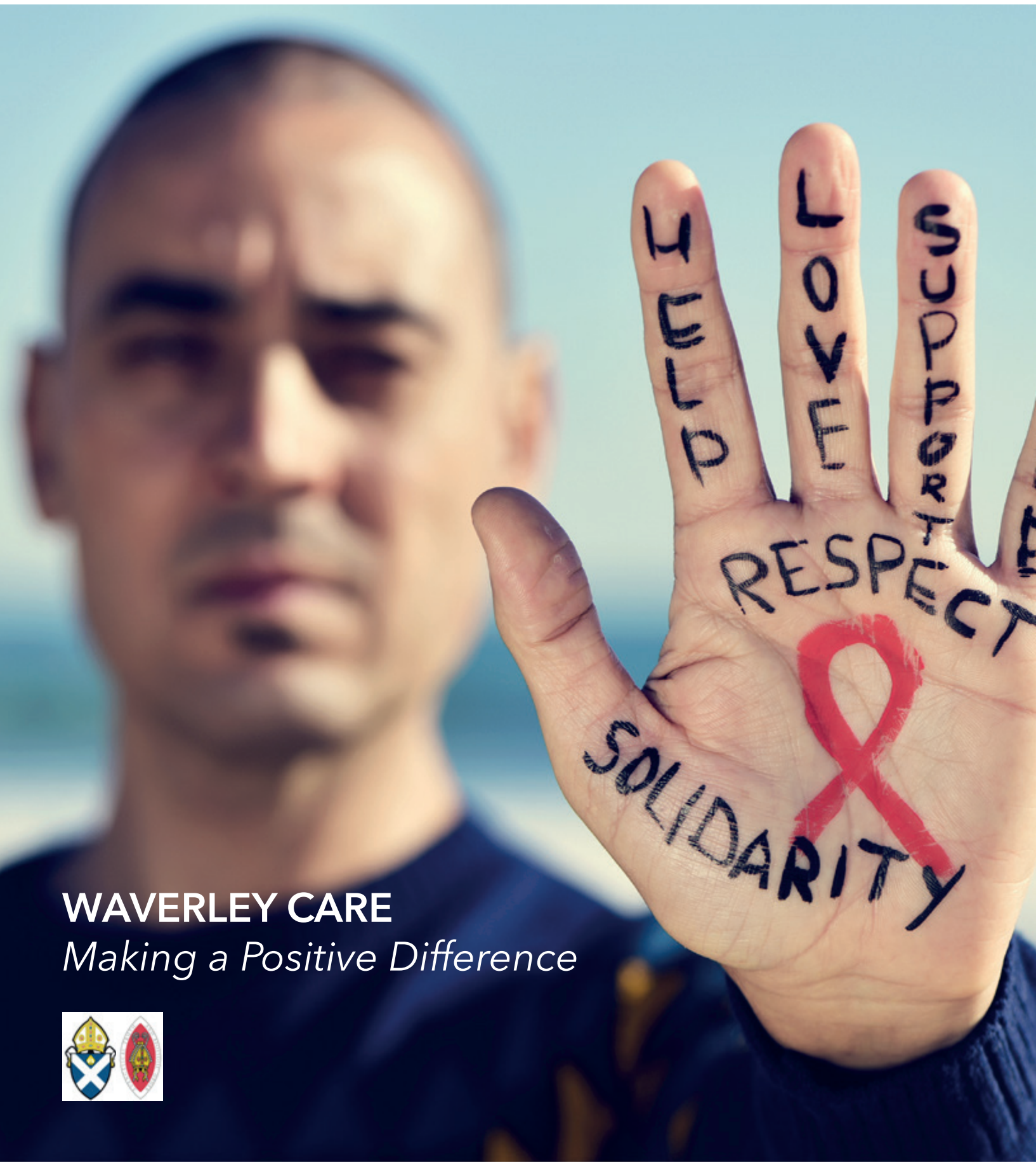


the **EDGE**

People, Places, Theology
Spring issue 2017

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



WAVERLEY CARE
Making a Positive Difference



Vol 21: 3

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WHAT IS TRUTH?

Rt Rev John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh

'I came... to testify to the truth,' said Jesus. 'What is truth?' replied Pontius Pilate (John 18.37f). I wonder what he meant. Was he unfamiliar with the concept of truth or was he making a philosophical point?

For truth is a notoriously difficult thing to pin down. Our world is, as the poet Louis MacNeice put it in his poem, *Snow*, 'incorrigibly plural'. People perceive the truth from diverse perspectives and they filter it through their own experience and prejudices. Only God can ever see things whole. It is not surprising then that different people interpret complex political, economic and religious matters in different ways.

Whilst it is one thing to acknowledge that truth as we perceive it is provisional and incomplete, it is quite another to be casual about truth and to treat it as if it does not matter. This is why I find recent developments alarming. To say that we live in a 'post-truth' era seems to me to excuse the telling of lies and to degrade the quality of public discourse.

Yes, some things do come down to a matter of opinion. But political debate should at least begin with the consensus that truth matters. If our conversation is to mean anything, and I include faith conversations in this, we surely must be committed to searching out truth, however inconvenient, and never knowingly or negligently allowing others to be misled by what we say.

There is an innkeeper in Greek mythology called Procrustes. He was eager to ensure that his guests fitted in. This meant stretching them to fit the spare bed if they were too short or, if they were too tall, chopping them down to size. Innkeepers are much kinder these days, but Procrustean patterns of thought persist in the world at large: the tendency to be suspicious of difference and to force people into ill-fitting moulds, the determination to shape reality in our own terms.

