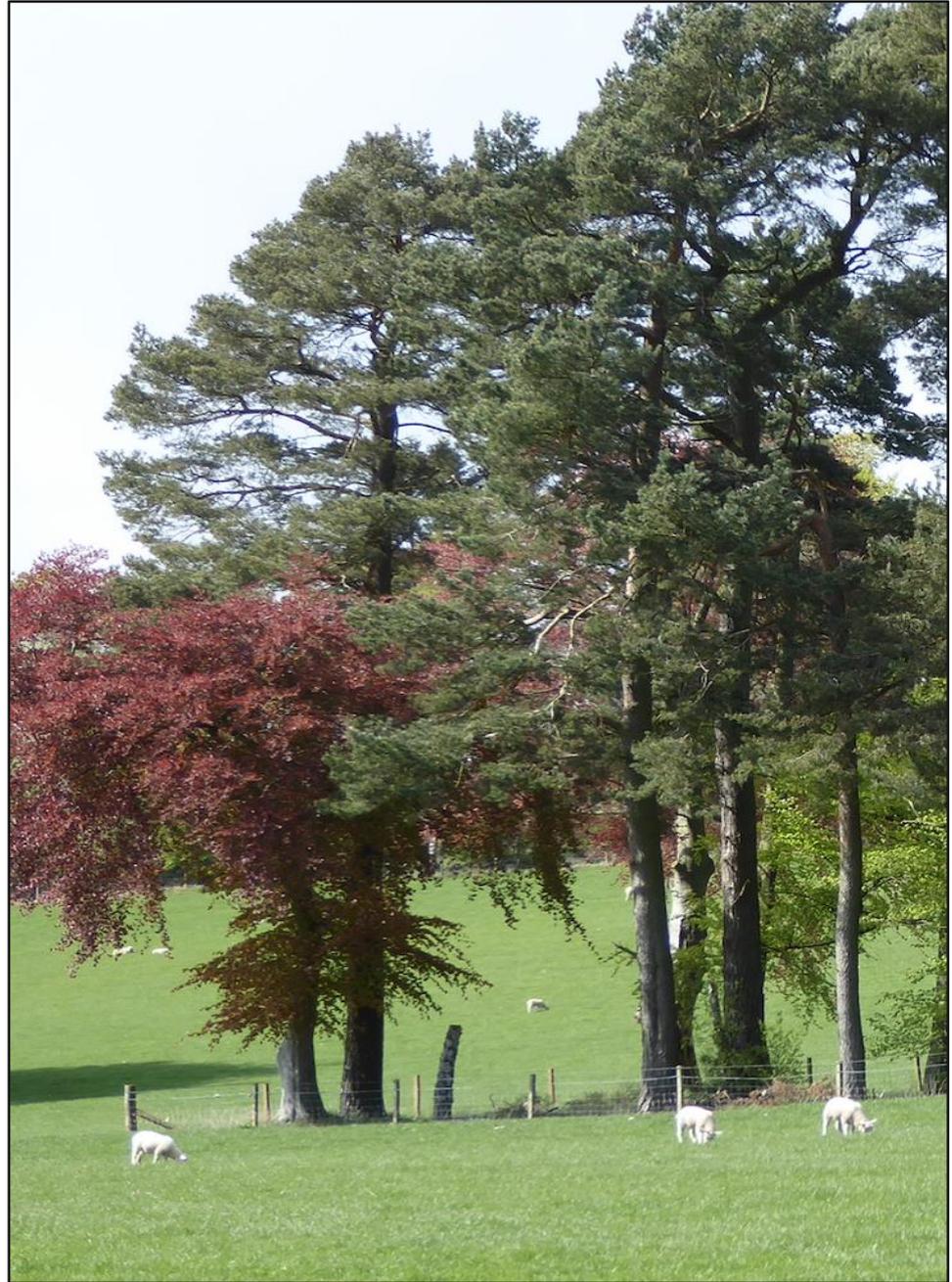




St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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June and July 2019

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Jesus calls us to be, to go and do!

What a glorious Easter we had once again here in St. John's this year. Full of joy and hope in the resurrection of Christ. We walked a very significant Holy Week together, including being led to the foot of the cross in reflection on Good Friday by Bishop Ian. It was lovely to have his presence as our new Bishop here with us on this significant day as an introduction to our church. My thanks go to everyone who made the week and the Easter Sunday itself so special and meaningful. As I always say, what a wonderful, loving community to be part of.



As I write this message to you, only this week we had our first ever Café Church here in the Threshold. What a great turnout and tremendous support from members of our church. It was great to see new faces there as well, joining in our new venture. The enthusiasm of our first speaker Euan Johnson was infectious. It was really interesting to find out more about his work with young folks in Perth and particular on the South Inch. If you didn't manage the Café this time, why not try it out next month and even invite some friends along. We hope to have a speaker again and of course more delicious cake!

Some of you may remember, two years ago now, we held a successful Pentecost service through PACT here in St. Johns. We as a PACT group hope to repeat the same this year in Perth Methodist Church at 4pm on the 9th June. It would be great to see some of you there supporting this from our church if your free.

Fellowship and friendships are so important in our Christian journey and walk. Jesus himself modelled this to us. A group he made his disciples became very close friends with him and shared in all the ups and downs life brought before them. A great model for us to follow today and one shown so much within the life of our church and community. Why don't you join in too if you're not already involved in any of our church activities?

Jesus calls us to be, to go and do – together!

Hope to see you in church.

Graham.

Services in June and July

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 nd June	9.30 a.m.	Matins
16 th June	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
23 rd June	10.30 a.m.	Patronal Festival, the celebrant and preacher that day will be Bishop Ian
30 th June	6.00 p.m.	Nitekirk
14 th July	10.30 a.m.	Sea Sunday

From the Registers – Eternal Rest

Nan Meiklejohn died 7th April 2019 (aged 98 years)

Gloria Salisbury died 27th April 2019 (aged 87 years)

Café Church



Our Rector, Graham Taylor, had a vision of a Café Church meeting monthly in the Threshold at St John's. He gathered volunteers and before the launch Wednesday May 8th we arranged the room with tables and chairs as directed, flowers on the tables and home baking.

However, it was raining and cold and we wondered: Would

anyone come? At 5.30 people did begin to come in. In all, thirty-six people dropped by and sat talking over tea and coffee. The young speaker, Euan Johnson, was an inspiration. He and a team are starting a project to tackle the problem of young people with little purpose in life who are congregating on the South Inch. It is hoped that Euan will let us know how the project progresses and particularly how he became a committed Christian.

Graham was delighted with the response to our first drop-in Café Church and after our closing hymn we dispersed. We hope that on the next date, June 12th, we will find even more coming in to the Threshold for a short time together. Make a note in your diary and maybe invite one other person to come along as well.

Doreen Kneller



St John's Fellowship

Following Ian Scott's power point presentation of his photographs in February, the projector was back in use at our March and April meetings. A year ago Peter Marsh gave us an illustrated talk focussing on his fascinating walk exploring the length of the Forth and Clyde Canal. He was back at our March meeting this year with photos of somewhere completely different: the exotic tropical islands of the Indian Ocean which he and Shelley had recently visited during a cruise. Given the range of places visited and the wildlife seen it was clear that this had been a cruise with a high proportion of the time spent on land rather than a few hours ashore now and again in between long spells at sea.

In April the focus was on another far away part of the world when Catherine Meikle, Convenor of SECMA, came and gave us a presentation on the work of SECMA in projects in South Sudan. I think we were all surprised to discover just how big South Sudan is. It was good to be given a background to the problems of that country before she showed photos of the actual projects being focussed on.

The other major event in the Fellowship calendar that has taken place within the past few weeks was the annual Coffee Morning in mid-April. This was a huge success raising £742 for outside charities. The Fellowship wish to thank all members of St John's who supported, whether by turning up on the day, promoting it by selling tickets to friends and neighbours or by providing raffle prizes or baking. The charities that will benefit from the total raised have still to be confirmed but one of them will certainly be SECMA's South Sudan projects.

By the time this is read in Quest the Fellowship year will have concluded with the AGM at the meeting on the 13th May.

Jean Hendry

Dick and Terry Thorman

On 10th April, Dick and Terry celebrated their Diamond Wedding; among the many cards and messages they received was a card from the Queen.

Terry was born and went to school in Halifax. She spent four years at the London College of Educational Dance and then taught at various schools in the North. Dick was born in Rome where his father was working in the coal business and married an Italian lady. In 1936 the family returned to Yorkshire when Dick was three. He went to prep school and then to Sedbergh. National Service followed. He was commissioned into the Royal Tank Corps and was sent out to the Suez Canal where, as he said, the Army's main task was to prevent the Egyptians stealing their kit. At the age of twenty he joined the Ben Line in Edinburgh as a trainee and in 1954 was sent out to their Singapore office on a three-year tour. While on home leave in 1957, he was introduced to Terry by her sister. They were engaged before he left for Hong Kong and Terry followed him fifteen months later. They were married in St John's Cathedral. As was normal at the time (when air travel was in its infancy) no family could be present, just a few friends made on the voyage and from the office. They went to Japan for their honeymoon and were impressed to find Tokyo dressed overall, not for them but for the inauguration of the new Emperor Akihito.

In 1962 they moved to Singapore where Dick became General Manager for the Far East. Their first child, Christopher, was born in Hong Kong and William and Libby were born in Singapore.

This was a time of great changes in the Shipping Industry with the introduction of containerisation. The Ben Line's thirty-three cargo liners were replaced by three large containerships which, by dramatically

reducing time in port, were able to carry as much cargo in a year as the thirty-three ships they replaced. Terry presided at the naming ceremony of the containership *Benalder* at Kiel in Germany in 1972.

They moved to Edinburgh and Dick joined the Board of the company, with the specific brief of finding new avenues for expansion. The main move was into offshore drilling, through their subsidiary, Atlantic Drilling, of which Dick was Chairman until his retirement in 1993. The Company carried out drilling contracts all over the world, from Alaska to New Zealand as well as in the North Sea.

While bringing up the children, Terry had done a Higher National Diploma in Floral Art and Horticulture. When they lived at Fossoway, she joined the Cupar Flower Club and has been involved in gardens, flower arranging and associated charity work ever since. Meanwhile Dick, having learnt the piano at school, taught himself to play the organ and became one of the two regular organists at St Paul's in Kinross. They moved to Abernethy in 1980 and lived at Pitcurran for over twenty years. A lot of work was needed on the house and the garden which stretches uphill for a considerable distance. Dick also built from a kit and had flown his own light aeroplane, which he kept at Scone. In 2004, when the children had left home, they decided that it was now too big for them and they moved to a newly built house in the village. Terry had to create a garden from scratch, truly a labour of love. She also did a lot of work on the Village Community Garden.

Two of Dick's uncles were Anglican priests and Terry and Dick have always been churchgoers. They worshipped at St Paul's, Kinross, until they moved house to Abernethy and came to St John's. Terry, with the help of Jean Parrott and Jean Edmonstone organised two floral exhibitions in St John's which raised a good deal for charity. Dick served on the Vestry for a couple of years in the 1990s.

They have been round South America on a long cruise, which they much enjoyed, and have taken holidays in Mauritius and South Africa. For their Golden Wedding Anniversary their family bought them a balloon flight from Perth to Dundee, which they survived. Christopher has moved with his family to New Zealand and they have been out there several times, most recently in March this year. They have enjoyed robust good health though latterly Dick's mobility has been somewhat impaired. They have four grandchildren. Looking back over a long life together, Terry and Dick say 'We have been very fortunate'.

David Willington



Sunday Lectionary

June 2 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Matins Psalm 47, 2 Sam 23.1-5,
Mark 16.14-20

Psalm 97 Refrain: The Lord is
king Most high over all the earth

Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21
John 17.20-26

June 9 The Day of Pentecost

Psalm 104. 25-35,37 Refrain: Send
forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth

Acts 2.1-21
John 14.8-17,(25-27)

June 16 Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8 Refrain: O Lord our
governor, how excellent is your
name in all the world.

Romans 5. 1-5
John 16. 12-15

Evensong Psalm 104.1-9, 2 Cor
13.(5-10)11-13, John 16.5-15

June 23 Pentecost 2 (Proper 12)

Psalm 22.18-27 Refrain: All the
ends of the earth shall bow before
him

Galatians 3.23-29
Luke 8.26-39

June 30 Pentecost 3 (Proper 13)

Psalm 16 Refrain: O Lord, you
are my portion and my cup.

Galatians 5.1,13-25
Luke 9.51-62

July 7 Pentecost 4 (Proper 14)

Psalm 66.1-8 Refrain: Be joyful in
God, all your lands

Galatians 6.(1-6)7-16
Luke 10.1-11,16-20

July 14 Pentecost 5 (Proper 15)

Psalm 25.1-9 Refrain: Show me
your ways, O Lord, and teach me
your paths.

Colossians 1.1-14
Luke 10.25-37

July 21 Pentecost 6 (Proper 16)

Psalm 15 Refrain: Those who
do what is right will dwell in the
presence of the Lord.

Colossians 1.15-28
Luke 10. 38-42

July 28 Pentecost 7 (Proper 17)

Psalm 138 Refrain: When I
called, you answered me, O Lord.

Colossians 2.6-15(16-19)
Luke 11.1-13

Synod Report

It was a privilege to attend Annual Synod under the chairmanship of our new Bishop Ian Paton and to witness his approach, leadership and encouragement. Such meetings can be prone to boredom as the essential business of Diocesan Administration has to be dealt with and concluded within a legal business framework. However, Bishop Ian got us through the essentials briskly and with good humour and gave us all inspiration for the future. Here are some highlights to share with you.

The Diocesan Statistical Return showed a slight reduction in the numbers on the Church rolls. The new Data protection rules (GDPR) prevented any further detail being disclosed.

Quota, the sum we pay to the Diocese as our contribution to the running of the Diocese and the wider Scottish Episcopal Church, remains as 16% of Income. This is because the overall financial position of the Diocese is quite strong, due in part to the former Bishop's House being sold at a time when the market had peaked. This means that the moratorium on Building Grants has been lifted. Churches were encouraged to apply but warned that any Application would need to show active fundraising to address Quinquennial Report issues.

A major issue raised via the Diocesan Buildings Committee was that they had to be involved in any works within the "curtilidge" of the Church. This means the entire land owned by the Church and not just the Church structure: the example given was alteration to a Car Park.

Bishop Ian plans to develop the "Overseas Committee" so that it moves away from its "colonial" history to become a Diocesan Global Partnership rather than an organisation of donors.

Emphasis and thanks were given for the importance of the work of the Coordinators for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups.

Worship & Mission – Bishop Ian is keen to encourage greater communal support and sharing of expertise across the Diocese. He is thinking of inviting all Vestry members to meet together and stay overnight. He gave a brief Mission Statement as follows: “To see where God is active in the world and to join in.”

Lambeth Conference 2020 – Bishop Ian commented that there were now more Churches in the worldwide Anglican Community that aligned themselves to the ways of the Scottish Episcopal Church than did so to the ways of the Church of England.

Year of Pilgrimage 2021 – In promoting this across the Diocese and Province, Bishop Ian proposed that we should attract our own Pilgrims by being “Places of Hope” and that we should emphasise that the right to Worship belongs to all of us.

Lay Ministry – Bishop Ian really values the contribution of the Laity and wishes to introduce Honorary Lay Canonries at St Ninian’s Cathedral. A proposal to change the Canon Law to permit this was passed unanimously and will be voted on next year. Lay Canonries occur in the Church of England but this will be a first for the SEC.

In conclusion Bishop Ian made this very humble comment as to his view of the formula for being an effective Bishop: he or she should be an ordinary Priest with extra duties.

Graham Kingsley-Rowe



Is this the Word of the Lord?

I have just been reading the recently published book by John Barton *A History of the Bible*. Barton is an Anglican priest and Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oxford. It is a long book, immensely scholarly as you would expect, and attempts to answer “everything you wanted to know about the Bible and were afraid to ask”. I say “attempts”, because there are many things that we do not know and probably cannot know, for example, who the authors of the Gospels were. Much of the early accounts of Israel as described in the Pentateuch and other pre-exilic books are folklore rather than history. The Jews, like the Romans, invented much of their ancient history to explain current practice by reference to the past. The books of the Prophets are often cited in the New Testament especially in Matthew. However, close analysis of the Prophets shows that they are not coherent works but an accumulation of oracles and warnings. Isaiah, for instance is a compilation from three different sources over a period of several centuries.

The Gospels pose many questions. Why are there four? How do they relate to each other? Why have these four been chosen and not others, for example the Gospel of Thomas? People ask ‘Why can’t we go back to the real Jesus?’ In fact, very little is known about Jesus’ life before his ministry. He spoke Aramaic, whereas the Gospels were written in Greek some fifty years after the Crucifixion (Mark) and nearly a century later (John). What source did they use? We do not know, but we assume it must be oral tradition, with all the difficulties that that presents. From the second to the fourth centuries CE there are several thousand texts of the New Testament, from papyrus fragments to complete codices. They have many differences and it is not possible to produce a definitive text. The earliest Christian writings are the letters of Paul, though only some of them are genuinely Pauline. A central doctrine of Christianity, such as the Trinity, is almost entirely absent from the New Testament, whereas Paul’s doctrine of ‘salvation by faith through grace’ was never part of orthodoxy till the Reformation and does not appear in the Creeds.

Jews have a particular view of the Old Testament. Rabbinical Judaism is more concerned with 'how to live a faithful life in the ups and downs of the ongoing history of the people of Israel'. This is achieved by close study of the Pentateuch and subsequent books up to the time when King Cyrus grants the Jews a return from exile. Messianic prophecy for Jews is not 'a subject of great interest for practical purposes'. For Christians the general theme of the Bible is 'a story of disobedience and redemption, of sin and salvation, of paradise lost and paradise regained' told through allegory in the Old Testament and narrative in the New. There are many different ways to understand the Bible, from the Church Fathers to the Reformation and the Enlightenment and modern times, whether Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. The one thing the Bible is not is 'a sacred monolith between two black-leather covers'.

All this discussion, and more, is accompanied by close textual analysis and fascinating detail. Barton also has a chapter on translating the Bible, from the Septuagint (Hebrew into Greek in the third century BCE) to modern English versions. Translations are made in the context of their times and for different readerships.

He concludes with a chapter on 'The Bible and Faith'. This covers many aspects. For example, Fundamentalists believe that there is nothing but truth in Scripture and thoughts and deeds must be 'dictated solely by biblical precepts'. Conversely, for some people, it does not impinge much on what they actually believe and the bloodthirsty parts of the Old Testament are repudiated. Barton suggests two ways in which to reach a true perspective on the matter. First, to be realistic about what the Bible actually contains, without forcing the evidence one way or another. Second, not to turn it into a 'paper dictator' or to accept that it means 'whatever the religious authorities decree'. The Bible, therefore, is 'a crucial yet not infallible document of Christian faith' which speaks to us as individuals.

David Willington

Congratulations

Congratulations to Perth's Chamber Choir **Chansons** on their wonderful 40th Anniversary Concert on 28th April – 'Voice and Verse'. Three members of our congregation were taking part, Rhiannon Miller, Gordon Murch and David Willington. But the palm goes to Henry Neil who founded the choir and was its Musical Director for twenty-three years.

As the *Courier* reviewer observed: '...(the new Musical Director) can't fail with such a quality ensemble who can turn their hand to any form of choral singing. Perfect diction, smooth phrasing, good balance – these are qualities vital for any choir, but Chansons tick every box, and more.'

Just for Fun! A Solution

Firstly my apologies to all who were traumatised by the inclusion of some Maths in the last edition of Quest! And congratulations to any of you who attempted or solved the puzzle.

I did receive a written response from 'Euclid' who came up with a solution which involved swapping two of the cards with two new ones from the box which is commended for the lateral thinking!

However there is a way to solve the problem without doing this. My statement that the puzzle involved "gentle arithmetic with a twist" was a clue! The intended solution is to swap the '9' with the right-hand '8' but the twist is to turn the '9' to a '6' in the process. (Sneaky I know. Sorry!) Thus all three columns add up to 18 with the four cards in each column all being different.

Cath

Annie Hughes

Annie Hughes left us after Easter to complete her training for ordination. We are most grateful for all she has done for us, whether preaching, Prayer Gatherings on Thursdays and in so many other ways. We look forward to her ordination service later in the year and welcoming her back as our new curate.



Pennies from Heaven?

Do you ever wonder about our SEC church investments? Do you wonder if they go to causes Christians support? This is a question coming to General Synod this year, because the SEC Investment Committee is making a proposal which seems to work against some ethical investment categories.

The Investment Committee is charged with ensuring they provide income to keep pace with inflation. The investments are used to fund central SEC activities, and to support the work of dioceses and congregations. St John's has no investments managed by the SEC, so the proposal only impacts St John's if the SEC financial returns fall, and we are asked to increase our congregational giving to central funds – our 'quota'.

At the same time the Investment Committee's decisions are intended to adhere to an ethical investment policy. In 2016, the General Synod passed a motion extending the categories excluded on ethical grounds from investment to include not only arms companies, tobacco and oil, but companies substantially involved in thermal coal and tar sands. It is a matter of concern that the SEC currently only have ethical control over one third of their investments, because the SEC's fund manager control 2/3 of its investments through the Unit Trust Pool (UTP). The Investment Committee, arguing this should yield a better financial return, wish to move all SEC investments to the Unit Trust Pool. This would mean the SEC relinquishes all ethical control.

The provincial Church in Society Committee, of which I am a member, has discussed this proposal at some length, and have concerns about it. There now appears to be much more scrutiny of investments – particularly growing campaigns focusing on churches' investments in fossil fuel companies, such as that of Christian Aid. There is much to suggest that investing 'ethically' does not necessarily harm investment returns.

They recommend that *'if the current fund manager is unable to provide funds which respect our ethical exclusion policy, we retain a third of investments directly, and seek out 'an alternative fund manager' who might provide both secure and ethical returns'*.

They note that many other churches are extending their policy of ethical exclusions, making the ethical dimension of investment of greater importance than the financial return. Reducing our ethical policy would seem to reduce our reputation as a caring church.

At a time when arms are all too easily traded internationally; when climate change is increasing; when tobacco is still readily available, is it not the mission of the church to limit such action, rather than loosening our hold?

Are we about penny-pinching or pinching pennies?

Elaine Cameron

Website

Please check out all our up-to-date news and information, including photos provided by Canon Shelley, on our website. The website address is: www.episcopal-perth.org.uk





CAFE CHURCH

In the Threshold
on Wednesday 12th June
at 5.30pm

**AFTER A BUSY DAY
COME AS YOU ARE**

**TAKE A SHORT TIME
OUT ON YOUR WAY
HOME**

**TO RELAX AND TO
REFLECT**

**TO ENJOY COFFEE,
CAKES AND
COMPANY**

ALL WELCOME

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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 David Willington for our August/September issue by

Sunday 14th July

www.scotland.anglican.org

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy

