

St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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June and July 2017

June and July

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

Sunday 4th June 9.30 a.m. Matins, 10.30 a.m. Pentecost Celebration Sunday 18th June 6 p.m. Evensong Sunday 25th June 10.30 a.m. Patronal Festival Sunday 9th July 10.30 a.m. Sea Sunday

From the Registers Baptisms

16 April 2017 Sophie Siminia Leffler
30 April 2017 Carter John David West

Eternal Rest
14 March 2017 Coral Porter*

Letter from the Rector

My dear friends,

As time goes on, more and more I see the need to give thanks for our shared pilgrimage, as we walk on side by side here in St. John's. I've said it before, and say it again - what a wonderful community of folks to share the journey with as we reach out together in ministry and mission to the people of Perth and beyond. Pilgrimage at times can be good alone, but we always need that community to come back to, to share with and to root ourselves in.

Adding to the story of our pilgrimage for me, is the chance once again to take a group of folks to the Holy Land next March. This will be my third visit and already I'm looking forward to seeing the sites and walking in the footsteps of Jesus. The words I have written for the tour company's brochure are:

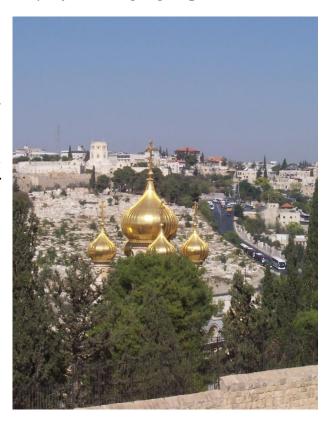
A few years ago now I went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where I visited many sites I had only read about, but longed to see. I came back from Jerusalem and the Galilee a changed person — the places and sites I had read about in the Bible were alive to me, and now mean so much more. I hope that you may come with me to this wonderful place, not only to see the places, but to absorb the atmosphere of the Holy Land which can be a truly life-changing experience.

If you or anyone you can think of would like to come on this pilgrimage with me, then please do get in touch to find out more. I realise that this trip will be impossible for some for a variety of reasons but I would very much value your prayers for the pilgrims and myself as we discover more of what our faith means to us.

Where we are and wherever the Lord will lead us, may we enjoy each other's company in our common pilgrimage along the way.

With much love,

Graham.



Easter at St John's



Thank you to those who prepared and decorated the church for Easter. The beauty of the flower displays enhanced our worship and were a source of wonder and admiration by our many visitors during the season.

It was a joy to have the baptism of Sophie, daughter of Emma and grand-daughter of Pat Barclay during the Easter morning service. The family live near Cologne but came home to Perth for the baptism.





Two weeks later was the baptism of Carter, son of Daniel and Shauni and grandson of Rhona, a friend of Joyce Sampson. Carter and Shauni are regular members of the Buggy Club.It was good to see the church full for both baptisms. Please continue to pray for the children and their families.



Getting to know Robin Miller

David Willington



Robin was born in Edinburgh to Scots-Irish and Estonian parents. He is the youngest of four siblings. There are two much older sisters and a brother closer to his age. After school in Edinburgh he studied for a BMus and then an MMus at Glasgow University. At university he met and married Rhiannon and they have had two lovely daughters, Faith (2007-2009) and Zoe, who was born in 2013.

After university he joined a small software company based in Edinburgh called Runtime Revolution Ltd, now Livecode Ltd. With them for some years he worked at marketing, web-mastering and systems administration. But music was never forgotten. He purchased a new piano and rekindled his interest in composition and

piano performance.

They moved to Perth when Rhiannon got a job here and joined the Congregation of St John's. He served on the Vestry and was Secretary until he became Organist in 2012. Robin had had little experience of playing the organ beforehand, and it was, as they say, a steep learning curve. Two years later he performed his own Organ sonata at a recital on the new digital organ. He and Alison Grant, the Director, established a good partnership. He took over as Director as well as Organist in 2016. Another challenge – learning to rehearse and conduct a choir, even by nod of his head while at the console. In November 2016 he conducted the choir together with the Glenalmond Chamber Choir in a highly successful Choral Evensong. For the performance of an anthem much hard work is required behind the scenes in preparation and rehearsal. He has also written a couple of pieces for the choir at St. John's, most recently for Remembrance Sunday.

