



St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Perth

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Mar-Apr 2016

www.scotland.anglican.org

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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: Snowdrops for Mothering Sunday. Photo: Tim Haynes



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Letter from the Rector

Dear friends,

A very happy Easter to you and yours! Thank you for the love and support you have shown to St John's over Lent and Holy Week. Having journeyed together through this period, it was wonderful to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Day. Christ has indeed truly risen!

Easter gives us that message of hope in the resurrection of Jesus. He experienced trials and tribulations in his life on earth just as we do today and because of that he encourages us to do as he did and set aside time to pray.

In our life of prayer we continue to have his encouragement and support through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May we truly celebrate this festival together with the same joy as we celebrated Easter.

Here are some powerful words from the past by the poet William Blake

who challenges us to live our lives in the Spirit so that others may see in us the glory of God. It is by the way we live in community together that we can be an example for others.

Unless the eye catch fire,
The God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire
The God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire
The God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
The God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
The God will not be known.

William Blake (1757-1827)

from *Pentecost*

My prayer for all of us is that our lives may be filled with the spirit of God and that we, in turn, may be transformed into the image of Christ.

I look forward to seeing you in church,

With love and prayers,

Graham

New Mums and Babies Support Packs



A great big thank you to everyone who responded so generously to our appeal with donations or financial gifts on Mothering Sunday.

The aim of our new project is to provide essential items for the mothers of new born babies in Perthshire who are in need. We are working closely with local midwives who are advising us on the kinds of things that are required, including toiletries, nappies, clothes, bedding,

towels and larger items like baby baths.

We hope to involve Buggy Club families and also to inform local nurseries and playgroups of the initiative. If you have any contacts, please take a leaflet from the back of church or talk to members of the steering group, Christine Cross, Elaine Cameron or Sheina Bell.

Our hope is that these donations, freely given, will be a blessing to new mothers in financial hardship. We will probably never know who they are or what their circumstances might be, but we can pray that our gifts given with love will make a positive difference at an important time in their lives. Please continue to pray for them and for the project as it develops.

Nerys

Reckless love

We tend to see love as some kind of currency to be earned, to be carefully spent, to be given away with caution. That's not love. Love is reckless, extravagant. It comes without price and it has no need except to give itself away. Love is the outpouring of God in us and through us.



New Daylight

The Ministry Team at St John's has decided to start using *New Daylight* for daily Bible reading and prayer. We would like to invite you to join us in using this resource as a focus for your learning and prayer.

Each issue of *New Daylight* provides four months of daily Bible readings, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. Each day offers a short Bible passage, thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection, and aims to give a fresh, devotional approach to Bible reading. It is ideal for anyone wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

Each issue covers a varied selection of Old and New Testament, biblical themes, characters and seasonal readings. The next issue features

Paul's letter to the Ephesians by Stephen Rand, The character of David by Michael Mitton, St Brigid by Helen Julian, Feasting in the New Testament by Penelope Wilcock, and Spiritual gifts by Andrew Jones.

For more information please visit www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk/new-daylight or speak to Lilian Fleming or Nerys.

New Daylight is available in regular print, large format, daily email, audio and braille, Kindle eBook and as an app for various smart phones. If you would like to order a regular print copy (£4.60) please send an e-mail to office@episcopal-perth.org.uk or add your name to a list at the back of church. We also hope to start a monthly gathering for those interested in reflecting together on what we have read.



Pentecost Picnic and Praise Celebration

Please keep free the evening of Sunday, May 15th, for a Pentecost Picnic and Praise Celebration with members of our neighbouring church of St Matthew. More details will be announced in church.

Is Your Church Dementia Friendly?

Society is much more aware of dementia and the impact that it has on individuals, families and friends and there are strong movements to ensure that our communities are or should become dementia friendly. This has been looked at in relation to the communities in which we live but Faith in Older People (FiOP) wants to ensure that this is particularly related to faith communities which play a vital part in the lives of many older people.

