

the **EDGE**

People, Places, Theology
Summer issue 2017

The quarterly magazine of the Diocese of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church



THE LORD'S PRAYER
visualised
GROWING TOGETHER
MEET THE ... Writers
A PLACE TO BELONG

The Edge

Vol 21: 4

Editor: Gillian McKinnon

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ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS

Rt Rev John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh

As I write this, a year on from the Brexit referendum, we are back at the polling booths. We may be understandably weary of politicking but we are wise to take a deep breath and accept a fresh invitation to exercise our hard-won democratic rights. A General Election is very different from a single question referendum, of course, but last year's decision to leave the EU puts almost everything about our future up for grabs. And so this is an opportunity for us to make a statement about what kind of future we want.

Commenting on the Brexit vote last year, I suggested that Christians should be wary of making an idol of either our nation or one particular set of constitutional arrangements. To be a good citizen requires us to speak out for the values we believe matter to God: goodness and joy, justice and peace. I also pointed out that Christians cross boundaries and we should therefore be wary of any version of patriotism that builds walls to keep people out.

I stand by this. Indeed, developments in the past year have made me all the more determined to hold our political leaders to account. During the election campaign my sense of what God would call Good News moves me to make the following three resolutions.

Firstly, I shall challenge untruth. Yes, it is possible to interpret facts differently, but in the end exaggeration can mislead; lazy assumptions distort; and 'alternative facts' are simply lies. To say we live in a post-truth world is nonsense. Truth matters more than ever and we should expect all those in the public eye to seek truth and, so far as it lies within them, to speak the truth.

Secondly, I will resist the tendency to make people 'other'. Sticking labels on people is just another way of saying they matter less than I do, making them somehow less human than me. Too often it excuses hostility and anger at people because they are 'different'. Migrants, asylum seekers, Westerners, Christians, Muslims, Jews are just people, and whether they live in Syria or Singapore, Sudan or Scotland, they matter. It matters to me that unaccompanied refugee children should be given safe haven in Britain; it matters to me that EU citizens who have made their home in Britain should be assured of their future here; it matters to me that my country offers security, protection and aid to those who live far away. And I expect it to matter to politicians too.

Thirdly, I shall be wary of a politics that has sold out to the 'system' – that is, a politics which is unquestioning about the way things are. Because the way things are has pushed the weakest to the margins and increased the gap between rich and poor. I believe this suggests that the 'system' that produces such inequalities is sick. I want politicians to acknowledge this and to encourage a conversation about a future in which the 'system' is no longer in thrall to an economics fixated on growth rather than human well being. 'Economy', like 'ecology', is a word rooted in the Greek for house (*oikos*) and is to do with sharing the one 'house', the one world in which we depend on each another.

These are my resolutions. They arise for me out of the belief that, although human beings in this world remain imperfect, the Resurrection of Jesus is not just about life after death but calls us to do all we can to cherish life before death. I have to believe that our politicians want to shape a world that benefits everyone. We cannot therefore tolerate the perpetuation of the same old divisions, with the same winners and the same losers. In the end, stable government, democratic discourse and humanitarian values will not take care of us unless we take care of them.



+John

GROWING TOGETHER

by John Conway



Bishop John recently spoke in a video interview about the 'Growing Together' process which was launched in May. I'm presenting here a flavour of what his thoughts are concerning what lies ahead for our Diocese.

Fairly straightforwardly, Growing Together is a process for our growth together: growth in the unity of our Diocesan family. However, the process will also result in our growing together in other ways: growing in faith and discipleship and the way we are serving others, and growing in numbers too.

Growing Together consists, in the first place, in a series of roadshows – gatherings in different parts of the Diocese at different times over the

coming months. The hope is that at least five or more people from each church or charge will take part. That is aiming high, but is surely achievable, and important because the more people who come along, the better the roadshows will be.

The roadshows will gather a vision from everyone present. That includes the Bishop, who will be offering his thoughts on the priorities for our Diocese. But we want to gather local perspectives and stories too. For what might be run-of-the-mill or unexciting to you, may well actually be really good and something that other people will want and need to hear.

The roadshows over the summer months will be gathering those

stories and our thinking, in time for our Autumn Synod, where a flavour of our discussions and stories will be presented. And ultimately our gathering of the wisdom of the Diocese will motivate our action together.

There is a feeling around at present that we are at a crunch point, a hinge point, where there is so much change going on in the world and the church today that it is more vital than ever that we listen to one another and to God, to see what is right for us at this point. There is a real hunger around in our society for things of God, and our Episcopal congregations and Diocese have the capacity to meet some of that hunger, in both practical and spiritual ways, as many others are already doing.

It is in the context of that hunger, and the struggle of some of churches to survive and respond, while other churches are doing remarkable things, that this is a time to pool our experience together and listen to what God has in store for us and calls us to.

Saturdays can be busy and precious, but our hope is that roadshows will be fun, and if you have a heart and a concern for your local church, and how it might grow and develop in the years to come, the roadshows will provide a way of thinking together about that, gaining wisdom from others. That is central to the faith that motivates our lives: spending a few hours on a Saturday thinking and talking about that, should not be a hardship.

