



EAGLE

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

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Cover picture:

Elaine's Institution - 2 years ago!

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Communication

As well as our own website address for St John's www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk you can also find information at the following on-line resources:

Inspires Online <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/>

Inspires Online is the free e-newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Church – to subscribe please use the address above and then the sign-up box on the footer of that page.

Pisky.scot – <http://pisky.scot/> This provides the latest in thinking and discussion within the SEC. Previously Inspires Magazine offered a forum for information, discussion and debate. Now pisky.scot allows for that same conversation to be held more publicly and with the invitation to comment and get involved.

Diocesan website address <https://standrews.anglican.org/> – from there you can access all the Diocesan resources and subscribe to the Diocesan e-newsletter.

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St. Johns Eagle has suddenly gained in importance as a means of communicating, and as a result the decision has been taken to email a copy to all for whom email addresses are held. In addition, printed copies in a reduced (A5) format will be posted to those without email. Comments and /or extra email addresses welcome at gordongarman@aol.com

God's Abundance

Two years ago, Gordon and I had not long arrived in Forfar, were unpacking boxes, and preparing for my institution in St John's on the 14th July. Those two years



have flashed by including the past 12 weeks. What seemed interminable at the beginning of lockdown now seems, for me, a moment in time. However, I also know that the pandemic and lockdown is not over, and many will continue to be ultra-cautious regarding any trips out or visits with friends and family. And of course, we are not yet back in church.

Nonetheless high summer shows off God's outdoor cathedral and as I was out on my morning walk today, I was struck by God's abundance. The two photographs show the same potato field just weeks apart. So much has happened. Two years ago, I did not know the congregation of St John's, Forfar, or the surrounding area. In the intervening time I have become embedded in St John's ministry and mission and of course, in our worship.

The past weeks have meant we have had to find other ways to meet our need for spiritual nourishment – praying more in our homes, at the same time as others, online or on the telephone. We have come to appreciate what we miss and what we



have. It is similar to the change in our wider society as we have come to realise what we really need and what we can do without.

Would we miss the mountains of unnecessary packaging, endless piles of throw-away junk, all the gadgets that sit unused in a cupboard? It is not necessarily about having to make do with less. In fact, we are going to make do with more: more beauty, more community, more fulfilment, more art, more music, and material objects that are fewer in number but superior in utility and aesthetics.

Part of the healing that I hope and pray for in our new normal is for a sacred economy that represents the healing of the divide we have created between spirit and matter. In keeping with the sacredness of all things, we should embrace, not shun materialism. I think we will love our things more and not less. We will treasure our material possessions, honour where they came from and where they will go. The cheapness of our things is part of their devaluation, casting us into a cheap world where everything is expendable. God's abundance is there for us so we can fill ourselves with a life that is personal, connected, and meaningful, as part of a web of abundant gifts in which we participate as giver and receiver.

With love

Elaine



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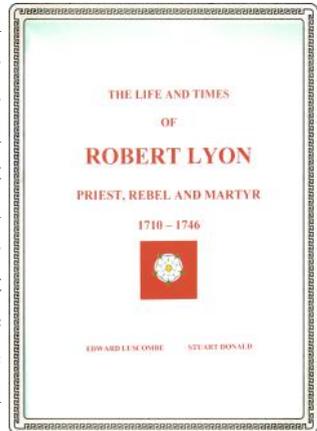
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Book review

The Life & Times of Robert Lyon: Priest, Rebel and Martyr, 1710–1746

by Edward Luscombe and Stuart Donald, 2020

“Bishop Luscombe, in collaboration with Stuart Donald, has again in this most recent publication in a long line of printed historical narratives on the Episcopal cause in Scotland, provided us with engaging material, this time on the short life of Robert Lyon, a devoted son of the Scottish Church and a passionate Jacobite. . . The availability of this material is not only long overdue, but serves to remind us of the great sacrifice of those engaged in the Jacobite cause as we approach the 275th Anniversary of the Battle of Culloden and indeed of the barbarous execution of Robert Lyon at the age of 36 at Penrith on 28th of October 1746.” — so writes The Very Rev’d Dr A. Emsley Nimmo, Dean Emeritus of Aberdeen and Orkney and President of the 1745 Association, in his preface to Bishop Ted’s book on the Revd. Robert Lyon.



