



St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Perth

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Jan-Feb 2016

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of Retired
Anglican Clergy



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Cover image: At the Burns Supper! Photo: Nerys Brown



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Letter from the Curate

Dear friends,

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to write this letter to express my gratitude to you for your warm welcome to me and my family to St John's. Your openness and generosity has enabled me to feel at home in your midst and I look forward to getting to know you all better as we worship and serve God together.

I hope that most of you feel that you already know me a little by now but it may be helpful for me to share some of my story here. I suppose that my Welshness is one of my most obvious distinguishing features! Born to a Welsh-speaking family near Aberystwyth in west Wales, I was privileged to receive most of my education through the medium of Welsh. My parents, both teachers, instilled in me a love of learning and of Welsh history and culture so it was no surprise when I became a scholar in the field of medieval Welsh literature.

During a year spent at the Celtic Department of Edinburgh University to gain teaching experience, I met Davie, a researcher in medieval Scottish history and a native of Aberdeenshire. We started our married life in Glasgow where Davie still teaches, but our longing to be part of a local community led us to settle in Dunblane.

For over twenty years I taught medieval Welsh to students from all over the world at Edinburgh University for one day a week. I am passionate about making the treasures of medieval Welsh literature available to English-speaking students and hope to continue researching and writing in my spare time. My current project is on references to King Arthur which appear in Welsh poetry long before that of England or the Continent.

As our sons, Ewan and Sean, grew up, I became increasingly involved in children's work at St Mary's Church and also in Dunblane Primary School where I helped to run a lunchtime group which gave rise to an ecumenical children's holiday club and events for teenagers. I was encouraged by my rector, Janice Cameron, to become a Lay Reader and when she retired, I found myself leading assemblies and taking classes in all three primary schools and in the High School in Dunblane.

Working in the Young Church at St Mary's with a lively group of children and teenagers who had a strong interest in environmental and social issues increased my knowledge of and commitment to Fair Trade, sustainable living and helping local people in crisis. I continue to be a Board Member of Start-up which provides home-starter packs and runs food banks in

the Stirling area, supporting over 150 needy families a week.

The call to ordained ministry came as a bolt from the blue although my family and close friends claim to have known for a long time that this was my destiny! The last few years, as I worked through the selection process and then let go of my ministry in Dunblane, has been a period of great personal growth as I have learnt to trust God with all aspects of my life. At last month's Evensong, I shared a prayer which I used regularly during this time.

Jesus, give your light through me
and remain in me in such a way

that every soul I come in contact with can feel your presence in me. May people not see me, but see you in me. Remain in me, so that I shine with your light, and may others be illuminated by my light. Amen

This is the daily prayer of the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa, who work among the sick and the dying in the streets of Calcutta. I think that it is particularly appropriate as we journey together towards Lent and Easter.

With love,

Nerys

World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March

Services will be held at

- 11:00 in St. John's Episcopal Church
- at 2:00pm. in various Care homes in Perth
- and in the evening at 7p.m. in the Congregational Church.

Everyone will be most welcome. The Speaker in the morning will be Stuart Laurie from 'Action for Children' and the theme is 'Receive Children, Receive Me'

There will be three Bible study meetings in preparation for the day - to be held in Perth Methodist Church (schoolroom) on Thursday 4th. February, Thursday, 11th. Feb. and Thursday 18th. Feb. from 2-3p.m. (cup of tea after) again everyone welcome. Even if you can only manage one of these dates we'd love to see you!

Marcia Mackenzie - mackenziem70@gmail.com)

Homeless Sunday

For Homeless Sunday on 24 January we held a bake sale after the service and raised £170 for Churches Action for the Homeless (CATH).

The cakes went fast. By the time we got to taking any photos all that was left was one bag of chocolate rounds and one jar of jam.



The remains of the bake sale. Photo: Nerys Brown

Thank you to everyone who baked and bought!

Homelessness has an impact across the country and affects people of all ages - from the ex-serviceman who can't adjust to civvy life to the kids in families wrecked by domestic violence. Homeless Sunday encourages churches to hear these stories - and do more, through reflection and action to challenge homelessness.

