



St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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April to May 2017

April and May



Weekly Services

Sunday 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Thursday 11 a.m. Communion, coffee and a chance to chat

Special Services

(See back page for Holy Week and Easter services)

Sunday 2nd April 9.30 a.m. Matins

Sunday 30th April 6-8 p.m. NiteKirk

Sunday 7th May 9.30 a.m. Matins

Sunday 21st May 6 p.m. Evensong

Thursday 25th May 7.30 p.m. Ascension Day Service

Sunday 28th May 6-8 p.m. NiteKirk

Flowers for Easter

Christine Bracewell

As has been the tradition in St John's for many years there will be a list at the back of church for anyone who would like to donate a lily in memory of loved ones. The approximate cost of the lilies is £5 per lily. Flowers for Easter will be arranged on Saturday 15th April from 9-30 a.m. Anyone wishing to help or contribute in any way will be most welcome. The liturgical colour theme is white, gold and green.



Letter from the Rector

Dear friend

During this penitential season, many of us in our Christian journey either give up something or take on something new. This helps us to prepare for the celebration of Easter. It has been very heartening for me this year to see so many of you giving time on a Wednesday evening to attend our Lent Reflections. I am very grateful to those who have taken part in this series. The culmination of our Lenten preparation is Holy Week when we follow the footsteps of Christ to the cross and beyond. I hope that you will be able to join me in this walk of witness through the darkness of Good Friday to the light and joy of Easter Sunday. This year will include, for the first time since I've been among you, the traditional Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, a service where the new light symbolizing the risen Christ will be brought among us here at St John's.

I am ever grateful for all the preparation and hard work that goes into making the week so special and the church so beautiful. I am indebted to Bishop David for leading the three hours devotion on Good Friday. It is especially fitting this year before his retirement in July. I'm sure you will agree that this is a special time of the Christian year when we look inwardly to our own hearts and convictions and outwardly to the world. Through this I look forward to celebrating once again with you the joy of the resurrection on Easter morning.

Peace and love to you and yours,

Graham

During evensong on 19th February, Rob MacKay who is a Quaker as well as an Anglican, was in conversation with Nerys. He finished with a quotation from Inazo Nitobe, a Japanese Quaker who wrote a world famous account of the Japanese Code of Chivalry, Bushido, essential reading for martial artists.

I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.

I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.

I ask for wisdom, but not for learning lest I scorn the simple.

I ask for a clean name, but not for fame, lest I condemn the lowly.

I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours,
lest I fail to hearken to the call of duty.



Thanks to everyone who helped to make our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party** such a success. The Threshold was buzzing with families and church members. The children decorated felt pancakes, they tossed cardboard pancakes, they completed pancake-themed puzzles and listened to the story of the Runaway Pancake and at the end of the afternoon everyone enjoyed eating lots of pancakes with delicious fillings.

We hope that our next event from 4 p.m. on Tuesday 28th March will be equally successful. It will be an opportunity for families to build **Easter Gardens** and to listen together to the story of Easter. There will also be craft activities, games and puzzles on an Easter theme. Members of St John's are welcome to join us at 5 p.m. to see what the children have made and share in a time of fellowship with some Easter biscuits.



On April 25th we will be **Going Bananas** at Family Fun as we find out about Fairtrade and our event on 30th May will be a **Pentecost Picnic**. Please get in touch with Nerys if you would like to help with any of these events.

Come and help spruce up the church!



The observant among you will have noticed that the garden areas around St John's are looking very pretty with their tubs of spring flowers. This is thanks to members of the church who came together with Rev Graham on two Wednesday mornings to tidy up the outside of the church including the Memorial Garden. They have also made a start on cleaning the glass corridor and

other areas of the inside of the church. There is much more to do. Anyone can join in and enjoy a time of socializing over a cuppa and a cake after the hard work. Look out for an announcement after Easter.

Are you enjoying this magazine?

If so, what about supporting it in some way?

- What about writing an occasional piece - about a book or a film you have enjoyed perhaps?
- What about sharing information about an organisation you support?
- What about sending in a photo, a prayer or a poem?
- What about offering to guest edit an issue? (You will be given plenty of technical support.)
- What about giving a donation towards the cost of producing the magazine?



