



# St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

Q  
U  
E  
S  
T



October and November 2022

# Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

What a historic time in the life of our nation we have witnessed over these past days! Emotions have run high, as crowds have flocked to line our streets, have taken themselves to Holyrood and Westminster to pay their respects to our late Queen. Many services have taken place to mark her passing, and many have prayed for her soul now at rest. In this time now of change, we remember our new King Charles III and all of the royal family. May our prayers be for them at this significant time of change and new ways of being. May God uphold and guide them.

A lovely poem was read at a Remembrance Service for the Queen in Dunfermline Abbey, one that I was privileged to take part in, a poem that reflects the beautiful Deeside, and her beloved Balmoral.

## *Lochnagar*

The alder boughs hang heavy,  
Red weighs the rowan-trees  
That line the well-loved path which climbs  
To Lochnagar from Dee  
And knows at last the open hill,  
Those ancient wind-honed heights  
Where deer stand shy and sky-lined,  
Then vanish from living sight.

Where grief is ice, and history  
Is distant rolling skies,  
Where weather chases weather  
Across the lands she strived  
To serve, and served supremely well,  
Till the call came from afar;  
Back to the country kept in her heart,  
The Dee, and Lochnagar.

Times of change. By the time you read this we will have celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Autumn has come upon us, as we feel the chill in the air once again, and the farmers gather in all their crops. We give thanks to almighty God once more for the seasons of life and for all the good things that we receive and enjoy. We are ever mindful of course of those who have little to share, where the earth's resources are scarce. Our prayers and thoughts must reach out to them.

I hope in every time of change you experience once again the God who is ever changeless.

Much love to you all,

Graham

Photography by Mary Willington



### ***Weekly Services***

Sunday            8.30 a.m.            Holy Communion

Sunday            10.30 a.m.           Sung Eucharist

Every third Sunday there will be prayers for healing

Thursday        11.00 a.m.        Communion, coffee and a chance to chat

### ***Special Services***

30<sup>th</sup> October        10.30 am            All Saints

2<sup>nd</sup> November       7.30 pm            All Soul's

13<sup>th</sup> November     10.30 am           Remembrance Sunday

20<sup>th</sup> November     10.30 am           Christ the King

27<sup>th</sup> November     10.30 am           Advent Sunday

# One Day in September

*When beggars die there are no comets seen;  
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.*

I don't know if there were any astral portents of the death of our late Queen, but the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 was a significant day in many respects, as commentators have explained. For a start, the closing acts of a reign that lasted seventy-three years are very unlikely to be seen again. It was a day on which most world leaders came to pay their respects and politics were laid aside. And it did not rain, unlike Coronation Day in 1953. Thousands of people lined the route and no doubt many thousands more watched on television. The sombre passage of the gun carriage, the relentless beating of the drum at seventy-five beats a minute, the almost complete silence in the crowd as the cortège made its way to the Abbey – all this was impressive indeed. The drill and discipline of the armed forces on parade was remarkable. They were not chocolate soldiers but troops fully trained for battle. In the service the Authorised Version and the 1662 Prayer Book were used, imparting great dignity of language. I loved the language of the Proclamation, too: 'Whereas it hath pleased almighty God...' The hymns could have been sung in any parish church. The anthems were highly appropriate: Purcell's *Thou knowest, Lord* which was composed for the funeral of Queen Mary II in 1694, Parry's setting of Vaughan's *My soul, there is a country* and Sir James MacMillan's *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ*, composed for the occasion – ancient and modern together, like the Monarchy itself.

Of course, such a magnificent show requires years of meticulous preparation. A public ceremony, if there is one, is worth doing well, the best the country can achieve. But despite so many years of preparation, nevertheless for the King the moment of his accession came not only with the personal grief of losing a parent but with a realisation of the awesome

responsibility that is laid on him. No wonder by the end of a gruelling ten days of travel and a day full of ceremonial, all in public view, he was looking more than weary; apart from anything else, he had walked behind the coffin, at a slow march, for over a mile. Beneath the uniform he appeared vulnerable and human, like the rest of us.

As for the late Queen, her passing was all that anyone could wish for after a very long life well lived. On Tuesday, meeting her Prime Ministers, she was on good form, though using a stick. She started to fade the next day and died peacefully on Thursday. It was as if she could do nothing more for her country and it was time to depart.

