



news&views

St Peter's, Lutton Place

MAY 2019



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Magnificat!

*Settings of the
 Magnificat and
 Nunc Dimittis*

*Sung by the choir of
 St Peter's Church*

Friday 10 May 2019, 7.30 pm

*Director of Music: Rupert Forbes
 Organist: Sheila Chisholm*

St Peter's Church, Lutton Place Edinburgh EH8 9PE
 Entry free, non-ticketed

Refreshments available from 7pm
 Retiring collection in aid of St Peter's Hall Renewal Project

<http://st-peters.edinburgh.org/>
 Thank God, Live Joyfully, Celebrate Community

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A Letter from Bishop David

Dear Friends,

The Looking to the Future Groups have met and completed their work. It was fascinating how similar the thinking of the two groups was—even if expressed in slightly different ways.

Both groups talked about things which they value about St Peter's—a warm welcome, team work, community outreach, a strong liturgical and musical tradition.

The good news is that 'Yes – there is a future!' None of us of course doubted that there is a future for St Peter's. The question is 'what kind of future?'

One of my clergy friends used to say that 'your mission field is present on the periphery of your congregation'. And that is certainly true for St Peter's – and not just on the periphery but moving into the centre.

People are aware of the increasing diversity of the congregation—young couples in the congregation on Sundays and increasing numbers of overseas students. Kristee, our Children and Families Worker, is now working regularly with the overseas students and encouraging them to connect with St Peter's.

Both groups could see that this new diversity is going to be a significant element in our life in the future. Both groups could see that this new diversity needs to be reflected in our worship and in other aspects of our life. It offers the possibility that St Peter's will have a distinctive and lively future.

The question which the groups didn't get to answer is 'How do we move from where we are to this new kind of future?' Obviously, that can't be done without some change—change which gradually evolves in dialogue within the congregation and led by the new Rector. I shall look forward to seeing how all this develops in the future.

News & Views

May 2019

**St Peter's
Lutton Place
Edinburgh
SC017358**

The Scottish Episcopal Church

*The Rt Revd John Armes
Bishop, Diocese of Edinburgh*

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0900 – 1300 • Mon – Fri

Vestry News

by Andy Sikes

The way we organise and manage the work and activities undertaken at St Peter's has occupied the business of the vestry in recent months. To assist the vestry in its consideration of these matters and in preparation for the appointment of a new rector, it recently received advice and a presentation from a Human Resources specialist who is retained by the SEC in an advisory and consultancy role and who has advised a number of vestries on good practice and governance.

The works to the link building between the church and main hall (phase II) are progressing well. Whilst they are running a little behind schedule, the contractor is confident of completing the works by mid-July, particularly now that the new roof is in place, and works are no longer weather dependent. The scope of improvements to the main church hall (phase III) and how these might be funded is presently under consideration by the Buildings Project Group, who will report to the vestry on these matters in the coming months.

C-Venues will once again use our hall and gardens as a Fringe venue this summer, following the vestry's decision to enter into a one-year lease arrangement. The terms of the lease include a requirement for C-Venues to conduct an employee/volunteer feedback survey at the end of the lease. The survey results will inform the vestry's decision on whether to let our property to C-Venues in the future. In addition, members of the vestry will be meeting with representatives of the Fair Fringe Team to better understand its concerns regarding the terms of employment and standards of accommodation offered to those volunteering and working for theatre companies during the Fringe, including C-Venues.

Easter Season

by Sue Whitehouse

The events of Holy Week are always intense and emotionally draining, as we walk with Jesus through the services of the week—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday—to the Vigil and first acclamations of the

Resurrection on Easter Eve. It is, therefore, tempting to come home from the Easter Day service with a feeling of relief that we can resume 'normal' life and worship.

But, as the Church's calendar reminds us, this we cannot do because Jesus' Resurrection has changed everything: for the World, for the Church and for us. Like the first disciples we have to learn to respond to our new situation and calling to be "Resurrection people". This is the focus of the Easter Season which continues during the 50 days after Easter Day. It comes in two parts ... the first forty days during which the disciples meet the Risen Jesus in unexpected circumstances and then the following ten days are encompassed by the events of the Ascension and Pentecost.

It is important not to rush ahead to the close of the season but to learn from our lectionary readings what Jesus' Resurrection means for us. During this period a reading from the Acts of the Apostles will replace the Old Testament reading as we hear of the experiences of the Early Church. The Gospel readings will focus first on the appearances of the Risen Jesus to His disciples and then on His words to them at the foot-washing as recounted in St. John's Gospel.

