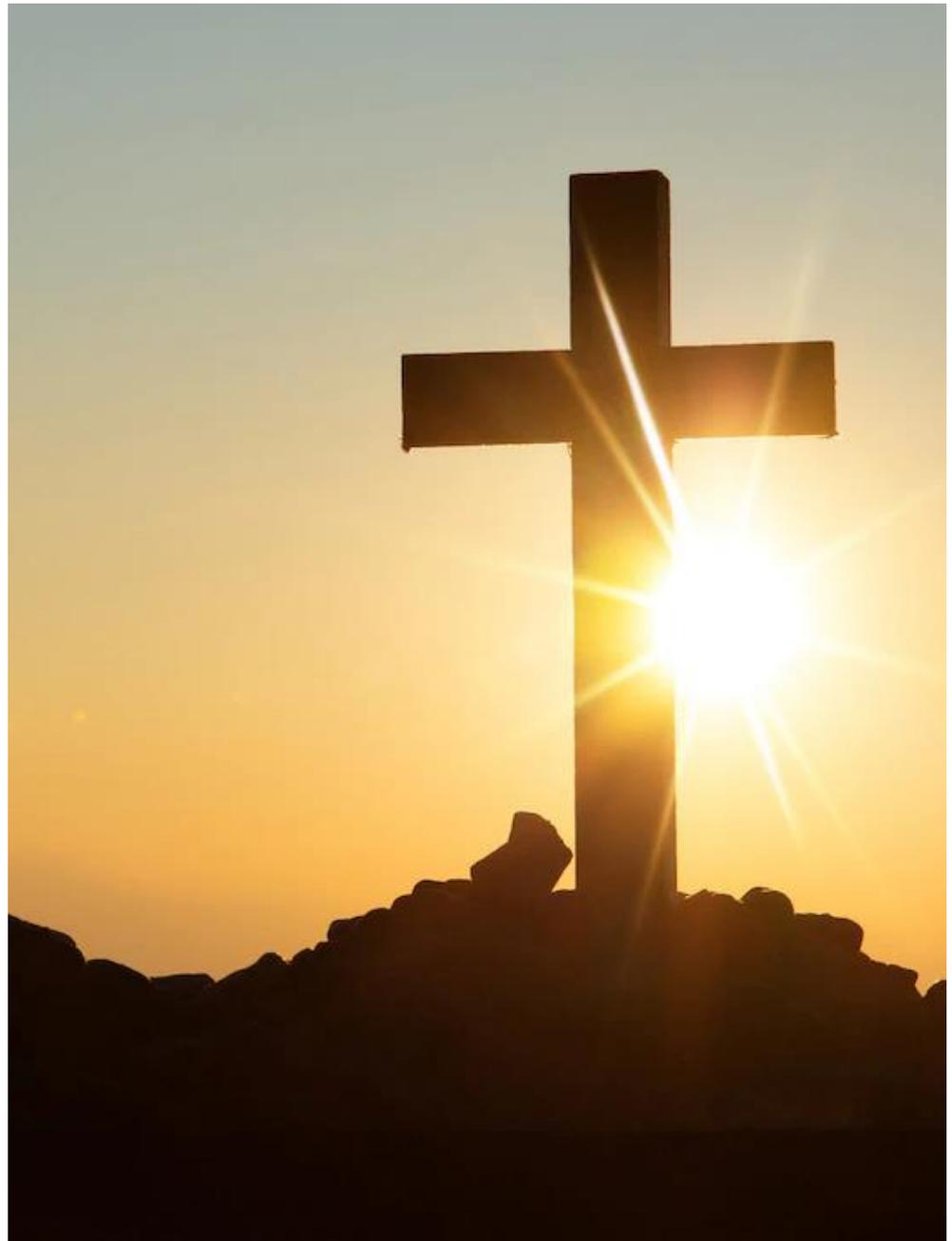




St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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April and May 2022

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing this article, I hope that, as you are travelling through your Lenten journey, you along with me are looking forward once again to the celebration of Easter, the root and joy of our faith. Who knows what the restrictions in Church will look like by then! However, I do assure you that the Vestry are taking our next steps very seriously as a congregation, as we move towards opening up even more. We will be trying to communicate and keep everyone informed as time goes on. It has been so lovely seeing many of you returning to Church, especially on a Sunday. It is so important that we meet together to worship and truly be the body of Christ here in St. John's.