- During this last year, almost 36,000 homeless applications were made to local authorities in Scotland.
- On 30th June, there were over 10,500 households in temporary accommodation in Scotland, this figure included almost 5,000 children.
- Over 1 in 10 homes in Scotland are affected by dampness or condensation
- 75,000 households are overcrowded. [Statistics from Shelter]

In Perth, CATH House provided accommodation for 72 people over the year between March 2014 and March 2015. In the same period, the Day Centre provided a base for 398 people and cooked over 7100 meals. CATH also runs adult literacy and numeracy courses as well as courses in healthy eating, sewing, creative writing, and fitness.

A Christmas gift to the church

The special appeal in Advent, which invited you to offer a Christmas gift to St John's, has now yielded £1010. Gift Aid (on all but £70) will be added at £252.50, making a total of £1262.50.

Thanks to all who contributed.

After the Primates' Meeting

From Bishop David's blog

It was a difficult week - very difficult. I'm working on some material for the church press and I need a little time to think and digest.

I did some Radio material - Radio 4 Sunday Programme tomorrow - and we have a 'holding statement' on the SEC website which says this:

In advance of the Primates Meeting, there were many predictions of breakdown and of fracture in the life of the Anglican Communion. It is therefore encouraging that the Primates have agreed to 'walk together' and that a Task Group will be established to work on our ongoing relationships.

However that unity has come at some cost to the ability of the Communion to express the diversity which has always been a valued characteristic of the Anglican Way. The consequences which follow the decision of The Episcopal Church (in the United States) to change its Canon on marriage are a sign of that change. The Scottish Episcopal Church sees itself as a diverse church in a diverse Communion. It is important to us that we seek to sustain our unity as we continue to address issues of human sexuality in our General Synod.

Further consideration will be given to these matters by our Faith and Order Board and by the College of Bishops.

Meanwhile I am still reflecting on the extraordinary grace shown by the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church in response to the 'consequences' which the meeting decided were an appropriate response to the actions of TEC. I was greatly privileged to work closely with Bishop Michael all week. From the depths of his personal and family history of slavery, racism and exclusion, he drew this remarkable statement:

I stand before you as your brother. I stand before you as a descendant of African slaves, stolen from their native land, enslaved in a bitter bondage, and then even after emancipation, segregated and excluded in church and society. And this conjures that up again, and brings pain. The pain for many will be real. But God is greater than anything. I love Jesus and I love the church. I am a Christian in the Anglican way. And like you, as we have said in this meeting, I am committed to 'walking together' with you as fellow Primates in the Anglican family.



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 Services

Sunday 7 February	5:00 pm Taize/Iona service at St Ninian's
Wednesday 10 February	7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist and imposition of ashes
Friday 4 March	11:00 am World Day of Prayer service