The themes of resurrection are very much on the new life and hope offered to us through God's love and forgiveness together with Christ's injunction to us to show that same love to others. But that requires a letting go on our part of what is familiar and comfortable. During these weeks we can learn much from St. Peter. We shall hear how he tried to return to what he knew by going back to fishing, only to recognise Jesus waiting on the beach with breakfast cooking. And after the meal he accepted Jesus' forgiveness of his denial and the trust that Jesus put in him as He commissioned him to "Feed my Sheep". And, one of the Acts readings will tell us of the vision that led Peter to understand the inclusive nature of Christ's Church.

Letting go is not easy. An Easter poster shows a series of pictures of a chicken: it breaks out of its egg, looks round, then scurries back inside and the shell encloses it back into the safety of the darkness. Our prayer this season is that we may break out of whatever entombs us in darkness so that we can be changed and so move forward into the light and life of the Resurrection.

Vacancy Committee

by Andy Sikes

Rupert Forbes chairs the Vacancy Committee, which comprises all members of the vestry and five representatives of the congregation.

The first task of the committee is to prepare a congregational profile and person specification, the preparation of which will be informed by a review of statistical data pertinent to Newington and the wider area and the outputs of the recent 'Looking to the Future' groups, led by Bishop David. Together these documents will describe who we are, what we do, our ambitions for the future and, importantly, the type of rector we seek to help us achieve our ambitions.

The expectation is that the profile and specification will be drafted and agreed with Dean Frances Burberry by the end of May, following which an advert will be placed in the Church Times for a six-week period. Frances will be the principal point of contact for those seeking information on the Charge (post). The committee will then be provided with a list of candidates that Bishop John would be prepared to licence as rector and considered suitable to interview. The timing of an appointment is dependent upon a number of factors, including the availability of Bishop John and committee members to conduct interviews; the period of notice a rector is required to serve at their present Charge; the need to co-ordinate announcements of any resignation and appointment. Progress on the appointment process will be provided in future editions of News & Views.

What is Voice for Life?

by Sheila Chisholm

What are the ribbons and medals that all of our choristers and some adult choir members wear each Sunday? They have been awarded to them because each has reached a certain graded target in music theory, aural skills, liturgical knowledge, and other important church related topics.



Through the programme, singers are awarded ribbons of different colours, the early colours being: White, Light Blue and Dark Blue. After these colours have been internally assessed and awarded, although not compulsory, singers can then choose to be externally assessed by an RSCM examiner for their Bronze Award. This is nationally recognized as being the equivalent standard to around ABRSM Grade 2/3. The scheme then progresses through a Red ribbon to the Silver Award

(c. ABRSM Grade 5), and finally a Yellow ribbon before having the option to sit their Gold Award. (c. ABRSM Grade 8)

To give an idea of the exam requirements, when Angus recently sat his Silver Award, he had to sing a Hymn, Anthem, Psalm, plus a solo from the Messiah, do aural tests and sight singing. He then had to answer many questions about: music theory, what he had sung; the Liturgical year; Christian Festivals; and Biblical texts including the Lord's Prayer and all the settings we sing during a morning service. It is not an easy exam, but well worth the effort! Over the years, in St Peter's all levels have been achieved with a number of Bronze and Silver Awards having been passed. In 2015, our Choir Warden, Fiona Barton, passed her Gold Award. *Voice for Life* is not however primarily about gaining levels and awards as fast as possible. It is about steady development and training skills that will be used for life ...



All our Junior Choristers currently follow the *Voice for Life* programme, and they meet on a Thursday evening from 6.15pm-7pm. Led by Sheila and helped by Christine Bethune, this session covers the main bulk of the syllabus through playing musical games, filling in worksheets, and enjoying lots of singing. Then, after a short break, Junior Choir begins at 7pm. Rupert takes this, and it is here that the required vocal techniques are taught.

Part of the requirements for *Voice for Life* is that the singer is a regular member of the Choir and sings at Sunday morning services. (For part of these services, junior choristers can leave to join in Sunday's Cool, and they receive a small fee for singing.)

Although St Peter's currently only runs a *Voice for Life* classes for the junior choristers, the programme is designed for both children and adults,

and singers can decide to begin working on the programme at any stage of their singing career. It is an optional part of singing in the Junior Choir, and if any adults are interested in working through the programme, please speak to Sheila. It greatly benefits all those that do!

