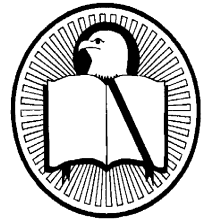


**The Scottish Episcopal Church
The Parish Magazine of
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Easter - Trinity

The Eagle

2015

ALLELUIA CHRIST IS RISEN - HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA



The Risen Christ is familiar yet different. If we look at the other Resurrection stories, the disciples are variously described as 'dumbfounded', 'disbelieving', 'hesitating'. Whether Jesus stands on the shore or in the midst of them while they are at table, there is a

strangeness about him now; the disciples hold back a little, unable to take in what has happened. Only Mary Magdalene and Peter seem to be able to grasp the situation all at once — and how different their reactions are, with Mary wanting to cling to him, and Peter, in his confusion, wanting to jump into the water!

Today Thomas will speak for all of us when he demands to place his hands in Christ's wounds before he will believe, but today we are faced with making a choice based on faith — not our faith only, but the faith of the early Church. Once the choice is made, we are commissioned to go out and proclaim the Good News. How we do so will depend on our individual circumstances, but each one of us is, in some sense, a missionary, charged with building up the faith of others. That doesn't mean ignoring doubts or questions, but it does mean allowing the Risen Christ to change us utterly.

Fr Cliff

REPORT ON THE DIOCESAN SYNOD HELD AT THE KINGSMILLS SUITE INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE STADIUM ON THE 21/03/15.

Attended by The Revd Canon Cliff Piper and Derek Bedford.

- 1) The Meeting opened with the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Mark.
- 2) We then enjoyed fellowship over coffee prior to the starting on the Agenda.
- 3) The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and there were no matters arising of any significance. Changes in Membership were noted and welcomed. These included the Revd Dr John Cuthbert at St Michaels Inverness, who I chatted with over lunch.
- 4) Diocesan Statistics were presented by The Revd Canon Christopher Kettley, now Synod Clerk. He mentioned that the figures did not always appear logical, and he would try to correct that in future years, The totals showed an increase of 25 persons in congregations, but the total of Males had increased by 50 and Females by 31, which should have registered as 81. There appeared to have been 39 baptisms at Culloden in the year, but we were informed that was a mistake, that was the total of baptised members of the congregation there! There was also a question of a large drop overall in Communion attendances from 57231 in the previous year to 54808 last year. It was pointed out that this was probably due to one less Sunday falling in the year! Generally the figures showed an upward trend, but we would of course like them to be higher still!
- 5) The next item was the Dean's Report. Dean Alison had visited a number of congregations, and was familiarising herself with the problems of the buildings involved. She declared she now knew a lot more about damp, dry rot and drains. She was grateful for the help of the Buildings Committee, Registrar and Diocesan Architect. She added that on Canon 35 applications it would be helpful to be consulted in advance. This had been her first year in the job, and she was grateful for the prayers, help and support she had been given. She was pleased that changes in the SEC would mean her role as Ministry Officer coordinating student placements, is disappearing, to be taken up by a Diocesan appointment, and this would ease her workload.
- 6) The Standing Committee Report was taken as read. This was followed by the Protection Officers verbal Report which was brief as nothing of significance had occurred in the Diocese in this regard. However new members are needed to strengthen the Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Children Protection team.
- 7) The Treasurer was abroad, so Douglas Campbell delivered the Report. The result in the Accounts was another healthy surplus of £28,754 which finally wiped out the accumulated deficit. The surplus was due to staffing changes and other savings. The payment of Quota continued well, and the Budget for this year should again show a surplus but there are proposals to increase the number of Stipendiary Priests in the Diocese, and this would require a further increase in funds. There were some questions about the Statement of Financial Activities tabled at the meeting, which required clarification. Douglas undertook to enquire and give answers. The Balance Sheet was clearer and accepted. A question was also raised on the 5 year income and expenditure graph, which would need explanation by the Treasurer.
- 8) The elections then took place and Canon Cliff was elected to General Synod and the Provincial Faith and Order Board, and Grant Swain was elected onto General Synod.

