



# St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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December and January 2022-23

## A Reflection on Luke 20: 27-38

Do you ever wonder what Heaven will be like? I have been thinking about this over the past few days with All Saints and All Souls. Isn't that the great question in today's reading?

The Sadducees were the oldest and most conservative of the major religious groups of Jesus' day. One of their big disagreements with the Pharisees and the other groups was over the fairly new notion that there would be a personal resurrection after death. The Sadducees denied this for a number of reasons. Today's Gospel mentions two of them. First: the resurrection was not attested in the Torah, the first five books of our Old Testament. Second: the resurrection didn't make sense. They said that you could not think about it clearly and that you could not understand it well enough to merit believing in it.

It is important to pay careful attention to what Jesus has to say in answer to the Sadducees, who asked him about the woman with seven husbands. This is one of the very few times Jesus does deal with direct questions on this matter.

His response is fascinating. He says that the woman in the story is not going to be anyone's wife. The question was silly because things will be different, and people will be different. He says that we will all be like angels – children of the resurrection. Is that a very satisfying answer? We don't know what angels are like, so we don't know what he means by saying we will be like angels. We don't know what it means to be children of the resurrection. The Sadducees came to Jesus with this great question and Jesus simply said that everything was going to be fine. We know no more about the resurrected life than we did before.

But this is central to our understanding of the resurrection, and of hope. Our hope does not come from knowing whose wife the woman will be.

Our hope does not come from knowing any details of answers to the best and most reasonable of questions. Our hope comes from knowing Jesus, and our trust in the power and love of God. There is no other source of real, dynamic, living hope. There are no specifics. We are called simply to surrender our questions and difficulties and logical questions to trust in God, who will handle things better than we could imagine. God's love and care for us will surpass all that we can ask.

God's love has already carried us through so much and will not die, but grow. So the best way to prepare spiritually for our own death and for the life to come is not by taking harp lessons or trying to figure out the details of an afterlife, but rather to work on trusting God more and to practice letting go of ourselves. This doesn't answer the question posed by the Sadducees or our own questions. Instead, we are given an opportunity to trust and hope, which is greater than all our questions.

Dean Graham (from a sermon preached on 6<sup>th</sup> November)

## Services

### *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

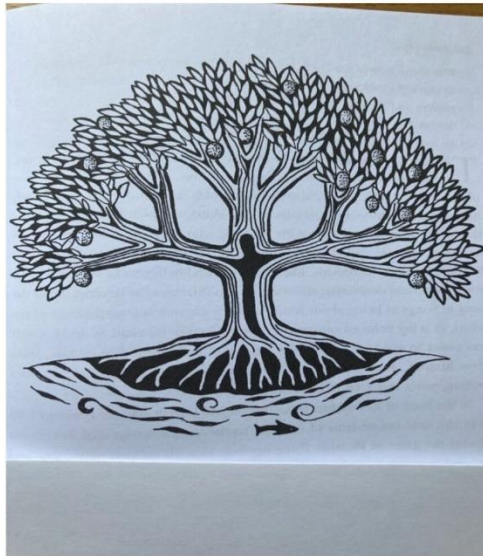
### *Special Services*

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30 am	Nine Lessons and Carols
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	11.00 pm	Midnight Eucharist
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Christmas Day
		Family Eucharist

**St John's Scottish Episcopal Church, Perth**

**Advent 2022**

**Re-imagining our connection with all creation  
through Bible- based resources**



***Reflections from the book***

***The Healer's Tree***

**Wednesday at 7.00pm**

**November 30, December 7, 14, 21**

with

**Rev Annie Mackay Hughes, Sarah Axford,**

**Rev Bonnie Evans-Hills, Elaine Cameron**

**Followed by *Compline***

**Everyone Welcome**

# Fellowship

In late September I wrote for the October Quest that we were looking forward to hearing about the Bracewell's African Safari at our October meeting and about the Great Scottish Tapestry by one of its stitchers in November. Both of these events were well attended and enjoyed by all.

