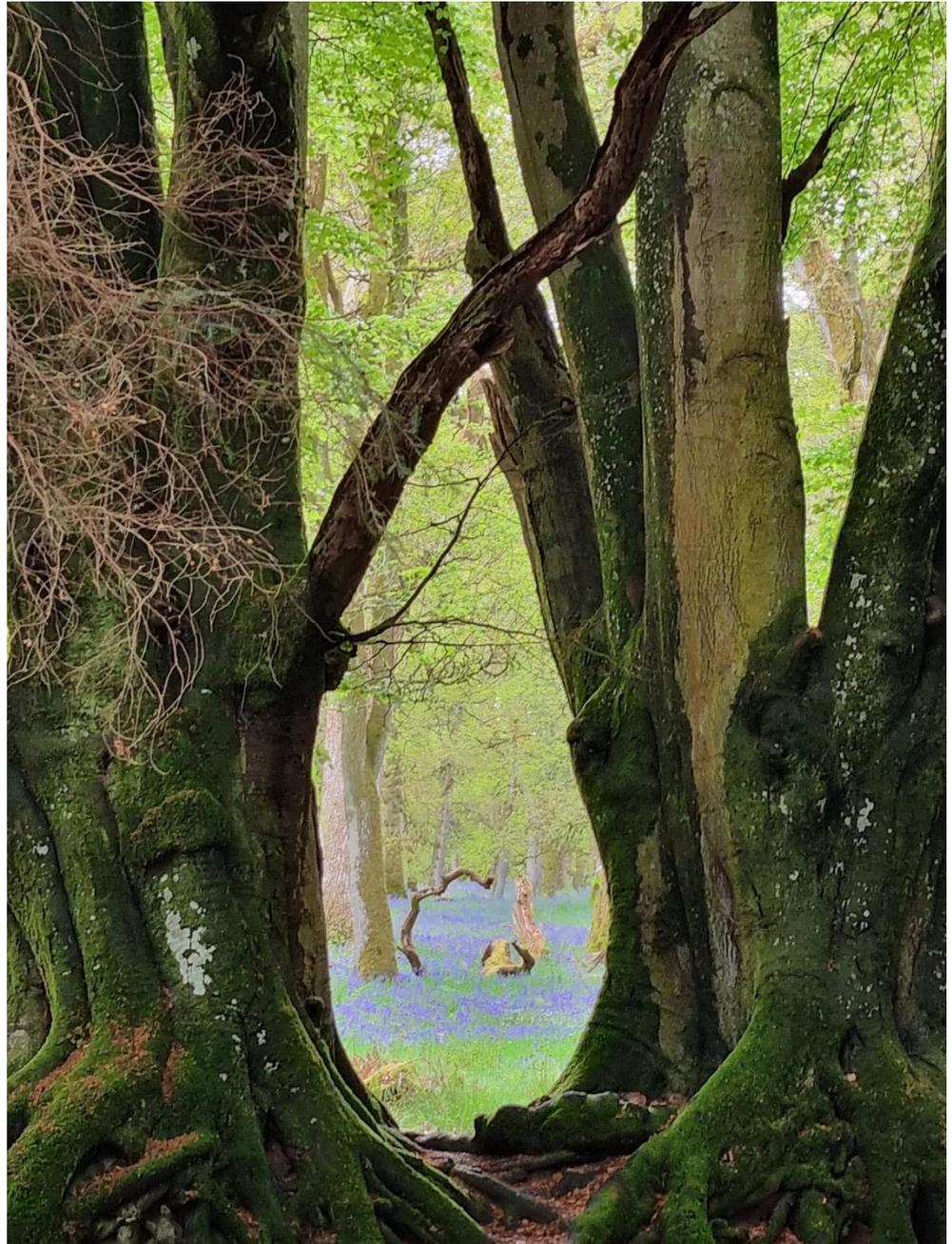




St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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June and July 2022

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

As the evenings lengthen, and the summer approaches, hope comes to us once again of all that lies ahead. I hope you are all beginning to enjoy some normality in your lives, following the lifting of restrictions these days. Yet with Covid cases still going around, the need for us all to be diligent and careful is still there.

That being said, it has been nice to have the Chalice introduced once again into our Eucharist, following on guidance from the diocese and province. As I intimate every Sunday, this is optional. You must feel comfortable to receive and only then should you do so. Alcohol wipes are used, and the Chalice is turned. However it is more than acceptable to receive Communion in the one form. Please be led, as you feel within yourselves to do what is right for you on this occasion.

We will also be celebrating, along with folks up and down the country, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this June. What a wonderful woman and a splendid example to us all. Prayers will be said, cake eaten, and fizz poured in the true St. John's style to mark this wonderful occasion.