Nowadays, truth itself is often strapped to the Procrustean bed – stretched, maimed and mangled. We know enough about how the powerful can distort truth, how propaganda can corrupt our perceptions, to be very wary of the impact of so-called 'fake news' and 'alternative facts'. Procrustes' offspring are alive and well: they slice and hammer and warp the truth to impose their will on the world and the consequences can be just as devastating to the body politic as was their ancestor's hospitality to the bodies of his victims.

In the *Four Quartets*, T S Eliot suggests that 'human kind cannot bear very much reality.' It has always been the resort of unscrupulous leaders, political and religious, to play on this by promising people a version of reality (an unreality?) that conforms nicely to their prejudices. This is not the way of Christ.

As we approach Lent we remember that deep at the heart of our faith is a belief that God faces reality and pays a hard price for it. And whilst we might wish that Pilate's enquiry about truth had led him to acquit Jesus not condemn him, yet we know that our hope and joy springs from the inconvenient truth of Good Friday; that resurrection required crucifixion; that God's grace persists in the face of human failure and degradation.

Jesus testified to the truth, a truth that does two things fake news, alternative facts and comfortable lies can never do. It unites us in worship of the One in whom all creation, in its incorrigible variety, is given meaning and it sets us free from fear of difference so that we may learn to love (John 8.31f).



+John

A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

by Grant Sugden

The spring of 2014 felt like the beginning of a new chapter in the life of Waverley Care, Scotland's HIV and Hepatitis C charity. The first few months of the year saw the official re-opening of Milestone, our residential support centre, and the beginning of our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations.

Such landmarks encourage pause for reflection on everything that has been achieved over the past three

decades - and it is progress worth noting. Today in Scotland, a person living with HIV and on treatment can live a long and healthy life, and a person with Hepatitis C can be cured. This situation has come about as a result of tremendous advances in treatment. However, while progress has been made, the need for services to support those living with these conditions remains as great as ever.

HIV and Hepatitis C continue to disproportionately affect some of Scotland's most marginalised communities. Through our work across the country, we are helping to challenge stigma and tackle the inequalities that these groups face in order to reduce new HIV and Hepatitis C infections, encourage people to get tested and provide much needed support.

This work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our funders and supporters, and we are grateful we can count the Diocese of Edinburgh among them. In that same Spring of 2014, we were delighted to be chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the Bishop's Lent Appeal - itself a celebration of new beginnings. The appeal raised an impressive £5,700 to support our work - funding that was directed towards investing in the services on offer at the rejuvenated Milestone.

In the story of Waverley Care, Milestone holds a special status as the place where it all began. First opening its doors in 1991, less than two years after Waverley Care had come together in response to the HIV epidemic in Edinburgh, Milestone was the UK's first purpose-built AIDS hospice. However, thanks to our improved understanding of HIV and Hepatitis C, Milestone's work today is a far cry from this early remit.

Today, Milestone is a place where people living with HIV or Hepatitis C can focus on improving their physical and emotional health at times when they are struggling to manage.

Our staff are there to support residents to manage their condition well - whether it's keeping up-to-date with treatment, coping with side effects or following a healthier lifestyle. We also offer the opportunity for peer support where residents can share their experiences in a supportive environment. The centre can accommodate 10 service users, providing private rooms where they can spend time alongside shared



Images from Milestone House including volunteers at work in the garden

facilities where people can get together and welcome visitors. A major advantage of Milestone is its garden. Spending time outdoors has proven benefits for mental wellbeing and the volunteer-maintained garden provides that opportunity.

We want to create a fun, informal atmosphere, with a range of social activities for our residents and other service users to enjoy, and this is where the funding from the Lent Appeal was directed. We want to encourage service users to come together and share hobbies, whether it's knitting, a love of technology or music.

We have a weekly drop-in café which brings together service users from across the Lothians for a blether over a tea or coffee. We have also been able to recently re-launch the Tartan Ribbon Community Choir which is open to service users and members of the wider community alike and has performed at various Waverley Care events.

The value of these activities is in the opportunities they provide for service users to meet new people and share experiences with others who have an understanding of the impact of living with HIV or Hepatitis C.

This is particularly important given the stigma that continues to surround these conditions. As one service user put it, Waverley Care allows them to 'take off the mask I wear for the outside world and just be myself'.

Beyond the direct benefits to service users, Milestone helps to relieve pressure on NHS services at a time when budgets are being squeezed. Our staff and services provide the highest level of care and support that allows people to leave hospital early or, in many cases, avoid the need for admission to hospital in the first place. We believe very strongly in maintaining these standards and are proud that Milestone regularly achieves top marks from the Care Inspectorate for the quality of care and professionalism of our staff.

Everything that we do is about making a positive difference to the lives of people living with or affected by HIV or Hepatitis C and, with your support, we can continue to evolve our work to meet the changing needs of our service users.

Grant Sugden is Chief Executive of Waverley Care. Find out more about its work online at waverleycare.org



A Royal Visit

25 years ago, in October 1991, Milestone was officially opened by Diana, Princess of Wales. At that time, the HIV epidemic in Edinburgh was at its peak and Milestone fulfilled a need as the UK's first purpose-built AIDS Hospice. Diana was noted for her support for HIV awareness at the time, and her visit to Milestone was a very public indication of the significance of the new service. At a time when HIV stigma was widespread, the visit sent a very positive message on two fronts. To members of the public it highlighted that people living with HIV mattered, and that the virus was something to face not fear. Perhaps more importantly, for the service users who were resident at the time, her kindness demonstrated they were not alone or ignored.

25 years on from that visit, our understanding of HIV, and Hepatitis C, has moved on considerably. Milestone has moved with it and our focus is now very much on helping people living with HIV and Hepatitis C to live well and plan for the future.



Waverley Care

making a positive difference

John's Story*

I found out I was living with Hepatitis C about five years ago. I was a drug addict so the diagnosis wasn't a huge surprise but it was the jolt I needed to get my life together. I was eventually started on treatment but was really struggling with side effects – that's when I was introduced to Waverley Care.

