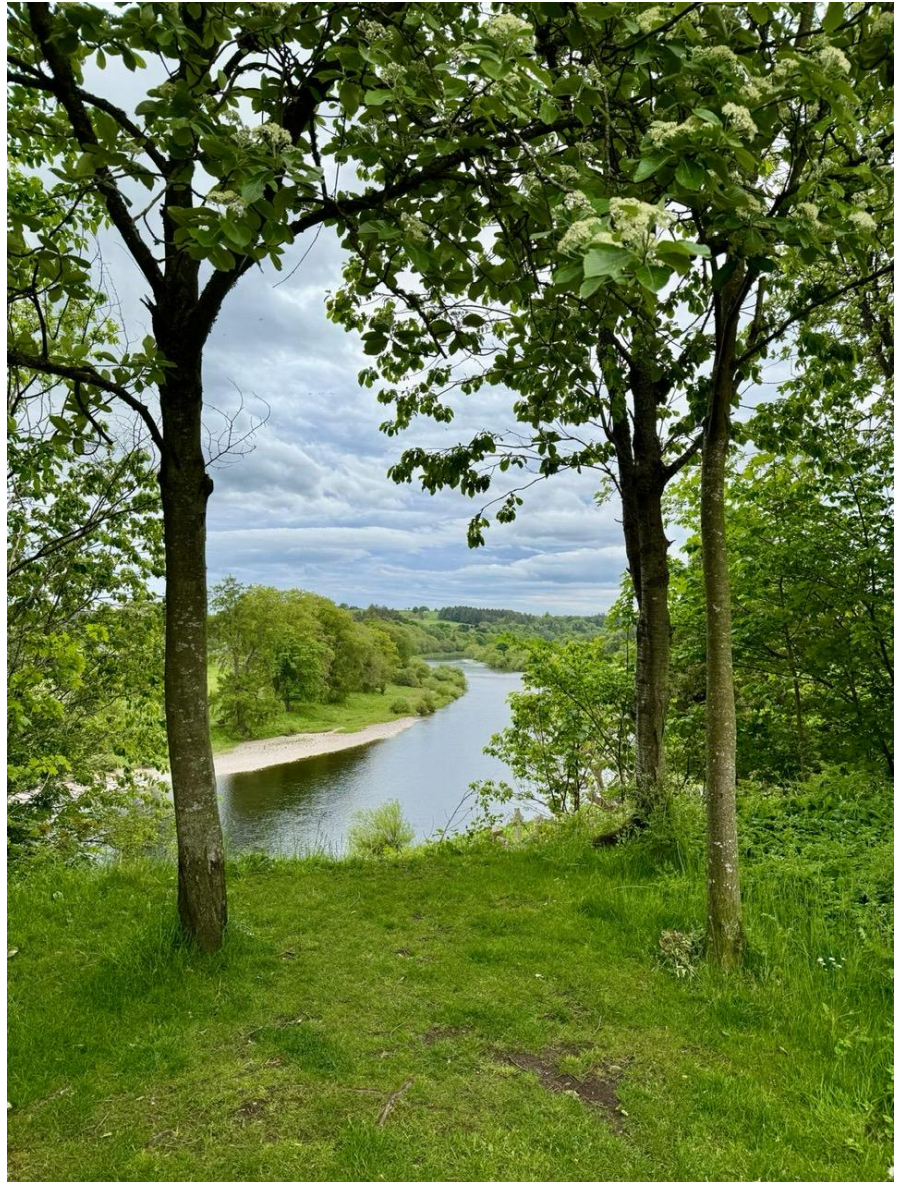




St John the Baptist Scottish Episcopal Church Perth

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June and July 2026

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

I do hope you are all enjoying this warmer weather, and the longer light evenings, but where is the year going?

In the Church's Year we have come through Holy Week and Easter, the feast of the Ascension, and now, as I'm pondering all of this, we look forward to celebrating Pentecost together this coming Sunday. What a gift to the Church, indeed and to everyone as God gave the Holy Spirit, poured it out upon everybody, as wind and fire! Still, we receive the gifts of it all today, as we look for and see how the Spirit of God is living and moving among us.