It was lovely to see so many of you there, although on such a sad occasion, as we gave thanks to God for the life and Ministry of the Reverend Fergus Harris, a faithful and loyal servant of the church and particularly of St. John's. Many things we said on the day to give thanks, meant from our hearts, as we gathered to pray for Ruth and their family also. May dear Fergus rest in peace and rise in glory.

My thanks, as I am sure with many of you, go to the new 'Meet and Fix group'. Areas of our Church and Threshold are really beginning to look spruced up, flaking paint being restored and the grounds looking really cared for. Grateful thanks to all those who are giving their time and energy on these new projects.

My thanks to you all, as ever, for what an active, lively, caring congregation, folks who do not only care for their beautiful church, but more importantly for each other. This has been pointed out to me yet again by Ross, as he has been with us here on placement from the Scottish Episcopal Institute. Thank you, Ross, for all your energy and all that you have done to enrich us in your brief time in St. John's. Your warmth and love for Christ and his church has touched many of us. We wish you every blessing for your future.

To you all, much love,

Dean Graham

Services

Weekly Services

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

Special Services

5 th June	10.30 a.m.	Day of Pentecost and Platinum Jubilee
12 th June	10.30 a.m.	Trinity Sunday
26 th June	10.30 a.m.	Patronal Festival
17 th July	10.30 a.m.	Sea Sunday

Thanks

I, along with Rachel, Martin and Frances would like to thank you all for your very kind cards and condolence messages. They were a great comfort to us and it was lovely seeing lots of you at Fergus's Thanksgiving service too. Graham and Bruce made it such a beautiful tribute, along with Robin and Rhiannon.

Our grateful thanks to all.

Ruth

From the Registers – Eternal Rest

Rodney Cecil Jamieson: 28th June 1944 – 24th March 2022

Rev. William (Fergus) Harris: 15th February 1936 – 29th March 2022

From the Registers – Marriage

Robert Hair and Craig Smith – 21st May 2022

Memories of Fergus Harris

A large congregation gathered in St John's on 19th April to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of a former Rector and friend, Fergus Harris, who came here to serve as Rector in 1983.

Bishop Bruce writes:

Having known Fergus previously, serving in the Edinburgh diocese, I felt privileged to join him in 1988 to share ministry when he faced health difficulties. Fergus was a true pastor, a priest caring with compassion and love for his congregation. He gave his all to this ministry, as many in St Johns will testify..... and to his cost. Despite this he remained always a caring, humorous, listening pastor.

His ecumenical commitment was reflected particularly in the close connection with St John's Kirk and David Ogston, and with other local churches. His intellect and concerns were evidenced in wider community issues.

After taking early retirement in 1990 he and Ruth remained in Perth. Later, he faced the onset of Parkinson's with courage and tenacity. With the immense support of Ruth and social care he enjoyed quality of life, especially with his family. In recent times, his struggle with the disease was a continuing witness to his faith. No words were needed. His patient response to his suffering was a witness as powerful as in the public ministry of his earlier days.

My last memory I will always treasure. As I said a blessing, he struggled to get his arm over the bedclothes and made the sign of the Cross.

Bless you, Fergus

AHC writes:

With Fergus's passing we have lost a man of great intelligence, knowledge and compassion. He and I first met through St John's, Princes Street Edinburgh, in the mid 1960s. When his duties as University Anglican Chaplain permitted, he would assist at St John's and I would act as his server. On the recommendation of Dean Irvine, Fergus, Ruth and the family came to St John's, Perth, where Fergus was our own much loved Rector and friend.

