



# The Link

**The Weekly Newsletter for  
St. Cyprian's Church, Lenzie  
7th June 2020**

**Services – The church building is closed for the time being but.....**

**Each Sunday we have a streamed service on Zoom at 10.30am, to which everyone is welcome. How to get into this service is circulated by E.mail during the week, and is also posted on our website.**

**Each Sunday we are creating a short special online service. It should be available on Sundays. The easiest way to “find” it is to go to the front of our website and simply click on the panel.**

**<https://stcyprianslenzie.com>**

The video will also be on social media, particular our facebook page, as well as other local facebook pages.

***If you would like to get something into the Link please let our Rector Les Ireland know on 0141-776 3866 or e-mail rector@stcyprianslenzie.com by teatime on Wednesday evenings. Thanks.***

Our new Bishop is going to be the Rt Rev. Kevin Pearson, currently Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. He will become Bishop on the first of July, although there will be no grand ceremony until later in the year. Bishop Kevin will also continue to live in Oban where he currently resides, as his house here in Glasgow will not be ready (preparations delayed because of the Corona Virus Crisis.).

Below are a couple of documents where he and his wife introduce themselves, and where he gives a sense of what he sees in his future ministry.

## PRAYERS

**ANGLICAN:** La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico: The Most Rev'd Francisco Moreno, presiding bishop and Bishop of Northern Mexico.

**DIOCESAN:** St. Mary's, Gatehouse of Fleet; St Francis of Assisi (Greyfriars); Kirkcudbright (Stephen Hazlett.).

8<sup>th</sup>: Robin House (Balloch) and Rachel House (Kiross).

9<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving for St. Columba.

10<sup>th</sup>: Diocesan Council

11<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving for St. Barnabas

12<sup>th</sup>: The diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

13<sup>th</sup>: Voluntary workers overseas.

Please pray for: Duncan and Shona Naysmith; Jean McLean and her mother; Beryl Scott, Jean Dick, Pam Bently; Jean Kinnon, Margaret Conway; Susan Frost; Alan Paterson; Doreen Rendell; Karen Rose; and those whose names are in the “Prayer Book” at the back of church.

*If there are people you would like included in our prayers or on our prayer list, please let the Rector know.*

**Readings:** Genesis 1:1-2:4                      Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13                  Matt: 28:16-20

**Collect:** Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

St. Cyprian's is streaming a live service of the word on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to join us. There are details of how to join us on the Webpage, as well as a copy of the liturgy we are using.

Please let family and friends know – it would be great for as many as possible to join us.

***Through these difficult times we are keen that people don't feel isolated or in need. If you need any help, or simply want to chat to someone, feel free to phone the Rector at any time on 0141 776 3866.***

## **Message from Bishop Kevin to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway**

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all well and that this lockdown is not too difficult for you, your families, and friends.

I am very disappointed and sad that the pandemic means that Elspeth and I have not been able to move to Glasgow and Galloway in May as was planned. As you know, the enthronement service at the cathedral was arranged for 4 July and that too has had to be postponed. I will however take over as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway as planned on 1 July and we will move to Glasgow as soon as we possibly can. We are so sorry not to be able to meet you all face to face at the moment, and we are very much looking forward to the time when we can do so, and to visiting you all in your churches. I would like to thank everyone in the Diocese who has been so helpful and supportive thus far, especially all the office staff, the Synod Clerk, and the Diocesan Secretary, Treasurer and Surveyor.

I have often been asked what my Strategy for the Diocese and my Mission Plan is. I attach my reflections and thoughts as I move towards the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

After years of putting magazines together for congregations. After years of writing the Rector's letter and being told my efforts were worthy but a little dull. After years of finding theological articles of real depth and historical articles of real interest. After years I realised as I was leaving my last congregation what the choir really wanted came under the generic heading – Gossip. So here it is...

Having been born and brought up in the North East of England, Sunderland to be precise, I came to Edinburgh Theological College in 1976. My first degree was in History at Leeds and the attraction of Edinburgh was partly to come North properly, having gone south for my first degree.

During my time at Coates Hall I did get to know a former Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, Francis Moncrieff, who was later a part of my reason for coming back to exercise ministry in Scotland. After College and the University of Edinburgh, I returned to the Diocese of Durham to serve my curacy in a mining village called Horden, at that time in the middle of the extensive Durham coalfields. I am the only member of the current College of Bishops to have been trained in and by the SEC.