There are two principal ways in which you can become involved in Growing Together:

Firstly, if you are able, please attend one of the four roadshows (in Bo'ness, Haddington, Galashiels or Edinburgh – dates are on the poster opposite). Go to the one nearest to you, or on the date that suits you best. If you can't make any of them, then we are hoping to post online short videos and other material from the roadshows to give you a flavour.

Secondly, we ask you to pray for our growing together in the Diocese. Use the liturgical material that has been sent out, or the prayer on the bookmarks distributed through the Edge. Prayer will be a vital contribution to this process of listening to God.

We hope for two main outcomes from the Growing Together process: as the name suggests, we hope for a growing together in our relationships with each other: in our sense of unity as a Diocese, of what our mission is, above all, our sense of God’s call to us.

We also hope for a growth in our confidence in what we do, and the confidence to try new things - perhaps because others have tried them first. Growing Together will provide the inspiration to be reflective and creative.

Some of the things we try won’t work, but that’s alright, because we will have the confidence to take risks, knowing that we can try something else instead.

God is calling to us, longing for us to grow as a church – grow in God’s way, not our way. And if we do our best to pay attention to that call, we will become the church God wants us to be in 2018 and beyond.

Thank you for being part of our Growing Together.

Growing Together Roadshow

Come and explore together how our churches can grow, change and flourish.

Reflections from Bishop John

Shared Lunch

Celebratory Eucharist

Group Discussion

We want to hear stories from your church, and share good news about how your church is moving forward.

Join the adventure of Growing Together in the Diocese of Edinburgh

Four different Roadshow locations across the Diocese, choose a venue or date as suits you

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Bo’ness | Saturday 27th May St Catharine’s Church | 10.30am - 2.30pm EH51 9AZ |
| Galashiels | Saturday 24th June St Peter’s Church | 10.30am - 3.00pm TD1 3HS |
| Haddington | Saturday 1st July Trinity Centre | 10.30am - 2.30pm EH41 3EX |
| Edinburgh | Saturday 2nd Sept. St Peter’s, Lutton Place | 10.30am - 2.30pm EH8 9PE |

To book a place, or for more details contact:
Edinburgh Diocesan Office
0131 538 7033
growingtogether@dioceseofedinburgh.org



Come Along ... Pray ...

As church communities we aspire to be faithful followers of Christ in our worship, service and witness and so let’s take time to discern our vision and priorities to give a clearer focus for days ahead. Our hope is that this process of Growing Together will help us all develop stronger relationships, deeper faith, confident witness, wise stewardship and effective resources.

Bishop John will be travelling the Diocese and we would love you to come with others from your church to one of the Roadshow events in four different locations. We want to reflect together on the adventure so far and listen to your stories about what is working well in your church. We will spend time in worship and prayer, discussion and lunch. These events will be interactive, fun and inspiring as we discover and celebrate what God is doing.

*God, our Father,
you call us by your Spirit
to Grow Together in your Son;
make us one in heart and mind,
generous in giving,
faithful in serving,
and bold in proclaiming
the hope of a world made new;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

TINY CHURCH, BIG HEART

by Jane Ramsay

'If you were asked what building you might find wedged between a chip shop and a hairdressers on the high street of the lively little town of Linlithgow, it might be some while before you hazarded a guess at it being a Byzantine-style church.'

One Friday Christine Barclay, Rector of St Peter's Linlithgow, received an unusual phone call from a young man who asked if he could be permitted to go inside St Peter's Church. He was at that very moment, standing in Linlithgow High Street gazing at our red doors and the carvings above. Rev Christine, well known for her ability to take on challenges of any sort, clipped her Westie Millie onto her tartan lead and set off.

The young man she met at St Peter's was the travel writer Dixe Wills - Dixe was researching the smallest churches in Britain for a new book, and St Peter's fitted his brief perfectly. As a non-flying travel writer, Dixe travels the length and breadth of Britain on his bike, in his quest to find interesting and very tiny topics to entertain his readers.

Inside St Peter's chaos reigned as is so often the case, for black bags filled much of the interior, waiting to be opened and arrayed on tables, ready for a Church Sale the next day. But luckily Dixe saw only the beauty of our tiny church despite the clutter. He saw the graceful curve of our arches, the glory of our stained glass windows, the arched windows high above his head and the welcoming bright red of our doors. Dixe wandered out into our garden and marvelled at how this special holy place could be built in such a narrow space, a space so narrow and small that the altar has to face south rather than the traditional east. He



took many photographs and, with added historical information from local historian Bruce Jamieson's own publication, included St Peter's Church in his book.

Tiny Churches is now into its second print - the first being sold out, perhaps not entirely due to our Rector presenting her family and friends with copies as Christmas gifts. Dixe has also generously signed and sent a copy to Christine to auction for our church funds.

'The church itself is laid out in the form of a Greek cross. Its dimensions (c. 40ft long, 25ft wide and 30ft high) put you in mind of one of those old blue police boxes and, true to form, it does seem oddly larger on the inside than it appears on the outside.'

As the congregation of St Peter's in Linlithgow continues in our endeavours to extend our little church to accommodate our growing congregation and our outreach into our local community, Dixe's delight at the beauty he found inside our little holy space, serves as a reminder to us just how special St Peter's is - even in its present tiny form.