Being at Milestone at that time was a massive boost. It took the pressure off travelling to hospital appointments and helped me to meet people who'd been through the treatment. It was a complete change to where I'd been.

When I got the news that I'd cleared Hep C, it felt like a fresh start. Now I'm able to focus on the important things – keeping healthy and being there for my family.

*Name changed to protect individual's anonymity

THE OLD EPISCOPALIAN BLUES

by David Warnes



When the possibility of a sabbatical arose, Jim Benton-Evans reflected on what the fruits of that experience might be. “Many clergy take the opportunity to write a book,” he says, “but I decided that there’s enough bad theology out there already. I pitched the idea of using the time to explore aspects of the music scene in the USA, and then recording an album.” The result, a set of eleven songs composed and performed by him and entitled *What is it That We Are Part Of, What is it That We Are*, is due out at roughly the same time as this issue of *The Edge*.

Jim, who is Rector of St Peter’s, Peebles and St Andrew’s, Innerleithen, recalls attending music festivals as a child in the early 1970s. “Wrapped in an Afghan rug and listening to Steeleye Span and Fairport Convention are among my earliest memories,” he explains. He had piano lessons as a boy and began writing songs with a friend in his teens, and he speaks of Martin

Carthy, the venerable doyen of the English folk scene, and Billy Bragg as important influences. He has a preference for “anything quirky, off-beat and a bit different.”

Music remained in the background until he moved to Scotland and encountered the thriving music scene in the Borders. He had recently taken up the ukulele, which he found ‘quite addictive’ and, once in Scotland, took the opportunity to play in pub sessions, finding that he made the fastest progress by working with other musicians. He now plays regularly as a member of the band, *Dismal Jibe*, and they recently headlined at Bannerman’s Bar in Edinburgh.

His sabbatical in 2016 took Jim to the USA, which he had not visited for thirty years. He found travelling alone for the first time in many years challenging in the way that a pilgrimage can be challenging but greatly enjoyed staying with friends from his youth and meeting a wide

range of people in and beyond the music scene in the American south. One highlight of his time in Richmond, Virginia, was attending sessions at Carytown Coffee, where he also performed. He is hoping to return to Richmond to attend the celebrated Folk Festival there.

Returning from his sabbatical to an inbox of 1,583 emails, only three of which required a response, he began crowdfunding online at gofundme.com/revjimsalbum to finance the recording of an album. The songs offer a very personal response to his travels and his spiritual and emotional journey. In October 2016 he gave the first performance of the set, at St Peter’s. The recording is by the Sound Café studio at Nine Mile Burn, with Ross Arthur as producer.

That there is an established recording studio at the foot of the Pentland Hills is further evidence of the liveliness of the music scene in Scotland. Among Jim’s contributions to this scene has been the start in 2015 of the St Andrew’s Sessions, monthly gigs at the Episcopal church in Innerleithen. The first artist to headline was Edinburgh guitar and banjo player Andy Paul and other performers have included Enne, a ukulele player and singer who performs Opera Reggae, the Mersey Belles and Louis Barabbas, composer of *Jocasta*, a musical take on the Oedipus myth.

Jim sees the St Andrew’s Sessions, the ukulele clubs that he runs at a local primary school and the after-school ukulele club in Innerleithen as part of a musical ministry. The Sessions draw people into church who might not be there on Sundays, and Jim’s solo gigs and outings with *Dismal Jibe* help him to engage with a wide range of people. He is very open to gig bookings, and charges a very modest fee. He can be contacted by email on jimbentonevans@gmail.com and his Facebook Page is [therealrevjim](https://www.facebook.com/therealrevjim).

And the Old Episcopalian Blues? That’s Track 3 on Jim’s new album.

MORE ADVENTURES IN FAITH

by Elizabeth White

On taking up the 'Adventures in Faith' role in May 2016 to support adult learning and discipleship, we held two summer open events with updates about developments and a space to listen to people from across the Diocese.

As we began those sessions, I invited those attending to choose an image from a variety of coloured postcards which spoke to them of their experience of adult learning within a faith context.

Here are a few similar images and my paraphrase of the descriptions: people gave for their card:



- *Different fruit needs different conditions to grow in, they need different kinds of storage, and fruit ripens at different times. So it is for us, in faith ripening.*



- *I'm at a point in my life where I have many options. It may seem like gridlock - but how do I choose well? To see my way through into all that God is calling me to be?*



- *Learning moves us from one place to another, the water keeps moving, and maybe God is like this bridge ... can we see the water flowing?*

I reflected afterwards on the theme of 'change' that was apparent in many of the comments in those open sessions, and this is something I continue to ponder in my own life and in relation to Adventures in Faith: how to engage people in real ongoing faith formation - 'transformational learning' - which gives knowledge, experience and confidence around how we live as God's people. This is the heart of mission. Mission is not something we do separately, it is our life in its everydayness, its pain and its glory. Mission is living out our own experience of God alongside those around us, so that they too can see and discover the presence of Christ for themselves.

Adventures in Faith seeks to support this (trans)formation by initiating three or four events per term, by supporting local church initiatives which already exist, and by responding to requests for help to 'make ideas happen'. If you are running learning events in your community and want to tell others we would love to help with publicity. Many of you will be familiar with the quarterly Adventures in Faith newsletter - a high percentage of events in the newsletter are sent to me by other people. We want to round up a broad sweep of what's on offer, but for this we are reliant on you sending news of what is happening in your area.

The original vision of Adventures in Faith was to discover and utilise the

gifts of those within the Diocese - clergy and lay - to help bring colour and vibrancy to faith development.

