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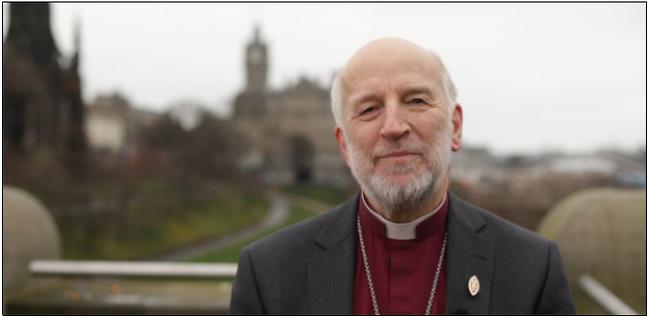
Easter - Trinity

The Eagle

2014

Hope is the difference which our Easter faith makes in our lives

In a reflection for Easter, The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says Christians are Easter People. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ



from the dead. Crucified on Good Friday – his body was placed in a tomb. Gradually his followers came to understand that the tomb was empty and Jesus was with them as a living presence. It wasn't easy for them – it wasn't what they expected. But an inexpressible joy grew in their hearts when they knew it to be true.

The word which expresses the meaning of that Easter faith is hope.

Jesus was brought to a painful death by all of the jealousies and the misuse of power which are still common today across the world. Easter says that God's power is greater. Christians through the ages believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is a living presence in our lives today

Hope is the difference which that faith makes in our lives. Life may be rich, full and enjoyable. But it is also full of challenge, sometimes of disappointment, anxiety and loss. There is death in all of our lives. But Easter says that there is hope – hope that death can be overcome by new resurrection life which God pours into our world – and into our lives.

REPORT ON DIOCESAN SYNOD HELD AT INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE STADIUM ON SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 2014.

Attended by Canon Cliff, Grant Swain, and Derek Bedford.

1) The Synod opened with the Eucharist co-celebrated by the Bishop and Clergy in the Kingsmills Suite, where we were seated at group tables.

2) Bishop Mark referred to his Charge of last year, and added that in this sixth year of his episcopate he had spent much time on reflection on the future direction of the Diocese. With feedback from the Regional Synods Bishop Mark has concluded that there is no one method strategy for the provision of priestly ministry across the diocese and was formulating his plans for a more flexible, needs based approach.

He updated us, reporting that we have a new congregation at Invershin, the St Curetan Mission; the latest statistics showed growth in most Charges throughout the Diocese, and the future emphasis should be on "Service to the Community".

His vision now is to be "a bishop of the people, not just of the Church".

He added "We all have to see our charges and ourselves working together as part of the Diocese, not just as a small local unit".

The Gospel of Radical Hospitality, was introduced last year, sharing who we are with each other, and the people we are called to serve. We are part of the theological pattern of this nation, we are a territorial church, we cover the whole geography of the diocese, that is why it is not an option to withdraw when things go wrong. That is why we have been creating a number of new missions, places that the church can gather in the midst of the communities we live in.

We now are in the process of planning for an overarching ministry in the Diocese, with the mutual sharing of ministry resources, starting in Inverness with the appointment of a City Priest to cover the various charges and with an

attachment to the Cathedral. Next with a new arrangement to share ministry between the Charges on the Black Isle, with joint Vestry Meetings. The next in line will be the Northern Charges.

The present incumbencies where established will continue but will be reviewed when vacancies occur. The Smaller charges will share resources, to be helped in various ways through sharing across the Diocese. The outcome should be like the Team Ministry concept.

The Bishop has been urged to commit his plans to paper so that they can be costed and agreed, as there may well be a need for more financial resources to fund more stipendiaries. He agreed to do this soon.

3) The Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved, and departures and new arrivals noted.

4) The new Dean, the Very Revd Alison Simpson of Nairn, introduced herself, and indicated she would be as keen on building matters as her predecessor, as she had originally started her career as an apprentice engineer at ICI. She knows all the “tricks about repairs” when necessary, and will prepare a schedule of visits to charges.

Dean Alison then reported on the Diocesan Statistics, which showed growth of the numbers for most charges. Total numbers in congregations were up by 128, while persons on the communicants roll had increased by 229. Communicants on the Sunday next before Advent were up by 200, and there were 126 more celebrations of communion across the Diocese.

5) The Audited Accounts were presented by the Treasurer showing a surplus of some £25,000, partly through savings on ministry and staff costs, and which goes to eliminate previous deficits. These were approved.

6) Elections were held, with most vacancies filled, although volunteers are still being sought. This was followed by Notices, with the Bishop’s

Lent Appeal going to the Red Cross relief mission in Syria; and an advertisement for the work of “For the Right Reasons” anti addiction project in Inverness.

7) After Lunch we had a talk by John Stuart, Secretary General of the SEC, who advised us of changes to the arrangements for training ordinands, in terms of formation and governance. There is to be a new Scottish Episcopal Institute, to develop “maturity in ministry”. There will be a focus on mission, with networks sharing good practice. The debate on guidance with regard to human sexuality and marriage continues, but will not be concluded for more than a year, as Canons would have to be amended, even if the Scottish Government passes the legislation. In any case there would be no option for gay marriage in our churches, until General Synod decides. He referred us to an Essay on “The Church and Scottish Identity”, which presumably can be tracked down through the Provincial Website.

