



St John the Baptist  
Scottish Episcopal Church  
Perth

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May-Jun 2015



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: Spring flowers in the Garden of Remembrance, maintained by Giraffe. Photo by Lis Burke.



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## Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful Holy Week and Easter we had in St. John's this year. Thank you to one and all for making it so special, for all your individual gifts we praise our God! I have seen great gifts among a wonderful community. Thank you to so many of you who make our church a very special place to be, it's nice to belong to such a great family. We shared a wonderful journey together through suffering, crucifixion and death, before celebrating the joy of Easter, made even more special seeing our church really full at the 10:30am service, following on from a wonderful breakfast!

Easter holds for us as Christians such a special time, for without God's Son rising from the dead to save us where would we be!

The sunshine has also helped to cheer us on our way this month, the warmth and beauty of creation around us helps us to see the wonder of God's love and to appreciate that we live in such a beautiful part of the country.

A lovely poem to you this month called 'The Saviour Leaves'.

Forsaking chariots of fire  
and fanfared brass,  
as strangely silent as he came,  
the Saviour leaves  
and God, with Heaven's caress,  
the Son receives.

He has to go, as from the grave  
He had to rise:  
in order to be everywhere  
He must depart  
to live, not in one place,  
but in each heart.

So, Christ ascends; air cradles him,  
disciples stare.  
Their Easter joy, his seven weeks' stay  
seem now to end.  
But no! The Spirit's sending  
they portend.

Let angel harmonies resound;  
let trumpets blare;  
let Heaven's banquet guests applaud  
the welcomed word,  
and earth anticipate  
her coming Lord.

***John Bell & Graham Maud***

And a blessing to you all:

Blessing and honour and glory and power!

Our words echo the praise of the angels as you, Jesus Christ,  
rise above the limitations of earth,  
to sit forever on the right hand side of God.

No longer restricted to one place,  
you are seated on the throne of heaven  
and present in all places.

We praise you, our glorious Lord and Saviour and are forever glad  
that now there is in heaven  
one who understands and intercedes for us.

Though now we cannot ascend  
to where you are,  
still raise our hopes and hearts,

That our discipleship in this world  
may be touched with the glory of heaven and our lives be signs and  
promises of the fullness of the life to come.

Amen.

May you have known God's blessing over this wonderful season.

I look forward to seeing you in church!

With much love,

***Graham***

## **General Synod 2015**

General Synod 2015 will take place at St Paul's & St George's Church, Edinburgh from 11-13 June. Graham was elected as a member of the General Synod as part of the House of Clergy at this year's Diocesan Synod.

The Agenda for the meeting and supporting Papers will be sent to General Synod members in May, and will then be posted on the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) website. Throughout the meeting of General Synod, non-Synod members are welcome to sit in the public gallery, and regular updates of Synod proceedings and voting will be posted on the SEC website and through social media.

Further information on this and other matters relating to General Synod will be highlighted on the SEC website over the coming weeks.

## **Farewell and Welcome**

A very grateful thank you to Raymond for cleaning our church and Threshold over many, many years and to Heather for her work in the office over the last two and a half years.

We welcome Isabella Bruce as our new church cleaner and Donna McGlashan as our new office administrator.

## **Garden of Remembrance Fundraiser**

Wednesday 20th May, 10am - 12pm  
Coffee Morning and plant sale,  
with a cake & candy stall and a raffle

*Supporting the partnership between St John's and Giraffe.*

## Maundy Thursday Seder Meal



*Sitting at table before the start of the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday*



*The garden of repose that would be placed on the altar for the vigil after the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday*



*The candle-lit altar during the Maundy Thursday vigil*



*The table all prepared for our Seder meal in church on Maundy Thursday when the events of the Last Supper became real for us again. We shared a symbolic meal, washed each other's feet and hands, sang hymns, prayed and listened to readings from the Bible. Then we moved to the front of the church and watched as the altar was stripped and a garden of repose placed on top of it, surrounded by lit candles. We kept vigil in silence until 10 with a real sense of Christ's presence surrounding us.*



## Easter Sunday



*Bacon rolls and coffee for Easter morning breakfast!*





## Pilgrimage to Iona May 2016

Our Rector, Rev Graham Taylor, will be leading a pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona between Tuesday 17th May and Friday 20th May 2016 for members of St John's Church. This is a wonderful opportunity to share fellowship and explore your faith in the lovely surroundings of Bishop's House which is situated near to Iona Abbey, a haven of peace away from the tourist throng. Bishop's House is an Episcopalian place of prayer and study and incorporates at its heart St Columba's Chapel where the Eucharist is celebrated daily. The House is set in its own grounds and overlooks the Sound of Iona.

St John's Church have secured exclusive use of the House which provides full board accommodation for 22 guests (plus leader) in eight twin and six single rooms. All rooms

have wash basins and tea-tray facilities.

The pilgrimage will include a timetable of events but there will also be free time to explore Iona or to just enjoy peace and tranquillity.

The total cost of this pilgrimage is £285 per person which includes the cost of return journey by coach between Perth and Oban, ferry to/from Mull, bus across Mull and ferry to Iona.

If you are interested in going on this pilgrimage or require further information please speak to Alan McPherson at church or by phone 01738 552337 (home) or 07836 512878 (mobile).

Places on the pilgrimage will be on a first come first served basis. If you wish to reserve places please complete a booking form and return to me with a £30 per person deposit, either cash or cheque made out to St John's Episcopal Church, Perth.

We hope that this pilgrimage will be the first of a number of similar events that St John's Church organises in the future.

***Alan MacPherson***



*Bishop's House, Iona. Photo: +David Chillingworth (bishopdavid.net)*

# Lectionary

<b>10 May Easter 6</b> Acts 10:44-48 John 15:9-17	<b>28 Jun Feast of John the Baptist</b> Acts 13:14b-26 Luke 1:57-80
<b>17 May Easter 7</b> Acts 1:15-17,21-26 John 17:6-19 <b>Evensong</b> Ephesians 4:7-16 Psalm 147:1-12 Luke 4:14-21	<b>5 Jul Pentecost 6</b> <b>Matins</b> 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Psalm 123 Mark 6:1-13
<b>24 May Pentecost</b> Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27;16:4b-15	<b>12 Jul Pentecost 7</b> Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29
<b>31 May Trinity Sunday</b> Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17	<b>19 Jul Pentecost 8</b> Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34,53-56 <b>Evensong</b> Hebrews 2:5-18 Psalm 73 Luke 10:38-42
<b>7 Jun Pentecost 2</b> <b>Matins</b> 2 Corinthians 4:13-5.1 Psalm 138 Mark 3:20-35	<b>26 Jul Pentecost 9</b> Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21
<b>14 Jun Pentecost 3</b> 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 Galatians 2:15-21	<b>2 Aug Pentecost 10</b> <b>Matins</b> Ephesians 4:1-16 Psalm 78:23-29 John 6:24-35
<b>21 Jun Pentecost 4</b> 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41 <b>Evensong</b> Acts 27:1-12 Psalm 49 Luke 8:26-39	<b>9 Aug Feast of the Transfiguration</b> 2 Peter 1:16-19 Luke 9:28-36

# Church Diary



## Regular Services

First Sunday in the month	8:30 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)
	9:30 am	Matins
	10:30 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:		
Wednesdays	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
Thursdays	11:00 am	Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)

## Special Events

Wednesday 20 May	10:00 am	Garden of Remembrance Fundraiser
Wednesday 3 June	7:30 pm	PACT AGM at Perth Methodist Church
Saturday 6 June	12:30 pm	RSCM Triennial festival at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow
Sunday 7 June	7:30 pm	Come and Sing event in Wellington Church, Glasgow
Thursday 11 June - Saturday 13 June		General Synod at St Paul's & St George's, Edinburgh
Friday 19 June - Sunday 21 June		SOLAS Christian Arts Festival at the Bield in Blackruthven
Sunday 2 August - Saturday 8 August		Glen '15 Youth Week at Glenalmond College
Sunday 23 August	4:00 pm	Come and Sing event in St John's, Edinburgh

## 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

## Autumn 2015 Project

I am aware that many of you will remember that there used to be a Companionship Link between the Diocese of St Andrews, and the Diocese of Pelotas in Brazil. It was a very fruitful link, with young people from both dioceses involved in cultural, and work, exchanges.

There is now an opportunity of engaging again with the Anglican Church in Brazil. Recently the Scottish Episcopal Church's Overseas Committee gave money to Christian Aid to help the Anglican church in Brazil develop contextually based Biblical material on the theme of Prevention and Tackling Gender based violence against Women. Christian Aid is now keen to adapt this material for use in Scotland.

So I am delighted to be working with Wendy Young, the Christian Aid Development Officer, responsible for Christian Aid's Biblical work, on a small project to set up a five week pilot course on this here in

Perth. Wendy impresses me with her approach to this work - she aims always to ensure that the voices of people in the pews are heard. I think your voices are very important in this context!

We hope to adapt the Brazilian material for this 5 session pilot series in Perth, in autumn 2015. Wendy is exploring at least one live interaction with a group from Brazil. I know this sounds amazing - considering time differences as well as cultural issues, but Christian Aid successfully did such an interaction in Dunblane with a group in Bolivia.

I have agreed to try to gather together a group of about 10 - 12 men and women for this, mainly from St John's and the Cathedral. If you might be interested, but would like to know more details, please either speak to me (!), or phone 01821 650482, or email [elaine.ging@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.ging@gmail.com).

Looking forward to hearing from you!

***Elaine Cameron***

# GLEN '15

at Glenalmond College, Perthshire



## Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Week

2nd - 8th August 2015

Glenalmond College,  
Perthshire

Want to do something different this summer? Come & join the fun! The Youth Week is open to anyone in secondary education.

Enjoy a week filled with fun, fellowship, learning, and sharing - not to mention the great activities and workshops!

Download an application form, which includes full details, and to read more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/secpyc>

(final deadline 1st June - for early bird and regular prices, see application form)

For more details, please contact your Diocesan Youth Officer, or e-mail The Revd

Tembu Rongong [rector@stpj.org.uk](mailto:rector@stpj.org.uk)

General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Scottish Charity Number SC015962

## Notes from the Vestry - Spring 2015

We have had two Vestry meetings so far this year. At the January meeting, Graham outlined his plans for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The Vestry were enthusiastic and in the event all the Services were well attended. Lent was a fulfilling time of preparation for St John's, with an enthusiastic Lent study group, a new format for the Maundy Thursday Service (made possible by the new flexible layout of the Church), and a deeply thought-provoking Good Friday Meditation led by Dr Anne Tomlinson. Our Easter Service was a very special Celebration. St John's looked stunning on Easter

Sunday and special thanks are due to the Flower ladies who really excelled themselves.

Graham also explained that he had started saying Morning Prayer at 8 o'clock on Wednesday mornings. The Mothering Sunday Service was discussed. Bishop David had kindly agreed to take the Service and it was decided that we should invite the Buggy Club to attend. This was another lively Service and it was lovely to have so many children. The plan to go Iona on Pilgrimage was broached and Alan has followed this up.

The rest of the meeting was mainly spent discussing items of maintenance. David Macle hose attended in his capacity as fabric convenor and the maintenance budget was discussed and approved. In addition it was agreed that the Rectory fence should finally be repaired.

The Restoration project is essentially complete. There are one or two small jobs waiting the better weather but there are funds available to cover them. It was also decided that we should buy a new notice board. This has now been fitted and looks very smart.

It was decided that a Fabric Fund should be set up to allow us to build up funds to support the building.



*The new noticeboard by the main entrance*



This NOT intended to cover routine maintenance but allow us build up a reserve against future need. We are very fortunate to have received two generous donations to set the fund up.

