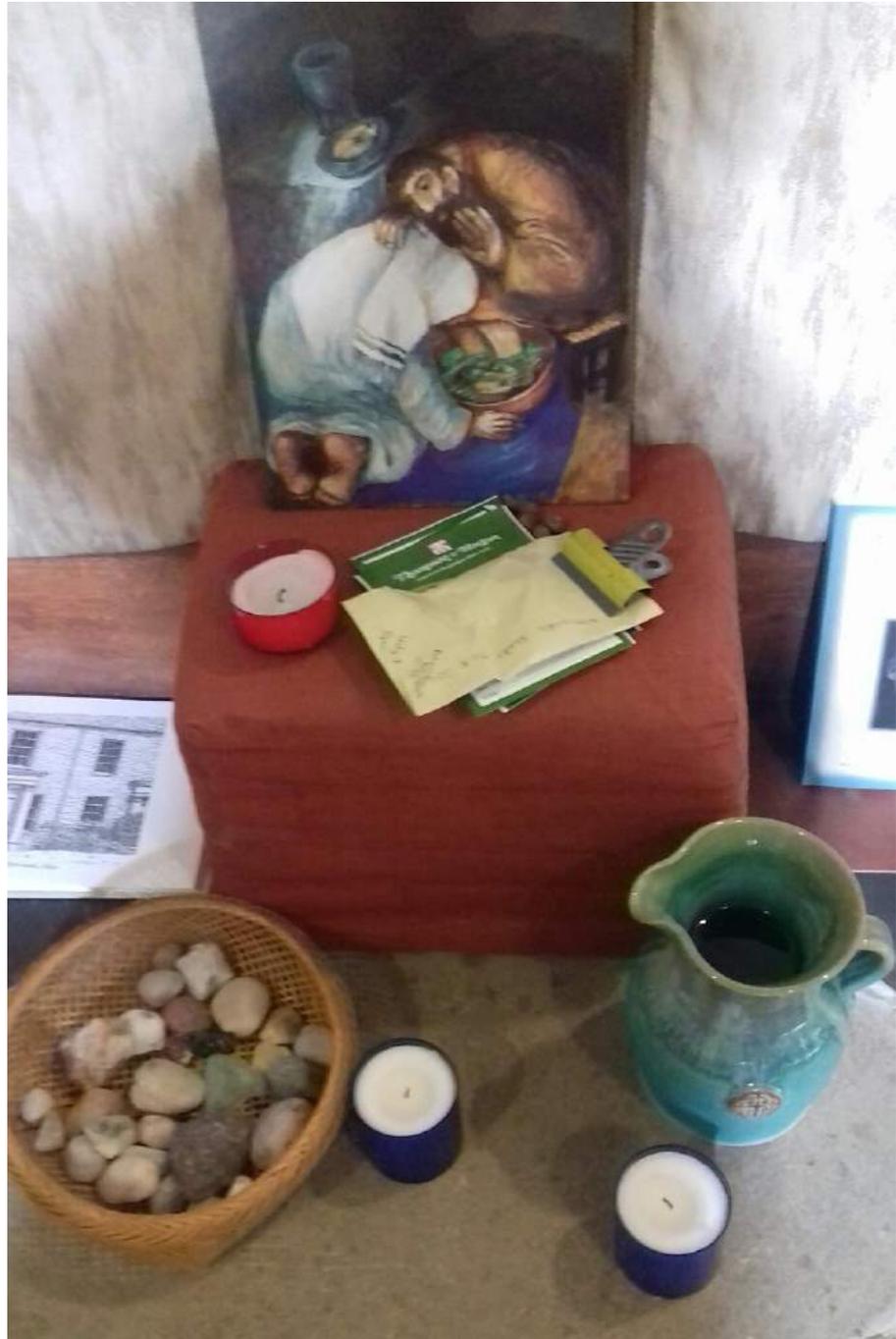




# St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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August and September 2018

# August and September

## *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*

2<sup>nd</sup> September 9.30 a.m. Matins

16<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 p.m. Evensong

23<sup>rd</sup> September 10.30 a.m.