Any kind of contribution would be gratefully received!

Church Recorders at St John's

Malcolm Moore

For the last few months a small group of volunteers has been visiting St John's on the second and last Wednesday of the month, armed with clipboards, binoculars, magnifying glasses and tape measures. These are the Church Recorders of TADFAS, the Tayside branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts.

This movement was started in the Home Counties in 1965 when Patricia Fay founded the Chiltern Antiques Group. Three years later, eleven arts societies came together to form the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts, to promote interest and education in these subjects through lectures and visits to historic places and museums, using highly professional guides, all of whom are very strictly vetted and interviewed before being let loose on the members! The organisation, now a charity, has over 360 local groups in the UK and others in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

In 1973 the Church Recording arm was formed to recognise, help preserve and list the contents of churches of all denominations by recording the contents of these historic buildings. Over 1850 records have been completed in the UK of which 54 are in Scotland.

Our group has already completed the record for churches in Kinross and Foulis Wester, and have just finished their work on Dunkeld Cathedral. The recording of church furnishings is methodically undertaken, to museum standard, using an established system under the following headings: memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, library, windows and miscellaneous articles. Where possible, the history of items is researched. NADFAS has a large team of UK-wide experts who can be consulted.

On completion of the record, the church will be presented with an illustrated hard-bound book detailing the results of their labours. Copies are also sent to national institutions: the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, National Library of Scotland, the local County records office and the relevant denomination in Scotland.

A good start has been made in St John's and the team are grateful for the help and support that has been received from our clergy and church community. If any members of the congregation have memories, or information about items in the Church which might be useful, the group's leader, Brian Whitten, would be pleased to have it, either directly [tadfaschurchrecording@gmail.com], or via the Rector and Wardens.





At St John's we are blessed in having an unusual number of members in their nineties. This is part of a series of articles telling the fascinating stories of their lives.

Joan Gibson interviewed by Val Fox

Joan was born in Shanghai where her father worked in insurance. An uncle who also lived in China, ran a cotton-packing business. The young Joan was looked after by her nursemaid who took her frequently for long walks in the park. These outings ended abruptly when her mother discovered that Joan's blue lips were the result of the nursemaid drugging her charge so that she could enjoy uninterrupted time with her boyfriend! The family moved to Calcutta where they enjoyed a very pleasant lifestyle with a house full of servants and an *ayah* to care for Joan. This girl taught Joan to read and write and, as an expert needlewoman herself, instilled in Joan a skill which has been a great pleasure throughout her life.

At the age of eight, Joan was sent to a prep boarding school near London. It would be three years before she saw her parents again. Her grandmother, who lived in a London hotel, took Joan to Ripon in Yorkshire for holidays. She also spent some time with other relatives. When her parents returned from India, they rented a house and Joan attended Wickham Abbey for her senior schooling. She did not enjoy school much but excelled at sport.

Joan left school before matriculating and studied at a domestic science college which she did enjoy. She and her mother then spent some time in Yorkshire where they helped at Catterick Barracks, serving tea to the soldiers. Back in London, Joan joined the WAAF – a move of which her parents did not approve. In 1941 Joan was sent to Newcastle to work as a plotter. It was, she says, just as depicted in the war-time films. A group of young women standing around a brightly-lit table, wielding long cues with which they plotted the movement of aircraft, watched over by RAF personnel, sitting in a raised gallery. From Newcastle, Joan was sent to Londonderry in Northern Ireland from where the Atlantic Convoys were monitored. It was there that she met Naval Officer Ivor, her future husband. Struggling to cope with the harsh glare of the light in the plotting room, Joan

volunteered for a posting to Cornwall. There she worked in the airport control room. She enjoyed life in Cornwall. There were good sports facilities on the base. She played squash and swam (weather permitting|).

Joan was demobbed in 1946. She and Ivor were married a year later and spent their honeymoon in Switzerland. They lived initially in Croydon where their daughter, Sarah, was born, then moved to their long-time home in Woking where Caroline was born. It was a busy and interesting life. Ivor joined Lloyd's of London where Joan's father worked. In addition to his work in London, Ivor was treasurer of the local Sea Cadets and a local councillor, eventually becoming head of council. Together they travelled the world, attending work-related conferences, meeting, and often staying, with colleagues and friends. They enjoyed island holidays in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. During this time Joan also did voluntary work. Sadly after 43 years of marriage Ivor suffered a massive stroke. Sarah and Caroline both married and ended up living in Scotland. Sarah wed a Scot; Caroline and her farmer husband relocated from the south, buying a farm near Perth. Joan, now widowed, decided to join her family. She lived in the Servite home in Scone but recently moved to Kincarrathie which she much prefers, as there is more stimulation, more things to do. She has tried her hand at painting and making dried flower pictures. Two new skills to add to her expertise with the needle.

Joan regrets not being able to come to Sunday worship at St John's, but she enjoys the services held at Kincarrathie, coming to Fellowship meetings and visits from clergy, family and friends. She has seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren – still counting, she says! She can remember all their names, ages, 0birthdays, qualifications, where they are and what they are doing. She takes a keen interest in everything. In her tenth decade, Joan is an interesting and remarkable lady. Thank you Joan for sharing your life story with us.



Book Review

David Willington

A Little History of Religion by Richard Holloway, Yale 2016, £14.99.

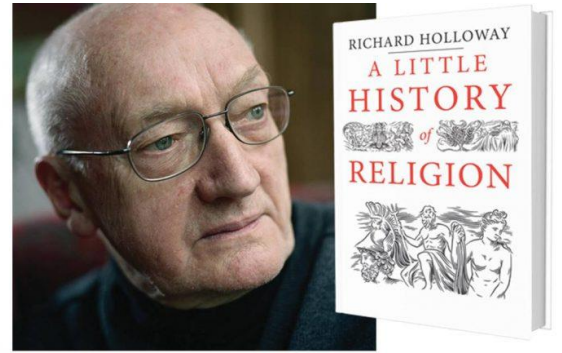
A month ago I attended a talk at the AK Bell Library by Richard Holloway. He is an impressive figure, still well over six feet tall at the age of eighty-three, and he spoke lucidly without a note for twenty minutes promoting his new book. After that he answered questions from an interviewer and from the audience. In some circles he is regarded as an apostate from the Church, but he is an authoritative voice on many aspects of Religion.

A Little History of Religion follows a pattern laid down by Yale, forty chapters of 2,000 words each. Clearly this does not leave much room for detailed discussion, but Holloway writes with precision and economy and a talent for the apt illustration. He begins with early man's wonder at the universe and thoughts about the Afterlife and ends with Humanism. He defines three types of approach to Religion. Religious feelings arise in the subconscious mind and are wholly subjective, with no external reality. But there are prophets such as Moses who are the interpreters of 'an invisible reality outside time and space that can communicate directly with human beings' (c. 2). Between non-believers and true believers there is a third class, with which Holloway presumably identifies himself, who apply their critical faculties to the claims of Religion.

In subsequent chapters he describes the development of different religions, in particular regarding the Afterlife and its implications for morality: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Judaism. In the chapter on Abraham, the concept of monotheism is introduced and expanded with a discussion of the prophets, *forthtellers* not *foretellers*: the sufferings of the Israelites arise from their unfaithfulness to God. Holloway's progress is developmental, not strictly chronological. He turns aside

from Israel to discuss Parsees and Zoroaster, Confucius, Taoism and Shinto.

Back in the west he describes the mystery cults of Greece and Rome, in which religion is translated from a group activity to the idea of personal salvation. This involves conversion, that is, a rebirth. The most famous religious convert was Paul. And Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, is the earliest writer on Christianity. Paul shows no interest in the life of Jesus, only in His resurrection. The Gospels, however, written many years later, describe the ways in which Jesus collided with the official representatives of Judaism in his teaching, emphasising the essence of the Law rather than the letter. The next chapter, entitled 'The Church takes charge', describes how Christianity became official and powerful, a status with which Holloway finds difficulty.