Do you have interests or expertise to offer? Events broadly cover the following three areas: Firstly the 'nuts and bolts' of faith - what we believe and why we believe it. We value our contact with Edinburgh University's Divinity School. Perhaps you also have knowledge you can share through a lecture or tutorial workshop? Secondly, we have a focus on social issues - social action and justice, family, work, health, relationships. Our recent morning on dementia received enthusiastic feedback. What could you add to this social aspect of our programme? And thirdly, spiritual practice - how we grow in prayer and awareness. Coming up in Lent is a course on mindfulness and faith led by two members of our Diocese. Are you passionate about a tradition of spirituality which you could share with others?

We continue to monitor how we make events as accessible as possible. We are currently piloting online learning supported by local learning groups and this may be one way to provide more opportunities across the geography of the Diocese. If you let us know there is interest we will take this forward. And we never want finance to be the only reason someone doesn't join an event, so bursaries are available.

When Kenneth Fleming was researching our diocesan Mission Enabler's role he asked a young girl during a visit to St David's if she knew what mission was. "Oh yes," she said, "it's like going on a great big adventure!"

Come and join our adventure in faith in this diocese - make contact, come to events, receive email news, and let us know if we can help in any way.

www.edinburgh.anglican.org/adventures-in-faith

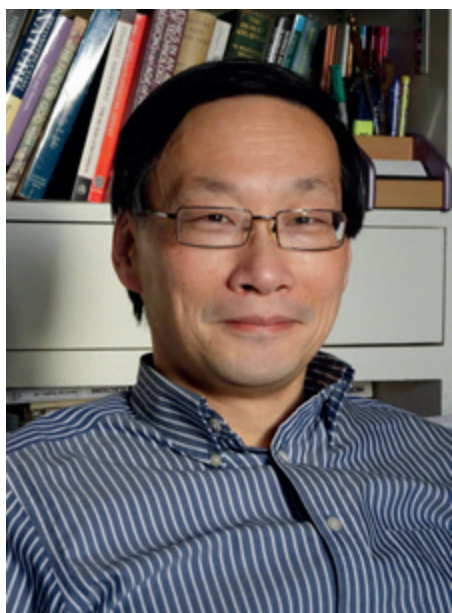
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MEET THE ... Scientists

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 working in science.

Type the phrase 'Science and Religion' into Google, and the third item that appears is a link to a Wikipedia article accompanied by a photograph of Richard Dawkins. Yet the view that religion and science are necessarily in conflict has fallen out of favour with the majority of historians of science, though the conflict thesis still has a strong presence in popular culture.



Professor Wilson Poon (St Peter's, Luton Place) suggests that even to speak of a 'dialogue' between science and religion is to buy into the conflict thesis – people on friendly terms have 'conversations'! Scientists are, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack of them, people of faith because their work is grounded in the belief that the universe is intelligible.

Wilson's religious journey began when he attended an Anglican school in Hong Kong. This led to baptism and confirmation in his late teens. During the time

when he read Natural Sciences at Cambridge, he was "a convinced 6-day young-earth creationist," partly because he thought that was how a believing scientist should remain true to the Bible. Involvement with the Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union sat, unusually, alongside regular attendance at Evensong in Peterhouse Chapel, an experience that helped to develop his sense of liturgy as the "heartbeat of faith". Many years later he was to serve on the Liturgy Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

While he was a graduate student of physics at the Cavendish Laboratory, he came to understand that the Christian Gospel was about the redemption of the whole of creation and that a vocation in science did not have to mean championing young earth creationism, which he has long since jettisoned. Early in his academic career at Edinburgh University, where he now occupies the distinguished Chair of Natural Philosophy, he became interested in protein crystallization. That led to an engagement with evolutionary biology and an increasingly deep appreciation of the Darwinian model, which, in turn, has borne fruit in a close engagement with theological issues. His reading of scripture is profound and enriching. He reminded me that, in Genesis 2:19-20, God asked man to name the animals. The description of nature based on rational understanding, and its enjoyment, are therefore part of the human vocation.

For Sheena McKendrick (St Mark's, Portobello, where she was until recently a member of Vestry), that engagement with the natural world



began when, as a four-year-old, she was given a dahlia as a present. "Watching it grow gave me great pleasure and aroused my curiosity", she explains. During her first-degree studies at Glasgow University she became fascinated by orchids, and a TV documentary on research into the re-introduction of rare British orchids at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew led her to study for a PhD at Cambridge University. Her research focused on the ecology of British orchids. "Orchid seeds are difficult to germinate because they have very limited food reserves", she says. "They are initially fed by mycorrhizal fungi. My research involved growing orchids from seed and testing the effects of nutrients, shade and competition on the seedlings to determine the best possible conditions for their establishment.

"I also studied the orchids in their natural habitats and did field trials at Wakehurst Place, a subsidiary of Kew."

Post-doctoral work at Sheffield University led to fieldwork in Britain and French Guiana investigating non-green plants dependent on mycorrhizal fungi throughout their life-cycles. Sheena also spent six months in Ecuador setting up an orchid propagation project. After a spell in secondary school teaching, Sheena studied for an MSc in Biodiversity and the Taxonomy of Plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh and enjoyed some part-time teaching at the Botanic whilst working as a Biology teacher in some local schools.

Sheena's fascination with the complexity of the natural world, and with the interdependence of organisms, including human beings, is infectious. "The more I know about science," she says "the more amazed I am about the complexity and mystery of reality". For her science and religious faith both involve stopping and looking. She draws a parallel between the way in which many people take plants for granted, unaware that they are dependent on them as absorbers of carbon dioxide and emitters of oxygen, and the way in which many people are not aware that there is a loving Creator God. "Life is self-sustaining," she says, "but God works through us as the force of love and can dance in us through the joy of his creation."

