



St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Perth

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Sep-Oct 2014



St. John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Princes Street, Perth, PH2 8LJ
Scottish Charity Number SC 011398

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of Retired
Anglican Clergy



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Cover image: Pears in the garden. Photo: Bruce Cameron.



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'All Is Safely Gathered In'

- A short reflection on Harvest -

Five years ago I planted some fruit trees in our garden. Since then the plum tree has in most years provided us with a good harvest, and this year is one of the best. But up to this year our two pear trees, though blossoming in the spring have realised nothing - even when I took a member of St John's advice and tried to pollinate them by means of a small brush!! But this year there has been some success - a total of 10 pears from two trees have appeared. Enough for one or two 'poached pear' desserts in the Cameron household!

Such are the 'highs' and 'lows' of harvest time. And the Bible is full of similar experiences. From the 'seven years of harvest and seven years of famine' in the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis - to the parables of Jesus, the variations of harvest time are graphically illustrated.

The world of today also presents a picture of such varied experiences. I remember how in a visit to Mozambique in the 1990's I found myself in a country which had experienced 10 years of drought conditions. But that year the rains had come and people were planting seeds wherever they could - even on street edges as they hoped to gather in what for them would be a bumper harvest.

Harvest is more than just giving thanks to God for the good times and the good harvests; it is a time when we are challenged to ensure that the gifts of a creative God are more equitably shared in our world.

On Sunday 21st September I hope many members of St John's will come to give thanks to God for the Harvest once more - it is always a service of joy and thankfulness; but also to remember and be challenged by the words of this Harvest collect from the Prayer Book:

*Stir up we beseech thee, O Lord,
the wills of thy faithful people;
that they who have freely received
may of thy bounty freely give.*

Bishop Bruce

Welcoming Our New Rector

At the end of October a new chapter in the life of St John's begins with the arrival of a new Rector, Graham Taylor. These services will particularly mark his arrival.

The Insitution Of Graham Taylor As The Rector Of St John's

Thursday 30 October 7:30pm

By the Most Rev. David Chillingworth, Bishop of the Diocese, Primus

As well as our own congregation we hope to welcome many guests from Aberdeen and Graham's former congregations; clergy and lay readers from the diocese; and representatives of local churches in Perth and from the city itself.

After the service there will be a Reception in the George Hotel, George Street to which all are invited

First Services of Graham Taylor

Sunday 2nd November

This will be an opportunity for St John's members to get to know their new Rector. Note that the services on this Sunday will be as follows:

- 8:30am Holy Communion (said)
- 10:30am Sung Eucharist for All Saints
 at which Graham will preside and preach
 followed by coffee/tea etc in the Threshold

(The normal pattern of Matins and Alive for Christ will resume in December)

Picnic in Comrie, 16th August

About twenty of us, young and old, travelled across to St Serf's church, Comrie for a day together at the end of the school holidays. Our plans for a picnic outside were looking a little uncertain due to the weather but on arrival we found that Kate Sainsbury, St Serf's Lay Reader, had thoughtfully rearranged the furniture so that we could picnic inside the church building. She showed us key points of interest in the building and told us a little about the activities that take place there.

After an informal time of fellowship over lunch Kate suggested that we walk the prayer labyrinth that is maintained in the glebe land next to their church and gave us leaflets about the history and purpose of labyrinths. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path which leads both into the centre and out again: there are no dead ends. Some people walk the labyrinth as an aid to contemplative prayer or reflection; others enjoy the

physical experience of tracing the path as it twists and turns. Walking it as group also offers the experience of unexpected encounters as the path brings people close together for a moment before they move apart



again. In many ways this experience mirrors life!

Taking advantage of the afternoon sunshine, Kate then guided many of us along the Lednock Millenium Footpath, a level all-ability path which leads alongside the River Lednock below Comrie Golf Course with informative panels on the area's history and heritage. After pausing by a small dam where children and dogs were enjoying the water, we

successfully negotiated steep steps to a viewpoint where we paused to enjoy the view before following a more gentle gradient back.

We all appreciated the opportunity to see a little of life in the diocese outside our own boundaries and all enjoyed our day out. We expressed our gratitude in a letter to Kate enclosing a small contribution to St Serf's church funds.

Lis Burke

'Interim' No Longer!

When I came to help Patrick back in January 2013 I did not envisage then how it would turn out the beginning of almost two years of interim ministry at St. John's. It has been a time of sad moments as well as joyful ones, but in all this I have witnessed a faithful congregation coping with the early retirement of their Rector, the refurbishment of their church building, the appointment of a new Rector, and through that work to sustain the fellowship and witness of this congregation.

For Elaine and me it has been a privilege to share in the life of St John's over this time - to renew friendships and make new ones. In the next few weeks you will welcome Graham Taylor, someone who back in 2001 I ordained in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney; and with him you can now look forward to the next stage of your journey as a Christian community.

I will continue to conduct services and meet any special pastoral needs up to the end of October.