More imminent, the terrible situation our world seems to be in. If ever we need to be praying, it's right now. When we look at the media, switch the news on, everything seems to be so desperate. People having to leave, not only their homes, but other family members behind also. It really does not bear thinking what it all must be like. It seems to make our troubles very small when we sit down and reflect on our own lives.

It's so nice being back in our Church building once again, with the lovely new floor being laid. Many thanks for all of your patience during the time of it being done. The Threshold for our worship seemed to work well. A huge thank you to all who made this possible. We have a great community of folks and as ever willing to lend a hand in so many different ways.

I do hope to see you in Church over the Easter season, as we reflect again on eternal life, the new life that God gives to all of us.

Easter Love

On Easter we celebrate love,
love coming down from heaven,
love blanketing the earth
in a transforming embrace;
unique and infinite love,
giving more than we can imagine
for us, to cleanse our sin,
a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,
the walking, talking Word.
He is teacher, role model, friend,
this God in human form,
dying, then rising from the dead,
proving all who believe
will also rise
to have eternal life, with Him,
Lord of all.
Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!

By Joanna Fuchs

I hope you have a lovely Easter and know once again the joy of our risen saviour.

God bless,

Graham.



Services

Weekly Services

Sunday	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
Thursday	11.00 a.m.	Communion

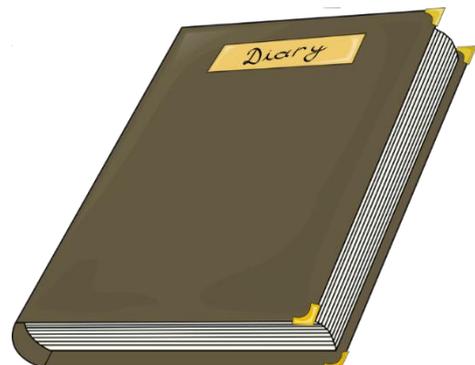
Special Services

3 rd April	10.30 a.m.	Passion Sunday
10 th April	10.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday
14 th April	7.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
15 th April	12 – 3 p.m.	Good Friday
17 th April	10.30 a.m.	Easter Day
26 th May	10.30 a.m.	Ascension Day

Notice

Please note that all requests for booking the Church or the Threshold by members of the congregation must be cleared through Eleanor at the office first.

office@episcopal-perth.org.uk 01738 634999



St John's Eco Group

St John's is sharing the challenges of the Zero Carbon ambition

There has been much talk of setting Zero Carbon target dates by governments across the globe - some for 2025, or 2030 or 2040. These targets may not appear to directly affect you, but if met will certainly give future generations an improved life.

The target dates may be beyond our individual abilities and will be challenging at community levels. At a personal level they will involve ownership of our homes or how we travel and importantly how we reduce waste in our daily living. Some houses will enjoy improved insulation or an alternative heating. Modes of travel will change too. Back to bikes for those who can, or the electric bus or taxi are all envisaged and important.

Changing habits in our home may be more feasible, and, cumulatively at a community level, can change lives for the better. We should use less water and reduce our energy demand. Each change can lower overall emissions. If we all do our bit, it will be a significant contribution to changing our lifestyles and improve our health.

Dean Graham has set up St John's Eco Group: Elaine Cameron, Cath Bodrell, Rhiannon Miller, and I have agreed to join. The vestry have agreed our first request – to join Eco-Congregation Scotland. You will be able to read progress in *Quest* subject to the Editor's blessing. Please do feel free to ask us any questions and please let us know your thoughts and how you are helping to save the Planet – our Lord's creation – for future generations. Watch this space.

David Maclehose

Christian Aid Week

MAY 15 – 21, 2022

Last year, Christian Aid fund-raising with St Ninian's Cathedral went so well, and we were so delighted with the amount raised, that we have decided to continue the collaboration this year.

Wendy Duncan (Cathedral CAid rep) and I were relieved to find that CAid is strongly supporting the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Donations to DEC go directly to trusted partners in the field. I do not need to rehearse the daily horrors, the families torn apart, the fleeing refugees, the cities devastated; the orphaned children; the thousands killed and injured.

CAid is working with two partner organisations to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees fleeing deadly violence: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). HIA have already distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the Ukrainian borders. It has also established a refugee help point.