For the observant, the photograph on the inside back cover shows some of our choristers naming notes and creating musical intervals on a staff on grass instead of on paper or a whiteboard!

A Big Thank You!

from Sue Whitehouse and Janet McKinnell

During the last few weeks, life has been very busy for us all. We would like to thank all the many people who have contributed to the preparations for Holy Week and Easter.

It's so often been wonderful to have the right person appear, just at the right time, to help with a particular task: finding things moved because of the building work, cleaning and tidying, shifting things from one place to another ... and so much more ... including the 'cuppas' when needed!

And on behalf of the whole congregation, our thanks to our musicians and flower arrangers and lunch providers for all their work.

Your efforts and support were very much appreciated. Thank you.

Choir Concert

On Friday May 10th at 7.30 pm, the choir will be singing five settings of the words of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (the canticles we sing at Choral Evensong) by Byrd, Walmisley, Stanford, Stainer and Noble.

Interspersed with these will be a few anthems, some of which will be by the same composers. The concert will be finished by 9pm and will run without a break, but the church will be open before the concert for refreshments from 7pm. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Hall refurbishment

Junior and Adult Choirs

by Sheila Chisholm

All children aged 8+ to 16 are very welcome in the Junior Choir, and those 16+ to Adult Choir!

The robed choir is an enthusiastic group of singers that sing an anthem at every 10.45 Sunday service, a full Choral Evensong once a month, and also at various other services and events throughout the year such as concerts and services during Holy Week. Our

service repertoire covers an extensive range of music and styles from the Renaissance era to modern day, with an emphasis on Anglican church music of the Tudor period and the 19th Century.



6.15pm – 7.00pm: *Voice for Life*: Junior Choristers have the option of coming to *Voice for Life*. For those thinking about joining Junior Choir, this is a good time to get to know the other choristers, have 'social time' together, and 'try-out' the *Voice for Life* programme for a few weeks.

7pm – 8pm: *Junior Choir*: During this session, the choristers learn the music for Sunday services, concerts, plus other events at which they may sing. It is grand for a child to come 'try Junior Choir' for a few weeks before deciding if they want to join properly and sing on a Sunday. The last 15 minutes of the rehearsal is with the Adult Choir.

7.45pm-9.30pm: *Adult Choir*: For anyone aged 16+ that enjoys singing church music! If you have any questions about any aspect of Junior or Adult Choir, or *Voice for Life*, please speak to Rupert Forbes.

RSCM *What is the RSCM?* It is The Royal School of Church Music, an international body that specializes in church music. Its motto is: '*I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also*'. (1 Corinthians 14:15).

St Peter's is a member of the RSCM.

Organ Scholarship

by Rupert Forbes

Five years ago, the Revd. Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson kindly offered to fund an Organ Scholarship at St Peter's in memory of her late mother. We have been exceedingly fortunate that this position has been filled by Tom Wrench since then. Unfortunately, Tom will be leaving Edinburgh in the summer, but we are very grateful to him for all the support he has given to the musical life of the church during this period.

The Vestry has agreed that it would be a good idea to continue with an Organ Scholarship, and Sheila is happy to continue teaching and mentoring a scholar. The scholarship would run during the academic year from September 2019, initially for one year, but renewable, as long as funding is available. We are now looking to see if anyone would care to sponsor this scholarship for one or more years to the tune of £500 per annum. With Gift Aid this would make the scholarship worth £625, which would cover the cost of lessons with Sheila as well as a small remuneration for occasionally playing at services. The scholar would also be expected to sing in the choir.

If you would like to be involved in this project, please speak to the Director of Music, Rupert Forbes.

Many thanks!

Ascension Day

Again this year, we are grateful to the trustees of Crichton Collegiate Church for us to hold our Ascension Day service in their beautiful church a few miles from Pathhead. Follow signs from the A68 soon after passing the Stair Arms. The postcode is EH37 5RE.

Please try to arrange lifts, but do contact the office if you do need a lift and we'll see what we can manage.

Bishop David's Pectoral Cross

by Bishop David

I was elected Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane at the end of 2004. We moved to Scotland when I was consecrated—episcopally ordained—in March 2005. It was a 'big move' for us—made easier because two of our children were already in Scotland. But I had never intended to move to Scotland—so far as I was concerned my vocation was to pastoral ministry and in particular to reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Some people have asked about my pectoral cross. The cross reflects the significance of that move for us. It is modelled on the Cross of St John which stands just outside the Abbey on Iona. That places my cross firmly within the tradition of Celtic Spirituality. On the back is an etching of St Columba of Iona vigorously rowing with his monks from Ireland to Scotland.

