



St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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October and November 2019

Letter from the Rector

Dear friends,

I write this as the days get shorter, the nights draw in and a certain Autumn feel is about in the air.

Yet, lots to look forward to. Next week will see Annie's Ordination to the Diaconate, and we will welcome her back with us once again, as Curate for St. John's this time. Annie made a huge impression among us while on placement, so we look forward to her sharing in the life of our Church family.

Thank you to those who have made Café Church the success that it has been, and to all our interesting speakers. If you have not been along yet, why not give it a try?

We have been enjoying many concerts over the summer months. This has been a great success. Many thanks to all of you who have supported this in any way. Look out for the next ones!

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our Harvest Celebrations, giving thanks to God once again for all the bountiful gifts that we receive. We are so blessed in many ways as individuals and as a community. 'All is safely gathered in', as we thank God for all that is past and look forward for all that is to come. I love this poem by Emily Pauline Johnson on *Harvest*:

Pillowed and hushed on the silent plain,
Wrapped in her mantle of golden grain,

Wearied of pleasuring weeks away,
Summer is lying asleep to-day,

Where winds come sweet from the wild-rose briers
And the smoke of the far-off prairie fires;

Yellow her hair as the goldenrod,
And brown her cheeks as the prairie sod;

Purple her eyes as the mists that dream
At the edge of some laggard sun-drowned stream;

But over their depths the lashes sweep,
For Summer is lying to-day asleep.

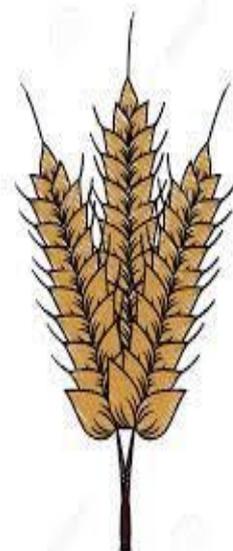
The north wind kisses her rosy mouth,
His rival frowns in the far-off south,

And comes caressing her sunburnt cheek,
And Summer awakes for one short week,

Awakes and gathers her wealth of grain,
Then sleeps and dreams for a year again.

Happy Harvest time,

Graham.



Services in October and November

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

6 th October	9.30 a.m.	Matins
20 th October	6.00 p.m.	Evensong
3 rd November	9.30 a.m.	Matins
3 rd November	10.30 a.m.	All Souls
10 th November	10.30 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday
17 th November	6.00 p.m.	Evensong

Rosslyn Chapel Visit



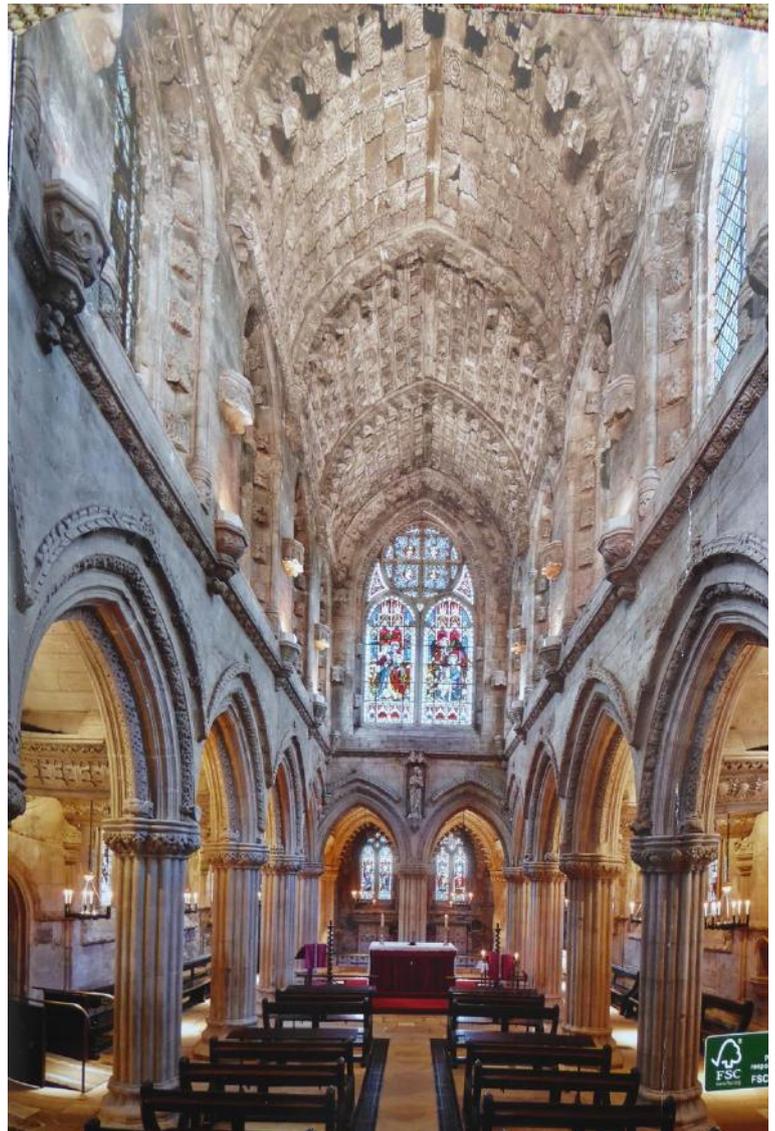
Rosslyn Chapel is approximately 10 miles south of Edinburgh. Joyce organised our visit and transport with her usual efficiency. There were 28 of us and one canine, Arthur.

We set off from Perth around 10.30 on 24th July and arrived in lovely weather in time for coffee, before going into the Chapel, where we listened to the final part of the Episcopalian service. Joyce had organised a member of the staff to give us a brief history of the chapel, which was founded in 1446 and took



40 years to build. We were guided through all the beauty of its setting and the mysterious symbolism of its stonework. The most interesting carving was, for most of us, the Apprentice Pillar, with the sad story attached to it. In 1995, the Rosslyn Chapel Trust was established to care for the Chapel by overseeing its ongoing conservation and public opening. Thanks to The Da Vinci Code finale having been filmed here, tourists flocked to see it and enough money was raised to complete the restoration.

We then explored the different areas, looking at all the wonderful carvings and features. Anne Addison met King Robert the Bruce, resplendent in crown and robes, along with his wife, and we heard the true history of the time, not the Braveheart version. I also met William the resident feline, who slept through being stroked by all different nationalities. Perhaps he is trying to bring it to our attention that the domestic cat is the only animal not mentioned in the Bible.



This was followed by lunch in the coffee shop and some time wandering around the grounds, before setting off for home.

We are all very grateful to Joyce for arranging such an enjoyable outing.

Margaret Terris

September 15th – Lest we Forget

September 15th is a day pregnant with history. In 1940 it marked the climax of the Battle of Britain, when Goering made the strategic mistake of turning his bombers away from the RAF fighter airfields onto London. By an irony of history, Willi Messerschmitt, the designer of the Me 109, died on this day in 1978. On September 15th 1830, the Liverpool to Manchester Railway was opened in the presence of the Duke of Wellington, who was the Prime Minister. Stephenson's *Rocket* was one of the locomotives on display, but unfortunately it knocked down the MP for Liverpool, William Huskisson, who became the first person to die in a railway accident. By another irony of history, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the great railway engineer, died on this day in 1859. On this day in 1935, the Nuremburg Laws were promulgated, whereby the Jews were deprived of German citizenship. These were not laws passed by a legislative assembly. The Reichstag had been burnt down in 1933, the year the Nazis came to power. Rather, they were decrees by Hitler that marked the beginning of the persecution and eventual extinction of the Jews of Germany.

There are very few members of the Few who fought in the Battle of Britain still alive. The youngest people to have survived the Holocaust must be nearly ninety. Surely it is now time, some will say, to consign these stories of heroism and horror to the pages of history. Moreover, the technological marvel of the steam locomotive has been overtaken by more refined engineering. Recently I travelled on Eurostar which reached a speed of nearly 200 mph.

I am a historian by trade and by inclination, but that does not mean that I live in the past. I believe that by studying men and events of the past we can more closely evaluate the present and form a rational assessment of likely futures. And the past can supply dire warnings. It is indubitably the case that Fascism and Communism have between them caused untold misery to many millions, and yet there are still people who espouse these doctrines. Visitors to Auschwitz-Birkenau are appalled by what happened

because they see the physical evidence and it is entirely fitting that our schoolchildren should visit that grim place. Alas, there are no monuments to those who suffered under Stalin and the Soviets, or who perished in the Cultural Revolution in China. Collective amnesia rules in those countries. In Hong Kong, the protesters have invoked the spirit of Tiananmen Square thirty years ago, but that episode has been written out of official Chinese memory.

Unpopular Roman emperors suffered *damnatio memoriae*, that is to say, their names were obliterated from inscriptions; they were excised from history. In the same way Stalingrad has become Volgograd and Leningrad has reverted to St Petersburg. Another example: Edward Colston was a great benefactor of the city of Bristol in the C18. A school and a concert hall were named after him, but he has been vilified and his name removed from the school and concert hall because he was a slave owner. So was George Washington, but no one is suggesting that the name of the capital of the United States be changed. To carry this line of thinking to its logical conclusion, we should ban the novels of Jane Austen because she has characters who own plantations in the Caribbean. Silliness of this kind is becoming all too prevalent and I suspect that those who promote it do so for reasons of self-advertisement, or more sinister agendas. Surely past evils and those who perpetrated them should be remembered just as much as those who conferred blessings. Human beings are not binary creatures, but a mixture of good and evil, and we must be careful about projecting our twenty-first century values into the past.

In short, for good and ill the past has made us what we are. There is no wand that can magic it away. There is no such thing as starting with a clean slate. Unless we respect the lesson of History, we will make the same mistakes as before. By all means remember heroism on Battle of Britain Day, but also remember the Nuremburg Laws, as Kipling wrote, *Lest we forget*.

David Willington

Fellowship

After breaking for the main Summer months the Fellowship started their new season of regular monthly meetings on the usual second Monday afternoon of September. There was a very good turnout for a games afternoon with each table doing something different. This ranged from those at one table who concentrated on completing a jigsaw while members at other tables played Jenga, Dominoes, Boggle and Snakes and Ladders. The afternoon was rounded off with the usual tea and cake.

In October we will be going out for our afternoon tea. A large table has been booked for us at the Black Watch Museum Café for the afternoon of Monday 14th October at 2.30pm. Joyce will be trying to finalise numbers about a week beforehand so that she can let the Café know how many to expect and also allow us time to work out who needs lifts and how many drivers we have. If for any reason you haven't been contacted but wish to go then let either Joyce or myself know.

Jean Hendry

Fundraising

The Silent Auction held recently was a great success. There were a number of sought-after items where the bidding was fierce. Along with the wine, cheese etc. there was also cake as we celebrated a wedding anniversary too. The total raised for church funds was £1,721.50p with Gift Aid to be added which will take the total over £2,000. Thanks are due to all those who contributed to the evening.

On Sunday 8th September an Organ Recital was held. This raised funds of £332.60 to which Gift Aid will be added.

Date for your Diary



St Andrew's Night at St John's

Friday 29th November 2019

7.30pm in the Threshold

Further details to follow

Sunday Lectionary

October 6 Pentecost 17

Matins: Psalm 136

1 John 2. 1-17

Mark 10. 2-16

Psalm 37. 1-10

2 Timothy 1. 1-14

Luke 17. 5-10

October 13 Pentecost 18

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2. 8-15

Luke 17. 11-19

October 20 Pentecost 19

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.5

Luke 18. 1-8

Evensong: Psalm 121

1 John 3.16 – 4.6

Mark 10. 35-45

October 27 Pentecost 20

Psalm 84. 1-6

2 Timothy 4. 6-8, 16-18

Luke 18. 9-14

November 3 All Saints

Matins: Psalm 111 (117)

Rev 7. 9-17

Luke 6. 17-31

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1. 11-23

Luke 6. 20-36

Nov 10 Remembrance Sunday

Psalm 90

1 Corinthians 15. 51-57

John 6. 37-40

November 17 Pentecost 23

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3. 6-13

Luke 21. 5-19

Evensong: Psalm 95

Rev 1. 4-18

Luke 9. 1-6

November 24 Christ the King

Psalm 46

Colossians 1. 11-20

Luke 23. 33-43

September 29 Harvest Festival

Psalm 126

1 Timothy 2.1-7

Matthew 6.25-3

A Date for your Diary

On Friday October 11th at 7.30 p.m. there will be a concert given by Plaidson; the theme will be 'Songs of the Scottish Soldier'. Plaidson is a duo of Dr Nicky Small, a professional historian, and Syd House, MBE, a retired forester and expert on Scotland's plant hunters. Nicky's lead vocals have been finely tuned over many years singing at ceilidhs, competitions and in various operatic productions; Syd accompanies her on guitar and harmony vocals. They share a passion for Scots history and the rich heritage of song with which it is intertwined. They have performed together over many years. From Burns to Scott through Lady Nairne and Hamish Henderson as well as their own compositions, they will introduce you to a rich source of characters and the songs associated with them.



There will be a retiring collection and refreshments served afterwards in the Threshold.

Inspiring Visitors at Café Church

At Café Church on 14th August a group of about 30 of us were treated to a lively and convincing story of how God works in our lives - despite our best efforts to thwart him.

Miryam and Pepe Hernandez were born in Mexico and brought up as good Catholics, which meant, at that time and place, walking on different sides of the road from non-Catholics. They met, married and had their children in Mexico, then Pepe's work took him to El Paso on the Mexican-Texas border and, after one or two other moves, to Canada. Miryam began to jib at the northerly drift to ever colder climates, other personal ambitions claimed her attention and, said Miryam, the relationship wasn't working.

"Miryam", interposed Pepe at this point, "is in fact my second wife - but she was also my first". (Greeted with smiles and wide-eyes from the audience). They divorced and went their separate ways, but found that didn't work for them either. In her confusion and distress Miryam began to apply herself to the Bible with more attention, and to understand the full implications of Jesus's sacrifice for us and the command to love one another. And she urged us to do likewise. Eventually they found their way back to each other, made a whole new commitment to each other, and were in no doubt that God had meant them to be together.

The trouble is, self, self, self gets in the way all the time. Whenever we find someone unlikeable or “other”, we immediately seek the support of others to dislike them with us, in the urge to bolster our self-justification and self-esteem, rather than obeying the command to love our neighbour and put our trust in God. They left us with the message that love conquers all things, that no matter how chaotic and disturbing the world about us appears, we need not be afraid - perfect love casts out fear. In our homes and communities, and in our personal lives, we can and must shine the light which disperses darkness, allows hope, and shows the way ahead.

There was rapt attention, smiles and nods of recognition and agreement, throughout. Tony voiced our thanks and Shelley said the closing prayer.

Judy Norwell





**Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld
and Dunblane**

DIOCESAN GATHERING 2019

SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER

ST NINIAN'S CATHEDRAL

Come and enjoy an afternoon of shared experiences with friends from across the diocese.

- Doors open 1.30pm (please bring your own packed lunch - tea, coffee, etc. provided)
- Optional activities as we gather together
- Welcome from Bishop Ian at 2.30pm
- Experience short tasters on:
 - young people in the church
 - worship that inspires
 - engaging with our communities
 - finding new resources
- Bishop Ian and guest in conversation
- Closing Evensong at 4.30pm
- Parking is FREE on Sundays!
- Booking not required



Annie's Ordination



Annie Mackay Hughes was ordained Deacon by the Right Reverend Ian Paton at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, on Saturday 28th September 2019. Annie will now serve as a Curate at St John's and we very warmly welcome her to our Church family.



Rotary Calendar 2020

For the past two years we have sold the Kinnoull Rotary Calendar at St. John's. As part of the club's support for local charities and organisations, of every Calendar sold (£10) £8 is returned to the organisation selling it. The result has been that about £800 has been returned to St John's for its work and ministry in Perth.

Therefore during October the 2020 Calendar will be on sale at St John's on Sundays at Coffee. In this painless way you not only purchase an attractive Calendar of Perthshire scenes and raise some funds for St John's, but also contribute to the Rotary Club's support of local and international projects (in the last 6 years a total of over £60,000 has been raised.)

There is the added incentive if you wish to take part in a "lucky Number" draw. Each month cash prizes of £100 and £50 are won and twice in the year a special prize of £1000. Details of this are included with the Calendar.

Bishop Bruce and Ken Thompson, both members of Kinnoull Rotary Club, will be available at Coffee to sell the Calendar or it can be directly ordered by contacting Bishop Bruce 01738 441172.

Bishop Bruce



Organ Recital

Alexander Wallace is following his father as Organ Scholar of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. On Sunday 8th September he gave a recital of works by Bach, Vierne, Langlais and others in which he demonstrated a wide range of musical styles with astonishing virtuosity. All the pieces he played from memory. This was indeed a *tour de force*. He is eighteen years old and will be reading Maths at Cambridge. His recital brought in, with Gift Aid, £395 for church funds.

Forthcoming Event



**Sunday 17th November (after Evensong) at
7.30 p.m.**

Ferntower Jazz with Gordon Murch

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 to the Church Office for our December/January issue by

Sunday 17th November

To help with costs of printing please let the office know if you are happy for your copy to be sent by email. Send your details to:
office@episcopal-perth.org.uk



Flowers at the Church door

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People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
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Lay Representative	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	
Alternate Lay Rep	Christine Bracewell		
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell		secretary@
Treasurer	Peter Marsh	575040	treasurer@
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	248120	hands@
PVG	Malcolm Moore	639963	pvg@
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Sacristan	Vivienne Underwood		
Team Convenors			
Casting the Net	TBA		
Ministry	Alan McPherson	552337	
Finance	Peter Marsh	575040	
Communications	Eleanor McGourty	634999	
Facebook	Shelley Marsh		
Children	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buildings and Eco	David Maclehose	636147	
Social	TBA		
Church Activities			
Intercessors Group	Tony Mason	627870	
Flowers	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Magazine	David Willington	813787	
Fellowship	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buggy Club	Eunice McPherson	552337	
Young Church	Jean Hendry	623603	
Links	Ruth Harris	621379	
Traidcraft	Rhiannon Miller	625903	
Christian Aid	Elaine Cameron	441172	
PACT	Jean Hendry	623603	
Threshold bookings	Eleanor McGourty	634999	office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

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