



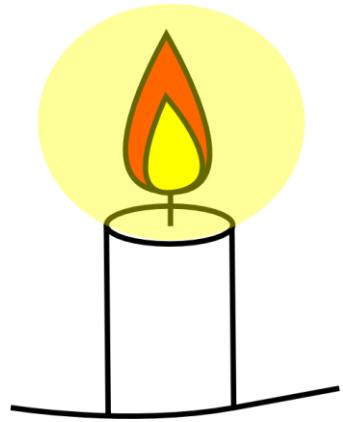
St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church, Perth

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October to November 2017

October and November



Weekly Services

Sunday 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Thursday 11 a.m. Communion, coffee and a chance to chat

Special Services

1st October, 9.30 a.m. Matins

15th October, 6 p.m. Evensong

29th October, 6 – 8 p.m. NiteKirk

2nd November 7.30 p.m. All Souls Service of Commemoration

5th November, 9.30 a.m. Matins

10.30 a.m. All Saints Celebration

12th November, 10.30 a.m. Remembrance Sunday

19th November 6 p.m. Evensong

26th November Christ the King

6 – 8 p.m. NiteKirk

Special Events

27th October, 1 – 4 p.m., and 28th, 10 – 1 p.m. **Table-top Sale** in the Threshold

18th November, **Perth Christmas Lights Switch-on**. Table outside church to sell soup, filled rolls and hot chocolate

2nd December, **St Andrew's Evening** in the Threshold

Letter from the Rector

My dear friends,

I hope you have had a refreshing summer and have managed to relax and enjoy some time away with friends and family. I have enjoyed my summer this year by having short visits rather than taking an extended holiday. From the beauty of Northumbria this month to some days on Iona next month, it has been a time of renewal and refreshment. The getting away from the busyness of everyday life in ministry to rest and reflect has been very important for me as I am about to begin my fourth year among you. I continue to celebrate what a wonderful, gifted and diverse congregation we are. As society changes, providing challenges for the Church, I pray that we would continue to be a body of people which embraces challenge and change.

As you are aware, we are in an interesting time in the life of our diocese. Nominations for a new bishop have been sought and we now await the next stage which will be for the Preparatory Committee to sift through the list of applications before presenting at least three but not more than five candidates to the Electoral Synod. I will keep you posted as the process unfolds. As we pray together for a new bishop, I encourage you to use the prayer below, issued by our diocese. May God raise up a new leader among us.

As we journey into the autumn season together, I hope you will be able to attend some of the many services and events that are on offer within the life of our church. Details can be found in this magazine or on the website.

With much love, Graham.

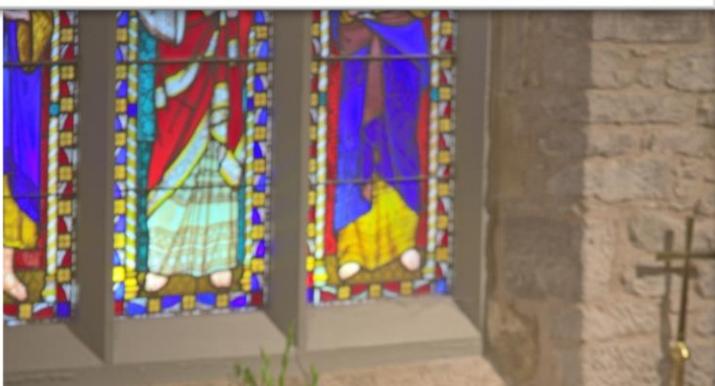


Almighty God, the giver of every good gift, bestow at this time, we pray, you especial blessing upon the clergy and lay representatives of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, and grant them in their deliberations the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may be guided by you to the choice of a chief Pastor who shall minister before you to the glory of your holy name, the good government of your flock and the welfare of your whole Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Harvest Celebration 2017



Thanks to everyone who worked hard to decorate the church for our Harvest Festival.



Gifts of food and toiletries were donated to the Foodbank and a collection was made for the charity *Medecines sans Frontiers*.