9) We then were taken through the changes to Canon 52 by the Diocesan Chancellor, which adds a Board of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (to be known as the Institute Council) to the other Boards appointed to by General Synod; and this was passed.

10) A written Report on the work of the Diocese Admin Board was accepted. It was followed by my Report on the Stewardship Committee which I presented at the meeting. The work of the Committee has concentrated on the use and introduction of Legacies, and has circulated a letter from Bishop Mark and myself to all Vestry Secretaries, Lay Reps and Treasurers in the Diocese, on Stewardship as well as a Toolkit for Legacies. This will no doubt be copied to all members of the Congregation of St Johns, in the near future. Also circulated was the Time and Talents Survey, which Canon Cliff developed at St Johns, which we felt could be generally adopted.

11) Malcolm Bett the Provincial Treasurer spoke about Provincial Matters, telling us of changes to the Block Grant system, with more funds for Mission and Ministry. Matching funding is not now so critical, and there will be more funding support for Stipendiary Curates. He thanked us for participating in the Survey on Building Grants, the large ones of which remain suspended, but smaller grant applications are to be encouraged for the future. He was asked about NIC allowances for individual Congregations, but HMRC have not given a ruling yet! I also asked for details of the SEC Investment Trust, which he will send me.

12) Canon Cliff presented the Motion proposed by the St Drostan Synod, which was slightly amended to:- “That the SEC begin the canonical process to decide whether or not to opt into same sex marriage ceremonies that are possible under the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014”. This was seconded by the Revd Sarah Murray, and was carried nem con with two abstentions.

13) The meeting concluded with the Bishops Charge, thanking all 35 congregations for their support in helping spread the Word. He mentioned the new patchwork banner at the Cathedral representing the Diocese, as inspirational and hoped there would be more squares added in the future. We must work alongside one another welcoming all to our churches. While we may look back in nostalgia, we must look forward in faith. While he has combined the roles of Bishop and Provost, at least for the next few years, there are plans to appoint a Vice Provost, while he will be supported by the Canons in helping take services at the Cathedral.

Derek Bedford - Lay Representative



RAF SWING BAND – Friday 17th April at 7.00 pm performing in St John’s Church. Please see the Poster for details and be sure to reserve the date.

VESTRY – meeting in the Parish Room at 7.00 pm on Monday 20th April.

GENERAL SYNOD – 11th to 13th June, Edinburgh.

CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT - Friday 26th June at 7.30 pm in St John’s Church. Proceeds shared between St John’s & Christian Aid.

READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
19 April Easter 3	Anne Philp	Acts 3.12-19	1 John 3.1-7	Luke 24.36-48
26 April Easter 4	John Guthrie	Acts 4.5-12	1 John 3.16-24	John 10.11-18
3 May Easter 5	Seymour Monro	Acts 8.26-40	1 John 4.7-21	John 15.1-8
10 May Easter 6	Alison Manson	Acts 10.44-48	1 John 5.1-6	John 15.9-17
17 May Easter 7	Kirsteen Mitcalfe	Acts 1.15-17, 21-26	1 John 5.9-13	John 17.6-19
24 May Pentecost	Gareth Whymant	Acts 2.1-21	Romans 8.22-27	John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15
31 May Trinity Sunday	Anne Docherty	Isaiah 6.1-8	Romans 8.12-17	John 3.1-17
7 June 1 after Trinity	Derek Bedford	Genesis 3.8-15	2 Corinthians 4.13 - 5.1	Mark 3.20-35
14 June 2 after Trinity	Gill Horrocks	Ezekiel 17.22-24	2 Corinthians 5.6-17	Mark 4.26-34
21 June 3 after Trinity	Naomi Zair	Job 38.1-11	2 Corinthians 6.1-13	Mark 4.35-41

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

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