Wilson Poon adds that God's self-emptying creativity is such that the universe is one in which the scientific enterprise of seeking naturalistic explanations can thrive. The presence of God is no more self-evident in creation than it is in a dying rabbi hanging on a Roman gibbet; yet, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, it is precisely in that suffering presence that God helps us.

John Starr (Reader at St Columba's, Bathgate and St Peter's, Linlithgow) sees that belief as giving "a sense of proportion to research". He is Director of the Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Research Centre and Professor of Health & Ageing at the University of Edinburgh. "The research I do is tethered to the centering of the divine presence" he



says. "I am not at the centre of it. I do not do it for myself."

A traditional religious upbringing led to confirmation – "a major step and a personal commitment" – and, like Wilson, he joined the Christian Union at Cambridge. Clinical studies in Medicine in London and the belief that it was right to attend his local parish church found him spending Sunday mornings at St Giles, Camberwell, an Anglo-Catholic church with a strong sense of mission, and evenings at All Souls, Langham Place benefiting from the preaching of John Stott. By the end of a spell as a registrar in Wolverhampton he had become interested in dementia. A one-year research fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at Edinburgh led to a career in medical research, which he sees as a missional activity.

The good news of the Kingdom we are called to proclaim (the first of the 'Five Marks of Mission') includes healing and liberation. Medical research can literally give sight to the blind and metaphorically set people free from the prison of illness. He also sees it as a way of responding to human need by loving service, the third Mark of Mission. By addressing health inequalities, it can transform unjust structures (the fourth Mark). On the fifth Mark (Safeguarding the integrity of creation), he points out that illness disrupts the integrity of creation. "Research into ageing is about maintaining or restoring the integrity of systems which enable us to function." Understanding the pathways which lead to dementia

can open up the possibility of preventing it. The search for effective treatments offers the hope of ameliorating or reversing its impact and research into ways of caring for patients makes it possible to support them to live well.

The second Mark of Mission is to teach, baptise and nurture new believers. The Scientists in Congregations Scotland project, funded by the Templeton Foundation, seeks to promote 'a sustained, rich, generative engagement between science and faith'. Christ Church, Morningside and St Peter's, Lutton Place are both committed to the project. At St Peter's, Wilson Poon has worked with the Rector and members of the congregation to devise collects and other worship materials that celebrate the insights of science and the achievements of scientists. The aim is to embed science back into congregational life.

The most creative research at the frontier more often than not involves crossing the artificial boundaries between disciplines. Wilson sees science as a seamless garment. He told me that his dream epitaph was "It has proved impossible to box this man in – until now." We are fortunate to have in our congregations scientists such as Sheena, Wilson and John who encourage us not to see science and religion as separate boxes.

arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/scientistsincongregationsscotland

Green award for Rosslyn Chapel

Rosslyn Chapel struck gold in the Green Tourism Business Scheme at the end of last year, the only attraction in Midlothian to reach the gold level of award. The Green Tourism Business Scheme is the leading sustainable tourism certification scheme in Britain and those opting to join are assessed by a qualified grading advisor against a rigorous set of criteria, covering a range of areas, including energy and water efficiency, waste management, biodiversity and more.

The gold award comes at the end of a 'winning year' for Rosslyn Chapel, which was named 'best visitor attraction' in the national finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards in March and won a prestigious Sandford Award for its education work. The 15th century Chapel was also confirmed as a 5-star historic attraction by VisitScotland.

Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, says, "Sustainability sits at the heart of Rosslyn Chapel Trust's work in looking after the Chapel for future generations to enjoy, so we are all delighted to receive this prestigious gold award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Our winning year is great recognition for all the members of our team."

Rosslyn Chapel was originally known as the Collegiate Church of St Matthew, and is still a working church, part of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Edinburgh. St Matthew's services are held on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and Evening Services are held, between April and October, at 5.15pm. Visitors are always welcome to attend. Short prayer services, lasting around 10 minutes, are held throughout the year at 12noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Chapel.

You can visit the congregation's website at www.stmatthews-rosslynchapel.org.uk.

New Dean for Edinburgh



Rev Canon Frances Burberry is the new Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh, taking over from the Rev Susan Macdonald who stepped down from the role at the end of last year. A Dean of a Diocese is a priest who assists the Bishop in certain administrative functions of the Diocese, in conjunction with their other responsibilities. Frances will continue as Rector of St Ninian's, Comely Bank in Edinburgh but will relinquish her role as Synod Clerk to the diocese, to which she was elected in 2016.

The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, speaking about the appointment, says, "The role of Dean is a challenging one. I believe that Frances has gifts and experience that will be of great service to our diocese. Last year her clergy colleagues showed their confidence in her by electing her Synod Clerk.

She now moves from being the senior elected priest in the diocese to being the senior appointed priest. She will continue to be the Rector of a busy congregation whilst also becoming a key member of our diocesan leadership team."

Commenting on her appointment, Frances Burberry says, "It's an enormous honour to have been invited by Bishop John to be Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh. I've been truly humbled by the warmth of support and encouragement I've received during my time as Synod Clerk and by the confidence and trust that Bishop John and others have placed in me. I'm very much looking forward to working alongside Bishop John, and with people throughout the Diocese as we participate in God's mission and face future changes and challenges together, and to continuing in my role at St Ninian's Comely Bank."

Canon Burberry will be installed as Dean at a ceremony at 3.30pm on Sunday 5 March at St Mary's Cathedral at Choral Evensong.