The first part of the service was a little less formal than usual. Revd Graham had fun asking those present what rules they remembered from school. John Parrott claimed that it was too long ago!



The service was followed by a delicious shared lunch and time to spend with friends old and new. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the lunch and to those who served and cleared up



Nitekirk

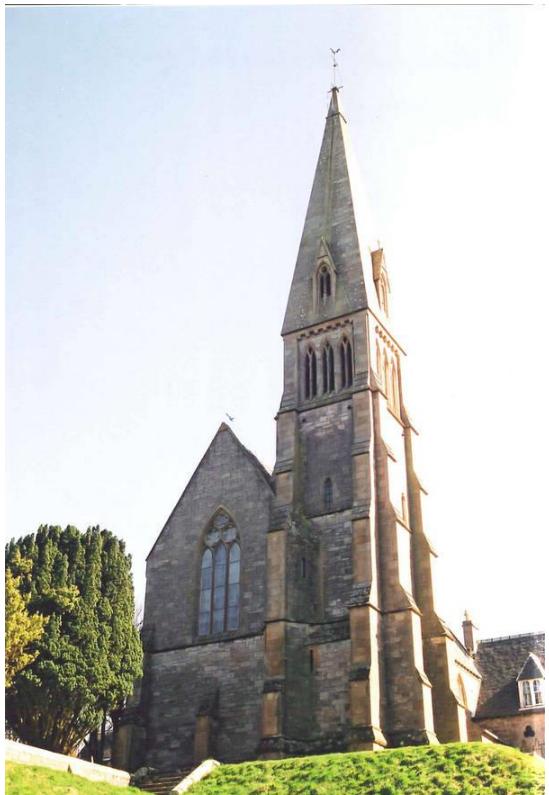
Nitekirk began again after the summer break on Sunday 24th September. The seasonal topic was 'Beyond the Harvest', an invitation to explore some of the wider themes associated with the Harvest Festival: the use or abuse of God's creation, the sharing of the earth's resources and a consideration of 'harvest' in the context of evangelism. In addition to the usual slideshow and craft table, there were opportunities to reflect on quotations from a variety of sources and sample some harvest fruits, pausing to give thanks. As always, Nitekirk provides a space in which to take time out from the distractions of modern living to listen and reflect.

The next Nitekirk will take place on Sunday 29th October. All are welcome to drop in at any time between 6 and 8 p.m. After this, the planning group will be considering what to do next, so if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the future of Nitekirk, please pass them on to the Rector, Graham Kingsley-Rowe or Gordon and Hazel Murch.



A Retreat at Britain's Smallest Cathedral

Members of St John's are invited to come away on retreat for four days to the Cathedral of the Isles, Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae from Monday, June 4th to Thursday, June 7th 2018.



We will travel by car and stay in the Cathedral and the adjacent College of the Holy Spirit. The retreat will be led by a member of the Cathedral community and we will join with the community for morning and evening prayer.

Cumbrae is a great place for walks and cycle rides with lovely beaches and spectacular scenery. The Cathedral has a library and a common room and extensive landscaped grounds.

The Cathedral of the Isles and the College of the Holy Spirit were designed by William Butterfield (the architect of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth) in 1851, at the request of the 6th Earl of Glasgow.

The cost is £ 190 for 3 nights full board with a deposit of £30. For more information please visit cathedraloftheisles.org Booking forms are available at the back of church with a deadline in mid October.



The Quest Interview

The purpose of this feature is to help us to get to know members of the congregation a little better.

The next in the chain is Ruth Harris.

In what ways are you involved in the life of St John's?

At the moment my involvement is with the initiatives taken to welcome immigrants and asylum seekers/refugees to our community of Perth. Before that I used to help with Sunday School, Intercessions, Choir and the Fellowship. I really appreciate all the hard work many people do in so many areas of our congregational life.



What do you enjoy about St John's?

I love the unfussy and beautiful intimacy of the building, and the fantastic support and friendship of the clergy and congregation.

What are your interests outside the church?

I enjoy walking with Tilly, our dog, bird-watching, and all sorts of wildlife, art, film, music (more listening than playing now I'm afraid), working with clay, and meeting new people as well as old friends.

