



# Harvest

## Letter from the Rector



Dear  
Friends,

Another hundred days have passed since my last letter to you at Pentecost. In that time we have regained some freedoms: it is glorious to be able to meet others in cafe's and to invite people to receive communion in church, albeit in limited numbers. Although this winter brings more challenges and renewed restrictions the people of Scotland are showing a lively consideration for their neighbours and a real sense of being part of a wider community that must pull together in difficult times. I am deeply thankful for this.

I'm also thankful for Autumn, which I love. The colours change on the hills hour by hour, creation seems to be particularly active at this time of year, with fruiting trees and changing colours, alongside the human efforts to harvest. It is wonderful, in the midst of so much tragedy reported in the news to remember the great gifts we have been given to share during Creationtide and especially at harvest.

Following Harvest, as we move through October and into November our thoughts move from the beauty of all creation given to us to the beauty of human lives that we have known and shared in. When I lived in Hungary this

remembering was uniquely linked to the autumn leaves and is something I will never forget.

In Hungarian the word for a leaf on a tree 'levél' is different to the word for a leaf that has fallen to the ground in Autumn 'árpád'. 'Árpád' is also the name for the first Hungarians, so it is possible in Hungarian to say: "Sétálunk az árpádokunknát." and be saying at once, "we're walking through the autumn leaves" and "we're walking through our ancestors". I feel that this is what many of us will be doing this Autumn as we remember those we have loved and lost at All Saints and All souls, as we remember those who fought and died or were killed as civilians and prisoners of conscience in the wars. And through it all we will be hoping and working for the day when peace will reign on Earth.

Perhaps, whilst you are out walking this Autumn, you will pick up an Autumn leaf and remember the beauty of all the human lives that have been lived in this place before you and perhaps you will commit to honouring the human lives being lived on this planet at this time.

This year, we will not be collecting donations of food in church, but if you would like to donate fresh produce to No 1 on Skinner Square for their Food Pantry or tinned and dried goods to the Foodbank hosted at West Church, you would truly be enriching the lives of families right here in Banchory.



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## New Ventures for the Green Shoots Trust

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I am delighted to report that as of this Autumn, through the Green Shoots Trust here at St Ternan's, we are also able to ensure that one to one support for some of the more vulnerable young people in Banchory continues in the face of funding cuts forced by the Covid-19 crisis.

In 2019, through Number One Cafe on Skinner Square, 21 young people volunteered including 12 young people who came to the cafe during school hours as part of their education. The volunteer placements provided not only life skills but also practical examples of numeracy and literacy while cooking, or cash handling which complements the formal learning. More recently, Banchory Academy teaching staff bring students to the cafe as part of their school day. Other young people volunteered for a variety of reasons including three lads in their 20's who came to the cafe when feeling low after completing formal education not knowing what career direction to take. All three gained confidence and have gone on to paid employment. A number of academy aged students volunteer after school as part of their Duke of Edinburgh programme. All volunteers are encouraged to join the Saltire Award scheme to record their experiences.

The present funding for this scheme was sadly to cease by the end of October 2020 with the result that our two co-workers will have to leave their jobs.

You will have seen that the cafe is no longer open because of the crisis however our team has increased activity in the outdoors community spaces. We are developing a community greengrocer and continue to cook

meals for take away. Our relationship with the social services and schools continue with three new referrals in the past week. The covid-19 crisis has increased the demand for our service as young people have been affected by the lockdown. There is an increase in mental health issues particularly with those who already suffered from development delay conditions such as autism.

Through Green Shoots Trust, St Ternan's is able to keep this fantastic service running, at least in part, for the next 12 months.

Number One's two co-workers are willing to reduce their working week and alter the programme to suit the demands, without reducing the number of participants. In order to maximise the outcomes with funding Green Shoots Trust can offer.

One to one support will continue with those children who have been identified as in need of specialised support. There are a small number of students who find social situations difficult. However the aim would be to increase their confidence to join larger groups.

More group activities will be developed. These would more likely be around the outdoor spaces at Bellfield Garden and parks. If required we will use other facilities for indoor activities. Number One's team includes artists, crafters and musicians so we would develop activities based on the skills around us. One of the team is also a trained therapy practitioner using reflexology and aromatherapy. She would provide therapies for participants and their carers.

It has been a long term aim to provide support for parents. Number One would therefore like to develop a group for families, like the Games Club they have been involved in creating in Aboyne



which has been very successful. We would like to offer a similar space for families in Banchory. St Ternan's is pleased to be able to offer its hall for this enterprise, as soon as restrictions allow.

Jean Heggerty, as the manager of Number One wishes to thank Green Shoots Trust for their support. In a small way we will be helping to give the correct support and encouragement to young people with hidden disabilities here in Banchory.

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## Worship into Autumn and Towards Christmas

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Many of you are now familiar with Zoom and join our online worship at 11am each Sunday. Gradually we have become more proficient, with the act of worship feeling shared in the style of our usual 11am, rather than a 'the Rector does everything' show. The meeting ID is always: 484 921 2172 and the Password: 784700.

It has been a real joy to welcome a good number of you back to Communion Services in church. This does require contacting me in advance so that I can ensure a space for you and prepare the correct amount of bread before the service starts. We maintain a 2m distance and wear face coverings, except when receiving the bread and sanitize our hands on the way into and out of church, before and after receiving communion. (Canon Lynsay does it a few more times than that!) The entire church is cleaned between services, so it is one of the safer places to be in public at present.

If you wish to attend a service, the following options are available:

8am Sunday 1970 Liturgy

9am Tuesday 1980 Liturgy

10.15am Thursday BCP

Only the Sunday service includes a sermon. To reserve a space please telephone or text 07713 130245 or email: [revdlynsay@zoho.com](mailto:revdlynsay@zoho.com)

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If you are a thinking ahead kind of person, you may already be wondering what will happen at Christmas. No matter what the media say, Christmas will not be cancelled! Assuming that we will still be quite restricted we have made plans for:

- A Zoom Advent Carol Service at 11am on Advent Sunday (29th November 2020).
- Daily Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer with reflections available on the website throughout Advent.

In order to allow as many people as possible to receive Communion at Christmas we will offer:

- 4pm Christmas Eve Family Communion Crib Service.
- 9.30pm Christmas Eve Midnight in Bethlehem Communion Service (Hymns played over sound system if singing still not allowed.)
- 11.15pm Christmas Eve Midnight Communion.
- 8am Christmas Day 1970 Communion
- 11am Christmas Day Christmas Zoom Worship

Please do book in for these services as soon as you know your plans. I would like to know whether I need to cancel or add any services in order to accommodate people.

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Over the next couple of months alongside work in Banchory, I am also involved with:

- Supporting a discernment panel for people exploring vocation to ordained ministry.
- Aberdeen and Orkney's on-line clergy and lay reader conference.
- Online meetings with the diocese of Connecticut.
- Curate training in disability theology.
- Discernment panel training in disability theology.

Please do let me know how things are going for you. You can even invite me for a cup of tea!

Finally, many thanks for all your prayers and support over the past two and a bit years. My son Conrad moved into Witiko House at Camphill Aberdeen on the last Monday in September this year, Deo Gratias! It is good to feel that the move is finally complete.

With love and blessings,

*Canon  
Lynsay. x*