Crowdfunding for Emmaus House

Emmaus House in Edinburgh describes itself as 'home to an inclusive Christian community', and it is now 'crowdfunding' to support its work. Crowdfunding is a way of raising finance by asking a large number of people each for a small amount of money and often done via online resources. The team at Emmaus House, including chaplain Rev Andrew Bain, launched the new appeal in February which aims to raise £10000 in 2017 for its work, which includes one-to-one counselling for people who have mental health problems and those who are on the margins of society. Emmaus House also welcomes people on retreat. It is a charity in Scotland (SC042957).

www.emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/emmaus-house-edinburgh-sc042957-2017-appeal

Communications & cake

Magazine editors and website managers from a range of churches across the diocese got together on Saturday 21 January to share experiences, issues and skills and discover new possibilities at a very worthwhile training day held at St Mark's, Portobello, and facilitated by Siân Harris (Diocesan Communications Coordinator), Annie Naish (Bishop's Enabler of Mission) and Sophia Marriage (Convenor of the Information and Communications Committee). Toblerone (old-style) was used as a visual and digestible aid.



A further training day is planned for later in the year and will be focused on WordPress, the software which is used for many of our websites. If the high quality of the content, and the catering by Harvest Tree Patisserie at the January meeting is anything to go by, this should be an unmissable event.



Left to right, seated: Sophia Marriage, Fiona Harris, Ruth Innes, Siân Harris, Stuart Campbell, Susan Clark. Left to right, standing: Janet McKinnell, Annie Naish, Francis and Diana Roberts and Rosemary Kaye.

Mapping Sanctuary

At the end of last year, in November, more than 80 people gathered at the City Chambers on the Royal Mile for a 'Mapping Sanctuary in Edinburgh' workshop. Hosted by City of Sanctuary Edinburgh, and with funding from Edinburgh City Council, the aim was to provide an opportunity to map out what is currently available in order to help welcome refugees and asylum seekers in Edinburgh. Maureen Child from Edinburgh City Council opened the workshop by explaining that this work is all the more pressing given that Edinburgh is expected to receive a further 100 Syrian refugees in the next four years, including unaccompanied minors, and those affected by the Calais camp closure.

The City for Sanctuary initiative originated in Sheffield and has since grown to over 70 groups across the UK. The main aim of all the groups, including Edinburgh, is to map out the city so as to create a coordinated response.

The workshop ended with City of Sanctuary expressing thanks to those attending the workshop and explaining that the next step is to construct a database which relevant groups can access.

Find out more at: www.edinburgh.cityofsanctuary.org

New Year Honours

Congratulations to members of Edinburgh Diocese who have received MBEs in this year's New Year's Honours list. Andrew Kerr, a long-standing active member of Old St Paul's, was awarded his for services to the arts and conservation, and Reverend Dr Harriet Harris, Chaplain at the University of Edinburgh, received hers for services to multi-faith education and community cohesion.

Andrew was secretary of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society for 35 years, which led to many other positions in the arts, at local and national level. He has also been deeply involved in the conservation of historic buildings.

Harriet Harris was one of the team behind last year's A Light for Aleppo initiative, raising awareness around the world for the plight of those in Aleppo, as well as much needed funds for the organisations working on the ground. She says, "When I got an envelope through the post from the Cabinet Office, with 'On her Majesty's Service' printed along the top, I thought, 'Oh my word, what have I done now?' I had to read the letter through a few times! The letter came a few days after the big 'A Light for Aleppo' lightings in November, when communities lit up the coastline of the Firth of Forth. Many Scottish islands, and people from 19 countries across the world joined in. Bethlehem, and Aleppo itself, joined in that day."



Days for Girls

by Liza Coates



Many girls in developing countries are unable to attend school on a regular basis because they do not have effective sanitary protection during menstruation. They are obliged to remain at home and out of sight. The Days for Girls project has been brought to Scotland to help them solve this problem. This is a worldwide practical project that brings volunteers together to make washable, easy-to-use feminine hygiene kits for girls where needed.

Last December Issy Sanderson led a workshop in Edinburgh at St Columba's by the Castle introducing participants to the washable kits that can be made for schoolgirls to use. With three sewing machines a dozen people spent the day marking out material, cutting, pinning, stitching,

ironing, and finishing. We completed five kits in all that day; with practice we could do more. But the idea is to sow seeds.

Issy's method is to send the kits out to a country where they are needed, with a personal contact who can pass on the details of how they are made. The materials that are used are all available in local markets; with ingenuity even the waterproof material can be found. The schoolgirls get the kits, but their mothers and aunties get the idea and make more kits for themselves and their friends. As an artist who has spent many years working in Africa, Issy has a delight in the colourful African fabrics. She brought us bright materials to work with, and encouraged us to bring more. The instructions were that we could bring abstract patterns or flower designs, but no insects, animals or cartoon faces of people. They would not be acceptable culturally.

Issy left us the templates and instructions to run another workshop and carry on the production of kits. We will welcome more men and women to help at a workshop on 4 March in St Columba's by the Castle. If anyone is going to a country in the developing world where the kits and the idea might be spread please get in touch with me at lizfuseroberts@gmail.com.

Stop Press: Child Refugees

A petition titled, Do not abandon the Dubs Scheme for refugee children, has been accepted by the UK Government on their website. It was lodged by Melrose Rector, Rev Philip Blackledge. As we went to press, the petition had received more than 12,000 signatures in just a few days. Visit <http://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/183921> for full details.

The request reads: "On 8th February, the government ended its commitment to taking in unaccompanied child refugees, stating that we do not have the capacity for the 3,000 refugee children we promised to take. This petition is to request a debate of that important issue."

The UK Government responds to all petitions that get more than 10,000 signatures; at 100,000 signatures, a petition will be considered for debate in Parliament at Westminster.



Bishop's Lent Appeal 2017

Thank you to all those who suggested possible beneficiaries for the Appeal. The chosen charities for the Lent Appeal 2017 are St John and The City Defibrillator Project and Collective Calling.

The Edinburgh Committee of St John Scotland decided in 2015 to lend their support to the provision of public access defibrillators throughout the City of Edinburgh, to aid the first response to its citizens and visitors. They aim to do this by choosing strategic sites which take account of the volume of people in the immediate vicinity of the defibrillator and also to aim to ensure round-the-clock availability. Public access defibrillators dramatically improve the chances for cardiac arrest survival.

