

# the **EDGE**

People, Places, Theology  
Summer issue 2016

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



ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL

DUNBAR UNITED

PLAYING AT CHURCH

MEET THE... *HEALTH WORKERS*

ADVENTURES IN FAITH

JOHN ARMES:  
Being Different





# The Edge

Vol 20: 4

Editor: Gillian McKinnon

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Andrew Letby and Andrew Bain in St Anne's church, Dunbar

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## Diocesan Office

21a Grosvenor Crescent  
Edinburgh, EH12 5EL

Simon Filsell, Diocesan  
Administrator  
0131 538 7033  
[office@edinburgh.anglican.org](mailto:office@edinburgh.anglican.org)

Samantha Campbell,  
Bishop's P.A.  
0131 538 7044  
[bpsec@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:bpsec@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

Elizabeth White,  
Administrative Assistant  
0131 346 9081  
[ewhite@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:ewhite@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

## This love will carry

Oh, the adventure of it!  
Playing at being grown-up,  
keeping house,  
unable to keep your hands off one another,  
always wanting to touch, to fight, to hold.  
Wondering at the mystery of this beloved stranger,  
not noticing the days slipping by,  
and the strangeness becoming comfortable.

And love, like a scarlet ribbon,  
winding its way in and out of  
the sweet, familiar round of ordinary things.  
This love will carry.

Walking silently by your side  
when you're too choked for words.  
Getting you through the bad days  
with a mixture of sympathy and straight talking.  
Being a place to run for cover,  
and sometimes,  
a boot up the backside.  
Taking the first step to close the distance between you,  
and, when you're dying of failure,  
helping you believe that you're not as worthless as you feel.  
Not at all.  
This love will carry.

Respectful,  
feeling for when to speak and when to keep silent.  
Appreciative,  
enjoying your differences as much as your sameness.  
Relaxed,  
not worried any more about seeming foolish.

Being yourself,  
because trust is there.

And love is a sea,  
taking you to undiscovered lands.  
Finally,  
you are in your element.  
This love will carry.

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# BEING DIFFERENT

Rt Rev John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh

At an interview, a priest was asked: 'Suppose someone approached you at a bus stop and demanded, 'Tell me about the Christian faith; but be quick, my bus is due in two minutes', what would you say?"

Thankfully, I have never been asked to sum up my faith in two minutes, but recently I was asked to do so in ten. I was on a panel with a Rabbi and an Imam. Whilst this may sound like the perfect set up for a joke, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, full of substance. The meeting came in the wake of the Brussels bombings and the murder of Asad Shah, the Glasgow shopkeeper. Perhaps for that reason we quickly picked up on the theme of respect for difference. The Rabbi spoke of the Tower of Babel, when human language was 'confused'. This is a story, he explained, which shows that God does not approve of totalitarianism – a system in which everyone is expected to conform and be the same – and to speak the same language. This undermines and drains the colourful diversity of human expression that is God's will. The Imam responded by speaking of a key passage in Islamic writings in which human difference is seen as a sign of Allah's mercy. We have different opinions on important matters because we are made that way. I told the story of the Christian Pentecost when the coming of God's Holy Spirit to the disciples did not mean they spoke one language (which would have been a reversal of Babel) but rather spoke of the things of God to others in their own language. There, at the 'birthday of the church', is God's affirmation of human diversity.



This is a vital message both to hear and to take to heart. Many of our world's troubles come from fear of otherness, suspicion of those who look, speak, act and believe differently – whose mere existence becomes a reason for others to take offence. This surely underlies the brutal behaviour of Daesh (ISIS), but it is there too in attitudes to immigrants and refugees in this country. We hear the rhetoric of disapproval resounding through pronouncements about the 'un-Britishness' of Europe, the 'unlike-us-ness' of those who need benefits to help them survive. Why, even the treatment of the victims and families of the Hillsborough disaster, reveals the tragic consequences of seeing a group of people as 'them' not 'us'. Suspicion of otherness turns us in on ourselves, it makes us defensive, divided, cold-hearted and inhuman.

Christians should be sensitive to such things. We follow a Master who was no conformist, who others regarded as odd or mad. And whilst in Western culture Christians may be regarded as eccentric but essentially benign, there are parts of the world where the 'oddness' of Christians is seen as reason for persecution and worse. This being so, Christians should be especially attentive to other groups singled out for abuse. Recent events have put anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim attitudes and behaviour in the spotlight. Interfaith encounter is one way we can make it clear that Christians take a positive view of difference and take seriously God's call to us to be peacemakers and reconcilers.

As a Christian I experience the overwhelming grace of God through Jesus Christ. By being baptised into Christ I believe that all that is worldly about me is given heavenly purpose – that in the death and resurrection of Christ I find reason to hope that my tendency to mess up, to fall short and to sin may be transformed into that closer communion with God and with others. This is good news; it changes the way I live. Why would I want to keep it to myself?

Yet interfaith encounter persuades me that those who follow a different path find both good news and reason to hope in their faith too. I frequently come away from such encounters thanking God that the world is not uniform. And I resolve that, whether I have ten minutes to give account of my faith or two, I can only do so with integrity if I first learn to respect and, indeed, delight in the God-given difference of others.

Which suggests that if someone did demand a two minute summary at a bus stop I would spend one minute forty-five seconds getting to know the person and 15 seconds persuading them to miss their bus. Failing that I would get on the bus with them. Bus passes are useful things!

**+John**



# ON SONG AT ST MARY'S

by Felicity MacFarlane

With an illustrious list of alumni, an increasing demand for places, a flourishing chorister education programme and the prospect of a very high profile move of premises, which you may have read about in the papers, it is an exciting time for St Mary's Music School.

