

In the beginning...



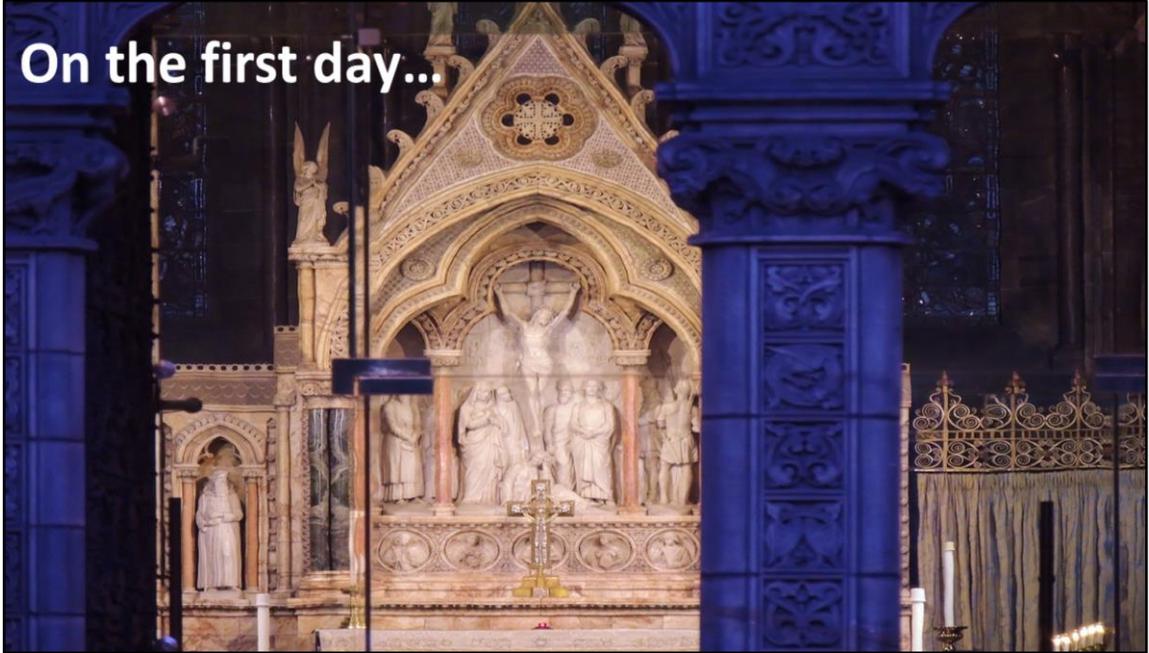
Bishop, and members of Synod.

So... what's it really like then living the life of the Dean of this diocese.

Well, of course, these are early days for me,
but I hope my Report will give you some sense
of the calls on my time and energy.

A taste of what's involved in my working alongside Bishop John
and in fulfilling the various duties
set out in the Canons of our Church.

On the first day...



On the first day...

The first Sunday of Lent –
and after a busy morning at St Ninian's –
I was installed as Dean
at a ceremony during Choral Evensong at St Mary's Cathedral.

There were a number of stand out moments for me;
among them:

the joy of Choral Evensong itself
the warmth and support of the gathered congregation –
and indeed of those
who'd sent me cards, gifts, texts and emails beforehand –
and the splendid selection of cup cakes
we enjoyed at the reception after the service

On the second day...



On the second day...

I was at the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Walker Trust.
For the Bishop, and the Dean of Edinburgh
are *ex officio* Trustees of the Walker Trust.

The primary objective of the Trust was the building of St Mary's Cathedral.
And each year
 various small sums of money are paid out for certain activities;
with the residue of the estate
being used for the benefit of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

No wonder then that at the meeting of the Trustees
we discussed something of the assets of the Trust
and the investment portfolio.