Islam occupies a few chapters, and Muslim Paradise leads onto Hell, Purgatory and the Catholic Church, Luther and the Reformation, and Sikhism. He returns to Europe with Henry VIII, John Knox, the Quakers, and goes to America with slavery, Mormons, Scientology and finally Ecumenism. Holloway does not pass judgment on the beliefs of the religions he discusses. However, his criticisms of Fundamentalism, whether Christian or Muslim, are scathing. It is the idea that all their texts are revelations from God, in his view a retreat from reason, that is a major cause of violence down the ages.

A Little History of Religion is an amateur theologian's vademecum, full of interesting detail but concise enough for the reader to absorb comfortably the theme of each chapter. Christians may feel that his coverage of their religion is somewhat cursory, but he has much ground to cover. The reader may be surprised at how much Christianity shares with other religions in its origins and tenets. He concludes that what is most antipathetic in Religion to modern people is not belief, but believers, represented by the Church.

Starter Packs Perth

Jean Hendry

Those of us involved with the local Starter Packs charity have been overwhelmed by the response to the appeal for donations on Homelessness Sunday. Congregations from a variety of Perth Churches including St John's have been very generous and thoughtful in choosing what to donate. Thank you to everyone who has contributed items. The aim has always been to try and recycle items that people have finished with but which are still good enough to use. However, there are always items which are much appreciated in a Starter Pack, such as soap, washing up liquid or toilet rolls which for obvious reasons can never be given as a second-hand item! The donors of these items have with thought gone out and bought them. As a result of this surge in donations, the standard of Starter Pack currently being given out has risen.



On an average Friday, we have usually received about 4 referrals but these could include up to about 10 people as many are not for single people. Some are for families with several children. Typically, between 300 and 350 people benefit from a pack each year. All the volunteers know about the intended recipients of the pack they are making up is the number and sex of adults in the household and age and sex of any children such as: one female with a boy age 6 and a girl age 2. We then try, where possible, to choose items appropriate to such a

household. Over the past year, although two or three have joined our team of volunteers, we have also lost some. One stalwart died suddenly and unexpectedly, another, due to caring responsibilities, is only able to come occasionally and another has got a new job with hours that prevent her volunteering on a Friday morning. If anyone can spare a couple of hours once or twice a month on a Friday morning they would be very welcome. I can give more details of what is involved.

I recently attended an interesting Networking day in Stirling for those involved in Starter Packs projects across Scotland. This day was organised by Scottish Churches Housing Action which has provided the expertise that has enabled many of these projects to be launched and sustainably run in a wide range of locations. Perth Starter Packs is one of very few that has always been run entirely by volunteers with no paid staff.

For about the last 10 years the AGM of Starter Packs has been held in the Threshold and this year was no exception. The committee like the venue and the availability of the Threshold always seems to be a top priority when trying to settle on a date for the AGM.

A message from the Administrator

Please spread the word about the availability of The Threshold for meetings, children's birthday parties, classes and groups of all kinds. Anybody interested should contact Beverly at the office on 634999.

Hire this space!!





Did you know that 2017 is the 60th anniversary of Christian Aid Week? Running from Sunday May 14 to Saturday May 20, our Rector hopes that St John's will be involved in this, Christian Aid's main fund-raising activity.

Elaine Cameron

When I was in Perth many years ago, St John's had a group who went door-to-door Christian Aid collecting. I can't recall how many of us there were, but there was a good feel about it, and a sense that this was an important way to assist Christian Aid. But times have changed, and door-to-door collection is no longer so popular. However, Graham is keen that we might have a small team to have a go at this again. This usually means collecting in a small area close to where you live. So we are looking for collectors! Be assured you will be well supported and given all the necessary materials, but I need to order materials by March 31, so ***please let me know by Thursday March 30*** if you are interested in collecting.

There will also be a ticketed **Coffee Morning!** You will shortly see posters advertising this at the **North Church on Saturday May 13**, from 10.00am onwards. It would not be a church affair without the usual stalls – home baking, bric-a-brac, books and plants. Contributions for these stalls will be very welcome! Soon I will be pestering you to buy a ticket.

As Christian Aid Annual Report says, *poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. Christian aid has a vision – an end to poverty.*

I know members of St John's will do all they can to help make this vision a reality.

Sunday Lectionary

2nd April, Lent 5

Ezekiel 37.1-14; John 11.1-45

Matins Exodus 7.8-24; Psalm 30; Luke 22.1-13

9th April, Palm Sunday with a reading of the Passion

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Matthew 26.14-27.66

16th April, Easter Sunday

Colossians 3.1-4; Matthew 28.1-10

23rd April, Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a, 22-32; John 20.19-31

30th April, Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Luke 24.13-35

7th May, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.42-47; John 10.1-10

Matins

Exodus 16.4-15; Psalm 29.1-10; John 6.30-40

14th May, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7.55-60; John 14.1-14

21st May, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17.22-31; John 14.15-21

Evensong

Psalm 45; Revelation 3.14-22; Luke 22.24-30

Sunday 28th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1.6-14; John 17.1-11



Stewardship

After the recent unexpected work on our steeple and spire, our cash flow in the General Account has taken a considerable dip. This is something that happens in the life of many churches, and I believe that for us, it is an opportunity to look again at our stewardship and giving. Can I urge you to think, pray and reflect about this situation and, if at all possible, to increase your weekly or monthly offering to St John's or to give a one-off donation to help cover the current shortfall. I would urge you also to use Gift Aid as explained by Bill Bracewell on the opposite page.

Thank you for considering this,

Rev. Graham (Chair of Sub-Finance Committee)

A message from your Treasurer ...

Until comparatively recently, when crediting the General and Fabric accounts at the Bank of Scotland, your Treasurer has been required to ensure the payee details for each cheque conform with the exact name of the receiving account. This is to comply with current banking and money laundering regulations. The actual account name for the general account is *Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Perth*.

The Bank of Scotland has now been instructed to receive cheques with the following payee details: St. John's Episcopal Church; St. John's Episcopal Church, Perth; St. John the Baptist, Perth; John the Baptist, SEC – Perth.

The same process will be undertaken for the Fabric Account, in due course. In the meantime, when writing cheques for the Fabric Account, please ensure the payee is written out as follows: *St. John the Baptist SEC, Perth Fabric Fund*.

Thank you for your continuing financial support and contributions.
David Roemmele, Treasurer

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In the 2015/16 financial year St. John's was able to reclaim approximately £15,300 from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in the form of Gift Aid. As you can see, this is a valuable source of income for our church.

Gift Aid can only be reclaimed where donors are tax payers and pay an amount of tax, each year, equal to or more than 25% of their **total** annual charitable donations. For example, if you make charitable donations in any tax year of £1000, your tax bill for that year must be £250 or more for Gift Aid to be reclaimed on the £1000. The responsibility lies with each individual, and not the church, to check their own tax position relative to Gift Aid.

There is another Government Scheme called Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS) which enables the church to claim re-payment from non-tax payers or anonymous donations, providing each donation is made in cash and has a value of £20 or less. So if you find yourself fortunate enough not to pay tax any more, the church can still claim re-payment on your donations under GASDS, subject to the £20 ruling. There is, however, a £5000 donation limit each financial year beyond which re-payment cannot be claimed under GASDS. This limit was reached at the end of December 2015 and re-payment could not be claimed for the months of Jan/Feb/March. In the current financial year we are likely to reach the £5000 limit during March.

If you are a taxpayer and make donations, it would be helpful to the church if you could either use the blue envelopes, which should be filled in with your name address and postcode, request a supply of the white envelopes or set up a standing order or faster payment instruction for a regular donation. You will need to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form if you choose to use the white envelopes or pay by standing order or faster payment instruction. If you are a new member of our congregation and wish to start donating on a regular basis, speak to Bill Bracewell or Alastair Cruickshank who will be very happy to help. One final point, please let Bill or Alastair know if your address or tax position has changed.

St John's Fellowship News

Jean Hendry

The Fellowship had a very successful March meeting when Tabby Baiss and Jacqueline Lindsay came and let us know about their work with Hope Pregnancy Crisis Care. This is the organisation for which we have been collecting money and baby items. We were also delighted to



welcome as guests at this meeting ladies from a variety of other local churches who have formed a Shawl Prayer Ministry. This is a group that knits and crochets items for babies some of which also end up with Hope recipients. We learnt that the Shawl group also knit tiny clothes suitable for premature babies.