The same etching is the basis for a number of brooches which were made and which are worn by Alison, my late mother Sheila, our daughter, Anna, and our daughters-in-law.

The Cross was designed and made by Bill Steenson. His family firm is based in Glenarm on the Antrim Coast—the location where much of Game of Thrones has been shot. The Steensons have become famous as the makers of much of the jewellery for the series.

COG Summer Fair: 1 June 2019

by Liz Hare

If you missed the recent Coffee Morning, Chris and Strop, and others from St Peter's, will be performing again at the Summer Fair on Saturday 1st June, when we will be raising more funds for the Bethany Shelters.

Please volunteer to help at this event and come along with your friends!

Did You Know?

by Colin Harrison, Administrator

I wonder how many people have noticed the fairly plain wooden box on the wall behind the altar which supports the cross or wondered about its origin? Let me tell you about some research I am doing.

I recently read a history of St Peters which was written by Alison Stevenson, back in 1992, and was interested in a small piece which read: "The wooden tabernacle, which is below the altar cross, was a gift to St Peters by a group of Serbian boys, resident in Edinburgh during the First World war. This was in gratitude for their use of the church for their own Greek Orthodox services. The tabernacle is still in continuous use today for storing the consecrated elements needed for Communion."

This in itself did not mean much to me but in a chance conversation with Euan, our caretaker, I mentioned this and he responded: "The Serbian boys of Heriot's, their story is well known at Heriot's".

This rather intrigued me and I asked several people here at St Peter's if they knew the story, with no success. Euan, a Heriot's "old boy", advised me to speak to the school archivist for more detail, which I did, and will share with you my research to date.

2016 marked the centenary of the arrival of the first 'Serbian Boys' who came to Heriot's in 1916. These boys, aged between twelve and seventeen, had survived what is known as the "retreat": a journey over the mountains of Albania and Montenegro during the winter of 1915-1916, to escape capture after their country suffered catastrophic defeat at the hands of Germany and its allies.

Twenty-seven boys, some as young as 12, were educated at Heriot's between 1916 and 1919 and were hosted by families in Blacket Place, Kilmaurs Terrace and Bright's Crescent. Over the three years they were hosted at the School, several shone academically. But it was on the playing fields of Goldenacre where they gained fame. These boys, who had never played rugby before, embraced the game and showed extraordinary and unexpected talent. Several were good enough to join the First Fifteen, where they played alongside future Scottish internationalists like Daniel Drysdale. They are further credited with having played the first Serbian international sporting match on the fields

of Inverleith in 1918 and for having brought rugby back to Serbia following their return in June 1919.

Within a few years the lives of these boys had been transformed. And in their later years many of the refugees credited Scotland—and George Heriot's - with giving them a second chance at rebuilding their lives.

I now have photographs and names of all the boys and a group photo is below

I have spoken to Alison to establish her source material and she tells me that it was from Vestry minutes from 1919. These are now held in the City archives and I have contacted them and been given a reference number of the minute books to have a look at. When I have a free moment, I will make an appointment to pop in and trawl through the vestry records to try and pin down the date and any other information about this gift. I have been in touch with Fraser Simm, Heriot's archivist, and Maria Eugenicos, Principal of the Greek school and church, both of whom were unaware of this. However, both are very interested in following up on this. Fraser tells me that descendants of "The Serbian Boys" still visit Heriot's to this day. It may be that they would also like to visit St Peter's in light of this. It is a bit sad that this gift to St Peter's has been misplaced in history and perhaps we can bring this story back to light. I will let you know what I turn up.



The Serbian boys at Heriots.

Monday Group

by Liz Philp

On Monday 1st April at 7.30pm the talk by Ann Thanisch about Edinburgh Direct Aid was interesting and inspiring. The charity was founded in 1992 by an Edinburgh couple moved to help refugees during the civil war in the Balkans. Their emphasis is very much on the “Direct” part of the title—volunteers go out to deliver aid and the hand of friendship to places where help is needed, they go at their own expense, paying for their own accommodation; no one is paid except for local staff in the destination countries. Ann is very much involved in helping Syrian refugees in the small town of Aarsal in the mountains of Lebanon, where they have founded a regular school and also a small school for mentally and physically disabled children. The school takes local Lebanese children as well as refugees, there being no other provision for them. The teachers in the schools are local volunteers. EDA help with finding useful work for people to do, training for young men and also women who can do sewing and knitting which the volunteers bring back to Edinburgh to sell, with the the proceeds going directly to the women who have made them. Ann was setting out to Aarsal the very next day after her talk to us.