For quite a while now he has been working on piano performance and composition. This has been a frustrating time for him with various distractions, and not least a recent bout of ill health. However, he is currently working on producing a CD of piano, tentatively entitled 'The Long Night', and including works by Chopin, Rachmaninov, and himself. Maybe it will appear this winter.

In his spare time he seems to do a lot of cooking and cleaning and keeping the garden from becoming overgrown, not to mention running after Zoe. As a change from paternal duties, he has been known to watch the rugby and play video games.

St John's is very fortunate to be served by such musical talent.

Summer Concert at St John's



At 7.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd June, Niall Brown will be performing a concert of solo cello suites at St John's to raise money for projects supported by the Diocesan Kolkata Link. Niall, Nerys' brother-in law, combines his position as co-principal cellist of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra with his teaching at the Conservatoire du Nord, Luxembourg, his many chamber music

performances, including with his pianist wife, Isabelle Trüb, and his position as Artistic Director of the festival Automne Musical d'Ollon in Switzerland. His programme will consist of two J. S. Bach suites, the G major and the C major, and a suite composed by the early twentieth-century Catalan composer Gaspar Cassado. This is one of a series of three concerts around the diocese to support the Arumina Hospice and other projects of our twin diocese of Kolkata. Entry will be by donation. Please publicise this concert and invite all your friends!



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.

Helen Dowie interviewed by Irene Drane

Helen was born Evelyn Helen Coomber on the 3rd December 1924 in Ifield, Sussex. There were five children in the family, one boy, two older sisters and one younger sister. By the age of four, Helen was an orphan, her mother and younger sister had died when she was two years old and her father, a seaman, died when she was just four years old. The family was then split up, Helen going to live with an aunt, two of her siblings with other aunts and one with her grandmother. school years were spent at The Capal Church of England School in Sussex.



Helen left school at the age of fourteen and began working as a domestic for the Broadwood family, the piano people. She left their employ and went to work for the Rank family, the film people. Helen had wanted to become a nurse but thought she wouldn't get the opportunity as she was only a domestic. While she was working for the Rank family, however, she found a copy of the Nursing Times in which there was an advertisement for trainee nurses aged 17. Helen spoke to Mrs Rank about this but stated that she couldn't apply as they might not want somebody who was 'just a domestic'. Mrs Rank was sympathetic and gave Helen permission to apply and told her to put herself down as an under-nanny on the application form. This she did and at the age of $17\frac{1}{2}$ she was accepted.

She began her training at Kingston General Hospital. Helen qualified and stayed at Kingston for several years before moving to train as a TB nurse. She then moved to Scotland to specialise before travelling Singapore to complete colonial TB nursing. Whilst she was in Singapore, she and a nursing friend took a trip to Tokyo and on this little break she met a young sailor by the David Dowie. of Romance name blossomed and Helen and David became engaged. They returned to Scotland to get married, Dundee being the chosen venue. Helen then decided to become a midwife and once again she qualified easily.



Helen gave up nursing when she and David started their own family. They were blessed with two girls and a boy. Helen decided that she wanted the children to grow up in the countryside and as David was often at sea, she made the move to Abernethy. When the children grew up and went to University, Helen decided to go back to nursing. She applied to Bridge of Earn Hospital to study Orthopaedic Nursing, once again qualifying and ending up as a Nursing Sister. Helen and David moved to Balmanno Park in Bridge of Earn when Helen finally hung up her nursing cap and shoes in the late 1980s.

Helen has been a member of St John's for many years and is well loved and respected by all of us. She was also a very keen member of the Mothers' Union and Ladies Fellowship. Helen is at present writing a book about her life as a nurse and growing up during the war years. Her son-in-law is typing this up for her, and I for one will be the first in the queue to read it when it is finished!