Generally congregations are welcoming to those who are experiencing dementia but FiOP wants to support them in further developing the way in which everyone is included and able to participate in worship, prayer and the social aspects of belonging to a faith community.

The aim of the FiOP project is to encourage people to talk about dementia and their understanding of what it is as it often feels a bit frightening and people become anxious about knowing what to do or say around those who have dementia. It wants people to become aware of the issues and to think about the practical steps that could be taken; to raise the questions that need to be answered and to overcome any fears about communicating; coping with the changes in an individual; enabling people to continue to contribute and

how it is affecting those who are caring for them.

FiOP wants to draw on the excellent work that has been done to date by a number of organisations and to bring it together to form a guide which will emulate the approach taken for ECO friendly congregations using an audit tool of bronze, silver and gold levels. This approach takes into account the capacity of the individuals within the community and the members of the congregation to respond to the identified needs.

FiOP can evolve the approach over time and would like to visit different congregations or hold seminars, and to share ideas so that people with dementia can remain within the church community enjoying the friendship, routines and rituals which have meant so much to them.

In collaboration with Methodist Homes, FiOP will be holding a conference on 23 November 2016 to discuss these elements. The keynote speaker will be Professor Elizabeth Mackinlay from Charles Sturt University, Australia, who has written extensively on the topic.

For further information or to arrange a visit please contact Maureen O'Neill, Director, Faith in Older People, email: director@fiop.org.uk

From Inspires

Easter Rising

Fifty years ago I was walking down O'Connell Street in Dublin on the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising. The flags were out, the IRA (a banned organisation in Eire) was booming out propaganda from street loudspeakers, and Nelson's Column had just been blown up. The Post Office still wore the bullet holes from the siege of 1916. I was a member of my college rugby team on tour in Northern Ireland and we had slipped down to Dublin for sightseeing. In the circumstances we kept our very British mouths shut.

Ireland was to the British as Judaea was to the Romans - a province with a tangled and turbulent history and a stiff-necked population, ready to take offence at a moment's notice. Of course, British policy towards Ireland down the ages, from Henry II and Cromwell to the Potato Famines, was clumsy and cruel. As in Judaea, Religion played a big part in the nationalist cause. In 1912 Asquith's government had finally passed a Bill for Home Rule. But the implementation of it was delayed by the threat of the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force under Sir Edward Carson to take up arms in defence of Unionism, the mutiny of British officers at the Curragh who refused to march against Carson, and finally by the outbreak of the First World War.

Many Irishmen fought for Britain against Germany and few supported the hotheads of 1916. However, 500 people were killed in the fighting, most of them civilians who strayed into the line of fire. Fifteen ring-leaders were executed by the British after a court martial and duly became martyrs to the cause. Maybe at another time the British might have been more circumspect but the war was going badly on the Western Front, German U boats were active in the Atlantic and there was a real fear that Germany might bring out Ireland in revolt. That year Sir Roger Casement was hanged for running German guns into Ireland.

After the war the Black and Tans attempted to crush resurgent Irish Nationalism. This was a nasty conflict with atrocities on both sides. In the end Michael Collins for the nationalists agreed to the partition of Ireland in return for independence within the British Empire. This cost him his life in the bitter civil war which followed.

In Judaea, the Romans tried Home Rule under Herod and Archelaus. Direct rule was imposed in AD 6, at the request of the Jews, because Archelaus' rule was harsh and repressive. Jesus was crucified under direct rule. Ten years later the Emperor Caligula ordered the erection of a statue to himself in the Temple at

Jerusalem, but he was murdered before it could be carried out. His successor Claudius gave the kingdom to his friend Agrippa I but after Agrippa's early death Judaea was taken back under direct rule. Roman procurators behaved tactlessly and discontent, fanned by famines, increased. Pseudo-messianic outbursts and brigandage were stirred up by the *Sicarii* (assassins), ultra-nationalists. In AD 66 what had amounted

to a civil war between them and the Jewish authorities became an open revolt against the Romans. Jerusalem was sacked four years later and the Temple destroyed. The Colosseum at Rome was built by Jewish prisoners of war.

