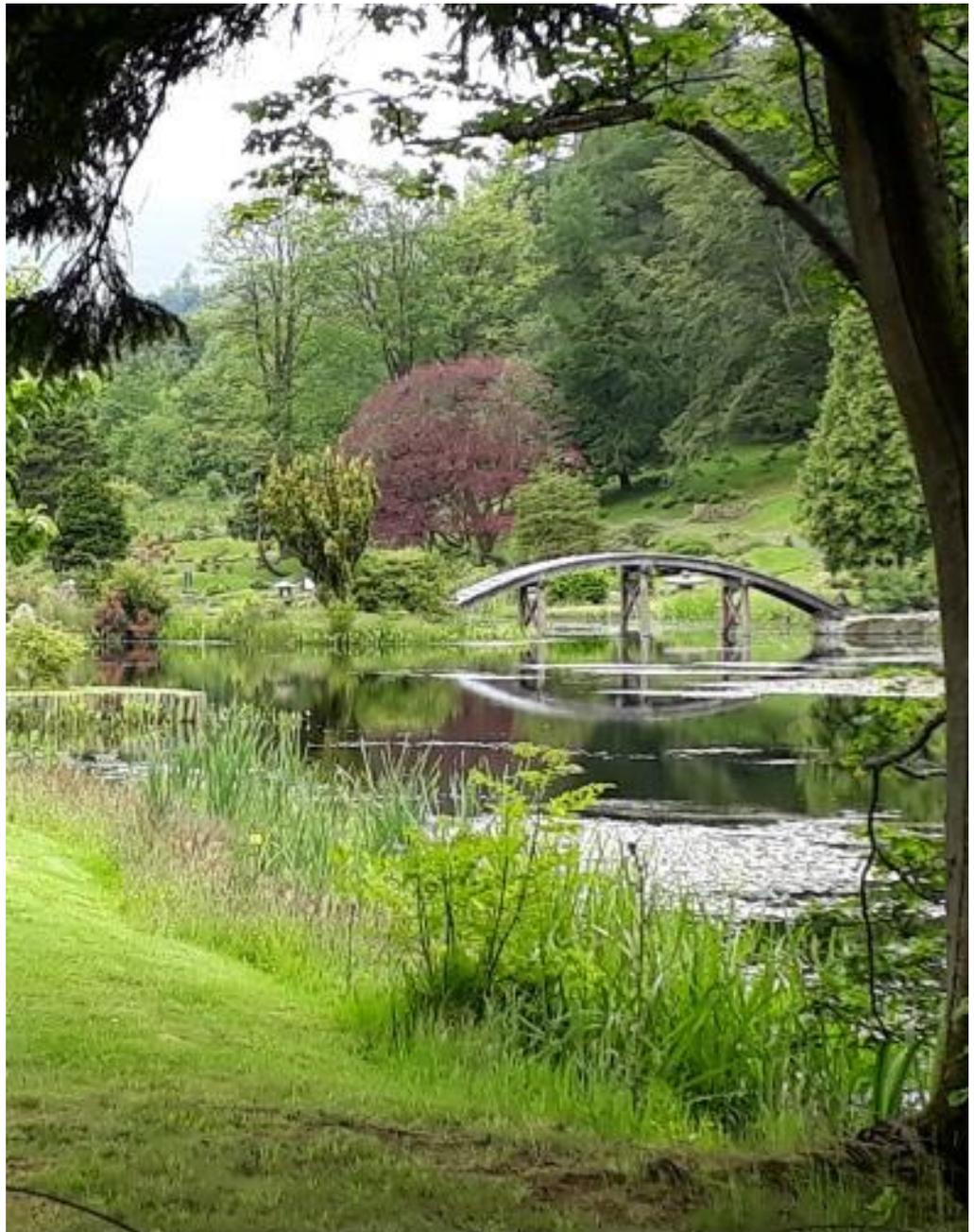




St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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August and September 2021

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I reflect on the words of that lovely old hymn, 'Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still, my heart and tongue employ'.

As restrictions in our country ease, and we find ourselves in what is being called the 'new normal', we walk together through yet another change. I feel so much now the need to carry on supporting and caring for each other, as we find new ways of living together within our Church family and community after all we have been through. The one constant thing in all of this we must remember, is Christ, the one who walks alongside us in all the ups and downs, in trouble and in joy. Nor should we fail to praise the God who surrounds us each new morning with his love and joy. As we try to resume some normality in St John's, I do hope you find your way back again to attend one of the Sunday services. It has been rather sparse lately. It would be so nice to see our lovely Church family coming together again, as we gather round word and sacrament.