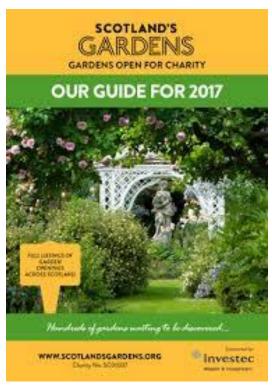
Visiting Scotland's Gardens

Judy Norwell

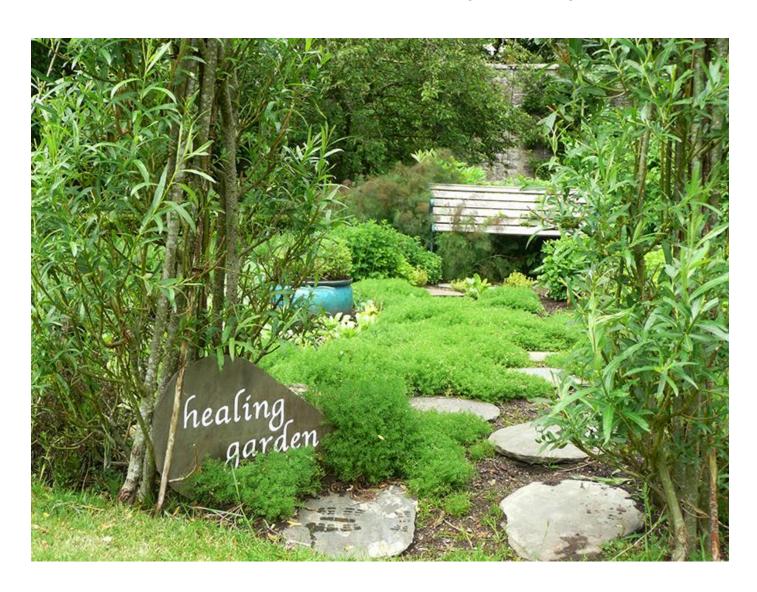
With the Chelsea Flower Show about to hit our TV screens, for those Quest readers looking for an alternative weekend outing to Dobbie's, the local park or working their own patch, why not consider a visit to one of the nearly 500 gardens open this year under the Scotland's Gardens charity scheme, where all you have to do is admire the work and the vision of others.

Founded in 1931 in aid of the Queen's Institute (Scottish Branch) of District Nursing (QNIS, itself celebrating an honourable 150-year history this year), then charging 1/- entry, Scotland's Gardens celebrated its eighty fifth year in 2016, with some gardens having opened continuously for fifty, sixty or even seventy years. 40% of the funds raised at each garden opening go to a registered charity chosen by the owner, while 60% net of funds raised is distributed to the charities supported by Scotland's Gardens. These are QNIS, Maggie's Centres, the National Trust for Scotland, and Perennial, the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society. Last year the thirty five gardens in Perth and Kinross, part of East of Scotland region (one of five Scottish regions), alone raised just short of £29,000, which gives some idea of the scale of the total charitable activity.

Gardens may be open on a specific date or dates, by arrangement, or daily over weeks or months, depending on their period of interest. Entrance charges vary from only £3 to £5, and a cup of tea and home bakes are often available. Increasingly, a village gets together to open several gardens for an inclusive charge. So, for instance, Kilry in Glen Isla (Angus), will have several gardens open on 17 and 18 June for just £5, with soup, tea and plants for sale in the village hall. Pittenweem and Crail do the same in Fife, and in P&K Abernethy will



have five private gardens open on 24 June from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for just £8 entry. This can make for a delightful day. Abernethy also has the richly stocked garden on a dramatically sloping site created by St. John's members, the Noel-Patons, which opens by arrangement. Two immediately local gardens that may be of interest to St. John's are The Bield at Blackruthven (17 June), where there is a beautiful walled garden with herbaceous borders, well filled greenhouses, extensive woodland walks and farm tracks and other features like the healing garden pictured below. The £5 charge here includes an excellent tea in the attractive courtyard. Always a happy and peaceful atmosphere. And this year the garden at Kincarrathie House opens (25 June), again with a superb walled garden, lovely perimeter walk with stunning views to the Ochils, and a good tea. Not to mention perhaps a few well kent faces! For the full guide to all gardens, fliers or further information, do get in touch with me; and of course if you've got a computer you can find all the details on their website at www.scotlandsgardens.org.





