



# St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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June and July 2023

# From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Recently at an event I read these words from scripture, in the book of Ecclesiastes, that 'there is a time and a season for everything'. I realise that these can be words of comfort, but equally words of fear and worry. Yet as Christians we are called to put our trust in a God who knows all our yesterdays and our tomorrows, all that is past and all that is to come: a God who walks beside us whatever life throws our way, a God who has promised to be with us always. In our sunshine and in our storms, we are asked to put our faith in a God of love. Whatever life is throwing your way at the moment, whether joys or sorrows, please be assured of my prayers and know that I am praying for you.

With my Dean's role and challenges that come my way in this present time, never think I'm not here for you. Anytime you need to chat, please just get in touch. I realise my pastoral visits have depleted of late, but in this role it's hard to balance time. I'm ever grateful therefore to Rev'd Annie and the Lay Ministry Team for all they do to assist me with visiting. We are truly blessed in St. John's.

Next month we will celebrate our Patronal Festival. This year I have invited the Rev'd Canon Dr Alison Peden to be our guest preacher. I'm very pleased that Alison willingly accepted the invitation. As a former Curate of St. John's, it will be lovely to welcome her back to our church. And after all our time apart with Covid and Lockdown, it will follow with a bring and share lunch together in the Threshold.

It will also be lovely to welcome Bishop Paritosh from Calcutta in July. He, along with others, will make a visit to this their companion diocese. Many of you will remember him from his last visit to St John's. I remember his welcome on my visit to India, and indeed hosting him in the Rectory on his last visit here (although not as a Bishop then).

So, 'a time for every season and every activity under heaven'. I hope with the summer season approaching you have a lovely time if you're going off on holiday. If you visit other places of worship, please remember to bring greetings from St. John's along with you. I pray you will come back refreshed and restored, as we begin once again this season of ministry, where we are called in the here and now.

My love and prayers to you all,

Dean Graham

## 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*

4 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30 a.m.	Trinity Sunday
25 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30 a.m.	Patronal Festival
16 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 a.m.	Sea Sunday

# Synod 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Synod began with registration from 9 am to 9.30 am, the first face to face Synod since Covid.

Synod Eucharist.

At 9.30 am we assembled in the Cathedral to celebrate the Eucharist and hear Bishop Ian's Charge to Synod. At the end of the Service the Rev. Nerys Brown was instituted as a Canon of the Cathedral. Later Nerys was to speak in support of Lillas Graham's entry into the Diocesan Calendar.

Session 1

Bishop Ian welcomed all to Synod especially invited guests, Rev Canon Iain Bancroft from the Province, Robert Woodford from PEG, Jennifer Dawson Director of PACT and representing the Roman Catholic Church, Lydia Kibance of USPG attending to promote this year's Lent Appeal and Rev Iain Paton of the C. of S. Also the two new members of the Diocesan Office, Jenny Campbell, Office Manager, and Holly Scott, Bishop's PA, were welcomed.

Robert Nellist, the retiring Diocesan Safety Officer, then spoke to us. Bishop Ian thanked Robert for his twelve years devoted service in that post and presented him with a Quaich as a small token of his contribution to the Diocese.

Session 2

The Rev Elaine Garman, Convener of the Climate Change Group, introduced a Session on Climate Change, handing over to Robert Woodford who explained his role – what PEG is doing, how Diocese and Charges will be helped by the Province. He summed this up – yes, it is daunting, but 'we're not in this alone, we're in it together'.



The Rev Chris Lowden and Professor Alan Werritty took questions on the proposed changes to Canon 4 – the election of Bishops. This was followed by the Rev Canon Christoph Wutscher who took questions on changes to the Liturgy (first presented last year).

### Session 3

After lunch we returned to look at five year Planning with Brendan Grimley, Convener of Admin. Board, and Dean Graham. For the Diocese and Charges to flourish what changes must be made now? All churches were asked to formulate a plan as to where they would be in five years. After returning from Breakout Groups the message again was 'We are not in this alone we are all in it together'.

