenditure, investigate fully the sources of haemorrhage while establish the income streams and strengthen where possible.

The Finance sub-committee which includes Mark Edwards (People's Warden) Michael Stone (Lay Representative) and Tam Dikibo (Treasurer) will report to the Trustees at the meeting in February. This is a priority agenda for the year.

Second to this is the strengthening of the sense of belonging of the Cathedral membership and Friends of the Cathedral through enhanced communication. There is a sense of disconnect between the Cathedral membership and our collective vision to

be a living witness to the good news of Jesus Christ in the City and the Shire. There are a number of initiatives in place already to improve the sense of ownership by each and everyone who belongs to the Cathedral family. In addition to these social and religious events that enable our bonds of belonging and purpose, more needs to be done. The trustees are committed to making our communication better.

To mark the renewed sense of vision and mission, the trustees considered a new representation in the form of a logo which is simple and easily recognisable. The new logo is being developed and will be used in our future communications.

In addition to these two core strategic discussions, Regina updated the Trustees with the news of the Director of Music. In our first attempt, two people applied for the job and one attended the interview and declined the offer. The second round of advertisement has gone out and the closing date for application is set for April. More updates will be available then.

The Trustees that their roles to be less operational and more strategic. Therefore, all practical issues are to be sent to the Cathedral Office to the attention of our Administrator, Lynda Johnston who will action it directly in consultation with the appropriate Trustee. All initiatives to improve our income stream should be sent to our People's Warden, Mark Edwards or our Treasurer Tam Dikibo.

The dates of the future meetings are as follows: 20 Feb (DW and RJ offer apologies in advance); 20 Mar; **10 April**; 15 May; 19 June; 18 September; 16 October and **13 November 2019**.



# Cathedral Church of St Andrew

United Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney



28 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5AX Tel (01224 640119)

email : office@standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk

www.standrewscathedralaberdeen.org.uk

<b>Bishop</b>	Rt Rev Anne Dyer, bishop@aberdeen.anglican.org	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>	Anthony White	
<b>Junior Organ Scholar</b>	Forbes Kinghorn	
<b>Sacristan</b>	Margaret Buyers, mlbuyers@icloud.com	01224 319544
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tamunotonye Dikibo, tamunotonye@yahoo.co.uk	
<b>Provost's Warden</b>	Regina Jaschke, r.jaschke@abdn.ac.uk	
<b>People's Warden</b>	Mark Edwards, edwamar@btinternet.com	07769 210260
<b>Lay Representative</b>	Michael Stone (), orrokmas@gmail.com	
<b>Cathedral Trustees</b>	Stephanie Brock (Trustee) Godwin Chimara (Trustee) Ross Clephan (Trustee) Moira Middleton (Trustee), mo.middleton@hotmail.com	01224 820898
<b>Diocesan Trustees</b>	Prof Ferdinand von Prondzynski (Trustee) Captain Derek Whatling (Diocesan Trustee) Dr Nicola Mills (Diocesan Trustee)	
<b>Trustees email</b>	trustees@cathedral.aberdeen.anglican.org	
<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>PVG Officer</b>	Victoria Angoe, vickieangoe@gmail.com	01224 329268
<b>Catering Coordinator</b>	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
<b>Flower Secretary</b>	Moira Middleton, mo.middleton@hotmail.com	01224 820898 or 07871 991028
<b>Gift Aid</b>	Cathedral Office, cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org	01224 640119
<b>Gift Shop</b>	Jackie Hughes	01224 702901
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	The Cathedral Office, cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org	01224 640119
<b>Readers</b>	The Cathedral Office, cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org	01224 640119
<b>Servers</b>	Margaret Buyers, mlbuyers@icloud.com	
<b>Summer Stewarding</b>	Bill Henderson	01224 480349
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com	07703 462713
<b>Godly Play</b>	Lucy Macdonald	07745 307825
<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.org	01224 640119