Exploring Fairtrade was the theme of April's Family Fun. With the help of Isobel Watt from Perth and Kinross Fairtrade Zone, we discovered what a difference a fair price for their produce can make to farmers in developing countries, enabling them to send their children to school and making sure that they have proper health care. We focussed on bananas, playing table-top games with Graham and Sarah, making banana trees with Jean and we helped Nerys make and eat Fairtrade banana smoothies, banana and chocolate muffins and crispy chocolate cakes. Only a few families or members of St John's came but we had fun and learnt a lot.



St John's now has a quarterly Fairtrade Stall in partnership with St Matthew's Church, but, it is also possible to place orders from the Traidcraft catalogue any time. Please have a word with Sarah Axford, Rhiannon Miller or Nerys Brown. You can also order brown or white Kilombero rice from Malawi at £3 a kg. The proceedings from 90 kg of rice will pay for a child to go to school for a year. We are a third of the way towards this target. Order forms and Traidcraft catalogues are available in the Threshold and in the back of church.

Sunday Lectionary

4 June, Day of Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21; John 20.19-23

Matins Joel 2.21-32; Psalm 67; Luke 24.44-53

11 June, Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20

18 June Pentecost 2

Psalm 116.1, 10-17; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8

Evensong Romans 9.14-26; Psalm 42; Luke 11.14-28

25 June Birth of John the Baptist

Psalm 85.7-13; Galatians 3.23-29; Luke 1 57-66, 80

2 July Pentecost 4

Psalm 13; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

9 July Sea Sunday [Readings TBC]

Psalm 45.11-18; Romans 7.15-25; Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

16 July Pentecost 6

Psalm 119.105-112; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

23 July Pentecost 7

Psalm 139.1-11, 22-23; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

30 July Pentecost 8

Psalm 128; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

Pontius Pilate

David Willington

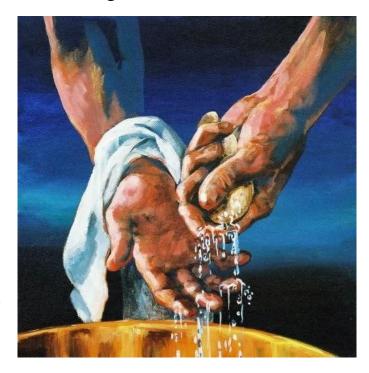
Of all the characters in the Passion story, Pontius Pilate is one we can readily identify with in modern terms. He faced a dilemma that would have been familiar to any District Officer in the Colonial or Indian Civil Service, whether to take a strict line and so aggravate a tricky situation, or appease the 'awkward squad' among the natives and achieve a peaceful solution, albeit in the short term.

Pilate belonged to the class of Knights, that is, the rank in society below senators. These were men with business, military and administrative experience, who acted as financial agents of the Emperor or governed small provinces. Pilate had the misfortune to have Judaea, Samareitis and Idumaea in his charge. He had at his disposal some regiments of infantry and cavalry, mostly levies from Samaria and the north, loyal to their paymasters, the Romans. Judaea had become a province in AD 6, when Herod Archelaus was deposed by the Emperor Augustus at his subjects' request and exiled to Gaul. The Roman governors inherited the bureaucracy of Herod the Great and the close control he had exercised. The Sanhedrin had power to punish minor offences; it could also try capital crimes, but the procurator had to ratify the execution, and was not bound by the decision of the Sanhedrin. The procurator appointed the High Priest, controlled the Temple and Temple funds and even kept the vestments of the High Priest and handed them over at festivals. The city was policed by troops based in the Tower of Antonia, adjacent to the Temple.

