

FOCUS



On God @ St. Andrew's Cathedral

Cathedral Newsletter—July/August 2019

- The Provost Ponders
- Giving in Grace news
- Choristers' exam successes

And much more!

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Cathedral Sunday 2019

Sages from the East came riding on beasts to offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. On Cathedral Sunday, the Provost from the East came riding on the Emirates flight to join the People of God to celebrate Cathedral Sunday 2019.

It all began with Prayer, prayer of Christ our King who taught us to pray, 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Our Bishop Anne invited the Diocese to take part in this special season of prayer and launched it at the Cathedral. We were asked to pray for five people and so we did. During this season of prayer, a silent miracle took hold of us at the Cathedral. We began our Pilgrimage of Prayer on Ascension Day with Choral Evensong and ended it with the Choral Evensong on the Feast of Pentecost, with a full exposition on 'wind' by bishop Anne. Our Diocesan season of Prayer for 'Thy Kingdom Come', was integral to our Cathedral season of

'Giving in Grace.' This overlay of two seasons, led us to the discovery of the silent miracle, that in our 'praying' and 'giving' we were 'growing' closer to God, to one another and to all that God loves, '*for God so loved the world*'. The birth of the Church at Pentecost led to the birth of St Andrew's Cathedral Sunday 2019.

Trustees have considered the idea of the Cathedral Sunday before, however, God had a plan to bring this about in the fulness of time. God brought us to a point where we could do no other than pray like Jesus did. For our prayers to be answered, we were to be the first to respond as an answer to our prayers. We responded with grace and in grace. This triune divine activity of praying, growing, giving became self-evident in the course of our journey that we chose to celebrate it as Cathedral Sunday. It was the Grace of God that governed all who we are and what we do. So the Cathedral Sunday was

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celebrated as, 'Praying in Grace, Growing in Grace and Giving in Grace'.

On the day, the Provost arrived back from India in the early hours. The Provost recalls, *Amu was in India on business. She was invited by the National Institute of Nutrition in India, to run a workshop and developing and running a nationwide research project. The workshop attracted the media attention as it involved essential food security. The following week I was asked to represent the Friends of Vellore in the UK, a Charity which supports of the work of the Christian Mission Hospital in Vellore. We combined our work and went to India and managed some time together.*

After the first week, Amu travelled up to the Capital City of New Delhi where she was joined by another set of colleagues from the University of Aberdeen to develop business links between the Capital and Aberdeen. I travelled down to Vellore to

visit a Hill Tribal region afflicted by Alcohol dependency issues and to attend the Charity Annual Council Meetings. I am happy to explore details of my trip over a cuppa with those interested. But, the great discovery at the meeting was that the Christian Medical Mission is a second largest healthcare provider next to the Government of India. Christian community provides 88,000 hospital beds and that is some healing business in the name of Jesus. I was thrilled to see the development over the past few years, thanks to the impact of what we did in Aberdeen in extending hospitality to the Muslims. The predominantly 'Protestant' Christian Medical Missions are now open to working with the Roman Catholic Medical Mission for the first time. India was the only major ecumenical success in the history of the church when the Church of South India was born. The present Hindutva government which is opposed to non-Hindu communities may lead us to another ecumenical miracle

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where the Catholic and Reformed Churches may come together to offer the healing of Christ to India. I ask for your prayers.

I finished the meeting at 4pm on Friday and travelled 4 hours to Bangalore to fly back to Glasgow. I reached home around 1am in Aberdeen and was there at 8am for the Holy Communion. I left the details of the day in the able hands of people and I was moved by the response. More people were there for an early start than usual Sunday morning. People stayed back in numbers to explore the three areas of Praying in Grace, Growing in Grace and Giving in Grace. We had lunch, a lot of it.

The main objective of the Day is to celebrate all God's blessings and our partners in it. Innovative Dance Studio entertained us with some excellent dance routine. The Folk Musicians filled the Cathedral with music and art.

