

Church of Scotland

# Diaconate Newsletter

April 2019

Prayer Edition

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The countdown to DRAE 2019 is fast approaching and a lot of time and energy has gone into the planning along with efforts to raise awareness of DRAE and the work of Deacons, plus a lot of **PRAYER**. We wouldn't be doing this if wasn't for the Easter Story and the Good News of Jesus that the disciples shared and passed on 'in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.'

*Lent is a time to take time  
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us.  
A time to let the events get up and walk around in us,  
A time to intensify our living unto Christ.  
A time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts  
A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
or walk along the sea and listen to his word  
A time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us  
A time to ponder and a time to wonder.....  
LENT IS A TIME TO ALLOW A FRESH NEW TASTE OF GOD*

(From *Towards Jerusalem* by Ann Weems)

What fresh new tastes of God might we experience during Lent & Easter?

At Skene, as we approach either Christmas or Easter, the Rev always chooses a new song for the congregation to learn. At first the organist will play the tune, then we will hear the choir sing and then gradually the Congregation becomes more familiar and confident to sing the new song. Last year during Lent we learnt,

*I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me.....  
and the verse that gave me a fresh new taste was –  
Then on the third at break of dawn,  
The Son of heaven rose again.  
O trampled death where is your sting?  
The angels **roar** for Christ the King*

What a picture of angels roaring--- I always think of angels singing in harmony. Lions roar! When my sisters & I got too noisy for my father's liking he would tell us to stop 'that roaring!' But there was the roar of welcome from the crowd with shouts of 'Hosanna' and then came the roar of condemnation 'Crucify him!'

The roar of the angels for all the world was that 'HE IS RISEN! HE IS NOT HERE!'  
And that 'roar' has echoed down through the ages - to us, in this moment, place and time.

Every Blessing for Easter  
*Marion*



# Praying for DRAE 2019



*Dear Friends,*

As I write this I am aware that we are just a few months away from DRAE 2019. So much planning has gone into this event ; so much time and energy and above all PRAYER.

My time as President will come to an end at DRAE 2019 and I was looking back over some of the things I had written after having been at the World Assembly in Chicago in 2017, where, along with Karen, Jim & Ann, I had extended an invitation to come to Scotland in 2019 for the DRAE Assembly.

The theme for the World Assembly was 'Shaken by the Wind' and during the opening worship we were greeted by 'Look what the wind has blown in!' The words 'for such a time as this' also featured and immediately I thought of a thread weaving through our Diaconal traditions. For such a time I was in Chicago. For such a time Gordon Pennykid became the UK rep and then DRAE Secretary. For such a time Mark Evans will be the next President of Diaconal Council. Indeed, 'for such a time as this' God has placed us where we are.

The leaving prayer from Chicago adapted from Iona Community...

***As Columba laid down his books, and the security of the monastery,  
So we lay down what is past and look to the future.  
As Phoebe, with her diaconal heart was a helper to many,  
So we take into daily life signs of hope and healing.  
As Paul travelled ever onwards  
As Ruth cherished the people  
who welcomed her into a new family & community,  
So we reach beyond ourselves,  
to share the lives of others and touch the wider world***

PRAY for the **Planning Group** and all that needs to be done in the next few months  
Pray for the **DRAE Executive – President Marianne & Secretary**, our very own **Gordon**  
Pray for the **Rev John L. Bell** as the main speaker  
Pray for **Ann Lyall & Jo Love** organising the worship & music  
Pray for all the **speakers** and **those leading smaller group sessions**.  
Pray for **safe travel** and **granting of visas**

If you aren't coming to the DRAE Assembly, how about lighting a candle and taking time to pray each day 19-24 June.

KEEP PRAYING AND PRAISING GOD

Thank you to everyone for the help, support & encouraging words during my time as your President.  
A never to be forgotten experience!