At the March meeting Alasdair Brown came to talk through the first quarter accounts. He noted that both giving and expenses were down. He strongly advised us to launch a Stewardship campaign now that we no longer have the rental income from the Rectory. The Finance Committee were asked to implement this.

In addition, it was agreed that we should increase the suggested donation required to hire the Threshold as these have not been increased for sometime. The rate will now be £40 for a half day and £70 for a full day although the Rector will have discretion to vary these

if appropriate. It was also agreed that we should put out a plate at all Services.

Sadly, Raymond announced his resignation. The Vestry extend very grateful thanks to him for his years of hard work in keeping St John's clean and Daisy the mouse on best behaviour. We will miss him.

Heather too has left. She has been a very cheerful and patient presence in the Office and mastered the intricacies of both the printer and the Church laptop (which takes some doing!). We extend our thanks to Heather too. Luckily, Isabell has agreed to take on Raymond's duties and Donna has come to keep on top of the pew sheets, Threshold bookings and the 101 other things that pass through the Office. Please make them feel very welcome.

*Mary Emma Strange*

## **Glen '15 Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Week**

2-8 August 2015 at Glenalmond College, Perthshire

The Youth Week is open to anyone in secondary education. Enjoy a week filled with fun, fellowship, learning, and sharing - not to mention the great activities and workshops!

More information at: <https://www.facebook.com/secpyc>  
or e-mail The Revd Tembu Rongong at [rector@stpj.org.uk](mailto:rector@stpj.org.uk)

## Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney comments on Mediterranean Migrants Crisis

*In writing in the Press & Journal newspaper on 24 April, The Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney highlights the tragedy of the Mediterranean migrants crisis.*

The tragedy of the ocean liner the Titanic sinking in the North Atlantic is part of our folklore psyche. And yet over the last two weeks or so there has been loss of life in the Mediterranean Sea equivalent to the loss of two Titanics.

We cannot allow this awfulness to continue. But stopping it can neither be quick nor will it be easy.

From one aspect we can't blame those who from the sub-Sahara want to escape terror and unsafe conditions in those countries which have been their home. Security and safety has been robbed from them by the brutality of regimes who rule them or by the insurgency groups who terrorise them. We'd do the same were we in their position.

I've no doubt they are tricked or lured into the thought that transfer from Africa to the continent of Europe would be straightforward. And so they part with what for them are huge sums of money to enable their migration.

In a sense we should be flattered that they seek to come and live amongst us. Northern Europe, and not least our country offers, on the whole, a very agreeable prospect when viewed from afar.

So if the migrants want or need to come because of fear and turbulence back home, and the prospect is of peace here what can be done to stop the tsunami that is stepping onto the death boats in Libyan docks? Several things are my answer.

The terrorist threats that are posed by death and torture need to be neutralised. The mistake of Iraq must not be revisited. A nuanced but ultimately decisive campaign of counter insurgency and counter terrorism is one of the few options available against asymmetric warfare. Conventional means by land attack will prove ineffective.

Simultaneous with that a means of informing would-be migrants not to leave their countries of origin must similarly be staged. Old-fashioned, but time honoured leaflet drops from the air over these areas, as well as over the Libyan coastline is one way. More up to date methods through extensive social

media into these countries is another as is the not quite out of date use of traditional radio.

Next, what about those who are, as I write these words, actually setting out to sea. Greece, Malta and Italy cannot and should not be expected to shoulder the burden that currently the rest of Europe risks evading. A shared humanitarian response where we all, from whatever country and from whatever political persuasion, recognise that these people need our help and our care is required. Nothing less will do.

And then you and me. We too have a responsibility.

When I was a junior priest in Falkirk, Vietnamese Boat People were welcomed into the community. I was assigned to visit a number of these families. They were drawn into local areas and welcomed by the generous hearts of the warm nation that we are.

The same can happen again.

The migrants are already on our shores and we must take them in as well as try to change those situations which have forced them to leave the countries of their birth.

Scotland and the UK are not a single people. We are a rich nation made so by the inward migration of those who value what we have, over the centuries, created from and with the historic threads that bind us back through the Vikings to the ancients who walked our land and fished our seas.

This same spirit of warm welcome must now mark our attitude to the desperate souls who seek to come and live near us.

If we do not seek to help them, and reverse the political instability that has made them flee, then history, at the very least, will hold our failing to account.

*From the SEC website*

## Waverley Care: Big Hymn Sing

A Come and Sing event is being held in aid of Waverley Care as part of the West End Festival, on Sunday 7 June, 7:30pm at Wellington Church, Glasgow.

It will be directed by choral conductor Ian McCrorie, with Alan Kitchen accompanying on the organ. Short pieces by both Festival Brass and Waverley Care's very own African choir, Voice of Hope Choir, will intersperse the hymns. Entry is free, with donations going to Waverley Care. For further information and to register, visit the Waverley Care website at <http://ow.ly/MFuL2>

As part of the Just Festival at St John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, the event will be replicated on Sunday 23 August at 4:00pm, with journalists Sheena McDonald and Allan Little offering some readings. Ticket prices for the Edinburgh event are £5 (£3 conc). Tickets will be available via the Just Festival box office [www.just-festival.org](http://www.just-festival.org)

## The Gathering 2015

The diocese recognises that many churches and individual members are already busy serving the community in practical ways and are in themselves a helpful source of information for the wider diocese. Each congregation has therefore been invited to bring to the Gathering a poster with pictures and text, in order to share their important service initiatives.

Lis Burke showed us the first draft of our poster in mid-April and has now updated it in the light of helpful comments from the congregation. It is reproduced on the back cover of this issue of Quest.

It highlights our Buggy Club and our links with Giraffe, who run the Monday lunch club in the Threshold and maintain our garden of rest. It also shows our support for the Perth and Kinross Foodbank and for the Starter Packs organised by Perth Action of Churches Together.

Lis will be at the Gathering on 30th May and will take a larger copy of the poster with her for display. We hope that many other members of the congregation will also be there as it should be an exciting event.

# Serving the Community in Practical Ways

St. Ninian`s Cathedral  
North Methven Street, Perth PH1 5PP  
**Saturday, 30 May 2015**  
9.15 a m - 3.30 p m

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Last year, **120 people** came  
to learn, worship and celebrate  
what God is doing in our diocese.

## This year, let`s make it even more!

Come hear from leading mission and ministry practitioners, about how we can serve the community in practical ways with *Congregations Shaped For Mission*, with *People at Work*, with *Older People*, and with *Children and Young People*.

Special guests will include leaders from Church Army, Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland, Faith In Older People, and several of our own congregations.

With terrific children`s programming, and engaging worship, there is plenty to inspire and encourage us all, regardless of age or ministry.

To register, download a form from  
[www.standrews.anglican.org/resources](http://www.standrews.anglican.org/resources)  
then click on `The Gathering`



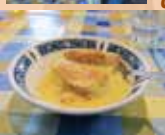
*"It's good to get out of the house and join friends for lunch once a week"*



## Lunch Club

Two courses for £3

*"Good home cooking"*

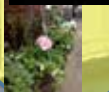


*"We all look out for each other and for the group who serve lunch"*

Our lay minister shares the lunch and fellowship most weeks.

Managed by Giraffe

St John's has close links with Giraffe. Giraffe maintains our garden and runs a Lunch Club in the Threshold, assisted by church volunteers.



*"St John's is one of the few organisations to make such regular donations"*



We also help with gifts of time and practical work

We keep some emergency supplies of food for people who call into church

Packs of household goods give people a positive start to their new home lives



St John's collects and passes on: crockery cutlery pots & pans bed linen etc...



**St John the Baptist, Perth**  
*Mark of Mission 8: We serve the community in practical ways*



Toys, games and activities in the Threshold on Tuesday mornings

Buggy Club families took part in the Christingle service. Some joined us on Mothering Sunday and at Easter

Giraffe is Perth's first community interest company and offers employment activities to local people with mental ill-health, disabilities and other disadvantages in the workplace.