We see this very much here in the life and witness of St. John's, as the gifts and talents of many are evident within our church community. It has been lovely to see Evensong beginning again, and this month having a Taizé Service. Many thanks to all those who have supported these; it allows diversity and inclusion among us. Please try and support all the extra services that are put on, as a lot of care and work goes into planning them. Let us not just be Sunday morning Christians. God calls for all of our life and witness.

As we move into the summer months, I do hope that you will all enjoy a nice break, and that the weather will be kind to you. If you are visiting any other churches, please bring St. John's greetings wherever you go.

Now my prayer in this season of Pentecost is that we would ask together for the Holy Spirit to be poured out into our Church once again, and into our lives, as we seek together to live and work for the kingdom of Christ.

'Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.'

With my love to you all, Dean Graham.

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

28th June 10.30 a.m. Patronal Festival

28th June 5.00 p.m. Evensong

26th July 10.30 a.m. Sea Sunday Service



Camellia

Patricia Noel-Paton,
Gardening Correspondent

Cover Picture: Looking west along the Dee, Chris Cook

Fellowship

In my previous report I was anticipating Swarthick Salins would return within the next couple of months and hopefully our projector wouldn't play up again. He came in April, well prepared and bringing with him all the equipment required to show the photographs as he was so disappointed at not being able to do so on his previous visit. He updated us on how things were going at the hospital in Southern India that his family are so involved with. Photos let us picture what it all looks like including of the people involved.

Thanks to the generosity of those present we were able to make another donation to the hospital.

In May we rounded off the Fellowship year with our AGM which was kept quite brief, but it did involve discussion on the way forward for the Fellowship. It was after a year when illness of some key committee members had made the organising of some of the regular monthly meetings quite challenging. There was a consensus that some things need to be simplified and we mustn't be too ambitious in trying to have outside speakers at most of the meetings, but no actual decisions were made. Most of the meeting was taken up with a light-hearted quiz which was produced and presented by Ruth while we enjoyed tea, coffee and cake.



We expect to be back functioning again in September but at this stage I am not sure what will be happening at any of the meetings during the Autumn. Just now it seems a long time ahead!

Jean Hendry

Fiona Smith is the Church Engagement and Fundraising Officer, Christian Aid Scotland. It was a joy to have her come share our Christian Aid Sunday - a truly inspirational speaker. Here she is at the left of this picture, before coming to join us for lunch.



Fiona spoke strongly about the need to support the Restore campaign in Kenya, using the words of Frida, who worried daily about feeding her family, and finding money for school fees. But Christian Aid's Restore campaign's urban farming training taught her how to grow crops in unexpected places, just where they live. They learned how to make organic compost, have

strong seedlings in multi-storey gardens, in vertical sacks. However small their space, she grew enough to feed her family. How humbling for me gathering rhubarb which appears with little help from me!

Fiona asked us to support Christian Aid's Restore Campaign, which wants wealthy countries (yes, even ours!) to introduce new debt justice laws to help tackle poverty in countries like Kenya. I hope you feel you can sign the sheet at back of church to support Christian Aid's campaign.



A huge thanks to each of you who donated books to Kinnoull Church's Christian Aid Book Sale May 9th! What a wonderful effort led by Gerry Watson at Kinnoull church ably assisted by others, including Wendy Duncan (St Ninian's Cathedral) and myself.

It is a truly amazing effort by all concerned. The Grand total for 2026, was an incredible **£3444.00!!**

Given the amount of work involved, some of us wonder if it might be possible to last longer than one day . . . ?

This is the first year since Covid that St John's has not had a physical activity (walking, or cycling, usually with an online giving page), to raise money for Christian Aid. We trust that the Christian Aid envelopes will indeed make up for that – counting in June!

Elaine Cameron



The Real Jesus?