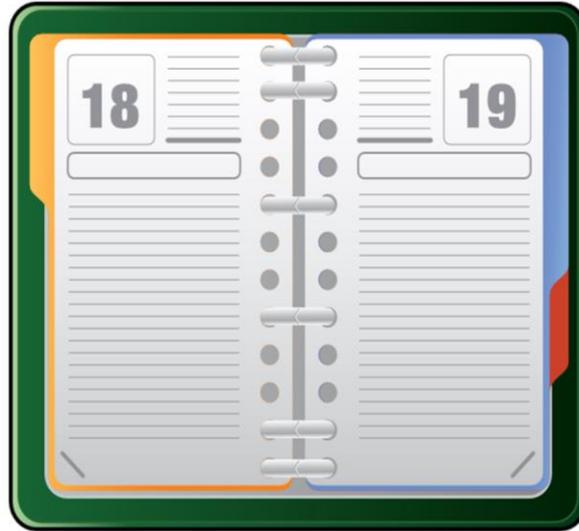
On the third day...



On the third day...

Some of us got together in the Diocesan Office
to look at our schedule of business for today's Synod –
chiefly;
matters of administration
and of mission and ministry.

On the fourth day...

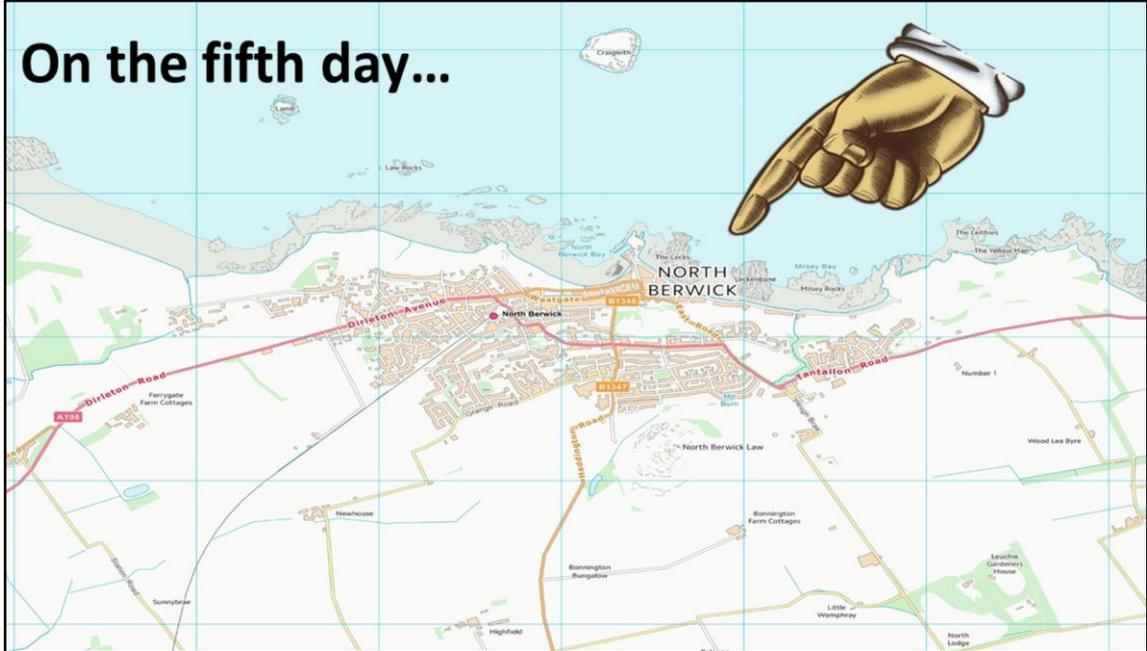


On the fourth day...

I was at my desk in the Diocesan Office
trying to improve my time management
through planning, prioritising, delegating;
and managing the expectations of others.

