

F CUS

On God @ St. Andrew's Cathedral

Cathedral Newsletter—March 2019

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The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan



Dear Friend,

I am delighted to welcome back our Editor in Chief of Focus, Amber Shadle, and also to welcome her and Simon's new-born son Oliver to the Cathedral family, asking for God's richest blessings upon them. This month of March also marks the 1st Anniversary of the Consecration of our Bishop Anne and we would have celebrated this blessing at the Synod Eucharist on the 1st of March. Let us hold Bishop Anne, Fr Roger and Millie in our prayers.

This month we enter into the blessed and holy season of Lent. To mark the beginning we will meet for our annual **Pancake and Mulled Wine party on Shrove Tuesday** at 7pm in the JSC. On Ash Wednesday there will be the **Imposition of Ashes** at the 10am Holy Communion and 7pm Sung Eucharist.

Throughout the season there will be soup and bread in the cathedral after the Sunday Eucharist for our **Lenten Study Series**. The theme will be Scottish Liturgy and how it shapes our spiritual life and general wellbeing. There is one exception when on **Mothering Sunday** (the 31st of March) we will have our annual celebration with special music and dance. Emmanuelle (Emma) Mimi and Tonye's daughter will be baptised by Bishop Anne at this service.

On Wednesday the 20th March Bro Jean Patrick from the **Taize Community** in France will be at the Cathedral leading **Lenten Prayers**. This is a regional event

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and is being used as a precursor to a major national event in the future. Please note the date and time and invite people as widely as possible. It will be an experience of spiritual renewal in the middle of the season of Lent.

There are a few challenges we are facing which need your fervent prayers and thought. While we trust in God's power to transform us and our lives, I am mindful that the devil is equally active and only prayer can resist this evil power that is working to sabotage the purposes of God and progress for the Cathedral. I would like your prayers for two things in particular. Firstly, **the Cathedral finances** is in a difficult place. Our giving has gone down by 20% in 2018 compared with 2014 while our membership has increased by similar numbers. This defies sense and in all our circumstances we turn to God in prayer and examine our commitment. In the coming months, the Trustees will initiate

a programme of renewing our commitment. Please give your all to this journey.

Secondly, the recruitment of a **Director of Music** is proving to be a challenge. We are all committed to the blessing of Choral Worship at our Cathedral. Besides its inspirational role in worship, it transforms the lives of our young people who learn a new language, a set of new skills and above all, the joy of singing God's praises in public worship. Andrew Morrisson will end on the 16th of June this year and our prospect of recruiting a new Director of Music is paved with difficulties. There are transitional challenges and it is impossible to make progress without prayer. There are definite signs of hope and I urge you to pray that God will move the heart of that person whom God may be calling to join us in our journey forward. We need a new Director with a new vision for a new direction. Please pray.

Lent is a time to pause, ponder

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and pray. Prayers will be said daily in the Cathedral throughout Lent. Details will be available on the Service Sheet every Sunday. Please make a note and join in those prayers. If you are unable to come in person, please join us online through the Cathedral Facebook.

A number of people are preparing for Confirmation on Easter Sunday. If you would like to be part of this preparation, please let the Provost know or email the Cathedral Office.

The **Book of Prayers for anniversary blessings** is at the back of the cathedral. Please

add your name and your loved one to the book. The objective is to remember and thank God for a blessing close to a birthday, Wedding and death anniversary or any significant news of blessing.

God is about to do a great thing among us. You are a core part of it. Be prepared to play your part however small or big. Let us see the Kingdom of God which is within us to be made visible among us. The world will see it and glorify God and be drawn to God's kingdom. God bless you as you make that journey of faith.