Collective Calling is an international humanitarian Spanish-registered NGO. It is now working on support initiatives for refugee and displaced persons, the homeless and socially vulnerable and poor. These initiatives are being focused in Spain, Kenya, Serbia and Greece. Visit: www.collectivecalling.org

More details will be provided at Diocesan Synod in March.



St John
Scotland

TURNING UP THE HEAT

by Jean Carletta

'HeatHack' was a Scientists in Congregations Scotland (SiCS) project that tried to bridge the imaginary divide between faith and science through using technology, physics, and engineering to try to understand where all the heat goes in our buildings.

We've designed and built equipment, developed building models, held learning events with the University of Edinburgh, and done at least *something* in around ten churches. We've been at events to encourage people to understand how interesting and important churches are - both the buildings and what happens in them! The John Templeton Foundation, which funds SiCS, wants all projects to have a lasting legacy. One year on from our official project end, it's time to look back on what we've done, to prepare ourselves for what's to come. So, this is my 'examen' on HeatHack.

We now have a 'box of tools' for exploring heat loss and checking for possible improvements in heating infrastructure and operation. They're fiddly, and our methods for interpreting measurements still need improvement - but they work. It brings me joy to realise that we have been of at least some practical service already, even if it's only to help people know when to start the heating and if there's something fundamentally wrong that's keeping the warmth in the wrong places.

It's also been wonderful to see what happens when a group works together to design something they need. It's good, clean fun, and who would have thought that a simple balloon kite would reveal so much about rose vents, air movement, and draughts? The best part is, of course, the people. Right at the beginning, our stellar volunteer



software developer, Tim Davis, suddenly dropped from the sky; we couldn't have done anything without him. And whether it's an unexpected soldering lesson from experts at Selkirk Parish Church, tips from people at the Science Festival, or students and property committees working together to understand a building, it's been a pleasure to witness their passion, curiosity, and true generosity.

I was worried that at this stage I'd feel guilty about distorting Templeton's mission. We were the only project that, instead of exploring the relationship between faith and science, simply threw a bunch of people in a room and assumed conversations would happen. And they did. Students in particular can ask some tough questions. After a 45-minute grilling, one told me that churches aren't at all like she'd been expecting! One of our big surprises was how boiler rooms pull confidences from the most unexpected people, myself included; it must be something about the warmth and privacy.

That's not to say that I have nothing on my conscience. As the funny kind of scientist who understands how people use technical systems, I was learning most of the physics and electronics from the other volunteers as I went along, and I didn't always buy the right bits and pieces. They may be cheap, but it still adds up. I have also been overambitious on occasion in wanting to meet the needs and desires of all of the different HeatHack volunteers and



churches requesting services. This has meant that on different days we can look like amateur energy efficiency consultants, a property management self-help group, a technology startup, a student-learning experience, and an electronics club. It's not always clear what we are, and that lack of clarity can make us disappoint people.

I've learned a great deal during the course of the project, and I am truly grateful to the John Templeton Foundation and our two host congregations, Christ Church Morningside and the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, for taking a risk with us. We're mature enough to finish our experimental phase now; God grant us the courage to move on to the next one.

For more information, email info@heathack.org or visit www.heathack.org.

REVIEWS

The Little Book of Lent : Daily Wisdom from the World's Greatest Spiritual Teachers

by Arthur Howells (ed)

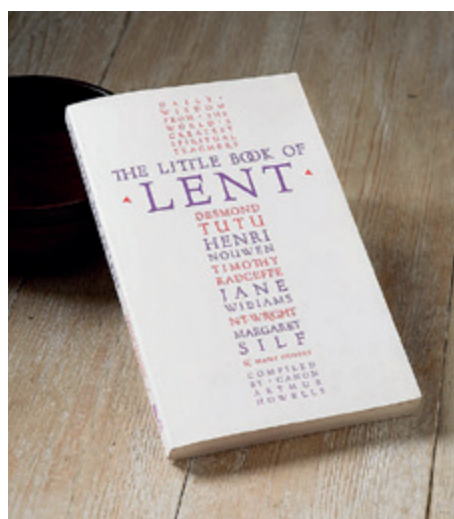
William Collins, 2014

the heart's time: a poem a day for Lent and Easter

by Janet Morley

SPCK, 2011

Reviewed by Ruth Innes



If you are looking for a book to read during Lent which will give you daily readings (including Sundays) with a verse of Scripture and a prayer, then look no further than *The Little Book of Lent*: it's a little gem. The collection has some super contemporary writers such as Desmond Tutu, Henri Nouwen, Timothy Radcliffe, Jane Williams, Margaret Silf and many others. There is also a short introduction to the authors if you are not familiar with them. You can even slip it in your pocket to read on the go but don't be fooled by the small size.

There are many nuggets of wisdom in this book and it can be read year after year. I have used it at Morning Prayer and found I went back to it in the evening again.

If poetry is your thing, and you love Janet Morley's prayers and writing, then this Lent book is not to be missed. She chooses a poem each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Saturday (not Sundays) from poets such as R S Thomas, Denise Levertov, Carol Ann Duffy, George Herbert, Margaret Atwood and others, past and present.

Each week she follows a Lenten theme: Expressing our longings; Struggle; Being where we are; Facing suffering and death; Altered perspectives; Holy Week; and Resurrection.

After the poems, which are not all religious, she explores what it means to her and how it fits with the theme. There are stories to delight and the meditations end with a question for the reader to ponder.

I am not a great poetry lover but found Janet's meditations really helped me understand them and see things in them which I would have glossed over. Poetry aficionados will no doubt find many familiar and some unknown poems to delight, and Janet Morley's writings are always worth while.