Deepali, a performing artist gave a spoof version of the Creation story. The day ended with the Evening Prayer at 6.30pm. I returned to the Rectory to rest in God's goodness and abundant Grace.

I thank God for the Cathedral family. God has chosen you to be the miracle. We have tried many things but now we are fully in God's Grace. I would like us to own this little miracle and commit ourselves to a Decade of Grace. 2020 – 2030 will be a Decade of Grace alongside the 2019-2029 Decade of Development. The Decade of Grace will be threefold. Let us commit ourselves to praying, Growing and Giving. Let us bless the Lord and let us be God's blessing to the world. God has a dream and you will be God's miracle.

As ever,

Isaac

News and Views

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Volunteers Day Celebrations at the Cathedral

Cathedral Volunteers were celebrated during the Volunteers week in the 1st week of June, thanks to our Cathedral Administrator, Lynda Johnston. Our loyal and hard working volunteers, Jenny, Mark and Billy joined the Provost and Lynda for a cuppa and a fine piece, Madeira Cake.

Billy is our 'Handy Man' in Hi-vis vest and comes every day of the week to keep on top of repairs and Mark and Jenny, our sparkle and shine team,

clean our premises on Tuesdays and Fridays with beauty and grace. Lynda supports the team with an attentive and listening ear and Fiona energises with colour and flamboyance! We have an A-Team and may God bless them and keep them a blessing. The special Madeira cake was too good that each face was a picture! Only Mark was wondering 'what have I done' to say 'no' to that cake divine. The provost was hiding behind the camera pretending to be careful!



News and Views

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Come and Sing - Mozart

Requiem: Over 80 people gathered in the Cathedral for the Come and Sing event to Celebrate music in the best venue for choral acoustics in Aberdeen. The day was led by the Royal Composer Prof Paul Mealor and was well catered for by our able catering team. Andrew assisted Paul, on the Organ, Lynda and Regina managed the administration of the Event promoted by Amu and Lynda.

The day began with the arrival of singers with a range of experience and none. They were welcomed with a cuppa and at 11am all were assembled. The Royal Composer welcomed one and all and introduced his partner in crime, Prof Andrew Morrison on the Piano/Organ. The gathering was put to task until the lunch break at 12n.

Cathedral @ Noon on the day were our select Choral Scholars, Ross, Liz, Hannah and David performing their brilliant talents. Our expert catering team served the singers with

sumptuous lunch before they returned to more learning. The rehearsal stopped around 5pm for the singers to get ready for the performance at 6.30pm. Equal numbers in audience made the event most gracious. The magical Requiem by Mozart was presented in the Cathedral at its best. The sound was so beautiful that all singers wanted to return to our beloved cathedral, soon. Many of you made it possible and may God bless you for your loving service and make it a blessing for many. People have already asked for the event next year. Watch this space!



News and Views

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Giving in Grace: We learnt at our AGM 2018 that there is a projected budget deficit for the year 2018-2019. The trustees in response to the congregational concern about this deficit decided to get an accurate figure. Our People's Warden, Mark Edwards and the Cathedral Finance team of three, Michael Stone and Tonye Dikibo, posted the deficit to be £32,000. The trustees met to explore ways forward, looked at reducing the cost where possible by reviewing other similar cathedrals to learn from them and most importantly studying our own patterns of

giving to match our receiving. Giving in Grace was launched on the Passion Sunday, led by Prof Ferdinand von Prondzynski. Our target was £32,000. We prayed for God's help and guidance. God moved the heart of a benefactor who offered to match fund a targeted appeal. Our target was to raise £16,000 through special giving, fundraising initiatives including crowd funding. We set the period from Easter to Pentecost to reach this target. God moved the hearts of God's people. The LaRCs launched a Bake Sale on Easter Sunday and the Provost launched the Easter