Ukraine is not the only nation suffering inhumanely. CAid works to end poverty and suffering in many countries, including Ethiopia, Myanmar, Israel and the Occupied Territories. Their Afghanistan Appeal continues, and we hope to direct some fund-raising there.

Our embryonic thinking is to attempt a different kind of fundraising this year. We hope to hold a **Big Brekkie** (bacon rolls and tea / coffee) event in the Cathedral Chapter House and/or garden on the morning of Saturday May 21. Provost Hunter Farquharson and Dean Graham have both given this their blessing. We will probably set up a Justgiving site, as we have done previously, and we will also have CAid envelopes at church. The Big Brekkie is a well-kent CAid fund-raiser, and we would hope to have support from the CAid staff.

We'll keep you posted as we take this forward - assuming, of course, that Covid restrictions do not prevent such an event.

Do visit CAid Scotland's website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/scotland>

As Rumi, the Afghan-born poet, says "Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure."

Elaine Cameron



Folk Songs in Worship

Have you ever paused to consider how many of our favourite Hymns and Worship songs are set to traditional Folk Songs? Here is one of my favourites set to a French lullaby:

*Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets,
No-one is his neighbour,
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too,
Make me friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you. . . .*

Do you have a favourite to share?

Graham Kingsley-Rowe.

Jerusalem the Golden?

On Sunday 13th March we sang Hymn 340 *Jerusalem the Golden*, albeit in the debased version of the Orange Hymn Book. It has a fine tune, which lends itself to lusty singing. It is well-constructed, starting off in the lower register, rising in line two, descending in line three to the lower register. In lines five and six it rises to a climax and descends again; lines seven and eight are almost an exact repeat of lines three and four.

So much for the tune. But what about the words? In the 1840s JM Neale the hymn-writer made a translation of some lines from *De Contemptu Mundi*, On Contempt for the World, by the early twelfth century monk, Bernard of Cluny. This is a satire of 3000 lines, contrasting the peace and glory of heaven with earthly suffering and corruption. Needless to say, many more lines are devoted to the latter: as well as the common human failings, priests, bishops, monks, nuns, the Church of Rome itself are excoriated.

The notion of a blessed abode in heaven is as early as the ninth century BC (Homer *Odyssey* 6.42ff): ‘...Athene went away to Olympus, where they say the seat of the gods stays sure. For the winds shake it not, nor is it wetted by rain, nor approached by any snow. All around stretches the cloudless firmament, and a white glory of sunlight is diffused about its walls. There the blessed gods are happy all their days’ (TE Lawrence’s translation). It reappears again, in a different guise, at the end of *Revelations* 21.2-5: ‘... I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as a bride adorned for her husband. Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them...and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.’

Jerusalem is central to Judaism and Christianity. Once Herod’s Temple had been destroyed by the Romans in AD 70 and the city had been fully

Romanised in AD 138 (its new name was Aelia Capitolina, after the Emperor Hadrian) the return to Jerusalem became the aspiration of the Jews of the diaspora, as it had been for their ancestors in Babylon ('By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered thee, O Sion.'). Over centuries of oppression and despair, the vow at the Passover seder 'Next year in Jerusalem' offered hope: when the temple is rebuilt, the Messiah will come again to his rightful abode. It also was an expression of solidarity with the Jewish community, past, present and future.

The Jerusalems of the author of *Revelations* and Bernard of Cluny are Jerusalems of the mind. They look forward to the Second Coming of the Messiah, a time when God and Man are one. This latter idea is present in early Greek poetry (Hesiod), but this time the poet is looking back to a golden age, by contrast with the grim age of iron in which he lives. The Jews now have Jerusalem, but not the Temple, only the Western Wall, at which they pray; nevertheless, devout Jews still hope for the full restoration of Sion. For us, mired in the cares of the world, such hopes will remain, perhaps for ever, mere aspirations.

David Willington



Diocesan Synod March 2022

For the second year Synod was held via Zoom.

Synod began with Eucharist, Bishop Ian presiding and Dean Graham preaching on Luke 5 verses 27 to 32.

Dean's Report - He thanked all who had supported him in his first year whilst he had been getting to know all in the Diocese.

Bishop's Charge - +Ian explained why we have Synods. We need to be outgoing and inclusive in meeting other churches. He thanked all Vestries, all Committees and office staff for their commitment at this difficult time.

We then went into 'breakout rooms' for discussions.

