



St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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June and July 2020

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Canon Graham has kindly invited me to pen this 'Quest' letter to you and has asked me to include *his* warm greetings to everyone.

May is a month that brings back good memories from ten years ago when I attended a wonderful retreat with the Anglican Sisters of Whitby. There I encountered a poem by Edward Thomas. It is called 'May 23rd' and begins with these lines. 'There never was a finer day, And never will be while May is May.' He goes on to talk of the sun's warmth, rain from thunderstorms, cowslips, midges, bluebells – and nightingales. Much of what he mentions we will have experienced this May. For me, the song of the blackbird more than compensates for the lack of a nightingale, '...pouring forth its soul abroad in an ecstasy'! Over and above these delights, there appeared in last night's mild and quiet skies, a magnificent super moon or 'flower moon'. Such blessings are to be savoured.

The healing and reassurance they offer are welcome, a glorious reminder of the beauty of our creator God. But at present it all is so very deeply paradoxical. Just down the road in hospitals and care homes, health workers have been dealing for months on end with the horrors of pandemic. Others have lost jobs or find lockdown unbearable. To them, the joys of the song of a blackbird and scent of bluebells may seem like a foolish fantasy from a distant world. And yet, wartime poets like Edward Thomas knew all about that kind of contradiction as they penned their poetry under shellfire during the months of hell in the trenches of France.

As I write these words on VE Day, I wonder if those soldiers watching poets write verses in the midst of death and destruction believed them mad, believed that hope had gone and God with it. They lived in an absence of blossom laden boughs, choruses of birdsong and loved ones, surrounded instead by cataclysmic events that shattered minds and spirits.

But absence and not being visible did not mean the precious things were lost. Inner eyes could still see. And, in these post resurrection days in our

calendar, this took me to reflect on Christ's physical absence from his disciples and indeed from us. Whereas the historical facts of two world wars were visible events, what distinguishes Christ's resurrection, is that it is 'visible' only with the *eyes of faith*.

I think most of us will emerge from lockdown knowing a good deal more about absence not least from church worship and warm fellowship. Like the wartime poet writing elegies surrounded by the darkness of death and loss, however, our inner eyes of faith still function. God has not left us. '...in the here and now even faith sees all the things of God *only partially and as in a mirror*, it must be supported in the darkness of our lives by *patience* and the perseverance of hope'. (Tomas Halik, [*Patience with God*](#))

We know that, by the grace of God, into whatever lies ahead, hope, faith and love will be with us always. Let's pray the goodness of others is not forgotten after these hard times. When reconstruction begins, let's pray that all may work towards a world more compassionate, more humble, and more widely infused by the love of Jesus Christ.

With my loving prayers and blessings to you and yours,

Annie (Curate)



A Note from the Treasurer

First I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who changed from using freewill offering envelopes to giving by standing order, have sent me cheques, arranged to have envelopes collected or have made additional one-off contributions as a means of supporting the church at this time.

Two sources of income have been seriously affected by lockdown and the downturn in economic activity. Understandably there have been no hall lets and the dividend income we receive from investments has fallen by approximately 50% as company profits which generate the source of their dividend payments have been badly hit.

Our major outgoings have reduced only slightly, primarily as a result of placing two members of staff on furlough with the church making up the 20% necessary to ensure there has been no loss of income to the individuals concerned. Other major ongoing expenses include quota, insurance and contractual payments for gas and electricity have continued even though we are consuming virtually no energy at present.

It is not all doom and gloom however. The Vestry agreed to provide contributions to support the work of The Aberlour Trust and more locally Greyfriars hostel. We have also purchased a licence to hold meetings using Zoom which has made decision making more effective and efficient. For the non IT readers of this I can only say it is a very clever addition to computers which allows meetings such as the Vestry to take place from the safety of everyone's own homes and we get to see and hear each other, although as chair of the Vestry Graham gets to control who gets can speak. I think he enjoys turning me off when he has heard enough about finance!

Going forwards we will be keeping a very close eye on how the restrictions affect our finances and reviewing our options regularly. In the meantime if anyone wishes to discuss how they can assist the church financially I am more than happy to have a chat with you. My home number is 01738 575040. For anyone wanting to make a cheque out to the church it is important to use the full payee name on the account which is

The Vestry of St John's Episcopal Church Perth

With two other St John's in Perth the bank is very particular about this.

Stay safe.

Peter

Ash Wednesday Disaster

Having read the Ash Wednesday Prayer in the April/May edition of Quest, I was reminded of an event which took place on 25th February 2004 - Ash Wednesday!

I had been organist at Bankfoot Church of Scotland (in the parish of Auchtergaven & Moneydie) since 1986. I was very fond of the pipe organ and over the years had seen it transformed by the local organ builder, Sandy Edmonstone, into one of the finest examples of its type.

On Ash Wednesday disaster struck as the result of a fire in a skip (which ought never to have been started) and a vicious north wind. Flaming tinder from the skip blew onto the church roof and the rest as they say, is history. In no time at all the church burned to the ground as villagers looked on in dumbstruck amazement. My beloved organ was no more.

However, the story does not end there. A few days later a friend of mine, who also attended the church, was wandering in the graveyard surveying the devastation when he came across a fragment of charred paper being tossed about by the wind. Lifting it up, he recognised it as a fragment of a page from the pulpit Bible. He salvaged it, had it framed and presented it to me. This may seem all very well but the real significance lies in the verses which survived the conflagration.

From Isaiah chapter 1, verses 30-31 are interesting.

30 “You will be like an oak with faded leaves,
like a garden without water.

31 The mighty man will become tinder,
and his work a spark;
both will burn together,
with no-one to quench the fire.”

Scary, don't you think?

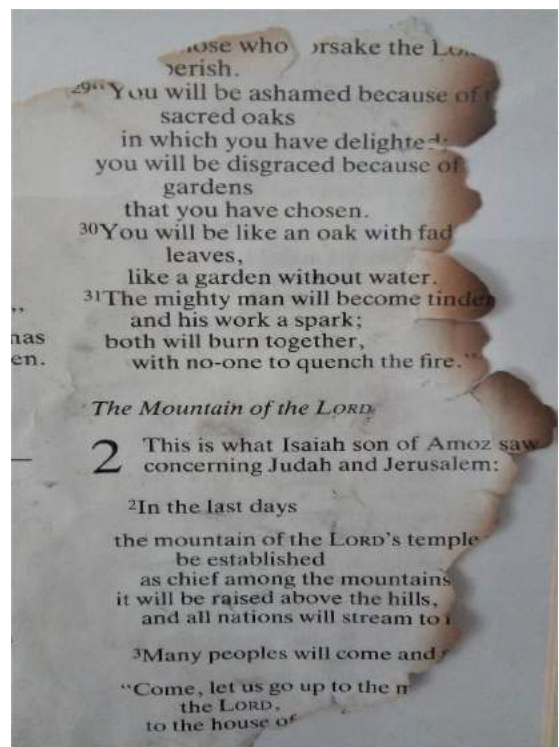
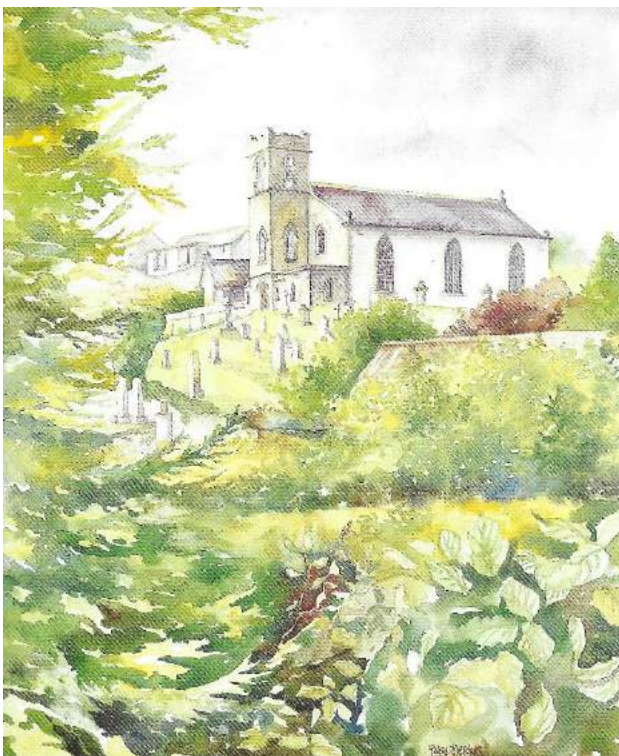
I am no theological scholar but it seems to me that God (or Isaiah?) was in a fairly judgemental frame of mind in chapter 1. However, the fragment continues into part of chapter 2. This is paraphrased in one of my favourite hymns which we used to sing at school assemblies (it *must* be sung to the tune ‘Glasgow’).