At our AGM on Monday 15th April the committee were re-elected unopposed. President: Liz Philp, Secretary: Pam Dugan, Treasurer: Jane Sutherland, Group Leaders: Margaret Garden, Jennifer Milligan & Ann Stevenson. Various suggestions for speakers for next year were made. We have a relatively modest surplus in our funds which we decided to hang on to until the next phase of the Building Project. We are looking forward to holding meetings next session in the new choir vestry, complete with access by lift for our less able members.

In May we are planning to go on the annual Drive for senior members of the congregation – destination as yet undecided. Look out for your invitation. Our annual Members’ dinner will be on Monday June 10th at the Elginhaugh Restaurant near Lasswade.

We are a friendly group which meets during the winter months – October to April – normally at 7.30pm on the first and third Mondays of the month, but we also have two afternoon meetings per year. Membership is open to all, both men and women.

News from Inverness

by Eric Beck

Typically, Jaime writes the updates on our lives in Inverness, but I have some important news that I wanted to pass along myself this time. Bishop Mark has asked me to start up Continuing Ministerial Development programmes and lay education/training initiatives in the diocese of Moray, Ross, and Caithness. For years I have felt a call on my life to bring biblical and theological education to the church, and throughout the discernment process this part of my vocation has always been very evident. There is of course more to a priest than being a teacher of the church, but I always knew that the primary role God has for me is that of an educator of his people.

The opportunity Bishop Mark has presented me is something I am extremely excited about and accepted without hesitation. This task brought with it new questions about my vocation that after some time of prayer and conversation have led to a decision. At the end of March, I have officially withdrawn from the discernment process. There was universal agreement from all those to whom I spoke that this was the correct decision. I am in the process of creating something in this diocese that is already allowing me to fulfil God's call and vocation for my life, and for the time being this deserves my full attention. I may one day return to the possibility of becoming a priest, but for now I am doing serving the church in a way that truly ignites my God-given passions.

I am eternally grateful for all the support St Peter's gave me throughout this process, and I look forward to sharing with you some of exciting things we are able to get running in the near future.

Walk of Witness

On Good Friday, the local ecumenical walk of witness stopped in the garden at St Peter's. A brief lull in the building work allowed the group to be silent for a Bible reading and prayers, before moving on to the Methodist Church in Nicolson Square. Can you identify the members of St Peter's? (Inside back cover.)

Sunday Services

8.30am A quiet said service of **Holy Communion** using the *Book of Common Prayer*.

10.45am A sung service of **Holy Communion** using liturgies from 1970 and 1982; includes children's activities.

First Sunday of the month:

Choral Matins in the church

Informal all-age Communion service in the Hall

6.30pm **Choral Evensong** (*usually the 4th Sunday of the month*)

Sunday Readings

5 May Acts 9.1-20 • Revelation 5.11-14 • John 21.1-19

12 May Acts 9. 36-43 • Revelation 7.9-13 • John 10.22-30

19 May Acts 11.1-18 • Revelation 21.1-6 • John 13.31-35

26 May Acts 16.9-15 • Revelation 21.10,22-22.5

Weekday Services

Monthly services of **Holy Communion** are held at St Peter's at 11.00am on the **first** Thursday of the month, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. The next services will be on **Thursdays 2 May and 6 June**.

Monthly services of **Holy Communion** are also held on the **third** Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm followed by refreshments. For the next few months, these services will be held in **Craigmillar Park Church**.

Next afternoon services: **Tuesdays 21 May and 18 June**.

Building work –Another Peek!

The building work is now showing more visible signs of order and progress emerging from the apparent chaos of the early stages! This month's photo, on the collage page, shows the 'doorway' connecting the church to the staircase down to the hall level. The archway to the right is the existing way through, but this will be extended to include the left side archway to provide a much larger passage through. A wider staircase will go down to the left of the picture. This just a snapshot of one small area that you might be able to place or identify. It's looking good and exciting for the future.