George Walpole, the much loved Bishop of Edinburgh during the late 1920s crossed the heaving waters

of the North Atlantic to the eastern seaboard of America. His mission was one close to his heart, to raise enough funds to allow the building of a little church on the High Street in the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow. His journey was not in vain and he returned triumphant from his lecture tour with a promise of £500 towards the £1,000 build. The latest of God's houses in Linlithgow was soon to become a reality, and on a damp day in May 1927 the foundation stone for the church we now know as St Peter's was laid.

The fortunes of the Episcopal Church in Linlithgow have risen and fallen like an Atlantic swell during the past 88 years, but now, St Peter's is bursting at the seams with a growing congregation and also a growing awareness of its unique position in the town. Our red doors open regularly to warmly welcome all those who walk through them.

St Peter's is suffering from the ravages of time. Its antiquated narrow kitchen is used as a vestry and robing room for our rector, a preparation area for refreshments and a through-way to our tiny toilet, which is unsuitable for anyone other than the young or agile. There are no facilities for the growing Sunday School meaning the children having to walk along the often wild and wet High Street from the Guide Hall where they meet. It is clear that our church building needs to grow to cater for not only our own congregation but also in offering

a special place to be used by the Linlithgow community. So while others were enjoying the lazy days of summer, those involved in finding funding for our bright and modern extension into our church garden, were working without cease, filling in complex application forms and sending them off with hope in their hearts for successful and generous outcomes from their efforts.

We have now raised over £215,000 of the £250,000 needed to build the extension, being constantly amazed by the generosity of not only funders, but of our sister churches in Linlithgow and Bathgate, our neighbours and our friends, old and new. The architect's plans, incorporating the wishes of the

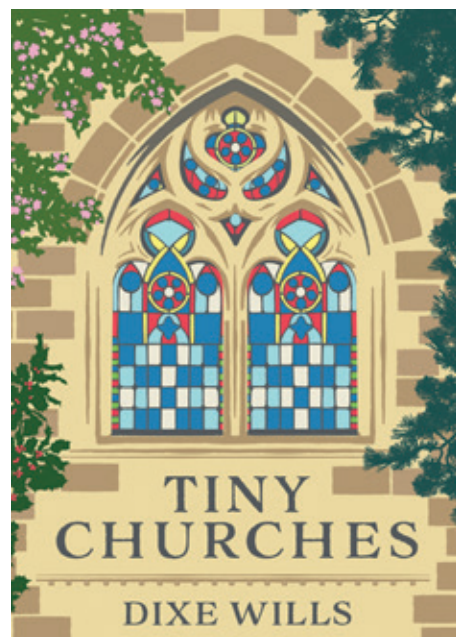
congregation, have been approved by the planning department, our diocese and the good people of Linlithgow.

Once the building warrant is received and the funding in place the digging will begin. That huge step of faith which Bishop Walpole took many years ago will be renewed and strengthened by the efforts and beliefs of those who work and have worked so tirelessly over the intervening years for this little church in West Lothian.

With our extension we will not lose that special something we have - indeed the warmth and love that can be found by all who venture inside our diminutive Byzantine

building, as Dixe found, will only grow, keeping intact the very essence of that which lies within our red doors - spiritual growth and well-being, love, friendship and acceptance for all by all.

'The splendid symmetry of the dome is best seen from a supine position in the middle of the church floor, though you may wish to warn other visitors of your intentions before attempting the same.'



Quotations from Tiny Churches by Dixe Wills used by kind permission of the author.

Dixe Wills is an author and travel writer. His books include Tiny Stations, Tiny Islands, The Armchair Naturalist and The Z-Z of Great Britain. He writes for The Guardian, mainly about green travel.

Tiny Churches is published by AA Publishing and is available from their online shop for £9.99 (RRP £16.99).



MEET THE ... Writers

by David Warnes

Our series of articles that highlight the work, paid and unpaid, and the skills, talents and creativity of people across our diocese. This issue we meet some of the talented people in the diocese who are writers.



To be a writer is to be a storyteller. **Jenny Robertson** (St Martin's, Edinburgh) began writing stories at the age of four. Voluntary work with a refugee organisation in Germany led to her switch from studying English Literature to studying Polish at Glasgow University. Together with husband Stuart, she has lived and ministered in Poland and that country and its people have provided the themes for some of her books and her range is remarkable. *Wojtek: War Hero Bear*, published by Birlinn, is a children's book which tells the story of the bear who is commemorated by a statue in Princes Street Gardens.

She is currently working on *From Corsets to Communism*, a biography of Zofia Nałkowska, an important Polish writer whose *Medallions* is a significant contribution to Holocaust literature. Jenny has written extensively for Scripture Union, including some of the Ladybird Bible Books, the Bible Reading Fellowship and Lion. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and values the mutual encouragement that provides. She recently won the English section of the Book of Hopes

and Dreams competition in the adult category. Her greatest satisfaction has been the publication of three volumes of her poetry by Chapman; *Ghetto*, *Beyond the Border* and *Loss and Language*.



"Poetry is the language in which man explores his own amazement." Christopher Fry's words are the epigraph to *Librettos for the Black Madonna* (White Adder Press) by **Neil Leadbeater**, until recently Vestry Secretary and Rector's Warden at St Fillan's, Buckstone. A poet from his schooldays at Repton, Neil was encouraged by an inspirational English teacher to write to Old Reptonian Roald Dahl. "I got a lovely letter back and his advice was 'Get a day job and write on the side.'" Degree studies in English Literature afforded an opportunity to pursue his passion for languages. A career in administration in the NHS supported a fruitful life as a poet, essayist, literary critic and writer of short stories. His fascination with the natural world is evident in his conversation. "There must be a Creator behind it all" he says. He brings an observant eye to

landscapes, known and imagined, enticing the reader to celebrate "the lobed fans of ferns and fronds/the woody brackets of red rot fungus." As a critic who reviews regularly for *Galatea Resurrects* (USA), *Contemporary Literary Review India* and the website *Write Out Loud*, he always searches for an affirmative tone.



Reading poems about monsters, God and battles while studying English at Oxford shaped **Claire Benton-Evans'** development as a writer. Claire, who is the Diocesan Youth and Children's Officer, began writing prayers for the magazine of the parish where her husband Jim was curate. "I found that people responded to them positively, so I sent a partial manuscript to several publishers. Kevin Mayhew challenged me to write a prayer for

every day of the year." The result was *Food for Prayer* (2008) and she has written for Kevin Mayhew ever since. *All-Sorts Prayer* and *All-Sorts Worship* both offer resources for all age worship, and she has recently completed the *Beastly Bible Stories* series. "As a teacher, I encountered the challenges and possibilities of opening up traditional language texts and bringing them to life" she says. The books are intended to give children space to ask questions about their faith. Claire also writes for adults. Her Advent to Epiphany course *Revealed* uses two films, *Calendar Girls* and *The Full Monty*, to explore the ways in which we are revealed to ourselves and God's self-revelation. The book arose from a long-standing interest in the spiritual relevance of film, triggered by the scene in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* in which the hero makes a leap of faith.



Monsters, gods and battles also featured in the education of novelist **Elizabeth Kerner**, who fell in love with Anglo Saxon and Old Norse at St Andrews University. A native of Florida who worships at Holy Trinity, Haddington, she says that she had to go through a long process of "writing out the rubbish". A detailed critique of the draft of her first book by Deborah Turner Harris, an established writer of fantasy fiction, helped her to see the proper focus for the story, and *Song in the Silence* was published by Tor Books in 1997. It was followed by *The Lesser Kindred* and *Redeeming the Lost*, completing *The Tales of Kolmar* trilogy. In common with Tolkien, a writer whom she greatly admires, she eschews allegory in favour of fiction with a clear metaphysical framework. Reconciliation and redemption are important themes in her writing. "The good guys are always going to win" she explains. "I have a duty not to promulgate the victory of the dark." Though published twenty years ago, *Song*

in the Silence speaks to the present age, offering the possibility of understanding, empathy and love transcending historic grievances and differences of culture and belief. Elizabeth is working on a second trilogy with the provisional title *The End of Old Songs*.



Robin Morris (People's Warden at Christ Church, Morningside) has enjoyed a successful career as a sports journalist. Edinburgh born, he pursued a career in banking and found his employers supportive of his involvement in athletics. He discovered a talent for distance running as a schoolboy, continued to compete at a high level as an adult and is proud to have worn the Scotland vest both on the track and in the hills. He was instrumental in setting up the Scottish Hill Runners Association.

The move to journalism came as a result of serving as a senior official at the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. He began to work with a sports agency, writing match reports and doing their book-keeping and, when the agency was taken over, turned freelance. Like the late Norman Mair, one of his heroes, he brought to the job the insights of an athlete who had competed at the highest levels. Retainers from *The Herald* and *The Scotsman* and a contract with the Scottish Rugby Union to do their weekly marketing formed the foundation of his work, and he gained great satisfaction from covering a very wide range of sports ("everything from archery to golf to weightlifting") as well as chronicling women's rugby and women's football in their infancy.

Marie Louise Cochran (St James, Leith) is a professional storyteller. Her character Mrs Mash ("just me in a pinny") shares stories about cooking and food in live performances aimed at children and has her own website (mrsmash.com). Marie Louise is a Religious Studies graduate of New College, Edinburgh. "Food is all about hospitality and nourishment," she adds, "and these are Christian values."

Marie is now transforming *Annie the Baker*, a popular traditional story from north east Scotland which has featured in her performances on the Edinburgh Fringe and in many schools, into a children's book. An early version was rejected by a publisher as not quite fitting their market, so she recast the story in verse form and embarked on the journey of self-publishing. Production is in the hands of Ingram Spark, specialists in print-on-demand and ebook publishing. "I'm not expecting a best-seller. This way I don't need to commit to the expense of a long print run." There are up-front costs, however, including a fee of £300 to obtain an ISBN number, and Marie Louise will be doing her own marketing.



Mrs Mash's website includes wise words from the political theorist Hannah Arendt: "Storytelling reveals meaning without committing the error of defining it." They are taken from an essay in *Men in Dark Times* on Isak Dinesen, the pen-name of Karen Blixen whose *Babette's Feast* exemplifies the power that stories have to enable us to see the world, ourselves and others and to find redemption.