Pilate and the Jewish authorities crossed swords several times besides the incident with Jesus. In his first year of office, AD 26, he had ordered his troops to carry their standards, which showed an image of the Emperor, when they entered the city. Immediately there was a deputation by the Jews to protest at this violation of the laws of Moses. Pilate took the view that the protest was derogatory to the Emperor's majesty and only backed off when the deputation refused to be intimidated. Later on, when the Temple was nearly completed, Pilate suggested that the accumulated funds should be

expended on improving the inadequate water supply for Jerusalem by building an aqueduct from a spring twenty-four miles away. This apparently sensible suggestion was deemed an unwarranted interference with sacred monies and riots ensued. When the crowds refused to disperse, troops were sent in and a number were killed. This illustrates the difficulty which even best intentions faced in avoiding misunderstandings.

The Jewish authorities reinforced their religious complaints against Jesus by accusing him of subverting their nation, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar and claiming to be the Messiah, the king; his teaching was causing general disaffection which had started in Galilee and spread south. Hearing this, Pilate immediately referred the matter to Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, who happened to be in Jerusalem for the Passover. But



Herod, having got no answer from Jesus and worried about his unpopularity back home, sent him back to Pilate. After interrogating Jesus Pilate concluded that he was no threat to Roman rule and proposed to have him flogged as a troublemaker and then released. The intervention of Pilate's wife – a common literary device – may or may not be true. The Jews became even more insistent: 'We have a law and by that law he must die because he has claimed to be the son of God...If you let this man go, you are no friend to Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king is defying Caesar.' The Jews knew well how to taunt Pilate and play on his fears. Tiberius kept a close eye on the conduct of his governors. In the end he agreed to release the criminal Bar-Abbas instead of Jesus, and publicly washed his hands of the matter. 'Here is your King,' he said with sarcasm. 'We have no other king but Caesar,' the Jews replied. Nevertheless Pilate ordered an inscription in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, to be put on the cross, Iesus Nazarenus Rex *Iudaeorum*, to which, of course, the Jews objected. Pilate would not remove it: 'What I have written, I have written.' And no doubt he then went back to his dinner.

In general the Romans were tolerant of local customs and religion. Indeed, the Emperor Augustus had granted great favours to Herod the Great as a loyal client king and he had instructed his governors to facilitate the sending of contributions by Jews of the Diaspora to the Temple. In return Herod had given Roman names to his foundations eg Caesarea Philippi, Tiberias. Herod II, his grandson, was an intimate friend of the Emperor Claudius, who returned the kingdom to him. It was Roman policy to befriend local rulers and magnates and let them, as far as possible, deal with recalcitrant populations. But where there was direct rule, as in Judaea at the time, it was the procurator's principal duty to maintain public order. Jerusalem could be a flash-point, especially at great festivals when many people gathered there. A hard-headed calculation would suggest that the death of one man would avert disorder. There is a Roman maxim: *Salus populi suprema lex* 'The safety of the people is the highest law.'

Pontius Pilate had eleven years in post, till the death of Tiberius in AD 37, after which nothing more is known of him. I doubt if he was troubled unduly by his decision to have Jesus crucified. As procurator he must have ratified quite a number of death sentences and he would have concluded that despite the difficulties of this case, he had made the right decision.

Ecce Homo 'Behold the Man' by Mark Wallinger, the first statue on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, installed at the entrance to St Paul's Cathedral this Easter.



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who has sent their good wishes via Tony. Also, thank you for your cards, visits and flowers. To know I have had your prayers and support has been a great help.

Hoping to see you soon,

Vivian (Mason)



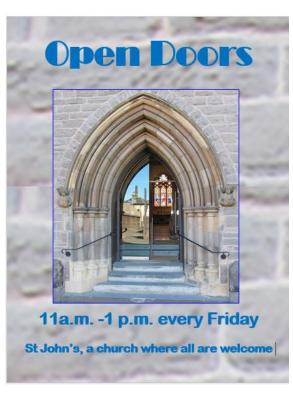


The International Celtic Congress will be held in Perth, between 17th and 22nd July. The theme will be, The Musical Traditions of our Celtic Nations. There will be presentations, ceilidhs, classes and outings and also, on the Wednesday at 2 p.m., an Ecumenical Service at St John's to which we are all invited.

For more information please visit <u>www.celticcongressalba.co.uk</u> or talk to Nerys.

Open Doors

Once more this summer, St John's will be open to visitors every Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. This is a great opportunity to welcome people and to share with them the beauty of our church building. If you are able to be part of the welcoming team any week in July, August or September, please add your name to the list at the back of church.





This year's Christian Aid devotional *I was a stranger* invited us to take a piece of red string or wool, hold it as we read the passage, and then tie a knot for each person for whom we prayed, symbolising how we are bound together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

The fourth day focussed on Nejebar and her family, who fled Afghanistan, because of the threat from the Taliban. Now, living in a camp in Greece, they have welcomed young refugees to live with them as part of their family. How good to hear such a hopeful story, which reminds us that in meeting the stranger, we may come to know more of God.



Nejebar, with her sons Hinayat (left) and Sudai, outside their home in Agios Andreas, Greece. They thought they would be in the camp for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of Christian Aid Week this year in Perth. It was good to see so many from St John's at the Christian Aid Coffee Morning at the North Church. It was an interesting ecumenical occasion, and the total raised was £1300 - a goodly sum.

House-to-house collecting is the rock on which Christian Aid week is founded; last year it raised 50% of the total income in Scotland. This year, as you know, St John's have had several more Christian Aid collectors. They have had a variety of experiences. One woman, on a new patch close to her home, enjoyed it, and found everyone willing and generous. But others had mixed receptions. One householder (looked well past his fiftieth birthday) said he'd never heard of Christian Aid. Two households from a relatively affluent area made a point of returning the envelope empty. And some of us were struck by how quickly several young people refused to give. On the other hand, those who did contribute, did so generously. Sadly, the reality is that people seem to be growing more suspicious, and less patient with cold doorstep calling. And this year we were occasionally mistaken for a party political animal – which is expressly forbidden by Christian Aid collectors.

Nonetheless, amidst ever-tightening finances, it is good that so many did respond positively and generously. All St John's collectors are prepared to consider another year. The total from the house-to-house should be available at the end of the month.

As Margart Mead, anthropologist, once said, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'.

Elaine Cameron

Sunday 9th July

Sea Sunday

Address by Retired
Superintendent
George Shaw from the
Fishermen's Mission



International Welcome Evening

Rob Mackay

Those of us who have been meeting at St John the Baptist's to look at the needs of cultural and linguistically diverse communities are planning to hold an open international welcome meeting at Blend coffee shop in Perth High Street.



We had a very useful meeting

with Sundeep, the manager of Blend, who warmly welcomed our initiative. We have agreed to set a time one evening when the café is closed to invite members of diverse communities to an initial open meeting to explore the idea of regular get-togethers at Blend. We hope that this may be the first of regular meetings for the local international community, many of whom are suffering from social isolation and may welcome opportunities to improve their English.

Sundeep is willing to open up the café for this initial meeting and to provide tea/coffee and cakes for those coming for £200. Future meetings would be funded by attenders purchasing their own refreshments. The work of publicising the evening will be supported by staff of the Minority Communities Hub at PKAVS.

We would like to invite members of the congregation to join us in contributing to a fund to support the costs of this first meeting. Contributions can be handed in to the church in an envelope clearly marked 'For the Blend Project'. Any excess will be used for future costs of the project.

You will all be welcome to the evening at Blend. We will let you know as soon as we have a date.

The Rector at the Races



Here the Rector attends one of his first official duties as Chaplain to Perth Race Course. He is pictured with Hazel Peplinski, the Chief Executive of the course on Ladies Day.

A comment by Graham was published in the race card saying, 'I was very honoured to receive the position as Race Course Chaplain in 2016 and I look forward to working with you all'.

Nitekirk - Hazel Murch

Over the last few months Nitekirk has continued to explore different themes on the last Sunday evening of the month. The most recent theme was following the pattern of a Labyrinth. The evenings follow a similar pattern, giving a number of opportunities to experience the theme and also the chance to sit quietly in contemplation. Quiet music is often used and a selection of stimuli including video, photographs and art work. Food has also been a feature, recently helping us to explore Tearfund's Rice and Beans



challenge. The Nitekirk team have appreciated the support of members from St John's and other churches. Nitekirk finishes for the summer on the last Sunday of May. We look forward to restarting in the autumn.