Dates for the Diary

MAY

- 1 Craft Club • 10.00am
- 2 Holy Communion • 11.00am, followed by Lunch Club.
- 10 Choir Concert: "Magnificat" • 7.30pm in the church.
- 12 Vocations Sunday
- 15 Craft Club • 10.00am
- 21 Tuesday Afternoon service • 2.30pm **at Craigmillar Park Church**
Vestry Meeting • 7.30pm
- 26 Choral Evensong • 6.30pm

Notices for the Newspaper

Notices need to be with the office by noon on the preceding Wednesday. Additional notices may be passed to the clergy to be read at the various Sunday services.

People

CLERGY

Interim Pastor: The Rt Revd David Chillingworth

Associate Priest: The Revd Sue Whitehouse

LAY READER: Mrs Janet McKinnell

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Lay Representative: Pam Dugan

Alternate Lay Representative: Elizabeth Philp

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

Director of Music: Rupert Forbes

Organist: Sheila Chisholm

Organ Scholar: Tom Wrench

Choir Warden: Fiona Barton

Children & Families Worker: Kristee Boyd

Servers' Guild: Bill Polson

Parents & Toddlers (Monday & Thursday): Kristee Boyd

Monday Group: Elizabeth Philp

Thursday Lunch Club (1st Thursday at 11.00am): Delia Keir

Magazine Distribution: Elizabeth Philp

CHURCH OFFICERS

Vestry Secretary: Andrew Sikes

Hon Treasurer: Duncan McKinnell

Gift Aid Secretary: Chris Hodgson

Sacristan: Liz Mackay

Verger: Deborah Waterson

Fire Warden: Pam Dugan

Hall Bookings: Colin Harrison

Finance Convenor: Ralph Garden

Works Convenor: Liz Mackay

Admin & Gen Purposes Convenor: Alison Mowat

Social/Outreach COG Convenor: Liz Hare

All these people can be contacted via the Church Office: 0131 662 9171



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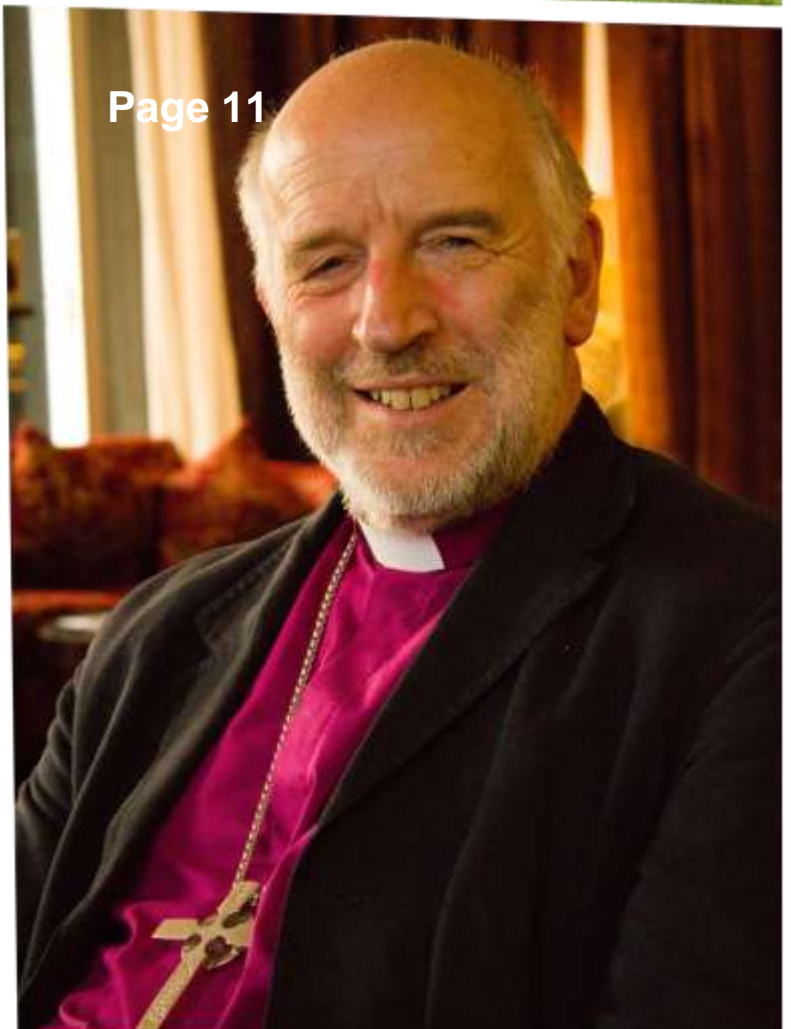
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