The day concluded with prayers and Bishop Ian thanking all who had helped and prepared the day. He especially thanked Carol Aitchison, his retiring PA, who was presented with flowers and a gift.

Christine Bracewell



# Meet & Fix

The Meet & Fix group have been busy on their first project for 2023 refurbishing the timber decking in the garden of the Rectory in Comely Bank. This decking, which is about twenty years old and is built on two levels, was looking a bit sorry for itself with peeling paint and crying out for some tender loving care. The Meet and Fix team got going to strip and sand the wood back



sufficiently to apply two coats of decking oil which will preserve the wood by a few more years. By now we hope that Dean Graham has put the garden furniture out and enjoyed a gin and tonic.

Unfortunately the group are missing a number of members because of illness at present but my thanks to Elaine, Gordon, Chris and David who were able to complete the work over a few days in the recent fine, dry weather.

We hope to meet together on another suitable project in June through to October, doing work within our collective set of skills, whilst enjoying fellowship with one another which is part of the ethos for the group. If you think that this is something you might be interested in and would like to come along to help the cause, we would be delighted to see you.

Alan McPherson

# Eco Group

## Eco news

Following the generous collection of over 50 boxes of books for the annual Christian Aid stall in Edinburgh last month, the eco group are looking for donations to make your life easier!

Starting in June, there will be two small boxes at the back of church for you to place batteries and blister packs which it is difficult to recycle properly at home.

**Batteries:** unfortunately the temptation is to throw them into the general waste bin. But run-of-the-mill household batteries contain hazardous chemicals, and rechargeable batteries have harmful metals, so none of these should be put in general waste bins. So bring them to church, pop them in our recycling box, and the eco group will recycle them safely in a designated disposal bin.

**Blister packs:** those slim strips we all have for medication. We used to throw ours into the general waste bin, sadly ending up in landfill for decades, or incineration. But we have discovered there are dedicated recycling bins allowing the blister packs to be made into new materials and products. Some chemists, such as Superdrug, have these dedicated bins. So, pop your blister packs into your knapsack/handbag, bring them to church and throw them in that box, and the eco group will take them to Superdrug.

These are two small actions which will reduce our individual carbon footprints. They will also hopefully help St John the Baptist gain an Eco congregation bronze award, which we are hoping to apply for this summer.

Cath, David, Rhiannon & Elaine.







## St John's Episcopal and St Ninian's Cathedral Christian Aid Walk 2023

Many, many thanks to each one of you who have donated food, time, footsteps, but especially money – every penny is an important move towards making life better for women and families in Malawi. So, thank you on behalf of Christian Aid!



Our shared fund-raising walk got off to a good start at the Tickled Trout café - great coffee and cakes, very helpful staff, and generous customers who spontaneously put money in the Christian Aid bucket which Wendy had thoughtfully brought – generous coffee-drinkers!



The five mile walk by the banks of the Almond and then the Tay is very attractive, and has some interesting features. There's the wishing tree with bells, ribbon, and even a poem, surprisingly unmolested for months; spectacular art works under two of the bridges; and we



spotted a bench in memory of one of Jean Hendry's former pupils – a few years ago!

The weather was a real mixture, sun and showers. We were glad that the cloudburst waited until we were safely enjoying tea in Barossa Place.

For me, just as important as the fund-raising was the fun of folk from both congregations working together, enjoying one another's company with a real sense of fellowship.

You may be interested to know that the total as of today (May 20) is:

Just Giving page:	£760.00 + £160.00 Gift Aid	= £920.00
Envelopes & bucket donations	£500.22 + £88.00 Gift Aid	= <u>£588.22</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1508.22</b>

Gratefully, Elaine & Team



# Jesus Loves Me (senior version)

Jesus loves me, this I know.  
Though my hair is white as snow,  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still he bids me trust in him.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me...  
Yes, Jesus loves me...  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
For the Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are, ah, so slow,  
With my hand in his I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart he puts a song,  
Telling me in words so clear  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done  
And life's victories have been won,  
He will take me home above,  
And then I'll understand his love.

I love Jesus. Does he know?  
Have I ever told him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say  
That I love him every day.

# Sunday Lectionary June and July

## **June 4<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday**

Genesis 1.1-2. 4a, 2 Corinthians 13. 11-13, Matthew 28. 16-20

## **June 11<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 2**

Hosea 5.15-6.6, Romans 4. 13-25, Matthew 9. 9-13,18-26

## **June 18<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 3**

Exodus 19.2-8a, Romans 5.1-8, Matthew 9. 35-10.8 n(9-23)

## **June 25<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 4**

Psalms 85. 7-13, Acts 13. 14b-26, Luke 1. 57-66, 80

## **July 2<sup>nd</sup> Pentecost 5**

Jeremiah 28. 5-9, Romans 6. 12-23, Matthew 10. 40-42

## **July 9<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 6**

Zechariah 9. 9-12, Romans 7. 15-25a, Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30

## **July 16<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 7**

Isaiah 55. 10-13, Romans 8. 1-11, Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

## **July 23<sup>rd</sup> Pentecost 8**

Isaiah 44. 6-8 or Wisdom 12. 13,16-19, Romans 8. 12-25, Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43

## **July 30<sup>th</sup> Pentecost 9**

I Kings 3.5-12, Romans 8. 26-39, Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52





# I Was Glad

I am sure that I am not the only who watched television for the first time in their lives at the Coronation in 1953. We were invited to a friend's house and being seven years old I was placed at the front near the small screen. I was given a Coronation mug and a Dinky toy of the Gold Coach. Therefore it was of especial interest for me to watch the 2023 Coronation. However, the television coverage before the ceremony jumped between the crowds lining the streets and the soldiers forming up, and the events in the Abbey, and so I missed some of the wonderful music beforehand, such as the pieces by Bach, Holst, Walton, Handel, Elgar and Vaughan Williams. But I did catch *Sacred Fire*, written for the occasion by Sarah Class. It was beautifully sung by the South African soprano Pretty Yende, though her yellow dress defied description. With the arrival of the King and Queen came the opening fanfare of *I was glad*, Parry's anthem written for Edward VII in 1902; Parry is a particular favourite of King Charles.

There will be those who will dismiss the whole thing as expensive flummery. How many hospitals could you build or how many nurses could you employ with the money spent on the Coronation? But it is worth pointing out that the robes worn by the King came out of the Palace 'dressing up box' (not my phrase), one at least two hundred years old. And all the other regalia, crowns, coaches and so forth had been used many times before. Soldiers and policemen were only doing their (paid ) duty. My view is that if you are going to have such a ceremony it is worth doing really well. And the essentials of the ceremony go back a thousand years.

Despite the carriages, bands, distinguished visitors and all the rest, the Coronation is a dedication of the monarch to the service of God, the most intimate part of the ceremony being conducted behind a screen. In public,

the monarch has to uphold the Church of England and the Protestant faith. This is required of him by the Act of Settlement 1701 and can only be repealed by Parliament. Maybe Parliament will have got round to it by the time William is crowned. This Coronation was made as ecumenical as possible, with other faiths playing a part, which is a reminder of Charles' earlier pledge to be a Defender of Faith. By a quirk of history, the title Defender of the Faith, *Fidei Defensor*, which appears on coins as F.D., was awarded to Henry VIII by the Pope, for a tract he wrote attacking Martin Luther. Several years later he broke with the Roman Catholic Church and installed himself as a Protestant monarch. Since 2015 the monarch can marry a Catholic, and primogeniture is not confined to males. So Princess Charlotte is third in line to the throne after William and George.

It rained on Coronation Day in 1937 and 1953, as well as 2023. I also remember that Queen Salote of Tonga refused to have the hood of her carriage put up and despite the heavy rain smiled and waved to the crowd as she went along, for which she earned much praise. She was a very large lady. Sitting opposite her was a very small man. People watching wondered who he was. Quick as a flash, Noel Coward replied: 'Her lunch.'

David Willington

## From the Registers – Eternal Rest

Tommy Macpherson: 21<sup>st</sup> June 1958 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# Fellowship

Plans for the April and May Fellowship meetings were finalised shortly after publication of the previous Quest. Despite the April meeting being a week later than normal in order to avoid Easter Monday, and the May meeting coinciding with the Coronation holiday, both meetings went well. There were one or two who were sorry to miss the May meeting due to having family visiting them because it was a holiday.

In April we had a follow-up presentation by Raymond King of his world-wide travels since we heard last year about his National Service exploits followed by his two years in Vancouver in the late 1950s. This had been before he met Elizabeth and we saw that he had since made a return trip to Vancouver with Elizabeth and that together they have travelled extensively, including a number of trips over the years to visit their daughter, Pamela, and her family. As well as seeing Australia they have also managed at some stage to include Hawaii and the USA. Raymond has also in the past enjoyed skiing in Austria and they both clearly also had some holidays where the focus has been on the ancient cultural sites of Italy including Rome. As each picture appeared on the screen we had fun trying to see if we could identify where in the world we were looking at!

The May meeting was quite different and started with the formalities of a very brief AGM. This was followed by a presentation by Bruce Addison, son of Fellowship member, Anne, who has spent his adult life working in Auctioneering and Valuing Companies and currently self-employed specialising in Georgian furniture. He arrived with a sample item, which was a chair which was very different from those we were sitting on in the Threshold! We were all fascinated to hear him describe the huge fluctuations in value over the years of different types of antique items and the reasons behind this. A number of members had come along either with small portable items that they had acquired over the years or if the items were too big to bring he was happy to look at photos of the



items and give an opinion on its age and origin and where appropriate its value. Clearly although furniture is his specialism he has wide background knowledge of the world of Antiques. One unforeseen result of holding the meeting on the Coronation holiday Monday was that his teenage children had a day off school so they had come along with Bruce, as it was a chance for them to see their Granny, Anne. Bruce and family live in Edinburgh. They were present at the meeting and we gathered they had never been in an audience before where their Dad was speaking about his work or at work dealing with clients/customers. To them this was what their Dad did when he went to work which was different from what they saw at home. They seemed quite happy to be present and indicated that it had been an experience for them in which they had learnt quite a lot about their Dad and his work!

Jean Hendry



The '88s Club' enjoyed lunch at Balhousie Castle:

Tony Mason, Anne Addison, Raymond King and Margaret Terris

## Thoughts for the Day

As I have grown older, I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad things seem today, life goes on and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by how he/she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, tangled Christmas lights.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same as making a 'life'.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that when I have pain, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

Alec Youngson, contributed by his daughter Jackie Thomson

## Recycling Bin

Some of us have a partiality to munching crisps and other wee snacks. If the bin collectors see these crisp and snack packets in the blue bin, the bin is not collected. Do make sure the offending packets are placed in the green bin! Alternatively, give up munching crisps and wee snacks, feel better and avoid challenging our environment. Bon appetit!

David Maclehose





**Jambouree Choir & Cabaret Singers  
Present**

# **A Summer Music Box**

At 3pm on Sunday 11 June  
St Leonard's in the Fields Church

Tickets £10 (including refreshments)  
Children free







Bluebells in Kinclaven Wood. Photographs of these and other Spring flowers by Mary Willington.

## From the Editor

Thanks very much for everyone's contributions to this issue. All entries to the editor, Mr David Willington [dwillington@hotmail.com](mailto:dwillington@hotmail.com) for our August/September issue by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

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Flowers	Christine Bracewell	552817	
Magazine	David Willington	813787	
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