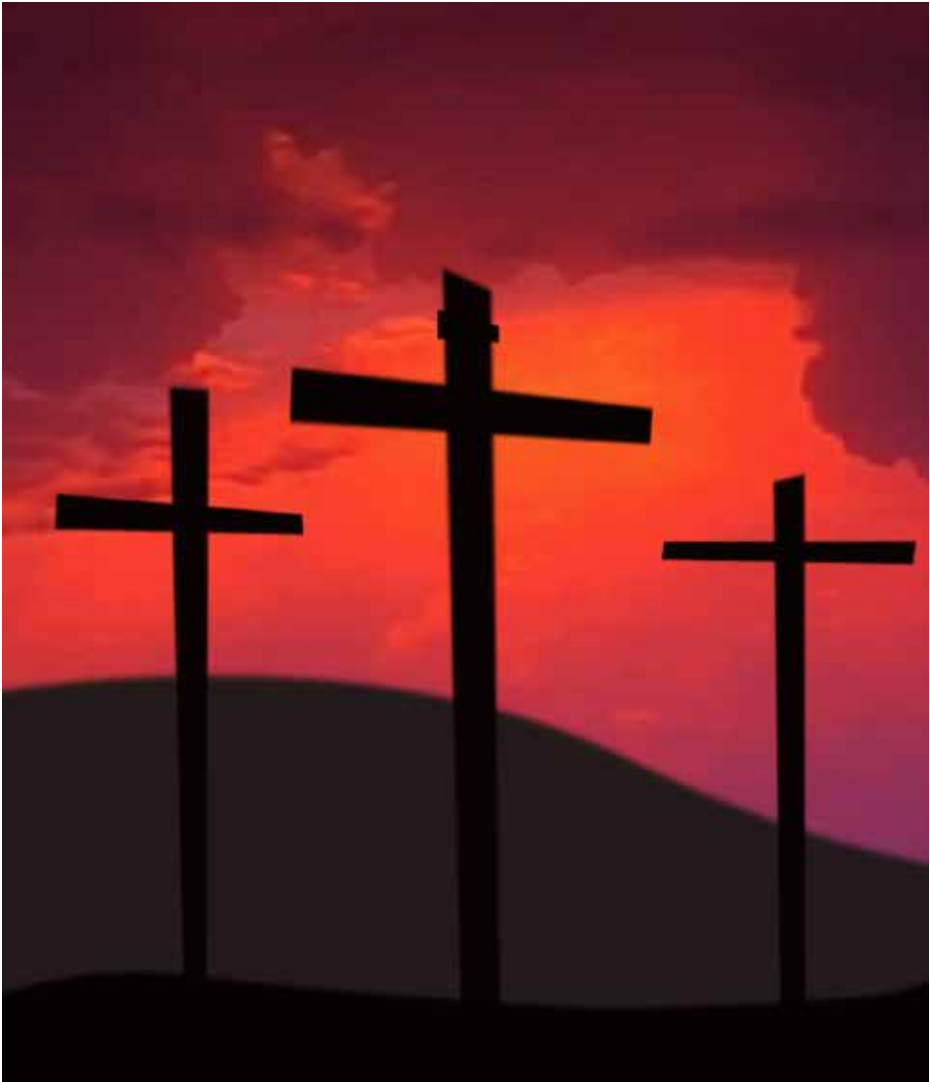
Special Events

For Lent and Easter events and services please see the pull-out guide

Sunday 7 February	2:30 pm The Dusty Finger Tour at Pitskelly House, Balbeggie
Monday 8 February	2:30 pm Fellowship meeting in the Threshold
Tuesday 9 February	3:15 pm Pancake Party in the Threshold
Saturday 12 March	Coffee Morning in the Threshold
Monday 14 March	2:30 pm Fellowship meeting in the Threshold

Regular Events

Every Monday	12:00 pm Giraffe Community Lunch in the Threshold
Every Tuesday	9:30 am Buggy Club in the Threshold
Every Thursday	6:00 pm Yoga class in the Threshold 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal



Lent and Easter 2016

Services and events

Pull-out guide

Services and Events in Lent

Wednesday 10 February	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist and imposition of ashes
Wednesdays in Lent	2:00pm	Lent lunch and reflection
Monday 15 February	7:00pm	PACT Lent Study in St Ninian's
Monday 22 February	7:00pm	PACT Lent Study in the North Church
Monday 29 February	7:00pm	PACT Lent Study in the Salvation Army Citadel

Lent Lunch & Reflection

Every Wednesday during Lent, 12 noon to 2pm in the Threshold

Please sign the list at the back of church if you can provide lunch and help.



15 February:
St Ninian's
Cathedral

22 February:
North Church

29 February:
Salvation
Army Citadel

Each week, we are invited to gather in groups for reflection and spiritual conversation around a series of themes drawn from the overarching title of 'Pilgrimage'. The idea is that we embark on a spiritual journey through Lent, both alone and in company, sharing with others our personal reflections, stories and insights.

The notion of 'Pilgrimage' is presented in the form of collections of sayings, images, wisdom and prayers from a variety of sources. The material is all available online at <http://www.lentpilgrimage.org.uk>

All are welcome.