As ever,
Isaac

April Focus Deadline

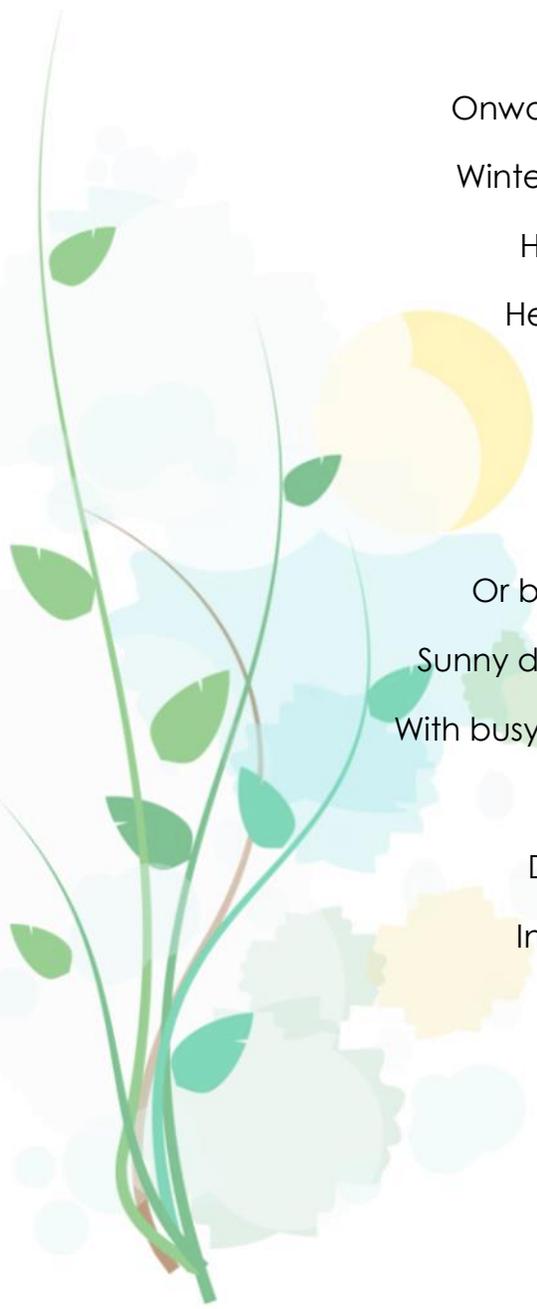


The deadline for the April 2019 issue of the Focus magazine is the 4th of April.

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!

The Ticking Clock



Tic-tock, tic-tock,
Onwards goes relentless clock
Winter weather, shorter Spring
Hot days of Summer bring
Hear the dawn chorus sing

Will it last
Not go too fast
Or be a wonder of days past
Sunny days with warmth to gasp
With busy bees and droning wasp

Daily do the hours unlock
In retirement, play or work
No key can ever stop
The world's tireless clock
Tic-tock, tic-tock.

F. B. Cal-Anglia

Children's Ministry

By Moira Middleton

We were delighted to welcome the children back for a new semester. Numbers have been very satisfying and the children are settling in well. We had a meeting in mid-February to plan our agenda for the Easter period. As accommodation is always a problem, we are trying out a new system with a seated area at the upper end of the JSC where the children can meet until the Godly Play session begins. This area will also be used by the Cathedral choir young people on the Sundays they meet with Fr Isaac for instruction relating to their RSCM work. Amu and Davika prepare and serve the young people lunch on these Sundays as they have a rehearsal for the 3.30pm Evensong to attend afterwards. This makes it a long day and it's important the young people get some space to unwind and eat their lunch. Could the congregation please be aware of this and



use the tables in the lower half of the JSC for coffee. The creche area will be cleared so no space is lost. Mothering Sunday is on 31st March this year. Children should attend Godly Play and Creche as usual and will be taken in to join the Celebrational Eucharist in the Cathedral and collect cake and flowers to give to their mothers. They will not be singing this year but should join in with the mums if they wish. I will send a Dates for Your Diary for Easter nearer the time. Also, could you note that there will be no Godly Play during the school Easter Holidays.

Creche Rota March 2019

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

Choir Promotions



This photo was intended for the February edition of Focus, but better late than never! It shows the choristers who were promoted at the sung Eucharist on Sunday 9th 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!



Shrove Tuesday pancake and mulled wine party:



On Tuesday the 5th of March 7-10pm at JSC. You can have a choice of savoury/sweet pancakes; alcoholic/non-alcoholic mulled wine.

There will be pancake tossing competition, raffle and games. Please let Christine Flett know.

Come and join.... it will be fun

Taizé Lenten Prayers:

Lenten prayers, music and meditations will be conducted by Bro Jean Patrick from the Taizé community in France on **Wednesday 20th of March at 7pm** at St Andrews Cathedral.