1. After Covid what concerns and excites us – Some worried about ageing congregations and that they were not returning to church but using the online Services. Others saw this and new technologies as a plus to be encouraged.
2. Climate change – Each church encouraged to form their own groups linking up and sharing ideas with others. The use of the Diocesan Website, registering as an eco church and the use of the new toolkit was encouraged.
3. Ecumenical projects – The signing of the St. Andrew's Declaration with the Church of Scotland will encourage these. For example the Fife Pilgrim Way and the appointment of Pilgrim Pastors.

We then broke for lunch.

After lunch we discussed

1. The new Liturgy from Synod which incorporates more inclusive language. After discussion, not easy on Zoom, the vote was - in favour 43, against 1 and abstentions 3.
2. The proposal for the inclusion of Liliias Graham in the SEC calendar on account of her faith-filled life and example was discussed. Again difficult on Zoom. A vote was taken – 70% for, 2% against and abstentions 28%.

After confirmation of Acts of Synod we ended with prayers and a blessing.

Christine Bracewell

Lay Rep.

Thanks

Thelma, myself and all the family would like to extend your sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, prayers and kind messages from the congregation at St John's following the very sad passing of "Our Beautiful Beverley" on Wednesday 24th November 2021. Your love and support has given us strength during a very difficult period in our lives.

Love and best wishes Mark & Thelma.

From the Registers – Eternal Rest

Catherine Jean Edmonstone: 24th June 1930 – 2nd March 2022

Fellowship

After the three successful meetings in September, October and November we were looking forward to our Christmas meeting. But then there was a surge in Covid cases as the new variant, Omicron, was spreading rapidly and the advice was to be more cautious again in the run up to Christmas. Reluctantly the decision was taken to cancel both the December and January meetings. With Omicron proving less serious, at short notice it was decided we could hold a meeting in February.

Bill Bracewell was available and willing to entertain us with one of his power point presentations of his photos. Usually he shows us a specific part of the world that he and Christine have visited but this time we were treated to a varied selection taken over many years of places they had visited and lived, interspersed with photos close to home including some showing St John's events and activities. It was an afternoon enjoyed by good turnout of members.

In March, we began by thinking about what is going on in Ukraine and it was unanimously agreed to make a donation from Fellowship funds to the DEC appeal. Again at short notice David Willington came and described his adventures during two expeditions to Mount Kenya back in the early 1990s with Glenalmond College pupils. He had a good collection of photos and we hope he enjoyed having a reason to look out these photos from nearly 30 years ago and read the diaries he wrote at the time. This must have brought back so many memories of what were clearly two very memorable events of his younger years. We certainly enjoyed hearing about them. With events in the world currently being so grim it felt especially good to be able to relax and focus briefly on something completely different that for David had been two successful adventures that were at the time challenging but enjoyable.

Thank you, Bill and David, for the time and trouble you have taken in preparing these presentations.

Jean Hendry

Sunday Lectionary April and May

April 3rd Passion Sunday

Isaiah 43. 16-21, John 12. 1-8

April 10 Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50 4-9a, Luke 22 14-22, 56

April 14 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12. 1-4, 11-14, John 13 1-17, 31b-35

April 17 Easter Day

Acts 10 34-43, John 20 1-18

April 24 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5 27-32, John 20 19-31

May 1 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9 1-6, John 21 1-19

May 8 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9. 36-43, John 10 23-30

May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11 1-18, John 13 31-35

May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16 9-5, John 14. 23-29

May 26 Ascension Day

Acts 1 1-11, Luke 24. 44-53

May 29 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16. 16-34, John 17. 20-26