Towards the end of my curacy, I was invited to become Chaplain to the University of Leeds, where one of my next-door neighbours was David Jenkins. As I was beginning to explore returning to a congregational ministry, + Richard Holloway asked me to come to Edinburgh to rescue St Salvador's Stenhouse, opposite the prison and in the middle of a social housing scheme. The congregation and building had been established by Francis Moncrieff for whom + Richard and myself had enormous respect. Time is too short for me to tell you of the burglaries, bricks through the windows, youth drugs project and endless efforts to raise money through jumble sales, tombolas and fetes. It was all great fun and the Holy Spirit moved among us.

During my time there, I met and married Elspeth at St Salvador's. We often thank God that the congregation just allowed us to be ourselves and were never intrusive while being totally supportive, the SEC at its best.

At that time, I also became part time Diocesan Director of Ordinands for Edinburgh and then Provincial Director of Ordinands, appointed by the Primus + George Henderson. To illustrate how things have changed, I can tell you that the Primus's advice was not to put too much effort into selection and recruitment because the SEC 'is finished'. He was part of a generation who had lost confidence in the church. The situation is now the opposite as many of us realise just how rich the sacramental life of our churches is. We have confidence that God is with us, that the Holy Spirit is moving among us and we are saying by our faithfulness – we have an experience of the living God. That confidence is what I personally know, and experience and it is a confidence shared by the present College of Bishops and I believe, the Province.

Despite being Provincial Director of Ordinands and doing some, what would now be called, transitional ministry, I decided I wanted to return to having my own congregation and so I moved to St Michael and All Saints, Edinburgh. My intention always was to give up the vocational discernment work, but the Vestry were paid for my PDO time and so who would turn down a new Rector with a dowry?

Faithfulness is often interpreted as preservation, as keeping things as they always have been. My first years in the new charge were not always easy as we sought to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit in changing patterns and gender of ministry. I was probably the last Rector in SEC to have to deal with protests in the street. Fortunately, the worst was during an outdoor procession and so we just sang louder!

God is with us in so many ways we do not always realise. The years in Edinburgh, on reflection, were full of interference by the Holy Spirit. Students who were musicians came to sing with us, then found faith with us, made their home with us. Students came from the Theological Institute, spent time with us – I often wonder what happened to Kelvin Holdsworth.....

When I arrived in the congregation there seemed a lot of elderly people and when I left sixteen years later, there seemed a lot of elderly people and a lot of younger people and children.

And I was still trying to give up vocational discernment work. The regular meetings I had with the College of Bishops on vocation, meant I gained an invaluable sense of the Province and its potential through the Bishops and visiting every Diocese. The visiting was curtailed when I became Dean of Edinburgh but that brought new challenges and new insights into Diocesan and Provincial life.

Then on to Argyll and the Isles. Fortunately, I love the sea and have enjoyed rough crossings in choppy waters. That could be the subject of many a sermon, but it has just been a fact of life for the past decade. It has been such an exciting time working with the Diocesan officers, the clergy and all the people to make real the building of the kingdom of God with limited resources, small scattered congregations, and vast distances. This we did together because of the commitment, energy, enthusiasm and faithfulness of the clergy and laity who recognise and know that God is with us.

Having limited resources I knitted our own Mission programmes: 'Building the Vision' was like sending out a knitting pattern for a balaclava, and when we met at the Diocesan Conference Day it was inspirational and great fun seeing what could be done with a balaclava. It is a great privilege to be a bishop and to be a small part of so many congregations where the Holy Spirit moves and encourages and blesses our efforts and vision.

The privilege of being Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway is indeed a challenge, but God is with us. I ask you all to pray for me and for Elspeth as we prepare to move. If you were to ask me what I need most as I become Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, I would say I stand most in need of God's gift of Wisdom. Please pray that God will grant me Wisdom.

May God bless and keep you

+ Kevin

### **And a message from Elspeth**

I am looking forward very much to meeting you all, to joining you in worship and to visiting your churches. I am very sad that the Covid-19 restrictions have delayed our move to Glasgow and Galloway. I hope it will not be too long before we can move house and meet you all, even if we have to keep two metres apart!

I am also looking forward to being back in Glasgow again and to getting to know the Diocese better. I lived and worked in Glasgow for four years after finishing my PhD degree, and again for two years later in my career, and I have very happy memories of my time there. My mother was born and brought up in Helensburgh and throughout my childhood we often visited my Scottish Granny there. It will be good to be back in the West.

I was born and brought up in Durham and then went to University in Edinburgh for my first degree in Planning and my PhD which focussed on the Economic Development of the Scottish Highlands and Islands and on strategic planning. My first job was in Strategic Planning with the City of Glasgow Council. I then moved to the Scottish Development Agency and had several roles with them, first in Glasgow in Corporate planning in Bothwell Street, then in Edinburgh in Business, setting up a regional office in the Borders and then back to Glasgow as Head of Rural Development. When I met and married Kevin, I moved to be Head of Economic Development for the City of Edinburgh Council.

I then had a big career shift as I wanted to use the skills and experience, I had gained in another area that mattered to me more personally. I was Macmillan Cancer Support's Director for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for 10 years. I then moved to my present role as Chief Operating Officer for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

As we begin to meet you all: two quirky things to tell you. Firstly, we decided I would keep my own name when I married Kevin so don't be confused if you hear someone asking who Dr Atkinson is. Secondly, I have been a vegetarian since I was a student, but Kevin is most definitely not!

I very much hope that we can meet soon

Elspeth

## Reflections/ My Manifesto for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Dear Friends,

**I believe in God.**

**I believe in the Scottish Episcopal Church.**

**I believe in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.**

And that is why I have responded to what I believe to be God's call discerned with and through the College of Bishops, to come to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Faithfulness is my strategic plan as I move to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Faithfulness is an old fashioned word but at the electoral synod meeting, attended by the whole College of Bishops, during the group work it was the word faithfulness, that summarised my experience of that group and the whole electoral process in Glasgow and Galloway.

Faithfulness of the people who turned out for electoral meetings on a Saturday.

Faithfulness they described in how, often, small congregations meet on Sundays for worship. Faithfulness they described as their experience of God. Faithfulness of God shown in their yearning to be better disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ and to live ever more closely with Him. Faithfulness to share their real experience of knowing, feeling, God is with us.

God's faithfulness to us we see in the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. **They** crucified Jesus, all that is worst in human nature, jealousy, anger, revenge, certainty, **they** combined to kill Jesus who showed the full potential of the love in which we recognise the image of God in and with us. The women laid Jesus in the tomb, the place of darkness, failure, disappointment, to prove God is with us in love in our darkest places, whether we recognise that fact or not, even when we feel God is absent and ask "Where is love?". God is with us in the question, the doubt. Whatever faith is, it is not certainty. Paradoxically, faithfulness teaches us to embrace the questions and the doubts, to have faith in those questions and doubts.

Faithfulness is expressed in our life together as the Scottish Episcopal Church. We have a rich experience of prayer, worship, the sacramental life, intellectual rigour and debate, fearless engagement with culture.

Faithfulness has been our experience during the COVID pandemic. The faithfulness of our clergy and laity who have worked so hard to sustain worship, the sacramental life, to prove God is with us, through computers, and tablets, and phones.

Faithfulness to love, to God who is love, as it was in love that we closed the doors of our churches, not in fear of the virus. God is with us, we continue to pray. And as someone famous said, our streets are not empty, they are full of love in small acts of kindness, consideration, generosity and faithfulness.

Perhaps the pandemic has brought us resurrection, we can leave behind the tomb of cynicism. We now recognise that there are nurses and carers who cherish their patients, knowing that their touch may be the last. Doctors who carry their patients in their hearts. Teachers who want their pupils not only to learn but to flourish. Priests who say their prayers and serve others, because they are faithful. The people on the check-outs in our local supermarket faithfully, patiently, explaining that it is not rationing, we are simply being asked to make sure there is enough for all. That is the front line, it is dangerous.

The cynic is the person who is determined never to be disappointed again. Jesus' resurrection proves God is with us in the tomb of fear, disappointment and loneliness and love bursts out of the tomb of cynicism.

God is with us in Faithfulness. God's faithfulness to us, which is my experience of God. And **our** faithfulness to God which is my experience of Glasgow and Galloway.

Faithfulness which I pray I may show to God and to the Diocese through:

- **Encouragement**, energy and enthusiasm: Faith is so exciting; faithfulness is the Diocesan hallmark, let us encourage each other as I visit congregations and clergy.
- **Experience**: let us look at our strengths, how do we, have we, will we, experience God. Let us move nearer to God together in faithfulness to God and one another.
- **Effecting**: Building the Kingdom of God through faithfulness is our aim and our purpose. That means we do not focus on age, numbers of people in church, money, or lack of it. We will build the Kingdom of God, who is love, through faithfulness. We will build and grow because God is with us. We will all be able to say when asked why we go to church, faithfulness will say: "**Because there I have an experience of the living God.**"