Refreshments will follow the service

Mothering Sunday:



This will be on **Sunday the 31st of March at 10.45am**, when the worship will be led by women. Bp Anne Dyer will be the preacher. Potluck lunch will follow in the JSC afterwards. Come and be part of the celebration and blessing.

Please note the clocks go back on this day.

Informal Summary of the Trustees' Meeting on 20 February 2019

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

The meeting of St Andrew's Cathedral Trustees was held in the John Skinner Centre on Wednesday the 20th of February 2019. There were nine Trustees were in attendance and three apologies.

There were five main items on the Agenda which involved detailed discussion.

1. Cathedral Finances

Mark Edwards (ME) gave a summary of the work of the Finance committee to date. Income and expenditure of Cathedral examined, and a few insignificant inconsistencies identified. Can now confirm projected budget deficit of £32K this year: £2K from choir tour that will now not happen, £10K from Kilt walk as not confirmed if this will happen or not, and £20K deficit as declared at the AGM in Nov 2018. We are approaching midway, leaving six months to

find £32K. Mark recommends a "structural" change in finances to balance budget in future.

Main question to Trustees is how to bridge the £32K deficit gap this year. Ferdinand von Prondzynski (FvP) pointed out that any relief can only be a one-off, need a structural change to bring budget into balance. Provost asked how to target a one-off donation, by event or something else. The human resources in the Cathedral and the spiritual transaction contained therein need highlighting, need to recognise the good things we are doing at the Cathedral. Ross Clephan sought to clarify Provost's point and asked as an example about the choir's budget. ME and Provost explained that expense related to choir is about £1K per month, but that it's not the expense but the revenue for such an experienced choir that is lacking. FvP is going to

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talk to Press and Journal about doing a piece on the Evensong to raise awareness.

Discussion followed prompted by Ross about asking hard questions such as dropping the choir, but Godwin pointed out that the choir brings revenue through services, etc. Nicola pointed out that we have to be asking about what things contribute to the essence of the Cathedral, and choir is one of those things. FvP said that if all things we are doing are essential then we need to find the money to continue doing those things.

Mark pointed out that we are £15K down on congregational giving since 2010 via Standing Order and relatively static on FWO. Discussed ways of encouraging gift aiding. Provost asked if financial team will look at gift aiding, ME confirmed that this kind of analysis is part of the process.

2. Director of Music

In Regina's absence Provost gave an update on this matter. Following re-advertisement the candidate who previously turned down the post has reapplied, and another. There have been lots of hits on the website with people looking at the post. *The search is now completely dried out with few people actually looking at the advert online.* The prospect of making an appointment from those two candidates is not promising, therefore AM has suggested the Provost speak to Sam Paul about the job, which he has done. Sam is open to the prospect. The proposal currently is to celebrate AM at the Diocesan Choral Festival on Sunday 16 June, with that being the end of the choir term for summer. The choir would then reconvene end of August and Sam would take the choir from then with the support of Bill Henderson who will stay on

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until end of year 2019. Provost asked if we could pull back from the advert. Michael Stone suggested we advise candidates who have applied that the job has been restructured and we have a preferred candidate for this post. The Trustees approve this course of action. **Action:** *to speak to Sam about the arrangements, also to withdraw advert and notify applicants of change of role required.*

3. Seabury House Lease

Discussion of three proposals registered by Omega Fire Ministries (OFM) regarding the Seabury House: 1) Top floor lease 2) Whole building lease 3) Whole building purchase.

Michael Stone said there are significant factors to consider, and we need to go back to OFM to clarify our questions and gather more detail. ME

asked if we could look at it for next meeting. Decided to start a forum for Trustees' discussion in Dropbox.

Ross suggested we send a letter to OFM registering that the Trustees are actively considering their proposals and have questions. These questions are about OFM's accounts and ability to afford such proposals, what alterations they are proposing, what use they will make of the building, what impact they might foresee these proposals have on St Andrew's Cathedral, etc. Provost will issue this letter to OFM.

Trustees were reminded that this is a Diocesan issue and will be at least a six month process requiring approval from the Diocese. Need to engage the Diocese now in this.

4. Property Maintenance

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Michael Stone gave an update that last month the boilers were serviced and lights replaced outside. Need PAT testing which is overdue, MS to get pricing for this, also to get pricing for servicing main boiler.

A Quote for gutters £1240 + VAT for submitted. Trustees approved this expense as not doing it is not an option.

Billy our new volunteer is now working as the new caretaker and has received his induction. Book started for logging repairs needed which anyone can use. SB mentioned that LaRCs have raised the money for outside lights, MS to confirm this and make arrangements. Thanks is noted to LaRCs for this generous donation.

5. EGM

The second reading and vote to appoint the new Director of

Music and their successors to the Board of Trustees as ex-officio non-voting member is Sunday 24 February.

Question about balance of voting v. non-voting members was discussed. At the moment there are 13 Trustees consisting of Bishop, Provost, Lay Rep, 2 x Wardens, 2 x Diocesan reps and 6 Lay reps. There has to be a quorum of Lay reps in order to vote. Adding Director of Music would bring number up to 14: 6 elected, 6 non-elected and 2 Dio reps. Could make the Director of Music non-voting but it doesn't change current situation. Decision to go to vote on Sunday and if the issue of balance comes up can discuss later. ME suggested we print the proposal for distribution before vote. *The Papers were issued on the 24th and a vote resulted in 45 in favour and 1 against. The motion carried forward.*

Informal Summary of the Trustees' Meeting on 20 February 2019

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6. Others

- The Trustees welcomed the idea of supporting older children with designated space for prayerful learning and the use of projector and screen or a Television.
- They approved a gift for Christ Church Cathedral, our companion in

Connecticut, of an Icon to the value of £1,000 of which Cathedral's share would be £250 jointly funded by LaRCs (£50), Cathedral Men (£50) and the Trustees (£150).

- A new Cathedral Logo has been commissioned and will be in circulation for comments and suggestions soon.

Thank you

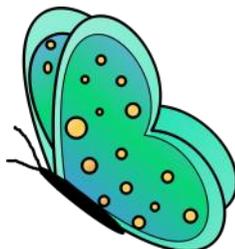
By Ann Leith

Thank you to all my friends at the Cathedral for their kindness and good wishes while I was in hospital. I indeed felt very humble when so many cards arrived each day and so many offers of help to do various things both during my incarceration and afterwards.

It was very comforting to know that I was on the Prayer List and that friends were using precious time to come and visit

me.

All of this was much appreciated and thank you. A special thank you to Provost Isaac who appeared at regular intervals and the other ladies in the ward were so impressed.



Events Around the Diocese

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1 March

Theme: Come –Everything is ready! Prepared by Christian Women of Slovenia. Details of times and venues will be on the Diocesan website.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Friday 1 –Saturday 2 March
Hilton Double Tree, Aberdeen

DIOCESAN SYNOD EUCHARIST

Friday 1 March at 5:00pm
St Andrew's Cathedral,
Aberdeen

A celebration of ministry including the renewal of vows of baptism and ordination, lay reader promises, and the blessing of oils for ministry. Every member of this Diocese is invited to attend.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 6 March
Please send details of services, lent studies and other events

taking place on this day and throughout Lent to the Diocesan IT Officer for inclusion on the diocesan website calendar and directory listings: itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org

NORTHERN LIGHT DEADLINE

Friday 8 March

Items for inclusion for Northern Light to the Editor, Michael P r i c e : mahprice20@gmail.com and/or the IT Officer itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org.



Editor's note:

Many thanks to Lynda and the Provost who edited the past two editions of the Focus magazine! Thank you also to all those who sent kind messages and cards and gifts for the birth of our son Oliver. We can't wait for him to meet you all!

— Amber

March Diary

Weekly Services and Events

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

Cover photo: *Spring is Here*

by Amber Shadle



Cathedral Church of St Andrew

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Trebles Choir Trainer	Dr Claire Morrisson, c.woods515@btinternet.com		01224 310980
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Junior Organ Scholar	Forbes Kinghorn		
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Readers	The Cathedral Office, cathedral@aberdeen.anglican.org		01224 640119
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Summer Stewarding	Bill Henderson		01224 480349
Mothers' Union	Kathy Priestley, mrskpriestley@gmail.com		07703 462713
Godly Play	Lucy Macdonald		07745 307825
Crèche & Jr Church	Christine Flett		01224 572232
Tuesday Fellowship	Ikenna Asogwa, iasogwa@yahoo.com		07881 766434
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