It was lovely to see photos of Bill and Christine enjoying being in the Serengeti National Park with their family on a fantastic holiday in which they saw all the large exotic species they hoped to see and their views were close enough to obtain brilliant photos of them, in some cases looking as if they had been scarily close.

In November Lorna Morrison, who is a member of St Matthew's Church, spoke with great enthusiasm on how she came to be involved in stitching a panel of the Scottish Tapestry as part of a group of around 8 or 10 local stitchers and how it was then displayed in the Scottish Parliament for a few months followed by a few other venues around Scotland including Stirling Castle. She then described how it was now in its permanent home in Galashiels in a new fine new building designed to suit its size and requirements such as temperature and lighting. Many of us left thinking that a trip to Galashiels had now been added to our wish list of future days out.

For the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December it is planned that it will, as is usual for the December meeting, be a mixture of Christmas music and Christmas food.

Jean Hendry



# Eco Meets the Cost of Living Crisis

After the service September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Eco Group invited members of the congregation to share ideas to help reduce energy bills - both collectively and individually.

Very many thanks for all your suggestions – we were delighted by your positive response! Here they are:

- Plan meals to eat what is in season and sourced locally if possible.
- Don't bother peeling vegetables – scrubbing is sufficient!
- Try bread, crispbreads or oatcakes instead of toast for breakfast.
- Have a glass of water instead of a cup of tea or coffee.
- Recycle plastics, paper, glass etc.
- Read, or browse your laptop in the Library or Museum, rather than heat your own home.
- Swop books, rather than buy.
- Fit a strategically placed wall mirror to reduce the need for artificial light.
- Turn the thermostat down.
- Fill the kettle with only as much water as you need.
- Switch off the kettle as soon as you hear the first bubbling. Energy is wasted waiting for the automatic cut-off.
- Don't turn on an electric ring to full power straight away. Let it warm to half power first; then turn it up. It is the initial burst of power from cold that uses the most energy.
- Replace low energy light bulbs with LEDs.
- Use a Smart Meter sparingly to assess your appliances consumption.



More ideas, or comments about any of the above will be very welcome. Please send to Elaine Cameron [elaine.ging@gmail](mailto:elaine.ging@gmail.com) or 07977 416250

## And there were Shepherds

(There are many versions of the Nativity story. This is one comes from Hawaii. NB ohana = house/family; hapai = pregnant; uku = many)

Dat time, da king fo da Rome peopo, Augustus Caesar, wen make all da peopo sign up to find out how much people get every place. Dis da first sign up dey wen make wen Quirinius stay governa fo Syria. So Joseph wen go from Nazaret town Galilee side to Betlehem Judea side, King David's town, cuz he come from King David's ohana. He go ova dea fo sign up wit Mary, da wahine da ohana wen promise for marry him. She stay hapai. Wen dey stay dea, da time come fo her fo born her baby. An she wen born numba one boy, an wrap him up inside some cloths, and lay him down inside one ting for hold da cows food, cuz no more room for dem inside da small hotel.

Dat nite, ova dea inside da fields, get sheep farmas taking care dea sheeps. Right den and dea one angel messenja guy from da Boss Up Dea Inside Da Sky come by dem. All aroun dem one awesome light wen shine from da Boss. An dey wen come real scared. But da angel guy say: 'No scared. I come fo tell you guys Good Suff From God dat goin make you guys an all da peope stay good inside. Dis day inside King David's town, one boy wen born dat goin take you guys outa da bad kine stuff you stay doing. He da Christ Guy, da Spesho Guy God Wen Send. He da Boss. Dis how you goin know him. You goin find one baby dat stay wrap up inside plenny cloths, lying down inside one ting fo hold da cows food.'

Right den and dea uku paila angel guys from da sky wen show up wit da first angel guy. Dey saying good stuff bout God lidis:

'Up inside da sky wea God stay  
He stay awesome!  
An ova hea on top da earth,  
If God like wat peopo doing,  
He goin make dea heart rest inside.'