What last made you cross?

Mindless vandalism, especially when the item targeted is beautiful or historic, or gives a lot of pleasure to people, and cruelty in all its forms. But I have to confess to sometimes getting angry about stupid little unimportant things at home!

What last made you smile or laugh out loud?

Grandchildren's remarks often do. I always get a really good laugh from films with Alastair Sim or Joyce Grenfell in them, such as *St Trinians*. And there's a wonderful skit on YouTube by a comedian impersonating Brunnhilde and telling in her own version the plot of Wagner's Ring.

Who or what was the greatest influence on you growing up?

Certainly my parents in so many areas, such as culture, especially music and literature, and also through their faith. They engendered in me a love of travel and of enjoying foreign people and customs. And the headmistress of

my secondary (boarding) school took us for confirmation classes. She had been a prisoner of war in Hong Kong, and, though she was quite formidable as a headmistress, she was able to convey most powerfully God's love for each one of us. I must say, too, that being married to Fergus has brought me in touch with so many new ideas and influences which have greatly enriched my life and my experience of God.

Where or when do you feel close to God?

I think mostly when I can be still and quiet by myself. I find as one gets older, things simplify and faith becomes less complicated – though there always are some doubts. I do find some of the many wonderful hymns draw me closer to God, as well as our Eucharists at St John's.

If you got to host a meal for four people from the present, past or future, who would you invite and why?

That's quite a question! And would they all get on? I think I would like to invite Dietrich Bonhoeffer, because of his courage and the way he was able to help so many others from his prison cell, then Kate Adie, because she has so much experience of all sorts of countries and situations. I would love someone who really appreciates and understands Nature, such as Colin Stafford Johnson who did a beautiful programme on Wild Ireland. From the future, it would be fun, I think, to talk to a great- or great-great grandchild to find out what their lives are like. But of course there are many more I'd love to meet.

I look forward to reading others' answers in future editions of Quest.



Hymns Old and New



Graham Kingsley-Rowe has responded to a piece in the last issue of Quest with some thoughts about the hymns which inspire and sustain him.

From a very early age my mother introduced me to hymns at bedtime. In particular, several Christian concepts have stayed with me all my life. Firstly, from the very old children's hymn 'Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown', the lovely message in the refrain, 'O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee', which talks of the need to have the courage to let Jesus into the centre of our lives. Secondly, the notion of Jesus as the Good Shepherd from 'Loving Shepherd of thy sheep'. Thirdly, the notion of Jesus as a unique Friend from 'What a Friend we have in Jesus' and 'O Jesus I have promised'.

Then at the age of thirteen I had glandular fever whilst on a Scripture Union camp in Dorset. The School Chaplain who was in charge of us, got me particularly interested in the hymn 'Fight the Good Fight', with its lovely phraseology including, 'Only believe and Thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to Thee', and then the phrase which has both stayed with me and become a theme in my present medical challenges, 'Lay hold on Life and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally'.

I continue to be inspired by many hymns both old and new, from the simple statement of faith in 'The Church's one foundation' to 'And can it be', to 'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky'.

David Willington reflects on a popular Evensong hymn

I have sung in choirs since the age of ten and therefore have tended to concentrate more on the tune and, when my voice broke, the harmony of hymns. However *The day thou gavest* has always interested me because of its association with Evensong and because of its 'beautifully managed geographical progression and structure'. Some phrases seem to me particularly evocative, for example *while earth rolls onwards into light*, and I have often wondered about *our brethren 'neath the western sky*. As for *earth's proud empires*, Queen Victoria,

because of its world-wide reference, ordered it to be sung in churches across the Empire on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee in 1897; more appropriately, it was sung at the handover of Hong Kong in 1997.

The author, John Ellerton, was a parish priest in Cheshire, but also a hymnologist, editor and translator. He wrote upwards of eighty hymns. This hymn was composed during an evening's walk in 1870 and appears in translation in German hymnals both Catholic and Lutheran, along with the tune, St. Clement.