Bishop Bruce



From the Registers

Lectionary

7 Sept 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Matins

Exodus 12:1–14

Romans 13:8–14

Alive for Christ

Matthew 18:15–20

14 Sept Holy Cross Day

1 Corinthians 1:18–24

John 3:13–17

21 Sept Harvest Festival

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Luke 17:11–19

Evensong

Joel 2:21–27

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

28 Sept 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 2:1–13

Matthew 21:23–32

5 Oct 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Matins

Isaiah 5:1–17

Philippians 3:4b–14

Alive for Christ

Matthew 21:33–46

12 Oct 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 4:1–9

Matthew 22:1–14

19 Oct 19th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Matthew 22:15–22

Evensong

Isaiah 45:1–7

Mark 10:35–45

26 Oct 20th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 2:1–8

Matthew 22:34–46

2 Nov Feast of All Saints

1 John 3:1–3

Matthew 5:1–12

9 Nov Remembrance Sunday

1 Corinthians 15 : 51 -57

John 6:37–40

Church Diary



Regular services

First Sunday in the month	8:30 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)
	9:30 am	Matins
	10:45 am	Alive for Christ all-age Eucharist
Third Sunday in the month:	8:30 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)
	10:30 am	Sung Eucharist with healing service
	6:00 pm	Evensong
Other Sundays:	8:30 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)
	10:30 am	Sung Eucharist
Weekday services:		
Thursdays	11:00 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)

Other Services

Sunday 22 September	10:30 am	Harvest Festival
Thursday 30 October	7:30 pm	Institution of Graham Taylor as Rector of St John's
Sunday 2 November	10:30 am	Graham Taylor's first Eucharist service (no Matins or Alive for Christ today)
All Saints Day		
Sunday 9 November	10:30 am	Sung Eucharist for Remembrance Sunday

Other Events

Every Monday	10:30 am	Giraffe Community Lunch in the Threshold
Every Tuesday	9:30 am	Buggy Club in the Threshold
Every Thursday	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
Saturday 21 September		Open doors day
Sunday 22 September		Open doors day
		Bring and Share lunch after the service
Saturday 11 October		ACTS conference in Edinburgh
Friday 14 November	7:30 pm	Amnesty International meeting in the Threshold
Saturday 15 November	1:00 pm	Organ recital: Robin Miller in the church
Sunday 30 November		AGM in the church after the service

Referendum Prayer

A Prayer from the Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain, on which the Scottish Episcopal Church is represented, to be said at the time of the Scottish Independence Referendum. The prayer is inspired by Psalm 104:

*Lord, we bless you
for you have fashioned our land and daily refresh it;
you have sent forth your spirit and created us;
you have opened your hand and filled us with good things.
Bless us, your people, as we consider the future of our nation.
May your glory endure here for ever and may we sing to you as long
as we live;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) has also produced liturgical resources to be used at this time which are now available on its website: www.acts-scotland.org

GLEN '14

Glen '14 is a youth camp designed for 12-18 year olds which is held in Glenalmond College for a week during the summer holidays. This year it was my first time going and I was the youngest at the camp.

It is run by the Episcopal Church. Every day on the camp we were given opportunities to choose different activities. We were given 3 slots of activities during the day. The activities included discussions and

debates; sports such as swimming, rounders and lots more; drama, music and art. We worshipped 3 times a day, morning, noon and night.

The best thing about this camp for me was meeting new people and making new friends. I would like to say thank you to the Vestry and the congregation for supporting me to go to this camp and I hope I can do it again.

James Grant

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 21st September

At the 10:30am Sung Eucharist please bring a non-perishable gift which will be donated to the Perth Foodbank as well as replenishing our own store for those who occasionally appear at St John's in need of help with food.

For the 10:30am service it is hoped the children will have been baking bread which will be used at the Eucharist.

This is also 'Open Doors' weekend and so we should look out for and warmly welcome any visitors who come to attend the service.

Traidcraft Christmas catalogue

This year's Christmas catalogues from Traidcraft will soon be available at the back of church.

It's full of unique handcrafted gifts, like these slippers made from sustainable banana fibre. There's also new cardigans, shawls, pyjamas, tops, and men's shirts and jumpers.

There is a wide selection of toys and stocking fillers including fun purses, funky key rings, jigsaw puzzles, and bright wooden vehicles.

Traidcraft have added to their wide range of homeware with products from across the world including Swaziland, Peru, Bangladesh, Kenya and Thailand, like this elephant cushion cover from Baobab Batik in Swaziland. Baobab Batik works to build sustainable economic and social



solutions for women in Swaziland.

And of course there's a wide selection of Christmas cards, decorations, and gift wrap.

Please place your order with Rhiannon as soon as possible. Remember, the later you leave it, the more chance it will sell out!



Commemorating the First World War

These special flower arrangements were set up for our service on Sunday 3 August to commemorate the start of the First World War.

Photos: Lis Burke



Peacemaking Sunday

This year United Nations Peace Day and the churches' Peacemaking Sunday are coming together on Sunday 21 September. This will also be the first Sunday after the referendum. Churches pray for peace all the year round but an annual focus is very important. It gives an opportunity to pray for those caught up in specific conflicts.

Some local churches join together with an ecumenical or interfaith vigil or service. Religion should be seen as a power for reconciliation rather than conflict or division.

Uniting for Peace is producing special worship resources for Peacemaking Sunday. If you would like a copy, please send £5 (cheques payable to 'Peace services') to the Rev Brian Cooper, 144/1 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 2AN (0131 446 9545)

The ongoing tragedy in Iraq

The Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, the Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies, has issued the following statement as Senior Bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church:

The forced expulsion of Christians by ISIS militants in Mosul and northern Iraq is a deep tragedy not just for the individuals concerned but also removes from that part of the middle east some of the most ancient Christian communities.

This ISIS militants are perverting to a level of extremism the peaceable teaching of the Islam they profess and within which Christians and Moslems have lived together and cooperated together for centuries. Sadly, and within our own times, Christians have behaved equally badly.

In the same week that Christians were fleeing the northern city of

Mosul in Iraq Europe was recognising the nineteenth anniversary of the massacre of some 8000 Moslems by invading (Christian) Serb forces in Srebrenica, in Bosnia Herzegovina. This too we must criticise for it was the biggest genocide Europe has seen since the Second World War.

Ethnic cleansing is wrong on all counts. Where it brings death and injury that wrong is magnified to appalling proportions. Where it is done in the name of religion (whatever the religion might be) then those who recognise this to be a perversion of the religious belief they hold must say so. And this I do.

From the Provincial website. See more at: <http://bit.do/christians-in-iraq>

Senior Bishop condemns rising wave of violence in Gaza

The Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, as Senior Bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church, has issued the following statement concerning the current conflict in Israel/Palestine:

All people concerned for the welfare of their neighbour must condemn the current and rising wave of violence in Gaza, and now spreading to other areas of the West Bank. Far too many Palestinian civilians who have no part in this conflict have been killed and sorely injured through the Israeli action. Likewise the constant threat from the missile firing by Hamas militants into Israel, and their deployment of missiles into hoped-for safe locations, is deepening a political crisis to truly alarming proportions.

The scale of deaths and injuries, homelessness and the lack of safe shelter for the inhabitants of Gaza is never acceptable, under any circumstances, as a consequence of action between these two warring factions.

In the end the only successful outcome to the Israel / Palestinian conflict must be a secure negotiated peace plan. The lesson that Britain learned as a consequence of thirty years or so of the troubles in Northern Ireland is that peace comes slowly and not without many difficulties along the way. What is currently happening in Gaza right now is that both sides of the conflict are making any likelihood of a peaceful and acceptable concord a remote possibility in this century.

From the Provincial website. See more at: <http://bit.do/violence-in-gaza>

‘Senior Bishop is used in the Scottish Episcopal Church to denote the Bishop next in seniority of consecration to the Primus.

AUTUMN CONFERENCE

“Still Pilgrims Together”

**BOOK
NOW!**

Date: Saturday, 11 October 2014

Venue: Augustine United Church,
41 George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh, EH1 1EL

Tel: 0131 220 1677



The Church of Scotland

 **acts** action of churches together in Scotland



Will you set a place for Christian Aid this Harvest?

This year, our church will stand with communities like Alok, in South Sudan, that struggle to find enough to eat or a secure shelter for their families.

Sudan has been plagued by two brutal civil wars. Two million lives have been lost as a result of fighting, famine and disease. Millions more were forced to flee their communities to escape the violence.

Nyipock Majak (pictured) fled his home as a young teenager to start a new life in the north of Sudan. He was finally able to return home to South Sudan three years ago, when the region gained independence.

Nyipock is just one of more than 2 million southerners who have since gone back to live in South Sudan. Many of them arrived with few or no possessions and have depended on the kindness of local communities to help them get back on their feet.

In South Sudan, our partners are responding to the current humanitarian crisis in South Sudan (for more details visit christianaid.org.uk/harvest) and also helping communities to develop in the long term.

Our partner Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) gave Nyipock a cash grant to build his own house. He is grateful to HARD for the stability and security a safe home brings.

Nyipock, who prides himself on working hard, built his own clay oven. Now he rises at six every morning to bake 600 loaves a day for his community.



Nyipock with the clay oven he built.

He dreams of opening his own restaurant one day, saying, 'With the profit, I would buy school uniforms for my children and pay for their school fees. If they got sick, I would be able to pay for their treatment.'

'I do help others where I can and let them have bread. It's mainly elderly mothers and children, who have very little'

Nyipock has so little, yet gives so much. As we celebrate God's gifts to us this Harvest, let us support communities affected by poverty and conflict around the world. Acting together, we can turn our daily bread into a secure harvest for some of the world's poorest people.

Thank you so much for all you can give.



Donations will be used to support poor communities like Nyipock's all over the world.

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