8) Next we had a talk by Ruth Jeffries, a qualified Social Worker, on Cascade Conversation. This is a new channel for views to be gathered generally on difficult topics within the church, like same sex relationships. What these mean for our Church, Doctrine, and Canon Law. It involves listening as much as talking, and the first discussion group will be held in Pitlochry in April. Watch out for details on the website.

We had a group discussion, as a precursor, particularly over gay marriage, where there are complaints of inequality because Civil Partnerships do not equate to marriage! One suggestion was we should follow the continental model, with state marriage first, to be followed by a Church ceremony for practising Christians, where appropriate, and according to Canon Law.

9) Canon 63 regarding the election of Lay Representatives was approved.

10) Further reports by Mission and Ministry Board, Admin Board, and by myself as Chair of Stewardship Committee followed. I was able to report on an improvement in the Accounts, reversing the previous deficits, an increase in quota paid, and an uplift in Congregational Giving, in line with

our forecast for increased pledges following the Stewardship Campaign of 2012.

11) The meeting closed with a Blessing.

Derek Bedford

13/03/14



Diocese of Moray, Ross & Caithness

Invitation to the Ordination of
Sarah Murray to the Priesthood

on Saturday 24th May, 2014 at 11.30 am
in St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness.

This invitation is formally extended to all congregation members.



SITUATIONS VACANT

A vacancy has arisen for the task of compiling and distributing the ROTA for Sides Person & Intercessor's. The Rota's are normally compiled to cover 6 months at a time, therefore a twice yearly task. Offers to do one or both Rota's gratefully accepted by the Rector. Many thanks indeed to Handley Barrett who has carried out this duty for many years.



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING – on Monday 12th May at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room.

VESTRY MEETING – on Monday 2nd June at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

ALTYRE GARDEN OPENING – Sunday June 8th in aid of Church Funds. Please reserve the date.

GENERAL SYNOD – from Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th June, at St Paul's & St George's, Edinburgh.

VESTRY MEETING – on Monday 4th August at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

PERTH RACES - it is planned to repeat last years successful Parish Outing to the Perth Races on Monday 8th September. Limited to 17 places, please sign up to ensure your place. The theme for the day is Scottish Food.

HARVEST SUPPER – Saturday September 13th at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – Sunday 14th September.

VESTRY MEETING – on Monday 6th October at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

COFFEE MORNING – Saturday 8th November in the Town Hall.

VESTRY MEETING – on Monday 1st December at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

CHOIR - Hazel is looking for new recruits for choir. You don't need to be able to read music. We are currently very low in numbers, particularly men. We meet at around 9.15 am before the Eucharist.

FORRES BOYS BRIGADE – the newly reformed Forres Boys Brigade, which is affiliated to St John's, is rapidly attracting new members and funds are needed to buy equipment and to meet running costs. The Church has received a donation (with Gift Aid) amounting to a total of £200 which will be passed on. If any members of the congregation would like to donate funds then please speak to Father Cliff for details.



The Rt Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray Ross & Caithness, has hit out at Highland Council in its decision to close a number of local Access Points across the Highlands calling it a “remarkably short sighted decision”. Bishop Mark is calling on church congregations throughout the Highlands to defend what is an important facility for people in rural communities and says: “At recent meetings with Bishops across the UK, I as Bishop of much of the Highlands, was pleased to inform my colleagues during a debate about Pay Day Loans and high interest rates that in the Highland Council area the use of Credit Unions was enhanced as people in rural communities could pay into the local Union through the wonderful local Access Points.

I spoke about the benefits of such a system in a deeply rural area, about how those who cannot afford or find transport to the city and towns could be served by a welcoming personal contact and of how concerns and issues could be discussed as essential business was transacted.

I spoke of how proud I was of a council that was clearly in touch with its rural communities. That conversation has now turned to sand in my mouth as I once again witness the poorest and least advantaged of our society stripped of those possibilities by the remarkably short sighted decision to close a number of the local Access Points.

“Come on Council, you are here to serve people not simply to make the books balance in the Council Office.”

READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
Easter 2 27 April	Naomi Zair	Acts 2.14,22-32	1 Peter 1.3-9	John 20.19-31
Easter 3 4 May	Wiz Latham	Acts 2.14 36-41	1 Peter 1.17-23	Luke 24.13-35
Easter 4 11 May	Sheila Biggs	Acts 2.42-47	1 Peter 2.19-25	John 10.1-10
Easter 5 18 May	George Latham	Acts 7.55-60	1 Peter 2.2-10	John 14.1-14
Easter 6 25 May	Barbara Westie	Acts 17.22-31	1 Peter 3.13-22	John 14.15-21
Easter 7 1 June	June Airey	Acts 1.6-14	1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11	John 17.1-11
Pentecost 8 June	Gisela Bettle	Acts 2.1-21	1 Corinthians 12.3-13	John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39
Trinity Sunday 15 June	Mary Little	Isaiah 40.12- 17, 27-31	2 Corinthians 13.11-13	Matthew 28.16-20
1 after Trinity 22 June	John Horrocks	Jeremiah 20.7-13	Romans 6.1-11	Matthew 10.24-39
2 after Trinity 29 June	Jenny Swain	Jeremiah 28.5-9	Romans 6.12-23	Matthew 10.40-42

This edition of the Eagle is available in full colour on St John's Website.

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