ST. CLEMENT. [Second Tune.] 9.8.9.8. **REV. C. C. SCHOLEFIELD.**



St Clement was composed by the Revd Clement Scholefield, the vicar of St Peter's Church, South Kensington. The organist at the time was Arthur Sullivan. It has been suggested that, as this tune is much superior to his forty-one other compositions, Sullivan might have had a hand in it. It is unusual for hymns at this time to be in $\frac{3}{4}$ time and it has the flowing grace of arias from the Savoy operas. Not everyone has admired it. Ralph Vaughan Williams disliked it and Cosmo Gordon Lang, the Archbishop of Canterbury, called it a 'feeble waltz tune'. Nevertheless it made third place in the BBC *Songs of Praise* Poll of favourite hymns in 2005.

Quiet Afternoon

Revd Liz Baker, Rector of the Highland Charges, will lead a Quiet Afternoon at St John's on Wednesday 1st November. The theme will be Re-enchanting Nature, using the work of contemporary writers but with a basis in Franciscan spirituality. All are welcome.



Rohingya Crisis Appeal



We are all aware of the desperate plight of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who, fearing for their lives because of the escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, have fled their homes.

As of 19 September, more than 400,000 people had crossed the border into Bangladesh; unknown numbers remain displaced in Myanmar, surviving in camps. Supplies are dwindling and people have no money for food or shelter. Families are in desperate need of food, clean water and medical care.

For the last 12 months, Christian Aid in Myanmar has been working in camps and with conflict-affected communities through local partners in Rakhine State and supports all ethnic groups displaced by violence. In Bangladesh, Christian Aid is initially sending £40,000 to local partners to provide food, water, hygiene and sanitation, and healthcare provisions to 23,000 people. Through the appeal the charity hopes to raise more funds so the response can be scaled up in both countries. Please help vulnerable displaced people who desperately need food, water and shelter. *Elaine Cameron*



To donate to the Rohingya Crisis Appeal,
visit www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies

Sunday Lectionary

1st October Pentecost 17

Matins Psalms 123, 124; Ezekiel 37.15-28; Mark 9.38-50

Eucharist Psalm 78 1-4, 12-16; Philippians 21-13; Matthew 21.23-32

8th October Pentecost 18

Psalm 19; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46

15th October Pentecost 19

Eucharist Psalm 106.1-6,19-23; Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14

Evensong Psalm 139.1-11; 1 John 3.1-15; Mark 10.17-31

22nd October Pentecost 20

Psalm 96 1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22

29th October Pentecost 21

Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-46

5th November All Saints Sunday

Matins Psalm 111; Daniel 7.1-18; Luke 6.17-31

Eucharist Psalm 34 1-10 ; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12

12th November Remembrance Sunday

Job 19.21-27; Psalm 90; John 6.37-40

19th November Pentecost 24

Eucharist Psalm 90 1-8, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

Evensong Psalm 95; Revelation 1.4-18 Luke 9.1-6

26th November Christ the King

Psalm 95 1-7a; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46

Guitar Recital at St John's

Malcolm Moore

It is widely recognised that the guitar is an instrument which is easy to learn to play, but is one of the most difficult to have to play solo classical pieces. On a balmy August evening the Church was packed, with an audience, some of whom had to be accommodated in the balconies, to hear a concert of guitar music, given by the international guitarist Ayman Jarjour. Born in Syria, but now living in Scotland, he has given international concerts all over the world, and a CD of his concert at the Carnegie Hall in New York was available, to remind some of us of his skill.

The concert was introduced by a youngster from Syria in his native language, which made understanding it a puzzle to most of us! Ayman, introduced each of the pieces and was able to give a history of his instrument, which he had commissioned from an Egyptian luthier, Jean-Paul Hagger.



There then followed a recital of breath-taking brilliance, of pieces by composers from all over the world, which demonstrated the versatility of the instrument and the skills required to play them. It was an unforgettable evening to lift our spirits and gladden the heart, sad and plaintive as some of the music was, and a privilege to have had the opportunity to hear unfamiliar music played by such a skilled performer in familiar surroundings.