Contact Information

Rector	Rev Graham Taylor	245922	rector@episcopal- perth.org.uk
Curate	Rev Nerys Brown	01786 824511	nerysannjones@aol.com
Retired Assistant Clergy	Rt Rev Bruce Cameron Rev Fergus Harris		
Church Officers	Mail to be sent to Office		@episcopal-perth.org.uk
Rector's Warden People's Warden Administrator Lay Representative Alternate Lay Rep Vestry Secretary Treasurer Health and Safety PVG Director of Music	Alan McPherson David Willington Beverly Skene Lilian Fleming Graham Kingsley-Rowe Judy Norwell David Roemmele Graham Kingsley-Rowe Malcolm Moore Robin Miller	552337 813787 634999 636957 248120 248120 639963 625903	church-warden@ office@ secretary@ treasurer@ hands@ pvg@ music@
Team Convenors Casting the Net Ministry Finance Communications Children Buildings and Eco Social	Hazel Murch Alan McPherson Rev. Graham Taylor Rev. Nerys Brown Jean Hendry David Maclehose TBA	827034 552337 245922 see above 623603 636147	
Church Activities Intercessors Group Flowers Magazine Editor Fellowship Buggy Club Young Church Links Traidcraft PACT Threshold bookings SARAC	Tony Mason Christine Bracewell Rev Nerys Brown Jean Hendry Eunice McPherson Jean Hendry Ruth Harris Rhiannon Miller Jean Hendry Beverly Skene Rev Geoffrey Hall	627870 552817 see above 623603 552337 623603 621379 625903 623603 634999 636802	office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

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 in or email all items for our August/September issue to me by

Sunday 22nd July

email: nerysannjones@aol.com

Front Cover Photo is by Tim Haynes

www.scotland.anglican.org

www.standrews.anglican.org



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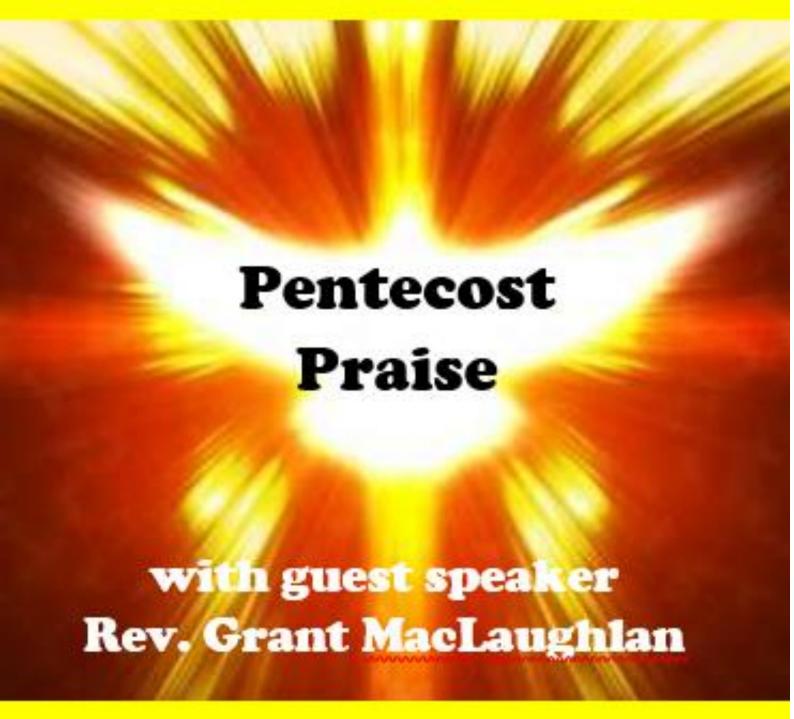
In partnership with the Scottish Association of Retired Anglican Clergy







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



Organised by PACT (Perth Action for Churches Together)