Den da angel guys wen go away from dem an go back by God inside da sky. Da sheep farmas tell each odda: ‘Eh, brahs, we go Betlehem fo see dis ting dat wen happen, dat da Boss Up Dea Inside Da Sky wen tell us.’ So dey run an find Mary an Joseph an da baby stay dea, lying down inside one ting fo hold da cows food. Wen dey see da baby, dey tell everybody wat da angel guys wen say bout dis boy. Everybody dat wen hear dat stay tinkin bout wat da sheep farmas wen tell dem. But Mary wen put all dese tings inside her heart, an tink plenny how spesho dey stay. Da sheep farmas wen go back, and dey tell everybody how God stay plenny good an awesome, cuz all da stuff dey wen hear an see, was jalike da angel guy wen tell dem.

contributed by David Willington

## Take Time

Take time to THINK .... it is the source of power.

Take time to PLAY .... It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to READ .... It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to PRAY .... It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to LOVE and BE LOVED .... It is a GOD given privilege.

Take time to be FRIENDLY .... It is the road to happiness.

Take time to LAUGH .... It is the music of the soul.

Take time to GIVE .... It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to WORK .... It is the price of success.

Take time to DO CHARITY .... It is the key to heaven.

Submitted by Graham Kingsley-Rowe



# Calendar Sales 2022

## **An Increase in Sales and Income!**

I am pleased to report that the sales of the 2023 Calendar produced by Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club have had another successful result for St John's with 55 Calendars sold and a total of £420 raised which goes towards the work of St John's. This an increase on previous years' sales and I wish to thank most warmly all those members who have contributed to this.

More widely so far around 1500 calendars have been sold or are with charities and individual Rotarians to sell in and around Perth. Given there has been a two-year gap when no calendar was produced due to the lockdown this result is very gratifying.

With a few weeks to go until the beginning of 2023, I have a few calendars still available and if you want one please get in touch with me on Sundays or by phone 01738441172 or [bruce2541@gmail.com](mailto:bruce2541@gmail.com).

Cost is £7.50p per calendar. A sample copy for those who have not seen one is available at the back of the Church

Bishop Bruce

## A Book Recommended

Sonia Dowse has been reading *The Island of Singing Trees* by Elif Shafak. It is a mixture of natural history and the story of the division of Cyprus and the feeling of exile. Recently Ben Fogle has made a very interesting TV programme about visiting the Green Line. The book ties in very well with the programme and will be of interest also to those who have visited Cyprus. Though the events described in the book happened over a half-century ago, they cast a long shadow.

# Streaming

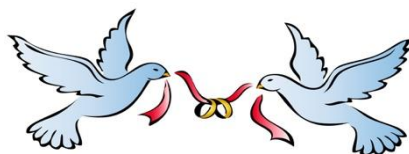
A well-known person once said: 'I am in this world but not part of it'. As someone nearer ninety than eighty I can understand the feeling. In days of old, when you could speak with someone live on the telephone and hang up happy, life was simple – like myself; I am intellectually challenged by everything I read or see.

You youngsters don't eat cookies anymore because they are things that pop up on the web which used to be something to do with a spider. Clouds used to be a sign of rain but now they store computer files. Windows are for looking through but now they are something to do with Microsoft. Thread was for sewing, but now it is something to do with email. And so on and so on.

Before 1994 Amazon was, and still is, a river which flows through South America. It is 4,049 miles long, or 6516 kilometres for new Amazon bloggers.

All this led me to respond to the streaming going on, which I read about in our church magazine *Quest*. Streams, like rivers, are for crossing and I'll cross one when I come to it. Meanwhile, while I am on this side and you are on the other, I shall just have to shout 'Yahoo' to you, and 'Happy Christmas'. Or maybe it is more cool to say 'Merry Xmas'.

