

# The NET

The congregational newsletter of  
Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, St Andrews



6th March 2021

## A letter from the Rectory

We find ourselves already part way through Lent, and Easter beckons. Some readers may have noticed that Easter Sunday this year (4th April) falls just 24 hours before the 'stay at home' aspect of government pandemic restrictions is currently due to be lifted. The choice of 5th April might, of course, be deliberate and timed precisely to avoid crowds of Christians all rushing enthusiastically to church to celebrate the resurrection but putting the public infection rate at risk in doing so! It will be galling if we cannot attend church on the 4th but are able to go to the pub on the 5th, but that may be what happens. I haven't heard anything yet that indicates anything else, but will obviously let everyone know if there is further news to report on that front. For now, though, there is still plenty of Lent to get to grips with, and I want to encourage you all, if you are not already doing so, to join in the simple but potentially very powerful practice devised by Dan Drage and described for us below. Sometimes the most unexpected and simple things can be profound in their impact upon us, and I warmly commend Dan's cairn building exercise to you as a case in point. A late start on this is still a start well worth making!



~ Trevor



## A daily pebble added on the journey of Lent Artist Dan Drage invites us to join in a creative Lenten practice

On our collective journey through Lent toward Easter, I'd like to invite you to mark the path with me and others in our church community. We are, each and all of us, pilgrims, walking a well-trodden path. If we pay attention, we notice the prints of those who have gone before, and we see our prints next to theirs, anticipating those to come after. It was for good reason the early followers of Jesus were called 'the Way' (see *the book of Acts*), and of course Jesus described himself as 'the way the truth and the life' in John 14.6.

So this Lent we are invited to each build wee 'cairns' in our own home or garden. A cairn is a pile of rocks, usually constructed along a trail to help mark the way. Cairns have been used for millennia as trail markers, with pilgrims or walkers adding their own stones as they go, both to mark the trail for future walkers and to participate with those who have gone before.

### How it works:

Start by simply placing a single small pebble daily on a growing 'cairn' somewhere in your house or garden.

As more pebbles are added each day, begin carefully stacking. The size of the pebble is entirely up to you (but keep in mind by the end you will have forty!).

If indoors, I recommend placing the pebbles on a surface suitable for accommodating the end result.

I am using, mostly, an un-exemplary pile of pebbles shoveled from my back garden (rinsed in rainwater). However, our own cairns can be enriched in various ways, from using pebbles we've picked up on recent walks during lockdown or perhaps those previously collected from past journeys.

As well, I will begin a cairn outside the church to which you may add pebbles from your cairn and take pebbles from the church back to your own cairn. Such rocks may then serve as reminders in our homes of the others in our church community who may have last held them.

If you are unable to or uninterested in using pebbles, may I suggest using other items instead of (or as well as) pebbles: a word written on a small strip of paper and wadded into a ball, for instance, or a glass jar collecting a drop of water each day.



### Meaning

The possible meanings in this 'collective art' are multiple, and as such I hope you will find in it more than I could have

anticipated. That being said, you may be helped by a nudge: to get you started in contemplation, perhaps consider each rock before you place it— what might its journey have been? How old might it be? Who else may have encountered it? Or you may want to look at the various references to rocks in the bible, perhaps starting with the rocks crying out in praise in Luke 19. As well as pilgrimage, what ideas come to mind in associating these rocks with our congregation's *Green Lent* ideas? We may also be reminded of the town of St Andrews itself, with stones from the cathedral scattered throughout buildings—seeds of the Church within the town.

### Ending

Once we reach Holy Week and Easter, I will share further ideas for what becomes of our collective cairn collections. Or perhaps you have some ideas?

Please feel free to share what thoughts have arisen for you by emailing the church at [office.stasstas@gmail.com](mailto:office.stasstas@gmail.com) or me at [dan@asianbranches.com](mailto:dan@asianbranches.com). Do let us know if you wish your comments to remain private (which is to say, otherwise comments may be shared in The NET or other such public forums!).



May God bless us on this journey together!

~ Dan

## Hail and Farewell!

### Congregational comings and goings logged by the Vestry Clerk...



Everyone who was able to attend the Church AGM via Zoom on 31<sup>st</sup> January will know that we were able to welcome two new Vestry members. Others may have heard through the church grapevine but, just to ensure that the whole congregation is informed, Helen Paterson (a doctor currently working at Leuchars Station – the military one, not the railway) and her husband Ross (a senior officer in the Royal Air Force) are our two new elected Vestry members.

At a Vestry meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Jill Anderson was co-opted for an initial period of one year and will act as Alternate Lay Representative, whilst Emily Hearn was co-opted for a three year period. The Vestry is thus strengthened, not only numerically, but also in terms of the valuable spread of experience and skills of the new members. On behalf of Vestry and congregation, may I thank them all for their willingness to serve and welcome them to the Vestry.

Sadly, we say farewell, but not goodbye, to our remarkable Church Administrator, Karen Kiefer. Karen has been appointed to the new post of Diocesan Digital Missioner and by the time you read this will already have started in her new role. Karen has been an important support to worship in our church since her appointment as Administrator four years ago, but when Covid-19 started to impact on the life of the church, she proved to be a hugely valuable asset to Trevor as he worked to continue meaningful worship during periods of serious restrictions on our freedom to meet together. We expect to continue to see Karen as an 'ordinary' member of our congregation, and may well see her visit in her new role. She will in any case remain in our hearts as someone warm and caring who has always worked for the good of the church.



~ John



Helen



Ross



Emily



Jill

# IN/BREAK

## Transept's exhibition is ON (line) again this year...

Mark your diaries! Transept, a group of artists and theologians connected to ITIA (The Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts) here at the University, is holding its annual art exhibition online over a period of two weeks from 19 March through 2 April.

After a year of confinement and restriction, the spring 2021 exhibition will explore themes related to *in/break* — "a breaking in: inroad, invasion, interruption, incursion."



Certainly we can all use a welcome 'in/break' in our current lockdown life – an interruption of whatever 'this' is for each of us – and Transept is providing a creative INbreak and OUTlet to interrupt that 'this-ness'. We were determined not be 'interrupted' from what has become our creative outlet in exploring relevant themes inspired by work at the intersection of theology and the arts. 'In/break' emerged from conversations that had a common undertone of 'break' as we discussed life in a pandemic that seems never-ending: longing for a break, sensing that restrictions are bound to give soon and 'break' in our favour, observing systems and patterns breaking and giving way to adapted structures, feeling broken ourselves, or even WANTING TO BREAK THINGS. The visceral sensation of 'break' in these discussions reminded us all of our 'in/breaking' God who interrupted all things in the universe to dwell with us, Immanuel. That was precisely the inspiration needed to process this very strange 'this-ness' in such a time as this.

The result is this year's online exhibition, *In/break*. After having to quickly adjust our *Time and Again* exhibition to an online venue last year, we are well poised to offer a rich and insightful event featuring various art genres on two online platforms: Transept's Facebook page and the *Transpositions* (the online journal of ITIA) website. Visit both for a unique and compelling experience as we wrestle with this time and our theme, finding hope in our in/breaking God. You will recognise several of the artists from our very own congregation: Ewan Bowlby, Liz Crichton, Dan Drage, Karen



Kiefer, Letizia Morley, Jane Pettegree and members of our choir!

The following events, all on Zoom, will help us mark and feature various aspects of the theme and of the artwork. Watch for Zoom links on the event page at [tinyurl.com/Transept2021](https://tinyurl.com/Transept2021) or [Transposition.co.uk](https://Transposition.co.uk), or contact [ap335@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ap335@st-andrews.ac.uk) or [kmk9@st-andrews.ac.org](mailto:kmk9@st-andrews.ac.org) for more information. We hope to see you!

### Opening Night

Friday 19 March, 8 to 9pm

A welcoming to the event with meet-and-greet, and a discussion and sneak peeks of the artwork to be displayed.

### An IN/BREAKING evening of Playback Theatre

Tuesday 30 March, 8 to ~9.45pm

Mosaic Playback, my own online playback theatre company, will interact with participants and the art of *In/break* for an evening of insightful, playful and poignant entertainment as we 'play back' your experiences of 'in/break' – the theme and art works!

RSVP if you would like to attend: [kmk9@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:kmk9@st-andrews.ac.uk)

### Panel Discussion

Wednesday 31 March, 8 to 9pm

Three panelists will discuss art from exhibition, followed by interactive Q&A.

### Closing Night (Good Friday)

Good Friday 2 April, 8 to 8:45pm

A quite evening of art reflection, reading, and a Good Friday musical performance.

~ Karen



## In memoriam...

### Bea Cowan pays tribute to David Weeks

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death on February 13<sup>th</sup> of David Weeks, long-time resident and member of the Baptist Church in our town. We have, however, every reason to offer great thanksgiving for David's life and service to so many people.

David was born in Sri Lanka, Ceylon as it was then, in 1927. He came to school in England at the age of 4 and after a number of changes and disruptions due to war came via Australia to Cambridge as a Research fellow. He moved to St Andrews in the mid-fifties where he became lecturer in Marine Biology at the Gatty Marine Laboratory and in Plant Physiology in the Department of Botany. As Advisor of Studies he encouraged and enabled many generations of students. With his wife of 61 years, Mary, whom he had met early in his time in St Andrews, and his great love of God and Jesus, David's focus was always on other people, making them welcome, at ease and supported in their own lives.



David and Mary Weeks

David was gentle, humble, kind and considerate. We will remember him especially because of his work in later years for the frail and the elderly, above all, through his work for Pilgrim Care which he helped to found in the 1990s and which he led as Chair for many years. Pilgrim Care's aim, in David's words, is '...to serve the care needs, physical and spiritual, of elderly people and to do so with a distinctly Christian ethos, showing the love of Christ by caring for people's need for hope, purpose and a sense of being loved and valued'.

Pilgrim Care's long-term aim is to establish a care village of assisted living houses with a care home associated to it, in the St Andrews area. It is to be run with a Christian ethos but serving people of all faiths or none. David did not live to see this happen in his life-time but he was a prime mover in the establishment of the Parish nurse scheme in the town and the appointment of Cath Carter to this role. Cath has been and is a wonderful representative for David. He can know his hope and care for the elderly lives on through her, as well as the many other people he supported so profoundly.

If you would like to assist Pilgrim Care in memory of David Weeks by giving a donation, or to become an active supporter please do go to the Pilgrim Care website <http://www.pilgrimcare-standrews.org/> or contact [chair@pilgrimcare-standrews.org](mailto:chair@pilgrimcare-standrews.org)

~ Bea



Bishop Ian's Lent Appeal this year will support two charities based within our Diocese, Start up Stirling (<https://startupstirling.org.uk/>) and Angus Creative Minds (<https://www.anguscreativeminds.org/>). These two charities are concerned to support those in hardship and to benefit health and wellbeing for anyone facing mental or physical health or social barriers through involvement in creativity.

Please consider supporting this appeal. You can do so by sending a cheque made out to 'The Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane' to the Diocesan Office (58a Balhousie St, Perth, PH1 5HJ) or by direct bank transfer using the details below. Please indicate that the contribution is for the Bishop's Lent Appeal and that you belong to the congregation of Saint Andrew's, St Andrews.

Bank Account: Clydesdale Bank  
Account No: 00187750  
Sort Code: 82 68 31