The school is tucked away in a historic building in Edinburgh's West End, and is Scotland's only independent specialist music school, offering a world-class standard of music and academic education to musically gifted children (aged 9-19) in an inspiring, inclusive and supportive environment. It is also the Choir School of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh. It is co-educational, non-denominational and attracts day and boarding pupils from across Scotland and beyond.

Entry to the school is by audition and assessment, based on musical ability and potential, regardless of personal financial circumstances. Scottish Government funding, up to 100 per cent, is available through the Aided Places Scheme to assist with the cost of tuition and boarding fees. Cathedral and School bursaries are also available. The school is funded by fees, private and trust donations and rental income generated by the school. There are currently 83 pupils at the school; 49 are day students and 34 are boarders.

St Mary's Music School has always promoted engagement with the wider community and extends in-depth learning in music to children from other schools as part of its outreach programme. Included in this is a long-established programme of Saturday Music Classes for children aged 4-14 years, enabling some 150 local children to discover the wonders of music.

The choir school was opened in 1880 to educate the choristers for the newly-built St Mary's Cathedral. Links to the Cathedral remain strong and have evolved over the years so that the former all-boys choir is now open to girls as well.

Since 1972 the school has also educated young instrumentalists, composers and singers. Appropriately for Scotland's specialist music school, it attracts a number of pupils who perform on traditional instruments such as bagpipes, accordion and clarsach.

In addition to its wide-ranging musical provision, the school has a strong academic focus and has an excellent record in external examinations.

Alumni include pianist Steven Osborne, conductor Garry Walker, composers Helen Grime and David Horne, soprano Susan Hamilton and well-known comedian and television presenter Alexander Armstrong.

## The Chorister Programme

St Mary's Cathedral is the only place in Scotland which offers the chorister programme, widely acknowledged as developing high levels of musicianship and performance at an early age, together with an excellent academic education at St Mary's Music School.

From international tours, performing in some of the world's greatest concert venues, frequent television and radio broadcasts and acclaimed CD recordings, to Christmas carols

and choir football, the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral offers a unique opportunity to children aged 7-9 years old to become choristers. The choir has recently recorded their latest CD with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, featuring music by Stravinsky. All choristers are provided with scholarships by the Cathedral or the Scottish Government to be educated alongside the instrumentalists at St Mary's Music School. They combine their school day with daily rehearsals and services in the Cathedral and its beautiful Song School, learning music from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century and learning up to two instruments in addition to their singing.

Duncan Ferguson, Master of the Music at St Mary's Cathedral, says, "The chorister programme, which is maintained by many cathedrals in Britain and Ireland but only by St Mary's in Scotland, is widely acknowledged as unique in developing high levels of musicianship and performance at an early age. In addition to the exceptional musical benefits, it fosters important life qualities of dedication, discipline, and teamwork and provides strong foundations for the choristers, not just in music but in their lives more generally."

## Moving Forward

When St Mary's Music School began, it was located beside St Mary's Cathedral in Palmerston Place. In 1995 with 53 pupils, the school outgrew the original music school and moved to its current premises at Coates Hall in Grosvenor Crescent.

With an ever-increasing demand for places, the school is now at capacity at Coates Hall. It is part of the school's vision for the future that the school has a building with both teaching and performance space.

In recent months the school has been working closely with The Royal High School Preservation Trust, architect Richard Murphy OBE and conservation architects Simpson



& Brown on exciting plans for the school to move to the former Royal High School building at Calton Hill. Thanks to the support and commitment of Dunard Fund, the plans are fully funded. Central to the proposal is the creation of three new public performance spaces, including a 300-seat concert hall in the former historic debating chamber. This would be ideal for school performances and for external use by other groups and organisations, thus enhancing the arts provision for Edinburgh and Scotland.

Dr Kenneth Taylor, Head Teacher, says, "The planning application is currently with Edinburgh City Council and everyone at the school is very excited about the possibilities ahead. We have been delighted and deeply appreciative of the support and enthusiasm that has come from so many people in the music world and the local community. We are confident that the plans are in keeping with the architectural and cultural significance of the site whilst providing the opportunity for future expansion. The high profile location will make the school more visible in Scotland, the British Isles and internationally."

*Information about concerts given by St Mary's Music School can be found on the internet ([www.st-marys-music-school.co.uk](http://www.st-marys-music-school.co.uk)). The school also has an informative Facebook page ('stmarysmusicschool') and a busy Twitter account (@stmarys\_music)*

*The choristers sing with the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral and details of Services and Choral Evensong can be found on the Cathedral's website at [www.cathedral.net](http://www.cathedral.net). Duncan Ferguson is always happy to meet with prospective parents and pupils in advance of an audition to offer advice: he can be contacted at [music@cathedral.net](mailto:music@cathedral.net), or by telephone (0131 225 6293).*

*Application forms for chorister auditions may be downloaded or requested from the School.*





# PLAYING AT CHURCH

by Claire Benton-Evans

How does your congregation invite children into the life of the church? Some churches in Sweden are trying a novel approach called Play Church. This may be a play cupboard that opens out into a children's 'altarscape', or a complete child-sized building within existing church grounds.

The idea is to introduce children to worship, liturgy and the sacraments through play. And such play! There are beautiful clothes for dressing-up: child-sized cassocks, chasubles and stoles, wedding outfits and even a bishop's mitre. Children can light child-safe candles on the altar and hold a small chalice and patten. There is a processional cross, a baptismal font and dolls to baptise. Children are simply invited in to play and imagine worship for themselves.

A Swedish priest who has seen a Play Church in action says, "The room is never noisy; the three- to six-year olds...play with the kind of quiet joy that reveals God's work at hand. And when they come to St Andrew's, their eyes light up when they see a baby baptised. They know, because they have played."

Play Church can express how a church views its children. When a theological educator visited Play Church in Linköping Cathedral,

Sweden, she felt it was saying several things:

>> "This church respects and acknowledges publicly how children learn best." Children learn through play, and Play Church invites them in to explore the world of the church in their own way. This kind of hands-on, interactive learning is clearly influenced by Montessori, whose methods have helped shape modern parenting and educational practice.

>> "This church invites children to imagine leading worship, liturgy and ministry." Play Church encourages children to participate in their own playful worship and imagine themselves as leaders. It shows them that special clothes and sacred objects are not just for grown-ups but for them, too.

>> "This congregation wears its history proudly and lifts its children up as equally important to the life of the church, welcoming them into its past, present and future." In Linköping Cathedral, the Play Church is permanently sited near the sanctuary in beautiful and historic surroundings. It is made of finely crafted, durable materials and not hidden in a corner or side-lined in a play room. (Gretchen E. Ziegenhals. [www.faithandleadership.com](http://www.faithandleadership.com))

The Swedish Play Church projects have inspired me to dream of creating a Play Church for the Diocese of Edinburgh. Could we make something that is portable enough to travel from church to church in the Diocese, giving congregations a fresh opportunity to invite children in to play? Could we fill it with beautiful dressing-up clothes and everything else children would need to make themselves at home in a sacred space? Could we give our children this chance to learn through play about worship, liturgy and ministry?

This project has been evolving over many months, and it's still growing and changing, so now is a good moment to introduce the wider diocese to Play Church. I hope I can address some important questions that have been raised in discussions so far.

## What will our Play Church look like?

You can find details of the latest designs (pictured) on the diocesan website. These have undergone various revisions to come up with a durable, portable, affordable and child-safe creation.

The current design features a stand-alone 'altarscape' with attached screen (dossal), incorporating a large cross and a fabric hanging



with patchwork or appliqué design. There is a competition for under 18s to design this hanging: bold, bright and beautiful designs are encouraged! For details see the diocesan website or email [youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org).

This design may change as the project develops, but the priorities will remain the same:

>> Play Church must be beautiful and expertly crafted from the best materials we can afford.

>> It must be child-sized and able to fit into any church building, however small.

>> Its component parts should all fit into an average estate car and be easy to construct in each new host church.

>> It should contain key items so that children can learn through play about the sacraments and the worshipping life of the Church.

### Isn't it inappropriate to let children play with sacred things?

Let's consider this for a moment: what is the concern here? Are we worried that children will somehow spoil what is holy, that they will sully God's special things with their sticky fingers?

The evidence of the Gospels suggests firstly that holiness is much more robust than this: Jesus wasn't 'spoiled' by his contact with grubby street children, people with communicable diseases or notorious sinners (though many religious people worried that he would be).

Secondly, it was Christ's holiness that was infectious - contact with him opened people's eyes to God and left them knowing they were healed, whole and loved. When we give children access to sacred things, we are inviting them to share the things that are special to our worship of God. They may not understand sacramental theology, but they certainly understand what it means to be included - or left out.

### How can Play Church help children become disciples?

God continually reaches out to all of us to draw us closer to him, and he uses whatever means he can. Some children will be hit between the

eyes by the reality of God through excellent Bible storytelling and teaching in their Sunday School. Some will be drawn closer to him by participating in stirring music, whether as a chorister or as part of a church rock band. Some will have a powerful experience of prayer. For some children, an awareness of God will come through the hands-on experience of holy things, eaten and drunk in the Eucharist or explored through imaginative play in Play Church.

There is no one sure-fire method of making children follow Jesus, and churches continue to do many different, wonderful things to nurture discipleship. Our portable diocesan Play Church will be one more resource which churches may like to try, and many of our congregations and children will welcome it with open arms.

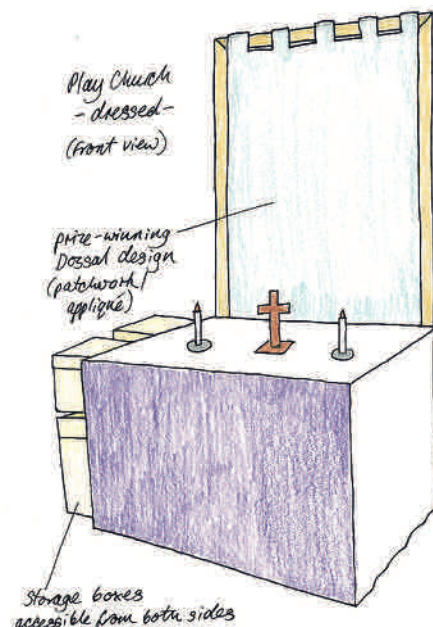
### Who is responsible for the creation of Play Church?

It is a collaborative effort! The Play Church 'dream team' has helped me to put together the designs, and these have been adapted after consultation with the Mission and Ministry Committee and diocesan clergy. I am still looking for the right source for Play Church's bespoke carpentry, and am following up some potentially exciting leads.

Meanwhile, a talented Rector has already created a full set of Play Church vestments (pictured) and even a wedding dress! I have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm and generosity that Play Church has inspired so far, and I hope that congregations might like to show their support for the project by donating smaller items such as a cross, a chalice and altar linen. I now have a full list of all the extra bits and pieces that Play Church requires, which will be published on the diocesan website and circulated to all charges.

Finally, if you have any skills or donations that might be useful for Play Church, please contact me at [youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

*Claire Benton-Evans is the Diocesan Youth and Children Officer*





# MEET...

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 people involved in health.*

As the seventieth birthday of the National Health Service in 2018 approaches, it has been good to hear the experiences of a number of people in the diocese who, between them, have chalked up many decades of service in the health care professions and as volunteers with health care charities.

For **Bill Warrack** (St John's, Princes Street, Edinburgh) dentistry was in the blood. "I was doomed to be a dentist", he joked. His father, grandfather and great grandfather were dentists and his father and grandfather practised in Charlotte Square for 75 years. Bill remembers his studies at Edinburgh University Dental School as "a very good time of one's life". On qualifying, he joined the Royal Army Dental Corps, serving overseas in Aden, Singapore and West Berlin. "It was a great privilege to have been there at that time" he says, and he has fond memories of "Operation Rocking Horse", which required all military personnel to the battle stations they would adopt if the Cold War turned hot. For him and his colleagues this involved playing bridge in the British Military Hospital on the Heerstraße. When he left the Army in 1975 the practice moved to Melville Street.

**Carol Norris** (Holy Trinity, Melrose) qualified as a doctor at Birmingham University in 1969, moving to Scotland after full-time work as a registrar practising General Medicine, Cardiology and Geriatric Medicine. Appointed as a consultant at the Borders General Hospital when it opened in 1987, she became a leading specialist in Geriatric Medicine and her contributions to that field were recognized when she was appointed MBE in 2004. She is now retired, though she works one day a fortnight running



an outpatients clinic dealing with syncope and falls. Bill's and Carol's length of experience prompted questions about how the NHS has changed over time. Bill's father was in private practice, but Bill worked partly within the NHS for his whole career. Dentistry improved with good high speed drills and local anaesthesia. Teeth which might have been extracted were saved with crowns and root treatment. "The NHS bureaucracy was very tedious," he says, "but we were given a pension." Among the positive changes over time that Carol identified are the way in which geriatric medicine has become a speciality, and a huge improvement in the accuracy of diagnosis.

**Joan Adam** (Christ Church, Morningside) had a long career as a specialist nurse in the fields of palliative and end of life care, working mainly in acute hospitals. After training and working at the Sick Kids' Hospital in Edinburgh, she qualified as a psychiatric nurse and then worked with adults. Her father's death was a catalyst in her calling to become a palliative care specialist and educator, a vocation reinforced by her faith. She was the first person to be employed as a Macmillan nurse at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and also worked

at the Western General Hospital and as a lecturer at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh. She stresses the importance of good palliative care in general hospitals, pointing out that there will always be a shortage of hospice beds. "Palliative care should be for everyone, whether in hospital or at home," she emphasizes, "but financial contracts make this difficult to achieve."

Palliative medicine is about caring rather than about curing, a thought echoed by **Elizabeth Pearson** (Christ Church, Morningside) on the basis of her long experience as a Community Psychiatric Nurse. In the field of dementia care, she says "the happier the person is, the better they function". Good care is holistic, and helping relatives to understand the importance of not contradicting or directly thwarting the wishes of a relative with dementia is important. Elizabeth trained at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, and then did psychiatric nursing training at the Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries. She was a pioneer community nurse in that part of Scotland before moving to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Health Visitor training at Queen Margaret University led to a job as Community Psychiatric Nurse in the Outer Hebrides, where she





From top left:  
Bill Warrack, Carol Norris,  
Joan Adam, Elizabeth Pearson,  
Pippa Cochrane and Caroline Green

worked for nine years. For Elizabeth the greatest change over time has been the leveling out of hierarchy in the NHS. "More informal relations between consultants, doctors and nurses have helped to build a team ethos and made it easier to be open and accountable and to point out mistakes."

**Pippa Cochran**, (St Martin's, Edinburgh), a pharmacist, also stresses the importance of team work. "The ten people I work with in the dispensary at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital are a lovely team" she says. "We all pull together and do our best for the patients." Pippa trained at Manchester University, where she did a dissertation on the infectious causes of schizophrenia, and gained her early professional experience in London. Her move to Scotland led both to marriage and further studies. Work as a pharmacist has meant that she can combine her love of science and her wish for a career that involved working with people. She enjoys the opportunity to get to know the patients well, and the fact that the dispensary serves not only the hospital but also the mental health teams across the region. Like Bill Warrack, Pippa also has experience of working abroad. She spent two years at a hospital

in Mbarara, south west Uganda, as a VSO volunteer. "The constraints were severe," she explains. She was the only pharmacist, and a very tight drugs budget meant that difficult decisions had to be made. "If you could only afford thirty phials of insulin, you could only treat the first thirty patients in the queue at the diabetes clinic."

In retirement, Joan Adam also does voluntary work. Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief is a charity which seeks to empower people to make decisions about their end of life care. Joan gives talks about these issues and facilitates discussions and study days in schools, churches and a variety of organizations. "It's all about helping people to live right to the end of their lives," she explains.

**Caroline Green** (Holy Trinity, Melrose) is also an active volunteer in the health sector, as the Borders Community Ambassador for Marie Curie, a charity which many people associate with cancer care but which provides care and support for people living with the whole range of terminal illnesses and for their families. Last year alone, Marie Curie cared for over 40,000 people in the UK. Caroline and her husband retired to Melrose from Aberdeen in 2010 and she became involved with

Marie Curie almost immediately, at first as a fundraiser and a member of the local committee. She still organizes the daffodil collections in Melrose, the most recent of which raised over £1,000. The Ambassador role involves speaking to Women's Institutes, U3A groups, Probus Clubs and church groups throughout the borders, outlining the achievements of Marie Curie herself, and explaining the work of the charity.

As the NHS approaches a significant anniversary, it is subject to great financial and organizational pressures. Carol Norris warns that "the profit motive in medicine leads to perverse outcomes", and laments the commodification of the work of general practitioners, and reductions in the number of hospital beds. In the changes and challenges that lie ahead it is important that we do not lose sight of health care as a vocation or of the fact that the NHS provides care at a cost that is modest when compared to the money spent in other developed countries.

[www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

[www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk](http://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk)

## NEW LAY CANONS APPOINTED

In an historic first, the Bishop of Edinburgh, John Armes, announced the appointment of six new Honorary Canons at this year's Diocesan Synod. These included, for the first time ever, the appointment of Lay Canons. The first two recipients of this office are David Palmer, Diocesan Secretary, and Helen Hood former Convener of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS). Helen is the first woman in the Diocese to hold the title.



'Canon' as a title comes from the fact that the person appointed is bound by the rules or 'canons' of that cathedral. Some canons have specific roles within the life of a cathedral e.g. treasurer, and are known as residentiary canons and, with the dean, form the 'chapter', which is the governing body of the cathedral, responsible for worship within the cathedral and also for the maintenance of the cathedral buildings. There are also honorary canons, whom it is desired to honour because of their service to the diocese.

In 2015 the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod approved changes to its Cathedral statutes, which allowed greater flexibility regarding appointments. This year's appointments follow further consultation with the Cathedral Chapter.

Four other Honorary Canons were also appointed in March: Rev Carrie Applegath, Rev Marion Chatterley, Rev Professor Paul Foster and Rev Canon Fred Tomlinson.

Bishop John says "We agreed to change our Cathedral Statutes so that we would have more flexibility in who and how many people might be appointed as Honorary Canons. This wasn't intended to be the precursor to appointing broadsides of new canons so that eventually everyone is a canon! It was intended to allow me to honour, on behalf of the diocese, those people who've served the Church in distinguished and significant ways, whether within the Scottish Episcopal Church or in the broader life of the Church."



The diocesan President of the Mother's Union, Angela Sibley, was thanked by Bishop John as she stepped down, and he welcomed the new President, Helen Godfrey. We're also pleased to report the appointment of Christine Barclay, Rector in Bathgate and Linlithgow, as Mothers' Union Chaplain for the diocese. The chaplain's role is to support the trustees and members in a pastoral and spiritual capacity, and to be a key point of contact within the local area. The Mothers Union says, "Chaplains in Mothers' Union are essential in upholding our mission. Through support and encouragement the chaplains work with their local members to realise their gifts and talents, in order to continue the mission and vision of Mothers' Union through its activities." Each Mothers' Union diocese in UK & Ireland appoints a chaplain. This voluntary appointment is generally made in consultation with the local diocesan bishop and lasts for a minimum of three years.



## MUSTARD SEEDS SHARED

John and Kate Marsden are members of St Peter's in Galashiels - recently 'retired' after living and working in Bangladesh for many years. They mainly worked with a development organisation, helping people in poverty develop the skills, hope and social structures to overcome that poverty. In order to continue some of the work - despite retirement! - they have set up Mustard Seeds Shared which aims to provide training and advice to others wanting to do similar work. They regularly still travel back to Asia and have four trips arranged for 2016.

John and Kate say, "It's so good to have the peace and beauty of the Borders and the loving support of St Peter's to energise us for these trips. Our roots are in the UK, Scotland mainly, though we brought up our family and had our home church in York. From our first visit to St Peter's last summer, when we started our move to Galashiels, we've felt warmly welcomed. Moving our home back to Scotland after living in Bangladesh for more than sixteen years has been a big change. We are so blessed to have been accepted into the life of St Peter's."

Visit [www.mustardseedsshared.org](http://www.mustardseedsshared.org) for information and updates



# THE BIBLE ON THE BOX

by Joan Smith

The annual St Cuthbert's Lecture was held at St Cuthbert's, Colinton in March. Helen Bond, Professor of Christian Origins at the University of Edinburgh, chose as her title: "The Bible on the Box"

Professor Bond began her talk by suggesting that presenting the Bible today was problematic in an era when there is a general decline in Biblical literacy. The Bible is no longer taught in schools as it was in the past, and fewer young people attend Sunday school or church, so assumptions cannot be made about even a basic knowledge of the Bible or its stories as a starting point.

Such information as is obtained might perhaps be viewed in much the same way as myth or legend: through Christ-like figures in film; through fiction e.g. The Da Vinci Code; in documentaries about the history or archaeology of biblical times; through 'sword and sandal' movies. Impressions or illusions are packaged for an audience, in an age of multimedia and choice, that demands a kaleidoscope of information in easily-digested bite-sized bits.

In the context of change, also cited was the relationship between the broadcasters, in particular the BBC, and religion. Whereas in the past the legacy of Lord Reith assumed a pro-religion stance, this is now less evident, indeed there is a perception of an anti-religious bias. Nevertheless, there has been programming both factual and dramatised over the years. Professor Bond gave examples showing how different times produce different kinds of output. She showed some of a series shown in the 1980's: a lecture style of approach, interspersed with dramatised sequences. Experts are used to tell and explain. Concentration is required to absorb the information given.

More recent programmes were discussed to show a more dramatic, modernised, interpretive, approach. Documentaries are now more likely to be presented by celebrities with an emphasis on exploring a mystery, taking a journey, capturing attention. So-called 'Infotainment' has been made to fit the demands of an audience with little background knowledge of a subject. The role of the expert is then diminished to the background and balanced scholarly debate is difficult.

The question was posed, can this type of programming be defined as religious, or is it about religion? Throughout the talk ran a theme of the presentation of the Bible via a filter of popular culture, the understanding and expectations of the age. How to counter or challenge this was addressed in some of the questions which followed. In particular how to communicate, both to children and to adults, ongoing scholarship and the underlying truth of the Bible was raised. Although no obvious answer seemed evident, this lecture gave a opportunity for thoughtful consideration of how we are shown the Bible on the box.

*Helen Bond has appeared in over 50 TV documentaries (BBC, Channel 4, Discovery and National Geographic), and has acted as historical consultant for several more, including BBC's Nativity and History Channel's The Bible.*



# IS YOUR CHURCH DEMENTIA FRIENDLY?

We are much more aware of dementia and the impact that it has on individuals, their families and friends, and there are strong movements to ensure that our communities should become 'dementia friendly'. Faith in Older People (FiOP), which is based at our Diocesan office, wants to ensure that this is related to faith communities which play a vital part in the lives of many older people.

Generally, congregations are welcoming to those who are experiencing dementia but FiOP wants to support them in further developing inclusion and participation in worship, prayer and the social aspects of belonging to a faith community.

The aim of the FiOP project is to encourage people to talk about dementia and their understanding of what it is. It often feels a bit frightening, and people can also be anxious about knowing what to do or say around those who have dementia.

FiOP wants to form a guide which will emulate the approach taken for 'Eco-friendly' congregations which uses bronze, silver and gold levels. This approach takes into account the capacity of the individuals within the community and the members of the congregation to respond to the identified needs.

As part of a pilot, FiOP would like to visit different congregations or hold seminars to share ideas so that people with dementia can remain within the church community enjoying the friendship, routines and rituals which mean so much to them.

In collaboration with Methodist Homes, FiOP will be holding a conference on 23 November 2016 to discuss these elements. The keynote speaker will be Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay. For further information contact Maureen O'Neill, Director, Faith in Older People, email: [director@fiop.org.uk](mailto:director@fiop.org.uk)



# DUNBAR UNITED

by Andrew Letby

The Methodist Chapel in Dunbar has for more than 250 years clung on to its position down by the harbour. Throughout its history it has offered a faithful witness and distinctive worship stretching back to visits by founding Fathers, John and Charles Wesley. Always small in number, the congregation has nonetheless a proud heritage and a significant role in civic life. Not far away, sitting proudly at the end of the High Street, St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal Church, played a different role in the town. Over the years the two have gingerly eyed one another up and wondered...

In recent years that wondering has become a process of getting to know one another. Monthly, midweek shared services of Holy Communion brought people together in fellowship. These services were followed by lunch together and conversation led to friendship and always the question, 'can we do more together?'. Plans for renovation at St Anne's led to an agreement that services would be held in the Methodist building while work was done.

Both congregations felt God nudging them to do more. A monthly joint service alternating between St. Anne's and the Methodist Church provided the context for a special act of worship on Advent Sunday 2015 to be led by the Methodist Superintendent and the Bishop of Edinburgh. This was to be the start of a journey of discovery and friendship, expected to take many months if not years. In the weeks leading up the service the Methodist Church Council made in the momentous to join with St Anne's every Sunday morning.

The Rector Andrew Bain and local Methodist Minister Deacon Sue Langdale visited members of the

congregations and heard a desire to work more closely together. So by the time Advent Sunday arrived, St. Anne's Vestry had agreed a Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and Commitment.

This declaration is recognised as a form of ecumenical partnership and it seems to suit the context in Dunbar very well. No-one wanted to lose the distinctive Methodist heritage of the town but demographics and economics were dictating that something must be done. There is still a journey to be made, for both congregations, as we learn to appreciate and embrace one another's traditions. Sunday morning worship is vibrant and care is taken to honour the preferences and understandings of all. The occasional use of Methodist liturgies, regular preaching by ordained and lay Methodists are signs of the on-going life of Methodism in the town. The Methodist folk have also gifted copies of the new Methodist hymn book, *Singing the Faith*. This highly acclaimed collection of hymns is rooted in one tradition but appeals across traditions and speaks to the contemporary world with its very Wesleyan emphasis on social and scriptural holiness.

John Wesley, the founding father of Methodism, was a regular visitor to Dunbar and he preached in the Methodist building 21 times. He and his hymn-writing brother Charles are named as trustees on the original property deed. Both were Church of England clergymen whose desire was reform not schism. They may well be smiling down on Dunbar as their successors join with folk in the Scottish Episcopal Church, valuing their place in the worldwide Anglican Communion, and seek to be relevant and prophetic in the local context.

*Andrew Letby is the Superintendent Minister of the Edinburgh and Forth Methodist Circuit*

Andrew Bain adds:

*The coming together of our two churches is a tremendous act of faith in a shared future and in what the church can contribute to the Christian witness in Dunbar. With the town's expanding population helping to renew the life of many local organisations and a burgeoning social and cultural life, we can play an important part in this regeneration. St Anne's is seeking to make its own distinctive contribution, now greatly enriched by the heritage of our Methodist friends.*

*With an ambitious programme of building renewal now under way, we're aiming to have our church, with its prominent High Street site, open daily for prayer and community activities. Martin Luther King, as he passed churches in the Deep South, often asked the question: "What kind of God is worshipped here". We hope to use the presence of the building to share at least something of what we value and believe in. Our UN Peace Pole with its message of "May Peace Prevail on Earth", dedicated by the Bishop in 2015, with local schoolchildren reading poems for peace they had written themselves, invites people to offer a prayer for peace in their own way, simply as they pass by.*

*The renewed St Anne's building, along with the Wesleys' chapel, barely a hundred yards away, (where much valued youth work has been ongoing for many years) is a visible offering which our new Methodist/Episcopal family can make to the life of our town.*

*All of this is to help us share a life-giving message summed up in John Wesley's final words: "Best of all, God is with us." At the heart of the High Street in a busy Scottish town, we hope people will know, as Martin Luther King questioned, that this is the kind of God we believe in.*



# THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE- LONG LEARNING

by Elizabeth White



Arriving at a job interview with a box of toys might not be the usual way to go about business but 'use what enlivens and supports the process', I said to myself, so out came an oversized spider, a large dice, a pack of mini cards, some building blocks, a tiny toolkit, and a small furry lion.

'What do you see as the priorities of the Adventures in Faith Coordinator role in the Diocese over the next year', I was asked.

