

DORNOCH PARISH NEWS

April 1989



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

EDITOR - MRS. I. 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 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.

Baptisms

CATHEDRAL REGISTER

Rhona Elizabeth Macaskill,
infant daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Macaskill, "Torr", Dornoch.

Ewan Andrew Mackay,
infant son of Mr and Mrs C. Mackay, River Street, Dornoch.

Kimberley Eileen Clubb,
infant daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Clubb, 10 Camore Crescent, Dornoch.

James William Whiteman,
infant son of Mr and Mrs M. Whiteman, c/o Ospisdale.

Wedding

Julie Alison MacDonald, Tigh-na-Machair, Lonemore, Dornoch to
Thomas Geoffrey Lupton, Cambridge.

May
the
LORD
bless
you

Rota of Elders and Deacons Door Duty and Collections.

April

Elders: Deacons:
Mrs S. Wright Mrs M. Gall
H. Steele D. Macaskill

Cathedral Flowers

April 2nd - Wedding Flowers
" 9th - Mrs E. Mitchell, Rearquhar
" 16th - Wedding Flowers
" 23rd - Catenians Golf Society
" 30th - Vacant

April
Hall
Cleaning

SHIPMATES



NEW HYMN BOOKS

The choir members were delighted to receive twenty-five copies of the music edition of the new hymn book supplement, Songs of God's People, in memory of the late Bill May who, for thirty years was one of the choir's most loyal members. Our thanks are due to Janet May for this most appreciated and generous gift.



WELCOME TO THE CATENIANS

Over two hundred members of the Catenian golfing society are visiting Dornoch during the week commencing the 17th April. They have chosen Dornoch this year for their national golfing championships. In previous years they have visited such famous golfing resorts as St Andrews, Turnberry, Waterville in Ireland and Le Touquet in France. The Catenians are all members of the Roman Catholic Church. As well as having a week of golf competitions and sight-seeing trips, they also hold each year a service on the Sunday. St Finnbarrs being too small to accommodate them, our own golf club contacted the Cathedral Kirk Session to see whether the Cathedral might be a possible venue for such a service. The Session unanimously agreed to the request. This means that on Sunday the 23rd April there will be two morning services in the Cathedral, the Catenian service at 9.30 a.m. and our own morning service at 11 a.m. The Catenians have asked that their collection that morning should be given to the charitable projects being supported as part of our 750th celebrations. This is indeed a most generous offer on their part. We hope the Catenians will enjoy their visit to Dornoch and the experience of worshipping in our lovely Cathedral. We hope also that the sun will shine for them and that the April showers will be few.

3

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADVENTURERS. Pupils should meet in the Cathedral for the start of the 11 o'clock service on Sunday morning, 16th April: The children can be collected from the Hall at around 12 noon. This will be the procedure for the new term. Please note there are no classes on Sunday, 30th April because of the May holiday weekend. J.M.

SHIPMATES. The session finished on 22nd March with a very successful Open Evening. The mothers had been very generous and there was a baking stall, the money from which was donated to Dornoch Cathedral 750th Fund.

Mrs Etta Hayward presented the prizes. The trawlers were the best team. Gavin MacLeod and George Mackay tied as "Best New Shipmate" and Kevin Lewis was "Shipmate of the Year".

The Shipmates have one final date and that is their annual barbeque which will be arranged for one Wednesday evening in May during a settled spell of weather. M.M.

BREAKFAST CLUBS. The session closed on Sunday morning 19th March. The top class from the Adventurers had been invited along for 'breakfast' with the Juniors to get acquainted. We do hope they will become regular members of the Junior Breakfast Club next session.

Mrs Helen Simpson has been a leader with the Breakfast Club since its inception twelve years ago, moving from the Juniors to the Seniors as numbers grew. She has now decided to resign and a presentation was made from past and present members and leaders at the close of the session. Her enthusiasm and guidance will be greatly missed. T.N.C.

WOMAN'S GUILD. The A.G.M. of the Guild took place on 28th March. We are sorry to lose the services from the committee of Mrs Gwen Adams, Mrs Bella Maclean and Mrs Molly Sutherland, but are pleased to welcome Mrs Joyce Bramley, Mrs Marie Ross and Mrs Jessie Stephen. We are grateful to them for their willingness to serve in this way. Mrs Jane Price is taking names for a proposed night out - tea at the Burghfield, then on to the fashion show etc. at the Ladies' Night in the Carnegie Hall at Clashmore. This is on THURSDAY 27TH APRIL. Contact Mrs Price by Sunday 16th April if you would like to go.

Advance Notice. The Echo Meeting in Scourie has been changed to 7TH JUNE at 2.30pm.

Sutherland Presbyterial Council. It was with great pleasure that we learned that one of our own members, Mrs Isabelle Calderwood, was elected president for the council for the next three years. Mrs Alison Burnett has agreed to serve as secretary for one year. H.G.S.

YOUNG WOMAN'S GROUP. Our A.G.M. was held in the West Church Hall on Monday, 6th

Special Requests

750th Celebrations

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.

- - -

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, Fulrossie, 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.

DORNOCH S.W.R.I. The ladies visited Oversteps for the March meeting and entertained the residents with a 'Scottish Night'. Along with their own talented members, they had young pipers Gordon MacKay and Simon Morrison, a group of Mr Steele's country dancers and Miss Eleanor Gray to accompany on the piano. The evening was rounded off with a delicious supper provided by the Institute members.

Round About

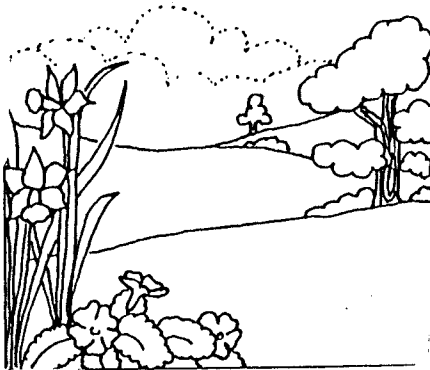
A reminder that the bus going to Fochabers on Monday, 10th April, will leave the Square at 8.30 a.m.

Speakers at the next meeting (18th April) are Cathie and Daisy Grant, reminiscing on their holiday in New Zealand. A slide show of the visit to the Glasgow Garden Festival will follow. Anyone who joined the trip last year is most welcome to come along and share the evening in the West Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. M.M.

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY. John (Hereford) MacKay, born at Acheilidh, Rogart, railway engineer, philanthropist and champion of the crofters' cause, is the subject of the talk to be given by Donald MacKay of Inverness, one of John MacKay's descendants, on Thursday, 13th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Library Building, Dornoch.

ALL WELCOME.

J.B.



OVERSTEPS. There has been an uplifting of spirits in the Home recently. The spells of mild weather tempted some of the residents to go for walks, while the grounds and gardens are looking beautiful in the early Spring. Add to this, evenings of fun and laughter, with visits from Dornoch W.R.I., St Andrew's Church Woman's Guild from Golspie and the Cathedral Breakfast Club again challenging the residents and friends to Whist. The Games Nights also bring an enthusiastic response and we wish to thank those who come along to help in this way.

The Oversteps Staff were on the receiving end for a change when they were entertained to a Staff Buffet/Dinner by the Committee, in appreciation of all the work they do, and the loving care with which they do it. The Staff wish to express their thanks ' for this enjoyable meal and for the rare opportunity to meet each other on a relaxed social occasion.

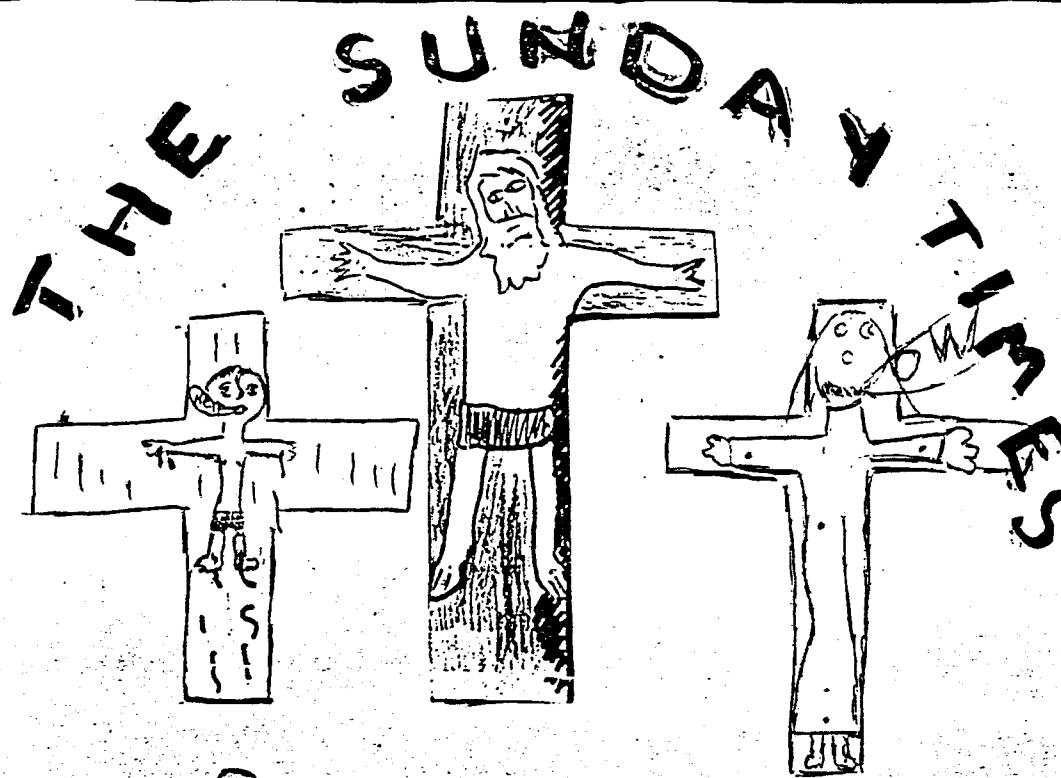
Sunday Services and regular activities continue. Many gifts are frequently received for the Home, for which we say a big "Thankyou". M.M.A.

THE WELCOME CLUB. Mrs Rutherford presided at the March meeting and thanked Mr Kirkwood for starting off a happy afternoon by playing selections on his accordian. Some lovely knitted garments, for sale at the Coffee Morning, were donated by Mrs Bella Maclean and Mr and Mrs Jack Sinclair. Grateful thanks to these busy knitters. Mr James Bell, chairman of the Dornoch Heritage Society, gave an extremely interesting talk, accompanied by lovely slides. His enthusiasm for local history was very evident and provided an entertaining afternoon. Mrs Fortune expressed the appreciation of the members and called for a sincere vote of thanks. The next meeting will be held in the Free Church Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 10th April. At this meeting, names will be taken for the outings on 8th May and 15th May.

The COFFEE MORNING will be held on SATURDAY 15TH APRIL AT 10.30am IN THE SOCIAL CLUB. I.R.

90th BIRTHDAY. This month Don Sutherland, one of the finest golfers and citizens Dornoch has ever produced, celebrates his 90th birthday. Since returning from Vancouver to the place of his birth, Don has become a familiar and much respected figure in Dornoch. He is often to be seen driving about in his golf cart, arthritis now making it very difficult for him to walk. Since his return, Don has also been a most generous supporter of the Cathedral. (A few years ago Mr Simpson highlighted Don's remarkable life-story in an article in the Scots Magazine entitled, "Don's back in Dornoch.")

Don's numerous friends in Dornoch wish him a very happy birthday on the 30th.



One day Judas, one of the Twelve disciples, went to talk to one of the chief priests. He said, "What will you give me if I betray Jesus?" The priest said, "Thirty silver coins." Judas then took the coins and looked for a good chance to hand over Jesus.

After Judas had handed over Jesus, he realized what he had done. He took back the coins and said to the priests, "I have betrayed an innocent man." The priests said, "That is your business." Judas then went and hanged himself.



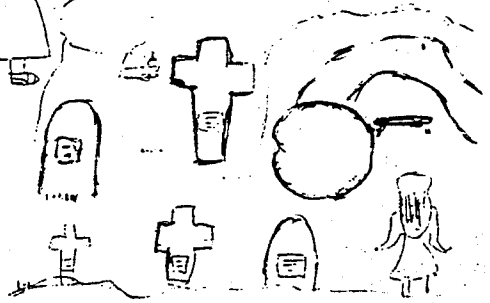
THE SUNDAY TIMES

An Interview with
PILATE

- Q) Why did you set Barabbas free?
"Well, the people outside the palace, bid me to set him free."
- Q) Did you agree with that at first?
"No, I didn't because I didn't think Jesus the Messiah had done wrong."
- Q) Were you afraid that something might happen if you killed Jesus?
"Yes, I was because I knew that he was God's son."
- Thank you for letting us interview you.
It was a pleasure.



One day Jesus was going through the streets on a little donkey that he had found. When he got to Jerusalem, the people were shouting 'hosanna' Jesus is here. They were waving palm branches around.



(Excerpts from the Cathedral Adventurers' Reports)