*Marion*

We pray for Marion holding it all together as host Diaconate President. We thank you for her, Lord, and ask for daily strength and grace in the final 'run-up' and right through the Conference. May your name be glorified in her and all involved in specific tasks to make the event inspiring and eternally worthwhile for all who attend & then outwards to their communities. Amen

## Devotional Gleanings

from "not doing much paid work"

By Dot Getliffe

Isn't it funny how what we say to others in our pastoral care, comes back to bite us?!  
I wrote this in December 2018.

For ages, I have been trying to counsel friends, and people within and outwith congregations, to try to live "a balanced life." And doesn't our Rule of Life say something similar? Attempting to "work, rest and play," (cue old Mars bar advert), is hard these busy days. Many times I have heard myself on the phone to my spiritually intense twin brother, "We need at times to just chill in the presence of God, to read a non-spiritual book or magazine, to play a game, to enjoy a swing outdoors like a small child, or just go for a swim!"



Others have said to *me*, "Dot, you need times of rest, to sharpen your axe, so that when you get to be a lumberjack again, your tools are ready!" OR, "Remember Dot, that you are just a small bit of yeast, not the whole loaf!" And so I'm learning again, to repent of my pride and my discontent at "not doing much paid work." Instead I should be thanking God, like Isaiah, that "in returning and rest, *just now*, is my salvation." Isaiah 30 vs 15-18

My second observation is that I have re-discovered that God's waiting time is not just about me! He alone has the full set of jigsaw pieces that make up all our lives. In this case, guidance has included my husband David. (For husband, substitute elderly mother or best friend). David and I were living apart for a year and a half: he in Inverness: I in retired Deacon Duncan Ross's house in Aberdeen. After about a year of us both

travelling, we prayed and realised my time was up there, so I resigned from Mannofield as part time Parish Asst. We knew we had to set our marriage in the upright position again. So I came to Inverness and have resumed "wifely" duties, such as doing the washing/ cooking. But I have not been a happy bunny!

Finally, as I have reflected, and being a known extravert, I have been challenged by God in Scripture and Christian books, how important it is to PRAY. As Jesus says in Matthew Ch 6 vs 5-7 "We are to pray in secret." Why do we often allow devilish thoughts (lies, really) that prayer is doing nothing?! Taking and making time to praise and PRAY for others in the hidden places where no-one else sees us but Him, is choosing "the better part," c.f. Mary and Martha.

We are all called, as His holy priests, to pray, and every Christian can do it. (1 Peter 2)

So----- a special word to readers who may be laid aside by illness or infirmity. You are in the right place, at the right time, for doing this **vital work of prayer**. Do not de-value it. He needs you.

I do hope I can keep being patient and be settled so when a new paid job comes along, my axe is ready!

\* In Jan and Feb 2019, D.V. I have been listening to trainee ministers conducting Sunday morning services in the North East, and giving pointers in vocal skills and delivery.

## PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS



John Buchanan



Barbara Urquhart



Family & friends of Elspeth Webster



Valerie Cuthbertson  
(New home)



Students



Dot Getliffe

March Prayer Letter from Deacon Diane Kaufmann – DRAE Website

As the world's nations continue to struggle with differing ideas and politics regarding global warming and climate change, all the while dealing with its results and dire predictions of the future, **we acknowledge the source of our hope as God's people...**



Creator, the strength of your people, we honour you.  
 We come before you as people drawn from every tribe, nation, language;  
 some indigenous peoples of this land, some refugees, some immigrants,  
 some pilgrims, all of us as one Body together.  
 We respect the truth of your spirit world and care for your  
 creations to the east, to the south, to the west, and to the north.  
 We honour you by deeds and not words.  
 We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life.  
 Come, Great Spirit, as we gather in your name.

*Pastor Joann Conroy, Oglala Sioux*

## PRAYER FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

*By Rev Martin Johnstone, Church of Scotland Website*

Gathering God,  
 who spoke words of comfort to Abram,  
 pointing to a bright future that seemed so unlikely,  
 as we wander this wilderness  
 of Brexit uncertainty,  
 bewildered and confused, frustrated and angry,  
 help us all hear Your words  
 beyond the chaos and din:  
 'Do not be afraid, I am your shield.'  
 Christ with us, Christ within us  
 Christ behind us, Christ before us.

