

DORNOCH PARISH NEWS

April 1989



MINISTER - REV. JAMES A. SIMPSON
CATHEDRAL MANSE
EASTER AT THE CATHEDRAL

EDITOR - MRS. T. CALDERWOOD
5, THE PILLARS, PITGRUDY

What an unforgettable day Easter Sunday was. For the first time in living memory, people were standing throughout the morning service, every seat in the Cathedral being occupied. It was a thrilling sight. The sound of the singing of the Easter hymns was equally inspiring.

Eight hours later the Cathedral was again packed for the Easter Songs of Praise service and the switching on for the first time of the new Cathedral floodlighting. All who were present found it a most moving service. Ruby Munro and Ackie Murray, (96 and 94 years young respectively!) rose to the occasion, Miss Munro pronouncing the words "Let there be light" in both English and Gaelic, in a strong clear voice. Many will long remember singing "The Lord's my Shepherd" in the darkness and watching the floodlights not only illumine the building, but gradually restore colour to our lovely stained glass windows.

Mr Simpson expressed the warm thanks of the congregation to the Scottish Development Agency for funding the floodlighting, and for agreeing to do it in time for our 750th anniversary celebrations. He also thanked the Hydro-Electric Board for agreeing to pay the running costs for the whole of our 750th year, and Mr Blair and Mr Milne of the Lighting Department of the Highland Region for all the thought and planning they had put into the floodlighting scheme.

If the rest of our 750th projects and special Services are as successful and inspiring as this first one, it will truly be a memorable year.

Copies of the 750th programme of events are available from the tourist office. Tickets for the various concerts and the pageant will be on sale as from the beginning of May.

JOINING THE CHURCH

The Service of admission of new members, and of welcoming those who have recently transferred their membership from other churches, will be on Sunday, 16th April. If you are interested in joining, please complete one of the forms available at the doors of the church, indicating either your desire to join by profession of faith, or the church of which you were formerly a member. Mr Simpson or Mr Steele will be only too happy to answer any questions about what is involved.

NEW DEACONS

At the Annual General Meeting, Mr Simpson warmly thanked Mr Bill Grieve, Mr William Shaw and Mrs Moira Herbertson who, having served their three year term, were due to retire. All three have rendered ~~invaluable~~ valuable service. The following deacons were elected to serve for the next three years - Mrs Agnes Livingstone, Mrs Catri Macaskill, Mr William Murray and Mr John Sharples. We are grateful to them for agreeing to serve in this way.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

(The address given by Mr Simpson on the occasion of the switching on of the new floodlighting.)

In a few moments the darkness outside will be dispelled, the glory of the stained glass windows will be partially restored, the town centre will be transformed and the cathedral round which Dornoch grew up 750 years ago, will be seen in a new light. I can think of no more appropriate occasion for the switching on of our new lighting system than Easter when we celebrate the transformation of the darkness of that Black Friday when Jesus was crucified, into the light of Easter day.

For many centuries tallow candles and simple rush lamps were the only ways that people knew of dispelling the darkness. Later the harnessing of electrical power made bigger and brighter lights possible. Improvements in the manufacture of floodlights have now made it possible at relatively small running costs to highlight the beauty of buildings which are of historic and architectural significance.

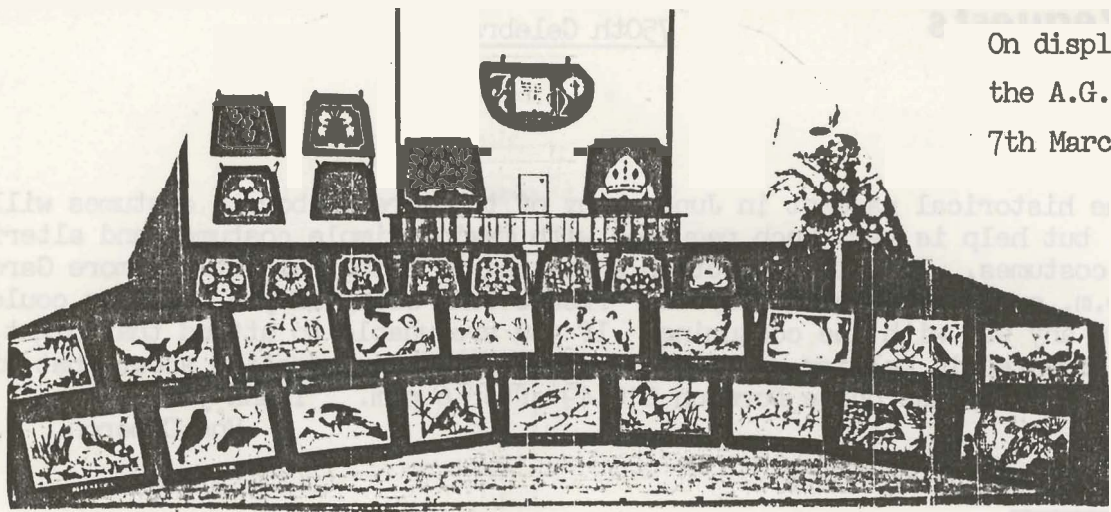
For those of us who live in Dornoch all the year round, the temptation is strong to take our magnificent church for granted, to pass by with little or no thought for the wonderful mediaeval legacy which is ours. It is easy to forget just how fortunate we are to have at the heart of our community a building which both inside and outside reminds us not only of the beauty of holiness but the holiness of beauty. Well at least for the next few days the new lighting system will force those who pass by at night to take note of the glory, colour and design of the Cathedral. Whereas colour vanishes in the dark, not only from stained glass windows, but from everything else, light restores and highlights beauty.

In future, the brightest building in the town will be the Cathedral. This being so, it is up to us as a congregation, to make sure that is true also of what goes on within these walls, that the outside brightness is matched by an inner brightness. Surely there ought to be a gaiety about our coming together as Christians. The Church ought to be a place not of gloom and long faces, but of joy and bright faces. It ought to be a place to which children and adults rejoice to come, where the music is bright and where the preaching sheds light on the mystery of life. Jesus, whose life was dedicated to the service of God, loved fun and companionship and conversation. It ought to be so also with his Church.

In future our floodlit church will brighten up the town. I hope that we, as a congregation, will do the same, that we will penetrate the life of the world with grace, enthusiasm, kindness, faith, hope and love - that we will live radiant lives, doing little things finely. "Let your light so shine before men" said Jesus, "that they will see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

The Cathedral has long added architectural character to the heart of Dornoch. I hope that in other ways this Church will continue to be a source of great character, that her worship services will inspire many to be better neighbours, parents and disciples. As a town and as a nation, character is probably our greatest need today.

One final word. As the engineers were making adjustments to the floodlights on Monday night, I wandered down the High Street. As I looked back from outside the Carnegie library, even the view of the cemetery was transformed. My eyes were instinctively drawn upwards from the tombstones to the beautifully illuminated cathedral spire, pointing upwards. The wintry scene was a powerful pictorial reminder of the message of Easter, that there is much more to life than two dates on a tombstone, that there is an eternal dimension to it. The floodlit scene was also a powerful reminder that in God's world the last word is not with darkness but with light, not with death but with resurrection.



On display at
the A.G.M. on
7th March '89

THE 750th TAPESTRIES

The tapestry cushions for the pulpit, the elders' chairs and the choir stalls, were on display in the Church on Easter Sunday. They made a beautiful picture and were much admired. Mr Simpson's idea for such a project was initially advanced by the tireless efforts and planning of Margaret Randall who ordered the canvas and the wools. The beautiful designs for the wild flowers and birds were drawn by Harrie Murray. Jane Price made up all the cushions. Margaret Alford was the final convener of the project.

The following men and women sewed the tapestries:-

Pulpit Cushion	Harrie Murray	Lapwing	Winnie Monteith
Burning Bush	Nicoll Calderwood	Partridge	Jane Price
Bishop's Mitre	Isabel Sauder	Shelduck	Margaret Gray
Wild Pansy	Helen Simpson	Swan	Margaret Alford
Primula	Cynthia Swallow	Chaffinch	Jessie Bell
Daffodil	Joan McLeod	Robin	Pat Richardson
Sorrel	Morven Jones	Blue Tit	Betty Thompson
Wild Rose	Margaret Alford	Owl	Winifred Aiken
Water Lily	June Grant	Oyster Catcher	Ruth McDonald
Harebell	Harrie Murray	Yellow Hammer	Lynn Calder
Thistle	Betty Thomas	Heron	Evelyn Calder
Primrose	Rosemary Innes	Herring Gull	Sandee McIntosh
Snowdrop	Margaret Young	Osprey	Annabel Murray
Iris	Will Johnstone	Mallard	Susan Wright
Celandine	Kath Munro	Eagle	Beth McCash
Pheasant	Nicoll Calderwood	Dipper	Susan Campbell
Puffin	Alasdair MacKay	Starling	Betty MacLennan
Bullfinch	Harold Monteith		

To all these people we give our grateful thanks.

M.F.A.

750th STALL

The Stall, selling mementos of our 750th year, opened Easter weekend. I am very grateful to the people who have agreed to help at the Stall. It would be good to have a few more volunteers who would be willing to be responsible for a day. The Stall is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact me if you can spare the time to help in this way.

Helen G. Simpson.

CAN YOU HELP?

For the historical pageant in June, many of the more elaborate costumes will be hired, but help is very much required with making simple costumes and altering other costumes. In this connection a meeting is being held at 8 Camore Gardens at 8 p.m. on Monday the 10th April. Please come along if you feel you could help in any way with the costuming. If you are unable to attend that night, but are interested in helping - or if you want further information about what might be involved, please phone Dornoch 810149 after 6 p.m. Thank you.

Una Cameron.

CAN YOU HELP?

One of the major events of the 750th celebrations will be the concert by the world famous Glasgow Phoenix Choir. If you could help by giving bedroom accommodation to one or two members of the choir for the Saturday evening (the 17th June) this would be greatly appreciated. Mrs Anne Mackay in the Clydesdale Bank would be delighted to hear from you concerning what accommodation you have available. A bed for the night and breakfast in the morning is all that is required. We are grateful to the choir for making the long journey North. Let us give them a real Highland welcome. (Mrs Mackay can also be contacted in the evenings at 810742).

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have a pre-1930 wedding dress or christening gown which you would be willing to lend for an exhibition in the West Church Hall early in July, please contact Mrs Morag Macaskill on 810033. Also very much needed for the display are tailor/dressmaker dummies.

CAN YOU HELP?

If anyone has ribbons, lace or buttons, perhaps found during their Spring cleaning, could they please give them to Seona Grant at Tigh-an-Alt, Bridge Street.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Flower Festival Committee ladies are wondering if anyone could supply them with doves, the symbol of peace, to use with a flower arrangement in July. Please contact Mrs I. Macleod on Dornoch 810044.

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East Sutherland Council of Social Service

Next month a new telephone directory is to be published for the Dornoch Exchange. If you are NOT in the current local directory or if you wish YOUR LINE ENTRY CHANGED, please send written details to A. Burnett, Pulrossie, Dornoch.

Those who are outwith the Dornoch Exchange and would like to appear in an appendix should also send their details to A. Burnett. No Golspie or Whiteface number will be included unless requested in writing.

All information to be submitted by 23rd April.