In this fascinating little book, Bishop Ted traces the salient features of what is known of Robert Lyon’s background and ministry, and his fateful attaching of himself to the army of Prince Charles Stuart. His father was almost certainly the Revd. James Lyon, whose family’s roots were in Glenogil. He had been ordained under the patronage of James, Earl of Strathmore (whose own family name was Lyon). The son, Robert Lyon, was ordained in 1738 by Bishop Thomas Rattray —the subject of another of Bishop Ted’s recent books — to serve as Assistant Curate to the Revd. Laurence Drum-

mond, the semi-invalid Incumbent of the Perth Episcopal congregation, which had been driven out of Saint John's Kirk in 1689 by the Presbyterians. When Prince Charles Edward Stuart came through Perth in 1745 on his march to Edinburgh, Robert joined himself to his cause as a non-combatant, becoming Chaplain to the Forfarshires (Lord Ogilvy's Regiment). Having entered Edinburgh without resistance and having roundly defeated General Cope at Prestonpans, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' and his Jacobite army reached as far south as Derby, en route to London, before his nerve failed him, and the decision was taken to retreat to the Highlands, there to regroup for a second invasion of England. Enter George the Second's favourite son, the Duke of Cumberland — the 'Butcher', as he came to be known. Pursuing Charles Stuart as far as Inverness, Cumberland won a decisive victory over the 'Rebels' on 16th April, 1746 at Culloden. A thousand Jacobites died in the action. On Cumberland's orders, many were shot or bayoneted as they lay wounded on the field of battle. Another fifteen hundred were pursued across the Highlands and slaughtered in the aftermath, while Prince Charles Stuart himself escaped to France, there to die in exile.

Cumberland's revenge was "a calculated attempt to destroy the Highland way of life", banning the bagpipes ("an instrument of war") and also the kilt, plaid or any Highland garment. He aimed also to destroy the Episcopal Church — many of whose members were supporters of the Jacobite cause. Its buildings were physically destroyed and the clergy, already suffering under the existing Penal Laws, were subjected, under the Toleration Act of 1746 and the Penal Act of 1748, to even harsher and more rigorous requirements and restrictions.

Back in Perth, Robert Lyon's name was first on a list of eighty "Rebels" who were wanted men. The other seventy nine were arrested and incarcerated without trial in horrendous conditions in the Tollbooth at Perth, before being despatched, some to Inverness, some to Stirling, to an unknown fate. Robert Lyon was probably captured on his way back to Perth after Lord Ogilvy's Regiment was disbanded in Glen Clova in April 1746. He was imprisoned in the Tollbooth in Montrose, then in York, before finally being shackled in "horrid" conditions in Carlisle Castle. Bishop Ted's book contains images of the originals of a letter written by Robert's sister, Agnes Ogilvy, interceding for him with Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk, and of a joint letter of support and consolation sent to Robert in Carlisle

Castle by the Primus, Bishop Robert Keith of Edinburgh, and Bishop John Alexander of Dunkeld.

Tried on a charge of High Treason and of levying war against the King, Robert Lyon, along with another clergyman, Thomas Coppock, Chaplain to the Manchester Regiment, were found guilty and sentenced to death in September 1746. Lyon was executed at Penrith on 28th October, aged 36. Bishop Ted closes his account with the full text of Robert Lyon's moving, twenty-minute long, last speech, which he delivered from the Gallows.

Bishop Ted's illuminating book sheds light for us on a tragic era in Scottish history and on the fortunes of the Episcopal Church in it, through the figure of a little-known, but heroic, individual whose allegiance to the heirs of the exiled King James the Seventh, and loyalty to "my dear mother, the Church of Scotland" —i.e. the Episcopal Church— led him to pay the ultimate price, with his life.

Dr. Nimmo concludes his Preface to the book, "The most recent Synod of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney unanimously passed a motion, to be forwarded to the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church to be held at Edinburgh later this year, asking that body to invite the Church's Faith and Order Board to include the name of Robert Lyon as a Hero of the Faith in the Liturgical Kalendar. The date suggested was the 27th October, the Vigil of SS Simon and Jude Apostles. The timeous publication of this booklet could not be more appropriate."

Eryl Rowlands

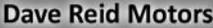


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New appointments across our Diocese

Despite the challenge of this crisis to the start of any new ministry, the Diocese has been delighted to welcome a number of new clergy to the Diocese. The Services of Institution will take place when possible.

The Revd Kathy Barrable has been Licensed as priest-in-charge of St Mary, Newport and St Margaret, Tayport. Kathy comes to us after a long ministry in South Africa.

The Revd Lesley-Ann Craddock has been Licensed as priest-in-charge of St Mary, Birnam. Lesley-Ann has served in England and also in Glasgow and the Diocese of Moray.

The Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills was Licensed as priest-in-charge of St Margaret, Leven on 1 May. Bonnie has served in England, and has long experience in international Inter-Faith work.

The Revd Gerry Dillon was Licensed on 1st May as priest-evangelist of the Central Fife Centre of Mission, a partnership with Church Army, and priest-in-charge of St Luke, Glenrothes and St Finnian, Lochgelly. Gerry has previously served the Central Fife Group as non-stipendiary priest.

The Revd Steve Butler will be Licensed as priest-in-charge of St John, Pittenweem and St Michael, Elie. The date will be confirmed once arrangements for his move can be made. Steve comes to the Diocese from the Diocese of Edinburgh.

Please hold these new clergy and their charges in your prayers.



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St John's Reopening

The Vestry met on Wednesday 24th June and decided not to reopen at this time for private prayer. The church would have to be staffed during its opening period and it was not felt that we have enough people who are not in a vulnerable group to achieve this safely. However, it was agreed that we would work to reopen for funerals. The Vestry will have to agree the plan for such reopening, and it must also be sanctioned by Bishop Ian.

Smile Fundraising

As some may be aware, Amazon stopped being involved in Easyfundraising some time ago, but donations can still be raised by going to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and logging in with one's own Amazon login details, and selecting St John's as the charity.

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Notes from the Treasurer

At the end of May our free will offering was remarkably similar to the same period last year. So to all those who have managed to maintain their contribution and to those who have generously given 'one off' gestures – my grateful thanks. This of course is the good news, the not so good news is that at the end of May our expenditure was around £73,000 (roof repairs played their part) but our income lagged behind at £61,000 which has meant a dip into our investments.

Just keep using Easyfundraising (the Rectory does and has just earned 53p on one transaction!!) and roll on to the time when we can meet again and engage in fund raising activities.

In the meantime keep safe and keep smiling.

Roger

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I thank thee God

I thank thee God, that I have lived
In this great world and know its many joys;
The song of birds, the strong, sweet scent of hay
And cooling breezes in the dusk,
The flaming sunsets at the close of day,
Hills and lonely, heather covered moors,
Music at night, and moonlight o the sea,
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore
And wild, white spray, flung high in ecstasy;
The faithful eye of dogs, and treasured books,
The look of kin and fellowship of friends,
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.

I thank thee, too, that there has come to me
A little sorrow, and sometimes defeat,
A little heartache and the loneliness
That comes with parting, and the word 'goodbye',
Dawn breaking after dreary hours of pain,
When I discovered that night's gloom must yield
And morning's light break though to me again.

Because of these and other blessings poured
Unasked upon my wondering head,
Because I know that there is yet to come
An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all, because thine only Son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me-
I thank thee God that I have lived.

*ANON Poem found many years ago in the chapel
of Glenalmond College on a scrap of paper*

and submitted by +Ted



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