Beginnings

by Hannah Rarity

hannahrarity.bandcamp.com, £5.00

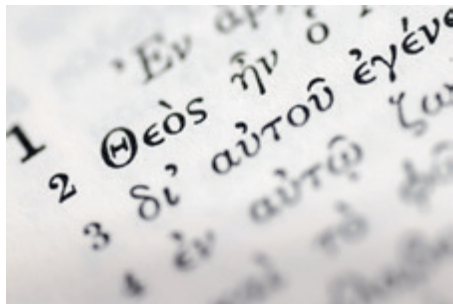
Reviewed by Darren McKinnon



This hauntingly lovely 6-track debut EP from Hannah Rarity is appropriately called *Beginnings*. Hannah graduated just last year from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with a first-class degree in Scottish Music and is surely destined for a fine career. Her spell-binding, pure voice matches the material well - a mix of traditional and contemporary songs, including two of her own compositions. The highlight of the EP for me is the stunning version of Andy M. Stewart's beautiful ballad, *Where Are You Tonight?*

Hannah is joined on the EP by other talented young graduates from the Royal Conservatoire: Conal McDonagh on whistle; Sally Simpson on fiddle and viola; and Innes White on guitar and keyboard. They are a really exciting group of traditional musicians. They don't get to play live together that often, but one of the last times was at St Mark's church in Portobello as part of the 2016 music series there. Both Sally (a local Portobello lass!) and Hannah will hopefully make another appearance at St Mark's this year.

Recently, Hannah has been touring with the well-known Irish-American folk band, Cherish the Ladies. You can keep up with her news on her website: www.hannahrarity.com.



NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

Learn New Testament Greek in a group of fellow learners, led by Professor John Starr, from May 2017. The sessions will be held in an Edinburgh venue in the evenings, the finer details to be negotiated once there is an idea of who wishes to participate.

The Common Awards-validated module is aimed at those with no prior knowledge of the language, and offers a grounding in New Testament Greek, a knowledge of the basic tools of translation, and the skill to engage in close reading of biblical text. The only cost would be the price of core text books. Any seeking to do this for credit will pay a fee of £70.

Further information from the Rev Dr Jenny Wright: curate@osp.org.uk

CHRISTIAN ETHICS COURSE

Interested in Christian Ethics? You can join a group of fellow learners for five Wednesday-evening sessions with the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), at the General Synod Office in Edinburgh, on 31 May, 7 June, 14 June, 21 June & 28 June, from 7pm to 9pm.

This Common Awards-validated module is aimed at those with no formal knowledge of the subject, but who want an introduction to the fundamentals of ethics in the Christian tradition.

The Level 4, ten-credit module, delivered under SEI's auspices, comprises five two-hour sessions, on the aforementioned Wednesday evenings, with the expectation of a further ninety hours of personal study and a formal assignment for those looking for credit.

The cost would be the price of core text book(s); and, for anyone seeking to do the module for credit, a fee of £100. Further information is available from the Rev Dr Michael Hull, Director of Studies at dos@scotland.anglican.org.

GAZETTE

Licencing

Rosemary Wilson licenced as Lay Reader at St Cuthbert's, Hawick

Jenny Paton-Williams licenced as Lay Reader at St Columba's-by-the-Castle, Edinburgh

Deaths

Rev Patrick Duncan died on 5 February 2017. He was Assistant Chaplain at Edinburgh Prison in 1998 and served as Interim Rector at St Peter's, Lutton Place, Edinburgh from 2000 to 2001 and retired from ministry in 2013.

Spring 2017 Synod

Saturday 11th March 2017 at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh



Set in the beautiful Perthshire countryside, Solas Festival creates a generous, hospitable space in Scotland where music and art can be performed and enjoyed by all.

23 - 25 June 2017

Early bird tickets on sale until 5 March. Tickets online and also available on the gate at the weekend. To find out more, and have a look at past lineups, visit www.solasfestival.co.uk





Advance Notice

Saturday 28 October,
St Mary's Cathedral

BEING RE-FORMED

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.

WATCH OUT for more details to follow.....but **SAVE THE DATE!**



'The Embrace of a Wounded World'

St Columba's by the Castle, Edinburgh, Saturday 20 May 10.30am-4pm

How can we live with, and make any difference, to situations of overwhelm and hopelessness? In this interactive day we will explore Jesus' compassion for the cultural and political woundedness in Roman Palestine. We will link the findings of research in trauma transformation with the healing attitudes, teaching and embodied practices of Jesus. The day will encourage participants to open to the Source of Compassion which holds and heals our own wounds, sustains hope, and which can embrace and bring healing to a suffering world.

£35/30 For online booking link please email adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org or phone 0131 346 9081

'More Than Meets the Eye: Symbol and Allegory in Western Art'

Lectures by Canon Anne Dyer

Royal Overseas League, Princes Street, Edinburgh

2 - 4pm Thursdays 25 May, 1, 15, 22 June 2017

£35 for all sessions or £10 per single session.

Full details and link to online booking via adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org or telephone 07398 954 011

'Into Silence'

Monthly group offering guided stillness and silent prayer, open to all

Fridays 1.30 - 3pm on 24 March, 21 April, 26 May, 23 June

Further details adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org or telephone 0131 346 9081

MEET THE ... WRITERS



Are you a published writer?

Jenny Robertson (above, a member of the congregation at St Martin of Tours, Edinburgh) has written over forty books for adults and children. She has a special interest in Russia and Poland and has written about mental health issues and the Holocaust. The next article in the 'Meet the...' series will feature Jenny and other lay people in our diocese engaged in writing, whether their work is published in books, newspapers or magazines. Please contact David Warnes at warnesdavid@googlemail.com if you yourself or anyone in your congregation might feature in the article.

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 25 April 2017.