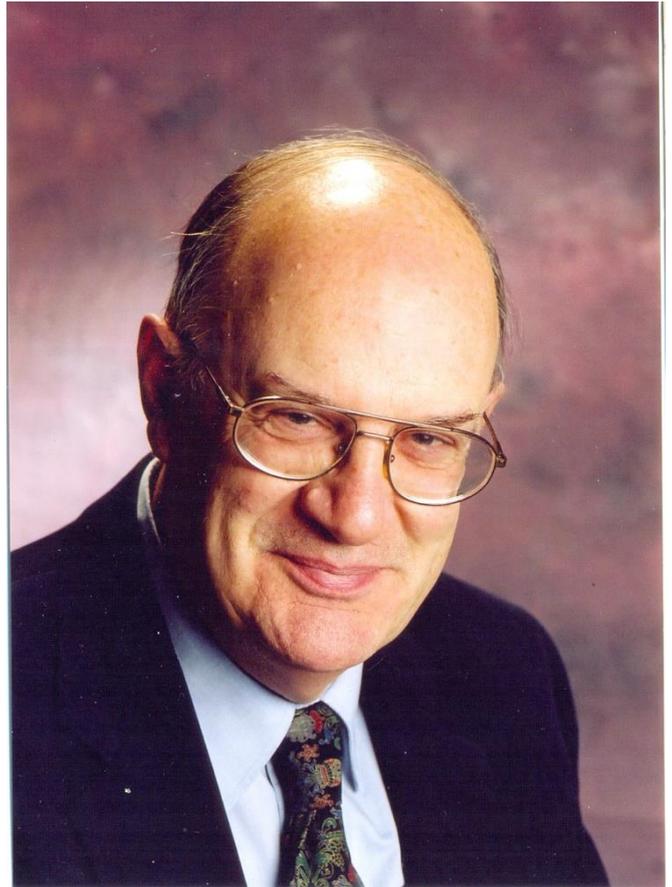
Others will write of his many activities outside St John's, but I can mention his interest in Railways, British and overseas. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge and, with no disrespect to the other members of the Perth Railway Group, he was the best informed of us. His interest in maps was well known and on trips we often had to drag him out of second-hand book shops in order not to miss our trains; he would be searching through rail maps and books.

Fergus bore his illnesses stoically and we remember a good, kindly and brave man.

JN writes:

It is now a number of years since St. John's members knew Fergus in the pulpit and about five years since we knew a well Fergus. But despite the passage of time it is evident from many comments on his passing that people feel they have lost a quietly dear and beneficent presence. For Fergus had above all a gift for relationship. He always asked about you and yours: wherever you had been he had a postcard or a map of it to show you; whatever you expressed interest in, he supplied an echo or a pertinent reference; whatever you had been reading with enjoyment, he produced another book or poem by the author. Never to trump your experience, only to enrich it. In my case, having mentioned a favourite poem by John Donne, a week later, sure enough, he had found a beautiful second-hand copy of Donne's poems for me.

The Provans and the Kings remember with affection Fergus marrying their daughters. Alison Swanney remembers - and those present concurred - that when saying goodbye Fergus always said 'Bless you' and meant it! Alastair Cruikshank has rich and lively memories of sharing their enthusiasm for Railways. Joyce and the Fellowship were so delighted that Ruth managed to bring Fergus one more time to the February meeting to watch Bill Bracewell's slide show. His smiles and his gentle humour didn't desert him till the very end. And apart from anything else, those fortunate to visit him at home from time to time were aware of his enormous pleasure and pride in his family. He will be fondly remembered by all who came into his orbit.



Eco Group Top Tips

The Church Eco Group hopes to provide some suggestions on steps we can take as we move towards being 'carbon neutral' by 2030.

As a start we offer a few tips to reduce energy consumption in our kitchens.

- Many of us may use the oven as a convenient place to store some of our baking trays. Make sure that these are removed before putting the oven on as they interfere with airflow and result in more energy being used.

- Defrosting items first rather than cooking from frozen saves energy by reducing the cooking time – check the food label to see if this is OK.
- And if you defrost items in the fridge this has the added benefit of saving energy by reducing the work the fridge needs to do to stay chilled, as well as being the safest way to defrost.
- If you're about to do some 'spring cleaning' then you could add cleaning the coils/grill at the back of your fridge to your list. When the coils are dusty this prevents the fridge from cooling properly and increases energy use.

If members of the congregation have their own suggestions which they are willing to share then please pass them on to David Willington or one of the Eco Group!

Eco Group

(Elaine Cameron, David Maclehose, Rhiannon Miller, Cath Bodrell)

We can do this together.

Perth Big Brekkie

This was the first face to face Christian Aid event in Perth for three years, so there was a real buzz and sense of excitement in the Cathedral last Saturday morning. Delicious bacon rolls, croissants, yoghurts and fruit were all there for a fulsome breakfast. The plant and cake stalls in the cloisters did good business. Folk were wonderfully generous about the Raffle, and Zoe did a swell job pulling the raffle tickets.



Maybe one of the most positive aspects of the morning was the working together of St John's and Cathedral teams, and the presence of so many members from both congregations joining together to support this fight

against poverty and injustice. It was also good to have ecumenical friends, and Councillor Ahern also joined us.

The saddest aspect of the morning was that Wendy Duncan, whose brainchild it was, had been struck by Covid and wasn't with us. And we were especially grateful to Christine Bracewell for stepping in to don the Bishop Bruce chef hat to prepare the bacon rolls!

So we are all very pleased that the event itself raised over £700 for Christian Aid. But donations are still coming, and when we count in the online donations it will be over £1000! The justgiving page remains open until mid-June. www.justgiving.com/PerthBigBrekkie

Elaine Cameron

Sunday Lectionary June and July

June 5th The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2. 1-21, Romans 8. 14-17, John 14. 8-17, 25-27

June 12th Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31, Romans 5. 1-5, John 16. 12-15

June 19th Pentecost 2

Isaiah 65. 1-9, Galatians 3. 23-29, Luke 8. 26-39

June 26th Pentecost 3 – PATRONAL FESTIVAL

1 Kings 19. 15-16, 19-21, Galatians 5. 1, 13-25, Luke 9. 51-62

July 3rd Pentecost 4

Isaiah 66. 10-14, Galatians 6. 1-6, Luke 10. 1-11, 16-20

July 10th Pentecost 5

Deuteronomy 30. 9-14, Colossians 1. 1-14, Luke 10. 25-37

July 17th Pentecost 6 – SEA SUNDAY

Genesis 18. 1-10a, Colossians 1. 15-28, Luke 10. 38-42

July 24th Pentecost 7

Genesis 18. 20-32, Colossians 2. 16-19, Luke 11. 1-13

July 31st Pentecost 8

Ecclesiastes 1. 2,12-14;2.18-23, Colossians 3. 1-11, Luke 12. 13-21

Fellowship

After three meetings when we had been entertained with photographic presentations by members of the congregation, with the April meeting being in Holy week it was decided that the meeting would be one where members created something related to Easter. With the provision of various appropriate bits and pieces and ideas as to what we might actually do with them coming from Eunice and Joyce, I think we all managed to make at least one Easter card of a standard good enough to send to a friend. It turned out to be a fun afternoon rounded off with the usual tea and cake.

For May we actually had the first Fellowship AGM since 2019 and we couldn't even find any Minutes from that meeting! This meant the AGM part of the meeting was brief but a report of the Fellowship's activities from September 2021 – May 2022 was given by Jean and Joyce had produced and circulated the accounts which did contain records of charitable donations that had been made in recent months. These were approved.

Following the AGM business we had another presentation from a well known face in the congregation. Raymond King told us about his exploits back in the 1950s before he met Elizabeth and also before the era of 35mm slides. This latter issue defeated Bill Bracewell who can normally

manage to scan 35mm slides into a computer such that they can then be used in a power point presentation. He couldn't however cope with Raymond's two inch square slides.

The only way Raymond could show his slides was using his own equally ancient 1950s projector. Bearing in mind health and safety rules on electrical equipment used in public places. Joyce was able to find a friendly electrician, who was able to inspect, PAT test and pass it as safe, so we were able to see Raymond's slides! We heard about his exciting time doing National Service when he was in Malta, Cyprus and finally Suez at the time of the 1956 Suez crisis.

This had given him a taste for further adventure such that he spent £50 on a ticket to emigrate to Canada! Most of his slides showed us what his life was like in Vancouver over two years in the late 1950s. He did then decide to return and did so by crossing the border to the US and then catching a Greyhound bus to New York from where he sailed back to the UK. It wasn't a non-stop bus trip as we did see slides of areas he passed through such as the Grand Canyon on his way across America. Even after his return, we saw photos taken just a few months later, showing he was on a skiing holiday in Austria and there were also a few photos of other European holidays. For those of us old enough to remember the late 1950s it was very clear that the extent of Raymond's travels in that era was unusual. Some of those of similar age who have travelled in more recent years were left thinking how limited their experience of foreign travel had been before 1960.

Jean Hendry



Computer Tech Support

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct downturn in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0. In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House Cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed, Desperate

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an Operating System. Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and download Tears 6.2. Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5. However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5. Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother-in-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background which will eventually seize control of your system resources. In addition, please do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. It is an unsupported application and will crash Husband 1.0. In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0. Good Luck!