“Behold! the mountain of the Lord
in latter days shall rise
On mountain tops above the hills,
And draw the wondering eyes.

To this the joyful nations round,
All tribes and tongues, shall flow;
Up to the hill of God, they’ll say,
And to his house we’ll go.”

Perhaps we should hold onto the last line of verse 2 as our aim, once Covid-19 is defeated.

Ian Young



Christian Aid



Christian Aid Week May 10 – 16, 2020

By the time you are reading this, Christian Aid Week will seem like a long-distant memory!

You will have realised that all the activities which we at St John's had planned for this year had to be cancelled, including Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, coming to speak at our 10.30 Service, Sunday May 24, followed by a fund-raising lunch, and an ecumenical fund-raising walk around the North Inch. The sponsored Bridges Walks, Andrew Forbes' Organ Recital at St John's Kirk, and other events have not happened.

However, I was very grateful to our Rector, who decided to give the short Service on Sunday May 10, a Christian Aid focus. We at St John's had already agreed not to attempt any door-to-door collecting; instead I set up an online envelope, an e-envelope. As this will remain open until June 10, it may be the next Quest before I can say how much this has collected.

Christian Aid has had a particularly difficult passage in recent months. Long before the coronavirus crisis, it had been decided to reduce staffing in Scotland, and to close the Glasgow office. Initially this was to happen summer 2020, but with the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) anticipated November 2020, they decided to retain that office until 2021. As far as I know, that is still the intention.

There are many relief agencies that do invaluable work with the poorest, most vulnerable people in the world. But I believe Christian Aid goes further, and this is one of the reasons I strongly support their work. They do not only provide immediate relief, but they aim to empower the people so that they will be able to stand on their own feet in the future. Christian Aid works with other local agencies, whatever country they are in, to ensure they are better equipped to fend for themselves in the future; given knowledge that they may never be so badly trapped again.

So in this pandemic, CAid is drawing from their experience with the Ebola crisis to inform communities how they may prevent and delay infection: what the covid-19 risks are; the need for hand-washing, social distancing, and so on. Along with other local partners, they train health personnel and frontline key aid workers, to help limit the impact of coronavirus in the world's most disadvantaged communities.

This is why this CAW found me digging out my trusty bicycle, (which hadn't ventured out of the garden shed for many months!), checking its tyres and gears, tentatively donning my helmet and trying a round of the North Inch. And then (to my husband's concern) deciding that I would attempt a sponsored 100k cycle - 50 North Inch circuits to raise money for Christian Aid.

This has been made so much more enjoyable with a cycling companion! David Willington emailed saying he too enjoyed cycling, and would be happy to join me. He did, and we completed the 100k Friday of Christian Aid Week, with David saying this is about 75 miles – now that sounds a very long cycle ride! With many thanks for your interest and donations!

Elaine Cameron

Sunday Lectionary

7 June Trinity Sunday

Eucharist Psalm 8, 2 Cor.
13.11-13, Matthew 28 16-20
Matins Psalms 93, 150, Ezek.
1.4-10, 22-28a, Mark 1.1-13

14 June Pentecost 2

Eucharist Psalm 116. 1-2, 12-
19, Romans 5,. 1-8, Matthew
9.35-10.8 (9-23)

21 June Pentecost 3

Eucharist Psalm 86.1-10,16-18,
Romans 6.1b-11, Matthew 10,
24-39
Evensong Psalm 49, Acts 27. 1-
12, Luke 8. 26-39

28 June Pentecost 4

Eucharist Psalm 13, Romans
6.12-23, Matthew 10. 40-42

5 July Pentecost 5

Eucharist Psalm 45.10-17 or S
of S.2.8-13, Romans 7. 15-25a ,
Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

12 July Pentecost 6

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

19 July Pentecost 7

Eucharist Psalm 139.1-12,23-
24, Romans 8. 12-25, Matthew
13.24-30,36-43.

26 July Pentecost 8

Eucharist Psalm 105.1-11(45b)
or Psalm 128, Romans 8.26-39,
Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Reflections on Lockdown

In an article I wrote for *Quest* in January entitled 'Don't worry. Be happy', I suggested that despite potential dangers from excessive use of antibiotics, the demographic time bomb, climate change, economic collapse and global extinction, we should keep our chins up and not worry. After all, as TS Eliot said, human kind cannot bear very much reality. At the same time we heard of an outbreak of a virus in China and we thought, well, these things happen in China, like bird 'flu and Sars. Yet within eight weeks we were in lockdown, the Prime Minister was on the point of death and the economy was going down the plughole.

At the time of writing, mid-May, there seems to be little change ahead for the next month or so. We have been fortunate in that the weather since lockdown started has been sunny and generally warm. The rivers are very low. Soon farmers will be complaining but I think that after such a wet winter there must be enough residual moisture in the ground to tide us over. The first few weeks of lockdown would have been hard indeed if it had been a damp spring.

Those fortunate to have a garden have been able to enjoy unrestricted fresh air. Those living in the country can leave the house and walk distances without meeting anyone, or perhaps greeting people at a safe distance. I have noticed that people, even complete strangers, more readily exchange greetings and cyclists wave to each other. Families are out on the pavements, the young children with balance bikes or scooters. The roads are freer of traffic and they say that pollution is down.

Supermarkets have been very efficient in ensuring that social distance is maintained, and most items are available. Those who cannot get to the shops have been supported by neighbours. Generally there has been a good spirit abroad and most people have obeyed the rules. However, it must be admitted that life must be very difficult for a family in a high rise block, with screaming children and no money coming in. And spare a thought for those in care homes, where infection can spread very easily among the frail and elderly.

We must be thankful for modern devices like Skype and Zoom which can connect families and enable many people to work from home. But it is hard for new grandparents who cannot hold their grandchildren, and everyone must miss some form of physical contact. How long this situation will last is anyone's guess, and there is the uncertainty for many people as to whether there will be a job for them at the end of it all. Those in government have a very difficult decision to make, balancing the need to defeat the virus and restore the economy. Armchair epidemiologists and armchair economists are having a field day, and twenty-twenty hindsight is a wonderful thing. We have to trust the authorities and pray that with God's help they will make the right decisions.

David Willington

Here are some reflections on the lockdown sent in by members of the congregation to the Editor.

As we approach the anniversary of VE Day I find any comparison with wartime quite meaningless. At that time, despite bombing, families separated and news of casualties, we had physical companionship. Lifelong friendships grew from air raid shelters, evacuation and war service. Some of us remember the vast explosion of joy, a huge release of tension despite the sadness and loss families had experienced. This time the whole thing will be a gradual trickle and I do hope any celebrations will not see the over 70s looking on with their noses pressed to the window.

Roll on the skip reopening so that I am encouraged to tidy some cupboards; the chiropodist returning; the hairdresser reopening; the home helps coming back. A big thank you to the gardeners and window cleaner and Sainsbury's delivery staff. My walk around the block has shown me some lovely gardens and everyone seems to have very clean cars! The best time is when my daughter Catherine comes to change my bed linen and take away the washing and we see each even distantly. We speak in the phone every day and my other daughter, Sarah, phones from Colchester to report on the progress of her chemotherapy for breast cancer. Bless the medical staff for enabling that to continue.

Sonia Dowse

I am worried. Coronavirus? No. The brasses in the church. Just imagine they are languishing there getting duller and duller and I can't get my hands on them.

However, one of the benefits of staying at home is the discovery of being able to read books; I never really read more than the Saga Magazine.

This passage slightly amused me when I discovered: 'Miss Mounsey the occupier of the chair, a sparrow-like spinster whose attendance at the meeting heralded the fact that she had for once taken a break from her purgatorial pastime of polishing the brasses in the local church.'

I only hope as I carry out this onerous task that it does not lead me to purgatory – or I'll tell who sent me there.

Mr Shine (alias RK)

Way back over the weekend of Mothering Sunday, which was the day before Lockdown officially started, my hackles were raised by the advice that over 70s were vulnerable and should stay at home and families should keep them safe and not visit them. I decided I would be as old as I felt and that the year of my birth needed to change to 1951! I then went off to visit my whole family over that weekend. However, since then nobody has been allowed to visit anyone and I have stuck by the rules.

For those, like me, who live alone and who have a weekly routine of a variety of different activities such that most of each day is usually spent elsewhere, how to fill each day legally did feel like a challenge. The length of the single outing for exercise was not legally defined and normally my day would start with a trip to Perth Leisure Pool at 6.30 am so I also needed to find a replacement for this to maintain fitness. The result has been regular walks of 6 – 8 miles, always walking from home, in the beautiful countryside that surrounds Perth in what has been the best spring weather that I can remember. It has made me feel very privileged to both have a garden, which has been getting more attention than usual, and live in such a beautiful place as Perth, rather than being stuck indoors in an overcrowded flat in a large city with only limited access to a crowded park. Interestingly, I keep meeting on my walks regular early morning swimmers in various locations doing the same as me, still trying to keep fit. I think I have met and chatted with about twelve of them in total, some more than once.

In an effort to do something useful and develop a routine of some sort I have been doing shopping for a couple of members of the congregation. This has developed into a routine of phoning them on Monday evenings to find out what they require, then going to Tesco's early on Tuesday morning to see what on their lists is actually available, bringing it home, sorting it and then setting off on foot with a rucksack and a bag to deliver it. The purchasing has been an interesting challenge as I navigate the Tesco's one way system while trying to identify items that I have never had reason to buy before and don't always know what they are or where to look for them. My daughter came up with the helpful suggestion of Googling the product and a picture comes up of the product with a brief description of it. I now know that Fairy Pods go in a washing machine, not to look for Cif Lemon Cream amongst cold desserts, and what a packet of Lotus biscuits looks like. If a product isn't available it is much more difficult to decide whether an alternative is appropriate for somebody else than it is if shopping for oneself especially if the alternative is more expensive.

I feel I have also seen and chatted with a number of the congregation as when I know I will be passing close to somebody's house I have on several occasions phoned them, said I am about to walk past their house and this has resulted in

conversations from the street or garden through open windows or at an appropriate distance from their door.

This has become my new normal along with watching Graham and Annie's Sunday morning service followed by the service led by an SEC Bishop but I really look forward to worshipping again in St John's.

Jean H

The last few weeks have been quite an adventure! Off I trundled to London for a five day nannying job in mid March and I'm still here six weeks later! So far lock down has enabled me to develop a variety of new skills including: teaching - I'm home schooling my two eldest charges. However, according to them I should "stick to the day job". Thanks guys ; DIY - my proudest achievement so far is building a flat pack play kitchen for my youngest charge (thank goodness he likes it!); dressmaking - my 6 year old's Barbie now has a more extensive wardrobe than any celebrity; online shopping - I've discovered the best way to keep the house keeper happy is to find her a regular supply of Jaffa cakes (thank you Amazon Prime!); patience - when the children have asked me several times in one day if the government considers the tooth fairy to be a key worker (still working on an answer for that one). I hope my skill set will continue to grow over the next few weeks but through all this learning, I think I've experienced every emotion possible. There have been moments of joy, disbelief, exhaustion and frustration. It's times such as this when I'm grateful for the strength faith has given me and the grounding comfort of prayer.

Maihri Cameron



Working from Home

The dining room table has now become a work station for me and Chris. Thankfully it is large enough to hold the 4 laptops, 3 mobile phones and an i-pad which all seem to be necessary. It also doubles up as my recording studio. The dining room chairs (now in the garage) have been replaced by office-chairs and my back is feeling much better as a result.

Each day has merged into a sameness with my world reduced to approximately 12" x 7" as I sit glued to one of the laptop screens. My mood varies wildly – the corona-coaster. Some days I feel motivated and I enthusiastically record videos and make up quizzes for my classes. Other days I swim through treacle.

I worry for the pupils. I know that many of them have difficult home lives at the best of times. School is a safe place for them where adults are fair and consistent and in control. What is happening to those pupils now? How are families living in small flats with four kids managing to cope?

I miss seeing the pupils – even the wee “cherubs”.

But I can't do anything about that. I believe that the work I am doing is important for those pupils who are engaging with it and is even appreciated by some. “I really liked these patterns and sequences, Miss”. And so I keep going.

At some point I will be able to go back into school and life will return to some sort of normal. And then I will miss sitting on an office chair at dinner.

Cath Bodrell



Alone Together

The website www.alonetogether.com is a platform created by CTVC, an independent production company producing content on ethical issues from the perspective of all faiths and none. In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, CTVC has partnered with Father Christopher Jamison OSB to share new resources to help people cope with lockdown and isolation. For the Internet-shy it is an exceptionally easy site to use, needing minimal 'navigation'. The great thing is, the content is not in the form of screeds of text that need close reading on screen or printing of endless scripts. It consists of short bite-size video talks between one and three minutes long, each with its own helpful message. But for those who don't use the Internet at all, the following summarises the key points made, and if anyone would like more 'text', I'd be happy to provide further information on titles and other references to print media.

Dom Christopher Jamison OSB is a Benedictine monk, appointed in 2017 Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation. He may be familiar to some readers from the BBC series *The Monastery* in 2017 (which I didn't see) and has written a number of books including *Finding Sanctuary: Monastic Steps for Everyday Life*. He says that if we are living alone or self-isolating, we are beginning to live like monks and nuns, who have chosen to live like that for centuries. So he offers useful lessons from lived experience, not based on theories or dogmas; and not just from the monastic tradition but from others such as hostages, and the victims of a deep mine disaster, who were subjected to enforced isolation.

To start under the tab Helpful Reflections, Notes to a Novice, he reminds us of three things all novices experience. Although we're not doing much, we get very tired. Living by another's routine, or one of which we have less control, is for some reason tiring. 'Don't ask me why', he says, but it is so. Secondly, living in confinement we become highly critical of other people. But the things that annoy us about others are often aspects of our own personality, so we must remember the Bible story of the speck in the other person's eye and the plank in our own and try to be less critical. Thirdly, we have to live from day to day because the future is uncertain. We are used to planning ahead - work commitments, visits, holidays - novices can't. For people of faith, living in the present moment is to live in the presence of God. This section includes a lovely, salutary poem by Fr. Luke Bell OSB called *If You Can't...* and a reflection, also by Bell, on the importance of manual labour and practical tasks for 'getting out of your head and into your hands'.

This theme of manual labour has featured in both the delightful programmes on recent Sunday evenings on BBC4, *Retreat - Meditations from a Monastery*. At Pluscarden in Morayshire one Father was weaving stoles, one tending to the beehives and making honey ('*Monotonous tasks like going through a beehive are entirely compatible with living in a constant state of prayer*' said St. Benedict), one hoeing the vegetable garden, one mopping the floor. At Belmont Abbey in Hereford, one trimming the hedge, one

painstakingly crafting rosary beads, one polishing the altar furniture, one painting an icon (a specialist, a visiting Father from Peru).

Manual labour is also the subject of the video *How to Use Time in the How To...* section, which includes *Remember the Little Things*, *Cope with Social Distancing*, *Manage Anger* and *Find Silence*. If we don't have a garden, even chopping vegetables and preparing a meal can be a focus and a sacrament. '*For then they are truly human when people work with their hands*'. This is where those with well developed DIY and craft skills are fortunate. For many of us, including me, if you are not living in a largely self-sufficient community, you simply have recourse to busy-work and more mundane domestic tasks and it's sometimes difficult to believe it *matters*. But the lesson is valid.

The *Rule* of St. Benedict is rooted in establishing the rhythm and balance of the day, setting times for prayer, work, study, eating and sleeping. Jamison's excellent section on *Shaping the Day* takes up this theme. The day in confinement can seem monotonous, but attending to its different 'moods' can give it a natural rhythm and colour. Short talks are devoted to Morning, Noon and Night respectively. Some discipline may be needed to heed the alarm and get up. We should start the day with Gratitude and Grace: being grateful for what we have; asking grace to deal with the problems we might encounter later in the day. The midday period can be oppressive or depressing - the desert fathers in the crippling heat of Egypt described a noonday demon that threatened to overwhelm them. Give in to it: take a breather, step back; have some food. This can restore us and reset the clock. At night we can reflect on where God was present in our life and give thanks; and where God was absent and regret it. Then we can chart our reactions and so start to shape the following day.

Finally, a section of the website called *Isolated* presents stories from various media sources and personal experiences, including a message from Terry Waite, *What being a hostage taught me about happiness*, full of tips about the attitudes and initiatives that support us through enforced isolation. The same principles seem to apply here: it is helpful to establish a routine that includes thanking God for the smallest of mercies; if in a group, to allocate tasks or roles; to support your neighbour, for we are members one of another; to be proactive, taking some responsibility for ourselves and each other. Some discipline is needed. In other words we are learning discipleship.

Best wishes and prayers for the ongoing task.

Judy Norwell

Around Kinfauns

From my home I can look over the Tay to Moncrieff Hill, Abernethy and the Lomonds and eastward along the Carse of Gowrie. Even after 35 years I never tire of this magnificent view.



At the west end of the village is the parish church, now being converted into a family home. Here the road ends as it meets the Coronation Path, an ancient route, which when turning right passes along the burn, through farmland to the old Dundee road and on to Scone Palace.

Each stretch of the way offers more views of the Tay.

A walk through the village up to the farm is always a treat and only a few days into lockdown the first lambs were born. This walk also allows me to admire the gardens of my neighbours.

Beautiful views around Kinfauns.



Joyce Sampson

A Few Sayings

Just a few sayings we picked up in India on the last cruise.

They say money can't buy you happiness but i'd rather cry in a high end luxury BMW than on a battered old bicycle.

Forgive your enemies, but always remember their names.

If you help someone when they ask for your help you can be sure the next time they need help they will ask for you.

They say alcohol never solved anything but I do not know of any occasion when a glass of milk solved the problem.

In some countries they drive on the right hand side of the road, in others they drive on the left hand side of the road. In India it is optional.

If you are driving a Tuk Tuk you need three things; a good horn, good brakes and good luck.

Just because you go to church it does not make you a Christian just as standing in a garage does not make you a mechanic.

To be sure of hitting your target shoot first and call whatever you hit your target.

Light travels faster than sound. That is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Behind every angry woman is a man who does not understand what he has done wrong.

On any form or document which asks who to contact in the event of an emergency I always put Doctor.


You do not need a parachute to sky dive, unless of course you want to do it a second time.

Peter Marsh

Making Plans for the Weekend

Making plans for the weekend?

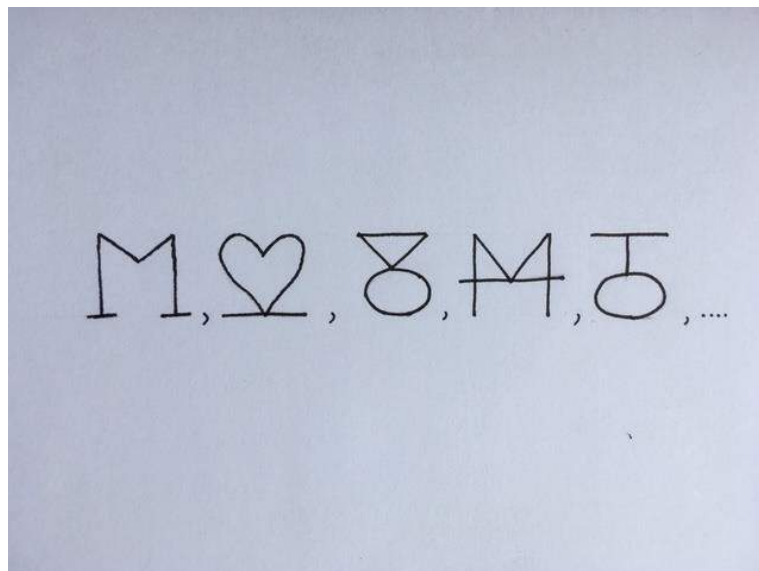
Use this simple calculation to help you work out the ideal place or activity for you!



- ? Choose a number between 1 and 9
- X Multiply it by 3
- + Add 3
- X Multiply by 3 again
- + Add the two digit number you get together

The number you get is where you will be going!

1. Pub	7. Out for dinner	13. Football in the park
2. Cinema	8. Meet up with friends	14. The Zoo
3. BBQ in the park	9. Stay at home	15. Shopping spree
4. Birthday party	10. Round of golf	16. Swimming
5. Day at the beach	11. Gym	17. Road trip to Ireland
6. Playground	12. Long weekend away	18. Theatre



A sequences puzzle: What symbol comes next in this sequence?

Along the River Earn



swans, heron and shelduck

Wildflowers and a blackbird taking a bath





THANK YOU

TO ALL THE WORKERS WHO
KEEP OUR COUNTRY GOING

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

Sunday 12th July

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