Raymond King



On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October The Very Revd Graham Taylor  
officiated at the wedding of  
Hamish Shankland and Andrew John Kinnon

# Platinum Anniversary

John and Jean Parrott, now in their middle nineties, met in Portsmouth in 1949. Shortly afterwards, John was posted to Singapore by the Royal Navy and three months later proposed marriage. Jean sailed by herself, a six week voyage, and they were married on October 18, 1952, at the naval base in Singapore. John had a career in the Ministry of Defence, taking them to Gibraltar, London, Rosyth and Bath. They moved back to Scotland in the mid 1990s. They celebrated their Platinum Anniversary with family and friends on the very day.



# Sunday Lectionary December and January

## **December 4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11. 1-10, Romans 15. 4-13, Matthew 3. 1-12

## **December 11 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35. 1-10, James 5. 7-10, Matthew 11. 2-11

## **December 18<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9 Lessons and Carols

## **December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Midnight Service**

Isaiah 52. 7-10, Hebrews 1.1-14(5-12), John 1.1-14

## **December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9. 2-7, Titus 2. 11-14, Luke 2. 1-14 (15-20)

## **January 1<sup>st</sup> Naming of Jesus**

Jeremiah 31. 7-14 or Sirach 24. 1-12, Ephesians 1. 3-14,

John 1. (1-9) 10-18

## **January 8<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 60. 1-6, Ephesians 3. 1-12, Matthew 2. 1-12

## **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 49. 1-7, 1 Corinthians. 1-9, John 1. 29-42

## **January 22<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 9. 1-4, 1 Corinthians 1. 10-18, Matthew 4. 12-23

## **January 29<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Micah 6. 1-8, 1 Corinthians 1. 18-31, Matthew 5. 1-12

# Meet & Fix Group

Perhaps if you have visited the Threshold recently you may have noticed a new feel and freshness about the place? During the summer months our newly formed Meet & Fix group have been beavering away re-decorating the main hall, kitchen and disabled toilet and we hope that you like the results.



This, we feel, has contributed to increased bookings for use by community groups and charities for their own meetings which provides useful income to offset our church costs, and demonstrates an important



aspect of St John's own charitable status as a form of outreach to the volunteer sector of society.

The Meet & Fix group started in March when we got together to identify some practical work we could tackle within our collective skills, as well as being able to share fellowship with one another. Our meetings start with a short meditation and prayer and includes a break half way through our work for a cup of coffee and a chat. The format seems to work and I feel everyone involved has enjoyed the process and a sense of satisfaction in being part of a group and a job well done.

The group met some ten times during the year which allowed us also to stain the woodwork in the entrance courtyard and re-stone the ground, remove moss from stonework, do paint repairs to the front vestry and to complete other small maintenance jobs. We held our last meeting of the year recently when we identified a number of jobs we wish to undertake beginning next Spring. Maybe you would like to give it a try? If you think this is for you then you will be very welcome to join us in 2023.

In the meantime, a sincere thank you to all who have contributed to the group activity through the year.

Alan McPherson

## Prayer Group

A meeting of those who have expressed interest in joining an informal prayer group will be held in late November at my house.

After that, depending on the outcome of the meeting, further meetings will be held and dates will be published on pew leaflets. Anyone else is welcome to come along, and do telephone or speak to me for further information.

Ruth Harris    01738 621379



*Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly*  
**Micah 6:8**

A recent newspaper article claimed that the proportion of young folk concerned about climate change is far higher than the percentage of older folk (baby boomers, like me!).

I trust that's not true at St John's! Christian Aid argues that their supporters are a real mix of generations. All are vital, each offering what they can to challenge need and injustice. Sometimes a signature, not pennies, is what Christian Aid seeks.

Such as the request to sign the *Loss and Damage* petition. After fierce argument, delegates at COP27 have just agreed to this petition. It calls for the creation of an international climate fund, to pay for damage caused by the climate crisis. The argument is that the people who have done the least to cause the crisis are the ones most affected – losing lives, harvests, land, homes, culture. In Pakistan monsoons destroyed thousands of homes and damaged four million acres of crops. East Africa is currently facing the worst drought in 40 years: a Malawian farmer said, '*We have no meat or milk; there is no water for our vegetables– we're losing many animals*'. The poorest countries, facing the gravest consequences, are now asking that those who caused the crisis should pay for the loss and damage they have caused. It is a justice issue.

Christian Aid is one of 60 civil society organisations within *Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS)* calling for the creation of an international climate fund, paid for by polluters and governments. Such a fund could begin to pay for some of the losses of the climate crisis, help people recover and rebuild when disasters strike, and compensate them for all that is permanently lost.

The only problem is, no such fund exists – yet!

So Christian Aid is asking its supporters to sign a petition to the PM requesting such a fund, and to ensure the money in the fund reaches the poorest, most vulnerable communities.

So, if you wish to add your name to the petition, you can sign it on the Christian Aid Scotland website

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-change/loss-and-damage-petition>

And, yes, I can hear you ask - I've signed the petition!

Hopefully,

Elaine

## Diocesan Office Job Vacancies

With the planned retiral in Spring 2023 of the current Bishop's PA and Office Manager, the Diocesan Administration Board have advertised two vacancies in the Diocesan Office in Perth for a **Bishop's Secretary** and an **Office Manager**.

Both roles are 20 hours per week. Further details are on the Diocesan website ([www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org)) and the closing date for applications is 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.





# The Warm Spaces Scheme

Back in early September, as the implications of the cost of living crisis caused increasing concern, local councils across the UK started to draw up plans to allocate funds to provide community warm spaces, where those struggling with rising bills could find somewhere offering a bit of warmth and welcome. Pubs and clubs, libraries, churches and community centres of all sorts signed up to share their spaces at designated times. Perth and Kinross Council launched its own Cost of Living Community Fund *‘for community groups and organisations who need financial support for community members across Perth & Kinross’*.

St. John’s submitted an application offering a space in the Threshold on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30-3.30 in collaboration with the Bethany Christian Trust, which has been operating its Care Van in our car park free of charge for about six months, and which welcomed the possibility of being able to give its users somewhere to come in out of the cold in the winter months. Keeping it at its simplest, we based the application on the provision of free tea, coffee and biscuits or cake (all that Bethany Trust offers), an opportunity to charge the vital electronic devices, a place where they will find information on the other local sources of free food, advice services etc. - surprisingly many and varied - and perhaps a ‘quiet table’ where people can read, study or work, for an initial period of six months. We have received a grant of £700.

The project is in its early stages. Numbers using the Bethany van vary but average only about six to ten. As the scheme gets about, publicised by the Council, on our notice board and website, and winter bites, they may pick up. The question of volunteers to help with the kitchen, serving, washing-up and locking up inevitably raises its head. I know we are all stretched as it is. At time of writing I’m not sure to what extent volunteer availability may be co-ordinated more centrally, either by the Council and/or PACT. Bethany usually has one or two volunteers of its own. And we might be able to share volunteering with the Cathedral. It’s a potential

vehicle for some genuine community outreach on St. John's part. We must give it a try for a few weeks. If it fails we can give the money back. If you're interested in being on a rota - even for one session in a month - let me have your name (at [mailme@kinnoullhill.co.uk](mailto:mailme@kinnoullhill.co.uk)) and copy to Jean Hendry (at [jeanhendry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeanhendry@hotmail.co.uk)) meanwhile.

Judy Norwell

## Security Warning

If you are attending a Service in the Lady Chapel and there is no presence in the main body of the Church, please keep your personal belongings with you. It is easy for someone to enter and steal unattended items from the back of the church. For our main services it is part of the Sidesperson's duties to be at the back of the church to watch over personal property while worshippers take Communion.

Thank You

Graham Kingsley-Rowe





Unit 22,  
Riverview Business Park,  
Friarton Road, Perth PH2 8DF

On behalf of all the volunteers at Starter Packs in Perth I would like to say a huge Thank You to those of you who have previously supported us and those and who continue to do so.

‘Starter Packs’ is a charity run solely by volunteers which provides packs containing basic household items such as pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, towels, toiletries, bedding etc to low income and previously homeless individuals and families who have been given a new tenancy in the Perth and Kinross area.

We also provide kettles, toasters and slow-cookers when they are donated or when funding allows.

Most of the contents of our packs are good quality used items which are donated by members of the local community.

Cash donations are used to supplement our packs when there is a shortfall and to pay for the running of our unit where we store the goods and make up the packs.

If you wish to donate to Starter Packs our unit is open between 10am and 12noon Tuesday and Friday. Though arrangements can be made to receive donations at another time.

Contact numbers – 0756 577 4619 or 0776 113 4776 or 0790 039 4532

Many of the churches also have a collection box.

Please also check out our Facebook page.

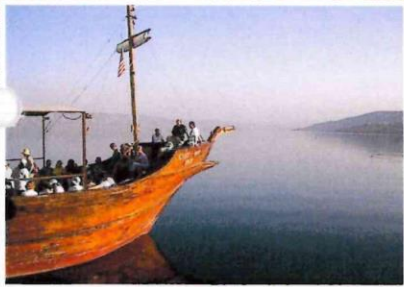
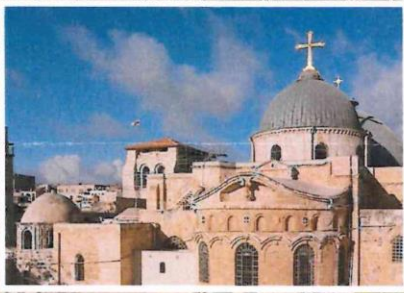
And if you are looking for a volunteering opportunity we would be delighted to hear from you.

Charity Registered in Scotland – No.SCO35752



# THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

12 days based in Jericho, Galilee and Jerusalem



**2 - 13 April 2024**

**With Rev Canon Cedric Blakey  
and the Most Rev Mark Strange**

For full details call or email

07817 419897

[revcanclb@gmail.com](mailto:revcanclb@gmail.com)



**McCabe**  
PILGRIMAGES

chansons  
Perth's Chamber Choir

# Christmas and all that Jazz!

**Carols Olde & New**  
Bach, Berlioz, Duruflé, Rutter,  
Thomson, Todd & Willcocks

A Charity Concert in support of  
**'Tayside & Strathearn Help for Ukraine'**



**Areti Lymperopoulou** conductor

**Howard Duthie** organist

**Gordon Murch, Paul Vaughan & Andrew Fraser** jazz trio

**7.30pm Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth**

**Tickets £15 Concessions £5 (U 25)**



Buy Tickets

## 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 February/March issue by:

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

This issue may be a few days later than normal in coming out since the Editor will be away in January. However this is not an excuse for being late in handing in contributions!

## A Seasonal Poem

No sun, no moon,  
No morn, no noon,  
No dawn, no dusk,  
No proper time of day.  
No warmth, no cheerfulness,  
No healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member.  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds –  
November.

Thomas Hood

# Contact Information

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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>		<b>@episcopal-perth.org.uk</b>
Rector's Warden	Gordon Murch	827034	<a href="mailto:church-warden@episcopal-perth.org.uk">church-warden@</a>
People's Warden	David Willington	813787	
Administrator	Eleanor McGourty	634999	<a href="mailto:office@episcopal-perth.org.uk">office@</a>
Lay Representative	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Alternate Lay Rep	Jean Hendry	623603	
Vestry Secretary	Judy Norwell	626789	<a href="mailto:secretary@episcopal-perth.org.uk">secretary@</a>
Treasurer	Peter Marsh	575040	<a href="mailto:treasurer@episcopal-perth.org.uk">treasurer@</a>
Health and Safety	Graham Kingsley-Rowe	07813 822758	<a href="mailto:hands@episcopal-perth.org.uk">hands@</a>
PVG	Malcolm Moore	639963	<a href="mailto:pvg@episcopal-perth.org.uk">pvg@</a>
Director of Music	Robin Miller	625903	<a href="mailto:music@episcopal-perth.org.uk">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)

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In partnership with  
the Scottish Association of  
Retired Anglican Clergy