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Egg hunt. The Ladies of the Cathedral organised a meal. The Men of the Cathedral used Fathers' Day celebration as a focus to raise funds. LaRCs organised a Curry Night and a Movie Night. The Giving in Grace day was set for the 8th of June 2019. In this period we also observed 10 days of prayer called, '**Thy Kingdom Come.**'

On Tuesday the 11th of June, our Administrator Lynda generated the results of our Giving in Grace journey. The

total amount raised during this focussed period was £24,000. Out of this, £8,000 was our regular giving through Free Will Offertory and Standing Orders, making the specific 'Giving in Grace' offerings to clear the deficit as £16,058. If this is not a miracle, what else is? Who is at the heart of this miracle is not an angel or a super person, but YOU, the People of God. You are the miracle in the hand of God. May God continue to bless us to be a miracle in our world today.

September Focus Deadline



The deadline for the September 2019 issue of the Focus magazine is the 29th of August.

Please send your articles to Amber at **saca.focus@outlook.com**.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to make this issue of the Focus Magazine possible!

Choir News

By Andrew Morrisson



Choristers' exam successes

Nine choristers took their RSCM St Andrew's Award exams at the end of May; four at Bronze level and five at Silver level. We are delighted to report that all nine passed. The successes were recognised in the morning service at Pentecost (Sunday 9th June). The photo shows the seven choristers who were present at the service proudly wearing their new medals. Congratulations to all of them!

Robert Gordon College Music Awards

Thomas Cameron (former treble

and now an occasional tenor) was awarded two music prizes at the end of the academic year - 1st in Higher Music and the Alfred James Davidson Music Prize. The latter is awarded to a talented pupil who has displayed exceptional commitment and dedication in the pursuit of expanding their knowledge and technique in the field of music and is intended to fund participation in a music course, professional workshops, evening classes or a summer school. Congratulations Thomas!

Choir News

By Andrew Morrisson

Head Chorister

We officially marked the end of Lewa Olaosebikan's period as Head Chorister at the morning service on Sunday 16th June. She will start to read music at Aberdeen University in the autumn, so we sincerely hope she will continue to sing with the adults at the Cathedral. Andrew Morrisson gave a speech, thanking her for her outstanding service to the choir over the past 10 years and as Head Chorister for the past four years. She was presented with a card from all the choristers and Lay Clerks and gift tokens to use to buy music for her studies at Aberdeen University. The congregation expressed their thanks by applauding her as she processed out at the end of the service.

Choral Scholars

On Sunday 16th June, we said farewell to two of our Choral Scholars, Lisa Johnston and Ross Cumming. Both have now graduated in music from Aberdeen University. Lisa is still

to decide on her future career but Ross is continuing his singing studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. We thank them for their contribution to the music of the Cathedral over the years and wish them well for the future.

Come and Sing Mozart Requiem

Lisa and Ross were joined by two of our other Choral Scholars, Hannah Hobson and David Walsh as the soloists in the Come and Sing Mozart Requiem on held 15th June, directed by Paul Mealar. This was a most successful event with a choir of over 80 participants. It was held to raise money for the Cathedral Development and we are very grateful to Professor Mealar for giving his time to conduct and also to the many members of the Cathedral Community who helped with the organisation. Details of the amount raised will appear elsewhere.

Flowers

By Moira Middleton

Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the Flower Fund so far this year. The Flower Team have worked hard keeping the Cathedral beautifully decorated with their wonderful floral art. Special thanks to the Mothers Union for producing the wonderful Pentecost banners which added a great splash of colour to the Cathedral. The Mothers Union will also be supplying the Flowers on Sunday 11th August

to commemorate Mary Sumner, Founder of the now worldwide organisation. We also remember all our members who are no longer with us especially this year Margaret Whitaker who passed away in April. I would also like to wish Helena Thomas good luck in her move to Edinburgh in August and thank her for all her help when I took over as Flower Secretary from her. I hope she has many enjoyable years in her new house beside her family.

Children's Ministry

The Godly Play team are now on holiday over the summer and children should attend the Eucharist with their parents. If they wish they can sit in the front pews to get a better view of the

service. The Creche team will be available in the JSC for all children under 5 years of age as usual. The Children's Ministry Teams would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Help

As you may know Christine and I empty the FWO and Gift Aid Envelopes and count the money weekly to pay in to the Bank. We would be very very grateful if you did not crease

the new plastic money. We are spending ages trying to get the creases out so we can count it. If you fold it over without creasing it, we would very much appreciate it.

MU News

By Kathy Priestley



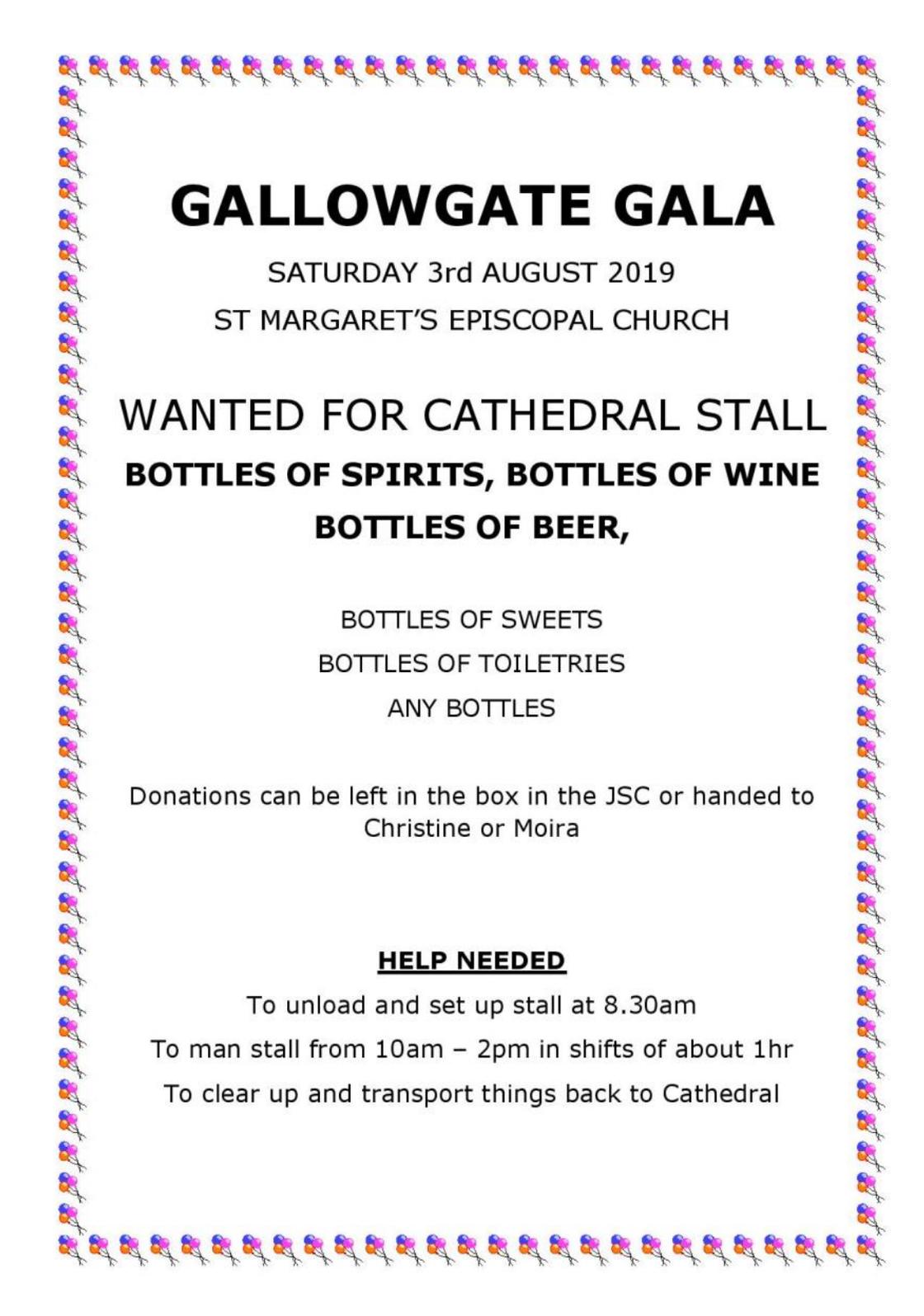
Our summer outing for afternoon tea was a really good occasion. Everyone enjoyed a very tasty tea - there was a lot of chatter and laughter so much so that it became too late in the afternoon to do our planned walk. Some of us had a drive along the seafront with the car windows down instead. We now have a new supply of

