



St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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October and November 2021

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I hope you've enjoyed the summer months this year, different though they have been. The one blessing has been the weather. It's been lovely to have had meetings in the garden and enjoy and appreciate the outdoors a little more.

Church has been different for all of us, yet it's lovely to see folks drifting back once again on a Sunday morning. I'm sure we have all missed each other. This month sees another addition when we begin our Thursday morning Communion Service. I know this was a popular meeting place in the past, and I'm sure it can be yet again. Coffee afterwards, will be served, and I do hope in time the cake!!!

Adapting to changes is never easy, yet we've all had to cope with change in the months that have flown past. Change has come my way too, as your Rector, as most of you will have heard by now. I was humbled and honoured to have been asked by Bishop Ian to become the new Dean of the diocese, following the retirement of Kenny, our previous Dean. As Bishop Ian explained to the Vestry, this is a big role, one in which I will need time and patience of others to allow me to grow into. This will be quite demanding for me in many ways, especially with lots of diocesan meetings, interviews etc going on. One of the reasons I agreed to do this was the wonderful support I know I have from all of you at St. John's. There will be times now where I can't physically be at everything, but as we work this out, I know I have a great team around me. I ask for your patience and understanding, as I set out on this new journey and path. God, I know, has called me and will sustain me to fulfil all that lies ahead. Bishop Ian conducted a lovely service to license me here in St. John's with the Vestry being present. I hope many of you will be able to come to the Installation in the Cathedral. We still await a date for that, so keep an eye out for it. I'd love you all to be there!

A lovely season, in my eyes, now approaches us. Not only do the Autumn leaves begin to fall, but we enter that wonderful season of remembrance with All Saints and All Souls. It is a time for us all to reflect and to give thanks to God, which leads us then forward into that season of Advent, that time of expectation and hope, as we await all that lies ahead of us once again.

An Autumn reflection:

*We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch again.*

I hope you all stay safe and well,
we move ahead, and in gratitude
and thanksgiving you enjoy the
blessings of these months.

With love to you all,
Dean Graham



as

Services

We are pleased to announce that as of the 23rd September, Thursday morning Holy Communion services will resume at 11 a.m.

Weekly Services

Sunday 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 11 a.m. Communion, coffee and a chance to chat

Special Services

31st October

All Saints

2nd November

All Souls – 7.30 p.m.

14th November

Remembrance Sunday

21st November

Christ the King

28th November

First Sunday of Advent

Please Note

The Rector's day off has now changed to a Friday. This is to align with that of the Bishop, in order to accommodate his new role as Dean.

Annie's day off will be a Monday.

Fellowship

The Fellowship actually met in the Threshold on the afternoon of Monday 13th September following what, for many years prior to Covid-19, had been the normal pattern of the 2nd Monday of September being when the Autumn / Winter season of monthly meetings started. The last time the Fellowship had met had been the 2nd Monday of March 2020 just before the first lockdown.

Amazingly there was a turnout of nineteen members and, for several, this was their first visit to the Church or Threshold for eighteen months. It was clear that just being able to meet longstanding friends face to face after so long meant a great deal to those present. All seemed delighted just to be there and able to chat and not concerned that all that the committee had laid on was tea/coffee and wrapped biscuits.

The committee had been prepared for Covid rules changing at short notice and possibly only nine or ten managing to come. We thought of, missed and sent a card to Val, who has been such a stalwart of the Fellowship for many years but who is now settling into her new home near her family in Edinburgh.

In recent years the October meeting has often taken the form of a trip to a local tea-room/café for afternoon tea. This possibility for our next meeting was discussed with those present and although it clearly appealed to some it was clear that for others it had required thought and planning just to come to the familiar premises of the Threshold and that transport would also be more complicated if going anywhere else. For this reason and also bearing in mind that just being able to use the Threshold is still a novelty, the committee have decided that the meeting on 11th October will also be an informal meeting in the Threshold.

