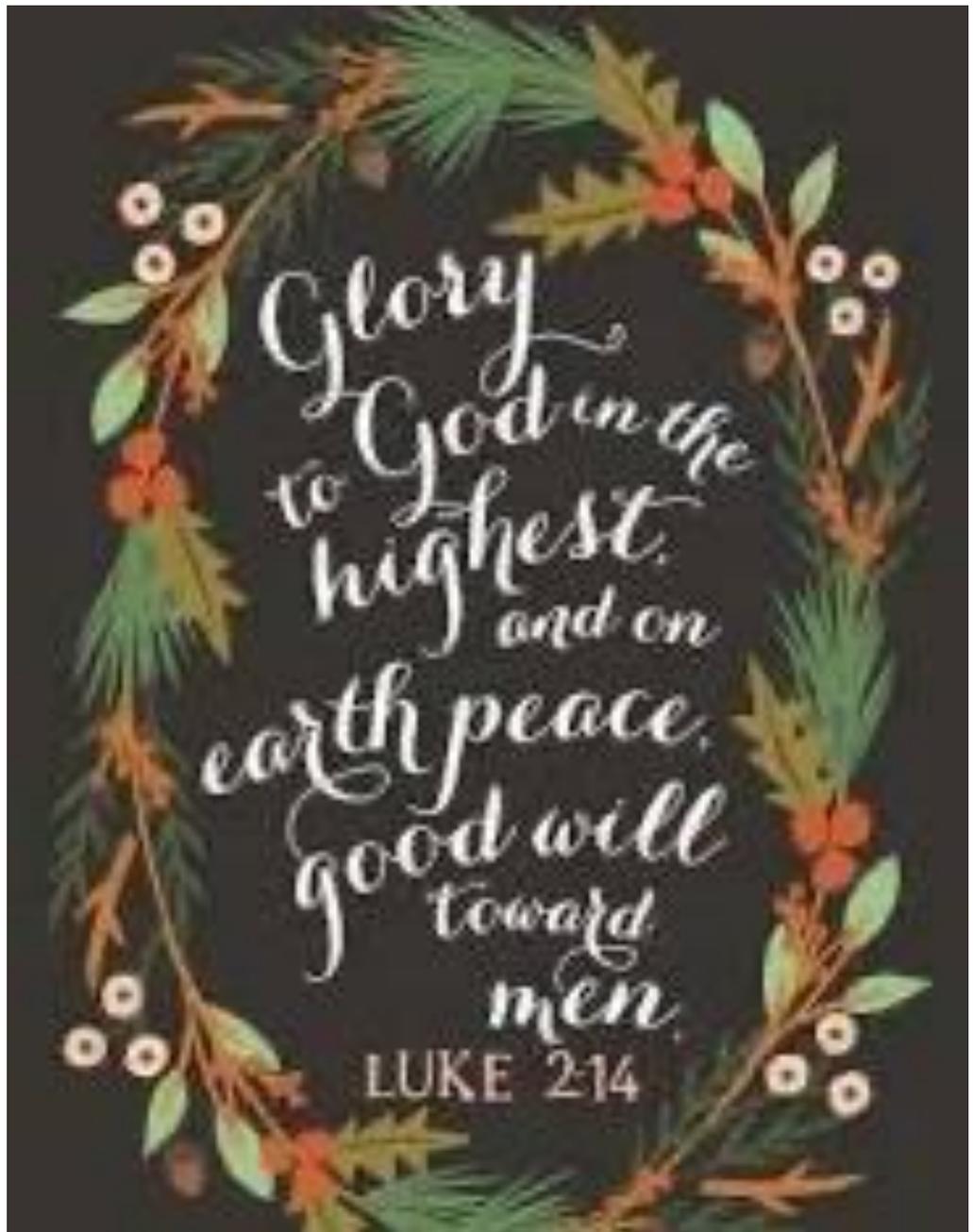




St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Perth

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December and January 2021-22

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I write to you this month with a heavy heart, as most of you will know by now, my dear father passed away on the 7th November. I have been on the other side many times, trying to help many others come to terms with their grief and loss and helping of course to arrange funeral services. This time it was very different for me. It's been a tough couple of weeks for my dear Mum and I, but we are talking about him lots and giving thanks to God for all that he shared with us in this life. We reflect and smile on a wonderful holiday, just two weeks before, quality time spent together. My heartfelt thanks go to all of you, my dear congregation and friends. Your kind messages, cards, letters and even support at the funeral itself showed how blessed I am. From Mum and myself please accept our grateful thanks.