I do hope that you are able to enjoy a break over the summer, even seeing and catching up with family and friends whom we have all missed. It's time to gather together again and celebrate with the folks God has given to us, not forgetting of course all those who have been hit with the pandemic in ways that have been out of their control. You continue to be very much in my prayers.

I must not forget to say thank you for all the love and support given to me since the beginning of the year. Thankfully, I had a good report from my consultant last time I made what has been an ongoing pilgrimage to Ninewells. I look ahead now, as I get back into the swing of things, with grateful thanks to all the Doctors and medical staff and all the support I've had. We are very blessed indeed with our NHS and in my case, with a very caring and loving Church community.

Once again, have a lovely summer and I do look forward to seeing you back in St. John's where we can catch up where we left off.

My love and prayers to you all,

Canon Graham.

Services

Weekly Services

Sunday 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Special Services

5th September Creation Sunday

12th September Sea Sunday

26th September Harvest Festival

Phone Contact

Graham Kingsley-Rowe requests that all future phone contact is made to his Mobile number 07813 822758 rather than to his landline.

Thank you.

Stability and ‘Flitting’!

For many years, I searched without joy for a place of retreat, a place of quiet, a place of prayer. Finally, in 2008, I discovered a priory of Benedictine Anglican Sisters in Yorkshire. They welcome others to stay with them, enjoy their hospitality and to join them in saying the Office. I booked a room immediately and travelled to Whitby. I did not realise it at the time, but subsequent visits to this Benedictine house of hospitality and prayer were to change my life.

There are many stories attached to journeying alongside the nuns, but, as David our editor has asked me to write a few words about house moving and, by definition, the changes that ‘flitting’ necessitates, I will stick to writing a little about the Benedictine concept of stability.

At first this may appear contradictory. After all, moving house entails a distinct lack of what we might initially mean when talking about stability. House moving for even the most practiced of movers – we have moved house over twenty times for Queen and Country - inevitably means living with varying degrees of confusion, chaos and things coming off the rails! Hardly a state of outer equilibrium at least!

For a monk or nun, however, under the Benedictine Rule, the call means finding God right where they are and having God at the centre of their lives. This interior stability is always utterly rooted in God. Part of the Whitby Sisters’ community prayer from Ephesians 3 says, ‘I pray.... Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.’

‘Being rooted and grounded in love’ is the key phrase from which a lifelong flourishing of faith grows, no matter the circumstances and changes that disturb outer stability and tranquillity. And so, as we work

through the changes, disturbances, whatever life throws at us, our hidden selves, our interior being, even as it is being transformed by the Holy Spirit, can rest firm and stable in our relationship with God – and for me of late, especially when ‘flitting’.



"You don't know what you got...until you move."

Rev Annie MacKay Hughes

Thank You

It is now three months since I celebrated my 80th birthday on 2nd May. I am sorry it has taken me so long to say a special thanks to all of you who helped me celebrate this particular milestone. The greetings of so many of you on the Sunday itself and through cards and generous gifts of individuals, vestry and congregation were greatly appreciated by me.

Being amongst a number at St John's, though, who have an even greater number of years to celebrate, I feel a mere "youngster" who now hopes he has still much to look forward to!!

Thank you again.

+Bruce

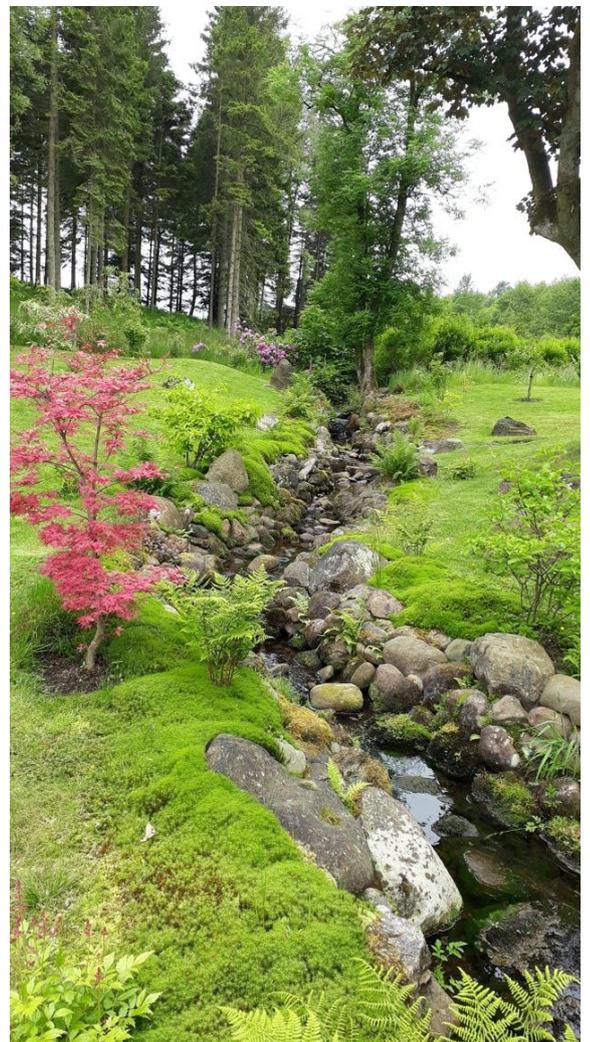
The Japanese Garden at Cowden

At the turn of the 20th century, the Scottish explorer Ella Christie returned home from a trip to the Orient inspired to build a Japanese garden.

She chose the female designer Taki Handa to create the seven acre site at Cowden Castle. Ella also received advice from Professor Suzuki who later described the garden as the best and most authentic in the western world.

Although badly vandalised in the 1960s, a team of experts have brought the garden back to life.

The garden is situated off the A91 between Muckhart and Dollar... and is definitely worth a visit.





Photographs and text by Joyce Sampson

Fellowship

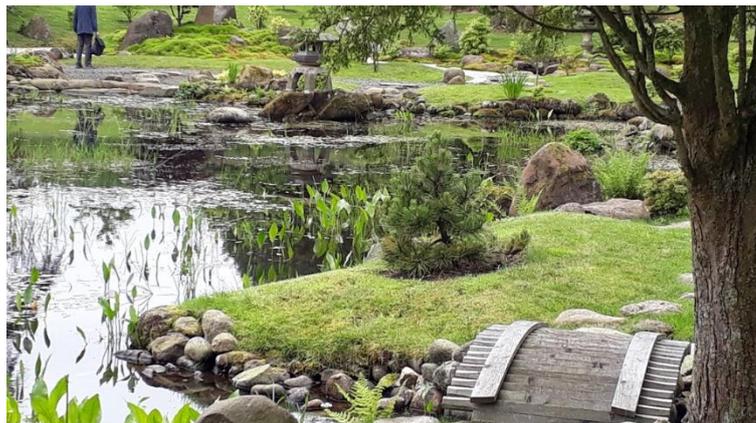
The last time the Fellowship actually met was on 9th March 2020, just two weeks before the initial Lockdown due to Covid-19. On that date, although Coronavirus cases already seemed to be increasing at an alarming rate, we were still expecting to have our normal meeting in April and also the usual Coffee Morning later that month.

Sixteen months later, with most of us double vaccinated and many of the restrictions being eased, members of the committee have been discussing the possibility of attempting to hold the usual programme of meetings on the second Monday of each month starting on Monday 13th September at 2.30pm.

At this stage all we have done is book the Threshold for the appropriate dates so that at least we have, if allowed, a place where we can meet and have a cup of tea. Any additions as to what else we might do such as asking anyone to speak to us or booking to have refreshments in another venue, will be left until nearer the time and arranged at shortish notice once we have more up to date information as to what the rules allow and also what is sensible, given the health issues of some of our members.

As I write this I am trying to think positively and that we will see a number of you on 13th September. We will do our best to publicise and let members know of any changes that may have to be made to this plan.

Jean Hendry



Sunday Lectionary August & September

August 1 Pentecost 10

Ephes.4. 1-16, John 6. 24-35

August 8 Pentecost 11

Ephes. 4. 25-5. 2, John 6. 35,41-51

August 15 Pentecost 12

Ephes. 5. 15-20, John 6. 51-58

August 22 Pentecost 13

Ephes. 6. 10-20, John 6. 59-69

August 29 Pentecost 14

James 1. 17-27, Mark 7. 1-8,14-15,21-23

September 5 Pentecost 15

James 2. 1-10{11-13}14-17, Mark 7. 24-37

September 12 Pentecost 16

James 3. 1-12, Mark 8. 27-38

September 19 Pentecost 17

James 3. 13-4.3,7-8a, Mark 9. 30-37

September 26 Harvest Festival

Philippians 4. 4-9, John 6. 25-35

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Standing Together: for dignity, for equality, for justice

I am sure that Wendy Duncan's excellent presentation outlining her commitment to Christian Aid helped swell our joint Cathedral / St John's fund-raising this year of £3500. Thanks to all of you, and to Wendy!

