



St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Perth

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Nov-Dec 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: Graham Taylor is led to his seat by the Bishop as part of his induction. Photo: Tim Haynes.



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Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I'm sure you have all been in the position and know what it's like to be waiting on something. Sometimes a special event can seem a long way off and you are eager for the time to pass. Well, that's just how it is for me at the moment! It seems ages now that I have been waiting for my Institution date to come around. A time when I can start my ministry among you as Rector of St. John's, yet by the time you read this article it will all have happened!

Waiting can be a real testing time in our lives, it can be a time when we really take stock of ourselves and situations, a real time of reflection and being still and allowing the Spirit of God to move in us through prayer and anticipation.

As I begin my ministry with you in St. John's, we will soon be into another time of waiting as we approach the season of Advent in the church calendar. This will be a time when we will wait and journey together to reach that big celebration of Christmas. It will be a time when we take stock of all the blessings in our lives. A time when we are reminded of Mary the mother of our Lord and her waiting to bear a Son, Jesus our

Saviour. This is a very special time of the year when in our waiting we celebrate together the wonder of the Christ child, the one who is born into our hearts and our lives again.

As we begin this new ministry and time of mission and change together, I ask for your prayers, as I assure you of mine for all of you. It is with great anticipation indeed for me to have been given this chance to get to know you and your families as we step out on this journey of faith. I'm sure and convinced that God's blessing will be poured out onto this lovely church and perhaps more important onto our church family here in Perth. I give thanks every day that I have been given the chance to minister in this beautiful part of the world.

My dear friends, as we wait together for all that lies ahead of us and for all that is to come, I assure you as your new Priest that I will pray for you and be faithful to the Gospel and to our Lord in this place. If you need me I will be here for you, as I know you already are for me as we see the way ahead together.

May God's blessing be upon us all as we wait!

With much love,

Graham

Welcome to our new rector!

St John's was packed with over 200 people on Thursday 30th October to celebrate the institution of Rev. Graham Taylor as our new rector by Bishop David Chillingworth in a joyous and inspirational service. The congregation of St John's was joined by many members of Graham's former congregation at St Mary's, Carden Place, Aberdeen; a large body of clergy and lay readers from several dioceses; local clergy from other Christian churches; and representatives from the civic authorities, including Provost Liz Grant and other councillors.

Graham was presented to the Bishop by David Willington and Joyce Sampson, representing the vestry. During his licensing he was presented with gifts from various members of the congregation. Vivian Linacre presented a Bible, Rhiannon Miller a stole, Sarah Axford some oil, Tony and Vivian Mason some bread and wine and Mary Emma Strange the keys of the church.

David Rose, the Rector's warden at St Mary's, Carden Place, read the epistle and Rt Rev. Bruce Cameron read the Gospel. As a former rector of St John's before his consecration as Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, as well as his recent time as Interim Pastor of St John's, Bishop Bruce is well known to Graham and to both



The introit procession



Graham is presented to the Bishop by David Willington and Joyce Sampson



The Dean reads the licence



The Very Reverend Gerald Stranraer-Mull preaches the sermon

congregations. The sermon was preached by the Very Revd Gerald Stranraer-Mull, Dean Emeritus of the diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

Many people commented on the inspirational music during the service, which included Howard Goodall's anthem 'Love Divine' after communion and the Toccata by Charles Marie Widor as a closing voluntary. Our thanks go to Alison Grant as director of music and Robin Miller as organist.

This was the first time many clergy from the diocese had seen inside the church since its redevelopment, and they were impressed by the spacious interior which was enhanced by some beautiful floral arrangements.



Graham responds to his welcome

After his institution Graham recognised the input from so many members of the congregation and thanked everyone who had played any part in enabling the service to be such an overwhelmingly positive occasion.

The service was followed by refreshments at the Royal George Hotel in Perth, which provided an opportunity for guests to mingle and share in fellowship.

Lis Burke

Farewell To Bruce And Elaine

Elaine told me that long ago someone had said to her: 'Don't marry Bruce, because he is wedded to the Church'. But she did and both relationships seem to have prospered. In the last two years the Camerons have celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary and have seen a son married.

Bruce came to St John's in a team ministry and then as sole Rector until his translation to Aberdeen in 1992. In 2000 he was elevated to Primus and served six years. Then he and Elaine spent a year in Williamsburg, Virginia. But there is no rest for the virtuous. After periods of interim pastorship at Pitlochry and Kinross he returned to St John's, as it were a second incarnation, in the New Year of 2013. At that time we muddled along as best we could and hoping that there was someone on Sundays who would administer the Sacrament.

Having a bishop as pastor has been a

great advantage. At a time when we were struggling with Phase II, Bruce put in a helping hand and suddenly the rough places were made plain. At Vestry meetings, his immense experience has been invaluable, giving us a gentle nudge in the right direction and defusing difficult issues with a twinkle in his eye. He has been most attentive in his visiting and I am sure his wisdom strengthens and consoles.

His sermons are scholarly and always interesting - come to Matins or Evensong to hear lucid exegesis of the Old Testament. Like good food and drink, he hits the spot. I don't know if you remember, but his words at the funeral service for Donald Macpherson were deeply felt and very moving.

Bruce likes to golf as an occasional recreation. I am not sure if it is legitimate to pray for a good shot or at least to stay in bounds. I asked that of the Glenalmond Chaplain once, and he replied: 'Yes, but remember His sense of humour.' Bruce does not give in, at least overtly, to imprecation when a shot goes astray. When we were playing with him at Dunning, Ranald and I discovered a rule, newly laid down by the Royal & Ancient, that Bishops are allowed to ground their club in a bunker.

Elaine is a very busy lady in her own



right. She serves on the steering Committee of the International Anglican Women's Network, which involves much travelling, and edits their newsletter. In Scotland she is a member of the Episcopal Church's Personnel Committee. At St John's she keeps in touch with individual members of the Congregation, as a pastor's wife should, and she leads the Intercessions, which I have always found very considered and thoughtful. She also fed the entire Vestry last Saturday at her home for which we are very grateful.

We do hope that you will take a well-deserved holiday after all your efforts, preferably in the southern hemisphere. Nothing like winter sun for reinvigorating body and soul. And on your return we hope that you will resume your place as part of our Church family.

Mary Emma has summed up Bruce's ministry thus, simply and directly: He has brought joy and serenity to our worship and dedication to our pastoral needs. We are very grateful and have been truly blessed.

David Willington

Thank You St John's

Bishop Bruce and Elaine wish to express their very warm and sincere thanks to the people of St John's:

- for the very generous gift from the congregation that was given to us on Sunday October 26th. Your generosity simply overwhelmed us and we will use it for planning our special holiday next year.
- for the love and the friendship that you have shared with us over the past two years. As Elaine said on the 26th it felt very much a homecoming and friendships old and new have been very important to us.
- for the support of so many people from Vestry to Ministry team to choir and others who have ensured the life of St John's was sustained over this period of time.

The Institution Service on 31st October was a joyous celebration and we both wish Graham and the congregation well as you both look to and plan for the future of St John's.

With our thanks, our love, and our prayers

Elaine and Bruce

Meeting of the Vestry 13th October 2014

This was the last meeting of the Vestry chaired by Bishop Bruce. The Vestry are extremely grateful to Bishop Bruce for all his hard work over the last two years and for his (apparently inexhaustible) patience and good humour. We have benefitted so much from his wisdom and experience as we have tackled some difficult situations together. Somehow, we have had fun along the way but we have worked him far too hard. We are also grateful to Bruce for his ministry among us: both for the sense of joy and serenity he has brought to our worship, and for his dedication to our pastoral needs. We have been truly blessed. I hope that Bruce and Elaine will always remain part of the family of St John's.

Alasdair Brown came to the first part of the Vestry meeting to talk through the annual management accounts. St John's broke even last year. Once we stopped paying Patrick's salary, we generated a surplus and this money has been used to redecorate and repair the Rectory to make it welcoming for our new Rector, Graham Taylor.

Unfortunately, it looks as though

Church expenditure will out strip income next year. We now need to fund a full stipend without the support of the rent from the Rectory and we will need to consider further fund raising and a stewardship campaign. The Finance committee will report to the Vestry in greater detail at the Vestry meeting before the AGM. The Vestry also discussed preparations for the AGM which will be held after the service on Sunday 30th November,

The Vestry discussed how to make more use of the Threshold now that it is no longer used by the Yoga group. The Threshold is less booked up than it used to be and is available for one off events and regular bookings. If any one wishes to use the Threshold please ring Heather in the Church office or email office@episcopal-perth.org.uk. Equally, if anyone wishes to use the Church for Concerts, seminars etc, they should again contact Heather.

Preparations are well in hand for Graham Taylor's Service of Institution as our new Rector on the 30th October and we look forward to a new chapter in the history and ministry of St John's.

Mary Emma Strange

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 30 November in the church after the service

Lectionary

9 Nov	Remembrance Sunday 1 Corinthians 15:51–57 John 6:37–40	Luke 1:46b–55 <i>Evensong</i> Titus 2:11–3.8a Luke 1:39–48a
16 Nov	St Margaret of Scotland 2 Timothy 1:1–7 Matthew 13:44–46	24 Dec Christmas Eve <i>Christingle</i> Luke 1:67–79 <i>Midnight Eucharist</i> Isaiah 9:2–7 Luke 2:1–20
23 Nov	Christ the King Ephesians 1:15–23 Matthew 25:31–46	
30 Nov	Advent 1 Isaiah 64:1–9 Mark 13:24–37	25 Dec Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7–10 Hebrews 1:1–12 John 1:1–14
7 Dec	Advent 2 <i>Matins</i> Isaiah 40:1–11 Mark 1:1–8 <i>Alive for Christ</i>	28 Dec Naming of Jesus Philippians 2:5–11 Luke 2:15–21
14 Dec	Advent 3 Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 John 1:6–8, 19–28	4 Jan Epiphany Ephesians 3:1–12 Matthew 2:1–12
21 Dec	Advent 4 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16	11 Jan Baptism of Jesus Acts 19:1–7 Mark 1:4–11

Special Events

Friday 14 November	7:30 pm	Amnesty International meeting in the Threshold
Saturday 15 November	1:00 pm	Organ recital: Robin Miller
Saturday 22 November	10:30 am	Breaking the Silence mini-conference in the Threshold
Sunday 30 November		AGM in the church after the service

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
Note that there will be no Matins or Alive for Christ on the first Sunday of January. Instead there will be a Sung Eucharist at 10:30 am		

Weekday services:

Thursdays	11:00 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)
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Advent and Christmas Services

Wednesday 3 December	7:30 pm	Compline and Reflection
Wednesday 10 December	7:30 pm	Compline and Reflection
Friday 12 December	7:00 pm	PACT Carol Service at St Leonard in the Fields
Wednesday 17 December	7:30 pm	Compline and Reflection
Sunday 21 December	10:30 am	Sung Eucharist with Carols and Readings
Wednesday 24 December	5:00 pm	Christingle service
	11:00 pm	Midnight Eucharist
Thursday 25 December	10:30 am	Christmas Family Eucharist
Sunday 4 January	10:30 am	Sung Eucharist for Epiphany

Regular 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
Thursdays until 11 December	8:15 pm	PACT choir rehearsal at the Salvation Army Centre (note no rehearsal on 27 November)

Light in the Darkness

Compline and Reflections for Advent

7:30pm on Wednesday evenings 3rd, 10th and 17th December in church

We will meet for about 30 minutes, with a different person leading the worship each week.

Christmas services at St John's

Sunday 21 December

10:30am: Christmas carol service

Christmas Eve

5:00pm: Christingle service

11:00pm: Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

10:30am: Christmas Family Eucharist

Christmas

Holly Joy Mistletoe
Christmas trees with lights aglow.
Snowflakes falling soft and pure
Children singing round the door.
Yule logs burning in the grate,
Santa Claus is running late
Church Bells ring out loud and clear
Merry Christmas to all and a
Happy New Year.

Irene Drane

A New L'Arche Community -in Perth?


Next year, L'Arche in Scotland will be 40. We're using the time till then to tell people anywhere in Scotland that L'Arche would like to start a third community.

Perth would be an ideal location for a new community. Perth has a Faith and Light group which is a sister organisation to L'Arche, so we already have a connection to the area. We hold our annual assistants' retreat at St Mary's Monastery in Kinnoull, and we would be able to make good

links with the existing community in Edinburgh.

Perth is a good catchment area, not only serving Perthshire but also Dundee and Fife for service users coming to live in a community house.

If you are interested in becoming involved, or if you know someone who would like to hear more about this, please get in touch with Anthony Kramers on 07979 819870 or visit www.larche.org.uk.



We are looking for people with and without learning disabilities to help us grow L'Arche in Scotland.

Would you like to be involved?

It takes a diverse group to start a Community – people with learning disabilities and their families, people who have worked in a L'Arche Community, support from local churches, volunteers, people able to give professional advice in social work, support provision, finance, housing and fundraising. Could you be one of those people?

If you would like to know more or offer your support please contact Anthony Kramers on 07979 810870 or visit our website www.larche.org.uk

Organ Recital

Putting together a programme for an organ recital was always going to be a challenge for me. I'm much more of a pianist and a romantic, and there's a conspicuous shortage of romantic organ music.

The seed for this concert was planted back in April when I realised that Star Wars Day (May the fourth) fell on a Sunday this year, and indeed on an Alive for Christ service day. I then went looking for Star Wars sheet music to play, and in doing so found a lovely looking piano arrangement of the Imperial March (from The Empire Strikes Back) which I thought would adapt beautifully to the organ, but was much too difficult for me to learn in a week. I then remembered that when Alison was arranging the recital series in 2013 I had said something about 'maybe next year'...

So what else to play? For me it was a very short step from the music of John Williams to the music of Jeremy Soule, the 'John Williams of video game music' and another series close to my heart: The Elder Scrolls. This involved more searching on the internet, and as even less of this has been published as sheet music even a little transcription by ear. I hope you agree that the resulting organ arrangement of a couple of pieces has come out quite well.

Obviously I needed to write something, and so I'll be playing the world premiere of my new Organ Sonata. I don't really want to say too much about it, I'm always more interested in hearing other people's thoughts on my music than writing my own.

Franz Liszt is one of the few, perhaps the only, truly great romantic composer to write extensively for the organ, and produced some really wonderful organ music. Much of which is very long and fiendishly difficult. I'm going to play two Church Hymns, which are based on plainchant, and a chance to showcase just how quiet and delicate the organ can be.

The whole thing will be rounded off with Widor's mighty Toccata, which I've played a couple of times this year and you're all probably heartily sick of by now. I promise to put it away after this... at least for a bit!

If you're interested in what I'm doing on the piano at the moment, I do now have a website. Given that there is already an American musician with my name on the internet I am publishing my music under my middle name: Ilmar. If you head along to ilmarmusic.com you can hear some of what I've been writing and playing recently.

Robin Ilmar Miller



St John's Episcopal Church
Princes Street, Perth



Organ Recital

Robin Miller

Saturday 15 November, 1 pm

Widor's Toccata

Music from Star Wars and The Elder Scrolls

Organ Sonata by Robin Miller

Free admission

Retiring collection
in aid of music at St John's



Choir rehearsal with added birthday party!

A recent choir rehearsal happened to coincide with a significant birthday of one of our members. So we had cake and bubbly.

All should admire Raymond's dedication in turning out to a choir rehearsal on his 80th birthday. We invited Elizabeth along so it wouldn't feel so much like a work night.



After the rehearsal, the drinks were produced...



...and a chocolate cake, baked by Robin Miller



Starter Packs

This is a reminder that Starter Packs is an ongoing project. The box placed at the back of the Church where small household items can be left regularly had items such as frying pans or towels left in it prior to phase 2 of the Church reordering. When that work started in January the box had to be removed and wasn't replaced until all the work on the porch was finally completed in the early Summer. The box has been back in place at the back of the Church beside the Food Bank box for several months but it doesn't seem to have been noticed by as many folk as previously. Clearly if you are donating large quantities of bedding that are too big to bring to Church then separate arrangements for getting them to Starter Packs need to be made but please remember the

box is there if you have small items such as cutlery, kitchen utensils or cleaning materials to donate.

Recent events have also highlighted the need for a few more volunteers with a couple of hours available on some Friday mornings to help sort the donations and make up packs to match the referral requests that come to Starter Packs through the various referring agencies. The rota in September looked potentially well staffed until one stalwart broke her arm while another was out of action to deal with serious family illness and a third member of that same team is on holiday and unavailable in November! If you think you could help sometimes and would like to know more about what is involved speak to me.

Jean Hendry

Tesco Foodbank Collection

Tesco's National Foodbank collection takes place from Thursday 27 November to Saturday 29 November. Perth & Kinross Foodbank is looking for volunteers to assist with the collection. If you can help out, please contact the Foodbank Coordinator, Les Paskin, on lespaskin@perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk or by mobile 07796 695231.

If you can't volunteer, please do remember to do a little extra shopping that week to provide for those desperately in need in our area!

PACT Annual Carol Service

Something different this year!

For many years, PACT has organised a hugely popular and very ecumenical Carol service in the Concert Hall. This year, with the Concert Hall not being available because of the Pantomime, we are moving back into a church. We are grateful to St Leonard's in the Fields, who have offered us their sanctuary on the evening of Friday 12 December at 7:00pm.

This will be a service for all ages, and will take the form of a Christingle service - and there are lots of ways in which you can be involved.

Join the Christmas Choir

Rehearsals will take place at The Salvation Army at 8:15pm on four Thursdays: 13 November, 20 November, 4 December, and 11 December. Note there is no rehearsal on Thursday 27 November. One rehearsal will hopefully happen at St. Leonard's if it can be arranged. Everyone is welcome - new members, old members, no experience necessary!

Children

We would like to involve the children from various churches again this year; information about this is being sent to Junior Church leaders. If you have children who would like to be involved please speak to the Children's Church leaders in your Church (in St John's this is Jean Hendry). Rehearsals have been arranged for Sunday 23 November and 7 December at 2:00pm in St. Leonard's.

Christingle Makers

We need volunteers for Friday 12 December at 10:00am to come along to St. Leonard's to help in the making of 400 Christingles! The more the merrier and also the more the quicker! A light lunch and hot drinks will be provided. If you can help please speak to Jean Hendry.

Just come and join in!

But if none of the above appeals or applies to you, we hope you know that you will be very welcome to come along and be part of the congregation that evening; there is something very special when people from all denominations can come and worship together.

Jean Hendry

Breaking the Silence

-16 Days of Action to end Violence against Women

Living a Theology to end Violence against Women

Rev Dr Valerie Allen, Church of Scotland Violence against Women Task Grp

White Ribbon Scotland Campaign to engage men

Callum Hendry, Coordinator, White Ribbon Scotland Campaign.

Working together locally

PC Leigh-Ann Gregge, VAW Partnership Coordinator, Perth & Kinross

Saturday November 22, 2014

10.30 – 1.00pm

**Threshold Centre,
St John's Episcopal Church,
Princes Street, Perth, PH2 8LJ**

Further details: contact either

Elaine Cameron, IAWN Steering Group elaine.ging@gmail.com 01821 650482

Rev Jeanette Allan MU Committee pernettya@mail.com 01786 821151

Cost £2.00 ***All Welcome – Coffee & Registration from 10.00 am***

Advent Calendar



Colour one star each day in Advent as you prepare for Christmas. Say a prayer each time you colour a star.

God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season. Draw us ever closer to one another as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of your Son, our Saviour. Amen