Harvest Celebration

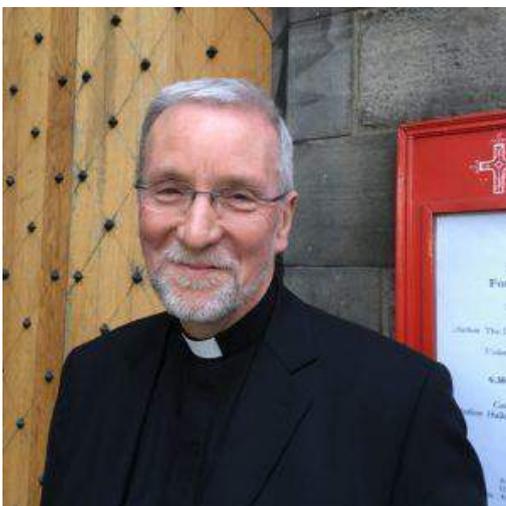
30<sup>th</sup> September 6 – 8 p.m. NiteKirk



## *Eternal Rest*

*Charles Thomas Layland, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018, member of the Cathedral. Our love and prayers to his wife and family.*

## Our New Bishop



The Rev Canon Ian Paton has been elected as the new Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Ian has been Rector of Old St Paul's Church, Edinburgh since 1997. He is a former convener of the Scottish Episcopal Church's provincial Liturgy Committee, involved in writing new services, and continues to teach worship to students training for ministry. Although he has never lived in the diocese, his family hails from Fife

and he has many relatives in the area. He will be consecrated and installed as bishop at St Ninian's Cathedral on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

# Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I hope you are having a lovely summer and enjoying the amazing weather. Although the holiday months tend to be quieter at church, it has been great to have lots of visitors and some new members joining us for Sunday worship. Long may the message of welcome, outreach and love be our motto at St John's. It has been a joy to celebrate special birthdays and anniversaries with you too. As you will see later in this magazine, this is a great excuse for lots of cakes!

As many of you will know by now, Nerys, our curate, will be leaving us on 5<sup>th</sup> August to become a supernumerary, helping to support some of the many congregations who are without priests at the moment around our diocese. She will also continue as Diocesan Enabler. It has been a privilege for me to work with Nerys over the last two and a half years at St John's. We have experienced many happy times as well as challenges together. We must not forget Davie who has become part of our community, getting involved in our worship and social events. My grateful thanks go to Nerys for all she has contributed in her time with us, and I will continue to pray for her future ministry wherever that will take her. I thank her also for her love and friendship and look forward to catching up with her at diocesan events. We will all miss her warm smile and Welsh accent among us, but we know that whatever the future holds for her, she will continue to walk in God's way, fulfilling out her calling as a Priest and Pastor, calling others into the love of God.

As you can imagine, Nerys will be leaving some gaps in the life of the church which we need to address together. So be prepared if you Rector approaches you with a job or two!

God's blessing to you all. I look forward to seeing you in church,

Graham.





Two lovely ladies celebrated special birthdays last month.

Many happy returns to Irene and Hilda.



# Golden Wedding Anniversary

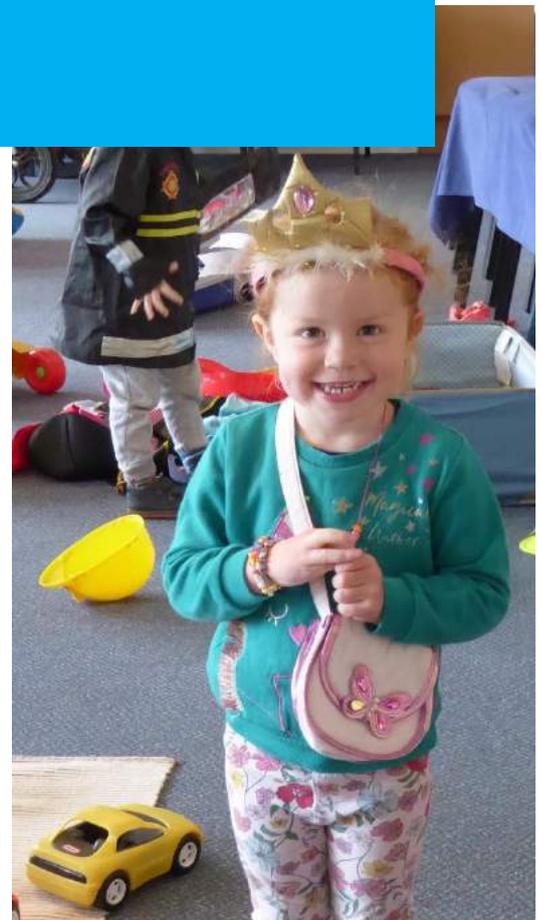


Congratulations to Christine and Bill Bracewell who celebrated 50 years of marriage on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July. More excuse for cake after Thursday morning Holy Communion!