Ireland and Judaea aptly illustrate the dangerous mixture of Politics and Religion. It is too easy to forget Christ's dictum 'My kingdom is not of this world'.

David Willington

Vocations Sunday 2016

As we look forward to joining with the Church across the world for Vocations Sunday on 17 April, there is much to celebrate in the Scottish Episcopal Church. People of many different backgrounds and ages are coming forward to offer themselves for service in the Church, with a marked increase in younger people exploring vocation. Ministries are emerging to support and resource mission. A wide and gifted group of Wardens of Lay Readers, Advisers, and DDOs serve the College of Bishops in discerning vocation. Discernment and formation for ministry are becoming integrated.

On Vocations Sunday, please offer thanksgiving for these developments, and for all those who respond to God's

call; please pray for imagination to see the potential in people and situations, and please ask God's blessing on our Church, that it may be equipped with the ministers it needs.

This is the collect from the Scottish Ordinal 1984:

Almighty and everliving God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all members of your holy Church; that each in their vocation and ministry may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your Name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



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 3 April | 6:00 pm Nitekirk |
| Sunday 1 May | 6:00 pm Nitekirk |
| Sunday 15 May | Evening Pentecost Picnic and Praise Celebration |
| Saturday 21 May | 4:30 pm Perth Festival Evensong at St Ninian's |
| Sunday 5 June | 6:00 pm Nitekirk |

Special Events

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday 11 April | 2:30 pm Fellowship meeting in the Threshold: Scotland with Bill Bracewell |
| Friday 15 April | 10:30 am Family Fun in the Threshold |
| Saturday 16 April | 7:00 pm India Night in the Threshold |
| Friday 13 May | 7:30 pm Silent Auction in the Threshold |
| Tuesday 17 May to Friday 20 May | St John's Pilgrimage to Iona |
| Tuesday 31 May | 7:30 pm PACT AGM in Craigie Church |
| Saturday 18 June | The Gathering at St Ninian's |

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 |

From the Registers

Lectionary

- 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
- 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
- 10 Apr 3 Easter**
Acts 9:1-20
John 21:1-19
- 17 Apr 4 Easter**
Acts 9:36-43
John 10:22-30
Evensong
Ephesians 2:11-22
Psalm 23
Luke 19:37-48
- 24 Apr St Mark**
Ephesians 4:7-16
Mark 1:1-15 or 13:5-13
- 1 May Ss Philip and James**
Matins
Ephesians 1:3-10
Psalm 119:1-8
John 14:1-14
- 8 May Sunday after Ascension**
Acts 16:16-34
John 17:20-26
- 15 May Pentecost**
Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17,25-27
Evensong
Acts 2:14-21
Psalm 139:1-11
Luke 24:44-53
- 22 May Trinity Sunday**
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15
- 29 May 2 Trinity**
Galatians 1:1-12
Luke 7:1-10

Nitekirk

Nitekirk will take place on the first Sunday evening of April, May and June in St John's. It will be a space for reflection and prayer with an opportunity for some creative responses. This will include lighting candles, a piece of artwork to respond to and a quiet space.

It will take place from 6:00 to 8:00pm and you are welcome to come and go at any time during the evening. If you have any questions, please ask Graham or Gordon and Hazel Murch.

Sometimes, all that's needed is space.

In the midst of our full and rushing lives, it can be difficult to cultivate a sense of space. We don't give ourselves time to sit, to be still, and simply be. We fill our time and end up feeling cramped.

Nitekirk seeks to offer that space and stillness.

You might call it an open house - a place of welcome and refreshment. The church will be lit with candles, the atmosphere contemplative. There will be a time of reflection, gentle music and, throughout the sanctuary, places of activity - pictures to consider, Scripture, prayers and poems to read, something to feel with your hands, art supplies to focus your creativity. People come and go as they like, joining in songs and quiet conversations or sitting in silence and enjoying the space.