assorted design MU badges available. Please see Kathy or Moira if you would like to see them.

Our Branch Leader Kathleen and the Committee wish you a very happy and healthy summer break and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on October 8th.

Creche Rota for July and August

JULY 7	Kathleen	Catherine	Faustina
JULY 14	Moira	Chioma	Mimi
JULY 21	Christine	Oge	Blessing
JULY 28	Kathleen	Nan	Linda
AUG 4	Moira	Davika	Miebaka
AUG 11	Christine	Catherine	Mimi
AUG18	Kathleen	Oge	Nan
AUG25	Tracey	Chioma	Faustina
SEPT 1	Moira	Blessing	Linda



GALLOWGATE GALA

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST 2019

ST MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WANTED FOR CATHEDRAL STALL
BOTTLES OF SPIRITS, BOTTLES OF WINE
BOTTLES OF BEER,

BOTTLES OF SWEETS
BOTTLES OF TOILETRIES
ANY BOTTLES

Donations can be left in the box in the JSC or handed to
Christine or Moira

HELP NEEDED

To unload and set up stall at 8.30am
To man stall from 10am – 2pm in shifts of about 1hr
To clear up and transport things back to Cathedral

July/August Diary

Weekly Services and Events

Wednesdays at 10.00 am Reflective prayer and Holy Communion

Sundays at 8.00 am Holy Communion
(1970 Liturgy)

Sundays at 10.45 am Sung Eucharist
(1982 Liturgy)
Followed by coffee in the JSC

Sundays at 10.45 am Crèche available in the JSC

The Cathedral Choir is now on holiday. There will be no Choral Evensong Services at the Cathedral until they return in late August.

Tuesdays at 6.00 pm Tuesday Bible Study, JSC

First Friday of each month Friendship Café, JSC
10am - 12 noon

Saturdays at 12 noon Cathedral at Noon
(30 minute recital followed by refreshments)

Cathedral at Noon Schedule

- 13 Jul** **Mhairi Sharp**
Soprano music for a summer's day
- 20 Jul** **Rebecca Dunn and Rachel Fraser**
Two folk-acoustic singer-songwriters
- 27 Jul** **Chris Black**
Organ works by Bach and Guilman
- 3 Aug** **Intuitive Music Aberdeen**
New music

*All are invited to attend and
join us for refreshments afterwards.*

Events Around the Diocese

GARDEN PRODUCE EXCHANGE

Mondays during July and August
Begins 1 July 10:00-11:30am
St Anne's Church, Kemnay
Exchange or purchase produce from local gardens and enjoy coffee and chat.

STRAWBERRY TEA

Thursday 11 July 2:00-4:00pm
St John's Church Hall, Aberdeen
For people with dementia and their carers. Entrance to the hall is on Crown Terrace off Crown Street.

HEALING SERVICE

Thursdays 11, 25 July; 8, 22 August
10:30am, St James' Church, Aberdeen

CHAS STRAWBERRY TEA

Saturday 10 August 2:00-4:00pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Ellon

PET SERVICE

Saturday 17 August 1:00pm
St Mary's Church, Carden Pl, Aberdeen



Cathedral Church of St Andrew

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Junior Organ Scholar	Forbes Kinghorn		
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