



St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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October and November 2025

Editorial

This may seem rather a strange theme for *Quest*. It was suggested by a recent report that Presidents Putin and Xi at the summit in Beijing discussed the prolonging of life to 150 years. According to newspaper comments it is technically possible, by administering drugs, to prolong the lives of mice by 50%. This is done by suppressing their immune system in a wholly sterile atmosphere. Alas, the outside world is not sterile, and ageing is built into our bodily systems as a natural process.

One can see why this topic is of interest to dictators and tyrants. Their prime concern is their own survival. Because of their misdeeds they cannot retire into private life. They know that enemies will exploit any sign of weakness and take revenge. As was said of one Roman tyrant: 'He, whom many fear, fears many.' Therefore a tyrant must always have external enemies to reinforce his own position and keep the loyalty of his subjects and find new enemies if necessary. And guard himself against those who might want to remove him. Thus he is not free but trapped by the course of action he has embarked on.

Fortunately, none of us will be confronted by that problem. However, there are people who believe that life can be revived by cryonics, that is, freezing a recently dead body in the hope that in the future some cure may be found for the fatal disease. Assuming that is possible, would we really like to wake up in a world that left us behind? We would have no contemporaries. Do we really want to find out what has happened to our descendants a hundred years hence? Remember Tithonus. He was loved by a goddess who granted him immortality but neglected to include eternal youth. As a result he withered away until he became a cicada. As Tennyson wrote: '...Man come and tills the earth and lies beneath, and after many a summer dies the swan. Me only cruel immortality consumes...'

There are two certainties in life, death and taxes. We can do something about the latter, but nothing about the former. Samuel Johnson was a wise commentator on the human condition. At the conclusion of his poem *The Vanity of Human Wishes* (its general theme has warnings for Putin and his like), he suggests: ‘Still raise for good the supplicating voice/But leave to heaven the measure and the choice...For faith, that panting for a happier seat,/Counts death kind nature’s signal of retreat.’

David Willington

Weekly Services

Sunday	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Thursday	11.00 a.m.	Communion, coffee and a chance to chat

Special Services

2nd November	10.30 a.m.	All Saints
2nd November	3.00 p.m.	All Souls
9 th November	10.30 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday
30 th November	10.30 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent

Photographs by Patricia Noel-Paton, Gardening Correspondent

Cover: *Hydrangea paniculata*



Very many thanks to all of you who helped, or came to enjoy croissants, at our August Christian Aid Big Brekkie – a huge success!

There was a great atmosphere in the hall that morning – we were very grateful for all the North Church's support – their helpful janitor, but especially for the loan of their five-star new kitchen – displaying a huge degree of trust in our catering team!

It was very good to see people from so many different churches together to celebrate Christian Aid's 80 years in a variety of ways and enjoying Fair Trade goods.

After Marjorie Clark outlined many local actions over the time, Val Brown, Head Christian Aid Scotland, outlined how they aim to give voice both to those living in poverty and marginalisation, but also to stakeholders, at all levels, so that they can inform and influence policies.

Val reminded us that just as the moral leadership of churches shaped global responses after WW2, that leadership is very vital today as we face new challenges, like racism and the climate crisis. She called for each of us, and for the church, to look forward in hope.

Did I mention that we also raised some pennies from this **Free** event – £745.00!!

Elaine Cameron



Fellowship

Following the Summer break the new season of the Fellowship started off as normal on the second Monday of September which was simply a chance for members to meet and catch up with friends over tea, coffee and cake while playing board or card games or tackling puzzles of some sort.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th October when Alan Condie, who has an interest in both St John's and in Church architecture, will be giving a presentation. In his much younger days Alan was a member of our Church choir, but he is also knowledgeable about Hays of Liverpool, the firm of architects who designed St John's as well as various other churches back in the mid 19th century.

Apparently, some of the other churches designed by Hays bear significant similarities to our Church. According to David Willington's history of St John's (pages 77- 78), its design at the time when it was built did not meet with universal approval! Anyone with an interest in the history of St John's and how it came to be the fine-looking landmark, still looking good almost 175 years later in Perth today, is welcome to attend.

Jean Hendry

Eco Group

The final offering of our Season of Creation events will be the film "2040" to be shown in the Threshold on Wed 8th October.

All are welcome to come and watch this inspiring film – and it's free!



Doubt and Faith

Doubt sees the obstacles,
Faith sees the way.
Doubt sees the darkest night,
Faith sees the day.
Doubt dreads to take a step,
Faith soars on high.
Doubt whispers 'Who believes?',
Faith whispers 'I'.

Contributed by Jackie Thomson



Clematis

Lectionary October and November 2025

October 5th Creation 5

Lamentations 1.1-6, 2 Timothy 1.1-14, Luke 17.5-10

October 12th Pentecost 18

Jeremiah 29.1,4-7, 2 Timothy 2.8-15, Luke 17.11-19

October 19th Pentecost 19

Jeremiah 31.27-34, 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5, Luke 18.1-8

October 26th Pentecost 20

Joel 2. 23-32, 2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18, Luke 18.9-14

November 2nd All Saints

Daniel 7.1-3,15-18, Ephesians 1.11-23, Luke 6.20-36

November 9th Remembrance Sunday

Job 19.21-27, 1 Corinthians 15.51-57, John 6.37-40

November 16 Pentecost 23

Isaiah 65.17-25, 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13, Luke 21.5-19

November 23rd Last Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23.1-6, Colossians 1.11-20, Luke 23.33-43

November 30th First Sunday of Advent

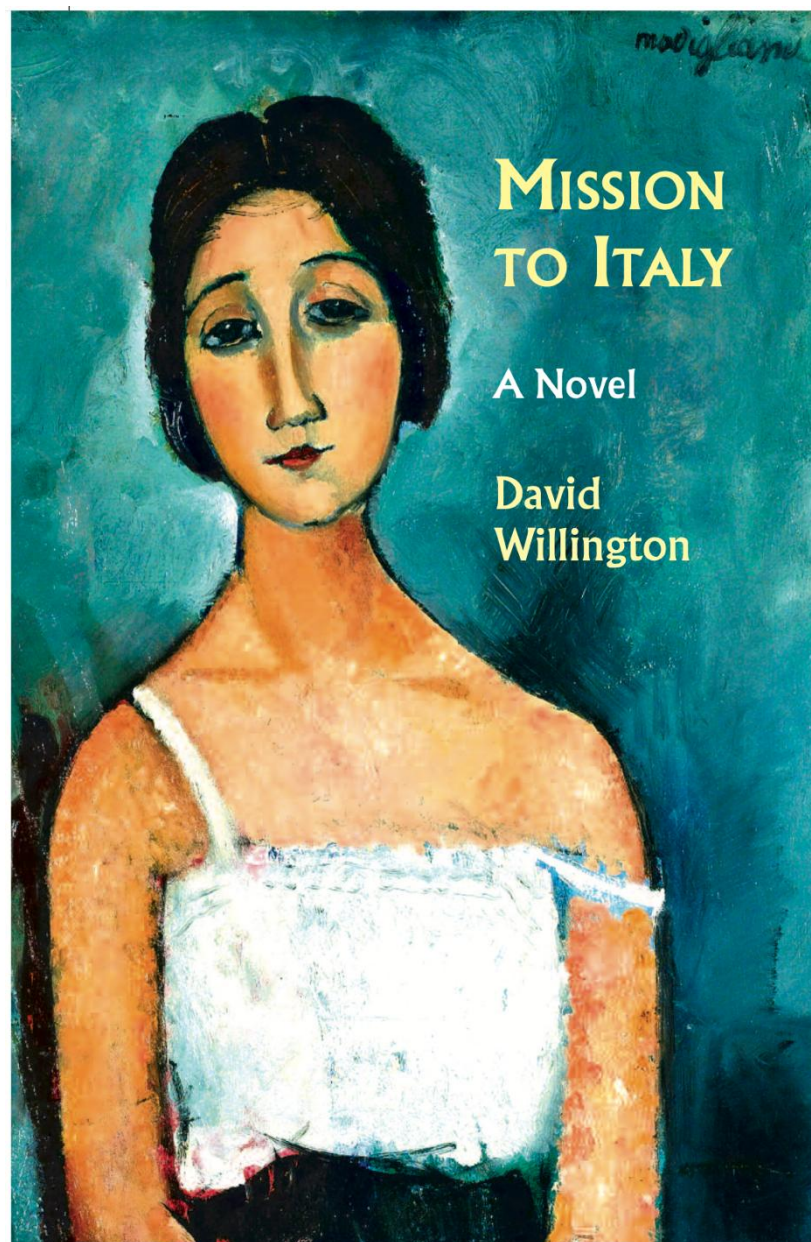
Isaiah 2.1-5, Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.36-44

Mission to Italy

My latest novel will be published in October. It is a romance, based in Italy 1938-1945. “Unputdownable” (DRW).

It will on sale for £10, all monies going to Church Funds.

David Willington



Autumnal Fruitfulness



*Sorbus
cashmeriana*

Rosa moyesii. (Rose hips)





"A compelling vision... let yourself be inspired"

CHRISTIANA FIGUERES, LEAD NEGOTIATOR, PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

2040

In the REGENERATION

St John's Threshold
Wed 8th Oct 7pm

"Entertaining & uplifting"

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Instagram Twitter Facebook @2040film

#whatsyour2040

whatsyour2040.com

SCREENPLAY BY AUSTRALIA · CLOUTIER PRODUCTIONS · REGEN PICTURES · SHARK ISLAND INSTITUTE · GOOD PITCH AUSTRALIA · DAMON GANAU · ERIK LAZZARI · JUE GANAU
DIRECTED BY DAMON GANAU · PRODUCED BY JANE USHER AND COMING VISUAL EFFECTS · MUSIC BY LUKE BURG · CASTING BY CAROL KENNEL · COSTUME DESIGNER BY CHRIS GIBSON · EDITOR ALISON TEEFORD · EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JEFFREY VAN DORLING · MALINDA WINK · MARK MONTGOMERY · PAUL WIEGARD · WILLIAM GANAU · JUSTIN BAIRD · NICK HARTZ · ANNA KAPLAN · VIRGINIA WHITWELL · DAMON GANAU · JUE GANAU

TOGETHER FILMS · INTO FILM · ODEON · vue



Piano Recital

On Sunday 28th September, Robin Miller gave a piano recital in the church. It had been a long time in preparation and included a twenty minute composition of his own, *Shadow out of time*, based on a story by HP Lovecraft. In this tone poem, the music reflects the events and terrors of an expedition to the Australian outback. The story is treated impressionistically, through the mental state of the explorer, and it was helpful to have Robin's analysis at hand, which provided a framework for the piece. It was a tour de force of musical imagination and technical skill.

Robin then played two short pieces by Medtner, a contemporary and friend of Rachmaninov. Robin is a fan of Medtner; he has played works by him as a voluntary in church. These, an idyll and a prelude, were appealing pieces, where the technical mastery is concealed by their apparent simplicity.

Robin ended his recital with one of the major works of the piano repertoire, Beethoven's sonata op. 57, *Appassionata*. It is described in the commentaries as 'technically challenging', and Robin certainly lived up to the challenge. In the first movement the notes come in cascades, using the whole range of the piano. The difficulty comes in marking the sudden changes between loud and soft and fast and slow, which Robin made very clear. The slow middle movement, a series of variations, was played with tenderness, a respite from the *Sturm und Drang* of the first. The scurrying theme of the third movement, played in the left and right hands, never lost its forward momentum and he brought the sonata to its triumphal conclusion.

He gave an encore, Debussy's *La fille aux cheveux de lin*, a delightful postlude to an impressive recital.

Robin provided the grand piano at his own expense. St John's is very grateful for his efforts. The retiring collection raised £368.50 for Church funds.

David Willington





David Willington cutting his 80th Birthday Cake.



Harvest Festival flowers; photographs by Mary Willington



Treasurer

Jackie Thomson is retiring from the position as Treasurer. Dean Graham is asking for a member of the Congregation to take over this essential role. Please consult him as soon as possible on this matter.

Memories

At certain times of the year memories of events return to us. Harvest Festival reminds me of a friend I knew when I was cleaning the church some years ago. At that time I was in the Choir and there was one voice which could reach high E without effort. Although not actually a member of the Choir, she was a regular attender; in fact she lived in the church until she was moved on. The female in question was Daisy, a beloved church mouse. In Daisy's memory, I quote two verses from John Betjeman's *Diary of a Church Mouse*.

**Here, among the long discarded cassocks, damp stools and half split-open hassocks,
Here, where the Vicar never looks, I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days behind the Church of England baize;
I share my dark forgotten room with two oil lamps and half a broom.**

**The Cleaner never bothers me, so here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw; my jam is polish for the floor.
But all the same it's strange to me how very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all, except at Harvest Festival.**

Raymond King

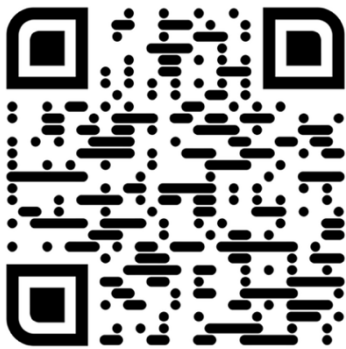


From the Editor

Thanks very much for everyone's contributions to this issue. All entries to the editor, David Willington dwillington@hotmail.com for our December and January issue by **Sunday 16th November**

**Just a reminder that there is a tin at the back of the Church
if you wish to donate towards the costs of
producing *Quest***

Helpful QR Codes



St John's website



St John's Facebook page

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