Each month, volunteers offer a theme which creates a framework for the evening. Often, these themes are grounded in everyday realities -

Light, Turning, Closing, Water. The evening begins with a prayerful group reflection, inviting us each to explore the spiritual theme in a way that is personal.

Nitekirk offers something new. Usually, our experience of worship is quite structured, whether our church follows a set liturgy or a looser order of service. Nitekirk is different. Here, we are invited into an atmosphere of worship, but not instructed how we should respond. Instead, we trust that God is present among us and within us all. God will meet us - we simply accept the invitation and inhabit the space. This is a midwifery approach to the gospel.

We are invited to trust and know that our spirits are built for creative relationship with each other, with the world, and with God. Given space, worship and mission will emerge among us. We will find guidance, encouragement and strength for our journeys.

Nitekirk offers an invitation to all.

From nitekirk.org

Foodbank Relocation

As from Monday 28th March, we will be operating from

Cutlog Vennel
Off High Street
Perth.

Cutlog Vennel runs between High Street and Mill Street, between the new Starbucks and the theatre. We do not have a number for our entrance door but there will be a notice on the door marking the Foodbank.

Our operating hours will remain the same.

*Les Paskin
Foodbank Coordinator
Perth & Kinross Foodbank
01738 626799*

And a plea from Anne Chatt, the Foodbank's volunteer coordinator: If you are coming in next week, please be prepared for a little disorganisation to start with until we get everything sorted out!

Lord,
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.
Amen

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

News reports of teargas being used in Calais and on the Greek-FYROM border, with allegations of mistreatment of asylum seekers in Glasgow by the Home Office sub-contractor reminds us that the refugee crisis remains very real and also very close: how do societies and communities respond to human need and respect human dignity? In late 2015 several Scottish Churches and Faith Groups resolved to establish a refugee co-ordination project as a joint response to a growing humanitarian catastrophe.

The project is now underway, and is called Scottish Faiths Action for Refugee, co-ordinated by David Bradwell. It is a joint faiths initiative, involving a number of Scottish Churches and the main representative Ecumenical, Jewish, Muslim and Interfaith groups. You can find out more about the background and some links to useful resources on the website www.sfar.org.uk and follow the work on Twitter @WithRefugees

As Refugee Co-ordinator, David Bradwell's role includes offering support to local church leaders and congregations on refugee and asylum issues. Please contact him if you would like:

- Information about asylum seekers and refugees
- David to speak to a meeting or take part in a worship service
- Written material and photographs for a website or newsletter

Suggestions for how individuals and congregations can take practical action to help Syrian families arriving in the UK, asylum seekers, as well as refugees in camps or journeying to safety in Europe.

David will be producing an occasional email newsletter, if you would like to be kept informed about the project, contact him on dbradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

From Inspires

Glen 2016

The Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Youth Week will take place at Glenalmond College, Perthshire on 24-30 July. The title of this year's event is 'Out of this World' - Living the Christian Life.

World Day of Prayer Service

A PACT service marking the World Day of Prayer was held in St John's on Friday 4 March. About 50 people attended from all across Perth.

The service this year was written by women from Cuba and gave a flavour of Cuban life. It gave a special focus on children (the Gospel reading was Luke 18:15-17, 'Let the little children come to me'). The Fundraising Co-ordinator from Action for Children Scotland gave a talk about the work of the charity in supporting young people, including looked-after children and young carers.

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>



SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH PROVINCIAL YOUTH WEEK

GLEN '16

at Glenalmond College, Perthshire



**“OUT OF THIS WORLD” -
LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

First Lent Lunch and Fergus's birthday celebration

We held a soup and bread lunch in the Threshold to mark the beginning of Lent. We also celebrated Fergus's 80th birthday with cake.



Bield at Blackruthven Spiritual Journaling

Led by Merryn Glover



A journal... does not so much record our days as record our spirits.
Richard Peace

Saturday 30th April 2016
10am - 4.30pm
Cost £47 (incl lunch)

www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk

01738 583238

Remember you can book in for a visit at any time, not just for a programmed event. If you give us a ring, you are always welcome to come for a wander (wonder) in the grounds.