There was a man who led a revolt against the Romans. He had many adherents and was initially successful, but he was betrayed and captured. He was probably crucified. The evidence for his exploits and ultimate fate comes from second-hand sources written one hundred and fifty years or more after his death in 71 BC. The primary sources are conjectural but probably no earlier than forty years after his death. Of course, from other sources we can describe the contemporary circumstances in which the revolt took place, but in essence the narrative of the revolt is a construct of the historian. This was a semi-literate society, relying much on the memory of the spoken word.

That man was Spartacus. It makes for a great film, with Kirk Douglas in the title role, but it is the creation of the screenwriter's skill.

The earliest evidence we have of Christ's existence are the letters of St Paul, up to thirty years after the Crucifixion. Paul says little about the life of Christ and concentrates on the theology of the Resurrection. The Gospels come later, all after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (AD 70), a cataclysmic event for the Jews. The earliest is Mark, a bare narrative amplified by Matthew and Luke from their different perspectives. John's account is more analytical and was probably written early in the second century AD, nearly a hundred years after the Crucifixion. From Roman historians of the early second century, we know of the emergence of Christianity and there are even passing references to Pontius Pilate, an otherwise unimportant Roman official.

The Gospels present many problems of historicity (not least the Nativity story) and interpretation. The Gospels were written in Greek, the lingua franca of the eastern Mediterranean, but Christ almost certainly spoke Aramaic, a semitic language. From Jewish sources we have information about Palestine at the time which archaeology can reinforce.

Sometimes there are calls for a return to the ‘Real Jesus’, whatever that means. They usually arise from impatience with Church attitudes and ritual. But the ‘Real Jesus’, the minutiae of his life as you would expect to find in a modern biography, is, as I have suggested above, unknowable. The Gospels, for all their imperfections, are the only access we have to his life and ministry, and on them we must base our faith.

David Willington

Flowers



Primula Guinevere

Magnolia



Pictures by Patricia Noel-Paton

Lectionary June and July 2026

June 7th Pentecost 2

Genesis 12.1-9, Romans 4.13-25, Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

June 14th Pentecost 3

Genesis 18.1-15, Romans 5.1-8, Matthew 9.35-10.8

June 21st Pentecost 4

Genesis 21. 8-21, Romans 6.1b-11, Matthew 10. 24-39

June 28th Patronal Festival

Isaiah 40.1-11, Galatians 3.23-29, Luke 1.57-66

July 5th Pentecost 6

Genesis 24. 34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Romans 7.15-25a, Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

July 12th Pentecost 7

Genesis 25.19-34, Romans 8.1-11, Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

July 19th Pentecost 8

Genesis 28.10-19a, Romans 8.12-25, Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43

July 26th Pentecost 9

Genesis 29. 15-28, Romans 8. 26-39, Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

Fair Trade

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’
– Luke 4:18–19

God has always stood with the oppressed, the marginalised and the vulnerable. Seeking a fair deal for the people who produce what we use is part of our Christian obligation to love our neighbour and to work for justice and equity.

Whether we realise it or not, our lives and our choices impact people throughout the world. If we buy clothes or food made with forced labour or exploitation, then we are contributing to the suffering of those workers. It is our calling as Christians to let the oppressed go free, and to work to better the lives of everyone in the world.

Around 27.6 million people around the world are in situations of forced labour. In the UK, the 2015 Modern Slavery Act obliged big businesses to report on the steps they take to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains, but it does not compel companies to take meaningful steps to prevent it. More than a third of companies have yet to show that they take any steps to protect the rights of the workers at the bottom of the supply chain.

As an example, almost 20% of the global cotton market is linked to forced labour of Uyghurs and other minority Turkish and Muslim groups in China. Any high street shop could be selling clothes made with cotton produced with forced labour.

As another example, cocoa farmers in West Africa work for up to 14 hours a day to earn an average wage less than half of the World Bank's threshold for 'extreme poverty'. Child labour is rife in the cocoa industry: in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, 1.56 million children work on cocoa farms. Many are abducted or trafficked into slavery on farms where they work with toxic pesticides without protection and are beaten for working too slowly.

These are just examples – forced labour and exploitation occur in all sorts of industries and products. If you don't get a guarantee that the people who make your clothes and grow your food are being given a fair wage and decent living conditions, then honestly? they may well not be.