We were fascinated by Tabby's demonstration game which she uses when she goes into schools and which clearly engages the attention of the pupils. In playing it they will learn a great deal about the development of a foetus during pregnancy. Many of us who were present, most of whom were over 60, were left rather shocked by the number of questions we got wrong and the gaps in our own knowledge! There was a fun side to the game but we also heard about how Hope is also there to help and explain options to those who fall pregnant unexpectedly and in difficult circumstances or who wish to keep the baby but have absolutely nothing in the way of the basic essential resources.

The next Fellowship event will be the Coffee Morning on Saturday 1st April and then, at the meeting at 2 p.m. on Monday 10th April, Bill Bracewell will speak and show us more of his photos. This time his topic will be his exploration of the Italian Dolomites. All will be welcome at either event.

Musings by Raymond King

For those of us getting fewer and fewer who perhaps use carbon paper instead of computers to get their extra copies, and 'oft when on the couch they lie in vacant or in pensive mood, they flash upon the inward eye, which is the bliss of solitude', some thoughts come to mind, like –

My typewriter works quitx wll xxcept for onx kxy. Somxtimxs the kxys arx working propxrly. You may say, 'Wxll I am only onx pxrson. It won' t makx much diffxrxncx', but you sxx, for thx group to bx xffxctivx, it nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry pxrson. So thx ntxt timx you think your xffort is not nxxdxd rxmxxbxx my typxrwitxr and say to yoursxlf, 'I am a kxy pxrson and nxxdxd vxvry much!'



And dreaming further,

Life is a book in volumes of three, the past, the present, and the yet to be, the past we have seen and put away, the present we are learning every day, the yet to be we cannot see, it's locked away and God holds the key.

But even better,

In a little church, not far away, the preacher asked an old gent how he'd enjoyed the sermon. The gent paused to consider the question for a moment. 'Well sir', he replied, 'there was one passage at the end I liked very much'. 'Which one was that?', asked the preacher happily. Smiled the old gent, 'The one from the pulpit to the vestry!'

It wisnae me!!

A Dog's Purpose? A story shared by Graham Kingsley-Rowe

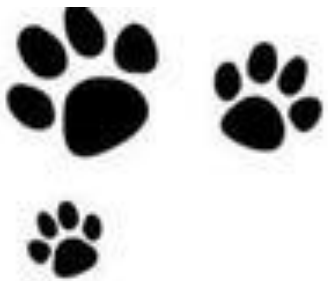


Being a vet, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, 'I know why.' Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, 'People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life, like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?' The six-year-old continued, 'Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long.'





Live simply. Love generously.
Care deeply. Speak kindly.

Remember, if a dog was your teacher you would learn things like,
When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

Take naps. Stretch before rising. Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