This month I hope you will welcome reading about some aspects of CAid's work. Reflecting the belief that all human beings are created equal in God's eyes and have innate worth, their Global Strategy 2019 – 2026 articulates their commitment to eradicate poverty, and enable the voices of the poor to be heard. They stand for dignity, for equality, for justice.

Poverty may be caused by climate change impacting badly, for example, in Kenya, where sources of water have become so unreliable that CAid are building dams, like those for Rose. You will be heartened to know that our 2021 donations will enable three dams to be built there, giving convenient access to water, whatever the weather.

Poverty is also caused by emergencies. When communities are displaced by conflict and disasters, CAid provides practical long-term support, and trying to save lives both during and after an emergency. CAid is committed to the principle of locally-led responses, believing this is the best way to ensure that the most appropriate relief work is done. This reflects their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agreed by world leaders in 2015, and the principle to 'leave no one behind'. It also mirrors the Paris Agreement of 2015 to fight climate change.

CAid's largest ever response to emergency was in 2004 to the Asia Tsunami, which affected millions in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Somalia. They provided immediate relief and followed this with support for communities to recover and rebuild their lives. In 2010, after the

devastating earthquake in Haiti, they were one of the first organisations to provide livelihood support to women street vendors, providing food for the homeless.

When I attended one of the first Scottish Christian Aid *Gatherings* for supporters, I was shocked to learn about the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) there are globally. These are people still living within their own country, but without home or livelihood. I had been well aware of the needs of refugees, but had no idea how many people, who could not claim to be refugees, were in an equally destitute state.

This, very sadly, is true of the Syrian conflict which has triggered the largest displacement crisis this century. Over six million Syrians, half of them children, are now internally displaced (IDPs); another five million have fled across borders as refugees. The current Covid-19 pandemic has compounded both situations. In Syria itself, CAid supports local partners delivering vital emergency food, especially for children, many of whom are not in school. For the refugees, CAid works with partners in Lebanon to provide trauma recovery aid, and education for children.

As you are probably aware, fund-raising in our current fragmented Covid-19 days is very hard for all charities. The CAid team in Scotland are especially grateful for the excellent fund-raising 2021 from St John's and the Cathedral. They send you all their very warmest thanks.

Elaine Cameron



Book Review

“Who was King Arthur? That question has puzzled researchers for hundreds of years, yet still no consensus has been reached. However, whether it is concluded that he was a Celtic King or a Roman Officer, or something in-between, there is one conclusion that virtually all investigators agree on: he was some kind of war leader who fought against the Saxons in Britain.

This is a fair conclusion, but it misses – or ignores – something crucial. In the legends of Arthur, he engages in a campaign into Europe and wages war against the Roman Empire. Few researchers even attempt to offer an explanation for this, most simply dismissing it as fiction. The few theories that have been offered to explain the historical origin of this part of the legend are invariably unconvincing and do not address the scale of Arthur’s campaign in the legend.”



This is the intriguing blurb on the back of a new book, *King Arthur, the Man who conquered Europe*, by the wonderfully named Caleb Howells. As a lover of History this whetted my appetite, and I duly bought the book. What an extraordinary and challenging read I have found it. The author has undertaken the most amazing research of source material from Roman literature, medieval manuscripts and notably Welsh archives. The result is a forensic dissecting of the common legendary foundations, particularly of Geoffrey of Monmouth and Gildas.

Convincing analysis and new research shows, in minute detail, how errors and omissions were made by these and other early writers and how these were compounded by subsequent writers. The detailed analysis is mind-boggling and would give Sherlock Holmes a run for his money! Consequently, this isn't a read for the faint hearted or an ideal book at bedtime. But if you want to finally discover who Arthur was, what he achieved and who some of his companions were, then stick with it and you will be well rewarded: the conclusions are awesome. Very helpfully each chapter is divided into digestible sections which one can ponder before moving on. It isn't a book to read cover to cover in one go.

Graham Kingsley-Rowe



1921

In the Archives of St John's, there are, alas, no copies of *Quest* for 1921 and our collection of copies, bound year by year, starts only after the Second World War. (*Quest* was begun in 1893 and for some reason the bound copies of 1897 have survived.) So we have no record beyond the Minutes of the Vestry for that year and they have nothing to report beyond the daily business of the church. Nevertheless, 1921 was an interesting year, 'interesting' in the sense of the Chinese curse: 'May you live in interesting times'.

The economic exhaustion and the human losses of the First World War and later (British forces were supporting the White Russians against the Bolsheviks till 1921) caused great difficulties and hardship for winners and losers alike. Upon a weary population came a further trial. From 1918 until 1920 the so-called "Spanish 'flu", which actually started in America, had spread across the globe in four phases; it was estimated that 500 million people were affected, of which up to 50 million died; in Britain the death toll was a quarter of a million. It was the biggest global pandemic since the Black Death in the fourteenth century. Spanish 'flu, unlike most influenza viruses, attacked the young and fit and pregnant, rather than the usual victims, the very young, the old and those 'with underlying health issues', to use the modern terminology. At that time there were no vaccinations capable of combating the virus. Like all viruses, in the course of time it went into remission and mutated into a less pernicious form; it is not in the interests of a virus to kill off all its potential hosts.

A census was taken in 1921 and recorded a population of the United Kingdom of 37 million. Unemployment stood at 2.7 million. There was a coal strike and the Miners' Federation were obliged to accept a pay cut with no national bargaining. The Car Tax disc was introduced. The actors Peter Ustinov and Dirk Bogarde were born, as was the late Duke of Edinburgh. Agatha Christie published her first Hercule Poirot novel *The*

Mysterious Affair at Styles and DH Lawrence published *Women in Love*. The nation's favourite piece of Classical Music, Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, was first performed in its orchestral version by Adrian Boult conducting the Queen's Hall Orchestra; Marie Hall was the soloist. In Scotland, the county of Haddingtonshire was renamed East Lothian.

On 11th July the 'Irish War of Independence' officially came to an end (and a bitter civil war followed). On 22nd June King George V opened the Parliament of Northern Ireland at Belfast City Hall. But this did not end the troubles in the North. Rioting broke out in mid July between Protestants and Catholics. Over a four day period, twenty three people were killed and over 200 homes, mostly Catholic, were destroyed. On November 21st, British troops were sent to Belfast and ten people were killed in further widespread rioting.

Is it possible that Climate Change began in 1921? On 25th June there was rain which ended a drought which had lasted 100 days. This was the driest year since 1788. Moreover, a heat wave ensued. In the south east of England temperatures were over 80° F between 22nd June and 16th July, and reached 96°F on 26th June.

In one sense, every year is an 'interesting year'. However, the events of 1921, whether the pandemic or Irish troubles or deployment of our troops or Climate Change, still have resonance today. There are always challenges to be faced, but it is to be hoped that today we are in a far better position to face them than our forebears were a century ago.

David Willington

A lesson in Biblical History

Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. If you know the Bible, even a little, you'll find this hilarious! It purports to come from a Primary School where children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following replies haven't been corrected in any way:

- In the first book of the bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals came onto in pears.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals.
- Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat an apple.

- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
- The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew King skilled at playing the liar.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Maga Carta.
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained that a man doth not live by sweat alone.
- It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- The people who followed the lord were called the twelve decibels.
- The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Graham Kingsley-Rowe



Still more books

Books still keep coming in from my family too numerous to mention. My most recent read has been ‘Pilgrims’ by Matthew Kneale. A really amusing tale of an extremely assorted group of medieval characters who set out on a pilgrimage to Rome one of whom is worried about his cat in purgatory. It has proved a light read with great characters.

I was drawn to this as I had read a previous novel of his entitled “English Passengers” about a journey to New Zealand. He obviously enjoys writing about journeys. He has also written some non-fiction including “An Atheist’s History of Belief” which might be interesting.

Sonia Dowse

From the Registers – Eternal Rest

Eliza (Isa) Reynolds:	18th February 1923 – 29 th May 2021
Captain Charles Moncrieff:	11 th January 1931 – 19 th June 2021
Elaine Kirk:	4 th January 1925 – 4 th July 2021

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 October/November issue by:

Sunday 19th September

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