Sunday at the Cathedral for me was a bittersweet moment, as you can imagine. Yet the power of God and the presence of my dear Dad was felt there with me. What an honour to become Dean of this diocese! Your encouragement and support for this new ministry is gratefully valued. Everyday for me now feels like a school day again. I have lots to learn, but the support from you, as a congregation and a wonderful Bishop and colleagues will help me with all of this. Please be patient with me!

As the season of Advent approaches, we wait once again with great anticipation for all that is to come, the hope that lies before us. This year let us pray together and remember those without hope, those who feel lost and on the edge of society, those who cannot see a way ahead. May the transforming power of the Christ Child bless us all once again with love and peace.

My love and thanks to you all,

Graham.

The Installation of the Very Reverend Graham Taylor as Dean of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane



Canon Shelley, Dean Graham, Canon Alan and Reverend Annie

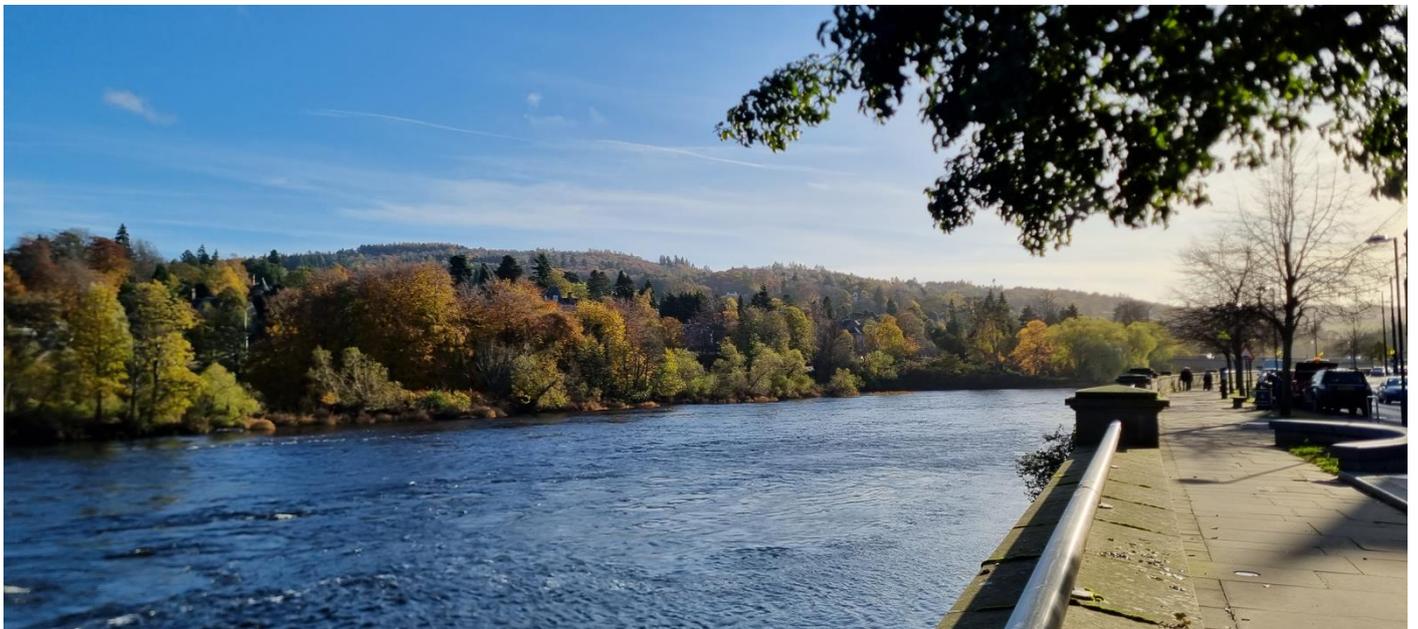
Services

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

1 st December	Advent Reflections and Compline – 7.30 p.m.
8 th December	Advent Reflections and Compline – 7.30 p.m.
15 th December	Advent Reflections and Compline – 7.30 p.m.
19 th December	Christingle – 10.30 a.m.
22 nd December	Advent Reflections and Compline – 7.30 p.m.
25 th December	Christmas Day – 10.30 a.m.



The River Tay from Tay Street. Photograph by Joyce Sampson

Fellowship

Following the decision made after the September meeting, that the October meeting should be in the Threshold rather than afternoon tea in a local café, it was decided to make more of a feature of the refreshments being served with the normal tea or coffee, while still being mindful of the Covid catering restrictions. The committee hope those attending went away feeling they had been offered a bit more than a biscuit with their hot drink!

After two meetings of just enjoying chatting and catching up with friends the thinking was that our horizons should be widened. In November Peter Marsh came and gave us a very interesting power point presentation of photos taken on a fairly recent pre-Covid cruise which started in Sri Lanka and ended at the Suez Canal. We were impressed that from this cruise it was even possible to visit the Taj Mahal! The trip also included Petra in Jordan and both of these World Heritage sites had been on Peter's and Shelley's "Bucket List". We had all arrived at the meeting in sombre mood very aware that since the October meeting two of our members had suffered close family bereavement and then, just the previous day, Ronnie Taylor, father of our Rector Graham, had died very suddenly so all those affected were very much in the thoughts of us all. We were, however, more than ready to spend 30 minutes relaxing and focussing on something so completely different and I hope Peter and Shelley enjoyed having a reason to look out these photos and re-live their memories of what was clearly a very special holiday.

Jean Hendry

From the Registers – Eternal Rest

Vivian Thornton Linacre: 5th August 1928 – 17th September 2021

Donald Norman Cross: 27th November 1952 – 26th October 2021

Faith, Hope and Climate Change

This article has several sections, each stands alone, so you don't have to plough through it all!

The first section is about the course with this title, promoted in the last Quest; second is a brief reflection on COP26; finally a few words about the diocesan Climate Change group.

1. Faith Hope and Climate Change

The course showed how climate change is very much a faith issue – certainly part of our Christian ministry. This was evidenced by the wide ecumenical range of contributing speakers, from the more evangelical *Tear Fund* to the radical ecotheologian.

Two presentations stood out for me.

The first was Roman Catholic Lorna Gold, outlining the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si*, written 2015. Maybe, like me, you have never heard of this work? It details how 'Our common home', planet Earth, has had resources, especially water, so depleted that this exploitation has led to the poorest having least. So we need a new dialogue between faith and science to help us understand the interconnectedness of everything. What kind of a world do we really want to leave our grandchildren? This resonates strongly with me, thinking of Maisie (6) and Poppy (2). Faiths have much to contribute; our sacraments and liturgy teach us how to ritualise – and many cannot.

The second presentation was a conversation between Katharine Hayhoe, a Canadian climate scientist, and Ruth Padilla DeBorst, a liberation theologian. They said that folk have known since 1890 that humans are responsible for the changing climate, but for too long it was deemed an issue for the future! Now it is a NOW issue. They believed that the most

important thing we can do fight climate change is to talk about it. Let's talk!!

2. COP26 – the Glasgow Climate Pact

There was lots of talking at COP26, ending with the Glasgow Climate Pact. While by no means as strong a deal as needed, it has some positives. The 'good':

- ✚ More than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation.
- ✚ It is the first COP summit which has set a goal of phasing out fossil fuels – the tide is turning!

The 'not so good'

- ✚ Plans to cut emissions won't limit global warming to 1.5C - this is the critical target.
- ✚ Commitment to end global coal emission was watered down at the last minute.

We seem to be on a pathway to 2.5C, which would be catastrophic for millions of people, and for tens of thousands of endangered species.

3. Diocesan Climate Change Group

So action is needed. After some thought I accepted the invitation to join the Diocesan Climate Change Group, chaired by Rev Elaine Garman. The Group's remit is to support and encourage all activities that reduce the negative impact on climate change. As you know, the aim is for the SEC to be a carbon neutral church by 2030.

It will act as a resource/focal point on climate issues, encourage local ecumenical working, monitor progress towards the target, and ensure two-way communication across the Diocese on climate change activities. Attending, by zoom, my first meeting of the group yesterday, I was impressed by their commitment, knowledge and future planning. Do explore the website: [standrews.anglican.org /climate-change-group](https://standrews.anglican.org/climate-change-group).

No-one, in God's kingdom, is left behind. As Barack Obama told campaigners, 'Your voice makes a difference!'

How can St John's voices be heard to make a difference?

Elaine Cameron

Christmas is Coming ...

Christmas is coming, the goose (nowadays it usually is a turkey) is getting fat. Well, not exactly. Because there is a shortage of lorry drivers, the turkeys will have to walk to market, as they did in ages past, and thereby they will lose excess weight and not be the plump fowl we are accustomed to see on our tables. What about that amazing kitchen appliance you have ordered for your spouse? Sorry. It is stuck in a container on the deck of a ship anchored off Felixstowe and it will be at least a month before it can be unloaded. You have ordered and paid for a train set for your grandson and have been assured by an email from the suppliers that it would arrive soon in the post; when it arrived, it was broken and had to be returned.

'Ah, well. After all, Christmas is not about material things. We can do without such fripperies. Christmas is for families, gathering together from all over. If only. Our son and his family have decided not to come because the price of petrol has gone through the roof and it would cost them an arm and a leg to make the long journey. Our daughter, who lives with her partner and children in France, cannot cross the La Manche because French fishermen are blockading Channel ports. Our other daughter, who is single and a nurse, is required to work over the holiday because of a shortage of NHS staff. My sister could come; we haven't seen her for a bit. Ah, but she doesn't drive and the rail unions are going on strike. We can Skype everybody – I know it's not quite the same thing, but needs must. That is assuming we can get a decent internet connection. If not,

we can telephone people as we used to do in the past. Or even send a card...unless the postmen are on a go-slow.

‘Talking of telephones, I am a little worried about a sore throat. I tried to get an appointment with the GP, but I got no further than the receptionist. I tried to insist on a face-to-face consultation, pointing out that the doctor cannot examine my throat down the telephone. In the end I gave up arguing and tried a salt-and-water gargle, which offered some relief.

‘And to add insult to injury, I hear that pigs-in-blankets are not available to go with the attenuated turkey because of a shortage of carbon dioxide – and I thought that the planet was producing too much of the wretched stuff. That really is the last straw.’

‘These things are sent to try us.’

‘Well, I wish they wouldn’t. All I can say is I hope other people are in the same boat.’

‘Never mind, darling. We still have each other.’

Merry Christmas, one and all!

David Willington



Sunday Lectionary December and January

December 5th Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5. 1-9 or Malachi 3. 1-4, {or Phil 1. 3-11}, Luke 3. 1-6

December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3. 14-20, {Phil 4. 4-7}, Luke 3. 7-18

December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5, 2-5a, {Hebrews 10. 5-10}, Luke 1. 39-45{46-55}

December 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 52. 7-10, {Hebrews 1.1-4{5-12}}, John 1. 1-14

December 26 First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2. 18-20,26, {Coloss 3. 12-17}, Luke 2. 41-52

January 2 Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31. 7-14 or Sirach 24. 1-12, {Ephes. 1. 3-14}, John 1. {1-9}
10-18

January 9 First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 43. 1-7, { Acts 8. 14-17}, Luke 3. 15-17,21-22

January 16 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62. 1-5 {1 Cor. 12. 1-11}, John 2. 1-11

January 23 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6,8-10, { 1 Cor. 12. 12-31a}, Luke 4. 14-21

January 30 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1. 4-10, { 1 Cor. 13. 1-13}, Luke 4. 21-30

For Posterity

Several people I know, who have reached a certain age, have in retirement turned their hand to writing memoirs. The mechanics of composition have been made immeasurably easier by the use of computers: cut-and-paste, spell-checks, indexing and so forth. A text can be printed off at home for proof-reading. It is easy (if you know how, or have a relative who does) to scan and incorporate photographs. If you want multiple copies of the completed work, you can email it to a commercial printer. Then your little book can proudly grace the bookshelves of your relatives and friends.

I have not been able to resist the temptation. When my grandson was one and I was sixty-five I wrote a series of letters to him, in the manner of the eighteenth century Lord Chesterfield's letters to his son *On the art of becoming a man of the world and a gentleman*. My letters were written in English, not Latin, and were partly biographical and partly moral, and touched on sport, music, religion, literature, travel and history. I also allowed myself a few rants against modern *mores*. How far the wee man was able to appreciate my wisdom at the time is open to question, but now he has reached more mature years I hope he will derive some profit from my effusions.

Why the urge to inform posterity of your brilliant and interesting career? Firstly, because it can be done easily, as I have explained. Another reason is that the world is changing with extreme rapidity and the period of your childhood, in my case the 1940s and 50s, would seem to those born today as remote as the Middle Ages. We oldies think that the young live only for the present and therefore it is important that they come to understand their antecedents.

A more serious point is that the current passion for cancelling elements of the past in the name of sparing delicate feelings – I call it 'illiberal liberalism' – seeks to impose a highly selective view of history. We

cannot begin to understand the present until we understand our past, however unpalatable that might be.

There is another, more personal, reason for going into print. You may be in your anecdote but you will have many good stories to tell. And you will have an opportunity to examine your past life, now recollected in tranquillity, and put things in perspective. It is a very therapeutic exercise, believe me.

So come on, fellow voyagers in the waters of the past (not my phrase), take the plunge.

David Willington



Smeaton's Bridge. Photograph by Joyce Sampson

Stand with Mums this Christmas

At Christmas we remember Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, and the young woman facing the dire prospect of giving birth to her first born in a stable. Two years ago, Advent 2019, Christian Aid invited churches throughout Scotland to lift their voices and sing Kathy Galloway's carol *When out of poverty is born*, and raise funds to help mothers break free from poverty. The words have been revised in light of the past year, and I hope we may sing it again this Advent.

Christian Aid and its partners work hard to enable women to use their God-given gifts. Women can achieve transformational change – even in desperate situations.

Meet **Adut Mariu** in South Sudan



South Sudan is the country focus of the [Christmas Appeal](#). There, extremes of the climate crisis rendered the river full of diseases. Not only was it where the community washed, it was polluted with cows' and other animals' dung. It was dirty and dangerous.

Adut said she used to be faced with impossible choices: give her three children dirty water or none at all? They knew the dirty water wasn't safe, but they had no choice. And Adut worried that her older son might fall into the river and drown.

But no more! Christian Aid came to this village and helped the community build boreholes for underground water. Now they get their

water - clean, safe water - from the hand pump. Christian Aid saw their challenges and lifted them up.

Adut says, 'Things are now changing for the better - we are full of hope!'

At Christmastime, we all have lots of choices to make. Some may be difficult, but few will compare to the impossible choice of drinking dirty water or none at all.

But is not our decision to stand with them an easy one? Do not all of us do what we can for the children in our lives, especially at Christmas?

We can stand with mums this Christmas and help the next generation grow. Our gifts could help build more boreholes, or provide seeds and farming tools. With clean water and nutritious food, Mums like Adut won't have to make such impossible choices.

Let us all at St John's stand with Mums like Adut this Christmas.

Elaine Cameron



Not From the Treasurer

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Did you manage it?

Cath Bodrell

Communication

As well as our own website address for St John's

www.episcopal-perth.org.uk

you can also find information at the following on-line resources:

Diocesan website: www.standrews.anglican.org from there you can access all the Diocesan resources and subscribe to the Diocesan E-newsletter.

Provincial website: www.scotland.anglican.org There you can find out lots of information about the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Inspires Online:

www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/

Inspires Online is the free e-newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Church – to subscribe please use the address above and then the sign-up box on the footer of that page.

DEC

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6PM

MUSICA

MUNDANA

A CELEBRATION OF
RENAISSANCE CHRISTMAS
MUSIC



Annemarie Klein - Recorders
Eric Thomas - Lute

Tickets - £12

**ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, PRINCES
STREET, PERTH**

chansons

Perth's Chamber Choir

Radiant Dawn

Christmas Charity Concert
Conducted by Areti Lymperopoulou

with
Howard Duthie, organ

Sunday 12th December 2021 | 7.30pm
St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Programme includes music through the ages by Victoria, Monteverdi, Bach, Faure, Elgar, Poulenc, Britten, Macmillan and Gjeilo...with festive songs to finish

Tickets £15 (£5 students / under 26s)

Visit chansons.co.uk or email chansons.perth@gmail.com

In aid of



Chansons is a registered Scottish Charity: SC035974.



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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 Feb/Mar issue by:

Sunday 16th January

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In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy

