

The changing face of the Church in Cove

of Peace Church who meet on Sundays and Thursdays in the Loirston Annexe.

I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the annual Christmas Eve, Cove Community, Carol service. St. Mary's Church was bursting at the seams with worshippers, the building looked charming and felt cosy and the congregational singing was very impressive.



The occasion was wonderfully enhanced by a youth choir from Salem Church whose Pastor gave a very short and encouraging presentation about what Christmas meant to him. His theme was Christmas as a time of ' Hope beyond Hope!'

The very generous collection has been divided equally between, The International Red Cross and Aberdeen Cyrenians who work very effectively with local, roofless and homeless people.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the service or took part in it. The service demonstrated that despite recent and considerable changes the Church in Cove remains alive, well and relevant. During the past few months a number of new congregations have become established in Cove and some others are currently seeking a new and different, future direction.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to the Romanian Orthodox Church who frequently hold weekday services in St. Mary's Church and also to the Love Citadel congregation who meet each Sunday and Wednesday in the Altens Community Centre and also to the Haven

I wish the Congregational Federation congregation well as they look for new direction and I'm happy to report that I've had meaningful conversations with Rev. Eddie Mckenna recently, about the future structure of and plans for the former Cove Church of Scotland membership.

The Aberdeen Presbytery has decided to increase the boundary of Kincorth Parish which will be renamed, the Parish of Kincorth, Cove and Charleston and Eddie will serve as the minister of this extended parish. Similarly, the parish of Torry will be extended and become the Parish of Torry, Altens and Nigg. The minister for this new area is the Rev. Edmond Gatima who is presently based in St. Fitticks Church in Walker Road in Torry. Discussions are well underway about the way forward so please watch this space for information about Services, Sacraments and Prayer opportunities. There is a real possibility of a regular, evening Service beginning soon, in Cove, for Church of Scotland members!

Someone once wrote that the Church was the only organisation in the world that existed for the good of its non - members. It is in this spirit that we continue to invite folk to join with us in St. Mary's Church at 9.30 am each Sunday to worship . I share ministerial responsibilities there with Bishop Fred Darwent and I can assure you of a very warm welcome and a pleasant cuppa at the end of the service.

Rev. Hector I Mackenzie.