Faith and the Scottish Elections

As Christians we are called to play our part in building God's kingdom. One way we can offer our support is to encourage open and respectful debate on the decision that voters will be facing in May. Churches are often seen as a neutral space, and so can provide an impartial opportunity for political debate. Christians are citizens too, and many will have

views which have been shaped by their faith on current issues.

A church's election meeting can be a chance for members of your congregation to ask parliamentary candidates the questions that matter to them. For more resources on election issues visit the Scottish Churches' Parliamentary Office website at www.actsparl.org

From Inspires

PACT is planning to organise a hustings in advance of the forthcoming election. More information nearer the time.

Silent Auction

**Friday 13 May
7:30pm in the Threshold**

Silent Auction
with cheese & wine.

Please contact Christine if you have any items you wish to donate or are able to offer services for auction.

Yarn needed

We are looking for lots of wool and yarn to use in a craft activity for the Family Fun Day on 15 April. If you have any to offer, please speak to Nerys.

India Night

Saturday 16 April 7:30pm
Supper and an illustrated talk
by Rev Graham Taylor.
Tickets for sale soon.

Perth Festival of the Arts Evensong

**Saturday 21 May 2016
St Ninian's Cathedral**

A Diocesan Evensong is being planned at the Cathedral to take place whilst the Festival of the Arts is running here in the City.

All the churches in the Diocese are invited to the Evensong, and their choirs are invited to join with the Cathedral choir. We hope that visitors to Perth will engage with us also and as soon as details are finalised information will be publicised by the Festival press/publicity officer and posters prepared.

We see this event as an opportunity for our wider Diocesan family to come together to engage and worship together along with the public who are attending the Festival events. Whilst I cannot yet give details of the music, Richard Walmsley has said that it will be known to most of us.

On the music side, the arrangements thus far are that the Cathedral choir will welcome choristers to lunch at 1pm. Soup, sandwiches, and baking will be provided. We will then rehearse for Evensong with a break before the service.

After Evensong, there will be afternoon tea for the choir and congregation. (The Cathedral is about to formally launch a Restoration Appeal in the sum of circa £3 million, so there will be a box for donations for those who wish to help us.)

We in the Cathedral are excited by the thought of our Diocesan singers coming together once again and do hope that you and the St John choir will be able to join us.

Fiona Crighton

Thank You For Your Donations

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Bishop's Lent Appeal for the Dum Dum project in our companion diocese of Calcutta which Graham visited in December. Thank you also to those who supported our Lent Lunches and Reflections this year. It was a great turnout on a Wednesday lunchtime and a good opportunity for making new friends.

Graham is very grateful to the Fellowship at St John's for giving him a cheque for £100 for a specific project of his choice following his talk on the Indian visit. The project he has chosen is Arunima Hospice which takes care of the terminally ill, undiagnosed and untreated people of rural Bengal. It is dedicated to care for adults and especially children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS. During his visit, it was this project that especially touched Graham's heart.

The next fundraising event will be on Saturday 16th April at 7 p.m. in the Threshold when we will have a Curry Night along with an illustrated talk by Graham. Please try to come along and hear about his adventure in India!



The Arunima Hospice

Recent charity donations

Christian Aid Refugee Crisis Appeal: We donated £304 to this appeal, mainly from a collection following the Harvest Bring & Share Lunch but also including £159 from the Charity bottle.

Poppy Appeal Scotland: The retiring collection at the Remembrance Sunday service raised £116.50 for Poppy Appeal Scotland.

PKAVS: We received £50 in donations during carolling on Saturday 19 December, which was donated to Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Service (PKAVS).

Aberlour Childcare Trust: The Christingle service on Christmas Eve raised £116.12 for the Aberlour Child Care Trust.

Thank you all for your generosity.

David Roemmele



**@ St John's Episcopal Church,
Princes Street, Perth
10.30 – 12.30, April 15th
(last Friday of School Holidays)**

Bible story,
crafts, puzzles
and games

Lunch!

Something for
children and
adults of all
ages



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