



St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church, Perth

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August to September 2017

August and September

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

3rd September, 9.30 a.m. Matins

17th September, 6 p.m. Evensong

24th September, 10.30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving

6 – 8 p.m. NiteKirk

From the Registers

Eternal Rest

Vivian Mason



Letter from the Rector

My dear friends,

There have been various comings and goings in the life of St John's and the diocese during the last few months. It is a delight to see new faces on a Sunday morning in our church. I am so pleased to welcome you into our church family. I hope that in a short time you will feel very much at home among us.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Vivian Mason who, along with Tony, contributed so much to the life of this church. It was an honour to minister to such a lovely lady during her illness. Please continue to hold the Mason family in your prayers.

It was a privilege and pleasure to have Bishop David and Alison with us on his last Sunday before his retirement. We wish them every blessing for the future and thank him for his ministry and leadership. A warm hand-written letter came from Bishop David to St John's to thank everyone for their friendship and gifts and for making his final morning so special. The process of electing a new bishop will begin in August. I will keep you informed.

You may have heard me say in church that our good wishes go to Nerys as she takes up a part-time post as Diocesan Enabler and Resourcer for Mission. We are pleased that Nerys will continue to share her ministry with us for part of the week and some Sundays in the month. My own personal thanks go to Nerys and Davie for all their support and encouragement over the last two years.

I am also delighted to welcome Eleanor McGourty to our church office. Eleanor will replace Beverly as the church administrator. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and I look forward to working alongside her. My thanks go to Bev for her time with us and all that she did to develop and organise the office. I wish her well in her new post at St Matthew's.

In all life's comings and goings, I thank God for the people I have met and shared with, thanking him always for the past and praying for his Spirit to lead us into the future here in St John's and beyond.

With much love, Graham.



Our Patronal Festival

The Feast of John the Baptist

A circle was completed when Bishop David joined us on his last day as Bishop and Primus, as St John's was the first church in the diocese which he visited after his institution.



The Bishop and Alison received gifts from the congregation and a special card made by Jean Parrott and signed by all. They joined us in the Threshold after the service to cut a cake made by Christine Bracewell decorated with shamrock and a thistle.

Bishop Mark Strange of Moray, Ross and Caithness has been elected Primus. It is hoped that a new diocesan bishop will be in place by Easter 2018.



It was wonderful to see St Ninian's Cathedral full for the evening eucharist to celebrate Bishop David's ministry in our diocese.

Our thanks go to Joyce Payne, Alison, Christine, Mary and Lizzie for helping with the refreshments.



Visitors from the Diocese of Kolkata



It was a great pleasure to welcome Bishop Ashoke Biswas and his Chaplain Red. Paritosh Canning from our sister diocese of Kolkata as part of their visit to Scotland to mark Bishop David's retirement. David Willington shared with them some of the history of St John's, they enjoyed traditional Scottish fare and they met with Ranjana Salins from PKAVS Minority Communities Hub. The highlight of the morning, however, was a visit to the Buggy Club where they were given cards beautifully decorated by the children.



The Quest Interview

It is hoped that this new feature will help us to get to know a member of the congregation a little better. The first in the chain is Gordon Murch.

In what ways are you involved in the life of St John's? While relatively new to St John's, I've had the opportunity to help with Nitekirk, take part in the occasional service (by leading intercessions), participate in



Vestry meetings and help to consumer-test the excellent culinary delicacies on offer at various social events (the curry night was a particular favourite).

What do you enjoy about St John's? I've really enjoyed the sense of openness, welcome and friendship I've found at St John's.

What are your interests outside church? These include music (mainly teaching, accompanying and the very occasional orchestral performance as a percussionist), cycling and increasingly rare outings into the hills. Sadly, displaying my silky skills (if only!) on the football pitch seems to have become a thing of the past.

What last made you cross? I'm not easily angered, but I do become increasingly frustrated by the standard of debate and interaction in Parliament, which too easily descends into insult and the narrow pursuit of party interest. I would also include the hypocrisy involved in so much of the international arms trade, which can inflict misery on millions and is such a dreadful waste of money which could bring relief to so many.

What last made you smile or laugh out loud? So many things (not all printable!). Here are just two. The first, a smile raised during a road trip round Ireland in our ancient camper van, driving past a WW II Nissen hut with a colourful and enticing sign above the entrance declaring ‘Ballroom of Romance’! The second (and still laugh-out-loud for me) is the classic Eric Morecambe ‘Grieg Piano Concerto’ sketch – ‘I’m playing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order’!