The Lord's Prayer - visualised



Compiled by Sue Fitchett

Over five weeks at Children's Church at St Matthew's, Rosslyn Chapel, we created our Visual Lord's Prayer. The prayer given to us by Jesus is something that we thought we would like to explore more fully. Originally it was intended to be a wall hanging but as we created some of the panels we realised it would fit beautifully at the front of the altar. It was finished on Mothering Sunday, where we showed the congregation and we were delighted that it became the celebration altar front for Easter Sunday.

We focused on a different part of the Lord's Prayer each week where we created each of the panels. We talked about God being not in a far away place but everywhere and the places where we felt closest to God - in the hills, by the sea, in a swimming pool, walking in the countryside on a sunny day, listening to the birds sing. We were not sure what heaven would look like but felt that there would be lots of colour and light it would be calm, with beautiful music and bird song. *Give us this day our daily bread ...* We decided this meant all our needs both physical and spiritual, food, health, clothing etc. The top section in the third panel represents us as happy healthy children. We read about sharing your bread with the hungry and helping others less fortunate, the children in the world who do not have the basic needs to sustain life. This really made us think especially when we saw pictures of small children who were starving and heard some frightening facts. We decided to take action and are raising funds for Unicef and Save the Children.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive... We talked about forgiveness and how sometimes it is difficult to forgive but by letting go of anger we feel better. We clenched our fists and squeezed our hands together and then let go - as if we were letting go of anger and forgiving. The butterflies on our fourth panel represent this.



Bishop on film

PM Theresa May's calling of a snap General Election gave us all the opportunity to take stock and think about how we feel about the direction of the UK for the next few years, and what we would like it to be. As you may have seen in John Armes' leading article on page 3 of this magazine, Bishop John decided to make three resolutions in the context of the election: to champion truthfulness; confront 'othering'; and to challenge the system. You can watch and listen to Bishop John talk about these topics in video clips on the diocesan website at www.edinburgh.anglican.org. We will be adding further video and audio material from Bishop John, so do check back to see what's there.

Rwanda in July

In July, a team of 10 from St Mungo's Balerno will be visiting Rwanda with our mission partner Comfort Rwanda and Congo. The team from St Mungo's will be involved in community building with locals.

In advance of this, in April St Mungo's hosted two events as Comfort Rwanda and Congo welcomed Benjamin Kayumba to Scotland. Ben leads Good News International, one of the Rwandan partners the team from St Mungo's will visit in July. During his week in Scotland, Ben preached at two prisons, met the International Development Committee in the Scottish Parliament and visited some schools as well as meeting other churches which also support Comfort Rwanda and Congo.

20 years of Provincial Youth Week

by Claire Benton-Evans, Diocesan Youth and Children Officer

St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh recently hosted a weekend of celebrations to mark 20 years of the Provincial Youth Week, first held at Strathallan and recently at Glenalmond.

Rev Tembu Rongong, Convener of the Youth Committee said, "Twenty years ago a group of people came together with an idea of forming a fellowship for the youth of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Out of this came the summer Youth Weeks first at Strathallan, then at Glenalmond. This event celebrates all the passion, vision, exhilaration and fun these twenty years have been, and to pay tribute to all the much valued support, friendship and hard work that has gone into them."

On Saturday 1 April, the cathedral was buzzing with a variety of much-loved Glen-style activities, including a labyrinth, a prayer tent, chainmail-making, outdoor sports, supervised snoozing and the Winnie the Pooh Boot Camp. In the evening, over 100 delegates, former delegates, leaders and their families came together for an energetic celebration Ceilidh and a delicious hog roast. On Sunday the celebrations continued in the cathedral's Lent

Eucharist. Bishop John presided, and welcomed everyone present to the Provincial event which Edinburgh was delighted to host.

The Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, Rt Rev Mark Strange, who formerly led the Provincial youth camp, preached movingly about young people being the life of the Church. His sermon ended: "Please pray for the camp; please pray for our churches to be as adventurous and loving as the camps, so that new birth in mission and ministry will be natural. Bless you all, leaders and delegates: you are a treasure to this church and as we know - 'Where your treasure is, there is your heart.'"



New Cornerstone

Recent photos show the ongoing work at St John's Princes Street. The new Cornerstone Centre will be an open, welcoming space for individuals, community groups and local organisations.





Space for the Spirit

by Jenny Paton-Williams

Just 50 metres down from the bustling Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle is St. Columba's-by-the-Castle Episcopal Church. The Columbans enjoy their lovely south-facing terrace-garden every Sunday after church and hall-hirers including wedding receptions take advantage of this quiet haven with its beautiful view over to Heriot's School.

St. Columba's has recently affiliated to The Quiet Garden Movement, linking it to a network of 300 other Quiet Gardens throughout UK and as far as New Zealand and a Nairobi slum. On 28 April, the church held a brief ceremony in our garden to mark its opening to visitors. Rector David Paton-Williams wrote a Celtic-style blessing and the church children enthusiastically distributed holy water over the flower-beds plus any adults who didn't move fast enough. Having noticed the sign outside the gates, an Italian couple Carlotta and Andreas arrived just on time to ceremonially unlock the gate and become the first visitors.

St. Columba's is encouraging local workers from offices and shops to drop in for some quiet moments during their lunch-break and tourists too are welcome. The Quiet Garden is open in daylight hours often on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sunday afternoons unless there are private Hall bookings. Any visitors coming a distance or requiring disabled access are advised to get in touch beforehand (Office 0131 622 2277 or jpatonwilliams@gmail.com) During the Festival the garden will once more become a ticket office and cafe.