By the time you read this, the events of the 19<sup>th</sup> September will have been overtaken by the usual reports of our fractious world. But I hope that my grandchildren will be able to tell their grandchildren that they witnessed the Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

David Willington



# Live Streaming the Sunday Service

Streaming over YouTube has now become a normal part of our Sunday service with, at present, an average of 47 views per week. That's more than we are seeing in church! I think we're getting to the point where the setup is almost complete. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be streaming from our shiny new laptop (new to us, that is!) which will allow us to use two cameras during the service.

Any further improvements will require a significant investment and disruption that isn't really warranted at the moment. For example, the video feed could benefit from a completely new lighting system which would turn the church into a TV studio... So I hope that you like it as it is!\*

All of this has led me to ponder the purpose of the live stream, and I think there are two answers to that. The first is to keep the family at St John's connected. I hope it does a good job at that, and I hope that if you can't come to church, you feel included in our worship. If you regularly watch the service might you like a hymn book so you can join in the singing at home? If you'd like that please let me, Dean Graham, or one of the Wardens know and I'll find a way to make that happen.

There is also a second potential from the live stream, and that is outreach. We can provide a service to people outwith our congregation who are looking for help to worship at home – people who may not currently belong to a church, or whose own church does not offer a streamed or recorded service.

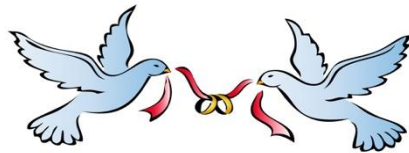
We have on YouTube a potential audience of thousands and to try and unlock that I need your help. There are two things you can do. When you see a stream could you please press the "like" button on each stream that you watch. If you didn't see this week's stream you could consider dropping by and pressing the "like" button on it anyway.

The second thing is to subscribe to the channel. We have 60 subscribers, at time of writing, which isn't all of you. Doing these two things will help the YouTube algorithm to choose to put our content in front of new people.

Thank you!

Robin Miller

\*One cheap and simple improvement which we could do would be to have a big sign at the back of church which the sidespeople can hold up when the Rector has left his microphone on during the hymns!



On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August The Very Revd Graham Taylor  
officiated at the wedding of  
Roxanne Hamilton and David Jaffray

*St John's saw two baptisms taking place during August*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022** - Madeleine Adelaide Brookes, daughter of Kieran and Amanda Brookes.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022** - Archie Graham Henderson, son of Josh Graham and Sophie Dormer



# Fellowship

After the summer break the Fellowship met again at the usual time on the second Monday of September. This was a few days after the death of the Queen and during discussion it became apparent, from the ages of those present, that there were more present that day for whom King Charles was the fifth Monarch who had reigned during their lives, than those for whom, like the majority of the UK population, the Queen was the first monarch they had known and King Charles was the second! The afternoon was spent catching up with friends over tea and cake.

It is looking as if at the October meeting Bill Bracewell will be treating us to a presentation on his and Christine's recent African safari, a trip in which they were also accompanied by some of their family. For the November meeting we have pencilled in the diary a lady from St Matthew's Church who has been involved with the Great Tapestry of Scotland, which is now at its permanent home at Tweedbank near Galashiels. Both these meetings we expect to be of interest to the wider congregation. The dates are Mondays the 10<sup>th</sup> October and the 14<sup>th</sup> November with both starting at 2.30 pm.

Jean Hendry





# Sunday Lectionary October and November

## **October 2<sup>nd</sup> Pentecost 17**

Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4, 2 Timothy 1.1-14, Luke 17. 5-10

## **October 9<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 18**

2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c, 2 Timothy 2.8-15, Luke 17. 11-19

## **October 16<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 19**

Genesis 32. 22-31, 2 Timothy 3. 14 - 4. 5, Luke 18. 1-8

## **October 23<sup>rd</sup> Pentecost 20**

Jeremiah 14. 7-10, 19-22, 2 Timothy 4. 6-8,16-18, Luke 18. 9-14

## **October 30<sup>th</sup> All Saints**

Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18, Ephesians 1.11-23, Luke 6. 20-36

## **November 6<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 22**

Job 19. 23-27a, 2 Thessalonians 2. 1-5, 13-17, Luke 20. 27-38

## **November 13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday**

Job 19. 21-27, I Corinthians 15. 51-57, John 6. 37-40

## **November 20<sup>th</sup> Last Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 23. 1-6, Colossians 1. 11-20, Luke 23. 33-43

## **November 27<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Advent *Year A***

Isaiah 2. 1-5, Romans 13. 11-14, Matthew 24. 36-44

# St John's Eco Group

The eco-group, Cath Bodrell, Elaine Cameron, David Maclehose and Rhiannon Miller, were pleased when Graham invited us to outline how we are taking forward the SEC motion to be carbon zero by 2030, and to explain our strong commitment. Unfortunately Cath, our link with the Vestry, was unable to be with us that Sunday.