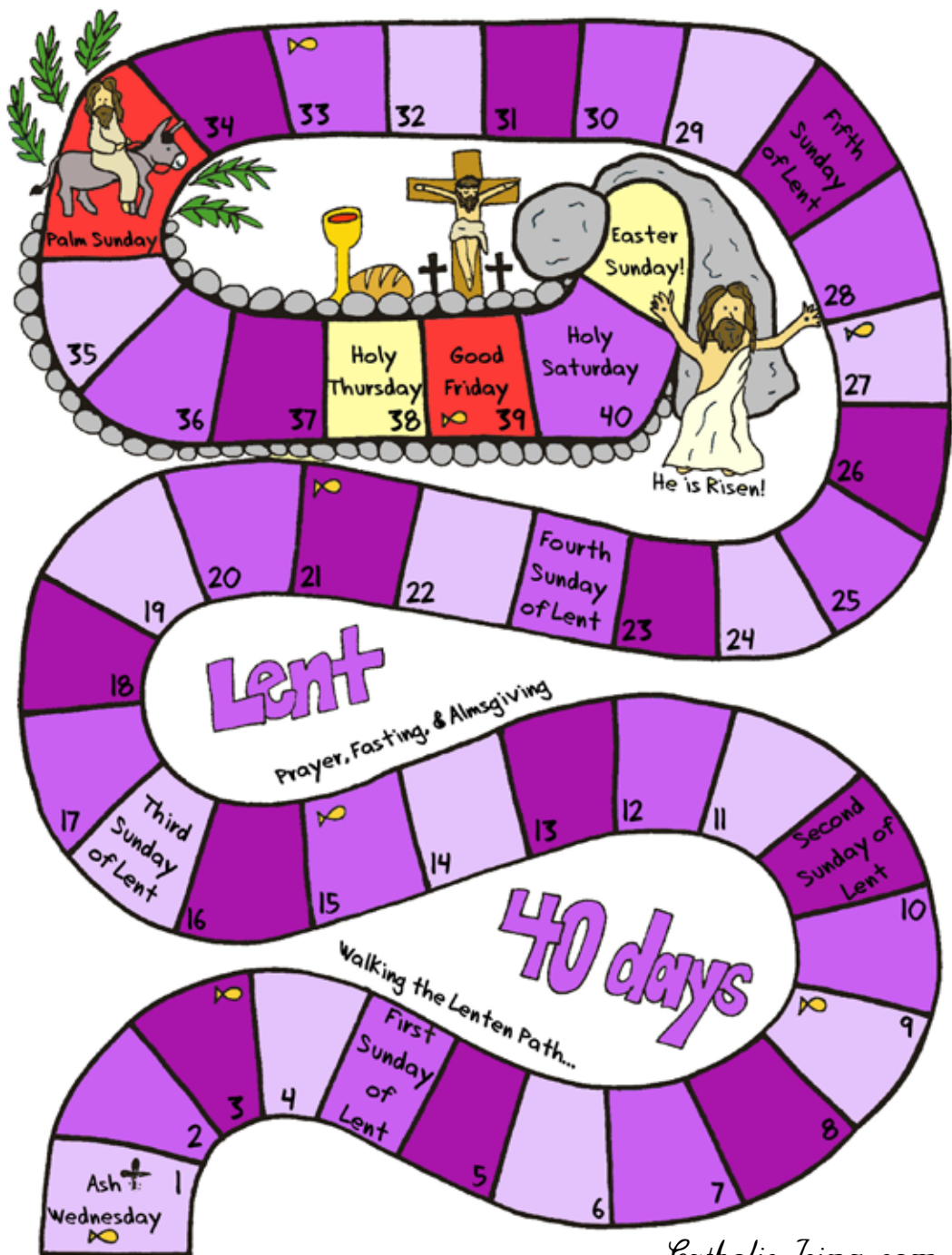
Services and Events in Holy Week and Easter

Monday to Wednesday	7:30 pm	Compline and Reflection
Maundy Thursday	11:00 am	Holy Communion (SPB)
	7:00 pm	Seder Meal and Reflection Ceremony of Feet or Hand Washing Stripping of Altar
Good Friday	12:00 pm	Three hours devotion
Easter Sunday	7:00 am	PACT dawn service at Quarrymill, led by Major Linda Dunlop of the Salvation Army
	8:30 am	Holy Communion followed by Easter Breakfast between the two services for both congregations
	10:30 am	Sung Eucharist

Good Friday Walk of Witness - Friday 25 March
Gather at St John's Kirk for 10:45 am.

Easter Dawn Service - Sunday 27th March at 7:00 am at Quarrymill
followed by breakfast.

Note that the clocks go forward on Easter
Sunday this year!



From the Registers

Eternal Rest

Des Laughlin

2 January

Lectionary

- 24 Jan St Paul**
Acts 26:9-23
Matthew 19:27-30
- 28 Feb Lent 3**
Isaiah 55:1-9
Luke 13:1-9
- 31 Jan Candlemas**
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40
- 6 Mar Mothering Sunday**
Matins
1 Samuel 1:20-28
Psalm 34:11-20
Luke 2:33-35
- 7 Feb Transfiguration**
Matins
Daniel 3:19-30
Psalm 99
Luke 9:28-43
- 13 Mar Passion Sunday**
The Passion according to St Luke
(Luke 22:14-23:56)
- 10 Feb Ash Wednesday**
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
- 20 Mar Palm Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Evensong
Zechariah 12:9-11;13:1,7-9
Psalm 61
Mt 21:12-17
- 14 Feb Lent 1**
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Luke 4:1-13
- 21 Feb Lent 2**
Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Luke 13:31-35
Evensong
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 27
Luke 14:27-33
- 27 Mar Easter Sunday**
Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12
- 3 Apr 2 Easter**
Matins
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
John 20:19-31

CAIRing for Scotland

A new booklet 'CAIRing for Scotland' has recently been launched to highlight the work of interfaith relations in Scotland. Copies of the booklet have been sent to each of the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The booklet records the 14 year history of CAIRS (Churches Agency for Interfaith Relations in Scotland) and features the following: Scotland A Diverse Nation; The Churches and Interfaith: Scottish Churches and Developments in Interfaith Relations; Ecumenical Collaboration (CAIRS); The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ); A Christian/Muslim Forum; Local Interfaith Groups; The Scottish Interfaith Council; Religious Leaders of Scotland; a conclusion followed by 3 personal testimonies (Dominic Ind - Episcopalian; Andrew Sarle - Presbyterian; Isabel Smyth - Roman Catholic).

The Rev Dominic Ind, a key contributor to the booklet says 'What might touch you about the story told in CAIRing for Scotland is that it is a genuinely good news story. We hear much negativity in places such as the Middle East and often religion is perceived as a negative force whether that is in Jerusalem or much closer to home here in Scotland. This is a story of religion bringing people together, creating community and being a force for good. The Church has played a key role and offered Good News about a man who proclaimed peace and reconciliation. We as Episcopalians may take some pride in our role, that often we have been at the forefront of developing interfaith work in Scotland. It is good news for us; good news for the Church in Scotland and indeed, good news for people of all faiths or none, who make up Scottish society.'

From Inspires

Perth and Kinross Foodbank Update

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Tesco food collection at the beginning of December - over 5000 kgms of food was collected.

Unfortunately, the warehouse at Friarton where some of our food is stored suffered from the recent flooding. Despite the fact that some food has been lost to the flood, the Food Bank is relatively well stocked at the moment, so there is no need for any emergency appeal for extra food.

Christmas at St John's in pictures



Santa visits the Buggy Club



The dressing room



The Nativity tableau



Christingles



The midnight Eucharist by candlelight

Shiny wrapping paper needed for children's crafts. Please leave any used Christmas wrapping paper or foil, sweetie wrappers ribbon etc in the box at the back of church, thank you.

Burns Supper



Two hundred and twenty five years after the death of the Ayrshire Bard, St John's celebrated the anniversary with a supper in the Threshold provided and cooked by the Social Committee. We had haggis, neeps and tatties with pudding and cheese to follow. There was also a wee dram.



Twenty-eight people attended and were well entertained by Davie Brown (*Address to the Haggis*) and David Willington (*The Toast to the Lassies*). Raymond King and Bill Bracewell enacted a version of 'The Sair finger' and David Brown played some traditional airs on the violin. Bill Bracewell sang *Flow gently, sweet Afton* accompanied by Sarah Axford on the guitar and the evening closed with songs led by Bill and Sarah.



All in all, a very successful occasion and a welcome note of cheerfulness in the middle of a dismal January. Very many thanks to the Social Committee who have been responsible for many other successful events over the last few years.

David Willington



The Year Without A Summer

We love to grumble about our weather, even if we are not fishermen or farmers. Seasons are too hot or too cold, too dry or too wet. Now that we have an extensive range of meteorological statistics we can say that the seasons are the hottest or coldest, driest or wettest since records began. Human ingenuity has made our lives safer, healthier and more comfortable than ever before. We have a much better understanding of weather patterns and we have tried to mitigate the ill effects of fossil fuels. For example, the Clean Air Acts have virtually eliminated London pea-soupers; smog used to kill a considerable number of people each year.