Jean Hendry

Climate Change & Gender

My broadening horizon

As a member of Christian Aid's Advisory Committee, I have been well aware of the challenge of climate change in recent years. But I have been a slow convert to appreciating the enormity of the crisis, and the critical part we each have to play. Several events jolted my awareness of the need to think globally, while acting locally.

Becoming a grandmother five years ago was life-transforming. It was not just the joy of Maisie, the new baby, but the way it changed my sense of time. I found myself thinking not 10 years, but 100 years ahead.

For the climate challenge impacts us all across the earth, seen in both increasingly unpredictable weather, as well as the coronavirus pandemic. Flooded homes and disrupted transport systems in the UK are inconveniences compared with dying animals and destroyed crops in other countries, leading to starvation and poverty.

Maisie's birth also reignited my commitment to the empowerment of women. Contrary to what we may think, the climate challenge is not gender neutral. Women make up the majority of the world's economically poor, often responsible for day-to-day survival, and at greater risk of being in unsafe overcrowded shelters, for cultural constraints can hinder escape from disasters like floods and cyclones. UN Women Watch estimates that 90% of those killed by the 2004 tsunami were women. But women are also powerful agents of change – think Malala Yousafzai or Greta Thunberg. Read the excellent article by Rachel Mash, *Linking Gender and the Environment* in the current newsletter from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN).

<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org>

The coronavirus pandemic also demonstrates the planet's interconnectedness, cutting through national boundaries, vividly

demonstrating how a local affair may have global consequence. But it makes us appreciate our finest medical and intellectual gifts in swift vaccine development.

We believe God saw that the world was good and entrusted the world and its beauty to us. Two years ago, when, near to tears gazing at Alaska's Mendenhall Glacier, I heard it crack and the ice fall, I realised that we humans have been too greedy, too profligate in plundering the earth's resources. As people of faith, we are called to be responsible, for both present and future generations. To try to secure that everyone is born equal in dignity and rights – not least the right to food and shelter.

We, the people of God, are called to seek justice. We do this through the way we heat our buildings, how we travel and do business, what we choose to eat, and to wear, whether we recycle, or are wasteful. Our flourishing is not separate from the flourishing of the planet. In God's handiwork is a complex tapestry. Our lifestyles have to change.

Climate justice demands every fibre of our being. This is why I am humbled when I gaze at my granddaughters. This is why the SEC has committed to being carbon neutral by 2030.

Elaine Cameron



Book Review

War Doctor - Surgery on the Front Line by David Nott

‘A hero all the more worthy of love *because* of his vulnerabilities. My extraordinary, complicated, beloved David.’ So ends the Afterword to this book, written by his wife Elly. Theirs was a love match struck in the crucible of the war in the Middle East in 2014 when the surgeon was at his lowest ebb. On an ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) mission in Gaza, he had spent a night in an underground bunker under constant bombardment, reconciled to the idea he might die, but having no one to share this thought with. As he prepared to face the carnage the next morning, a business card a woman had given him at a recent Syria Relief fundraising event fell out of his bag and he realised she was the one he wanted to talk to. He mailed her on this whim saying he ‘*thought she was very nice*’ and ‘*I just wanted you to know that*’. How this relationship held together against some formidable odds, and saved him from his own demons, is moving in the extreme, moving but, such is the urgency of his story and the authenticity of his voice, never maudlin. And it is only one late unexpected gleam of redemption coming towards the end of this many-faceted story.

With a mixed-race background (Welsh mother, Anglo-Burmese father) and temperamental parents, both of whom needed to further their own medical careers, David spent his first four years growing up with his Welsh grandparents. The happy memories of those years provided a bedrock during the harrowing years to come. Having qualified as a surgeon and experienced almost immediately the trepidation, then elation of pulling off a life-saving surgical intervention, his compass was set. From the early Nineties on he spent several weeks every year volunteering, with either Médecins sans Frontières, Syria Relief or the ICRC, in every war zone you have ever heard of, from Sarajevo to Afghanistan (in the first reign of the Taliban), to Sierra Leone; in the early 2000s in Chad, Darfur, the DRC and Libya; in 2013 back to the nightmare

of Aleppo under the Assad regime, then in Gaza, before suffering a fully-fledged nervous breakdown.

