



August 2021

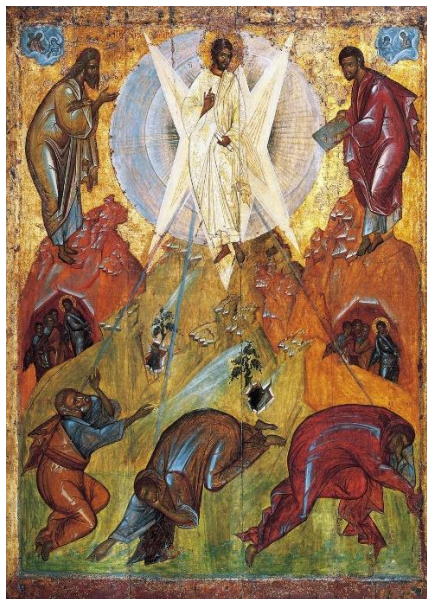
Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. We hope you enjoy reading this month's news! We welcome any suggestions and comments from everyone in our diocese at

media@standrews.anglican.org

Further information can be found on our website

at <https://standrews.anglican.org> You can also download a printable version of this month's E-News by [clicking here](#).

Bishop Ian Writes



Transfiguration

In the liturgical calendar 6th August is the Feast of the Transfiguration. It's an important moment in the Gospels, when the disciples Peter, James and John see, in a moment, Jesus 'transfigured' alongside Moses and Elijah. They see Jesus in a new light, the light of God, resonant with Resurrection. The story draws together Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles in a single moment. It was so powerful an experience that, as the New Testament shows, Peter wrote about it many years later in his second Letter: "You will do well to be attentive to this, as to a lamp shining in a dark place."

Orthodox Christians take Peter's instruction seriously, and regard the 'Transfiguration' as one of the most central Gospel stories. In fact, the first Icon made by every apprentice iconographer in the Orthodox tradition is always The Icon of the Transfiguration.

6th August is also Hiroshima Day, the anniversary of the use of the atom bomb in 1945, and a day of prayer for world peace. The world needs that prayer because, nearly 80 years later, the world is still "in a dark place." War and violence, oppression and destruction, are still inflicted by human beings on each other and on Creation. For very many people the Pandemic has also been a dark time. And there are many other kinds of darkness, some of them personal, some of them global. The Transfiguration offers us a sign of hope in the darkness. When we can be "attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place," Transfiguration is a symbol of hope, because change is always possible when we are able to look at things in a new light.

As we move beyond Covid restrictions and try to renew the life of our congregations, we need that new light, not just for ourselves but for our communities. But the calling of the Church is not to be the light; it is to reflect the light that comes from the transfigured Christ. And if we're to do that, prayer and worship have to be at the heart of the renewal of our Church life, and the heart of the faith of each of us.

With prayer and blessing,

Bishop Ian

Online Worship From the Scottish Episcopal Church



The Scottish Episcopal Church will broadcast the Eucharist service every week at 11am through [YouTube](#) enabling people to worship in fellowship. The service will be held in private, in line with SEC guidelines but all are welcome to access the service online. The liturgy is also available to download from the Scottish Episcopal Church website. Many worshippers from our diocese have found the services deeply spiritual and up lifting.

In line with current guidance, some churches within the diocese are reopening for worship. During this time clergy and vestries are working hard to ensure that all guidance is followed and the safety of the congregation is maintained.

Online services will continue and we ask for all those who are working to ensure that worship both in churches and online can continue to be remembered in your prayers.

[More information can be found here](#)

[Click here for the Weekly Eucharist Online](#)

Pilgrimage



The 2021 Diocesan Pilgrimage takes place on Friday 10th September. There are different starting places on the route from Ceres to St Andrews, depending on how far pilgrims wish to walk. We hope to see members of all congregations who are able to come as pilgrims.

For detailed information and to register, please see

<https://standrews.anglican.org/pilgrimage/>

A Prayer for Pilgrimage - from Nick Price of St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan

A prayer of St. Richard of Chichester:- Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou has borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly.

Amen

Our (digital) pilgrimage - Wholeheartedness *Karen McClain Kiefer*



Amidst our challenging and rewarding work, there may be moments of sublime wholeheartedness in which we feel aligned with what we were made to do. I have been thinking about this quite a lot in the past year, especially in considering the (digital) mission of our diocese and our congregations. NB: I tend to put 'digital' in parentheses because what we convey digitally is not, or should not be, different from our mission. Ideally, it is aligned with that mission as an expression of who we are.

Timely to my current thoughts about wholeheartedness, a friend sent me this quote from Joseph Campbell:

People say that what we're all seeking is a meaning for life. I don't think that's what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances with our own innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive.

— Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth*

However, the truth is that even in work we undertake wholeheartedly, perhaps as part of our calling, we do not escape the mundane that can sometimes squelch the experience of feeling alive! I have been reminded of this in my own work. Alongside establishing connections with congregations and committees in my diocesan role and having engaging and inspiring conversations, there are also many tasks that require tedious attention. We all have them. I have no magic formula for balancing these among other tasks and activities we might rather be doing (if you do, please let us all know!) but I have found that considering all my work in the context of a motivating theme has helped me tremendously.

The Scottish Episcopal Church has given us the rich, inspiring theme of *Pilgrimage* for the next while and I believe embracing this theme can help shape how we look at our mission, how we work, and what messages we convey – digitally and otherwise. I was reminded just how powerful this theme is as I embarked on a kind of accidental pilgrimage on holiday last week. I had planned a journey with a friend down the east side of England, stopping in some places of great interest we had not visited before. We also stopped in a couple places I had found inspiring during previous visits that I wanted to share. Looking back now, I should have seen what a textbook 'pilgrimage' this was, but I was simply following my interests. Those interests included Lindisfarne; Sunday service at Durham Cathedral; York and Yorkminster; Little Gidding; Saint Julian's chapel in Norwich; and Canterbury. While these are lovely places, the journey to them, the inspiration arising from them, and the conversations along the way are what I hold most dear from that trip. Saints Cuthbert, Aidan and Julian accompanied us. At every stop we encountered one or more of them.

Our first clue that we were accidental pilgrims came on the first full day of our journey at the Sunday service at Durham Cathedral (the location of Saint Cuthbert's shrine), which happened to be on the Feast of James the Apostle, a meaningful feast day for pilgrims of the Camino de Santiago (aka Way of St James). The sermon set the tone for the rest of the trip, and we were met with pilgrim images and fellow pilgrims along the way, culminating in

Canterbury, the terminus of the Pilgrim's Way.

Understanding our journey in the context of this pilgrimage theme shed light not just on the places we visited and their history, but also on the journeys in our own lives and the things we hold dear. Perhaps the biggest insight of this unintended pilgrimage was what we learned about our own wholeheartedness and experience of being alive. It was the little things that stood out, taking time to notice the connection between the place we were, who had shaped it previously, and what we noticed about ourselves in that place now. Certain details, like the intricate carvings of shells in a cathedral pillar, rough marks on a wood floor, or handwoven tapestries under which we spontaneously broke out into midday prayer in the creaky stalls of an empty Little Gidding church made the places and stories come more alive with the marks that others had made before us – in expression of what they held dear, and in worship of God. With such an awareness, I hope to better see and share the Gospel message in all that I do, even in the intricate or mundane details. All of it is part of my pilgrimage in seeking, finding and sharing the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. As I sift through information on copyright licences, I can't help but wonder what the disciples of Jesus may have contended with on their pilgrimages.

I look forward to having conversations with your congregations about your own pilgrim journeys!

Watch for more information about a Diocesan Digital Pilgrimage.

Welcome

to the Revd Jonathan Connell and his family as they join the Diocese. Jonathan will be Instituted as Rector of St Andrew, Callander and St Mary, Aberfoyle on Saturday 14 August. Please pray for Jonathan and his family, and for the two congregations, as they enter a new chapter.

Sunday Lectionary

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – 1 August

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a, Psalm 51.1-13, Ephesians 4.1-16, John 6.24-35

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – 8 August

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Samuel 18.5-9,15,31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4.25-5.2, John 6.35,41-51

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – 15 August

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: 1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5.15-20, John 6.51-58

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 22 August

Collect: Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: 1 Kings 8.(1,6,10,11) 22-30,41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6.10-20, John 6.56-69

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 29 August

Collect: Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: Song of Songs 2.8-13, Psalm 45.1-2,7-10, James 1.17-27, Mark 7.1-8, 14-15,21-23