## Buggy Club

Buggy Club is for Mums and Toddlers from birth to pre-school. We meet in The Threshold from 9.30 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday in a secure, happy environment, enabling Mums to chat over tea and toast while the children play, dress up, do craft activities and listen to stories.

The cost is £1.50 for the first child  
and 50p for others.  
Healthy snacks are provided  
Buggy club resumes  
on Tuesday 14th August



All are welcome and spaces are available.

# Cumbræ Retreat Scrapbook

Graham and Nerys had arranged for a group of 14 of us to attend a short retreat at the Cathedral of the Isles, Millport, Cumbrae. I was slightly apprehensive at first.



Amanda Walker,

Warden of the College and Lay Reader led our discussions and meditations on the theme of Life in all its Fullness. Also, we celebrated Morning and Evening Prayer, mid-day Eucharist and Compline. The atmosphere was so peaceful, the setting so beautiful and relaxing.

During our 'time off' in the afternoons we went to Millport. Some walked or cycled around the island. The rest of us walked and ate ice creams on the sea front. A few played putting. As a group we got to know each other very well and our existing friendships were enriched by our time together.

The island seemed to exist in a time-warp for me – the 1950s as I



remember them. The whole experience was very, very, special and I will remember fondly those few days for ever.

*Felicity Edwards*



A group from St John's left Perth in several cars on the first Monday in June bound for Isle of Cumbrae. We took the 15 minute ferry from Largs and arrived at the Cathedral and College where we were to stay for three nights. Breakfast and evening meal were served in the dining hall and we also had use of the library and common room. There was ample free time to enjoy the grounds and to explore the tiny island, and a period of silence each evening from 9 p.m. until 8 a.m. could be experienced by those who wished.

We were taken through a pattern of prayer which culminated in a session where we were offered a pebble from a small collection to hold in our hand whilst we prayed. After my first year living in Perth with the caring support of St John's clergy and congregation, my personal prayers whilst I held my pebble were that all my conflicting thoughts could be left with the Lord now. We placed our pebbles back on the tiny altar space and I can truthfully say, my thoughts are calmer now and I shall always be grateful and remember my time spent on Cumbrae in the peaceful atmosphere of the Cathedral and College and in the company of friends.

*Doreen Kneller*

I found the whole experience invigorating and fulfilling because of the friendships, all the arrangements and the wonderful weather. The Cathedral of the Isles is a wonderful building with many outstanding features, vivid tiles and stained glass windows – a place of tranquillity and peace. The whole experience, a time to be recommended for the relief of blood pressure!

*Tony Mason*



Our time at Cumbrae was blessed with glorious weather, so that the buildings were bathed in a golden light - very different from memories of visits long ago! That warmth was extended into the welcome we received from Amanda and Andrew, the Wardens. Andrew saw to our physical needs which were well catered for and we were richly fed, spiritually, by Amanda, assisted by Alastair the local lay assistant and musician. I especially appreciated the readings from the Lives of the Saints which we heard during Morning Prayer in the Cathedral. That was contrasted with the quiet meditative times in the chapel which fed and refreshed us in other ways. The afternoons spent exploring the island provided delightful interludes.