We have designed a **logo** for St John's eco actions.

**Actions:** an **Energy Footprint Analyser** was completed, providing a baseline for reducing our energy expenditure. With assistance, we have filled **Ten sections of Toolkit** (see list in the Threshold), and note that we have already begun this journey: e.g. we use recycled paper. The Vestry will help us consider next steps soon.

What we each shared:

## Elaine

Two factors make me passionate about this.

Firstly, my faith. Sunday by Sunday we say 'God so loved the world' - a declaration of God's care for the world. So if global warming is threatening everything in the world, then we need to be concerned. Read the paean to creation in Job 38/39

*What is more Christian than to be good stewards of the planet & love our global neighbour as ourselves?*

Secondly, many of you are grandparents. I wonder if, like me, you sensed a shift in your time horizon? When Maisie, our first granddaughter, was born seven years ago, I began fearing how different the world would be for her, not ten but fifty years on. Seeing the Alaskan Mendenhall Glacier fall made this an unforgettable reality. It made me realise how much of our world is imperilled.

The weather worldwide, even the UK's, is increasingly unpredictable. Hope lies in recognising this reality & taking steps to change it. As Paul says: *Hope never makes us ashamed because the love of God has come into our hearts.*

## **Rhiannon**

I believe God calls us to protect the environment.

God made this world, not just as a home for us humans, not as a resource for us to exploit, but as a beautiful treasure in itself, valued and loved for its own sake, because God sees that it is good.

It is God's earth, and we are part of it. It is our job to tend it.

Today's readings tell us that God is very concerned about fairness, about justice. It bothers God when we mistreat others, particularly those who are already disadvantaged. It bothers God when we get greedy, and pursue wealth instead of looking after each other and the world God created.

We are trampling the needy when climate change causes drought and crop failure in the Horn of Africa.

We are bringing to ruin the poor when climate change causes devastating floods in Pakistan.

We use false balances when the consequences of the actions of rich countries and corporations fall on poor communities across the world.

The next few years are crucial if we are to avoid complete climate disaster. If we all act now, persuading corporations and governments to act, we can stop the damage, even reverse it.

It is our calling as followers of Christ, as worshippers of the Creator God, as people who live in the world God created, to ensure that our lives help the earth, not damage it, and to campaign for wider action to heal and protect God's creation.

## David

Reducing emissions is not just replacing fossil fuels when we generate electricity with wind or water turbines, or substitute oil with nitrogen fuel. So here are a few tips that would help us reduce emissions in our homes.

- Maximise and enjoy our use of natural resources.
- Don't waste when you can conserve - use less water electricity and gas.
- Avoid using paper; stop copying reams of paper. This will keep more trees in our landscape.
- Buy Green energy, generated by wind and water turbines, from your electricity supplier.
- Reduce your heating thermostat to 17 degrees from 20 degrees. Put on an extra jersey!
- Fit LED bulbs in your light fittings; they use much less electricity.
- Reduce the temperature in your fridge by a couple of degrees.
- Take a shower not a bath and for two minutes not eight.
- Close the curtains at dusk to keep the heat in and open in the morning to allow the sun to brighten your rooms.
- Make sure all windows and exterior doors fit tight.
- Insulate your loft if you have one, with 300 to 600 mm fibre insulation.
- Take the bus not the car, and, better still, walk or cycle. Walk your dog, or a neighbour's dog, as often as you can.
- Remember it is the little things that make the world a better place.
- If all of members of St John's Church changed their habits along these lines how much cumulatively, we will be reducing emissions, and preserving our environment for future generations.

# Isebail's Chickens – the Solution

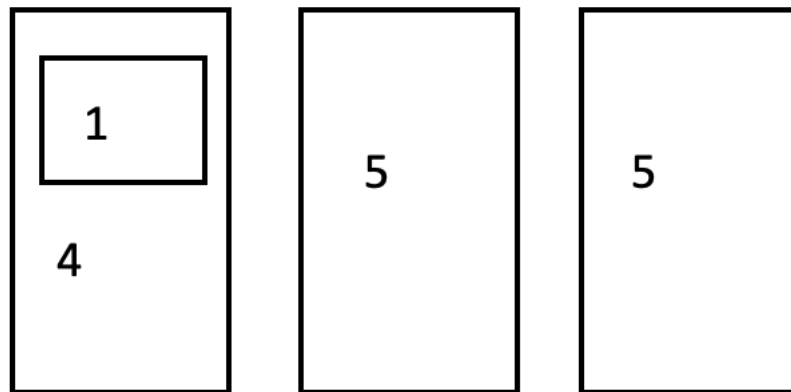
I seem to have put the cat amongst Isebail's chickens with this puzzle – it has drawn comments and questions! And I fear that you may be irritated by my solution!

(Reminder – the question was how to place 15 chickens in 4 chicken runs with an odd number of chickens in each run.)



As some of you have correctly pointed out, it is not possible to add 4 odd numbers to get the total 15. The only way for it to be done then is to count an odd number of chickens more than once.

One possible arrangement:



Well done to anyone who got it! Apologies to those of you who have been struggling with it.

Cath Bodrell

## Image on front cover:

Crown of Scotland in Heraldry

By Royal\_Coat\_of\_Arms\_of\_the\_United\_Kingdom\_(Scotland).svg:

Sodacanderivative work: Sodacan (talk) -

Royal\_Coat\_of\_Arms\_of\_the\_United\_Kingdom\_(Scotland).svg, CC BY-SA 3.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10956228>



**Perth Eco - Congregation Network Group**  
invites you to an open meeting on  
**Wednesday 12th October from 6.30 - 8pm Cathedral Chapter  
House, North Methven Street, Perth**



Ana de Miguel from P&K Waste Awareness Team will speak about recycling our waste and advise about the safe disposal or possible re-use of items and materials which might otherwise go into landfill.

Perhaps you're wondering what to do with old paint, polystyrene or garden netting? Or maybe it's the growing bag of phone chargers and dead computers lurking in a cupboard that concerns you? Whatever it is, you're certainly not alone, so do come along and join us to have your questions answered - the more the merrier!

And in view of the worsening energy crisis we have also asked for some top tips to help us to save energy and keep warm this winter.

## From the Editor

Thanks very much for everyone's contributions to this issue. Please hand in or email all items to David Willington for our December/January issue

by: **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

# Contact Information

Rector	The Very Rev. Graham Taylor	634999	<a href="mailto:rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk">rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk</a>
Assistant Curate	Rev. Annie MacKay Hughes	01333 451084	<a href="mailto:annemackayhughes@gmail.com">annemackayhughes@gmail.com</a>
Retired Assistant Clergy	Rt Rev. Bruce Cameron Rev. Canon Shelley Marsh Rev. Canon Alan Tilson		
<b>Church Officers</b>	<b>Mail to be sent to Office</b>		<a href="mailto:@episcopal-perth.org.uk">@episcopal-perth.org.uk</a>
Rector's Warden	Gordon Murch	827034	<a href="mailto:church-warden@">church-warden@</a>
People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
Administrator	Eleanor McGourty	634999	<a href="mailto:office@">office@</a>
Lay Representative	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Alternate Lay Rep	Jean Hendry	623603	
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell	626789	<a href="mailto:secretary@">secretary@</a>
Treasurer	Peter Marsh	575040	<a href="mailto:treasurer@">treasurer@</a>
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	07813 822758	<a href="mailto:hands@">hands@</a>
PVG	Malcolm Moore	639963	<a href="mailto:pvg@">pvg@</a>
Director of Music	Robin Miller	625903	<a href="mailto:music@">music@</a>
Sacristan	Vivienne Underwood	07549	651425
<b>Team Convenors</b>			
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		
<b>Church Activities</b>			
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	<a href="mailto:office@episcopal-perth.org.uk">office@episcopal-perth.org.uk</a>

[www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

[www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org)

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



[www.episcopal-perth.org.uk](http://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](mailto:rector@episcopal-perth.org.uk)



In partnership with  
the Scottish Association of  
Retired Anglican Clergy