Lamp of Sacrifice

The Lamp of Sacrifice by Nathan Coley is at the Scottish National Gallery Of Modern Art (Modern One) until September. The work consists of a scale model in cardboard of every 'Place of Worship' listed in the 2004 edition of the Edinburgh Yellow Pages telephone directory. The models represent buildings in an area including Lothian, Fife and the Borders. See if you can spot yours!



Spring Synod report

by Jamie McDonald

In March, I attended the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod. For me, this was the first time I had attended, either as a representative or just a visitor. I was also by far the youngest voting member and felt rather nervous to be representing not only St Mark's Portobello but also the next generation of synod. Fortunately, the Diocesan Synod and its members were incredibly welcoming and I also had Sophia (St Mark's Rector) who ensured I knew what I was doing.

The Bishop gave a poignant and relevant sermon about the place of our religion and mission in today's world. Representatives from both the charities chosen for this year's Bishops Lent Appeal spoke about their interesting and increasingly important place in our communities and abroad. The minutes from the previous Diocesan Synod and the reports from this year's Committees were approved without objection.

This year, three Canons were debated and voted on. Canon 31 was the most controversial and debate over this issue lasted for some time. It concerns the nature of marriage in the Scottish Episcopal Church and whether or not to follow the Scottish courts in recognising same-sex partnerships. The amendment to the Canon allows Clergy to conduct a same-sex marriage ceremony with prior approval of the Bishop. Debate was conducted on the whole civilly and respectfully, both sides making interesting points and sharing emotional experiences. It was accepted that in the church, people have differing views on the nature of marriage and God's place in it. In accordance with General Synod, a secret ballot was conducted, and the amendment passed, 84 to 31 with four abstentions.

All three Canons are now brought back to General Synod to be debated further, with points made at Diocesan level being taken into account.

A PLACE TO BELONG

by Claire Wilson



L'Arche Edinburgh was one of the two charities chosen by Bishop John for his Lent Appeal in 2013. At the time, they needed funds to help complete a new purpose-designed house for people with learning disabilities who are ageing. This group of people are particularly vulnerable. Often there is no-one left who can understand them when their own family carer dies. Some start to age in their 40s and 50s and there is very little homely residential provision available. L'Arche Edinburgh set out to meet this local need, and offer friendship and a home for life for some of society's most marginalised people.

At L'Arche Edinburgh we offer accommodation, care and support for people with learning disabilities in three shared houses and individual flats. It is a Christian community open to all, welcoming adults with learning disabilities to a life shared with employed assistants and others. We support people with a range of gifts and needs, including people with physical disabilities in addition to their learning disabilities.

L'Arche Edinburgh is part of the worldwide federation of 147 L'Arche communities. L'Arche was founded by philosopher Jean Vanier, the son of a former Governor General of Canada. He served during World War II with the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy. He resigned in 1950 to study philosophy and theology and went on to teach. In 1964, he became aware of the plight of thousands of people

institutionalised with learning disabilities and, in that year, took the radical step of inviting Raphael Simi and Philippe Seux to leave the institution where they lived to share their lives with him. Together they began L'Arche in a small house in Trosly-Breuil, France. L'Arche grew rapidly and in 1968 the first community opened in Canada. In March 2015, Jean Vanier was awarded the Templeton Prize in recognition of his advocacy for people with disabilities. The Templeton Prize, which has previously been awarded to Mother Teresa, Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama and others, is one of the most prestigious honours in the world.

"Before I had no life. It was just sitting all day in a chair in one room. We weren't allowed to go out or do anything. I was bored. When I came to L'Arche I was just so pleased to be there!"

Philippe Seux

Jean Vanier, and those who came to share his vision, learned two important truths in those early years, both of which remain at the heart of L'Arche today:

Firstly, people with learning disabilities have a great deal to contribute to society; secondly, by living in intentional community with people with and without learning

disabilities, living with diversity and difference, we open ourselves up to be challenged and grow.

There are eleven L'Arche Communities in Britain, including two in Scotland, Inverness and Edinburgh. Although grounded in the Christian religious tradition, L'Arche Communities welcome people of all faiths and none: our vision is a world where all belong.

Adding to the two established shared houses, in 2013 L'Arche Edinburgh helped four people move to new flats. We also built a new shared house in Restalrig which opened in 2014. This was with the help of the Bishop's Appeal. In 2017 we are expanding what we offer people during the day.

Could you become involved? Our activities are governed by a National Board who work with a local committee of 7-9 members. We welcome new expressions of interest by people who would like to serve as a member of the committee. Members meet 6-8 times a year, to review activities and help set the strategic goals for L'Arche in its development as a community and service provider. Experience in social care, community life, voluntary sector, HR, business development, finance or legal are particularly welcome. Training is offered.

Visit our website at www.larche.org.uk, email us at edinburgh@larche.org.uk or telephone our office on 0131 553 3478.

REVIEWS

Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist by Kate Raworth

Random House Business Books, 2017 £20

Reviewed by Ruth Green

In 2015, six million under-fives died, two billion people lived on less than \$3 a day and one in people worldwide did not have enough to eat. Yet 1% own more wealth than the other 99% put together; eight men own more than 3.6 billion people.