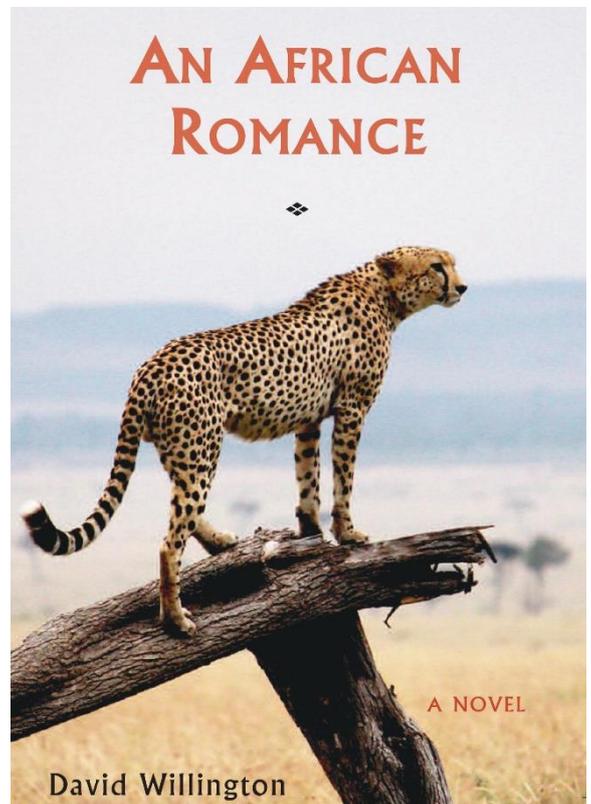
Kenya

My recently published novel, *An African Affair*, is set in Kenya Colony, as it was then, during the Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s. I like to set my novels in places I have visited, whether in Europe, Israel or Africa. This novel uses some of my experiences in Kenya over three visits: the wildlife, the flora and especially the massif of Mount Kenya, which looms over the area about which I write. I have read extensively to research the historical background; some actions of the British Army in suppressing the rebellion have resonance even today, coming under legal scrutiny during this last decade.

There may be some members of the congregation who are ‘old Africa hands’. I hope they will enjoy this book, and forgive any errors on my part. There is a romantic element, but also the romance of Africa itself, the ‘Africa Bug’ as I have called it.

I invite members of the congregation to buy a copy of *An African Romance*. I am sure they will find it an enjoyable read, unputdownable, in fact. £10 per copy will go to church funds.

David Willington



Flt Lt Ernie Holmes DFC

Dear All

We invite you to join us on 20th July 2022 for a celebration of the life of our father, Ernie Holmes. Dad's story touched so many lives, and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to gather in Perth to rekindle old memories and create new ones.

The venue will be St John's Episcopal Church. We hope that the service will be in the morning, and that it will be followed by a fly past by the Lancaster from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, which would be in memory not only of Ernie but also of so many of the Bomber Command crew members who died with their stories untold.

The Lancaster is the last airworthy aircraft of its type in the UK, and it is a huge honour that the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight has provisionally agreed to our request for a fly past. Because the flight schedule of the Lancaster is not yet confirmed we cannot confirm the time of the service yet but will do so as soon as possible. After the service and the fly past there will be a reception, to which you are warmly invited.

If you are unable to attend on the day, the service will be broadcast on-line.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending the Celebration and who has, inadvertently, been omitted from this list and so is unaware of the event, please feel free to forward it to them.

We would like an estimate of the number of people who intend to join us, so please could you let the office know on 01738 634999 or office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

With very best wishes
David and Alison

Book Review – ‘Saving Us’ K. Hayhoe

I like to have a bedside book that will not tax the little grey cells, so that if I can't sleep, I have something light to dip into. Not usually a book by a climate scientist!

But *Saving Us* by Katherine Hayhoe is an immensely readable book, even at bedtime! She was interviewed in the *Faith Hope & Climate* course last October, so I heard and saw her by zoom, and can ‘hear’ her as I read.

A climate scientist, Professor at a Texas University, she is concerned about the many ways in which the changing climate impacts our lives – access to water, scarcity of food, availability of good health, and much more. She is a superb communicator, and even more importantly from our perspective, she is a Christian - making her book captivating as well as challenging.



She argues that the most important thing we can do about climate change is to talk about it - people are too reluctant to do this, because it can be very divisive. Yet it impacts each one of us.

Amazingly, scientists have known the climate is changing, and humans responsible for this change, since around 1900.

She reminds us that in Genesis, Christians are given responsibility over every living thing on this planet. If we truly believe this, then surely it is our God-given responsibility to demand action about climate change. She asks, *What is more Christian than to be good stewards of the planet and love our global neighbour as ourselves?*

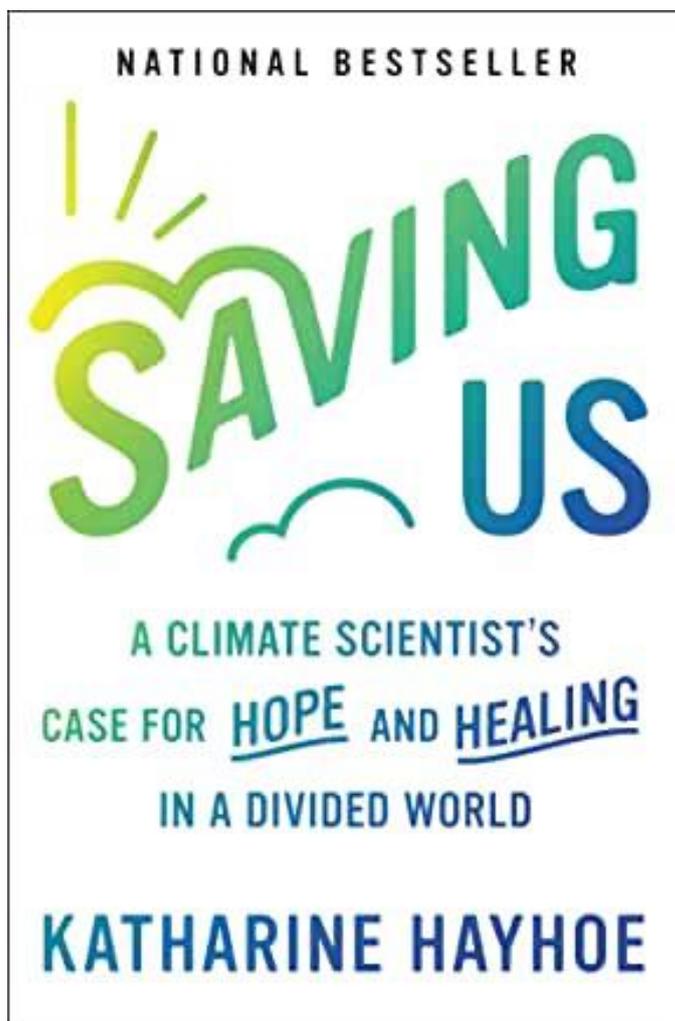
She counters the arguments of those who deny climate change, those who do not think humans are responsible, and those who do not see it as a here and now issue.

She argues that no-one's actions are too small not to make a difference. What we do, she says, changes not only us, reinforcing our sense of who we are, but what we do impacts and changes others as well.

She has no time for the idea that God or fate will solve the climate crisis without us doing anything. For her, true hope begins in having the courage to recognise the planet's perilous state, identifying what we hope for, and then taking steps to move in that direction. She is assured by Paul's words: *Hope never makes us ashamed because the love of God has come into our hearts.*

We cannot afford to be paralysed by fear or shame. We must act together to save ourselves.

Elaine Cameron



KEYHOLDER(S) URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR OUR FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

You are doubtless aware that the Church and Threshold Fire Alarm Systems are automatically monitored 24/7. This requires us to have designated 'Keyholders' whose name and contact number are recorded by the Monitoring Company and our Maintainer.

Security requires that only the named 'Keyholders' are given our password and instructed in how to reset the systems in the event of activation, real or false alarm, which can happen anytime day or night.

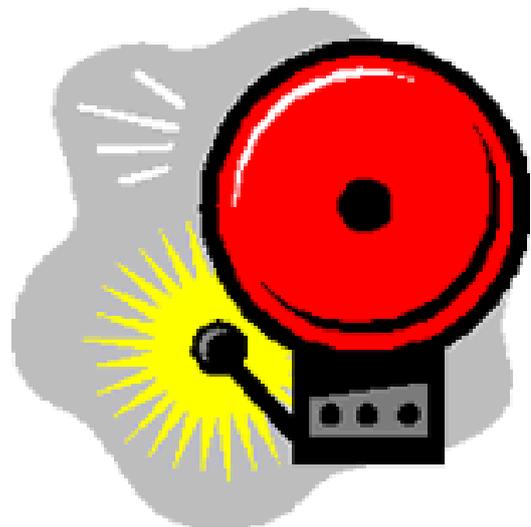
If the alarm is triggered, the Monitoring Company will contact the Keyholder(s) who will identify themselves and supply the password, whereupon they will have the option to cancel.

If there is no cancellation or no answer the Monitoring Service automatically calls out the Fire Brigade. The Keyholder should get to the Church as quickly as possible to liaise with the Fire Officer in charge.

Please note that in the event of a false alarm, the Fire Brigade will wait for twenty minutes before departure and have the option to charge, particularly if nobody puts in an appearance.

Please contact Judy Norwell, Vestry Secretary, if you wish to assist with this.

Graham Kingsley-Rowe



Perform in Perth

The Perthshire Music (Competitive) Festival got off to a lively start on Monday 7th March with several events taking place throughout the week in St John's.

Monday evening saw the Gaelic Choir class, where Stirling Gaelic Choir won strong praise from the Adjudicators and collected the Kinnaird Cup, the Festival's oldest award.

On Wednesday and Thursday, St. John's was the venue for the Speech classes, which included verse and prose for individuals and groups, many from our local schools. It was joyous to see these events in the beautiful setting of our church and we hope this will be the start of a long association with Perform in Perth.

Joyce Sampson







Scottish Episcopal Church
**Diocese of St Andrews
Dunkeld and Dunblane**

Scottish Charity No: SC017654



Bishop's Lent Appeal 2022

USPG 'Living Hope'

This Lent Bishop Ian is asking the Diocese to support the work of USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel, the Anglican mission organisation), in 2 ways:

USPG Lent Course 2022

'Living Stones, Living Hope'

on the theme of the Lambeth Conference scripture passages. The study booklet can be downloaded as a PDF, or printed copies can be ordered from USPG.

More information, including link to the pdf, and videos for groups to use with the Course, available at

www.uspg.org.uk/lent.

USPG 'Living Hope' Appeal

supporting the Zambia Anglican Council's Gender Justice programme and the Church of North India's programme with marginalised and deprived communities.

More information below, and at

<https://living-hope.raisely.com>.

To give to the Bishop's Lent Appeal by bank transfer:

Account No: **00187750** Sort Code: **82 68 31**

Or by cheque:

for **'Diocese of St Andrews Lent Appeal'**

to the Diocesan Office, 28A Balhousie Street, Perth, PH1 5HJ

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Continual Ministerial Development

Making Ready the Way of the Lord

The Gospel According to Luke – Visual and Theological reflections

Bishop Anne Dyer

St John the Baptist Church, Princes Street, Perth

2nd April 2022

10.30 am – 3.30 pm

Lunch will be provided



The Annunciation

Andy Warhol

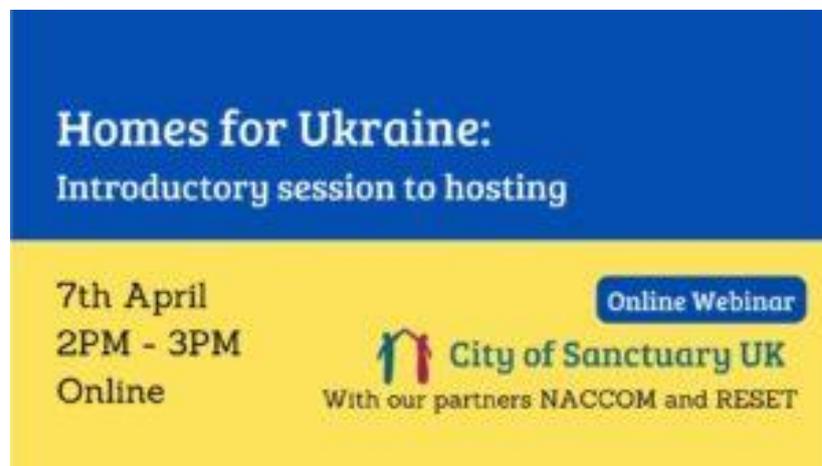


The Annunciation

Arnold Machin

“Warhol’s painting offers a great space through which to view the world, located between the angel and Mary. The Machin has a lovely reflective quality, offering a quiet listening to one another which might set the tone for the Study Day.”
(Bishop Anne)

Please let Carol in the Diocesan Office know you wish to attend and if you have any dietary preferences. bishopsec@standrews.anglican.org



