



Friends of Gordon Chapel
NEWSLETTER

www.gordonchapel.org.uk

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth



We give thanks for your faithful service as our Queen over 64 wonderful years and send greetings for your 90th birthday.

Paris Marathon 2016

The Schneider Electric Marathon de Paris is one of the biggest and most prestigious marathons in the world with over 57,000 registered entrants, from 145 different nationalities. The unique and spectacular Schneider Electric Marathon de Paris, attracts more and more entrants each year, with more than 23,000 runners from abroad, making up 40% of the field.

The athletes taking part pound the pavements of the French capital's most famous avenues and plazas, from the foot of the Arc de Triomphe, where the marathon starts, towards the Place de la Concorde. From the Rue de Rivoli and sweeping through the Place de la Bastille and onto the Bois de Vincennes. Views of Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower point the way home of the 26.2 mile (42.195 km) distance, with runners finishing on Avenue Foch in sight of the Arc de Triomphe.

This year, as it was the 40th edition, groups of musicians helped runners on their way between the start on the Champ Elysees and the finish line.

A group of six runners from the Fochabers Spey Runners running club took part in the Paris marathon on 3rd April 2016. Training for a Spring marathon has meant that all of the training has been completed during winter, and the group has found this has had its ups and downs. Some of the most challenging aspects has been staying motivated to get up early on a Saturday morning to do a long run in the sleet and snow. However, taking in the beautiful sights of Moray and with each other for support, has proved to be the motivation they needed to keep them on task.

Out of the 57,000 entrants, 41,000 completed the 26.2-mile course. Whereby many entrants may have had to pull out due to injury, illness or other circumstances, the gruelling 21 degree heat on the day meant that many of the runners were overcome by the heat and pulled out of the race.

However, all six Spey Runner entrants made the finish line to collect their medal.



Moira Middleton

Lent and Easter 2016

This Spring I was fortunate to travel to New Zealand via Singapore and Australia. It so happened that my trip coincided with Lent as the first full day away was Ash Wednesday when I was in Singapore and I returned to Oxford on Easter Tuesday having spent Easter weekend in Singapore. I went to St Andrew's Cathedral for several services. The Cathedral itself is a traditional building next to the Padang but there is a modern welcome centre with a meeting room, open air amphitheatre and underground auditorium as well. On Ash Wednesday there was a lunchtime eucharist, without ash, in the meeting room. It was a traditional service with a Chinese Bishop as celebrant and Preacher. The sermon lasted 40 minutes and the hymns included 'The Old Rugged Cross'. I was the only Caucasian present, the majority of the congregation being elderly Chinese who may not have understood the sermon but sang heartily in the hymns. For the Maundy Thursday Service the cathedral was full. The oil was blessed, there was a shorter sermon, both feet of 12 people were washed and the altar was stripped and wiped down. The Good Friday service took the form of meditations on the Seven Last Words and was made more meaningful as the meditations were led by the Bishop, an Indian, the former Vicar of Bangkok, a Caucasian, a Presbyterian minister and the Vicar of Singapore, both Chinese. We had to wait for the Mandarin congregation to finish before we could get into the nave but again the Cathedral was full.

Easter Sunday was an eye-opener to me. I opted to go to the 9a.m. service which was in the new auditorium. The Mandarin congregation was entering the Cathedral for their service. Although initially the auditorium was not full (perhaps because it was the monthly car-free Sunday in the CBD), by 9.30 it was overflowing. The service was described as contemporary so there was a music group rather than the 50 strong choir but the prayers were prayer book. We were asked to leave promptly at the end as another Mandarin congregation was due to come in and another English congregation was queuing to get into the Cathedral when I left. As well as the 4 'main' services with attendances of 5-700 each there were services in different languages during the afternoon and had been a dawn service. In Singapore communion was by intinction, in marked contrast to New Zealand where communicants were urged not to intinct to allow for people with wheat allergies.

The first Sunday of Lent I was in Sydney and as it is a predominantly evangelical diocese and I was only free in the evening, I went to one of the two Anglo Catholic churches for Solemn Evensong. There was a Litany in Procession and lots of genuflection but the sermon ended with CS Lewis'

poem 'The Apologist's Evening Prayer'. The preacher must have known I was coming and was from Holy Trinity Headington Quarry in Oxford where Lewis worshipped.

Another ecclesiastical highlight of my trip was Choral Evensong at the 'Cardboard' or Transitional Cathedral in Christchurch, NZ. This was



designed by a Japanese 'emergency architect' and constructed of cardboard rolls, local wood and steel with a polished concrete floor and polycarbonate roof. It is built to 130% of the current NZ earthquake code and is a flexible space which has been used for both sacred and secular purposes. The future of the former cathedral which was badly damaged in the 2011 earthquake is causing much discussion at present. Many of the congregation feel that it is better to demolish it and use the money wisely.

However many of the citizens feel that as the building was such an iconic part of the city it should be restored despite the cost of rebuilding it to withstand any future earthquakes. There was an earthquake while I was staying there but, though frightening, it didn't cause much damage. On Palm Sunday I was in Waipu, NZ, standard tourist trail but has a and is more Scottish than the Scots. Families who fled from Scotland to Nova Scotia during the Clearances, led by their charismatic leader Norman Macleod who was subsequently ordained minister, fled again after drought and potato blight made life untenable. Finding that Adelaide Melbourne in the their way to the East Coast of New Zealand. The Presbyterian church there has been on the same site since 1853 and the current building dates from 1871 (old by NZ standards). The Anglicans in Waipu only had services on alternate Sundays so it seemed appropriate that I went to the Presbyterian church. The service was a hymn (or song) sandwich but we sang 'Make Way, Make Way' and the sermon was the final in a series on the Seven Last Words.



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The Cathedral in Auckland has a chancel which was built in the 1950 and 60s and a more recent and striking nave with colourful windows. Before this a parish church was used as the cathedral. When the new Chancel was built St Mary's was raised onto rollers, the main road was closed for a day and the building moved across the road and turned through 90°. Proper foundations

were then laid and there is now a complex of buildings of different ages and styles.

Another church which is not on the tourist trail worth a visit is St Faith's Anglican Church, Rotorua. From the outside this is a mock Tudor building but inside it is pure Maori and is set in Maori buildings and, as it is Rotorua, steam them. A highlight of St Faith's is an etched showing Christ in traditional Maori clothes



water – Lake Rotorua seen through the congregation is mixed Maori and Pakeha. but definitely Ohinemutu in Anglican a square with rising around glass window walking on the window. The

So it was Lent and Easter with a difference but very memorable and thought provoking.

Gillian Hood

Surprise.....for all

I dreamt death came to me one night and Heaven's gates flew wide,
With kindly grace St Peter came and ushered me inside.

There – to my great astonishment were friends I'd known on earth,
Some I had labelled as unfit and some of little worth.

Indignant words flew to my lips, words I could not set free;
For every face showed stunned surprise

No-one expected me!

(Nairn Parish Magazine)

Patricia Innes

Poem given to Patricia, by Susan Stewart Gordon, who was married to George of Auchlunkart and Tannachy, David Gordon's great-uncle

There will be a concert by Musik Fyne on Saturday 1st October in Gordon Chapel in memory of Robin Stewart. The concert will consist of favourite pieces of Musik Fyne with the ticket price of £10.

When

When people are curt or ignore what you say,
When other's words hurt and friends keep away,
Remember God loves you.

When life feels all empty and weighed down with care,
When tears come in plenty with no-one to share,
Remember God loves you.

When money is tight and worries just stream,
When nothing goes right so you're ready to scream,
Remember God loves you.

When burdened with guilt and plagued by the past,
When faith starts to wilt or doubts loom too vast,
Remember God loves you.

When death comes to prey and up mount the years,
When friends pass away and you're riddled with fears,
Remember God loves you.

(By kind permission of The Prayer Trust)

Margaret Forsyth

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them--they are more than the sand; I come to the end--I am still with you.

Psalm 139 was read at the service for the Queen's 90th birthday on Friday 10th June. It was so beautifully read that it made me listen to the words, so I am including it here for you to enjoy.

Friends of Gordon Chapel Draw took place on Sunday 19th June and the winners were:

£100.00	Gillian Hood.	£75.00	Allan Jamieson.
£50.00	Colin Reid.	£25.00	Professor J McEwen.



Elgin Cathedral and cherry blossom

Gordon Chapel

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We would appreciate items from Friends for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please send to: Brenda Shepherd 2 Elsher Close, Lhanbryde, Elgin. IV30 8FA or email: brenda02@tiscali.co.uk.