The Fairtrade mark offers such a guarantee. Certified producers must pay their workers a good wage and guarantee safe working conditions. The Fairtrade Foundation sets a minimum price for certified products and pays an extra premium on top that can be invested in community projects. It protects workers' rights and provides training in management, health and safety, and sustainability, helping producers improve the quality of their product and the lives of their workers.

We can give money to the poor all we like, but while we are still also paying our money to slavedrivers and oppressors, we are enabling exploitation and can never truly fight poverty. As well as donating, we need to tackle the problem at the source, ensuring that the money we spend gives producers a fair price and helps people everywhere to live in dignity and abundance.

Further reading:

<https://www.fairtrade.net/>

<https://www.transform-trade.org/>

Rhiannon Miller



Active Travel

‘Active Travel’ is one of the 10 ‘petals’ which form the basis of the Scottish Episcopal Church’s Net Zero Toolkit. And many of our congregation are already doing much to reduce carbon emissions in this area.

There are many regular walkers within our congregation and Perth is small enough to make walking a viable option for some trips. Just a few weeks ago I was one of three St John’s folk, all on different journeys, who happened to converge on the same spot in Muirend Road. A brief chat and then on with our walks – I was on my way home – the others each had an appointment to keep.

A few of our congregation have switched from petrol/diesel cars to Electric Vehicles. Whilst EVs don’t produce carbon whilst being driven they do of course have a carbon footprint for their production, but this is still 50-80% less than a petrol equivalent over the vehicle’s lifetime. Maybe one of our EV owners could write a Quest article on the realities of owning one?

Of course, the more sustainable options are not always viable or time/cost effective, and we will continue to use cars and planes at times. The SEC encourages us to reduce our carbon emissions *where possible* and we must remember that each small contribution is important. There is also the option to support charities such as "[Rainforest Saver](#)" to offset the CO₂ which we struggle to avoid.

The Eco Group have put together a short survey on ‘Travel’ which we hope to have available in church shortly. We are looking to get a picture of how folk travel to church, and this will allow us to better calculate that part of our ‘carbon footprint. We hope that many of you will take the time to return this for us.

Cath Bodrell – Eco Group



Outing to Pittenweem



The 20th June 2026 has been confirmed as the date for St John's congregation to visit St Fillan's cave. The date is perfect as it is Feast of St. Fillan in the Scottish Calendar.

St John's have been invited to come to the church (in inclement weather) or to the garden of the Great House on a nice day for refreshments served from the Gatehouse and sitting in the garden. A Eucharist will be held in the Cave. After that, a lovely walk along to Coastal path to Anstruther (1 mile) and finish up with award winning fish and chips at the Wee Chippy. Those who aren't up for walking along the path can be taken by car.

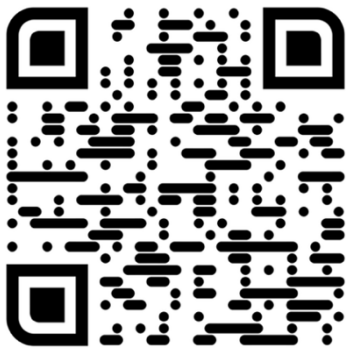
There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church for those who wish to participate.

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 August and September issue by **Sunday 19th July**.

**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

Contact Information *indicates member of the Vestry

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People's Warden	David Willington *	813787	
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Alternate Lay Rep	John Anderson *		
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Buildings & Eco	David Macle hose		
Social	Fundraising Group		
Church Activities			
Intercessors/Readers	Eleanor McGourty	634999	
Flowers	Christine Bracewell*	552817	
Magazine	David Willington*	813787	
Fellowship/PACT	Jean Hendry	623603	
Young Church	Jean Hendry	623603	
Prayer Group	Ruth Harris	621379	
Christian Aid	Elaine Cameron	441172	
Eco Group	Cath Bodrell*	634999	
Threshold bookings	Eleanor McGourty	634999	office@episcopal-perth.org.uk

www.scotland.anglican.org

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