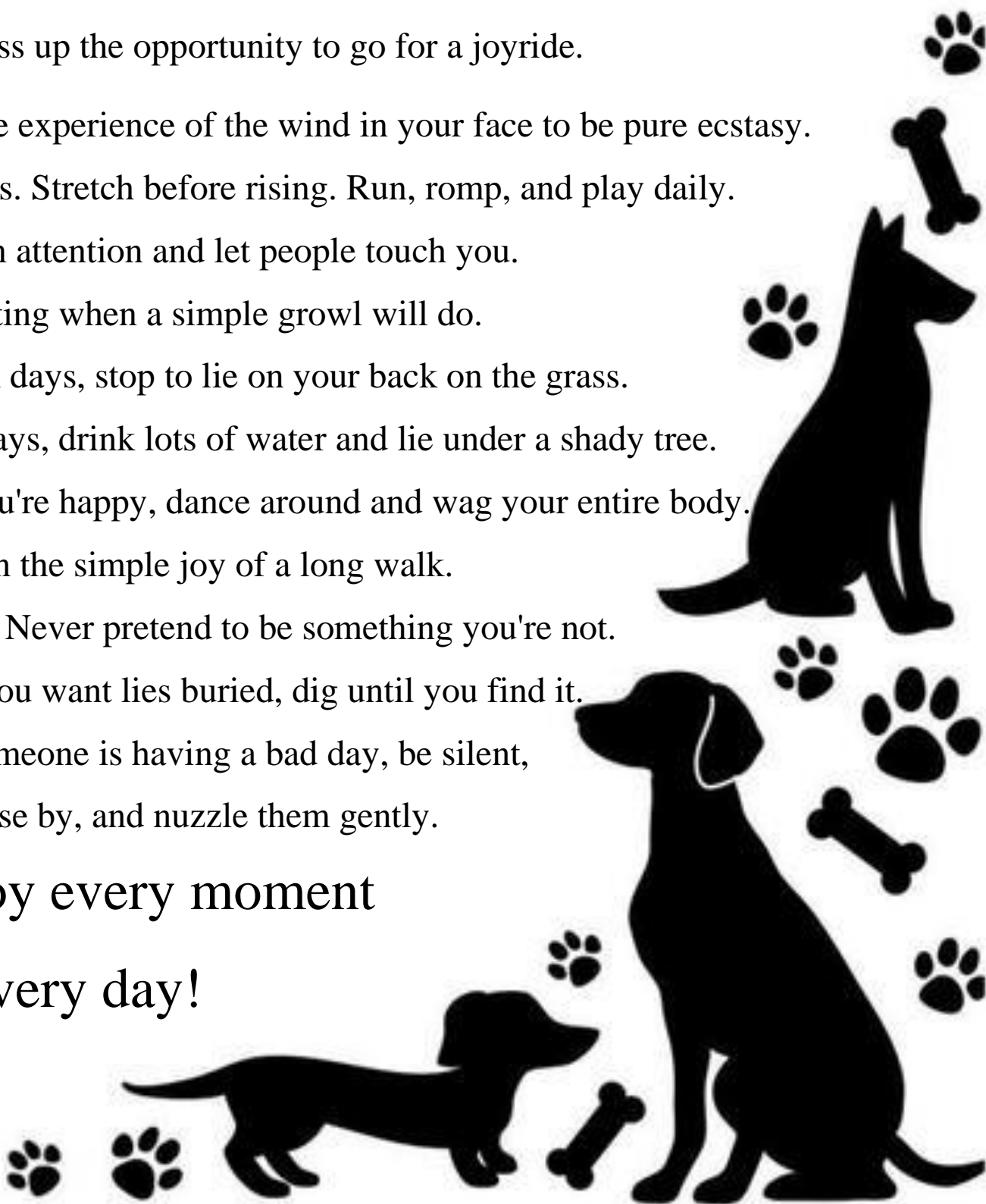
Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent,

sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

Enjoy every moment
of every day!



Diocesan Synod

Lilian Fleming

The annual Diocesan Synod took place on 11th March 2017 at the Cathedral. I attended as Lay Representative with Graham and Nerys. This is the Bishop's last Diocesan Synod before his retirement in the summer.



The morning was taken up with the usual business part of the meeting, with reports from the convenors of the various diocesan committees. The morning concluded with a Eucharist. In the afternoon, the issues to be addressed were the proposed changes to canon law. The main one was the redefinition of marriage, that marriage would no longer be defined as being between 'one man and one woman'. Before the voting, round table discussions took place on the issue. Those who wished to address the whole meeting on the subject were free to come to the microphone and do so. The vote was by a secret ballot. When the votes were counted, a majority of both clergy and laity had voted in favour of this change. The subject will now be discussed in June at the General Synod, at which representatives from all seven dioceses in the Scottish Episcopal Church will vote, before any legal change can be made.

Several familiar faces from St John's were at the cathedral to serve us all refreshments before the start of Synod, and a buffet lunch at the end of the morning session. They even stayed on so that anyone in need of sustenance at the end of the Synod was able to have it. Everybody was fulsome in their praise of how well we were looked after. Many thanks indeed to these ladies. You know who you are!

Next year's synod will take place on Saturday 10th March 2018.

Out and about



No it's not the Last of the Summer Wine but some intrepid members of St John's out on the hills this month. There will be opportunities for all of us to walk together during the spring and summer. Judy Norwell is organising an outing on Easter Monday. This would be about 7 miles long with minimal climb, probably in the Newburgh, Lindores area and involving a

picnic lunch and a cup of tea afterwards at Newburgh or Abernethy. Anyone interested please give names to Judy and indicate if a willing driver. Bill Bracewell has offered to lead us on 3rd June. More details in church during the weeks to come.

**An invitation to all in the Dunkeld
Area of the diocese.**

Come and get to know each other!

Wednesday 10th May,

7 p.m.- 8.30 p.m.

at St Ninian's Cathedral.



**Informal Social gathering,
Bring and Share Finger Buffet,
Closing Taizé Service**

**Sunday 4th June, 3 p.m.
St John's, Princes Street**

**Pentecost
Praise**

**with guest speaker
Rev. Grant MacLaughlan**

**Organised by PACT (Perth
Action for Churches Together)**

THE DIOCESAN GATHERING 2017



You will be glad to hear that preparations for the Diocesan Gathering at St Ninian's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May are going well. The theme of the day, chosen by our guest speaker, John Bell, is 'The Grace of Diversity' and there will certainly be something for everyone in the packed programme.

In addition to two thought-provoking plenary sessions, you will be able to choose from a variety of workshops. John will be teaching us new songs from across the world to use in our worship. His colleague, Jo Love of the Wild Goose Resource Group, will be helping us to create a piece of community art which will be a visual focus for our closing eucharist. Bishop David will be offering an opportunity to share in a Bible Study and in a conversation. Also, members of Stirling Citizens for Sanctuary will talk about their experience of welcoming and supporting refugees in their community. In addition, we will be encouraged to explore a wide range of prayer activities by groups from across the diocese, including St Mary's Dunblane Messy Church, All Souls Fife Prayer Ministry Team, St James Dollar Drop-in Group, All Saints' St Andrews Student Group, The Mothers' Union, The Bield Retreat Centre, The Diocesan Kolkata Link and the Gender Justice Group. There will be time over a shared lunch to chat and share experiences, to visit information and resource stalls or explore the Cathedral building.



Many of the workshops and activities are suitable for all ages but there will also be a children's corner for parents and young children to use at any time during the day. In addition, young people are offered an opportunity to work as a team with Kennedy Fraser, a lay reader who is involved with GRF Christian Radio, to help collect and prepare material for an audio-visual 'Taste of the Gathering' which will be later distributed to the churches of the diocese.

A brochure will be available at church and on the diocesan website before Easter. Booking forms will need to be returned by 13th May. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Nerys Brown at nerysannjones@aol.com or phone 01786 824511.

If you have never been to the Gathering before, please consider coming this time. It will be a day to remember!

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From the Editor

Thanks very much for everyone's contributions to this issue and to those who helped prepare it for printing and distribution. Please hand or email all items for our April/May issue to me by

Sunday 21st May

email: nerysannjones@aol.com

Front Cover Photo is by Nerys Brown

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

AT ST JOHN'S 2017



Palm Sunday

10.30 Eucharist with Procession
and a reading of the Passion



Maundy Thursday

11 a.m. Holy Communion

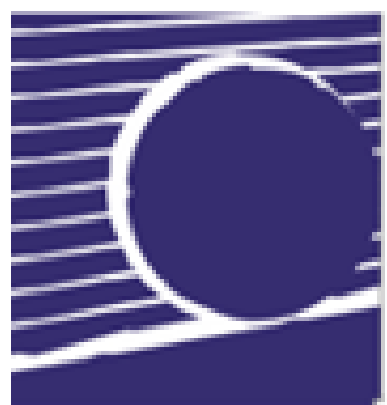
7.30 p.m. Eucharist with Feet or
Hand Washing and Vigil



Good Friday

10.45 a.m. PACT Walk of Witness
starting at St John's Kirk

12 - 3 p.m. At the foot of the Cross
with Bishop David Chillingworth



Holy Saturday

8 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

7 a.m. PACT Dawn Service at
Quarrymill

8.30 Holy Communion

9 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10.30 Eucharist

and Easter Egg Hunt