How helpless does that make us feel?

Kate Raworth, Research Associate at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute is well qualified to explore these social and ecological challenges. Previously she worked with micro-entrepreneurs in Zanzibar villages, co-authored the Human Development Report for the UN, and was a Oxfam researcher for 10 years. This brilliant book is worth the effort to feel more positive about a solution.

In Doughnut Economics, she says that our current economic model is broken; crisis looms from governments run by demagogues, billionaires and lobbyists, extreme inequality, and the living world collapsing. Those in power don't know what to do except offer even more economic growth, despite impending ecological destruction, unemployment and gross inequality.

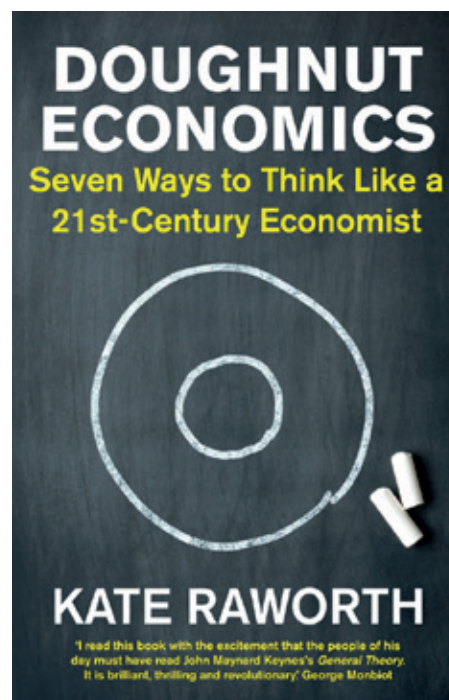
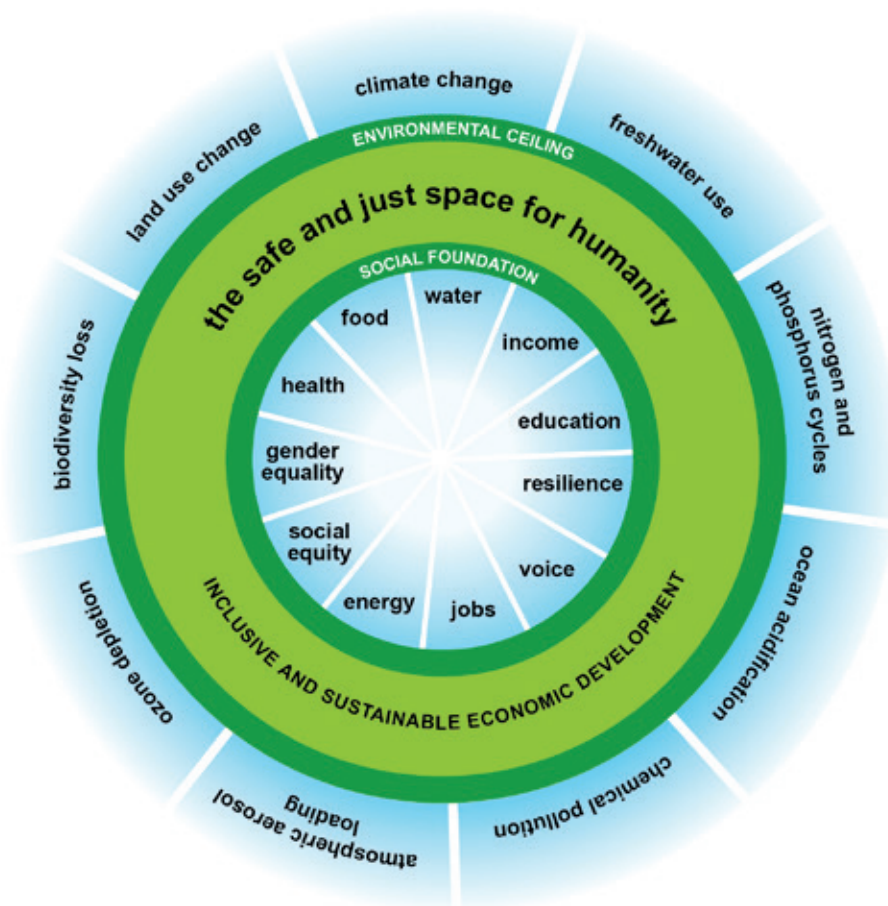
The mainstream economic model consists of a closed circular flow diagram of income cycling between households, businesses, banks, government and trade.

The Doughnut Economy model consists of two rings: the inner ring is the resources we need - food, clean water, housing, sanitation, energy, education, healthcare, democracy. The billions in the hole in the middle are in a state of deprivation.

The outer ring of the doughnut shows environmental limits, beyond which is climate change, ozone depletion, water pollution and loss of species; this outer boundary has been breached in several places.

The area between the two rings - the doughnut itself - is the "ecologically safe and socially just space" where humanity must live. Markets, taxation and public investment must be designed to conserve resources, not squander them.

The objective of the doughnut: human prosperity within a thriving living world.



A Place Called Winter

by Patrick Gale

Tinder Press, 2015 £7.99

Reviewed by Bob Gould

A criticism of Annie Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain*, was that although it dealt sympathetically with a same-sex relationship, it was not as mould-breaking as it might have been had it not ended in tragedy. This book is different; after a cascade of adventures, the book ends with a happy, committed relationship.

A Place Called Winter is a historical novel, full of fascinating insight into a range of issues of its period, roughly 1906-1921. Harry Cane, the central character, based on the great-grandfather of the author, is a charming character whose weakness is his strength. After a gentle marriage, he loses most of his inherited wealth through the unabashed incompetence of his in-laws. They are then quick to disown him after the discovery of a sexual indiscretion, and, after hounding him off to Canada, to arrange a divorce on the grounds of desertion. This begins the major part of the book, as Harry begins his life again learning to tame a chunk of forest on land given away for the clearing in the new province of Saskatchewan.

And, yes, Winter is a real village, originally just a station on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, alphabetically located between Vera and Yonker. (The GTPR seems to have failed to find an X.)

Several issues of the day are dealt with very sensitively, not least relations with the First Nation Canadians being displaced by the immigrants. Ordering and constructing a house from a spiritual ancestor of IKEA is another. The effects of the Great War and the influenza epidemic play their part, and one of the most fascinating insights is the development of psychiatric technique; the story is interspersed with an account of Harry's treatment after a nervous breakdown, the cause of which is not revealed until near the end.

Characterisation is also excellent. Evil is represented both in the banality of Harry's relatives, and in the active form of Troels Monck, a truly diabolical force. There are several very good characters. In addition to Paul Slaymaker, Harry's eventual partner, a particularly striking example is Farmer Jørgensen, with whom Harry has an apprenticeship before starting his own farm. That section also provides a sympathetic views of the place of the church in the life of the time.

It is an exceedingly good read for its compelling drama, and for any of the many issues it raises deftly and sensitively.



GAZETTE

Appointments

Rev Rich Cornfield as Pioneer Priest at The Mustard Seed, based at St Margaret's Easter Road, from 21 May 2017.

Rev Diana Hall as Priest at St Anne's Dunbar from 15 July 2017.

Rev Ruth Innes as Canon and Synod Clerk from 13 April 2017.

Rev Canon Susan Macdonald as Honorary Canon from 13 April 2017.

Retirement

Rev Dr Kenneth Webb from Christ Church Duns from 30 June 2017.

BEING RE-FORMED

Saturday 28 October,
St Mary's Cathedral

A Diocesan Day Conference to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther.

In 1517, by nailing a document of 95 grievances to a church door, this monk unintentionally lit the fuse which led to the radical transformation of Christianity and the Church, a movement we now call the Reformation.

Come and explore together what Being Re-Formed means for us in today's context, with keynote speakers reflecting on the interface between church and our society and how we engage with Scripture in contemporary culture. Unpack these themes in a variety of interactive workshops and join us for a final all-age Eucharist.

Sunday Introductions at St Mary's Cathedral

Palmerston Place, Edinburgh

**All most welcome at any of these introductory talks,
held on Sundays in front of the High Altar,
12 noon to 12.45pm**

18 June 2017

Helen Hood TSSF

An Introduction to Franciscan Spirituality

3 September 2017

Revd Annie Naish, Bishop's Enabler of Mission

An Introduction to Mission in 21st Century Scotland

22 October 2017

Revd Andrew Bain

An Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality

For further information, please
email faithandgrowth@gmail.com
or phone the Cathedral Office:
(0131) 225 6293



MUSIC AT ST VINCENT'S CHAPEL

St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge, St Vincent Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6SW

St Vincent's is a centre for music making and community use, which welcomes musicians who come to learn, rehearse and perform in excellent acoustics. Fees by arrangement.

Concerts, both classical and folk, take place regularly in St Vincent's. There is seating in the pews for about 125 people.

For more information, contact Barnaby Miln who is the Property Convenor by email at PropertyConvenor@stvincentschapel.org.uk or visit the church's website at www.stvincentschapel.org.uk



NIGHTSTOP TACKLES YOUNG HOMELESSNESS

Part of the Rock Trust, the Edinburgh Nightstop service is a charity that supports young people with issues of homelessness. Nightstop offers free, safe, emergency accommodation for young people aged 16 to 25 who are in a housing crisis or homeless. The young people are hosted by trained and vetted volunteer families in their homes for one night at a time up to 14 nights. The service aims to be a safer option to directly prevent rough sleeping or prevent young people sleeping in unsafe places.

Nightstop would like to develop links with the congregations across the whole of the Edinburgh Diocese. Matthew Eastwood, Nightstop Development Worker, says: "Can you mention our service in your church newsletter? Or we can also come along to meet congregations to explain our service and gain valuable hosts."

Contact Matthew by telephone on 0131 557 4059 or email matthew.eastwood@rocktrust.org

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

The chosen charities for the Lent Appeal are St John and the City Defibrillator Project (SC000262) and Collective Calling (registered NGO 611510). If you would like leaflets, contact Samantha Campbell on 0131 538 7044 bpsec@dioceseofedinburgh.org

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed words or pictures to this edition of The Edge.

If you have an item of news for our Diocesan News pages or for this agenda page, please send it to editor@edinburghdiocese.org.uk

The deadline for the next issue is 24 July 2017.