Well, I said, perhaps 'Adventures in Faith' is like a web or a hub, a network for collecting and disseminating information about learning opportunities and discipleship, the second mark of the diocesan mission strategy.

So ... at present, this hub has five priorities:

1. The dice represents Area Councils, very different facets of the diocese at local level. As Adventures in Faith coordinator I hope to visit Area Councils to hear ideas for events, priorities for learning and to discuss what might work best in each area. Adventures in Faith serves from Falkirk to Eyemouth, Musselburgh to Hawick and everywhere in between.

2. More faces of learning in the Newsletter, represented by cards. Many things to learn about Jesus and the King, perhaps we have Questions; what is stirring in our hearts as well as our minds; how do we live and grow in our experience of the 'clubs' of church, community, the world; how do we resource ourselves spiritually at the coalface of our working lives, the 'spade' of vocation in the widest sense. Adventures in Faith initiates two or three events per term and gathers additional adverts for the quarterly newsletter. Adventures in Faith needs you to send in your learning opportunities, and if you have an idea but need help to make it happen, do make contact.

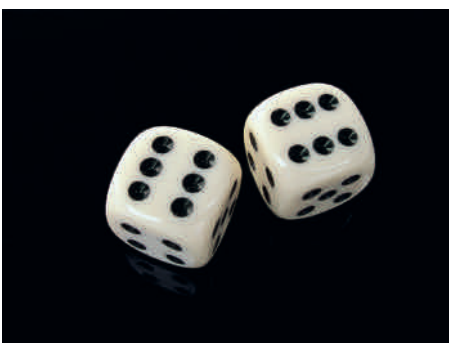
3. The next priority is to build a database. Could you offer teaching or facilitation on a particular topic? Or help practically with events? Do you offer spiritual direction or pastoral supervision? Could you be an information champion for your Area or Charge distributing newsletters and promoting events? These are the building blocks which make it all happen.

4. Within the next year it is hoped that a 'toolkit' of learning modules - open to all - will be available via The Scottish Episcopal Institute covering areas such as worship, prayer and pastoral work. Adventures in Faith will seek to be a hub of information about these courses.

5. And Clergy, our courageous (as lions) leaders. How can Adventures in Faith support your discipleship programmes - the ones which already exist, and those yet to be brought to life? Can we advertise your events and teaching? Some of you have already indicated your priorities: more on mission, something for folk 'on the edge', and older people, overlaps with Continuing Ministerial Development, and social issues.

The five current Adventures in Faith priorities, and the God who weaves amongst it all. As the image of a 'web' settled at the end of the interview, we were excited by the possibilities of growing this network, attentive to where God is drawing attention as we learn and create together.

I may have already met or spoken with some of you via my Administrative role at the diocese - I switch hats, currently for six hours per week, with room to grow. As I begin my new venture with 'Adventures in Faith' do drop by the office for a chat, ring my work mobile 07398 954 011 or send me an email on [adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org)



# REVIEWS

## **This Changes Everything** by Naomi Klein ISBN 978-0-241-9618-2

by Bob Gould



As the recommendation on the cover says, 'Naomi Klein applies her fine, fierce and meticulous mind to the greatest, most urgent questions of our times'. The book is mainly about global warming and climate change, and another recommendation calls it, 'the most momentous and contentious environmental book since [Rachel Carson's] *Silent Spring*'. It is certainly much longer. At 566 pages of closely packed 10 point type it is not something to be taken up lightly.

The main problem about writing on global warming is that the book shouldn't be needed at all. The facts are known – the root cause of global warming, the increase of gases in the atmosphere more complex than oxygen and nitrogen, was formulated in 1896 – and arguments that it is not occurring make about as much sense as claiming that the earth is flat.

The difficulty, of course, is that no one makes money from persuading people avoid sailing over the edge of the earth and falling on to one of the supporting turtles, while far too much of the world economy depends on persuading people to do things which increase the concentration of those rogue gases in our atmosphere.

A difficulty with this book is that it covers such a wide variety of issues that it is not easy to digest. Oddly, nothing is said about the actual mechanism by which gases like carbon dioxide cause the temperature to rise, but almost every other related field is mentioned.

Clearly the main issue covered is the huge involvement of a wide variety of business in the emission of greenhouse gases. This includes "the usual suspects" of heavy industry, mining and transportation, but also identifies many issues to do with the expropriation of the lands of indigenous people.

I read this book with a group over the course of Lent. The huge amount of detail was unhelpful for this purpose. Most of us agreed that you can get by with just reading the first sentence in every paragraph, as the author gives so many arguments to strengthen a case she has clearly already won. One participant mischievously suggested that a tally should have been included of the contribution to global warming made by the author's innumerable trips to conferences all over the world! On the other hand, the sheer amount of data, well attributed, makes this a useful reference work.

One can only hope that it will make some contribution to the struggle to save us from a fate no less catastrophic than falling off the edge of a flat earth!

## **Life's Great Questions**

by Jean Vanier

9780281075959 £9.99

"What is the nature of reality?" "How can we love?" "What are we living for?" – Just three of the questions the world-famous philosopher and humanitarian, Jean Vanier, considers in this major new work. With the wisdom and experience which a nonagenarian might be expected to have amassed, Vanier is thoughtful and searching in his response as, through the text, he leads us to a fuller understanding of the questions themselves, encouraging us to look to our own faith and spirituality as, with the passing years, we each grow into the issues raised. Though it does not come with 'study questions', this would make an ideal book to read in a group.

## **Worm Loves Worm** by J. J. Austrian

9780062386335 £12.99



"You are cordially invited to celebrate the wedding of a worm... and a worm," so reads the invitation on the cover of this delightfully illustrated story of two worms in love. Their friends want to be involved – some will be 'bride's bees' and one the 'best beetle' – but they want to know, "Which one of you is the bride?" "I can be the bride," says worm. "I can, too," says worm. Simply told, this heart-warming tale avoids being sentimental to brilliantly explore the idea of love between two beings, regardless of gender – or species! Highly recommended – not just for children!

*These reviews from the Cornerstone Bookshop, with thanks to St John's Cornerstone magazine.*



## THE ST CUTHBERT AWARD

On Sunday, 13 March 2016, at St Ninian's, Comely Bank, those who have given valuable service were rewarded with a new honour by Bishop John. The new St Cuthbert Award went to:

- Carol Bull, for her long and loyal service as People's Warden;
- Sheila Donaldson, for her long and loyal service to St Ninian's and the Edinburgh Diocesan Synod as Lay Representative; and,
- Arthur Hazel, for his long and loyal service as an Altar Server and Honorary Treasurer.



Left to right: Sheila Donaldson, Arthur Hazel and Carol Bull

As reported in The Edge, Bishop John has been considering how best to honour those who have given long and devoted service to their church community and/or to the diocese, and as a result, he has now created the St Cuthbert Award.

St Cuthbert was a saint of the early Northumbrian church in the Celtic tradition. He was a monk, bishop and hermit, associated with the monasteries of Melrose and Lindisfarne. His story is one of piety, diligence, and obedience – qualities which lie at the heart of so much that is given to Church life, year by year.

# GAZETTE

## Appointments

Rev Carrie Applegath, Rev Dr Paul Foster, Rev Marion Chatterley and Rev Fred Tomlinson installed as Hon. Canons on 24 March.

David Palmer and Helen Hood installed as Hon. Lay Canons at St Mary's Cathedral on 24 March.

Rev Frances Burberry installed as Synod Clerk on 24 March.

Rev David Paton-Williams instituted as Rector of St Columba's-by-the-Castle, Edinburgh on 25 April.

Rev Ruth Innes installed as Rector of St Fillan's, Buckstone, Edinburgh on 2 June.

Rev Christine Barclay, Rector of Bathgate and Linlithgow, to be Mothers' Union Chaplain in the Diocese.

## Retirements

Rev Tony Bryer, City Centre Workplace Chaplain, Edinburgh, retires 30 June 2016.

Rev Anna Garvie retires as NHS Chaplain June 2016.

Rev Maurice Houston to retire as rector of St Cuthbert's, Colinton August 2016.

Rev Deryck Collingwood to retire as rector of St Mary's Dalmahoy September 2016.

## Deaths

Rev David Kaines Maybury on 28 May 2016, retired priest, formerly at St James Leith and St John's Jedburgh.



Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) spend three months living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

*"Wearing our distinctive vests, you will accompany locals and report human rights abuses, help protect communities and keep international agencies up to date with the situation on the ground."*

*"If you are a passionate individual dedicated to human rights, we are looking for you."*

Visit their website for further details: [www.eappi.org](http://www.eappi.org)

Ecumenical Accompaniment in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is one of the charities supported this year by the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

## EDINBURGH CHURCHES FOR SANCTUARY

Edinburgh Churches for Sanctuary is a network of churches who are working together to welcome and support those who have arrived in the city seeking sanctuary from the crisis in Syria. As families and individuals build new lives in Edinburgh, this welcome of community can show the love and spirit of God's kingdom in a very practical way, helping through our own networks and through agencies such as Citizens Advice and other local charities.

If your church would like to get involved, please email [Edinburghchurchesforsanctuary@yahoo.com](mailto:Edinburghchurchesforsanctuary@yahoo.com)

## GLEN2016 ALMOST HERE!



**Out of This World - Living the Christian Life** 24 - 30 July at Glenalmond College, Perthshire

The annual Youth Week offers teenagers from all over the Scottish Episcopal Church a unique opportunity to get together for full-on fun and fellowship. More information: [youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:youthandchildren@dioceseofedinburgh.org) or [www.facebook.com/secpyc](http://www.facebook.com/secpyc)



5-28 August St John's Church, Edinburgh

The Just Festival aims to challenge perceptions, celebrate difference and promote respectful dialogue. The conversations, talks, exhibitions and performances which constitute the Festival's annual programme are designed to engage with topical local, national and international questions of social justice, equality and identity.

In 2016, the Festival will be held under the theme of 'From the Edge'. We want to challenge our audiences to engage with the experiences and ideas of those people who are commonly perceived to sit at the edge of our communities and societies; those who find themselves socially or politically marginalised, or perhaps the boundary-pushers at the very edge of their disciplines, challenging the way we think about science, society, faith and the arts.

For the full programme visit St John's Church or [www.just-festival.org](http://www.just-festival.org)



## MEET THE ...

Are you an artist or a craftsperson? Retired engineer Arthur Williams (St Mark's, Portobello) is a skilled carver and turner of wood and a model maker. The next article in the 'Meet the...' series features Arthur and other people in the diocese who carve, draw, paint, weave, embroider or do any kind of artistic or craft work. Please contact David Warnes on [warnesdavid@googlemail.com](mailto:warnesdavid@googlemail.com) if you yourself or anyone in your congregation might feature in the article. We want to meet you!

## TEA AND CAKE!

The Adventures in Faith project wants to strengthen connections with Lay Reps, Peoples' Wardens and anyone who would like to champion adult learning within your own church. If this is you, come along to a short presentation about mission and learning in the Diocese. It is also a chance to share your ideas and meet others.

Tea and cake in the Diocesan Office  
Thursday 28 July 3 - 4.30pm  
or Thursday 4 August 7.30 - 9pm  
Tel: 0131 346 9081

Many thanks to all who have 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](mailto:editor@edinburghdiocese.org.uk)

The deadline for the next issue is 27 July 2016.