As part of the planning exercise, seven Visitations have now been arranged
stretching from the end of March to the end of May – they are:

- Christ Church Morningside (27 March)
- St Barnabas Moredun (13 April)
- St Columba's-by-the-Castle (8 May)
- Good Shepherd Murrayfield (15 May)
- St Mungo's Balerno (25 May)
- St Catharine's Bo'ness (29 May)
- St Mary's Grangemouth (29 May)



On the fifth day...

...not a Visitation but a Visit.

And what a great day it was on Thursday
with bright sunshine and blue skies for the drive;
good conversation about things that matter;
and a lovely beach walk after lunch.

So... whether you live by the sea
or in the hills;
or in a village; a town; or the city
please know that I'm always up for a chat –
be that over coffee and cake; over lunch; or over supper.

On the sixth day...



On the sixth day...

And unconventionally... in terms of the *greater* story...
on the sixth day... I rested
and played a reasonably good round of golf with friends.

On the seventh day...

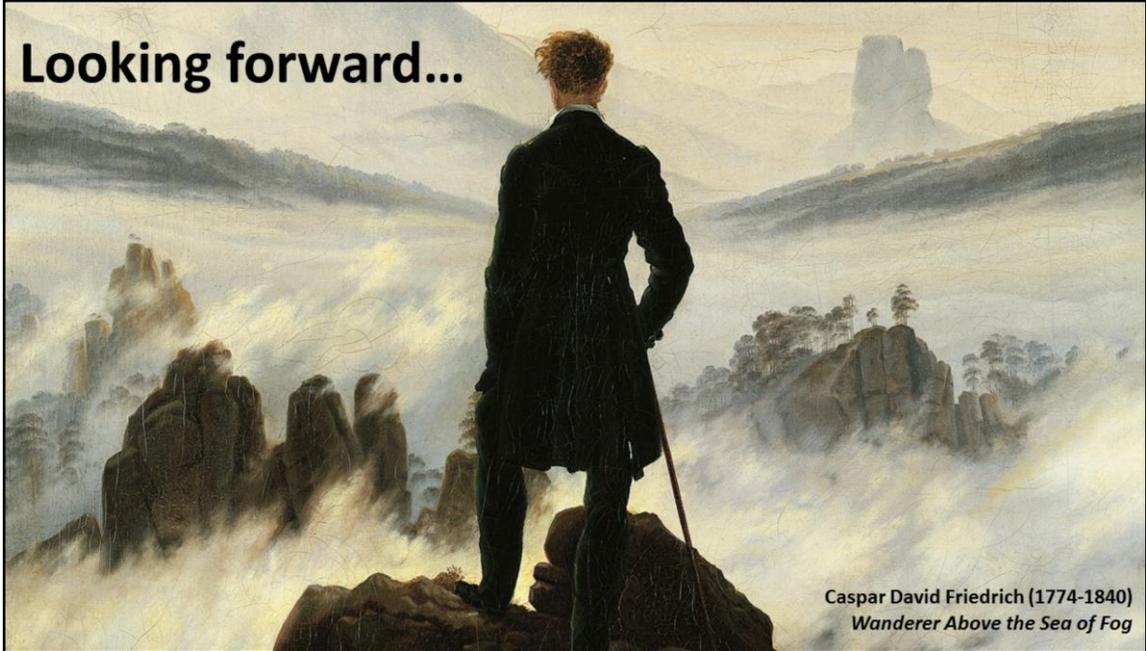


On the seventh day...

I'm here with you in Synod.

This is a photograph of us in Synod last year...
and if you were here then –
and can remember where you were sitting –
if you look closely
you might be able to spot yourself.

Looking forward...



Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840)
Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog

Looking forward...

I'll be glad to see beyond the immediate mist
of new technology
and various office protocols –
and please don't even speak to me
about giving up my much loved Blackberry
in favour of a new Smartphone –
looking forward, indeed, to the work and care that lies ahead.

...and to General Synod in June.



And from this Synod
moving on steadily and prayerfully in the life of the Church
through Lent and Easter,
to Pentecost,
...and to General Synod in June.