Installation of the Warden

Glenalmond College

Glenalmond College was founded by the great British Prime Minister, William Ewart Gladstone. His statue is just outside the Chapel. The College is also a foundation of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The first Warden was Charles Wordsworth, also one of my predecessors as Bishop of St Andrews. This is his bishop’s crozier which I use when I come to the College. So Christian faith according to the tradition of the Episcopal Church is built into the life of the College as surely as this Chapel is built into its stones.

The start of the tenure of a new Warden is a time to remind ourselves of that continuity which is so important for the ethos and the culture of the College.

You may be wondering why the new Warden is installed in the context of a religious ceremony. That connection to the foundation is one reason – you will hear in a moment that Elaine Logan is installed on behalf of the bishops and of the Council of the College.

The other reason is because of the breadth and depth of the role of Warden. She will be the leader of this College, responsible for maintaining and developing educational standards. She will be a manager, exercising a complex range of responsibilities for the College, the staff, the pupils and the buildings. She will, like all leaders, have an important role in connecting the College with the community in which it is set and the wider educational community in Scotland and beyond.

But if the school is to be truly successful – if pupils here are to do as the new Warden herself says ‘to enjoy a fulfilling and successful time at school, and in doing so they develop the humility and confidence required to live significant lives when they leave.’ – then the Warden will be more than a manager. She will be a caring pastor to pupils and staff alike. She will set a tone and a culture for the school within which young people will flourish.

As the Gospel reading said today, the pathway of such leadership is costly and sacrificial. The new Warden is being given a sacred trust – she herself must live and serve with humility and confidence – and so we seek God’s blessing on her and on her work today.