We were privileged to have local Syrian refugee families co-hosting the event, who gave us a taste of Syrian foods, to refresh the body, in the Threshold afterwards. The concert was held to support the charity for Medical Aid and Support for Syria, A retiring collection raised over £1100 on the night, which will be boosted by Gift Aid.

A visit to Glenalmond College

Tony Mason

We were invited to Trinity College, Glenalmond for an Area Council Meeting led by the College Chaplain, Revd Giles Dove, and a few of us from St John's were able to attend.

We were made most welcome and then we shared news of the events, initiatives and experiences of our own churches. It became very clear that we at St John's are very fortunate with our state of affairs compared to some other churches in the diocese, so please include them in your prayers.

Following a welcome meal we moved to the College Chapel, a most impressive building, where Giles explained his position as chaplain to the college and also parish priest to people in the vicinity. He has pastoral care for the staff and the students who number approximately 450. They are of many different faiths or none. Even though the college is an Anglican institution, all the students are expected to attend the main service each Sunday during term time.



It was a very enlightening experience, and I hope that future Area Council Meetings will also allow any member of a diocesan church to attend and share thoughts and views with one another.

Daisy - The Mousical

Raymond King

A very eminent, elegant and erudite (St Andrews Uni) lady in the congregation asked me the other day whatever happened to Daisy, our friendly mouse. The last heard of her was around 2013 after she went with Margaret Broad, the organist, to St Matthew's Church, Tay Street. She (Daisy) had been fond of living in a shoe at the organ but after the demolition of the floor boards overseen by a fierce fellow who Daisy called Mr Muckle-Hose (or sometimes 'lots of socks'), she scampered off to join the choir (soprano). But a further nail in her coffin had come in the form of an important eviction notice from a solicitor of repute known to Daisy as The Right Hon. Mr A. Crook-Shank (or 'mutton stealer'). It was sad to see Daisy evicted, as during her reign as chief church mouse, I was Chief Environment Officer (cleaner) and enjoyed her company during the week. She was partial to chocolate and had a liking for bars of soap which is probably what made her such a charmingly bubbly mouse. An advert has gone out in the *Rodent Review* for a replacement. The ability to carry on a conversation with the incumbent, Vicar, Priest, President, Curate or whoever would be an advantage ...

Daisy was, as John Betjeman once said, 'a good church mouse, who worshipped each week in God's own house'.



Our Day at the Races

Raymond King



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At a recent Silent Auction held in the Threshold, for some reason Elizabeth (my wife) bid for, and won, a day at Perth Races on Family Day. Having never been to such an event before, the afternoon proved to be quite interesting (more so for me) and even more so as the day went on. Flimsily frocked females flirting with pints of Pimms floated past us on the steps to the bar, while young men in smart blue suits languishing in lots of lager strutted gracefully up and down. So, if you want to see smartly (mostly) dressed people, go to the races!

I almost forgot what we were there for and I managed to get help from one of the numerous bookies in order to depart with some money. Unfortunately, the church collection will be smaller this week. The devil won 10-1 but being the devil, it was expensive fun! I also saw some horses ...

A word from Alastair Cruickshank



The old round £1 coins cease to be legal tender after 15th October so please do not put them in the Offering Plate on or after that date.

Help us hire out the Threshold

The Threshold and various rooms in the church are currently available to hire out during the day and in the evenings. This is an important source of income for St John's. If you can think of anybody who might be interested to use our facilities for a concert, a children's party, a club or a class, please put them in touch with our administrator, Eleanor on 01738 634999 or by email office@episcopal-perth.org.uk



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Traidcraft catalogues and order forms are available at St John's throughout October and November. There will be a stall on Sunday, November 5th selling Traidcraft Christmas goods.

**Please note that Revd Graham's
day off is a Monday**



International Café 2

Elaine Cameron



The second International Café at Blend Coffee House took place on Monday 28th August. Conversation flowed more easily this time - there were fewer people, (though 68 were counted present at one point!) At this café, unlike the first, folk had to pay for their coffee or tea and biscuits. The owners of Blend agreed a 'drink and biscuit deal', at a slightly reduced, rounded payment, which seemed to work well with guests, and allowed folk to order and pay for everything with amazing order!