Recounting each of these missions he starts by sketching, in rapid and concise strokes, the background conflict, but the politics never get tedious or polemical. On each mission he has surgical successes and failures; he is honest about the pride and elation experienced with the former, and the agony, often tears of remorse, suffered when a battle to save a life is lost. He describes many of his surgical interventions in detail - on one occasion with ISIS guns levelled at him - but the blood and guts are never gratuitous. He comes over as deeply vulnerable, emotionally sensitive. Between missions, as his experience grows, he develops ground-breaking courses tailored for work in war zones: Definitive Surgical Trauma Skills and Surgical Training for Austere Environments, i.e. places with little or no technical equipment, which are taken up with enthusiasm. He is proud of the success of these but not boastful. It is a marvel of balance and fluency.

If you haven't read the book, you may have heard David Nott as a guest on *Desert Island Discs* or talking to Michael Berkeley on *Private Passions*. If you have read it and haven't got something else irresistible waiting to be read, read it again. Reading it for a second time myself, for this review, I have laughed aloud and cried.

Judy Norwell



Sunday Lectionary October and November

October 3 Pentecost 19

Genesis 2. 18-24, Mark 10. 2-16

October 10 Pentecost 20

Amos 5. 6-7,10-15, Mark 10. 17-31

October 17 Pentecost 21

Isaiah 53. 4-12, Mark 10. 35-45

October 24 Pentecost 22

Jeremiah 31. 7-9, Mark 10. 46-52

October 31 All Saints

Isaiah 25 6-9 {or Wisdom 3. 1-9, John 11. 32-44

November 7 Pentecost 24

1 Kings 17. 8-16, Mark 12. 38-44

November 14 Remembrance Sunday

Job 19. 21-27, John 6. 37-40

November 21 Last Sunday after Pentecost, Christ the King

Daniel 7. 9-10, 13-14, John 18. 33-37

November 28 First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33. 14-16, Luke 21. 25-36

From the Registers – Eternal Rest

James (Jim) Carcary: 1938 – 20th August 2021 – aged 82 years

New Appointment



The Rector: The Very Reverend Graham Taylor receiving his license from Bishop Ian as he is appointed Dean of the Diocese on Wednesday 1st September 2021.

Dean Graham will be installed and welcomed, in the presence of many more people, at a full Diocesan service at the Cathedral before Advent.

Remembering 9/11

Just as many people can remember precisely where they were and what they were doing when President Kennedy was shot, so I will always vividly recall the outrage of 09/11.

I was working in Glasgow for Scottish Telecom, part of Scottish Power, based at their new HQ on the Broomielaw. No more than a few weeks previously a large TV screen, tuned to Sky News, had been erected behind the Reception Desk. Three of us walked in upon return from a meeting just as the horrors unfolded. My colleague flippantly commented; “I didn’t think you were allowed to watch Movies” ... and then all of us stood in numbed silence as the events unfolded before our eyes.

Other colleagues appeared, wondering why we were just standing there, until most of the offices were empty. We were all too shocked to say anything until finally one of the Directors said quietly, “I think we had better all go home”. There was no discussion as we all departed in funereal silence trying to come to terms with what we had witnessed and how the World would never be quite the same again.

Graham Kingsley-Rowe



“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” (John Keats *To Autumn*)



Cover photo (River Garry) and other autumnal photos by Mary Willington

Standing together for climate justice

(Adapted from Christian Aid website)



Our planet is heating up. This means more extreme climate events, rising sea levels and critical threats to human life. We have the power to stop this climate crisis. The world will be watching as COP26 comes to Glasgow in November. We've worked for years to create an ambitious Climate bill in Scotland. Now, we'll be standing together with the global community to ensure the UK Government responds urgently to the global climate emergency.

What is COP26?

COP26 stands for **Conference of the Parties**. It is the 26th meeting of world leaders at the UN climate change talks. The conference has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement was signed in 2015. For many, these UN climate talks remain the best, and only, global platform to build consensus on climate action and climate justice.

Why Glasgow?

In the 19th century, after hundreds of years of ship building, our Glasgow became a heartland of industrialisation. But as Glasgow's wealth increased, so did its poverty. From inequality rose up people who are unafraid to speak truth to power.

COP26 in Glasgow – what's the plan?

After being postponed from November 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, COP26 is due to take place in the first two weeks of November 2021. Although the pandemic situation in the UK is hopefully improving enough to make gathering possible, there is still some uncertainty about what travel restrictions will be in place at the end of the year.

Global voices

In order to achieve climate justice, it is important that those most affected by the crisis are involved in the decisions taken to resolve it. But some people from the global south are unlikely to be vaccinated before November 2021, so there may be limits on who can travel to the UK.

A COP which only features delegates from rich countries would be a huge injustice and would undermine the COP process. An alternative to move some of the negotiations online also disadvantages those nations where internet connectivity is not as reliable, and likely shuts out many civil society voices.

As a result, there is still some uncertainty that COP26 can go ahead at all. Although progress must be made on climate justice this year, we believe that a COP without the voices of the most affected would be a disaster.

Save the date The main day of action for civil society will be **Saturday 6 November**.

Quakers have an excellent report on climate justice:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/taking-action-for-climate-justice-2021>

We hope to report on the series *Faith Hope & Climate Justice*, sponsored by Christian Aid and Trinity College, Glasgow, in the next edition of Quest. It has an impressive list of ecumenical speakers, and a wide range of practical topics.

Elaine Cameron

Thanks

On behalf of the Mission to Seafarers Scotland I would like to thank you for the donation of £305.25 donated following your Sea Sunday service today and for the bag full of beautifully knitted hats.

The donation was made up as follows:

Plate collection	£255.00
Gift Aid claimable	£ 33.75
Tea/Coffee collection	£ 16.50

Margaret and I really enjoyed being with you this morning and sharing in your worship and hospitality afterwards.

Your support is so important to us and is never taken for granted. Part of your donation this year will be allocated to fogging the Centre and the Mission car enabling us to welcome more seafarers into the Centre and to transport them around.

Whilst I write and sign this letter on behalf of Mission to Seafarers Scotland, your contribution is really appreciated by all the Trustees and indeed by the seafarers visiting our Scottish ports.

Please pass on our incredible thanks to the rector, The Very Rev Graham Taylor, and the whole congregation.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of the Mission to Seafarers Scotland
David Graham-Service
Chairman & Treasurer

Pilgrimage Walk

A few members from St John's joined the Diocesan pilgrims on the Fife Pilgrim Way from Ceres to St Andrews on 10th Sept. 2021 led by guides Revd Alasdair Coles and Nick Cooke.

It was a privilege to meet new people from across the Diocese and to reflect about how our forebears would have encountered new people in similar fashion on their Faith journey in the 14th/15th century.

A video of the event can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q7JJa1HhLI>

Not From the Treasurer

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{S E N D} \\ + \text{M O R E} \\ \hline \text{M O N E Y} \end{array}$$

Can you find a correct calculation which fits the above?

Each letter represents the same digit each time it appears. No two letters represent the same digit.

Cath Bodrell



Don't forget to join our mailing list to receive the monthly Diocesan E-News.

You can do so at <https://standrews.anglican.org/>

Type in your email address at the bottom of the home page and click 'subscribe'.

We welcome any suggestions and comments from everyone in our diocese at media@standrews.anglican.org

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 Dec/Jan issue by:

Sunday 14th November

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy