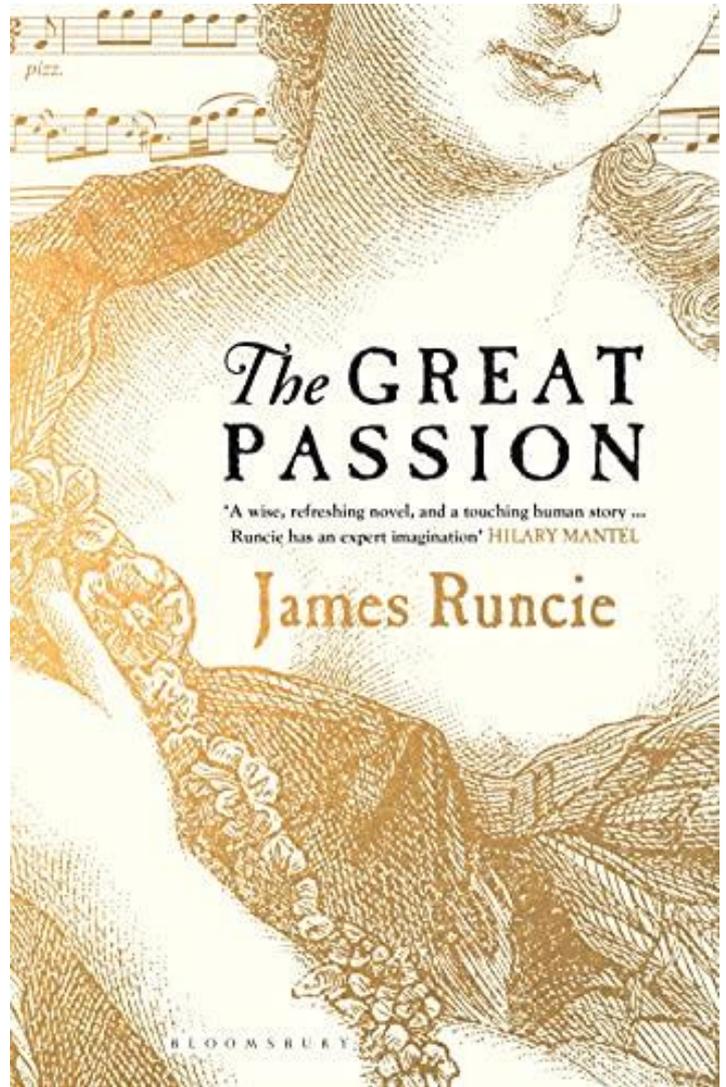
Submitted by Graham Kingsley-Rowe

The Great Passion

I have been reading *The Great Passion* by James Runcie, the son of the archbishop, and the author of the Grantchester mysteries. It is a novel set in the household of Johann Sebastian Bach in the year leading up to the first performance of the Passion according to St Matthew in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig on Good Friday 1727. Stefan Silbermann, the son of an organ builder, is sent to the Choir School where he is bullied. He runs away. The Rector wants to punish him but Bach, the Cantor, insists that Stefan is his best treble. Bach encourages him by taking him to inspect the organ at the University. Stefan from his father's trade knows a lot about the working of organs and is a competent keyboard player. Bach invites him to live in his household to escape the bullying of David Stolle, another treble. Stefan has lost his own mother and Anna Magdalena, Bach's second wife, takes him under her wing and coaches him in his singing. The household is devoted to music; Bach's children are talented musicians, and they are always playing instruments or arguing. Presiding over all this is Johann Sebastian, the paterfamilias. Stefan aged fourteen finds a companion in Catharina, three years older than himself; she has a passion for butterflies. Visiting the household are the composer Telemann and Christian Henrici (Picander), the librettist of some of Bach's cantatas and especially of the St Matthew Passion. Stefan is employed copying music for the weekly cantatas that Bach has to compose for each Sunday and he sings in the choir. In the performance of the Passion he sings the aria 'I shall give my heart to you'.

Bach himself is a figure of enormous energy, a 'workaholic', and tends to moralise, not least at the table. However, he gives his singers every encouragement to overcome the difficulties of the score. That unbroken voices could sing such complex music seems remarkable today, but at that time women were not allowed to sing in church; Anna Magdalena had a fine voice. When tragedy strikes, his solution is to work, confident that his music will redound to the glory of God, *solī Deo Gloria*. By his two wives Bach had twenty-one children, of whom only nine survived.

The transitoriness of human life and endeavour is a constant theme. There is a rich cast of characters and each is deftly drawn. In their different ways they are involved in the performance of the Passion. The author's research is impressive; only an expert will be able to tell where History ends and Runcie's imagination begins. One criticism that might be made is that Stefan shows exceptional maturity for his age, but at that time children had to grow up very fast and responsibility was thrust upon them early. Runcie's writing is always lucid and interesting, and like the characters the reader is inexorably drawn into the drama of the creation of Bach's masterpiece.



David 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 August/September issue by:

Sunday 17th July

Please ensure that all entries are given to the Editor by the final date as the editorial team is extremely busy in the second half of July. Many thanks.

Photos of Canna



Mary Willington took these photographs during our recent visit to the Isle of Canna.

1. The harbour with Rum in the background.
2. Canna House and garden.
3. Puffins on the stack Dun Mhor.
4. A bonxie



Cover photo of Kinclaven Woods taken by Joyce Sampson

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



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