Again, there was good sense of camaraderie among the wide range of nationalities – Eastern European, Filipino, Middle Eastern, Pakistani, Syrian, African, Chinese and French. But one group stood out. Folk from Cupar in Fife had heard about the café and thought it would be just the place to take a local Syrian refugee family, who had heard little Arabic in Scotland. It was a joy to see those children chatting and laughing excitedly in Arabic to the Syrian Perth children!

We are very grateful to Sundip Salins and Gregor Banks of Blend for their ongoing support and encouragement.

International Café 3 will be held on Monday 9th October at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come for an evening of conversation, laughter and friendship.



An International Café Organising Group has now been formed in order to run the café on a regular and more permanent basis in a way which will allow for growth and development. Look out for more information about the café and related events on our new Facebook page.



New Scots: Refugee Integration in Scotland – Engagement

Some of you may be aware of the Scottish government's strategy *New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities 2014 – 2017*. This summer, refugees, volunteers working with them and members of local communities were invited to feed into the strategy for 2017 – 2020 by answering three questions:

- what issues are important to you about refugee integration now?
- what changes do you want to see by 2020?
- what can you, your community or your organization do to contribute to that change?

Those of us who are involved with the Syrian refugee families in Perth were inspired by the prospect of the refugees and volunteers contributing to this governmental strategy, so we decided that, with the help of a Syrian woman who is trusted by the refugees and knows all the volunteers, to offer a time where all these people might come together, and with the aid of an interpreter, answer these questions.

On Tuesday September 5, members of all seven Syrian refugee families, and many of the volunteers met in the Threshold to consider the three questions above. Men talked at one table with an interpreter; women at another; the volunteers at a third, whilst the children played. The conversations threw up concerns and questions which will be invaluable not only in taking forward our work locally, but also, we trust, in helping the Scottish Government promote refugee integration in Scotland 2017 – 2020.

Elaine Cameron

**16 Days
of Activism
Against
Gender-Based
Violence
Campaign**

November 25 - December 10



Images of Women - shifting stereotypes?

10.30 a.m. on November 25th
in the Threshold,
marking the start of the 16 Days of Activism
against Gender-based Violence.

Keynote speaker, Kathy Galloway,
former Head of Christian Aid, Scotland

sponsored by the local church Christian Aid reps;
organised by the Diocesan Gender Justice Group.

More details: elaine.ging@gmail.com

World Prayer for Peace by Satish Kumar

O God,
**Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.**
**Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.**
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Amen.

Contact Information

Rector	Rev Graham Taylor	245922	rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk
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People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
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Lay Representative	Lilian Fleming	636957	
Alternate Lay Rep	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell		secretary@
Treasurer	David Roemmele		treasurer@
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	hands@
PVG	Malcolm Moore	639963	pvg@
Director of Music	Robin Miller	625903	music@
Team Convenors			
Casting the Net	Hazel Murch	827034	
Ministry	Alan McPherson	552337	
Finance	Rev. Graham Taylor	245922	
Communications	Rev. Nerys Brown	see above	
Children	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buildings and Eco	David Maclehone	636147	
Social	TBA		
Church Activities			
Intercessors Group	Tony Mason	627870	
Flowers	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Magazine Editor	Rev Nerys Brown	see above	
Fellowship	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buggy Club	Eunice McPherson	552337	
Young Church	Jean Hendry	623603	
Links	Ruth Harris	621379	
Traidcraft	Rhiannon Miller	625903	
PACT	Jean Hendry	623603	
Threshold bookings	Eleanor McGourty	634999	office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

From the Editor

Thanks very much for everyone's contributions to this issue and to those who helped prepare it for printing and distribution. Please hand in or email all items for our December/January issue to me by

Sunday 26th November

email: nerysannjones@aol.com

Front Cover Photo by Tim Haynes

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy



*You are invited to a service to
commemorate your loved ones on*

All Souls Day

Tuesday 2nd November at 7.30 p.m.



*A space to remember, to heal,
to forgive, to give thanks*