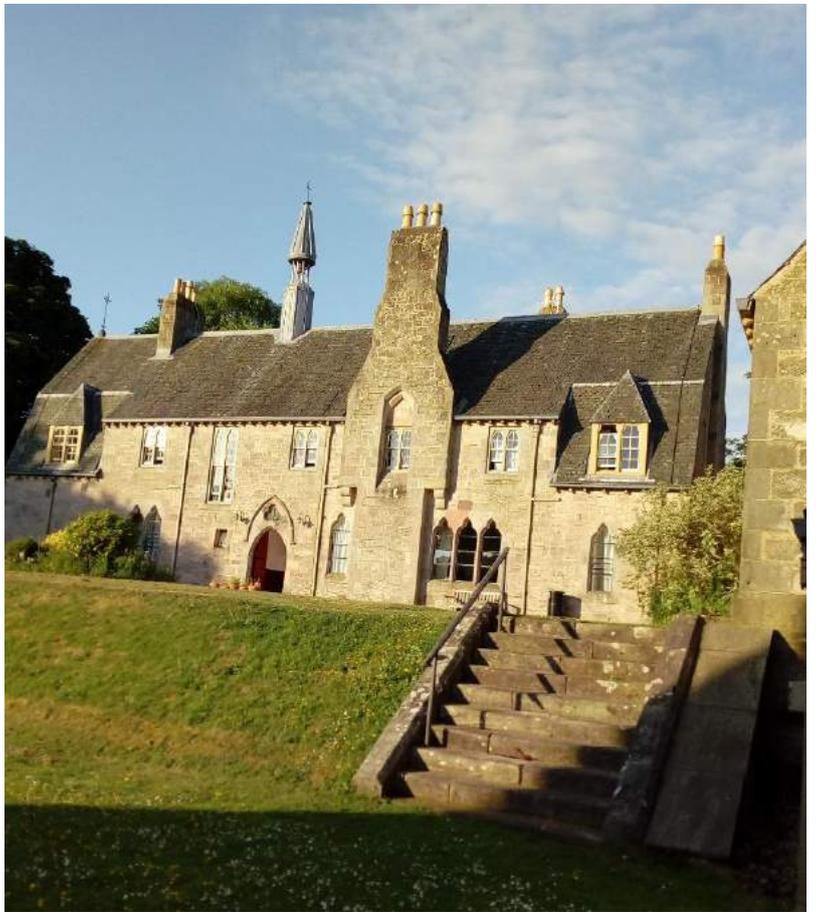
I do thoroughly recommend such a break to anyone who is able to undertake it - and we had lots of good fellowship and fun too.

*Ruth Harris*



When I look back a month later on all aspects of the Retreat what I think of is the whole ambience of the College and Cathedral of the Isles and the peace and beauty of their grounds which for us was enhanced by wall to wall sunshine every day.

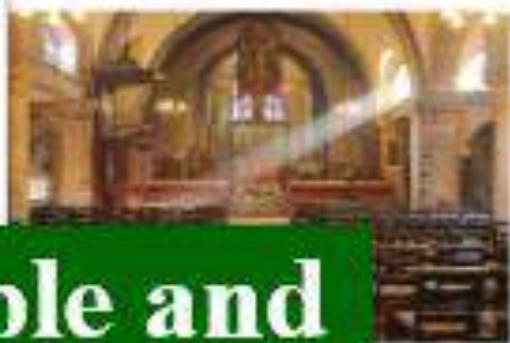
I also enjoyed exploring the Isle of Cumbrae and the views of neighbouring islands such as Bute and Arran. All this is in addition to the reason we were there in the first place, to experience fellowship with other members of St John's in a setting away from Perth with a focus on the theme of the retreat which was 'Life in all its Fullness', led in five sessions by Amanda, a warden of the college. She skilfully set the atmosphere for these sessions although I struggled a bit at first with the length of periods of silence that were suggested! The good weather, however, meant that being silent while wandering in the extensive grounds wasn't after all difficult. *Jean Hendry*





Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

# PHOTOGRAPHY AS PRAYER



**Our people and  
places in  
pictures**



The exhibition will be at St John's  
from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Monday 24<sup>th</sup>  
September.

You are all invited to a launch  
event on the Friday afternoon.

# Sunday Lectionary

## **August 5 The Transfiguration of the Lord**

Psalm 97; 2 Peter 1.16-19; Luke 9.28-36

## **August 12 Pentecost 12**

Psalm 34.1-8; Ephesians 4.25-5.2; John 6.35,41-51

## **August 19 Pentecost 13**

Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58

## **August 26 Pentecost 14**

Psalm 34.15-22; Ephesians 6. 10-20; John 6. 56-69

## **September 2 Pentecost 15**

*Matins* Exodus 12.21-27, Psalm 105.1-15, Matthew 4.23-5.20

*Eucharist* Psalm 15, James 1. 17-27, Mark 7. 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## **September 9 Birth of Mary Mother of God**

Psalm 45.11-18, Acts 1.12-14, Luke 1.26-38

## **September 16 Pentecost 17**

*Eucharist* Psalm 116. 1-8, James 3. 1-12, Mark 8. 27-38

*Evensong* Revelation 12.1-12, Psalm 119.81-88, Matthew 7.1-14

## **September 23 Harvest Celebration**

Psalm 100, Philippians 4. 4-9, John 6. 25-35

## **September 30 Pentecost 19**

Psalm 19. 7-14, James 5. 13-20, Mark 9. 38-50

**Christian Aid**

*Elaine Cameron*



**Tuesday, August 14 *Act for Our Future*, St John's Threshold, 7.30 p.m.**

A Climate Campaign Action Workshop, led by Christian Aid and Eco Congregation Scotland, will give information about Scotland's new Climate Change Act.

**Friday, September 28 *Annual Christian Aid Quiz Night* Letham St Mark's Church, 7-9 p.m.**

Marjorie Clark will again be the quizmaster – a fun evening! I'm hoping St John's may sport two tables of four people each. Graham KR was our sole representative last year, and enjoyed it. I promise to be there this time!

**BISHOP ANNE DYER**

will use her *Picturing Prayer* blog to explore

***Seeing Injustice,  
Imagining Change***



**Saturday DECEMBER 1,  
St John's, Princes Street, 11 – 4 p.m.**

Organised by the Diocesan Gender Justice Group.

More information to follow



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



First, another date for your diary:

*Sounds and Stories from Syria*  
**Weds, 26 September 7.30 p.m.**

We are delighted to have again the well-known classical guitarist Ayman Jarjour and his wife Alyson lead an evening in our church. This time not only will he play the guitar, but she will give an overview of Syria, its history and culture. Ayman and Alyson met in New York, when they were students. She is a diplomat, about to take up a position in the Middle East. One of our local Syrian refugees will share her story. An evening not to be missed! The event is free, but donations will be shared equally between Amnesty and the Jarjours' charity, Medical Aid and Support for Syria (MASS).

The local Perth group held a very successful **AmesTEA** on July 21, partly to raise funds; partly as an educational and informative exercise about the work of the organization. One of the very positive aspects of the AmesTEA was the spread of people who attended, including some of the Syrian refugee families. It was very good to see the children running about and enjoying themselves.

You may be interested to know that **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, whose British husband has been on radio and television in recent months, is one of the prisoners for whom we are advocating. Nazanin is the British-Iranian charity worker arrested in Tehran as she was about to fly home to Britain with her two-year-old daughter, who has since been living with her grandmother, Nazanin's mother, but has not seen her mother in those two years.

*Elaine Cameron*

# Saint Paul

*David Willington*

*As I had to impersonate Paul in church recently, I realised that I knew little about him. So I set out to fill in the gaps in my knowledge.*

Saul was born between AD5 and AD 10 in Tarsus, the capital city of the Roman province of Cilicia. In a city of perhaps a hundred thousand people, there were a few thousand Jews. Saul's