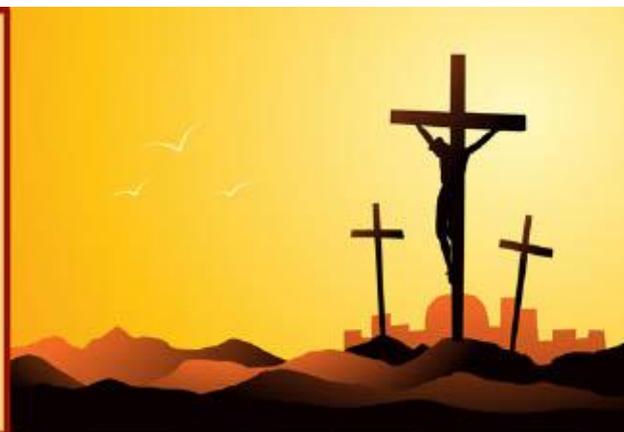
This session will provide an update on the scheme and a brief overview of the key practical considerations hosts should consider if they plan to join the UK government's [Homes for Ukraine](#) scheme. We will reference where you can find more detailed information and share plans on what is under development.

CoS UK will host speakers from partner organisations NACCOM – The No Accommodation Network and RESET who will share their expertise on hosting and community sponsorship schemes. The webinar will last around 60 mins, and include an interactive Q&A session at the end. The webinar will be recorded and available on our website after the event.

[NACCOM](#) is a national charity with a vision to see an end to destitution. To achieve this, the small staff team supports member organisations who are providing, or looking to provide, accommodation for people seeking asylum, refugees and other migrants facing homelessness.

[RESET](#) is the UK's Community Sponsorship learning hub. RESET was set up in 2018 to coordinate the growth of the Community Sponsorship movement across the UK.

MUSIC FOR
PASSIONTIDE



ST JOHN'S PASSION

by

HANDEL

Sung by the choir of Perth Cathedral
with invited soloists
directed by Geoff Bolton

An hour of readings and reflective music
as we move into Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

10TH APRIL

3.30PM

St Ninian's Cathedral

North Methven Street

Perth

chansons

Perth's Chamber Choir



Conducted by
Areti Lymeropoulou

With Eric Thomas
Lute / Theorbo

Chansons Spring Concert
Saturday 30 April 2022 at 7.30pm
St. John's Kirk of Perth

Featuring music by
Holst, Dowland, Kodály,
Gesualdo and Orbán

Tickets £15
(£5 students / under 26s)

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



SCAN ME

Chansons is a registered Scottish Charity: SC035974.

SPRING IS HERE !!!



Photos supplied by Mary Willington

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 June/July issue by:

Sunday 22nd May

If you take a hard copy of *Quest* please put a contribution in the tin at the back of the Church.

Contact Information

Rector	The Very Rev. Graham Taylor	634999	rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk
Assistant Curate	Rev. Annie MacKay Hughes	01333 451084	annemackayhughes@gmail.com
Retired Assistant Clergy	Rt Rev. Bruce Cameron Rev. Fergus Harris Rev. Canon Shelley Marsh Rev. Canon Alan Tilson		
Church Officers	Mail to be sent to Office		@episcopal-perth.org.uk
Rector's Warden	Gordon Murch	827034	church-warden@
People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
Administrator	Eleanor McGourty	634999	office@
Lay Representative	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Alternate Lay Rep	Jean Hendry	623603	
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell	626789	secretary@
Treasurer	Peter Marsh	575040	treasurer@
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	07813 822758	hands@
PVG	Malcolm Moore	639963	pvg@
Director of Music	Robin Miller	625903	music@
Sacristan	Vivienne Underwood	07549	651425
Team Convenors			
Ministry	Alan McPherson	552337	
Finance	Peter Marsh	575040	
Communications	Eleanor McGourty	634999	
Website/Facebook	Shelley Marsh	575040	
Children	Jean Hendry	623603	
Buildings and Eco	David Macle hose	636147	
Social	Fundraising Group		
Church Activities			
Intercessors/Readers	Liz Thompson	245968	
Flowers	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Magazine	David Willington	813787	
Fellowship	Jean Hendry	623603	
Young Church	Jean Hendry	623603	
Links	Ruth Harris	621379	
Christian Aid	Elaine Cameron	441172	
PACT	Jean Hendry	623603	
Threshold bookings	Eleanor McGourty	634999	office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

www.scotland.anglican.org

www.standrews.anglican.org

St John the Baptist
Scottish Episcopal Church
Princes Street, Perth, PH2 8LJ



www.episcopal-perth.org.uk
01738 634999
Scottish Charity Number SC 011398



The Very Revd Graham S. Taylor
23 Comely Bank, Perth PH2 7HU
01738 245922
rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk



In partnership with
the Scottish Association of
Retired Anglican Clergy