Who or what was the greatest influence on you growing up? Undoubtedly my mother, especially during my early years. As a teenager, I discovered a lifelong love of orchestral music through playing in youth and amateur orchestras. Influences on my Christian life have been many and varied, but certainly the most profound would be the friendship and example of those who have lived out the love of Christ with conviction, simplicity and humility.

Where or when do you feel close to God? It would be easy to say ‘while spending time on Iona’ or ‘alone in the hills’, but in reality (and importantly for me) it can be almost anywhere when I have taken time to leave distractions behind and really ‘listen for God’ (not a particularly easy thing for me!).

If you got to host a meal for four people from the present, past or future, who would you invite and why? I would invite Barack and Michelle Obama for their statesmanship, humour, world vision and engaging personalities; Pope Francis for his humility and desire to communicate the love of God for all and, last but not least, Billy Connolly, because he’d make us laugh while asking awkward questions!

Finally, it’s been an interesting task, focusing on these questions, though I’d probably have a few different answers tomorrow! I’m now going to give careful consideration to the identity of the next victim/interviewee ...

Hymns Old and New

An opportunity to learn the stories behind some of the hymns we sing at St John's.

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering
This is our prayer,
Bread for the children,
Justice, joy, peace,
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,
Cures for their ills,
Work for the craftsman,
Trade for their skills,
Land for the dispossessed,
Rights for the weak,
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,
Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,
Havens from fear,
Cities for sanctuary,
Freedoms to share,
Peace to the killing-fields,
Scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
His cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,
Oceans and streams,
Plundered and poisoned,
Our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
Carelessness, greed,
Make us content with
The things that we need.

Lighten our darkness,
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again,
Until the nations
Learn of your ways,
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise.

Graham Kendrick

Although this song by Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) is almost 25 years old, it was first sung in St John's this year at our Homelessness Service. It was inspired by Kendrick's experience of driving through Mumbai at night and seeing thousands of people in abject poverty sleeping in the streets. On his return to England, he found it hard to cope with the contrast as people wasted money on trinkets while on the other side of the world others starved. Aware that 'you have to decide what you can do, otherwise you fall into the trap of doing nothing', Kendrick was given an opportunity to deal with this theme when the aid charity Tearfund asked him for a song to help them celebrate their 25th anniversary. His personal encounters in India were combined with his respect for Tearfund's policy of enabling and empowering local Christians to serve their own communities. Kendrick set out to write a song that does not specifically intend to make us feel guilty but to help us focus on God who is the friend of the poor and the weak. In this prayerful hymn we ask God to fill us with compassion, that we may join in with what God is doing, being honest about our role in the wider world and our ability to both act and pray for change.

(based on an article by Gordon Giles in *Sunday by Sunday: The RSCM Guide for all who plan and lead worship*, March 2017)

*Do you know of an interesting story
behind a hymn, old or new? If so, please
get in touch with the editor ...*





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.

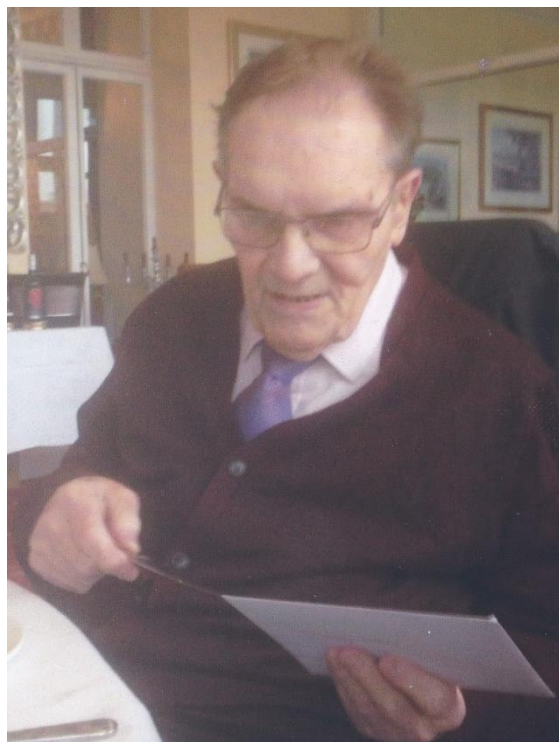
Ken Miles

Ken was born in 1927 in Portsmouth, the son of a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy. He was the third of six siblings. When Ken was seven his father left the Navy and the family moved to the south-east of London but in 1939 he was recalled and served at Dunkirk and on the Atlantic convoys. Ken left school at fourteen to help support his family. Some of the war was spent with an aunt and uncle in Dorset.

Ken himself was called up in February 1945. Because he had flat feet he was deemed unfit for the infantry and after basic training was posted to the RAMC as a medical clerk. The man ahead of him on the list was sent to Malaysia; Ken was sent to Southampton – such are the vagaries of military life. His job was to meet hospital ships returning with wounded soldiers and accompany them by train to hospitals all over the country. After three years he was demobbed but continued as a territorial with the 51st Highland Division.

Although he had no formal qualifications, Ken worked for thirty-six years in the agricultural industry, based on what is now Brig Farm but then was the Home Farm for the Moncreiffe Estate. In addition to manning the office, dealing with orders and invoices, (no computers or calculators then), he had to turn his hand to many different jobs on the estate. He lived in one of the cottages beside the road at Craigend. In 1953 he married Yvonne, from Errol, and, this December, they will have been married for sixty-four years. They have two children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Yvonne was brought up in the Church of Scotland and attends Kinnoull Church.

When Ken and Yvonne retired they went to live in Craigie, and for the last three years have been in sheltered housing in Bowerswell Cottages. Ken was, in his time, a keen gardener, but now the infirmities of old age have



overtaken him. As a boy he was in his church choir and taught himself to read music. In his time, he has sung as a tenor in the Perth Choral Society, Encore and the Perth Operatic Society, and put in thirty years with the Choir at St John's. He retired at the age of eighty.

His daughter is the Records Officer at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. His son has B.Sc.s in Computer Programming and Occupational Therapy and works at the Findhorn Foundation.

Ken has been having treatment for a variety of afflictions and his mobility is much reduced. All his siblings are dead. But he gives thanks for a long and happy life.

David Willington

When Ken retired from the choir at St John's, his fellow singers paid tribute to him by singing this song written by Fergus to the tune 'All through the night'.



Let us join our cheerful voice,
All round the room,
Come to say farewell to Ken Miles
But not with gloom.
We've so much, Ken, to thank you for,
Many good times to remember,
Both in church and oft beyond it
In hall or room.

Was our Ken a fair young choirboy,
Long, long ago?
When his voice broke, was he tenor?
It may be so.

He has given so much pleasure,
Many special times to treasure.
We are sad to hear him saying,
'It's time to go'.

Down in Wales are many tenors
All through the land,
Italy has three to speak of,
All rather bland
But Perth's pride is our own Ken Miles,
His appearance gives us all smiles,
Entertainer and great singer –
Farewell Ken Miles.

Cello Recital at St John's

Henry Neil

Perth and Perthshire attract artists of world renown and calibre. We enjoy every type of concert, including solo recitals, chamber music, symphony orchestral concerts and operas. Our church, St John's Scottish Episcopal Church, is fortunate as a venue to share these events and is recognized for its acoustics and the brightness and lay-out of the building.

The first of three concerts was given by Niall Brown, principal cellist of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra on 3rd June. Two suites, number one in G major and number three in C major by J. S Bach are popular solo items in the cello repertoire and Niall Brown immediately captured their style and displayed his admirable technique and brilliant tone.

Between the two Bach suites, Niall included a twentieth-century suite by Gaspar Cassado. Although perhaps not as familiar to audiences, this work certainly demands the skill of brilliant playing and our soloist proved his awesome ability.

A good audience attended and the sum of £400 was raised for projects run by our sister diocese of Kolkata. We look forward to the organ recital on 21st July and the guitar recital on 25th August.



Sunday Lectionary

6th August Feast of the Transfiguration

Psalm 97, 2 Peter 1.16-21, Luke 9.28-36

13th August Pentecost 10

Psalm 105.1-6, 16-22, Romans 10.5-15, Matthew 14.22-33

20th August Pentecost 11

Psalm 133, Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15.21-28

27th August Pentecost 12

Psalm 124, Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16. 13-20

3rd September Pentecost 13

Matins Psalm 105.1-15; 2 Kings 6.24-25, 7.3-20; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Eucharist Psalm 105.1-6, 23-26; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

September 10 Pentecost 14

Psalm 149; Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20

September 17 Pentecost 15

Eucharist Psalm 114; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

Evensong Psalm 119. 81-88; Acts 20.17-38; Mark 8.27-38

September 24 Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 8.7-18; Psalm 126;
1 Timothy 2.1-7; Matthew 6.25-33



The Grace of Diversity

This was the theme chosen for this year's Diocesan Gathering, held in St Ninian's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May. We welcomed John Bell of the Iona Community as our guest speaker and leader of the day's events. All present enjoyed an engaging celebration of diversity which was at the same time thought-provoking, hugely enjoyable and above all great fun!



From our opening session when we reflected on God's favourite colour (John tells us it's tartan!) and attempted to name the twelve disciples, right up to the informal closing Eucharist, we celebrated our diversity together in a multitude of different ways. Even our lunch was celebrated as a giant 'bring and share' meal rather than sitting as individuals each with our own pack of sandwiches.



Smaller workshops led by John and his colleague, Jo Love, provided an opportunity to learn new music and join in creative activities. Various congregational and diocesan groups also organised workshops and display stands to introduce different prayer activities, recognising the many different forms prayer can take.

A team of youngsters from around the diocese worked together to provide a 'Taste of the Gathering' on video and took photographs which can be shared with those who were unable to join us on the day. It was great to see them taking on the responsibility of this role and interviewing a selection of participants.



Comments on the day included:

Fabulous day!

Grace-filled and transforming,

Plenty of food for thought,

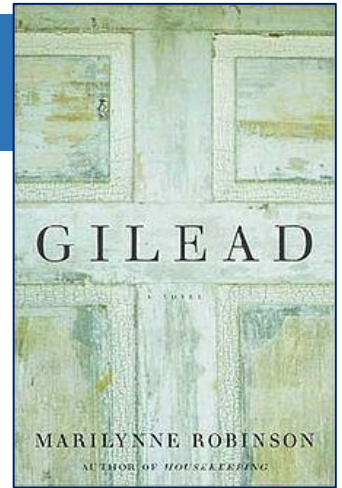
*A demonstration that spirituality needn't lose its depth
when it's fun,*

A wonderful celebration of our strength in diversity.



Book Review – Sarah Axford

The Gilead novels by Marilynne Robinson.
Gilead (2004), *Home* (2010), *Lila* (2014)



1950's Iowa, in the tiny and traditional farming community of Gilead, lifelong best friends and soulmates, Rev John Ames (Congregationalist) and Rev Robert Boughton (Presbyterian), have lived out their lives as faithful and compassionate communicators of God's mystery and grace. The unexpected return of Boughton's youngest, beloved and wayward son, Jack, after a 20-year absence involving alcoholism, crime and prison, and who is now seeking answers, solace and a possible refuge in his childhood home, provokes a crisis in their friendship. Each of the three novels focuses on or includes this period of time, from the point of view of a different character from the two families.

Faith permeates each novel indirectly, as a natural part of each man's understanding of the world, and is described with deep understanding and sensitivity. Hard questions are raised; those that relate to the men's Calvinist views: How can predestination and salvation be reconciled? How can those without knowledge of God, or even of love, be 'chosen'? These questions are raised by Jack, prodigal son, who has always felt completely out of place in his secure, happy Christian family, and by Lila, Rev Ames new young wife, who's tough, poverty stricken childhood and youth had no space for religion. Also glimpsed is the casual racism of the times, as evident in the attitudes of these loving, committed and compassionate Christian men, as in the wider society of the times.

These themes may sound as if they would require a specialist interest in the intricacies of Calvinist doctrine, and of grace in particular, but the writing is so beautiful, the characters so wonderfully drawn, and the wider themes of loss, family and love so well handled, that anyone can immediately become so engaged in the lives described, that they won't wish the book(s) to end. Robinson has won huge acclaim for these novels, including this from the Guardian:

Her questioning books express wonder: they are enlightening, in the best sense, passionately contesting our facile recycled understanding of ourselves and our world.

Save the date!



On the evening of Thursday, 14th September, members of the churches of the Dunkeld Area (which includes St John's) are invited to visit Glenalmond College. More details will be available nearer the time.



Celebrating Mary Sumner Day

Members of St John's are invited to join members of the Mothers' Union from the dioceses of St Andrews and Brechin at St John's for a special celebration on Wednesday 9th August. There will be coffee in the Threshold from 10 a.m., a Celtic Eucharist in the church at 10.45 a.m. followed by an illustrated talk by Angela Bushell on her visits to Sittwe in Myanmar (Burma) and then lunch. You are welcome to come just to the service or to stay for the whole event. Please let Nerys know if you would like lunch.

Mary Sumner founded the Mothers Union 140 years ago. Here is her personal prayer:

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.



August Charity Concert at St John's

The last of our Summer Charity Concerts is a guitar recital by Ayman Jarjour on Friday, August 25th at 7.30 p.m. Ayman is an international performer who has given concerts in New York, London, Edinburgh, Brussels, Beirut and many other cities all over the world. Born in Damascus, he now lives in Bridge of Allan. At St John's he will be performing Spanish, Latin American, Classical and Modern works. There is no charge for the concert but there will be a collection for MASS, a British charity founded by health-care professionals which sends medical equipment to Syria.



Friday 18th August 7 pm

supporting

Letham St Mark's Church



I've not been to this august event, but am assured it is a hilarious evening, with delicious refreshments and great prizes! We are invited to make up teams of 4 - any takers? Elaine

September Charity Concert



Circle of Comfort is a registered Scottish charity established in Fife in 2007 and now also operating in Perthshire. The charity offers complimentary

therapies, including therapeutic massage and reflexology, to terminally ill patients, those diagnosed with cancer and those caring for them, in their own home or in hospital.



Hillfoot Harmony Chorus is a group of female A Capella singers based in Dollar near Stirling. They strive for musical excellence in the performance of barbershop singing while

enjoying the friendship and enjoyment that membership of this chorus brings.

On Friday 15th September at 7.30 p.m. Circle of Comfort and Hillfoot Harmony Chorus are coming together for an evening of music in St. John's to raise funds to enable the unique care offered by the therapists to continue and spread in Perthshire. Tickets, available from Joyce Sampson or at the door, are £10 and include tea or coffee and home baking.

Please note that Rev Graham's day off is a Monday.



Nitekirk: a place of tranquility and a place of movement

Nitekirk takes place on the last Sunday of each month and will resume on 24th September. As always, this will be an opportunity to take time out from busy lives to be still and respond creatively to a variety of words, music and images. Past themes have included Living Stones, Light in the Darkness, Love, At the Shoreline and Labyrinth. All are welcome to drop in at any time between 6 and 8 p.m. If you'd like to know more, please speak to Revd Graham or to Gordon and Hazel Murch.



Buggy Club St John's Parent and Toddler Group



Our weekly Buggy Club resumes after the summer holiday on Tuesday 15th August, from 9.30 a.m. Parents or other carers with babies, toddlers or young children will be made most welcome.

International Welcome Evening

Judy Norwell



June/July Quest reported on plans by a group initiated by St John's to hold an international welcome meeting at Blend Coffee Lounge in the Old High Street, the idea being to give an opportunity for people of other countries and cultures resident in the area to gather in a neutral space to share stories and build relationships.

After careful planning, the event took place on Monday, 10th July at 7 p. m. Volunteers had offered to host tables, which would be furnished with sticky labels for ID purposes, and a cork board depicting the world map would be circulated so people could mark their countries of origin. The sum of £200 had been raised to pay for a free tea or coffee and cake for everyone, although no one had any idea how many that would be.

After a short hiatus when the home team, as it were, waited uncertainly for arrivals, we were besieged. The main room was soon full to bursting; standing room only, tables full, people perched on sofa arms and odd ledges, queues forming at the counter to take orders for the delectable looking cakes and coffee, and an excited hubbub of voices which never waned. We reckon about 60 to 70 people attended of about eight or nine different nationalities.

Another event is being arranged in Blend for the evening of Monday 28th August at 7 p.m. where it is hoped a steering group to run regular meetings will be formed. Watch this space.



Contact Information

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People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
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Lay Representative	Lilian Fleming	636957	
Alternate Lay Rep	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell		secretary@
Treasurer	David Roemmele		treasurer@
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	hands@
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Ministry	Alan McPherson	552337	
Finance	Rev. Graham Taylor	245922	
Communications	Rev. Nerys Brown	see above	
Children	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buildings and Eco	David Maclehose	636147	
Social	TBA		
Church Activities			
Intercessors Group	Tony Mason	627870	
Flowers	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Magazine Editor	Rev Nerys Brown	See above	
Fellowship	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buggy Club	Eunice McPherson	552337	
Young Church	Jean Hendry	623603	
Links	Ruth Harris	621379	
Traidcraft	Rhiannon Miller	625903	
PACT	Jean Hendry	623603	
Threshold bookings	Eleanor McGourty	634999	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 October/November issue to me by

Sunday 24th September

email: nerysannjones@aol.com

Front Cover Photo by Tim Haynes

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy



Syrian Guitar

August 25, 7.30p.m.



World renowned guitarist
Ayman Jarjour

*plays Spanish, Latin American,
Classical and Modern works*

*Retiring collection in aid of MASS
(Medical Aid and Support for Syria)*