[SILENCE]

Sheltering Son,  
 In these days of trouble,  
 cover with your protection

those made most vulnerable  
 by the fall-out of indecision.  
 Gather under your wings all feeling  
 overlooked and marginalised  
 holding their breath for fear;  
 a fragile peace might fracture,  
 where to call home?  
 How will we make ends meet?

Help us all hear your words  
 beyond the chaos and din:  
 'Do not be afraid, I am your shield.'  
 Christ comfort and restore us.  
 Christ beneath us, Christ above us,  
 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.

[SILENCE]

Strengthening Spirit,  
waiting on You, let our hearts take courage,  
mindful of our citizenship in heaven,  
working for Your will to be done on earth.  
May all those in political leadership  
be willing to seek and serve  
the good of all creation.  
Help us all hear your words  
beyond the chaos and din:

‘Do not be afraid, I am your shield.’  
Christ in hearts of all that love us,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

[SILENCE]

In the name of Almighty God;  
Creator, Son and Spirit we pray, Amen.



## Noticeboard & News

### Important Dates for your Diary

JUNE COUNCIL is incorporated in **DRAE Conference 19-24 June 2019,**  
**Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh**

### News of Friends

*Please remember to contact Marion, Jim or Lynne if there is news that you would like to pass onto the  
Diaconate about colleagues, special birthdays, special celebrations, illness etc.*

### CELEBRATING COMMISONING - SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DATES IN 2019

Found by Marion while doing some research!

21<sup>st</sup> April 1959 Helen Thom - 60 years

#### September

**2<sup>nd</sup>** 1969 Catherine Gray – 50 yrs;    **15<sup>th</sup>** 1994 David Nicolson – 25 yrs;    **24<sup>th</sup>** 1979 Janie Martin – 40 yrs

**26<sup>th</sup>** 1989 Mary Gargrave – 30 yrs;    **27<sup>th</sup>** 1989 Jeannie Allan – 30 yrs;    **28<sup>th</sup>** 1979 Lynda Wright – 40 yrs

#### October

**4<sup>th</sup>** 1989 Margaret Corrie – 30 yrs;    **27<sup>th</sup>** 1994 Ann Merrilees – 25 yrs

5<sup>th</sup> December 1994 Joyce Mitchell – 25 yrs

*Master Servant Jesus, we thank and praise you for these your deacon-servants of so many years.  
May the fruit of their labours continue to be seen for all eternity,  
doing good to those on earth, for your glory in heaven. Amen.*

XXX XXX XXX

† The **FUNERAL for Elspeth Webster** will take place on **Wednesday 10 April at 2.15pm**  
at Kirkcaldy Crematorium, Rosemount Avenue, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6HQ. †

### Change of Contact Details

**New Address:** Valerie Cuthbertson - 2 Muirhill Court , Hamilton ML3 6DR Tel No: 01698 429 232

### Services of Ordination and Introduction

Please let Lynne know of these, so that the dates can be shared and colleagues can join in on these occasions

## AND FINALLY...

Please Remember - *Diaconate Newsletter* - Don't Forget

The next issue will major on DRAE Conference news. If you are going to be there, jot down your personal highlights and send them and any photos to

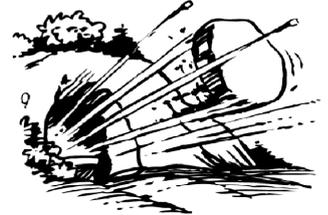
Angela [abrydson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:abrydson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

THANK YOU !



He is not here!  
risen

He is



God bless you richly  
As you prepare for and celebrate  
this cosmic event.

Have a joyfully **CERTAIN** Easter !

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED** (for sure, definitely, no doubt)!!!