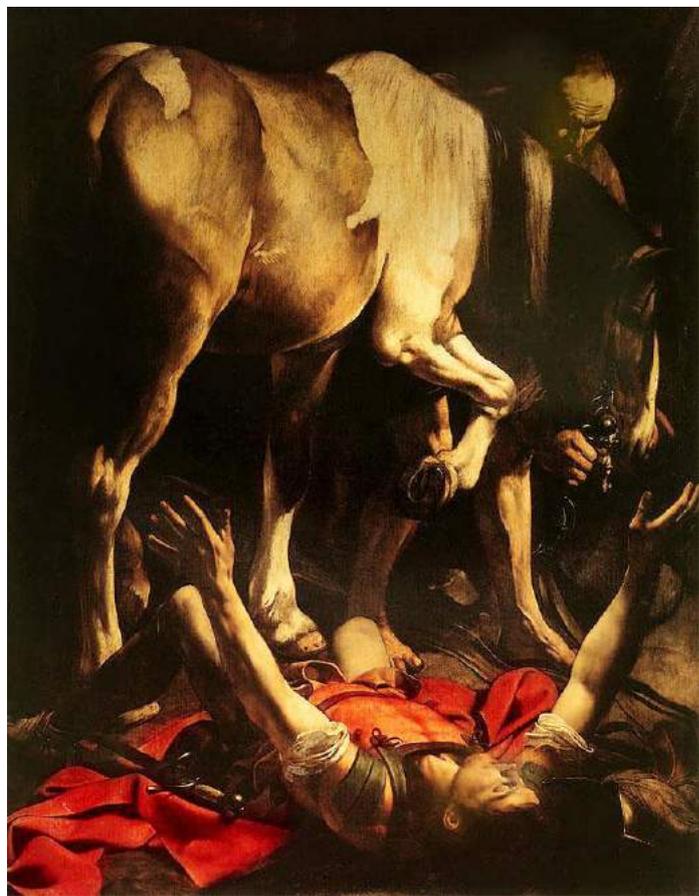


family are described as tentmakers. Flax was grown in the surrounding countryside and their workers used it to make awnings and tents for individuals and the army. Tarsus was a port ten miles up the River Cydnus and an important centre of trade routes along the coast and from the interior. This was a polyglot community. Saul spoke Aramaic the language of Arab countries, Greek the lingua franca of the eastern Mediterranean, and could probably get by in Latin. He was well acquainted with biblical Hebrew, the language of the Torah. He inherited his Roman citizenship from his father, though we do not know how this was originally acquired. He had relatives in Jerusalem and presumably he stayed with them when he went to study under Gamaliel, the most famous rabbi of the age. His education would have been not only scriptural but also included Greek philosophy and rhetoric, as his Epistles attest. Saul was a Pharisee, of the tribe of Benjamin, like Saul, the first king of Israel. It was not uncommon for people to have two names, one native and the other Roman. So when Saul went to Cyprus on his first missionary journey, he called himself Paul, which means 'little' in Latin; perhaps he

was short in stature. Paulus is anyway a common Roman name. ‘Saulos’ in Greek is uncomplimentary; it means ‘waddling’ or ‘mincing’.

Paul was his middle twenties at the times of the Crucifixion. He was zealous for the purity of the Jewish faith, not only in the strict observance of the Law but for the restoration of the Jewish kingdom. As long as Judaea was subject to pagan, polytheistic Roman rule, Jews were in virtual exile and autonomy could not be achieved. In Paul’s mind religion was combined with nationalism, a heady brew. Jesus-followers were blasphemers: they claimed that Christ was the Messiah, yet He had foretold the destruction of the Temple and proclaimed a ‘kingdom not of this world’. All this was anathema to Jewish teaching and deeply offensive to Paul. Furthermore Christ had died a criminal’s death on the cross and was then resurrected, so it was said.

The stoning of Stephen was illegal; only the Roman governor could enforce the death penalty. Yet having caused his death Paul was sent to Damascus to root out Christians there. On the way he experienced conversion. Various explanations have been put forward for this phenomenon: residual guilt at the death of Stephen had come back to haunt him; he had an epileptic fit; he was dehydrated in the midday sun. Tom Wright in his biography of Paul suggests this. As he went along the road he was repeating the mantra *Shema Yisrael, Adhonai Eloheinu, Adhonai Echad* ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the lord is One.’ Combined with the rhythm of his breathing and the steady movement of the donkey he was riding his mind was unconsciously receptive to a startling idea, the Jesus was the Messiah and the fulfilment of Jewish scripture. This



was a complete reversal of his previous attitudes and the physical effect on him was shattering, an acute psychosomatic experience which he interpreted as Christ speaking to him in person.

Having recovered his sight he went off to 'Arabia', probably Sinai, for three years, to digest the implications of his new allegiance. Then he returned to Tarsus via Jerusalem, where he stayed for ten years. It was only in AD 47 that he began his missionary journeys to Cyprus, Antioch, North Greece, Athens and Corinth, Ephesus. Over the years he made several visits to Jerusalem. The Jesus-community there was led by James, the brother of Jesus, and Paul had lengthy arguments with them about the precise relationship of the new faith with traditional Jewish teaching. He visited and wrote letters to the Jesus-communities among the Gentiles. He was not the first teacher to expound doctrine by means of letters. The philosopher Epicurus circulated letters among his followers some two centuries earlier; these are still extant. The Epistle to the Galatians is the earliest Christian document that we have, preceding the Gospel of Mark by thirty years. In his epistles Paul makes little reference to the life of Christ – not surprisingly, since he never knew Him in person - and concentrates on His death and resurrection. During his travels Paul was arrested and beaten up several times, usually by other Jews; in Jerusalem he had to be rescued by a Roman officer. He did not rail at his treatment, since it was so much less severe than Christ's sufferings on the Cross and helped him to identify with his saviour.

We don't know how he died. He was sent to Rome under arrest to await his appeal to the Emperor. However, the city was severely damaged by the Great Fire of AD 64. Nero was held to be responsible and he sought to divert suspicion onto a strange new sect, the Jesus-followers. They were persecuted and put to death in humiliating ways and we must suppose that Paul was one of the victims.

# Thank you from Henry and Renée



We wish to thank the Vestry and Congregation of St John's for their generous gift and good wishes marking the retirement from my organ contribution to church services. We enjoyed two London shows, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and a play 'The Moderate Soprano', telling the story of the Christie family who created Glyndebourne.

I always endeavoured to use the musical talent given to me by the Good Lord and enjoyed my organ playing and working with the choir in St John's. We are fortunate to have Robin and I wish him many years as Organist and Choirmaster. We have enjoyed the friendship of the congregation at St John's and the pastoral care of six rectors. May Graham be with us for many years.

***Please don't forget that Monday  
is Rev Graham's Day Off.***

# Contact Information

Rector	Rev Graham Taylor	245922	<a href="mailto:rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk"><i>rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk</i></a>
Retired Assistant Clergy	Rt Rev Bruce Cameron Rev Fergus Harris		
<b><i>Church Officers</i></b>	<b><i>Mail to be sent to Office</i></b>		<b><i>@episcopal-perth.org.uk</i></b>
Rector's Warden	Gordon Murch	827034	<i>church-warden@</i>
People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
Administrator	Eleanor McGourty	634999	<i>office@</i>
Lay Representative	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	
Alternate Lay Rep	Hazel Murch	827034	
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell		<i>secretary@</i>
Treasurer	Peter Marsh	575040	<i>treasurer@</i>
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	<i>hands@</i>
PVG	Malcolm Moore	639963	<i>pvg@</i>
Director of Music	Robin Miller	625903	<i>music@</i>
<b><i>Team Convenors</i></b>			
Casting the Net	Hazel Murch	827034	
Ministry	Alan McPherson	552337	
Finance	Peter Marsh	575040	
Communications	TBA		
Children	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buildings and Eco	David Maclehose	636147	
Social	TBA		
<b><i>Church Activities</i></b>			
Intercessors Group	Tony Mason	627870	
Flowers	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Magazine	TBA		
Fellowship	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buggy Club	Eunice McPherson	552337	
Young Church	Jean Hendry	623603	
Links	Ruth Harris	621379	
Traidcraft	Rhiannon Miller	625903	
Christian Aid	Elaine Cameron	441172	
PACT	Jean Hendry	623603	
Threshold bookings	Eleanor McGourty	634999	<i>office@episcopal-perth.org.uk</i>

# 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 to the Church Office for our October/November issue by

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

*Cover photo* Focus for Worship at the Cathedral of the Isles

[www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

[www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org)

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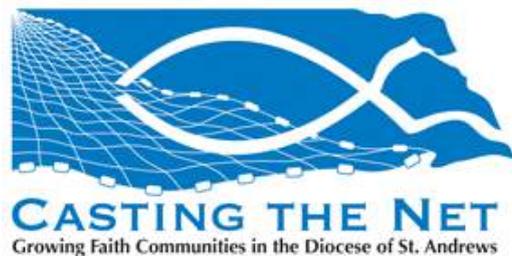
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In partnership with  
the Scottish Association of  
Retired Anglican Clergy



**PERTH AND KINROSS**

**DOORS**

**OPENDAYS**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**FOR THREE WEEKENDS**

**HIGHLAND & EASTERN PERTHSHIRE: 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**STRATHEARN & KINROSS-SHIRE: 22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**PERTH CITY: 29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**DOORS OPEN  
AT ST JOHN'S  
SATURDAY  
29<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER  
11 - 3 P.M.  
CAN YOU  
HELP?**