However there are events over which we have no control and which can bring ruin and destruction on a massive scale, for example earthquakes and tsunamis. Between 5th and 15th April 1815, Mount Tambora in Indonesia erupted. It was the biggest volcanic eruption since Hatepe in New Zealand, AD 180, which created Lake Taupo and whose effects were recorded in China and in Rome. It took time for the ash cloud to spread around the world, but so pervasive was it that for the next eighteen months sunlight was much

reduced. Turner painted livid sunsets. The average temperature around the world dropped by 1°C which severely shortened the growing season. Britain was still in the Little Ice Age, a period which saw Ice Fairs on the Thames. Disruption of the atmosphere brought heavy rains over Europe, resulting in floods on the Rhine and elsewhere. Moreover the rain had a high acid content which blighted the crops. All these factors together combined to produce poor harvests and widespread famine, particularly in the west.

In Ireland, wheat, oats and potatoes failed. A weakened population was visited by an epidemic of typhus which killed 100,000 people. Britain experienced the first of several agricultural crises in the nineteenth century. There were food riots all over the country. There were other grievances. Farm workers' jobs were threatened by new machinery. At the end of the Napoleonic Wars thousands of sailors and soldiers were demobilised with little prospect of employment. Mob violence spread, culminating in the 'Peterloo Massacre' of 1819. These and other factors led to political reform in the Act of 1832.

There were other consequences. In the United States, agricultural crisis spurred people on to seek new lands

Fellowship

further west, which incidentally led to the foundation of the Mormon Church. Shortage of oats for horses prompted a German inventor, Karl Drais, to construct the original balance bike to speed human passage. Classically minded French took the idea over and called it the 'velocipede'.

In 1816, an otherwise disastrous year, clouds did, as it were, have a silver lining. Income tax was abolished. Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* was performed for the first time. Charlotte Brontë was born. The nation purchased the Elgin marbles from the 7th Earl. The Coinage Act established the pound sterling as the medium of exchange instead of the guinea. If nothing else, this must have made children's arithmetic easier.

However much we seek to control our environment we are constantly reminded how puny are our efforts by comparison with impersonal global and astronomical forces. A large helping of humble pie is called for. Despite recent eccentricities, our weather in Britain is temperate and events such as those two hundred years ago are mercifully rare, for which we must give thanks.

David Willington

The Fellowship has followed what has in recent years become the traditional pattern for meeting.

The aim of the December meeting is to treat it as the beginning of the Christmas season when Carols are sung and mince pies served. This year the choir again led the singing after first demonstrating just how versatile and talented they are. We appreciate the effort they put into this event and hope they enjoy doing it.

For our January meeting we once again had our Post Christmas Lunch at the Salutation Hotel.

The next few meetings will stick to the pattern of taking place at 2:30pm on the second Monday of each month in the Threshold. On Saturday 12th March we hope the congregation will support our annual Coffee Morning in the Threshold, the proceeds of which are always given to a range of of Charities.

Jean Hendry



Pancake party

We intend to celebrate Shrove Tuesday in style at St John's with games and puzzles, mask-making, a Mardi Gras Procession and a pancake tea for all the family. All are welcome!

Thank You from Aberlour Child Care Trust



The Christingle service

The collection at the Christingle this year for the Aberlour Child Care Trust raised £116.12. We received a letter saying the following:

On behalf of everyone at Aberlour Child Care Trust, i would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the congregation at this year's Christingle Service for your very kind donation of £116.12. This letter is confirmation that we have received

your gift and it will be used to support our tireless work with vulnerable children, young people and their families throughout Scotland.

Aberlour have over 40 services throughout Scotland and provide vital support to more than 6,000 of the country's most vulnerable children, young people and their families every year. None of this would be possible without the kind and generous support from people like you.

Sincere thanks to you once again for your continued support of us and should you wish any other information about our work throughout the country, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Aberlour Child Care Trust



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

Pancake Party

**Shrove Tuesday, 9th February,
starting between 3.15 and 4 p.m.
and finishing at 5.30 p.m.**

Activities for all the family

For more information visit www.episcopal-perth.org.uk

