

Cathedral News

The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's



April 2024

Who's Who at the Cathedral

Manager

Chris Ahern

manager@perthcathedral.co.uk

Administrator

Marion Swan

01738 632053

From Lay Reader Lis

Dear friends,

Isn't it wonderful to see signs of new life springing up all around us? It was really exciting recently to see that all the clumps of chives in my garden had started to grow again, with lots of tasty fresh leaves. Buds are swelling and breaking on the fruit trees and bushes too, bringing the promise of all sorts of good things later in the year.

Looking around us in the cathedral, there are other signs of new life. It's a joy to see young children worshipping regularly with us and coming up to the altar with their parents for communion or to receive a blessing. To all who have joined our congregation recently, young and not-so-young, we extend a very warm welcome. It's great to have you with us.



The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter served to remind us that God's gift of new

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life is offered to us just when times seem to be at their darkest. Many of these services were planned and led by Bishop Ian, and we thank him for giving so much of his time to help us celebrate this most important season in the church year.



We began Passiontide with a reminder of Jesus' words: 'Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' As we seek to grow and bear fruit for Christ's kingdom, we recognise that sometimes God reshapes us, and our lives, to enable this growth to take place. The time of change can be hard and confusing, but by keeping faith and following where God leads us, we can emerge into the light with renewed strength and vigour.

The months of vacancy following the retiral of Hunter, our previous Provost, have been hard and confusing at times. I'd like to think that during this time we have been open to the possibility of God reshaping us so that we can grow in new ways. Many thanks to those in this year's Lent Group who have exchanged ideas with me as we discussed what makes our Scottish Episcopal Church distinctive. Discussions covered topics such as Ministry, Liturgy, Worship and Mission, often thinking about new ways in which we might 'be the church' in the future. Signs of new growth indeed!

Blessings to you all,

Lis

Readings and Collects for April

Second Sunday of Easter - 7 April

Collect: Almighty God: in your great goodness, grant that we, as pilgrims through the Easter mysteries, may hold them fast in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Acts 4.32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1.1-2.2, John 20.19-31

Third Sunday of Easter - 14 April

Collect: O God, who, in the death and resurrection of your Son, have raised up this fallen world: may we and all your people, whom you have saved from the gates of everlasting death, rejoice in your eternal presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Acts 3.12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3.1-7, Luke 24.36b-48

Fourth Sunday of Easter - 21 April

Collect: O God, the light of whose truth stretches out to those who go astray, that they may return to the path of righteousness: give your grace to all who profess themselves Christians, that they may cast out what is harmful, and pursue all that gives life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Acts 4.5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3.16-24, John 10.11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter - 28 April

Collect: O God, who alone can bring harmony to the minds of your faithful people: give us grace to love the things you command, and to desire the things you promise; that, amid the uncertain changes of this world, our hearts may be firmly fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Acts 8.26-40, Psalm 22.24-30, 1 John 4.7-21, John 15.1-8

Sixth Sunday of Easter - 5 May

Collect: O God, from whom all good things arise: grant such grace to those who call on you, that, by your inspiration, we may ponder those things that are right, and, by your guidance, do them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Acts 10.44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5.1-6, John 15.9-17

What's Been Going On?

Molly's Birthday

Congratulations to Molly who celebrated her 80th birthday with a special cake in the Chapter House on 25 February. We wish her many happy returns. Many thanks to Lis for the photo.



Holy Week and Easter in the Cathedral

There were one or two variations this Holy Week, including the washing of feet at the Maundy Thursday service - where in recent years we have had the washing and anointing of hands for service. And in place of the Holy Saturday evening vigil was a 6.30am Easter Vigil on Easter Sunday. Bearing in mind that the clocks had just 'sprung forward' by an hour we take our hats off to the Rev'd Philip who rose at heaven knows what time to travel from Kinloch Rannoch to be there. The flyers for Holy Week had promised 'The Easter Vigil with New Fire and Eucharist' and one person was heard to wonder if New Fire was a Christian music group - it's not and the name is still free for the taking! The cathedral was pleasingly full at the main 11.00am service and the service was joyful and full of music. The choir sang their hearts out and organist Geoff finished with a triumphant rendering of Widor's *Toccata*, followed by loud applause. That, and a beautiful cake with coffee after the service made you feel that Lent was over and Easter had well and truly arrived!

Despite fewer numbers our Easter Saturday morning felt like those of earlier years, with Jamie laying on craft activities in the Chapter House for the two youngsters who came along while in the cathedral and cloisters the somewhat diminished flower team were busy creating beautiful displays, with only a brief pause for refreshments of coffee, hot cross buns and delicious simnel cake. Well done to everyone - the cathedral looked stunning for Easter! Many thanks to photographers Marietta, Christopher and others for the photos on these pages.



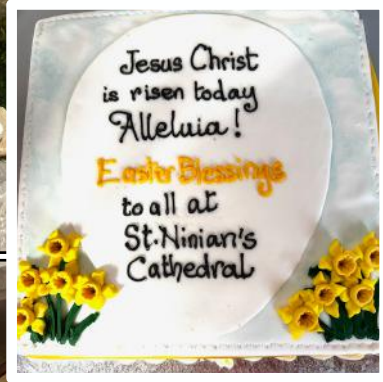


On the previous page, the photo is of the congregation gathering in the Chapter House just prior to the start of the Palm Sunday service. Above, the Bishop and some of the clergy and lay readers of the diocese gather for the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday. Other photos, overleaf too, show the various Easter Saturday activities, the flowers, and the Easter cake.



An Easter Garden biscuit, designed by young Eilidh. Brother Alexander's version had 'Jesus woz 'ere' grafitti-ed onto the tomb which, when you think about it, is probably theologically not incorrect! On the other hand, the grafitti isn't actually mentioned in the Gospels...





Choir News



The cathedral choir was augmented by the choristers of Ardvreck School (pictured above) at the morning service on 25 February. Thanks again to Lis for the photo, who pointed out that while Christopher, our resident paparazzo, also submitted one, it would be nice to have him in a choir photo for a change! And on the afternoon of Palm Sunday the choir, augmented by soloists and others, gave a beautiful performance of Fauré's *Requiem*, which was appreciated by a sizeable audience. Director of music, Geoff, was on the organ, with additional musical input from choir members Emmanuel on a keyboard and Sally on the violin (pictured below).



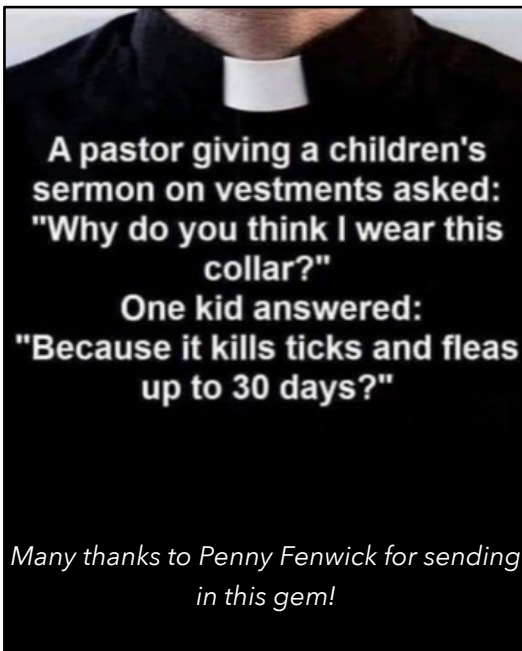
Report on the Diocesan Synod

Held at St Ninian's Cathedral on 9 March

We started the day with a Eucharist at 9.15am at which Bishop Ian presided. Dean Graham and Lis were in attendance. The Bishop's charge included an emphasis on service and what that means for Christians, with the example of Jesus to the fore and to be imitated. The first session included a safeguarding report by Ian Boa, a report from the Ministry Board by Canon Nerys Brown, another from the Mission Board by Canon Liz Baker, a report on finance by Brendan Grimley, and elections and appointments. After a short coffee break, the second session included a discussion about the 5-10 year plans, mostly in groups. We considered our aims and challenges regarding the future, and I spoke on the importance of young people and families and argued for more outreach. Each parish seemed to have its own difficulties, such as overworked clergy and congregations that have more older people than ever before. After lunch, in Session 3, Isabelle Pottinger from the Mothers' Union spoke about the domestic violence project and urged prayer and action. Next for discussion was the Diocesan Net Zero Action Plan by the Diocesan Environment Group. 'With a limited budget, where would you start?' said a member of St. Mary's Aberfoyle.

The province will soon be appointing Champions of Net Zero. Bishop Ian said that synodality should be focused on and related his experience in Rome recently and how moved he was by it all. We voted on various Canons and Bishop Ian led the Confirmation of Acts of Synod. I proposed a vote of thanks to Bishop Ian himself, after which we dispersed and went our own ways with plenty of things to do and to think about for the future.

Emmanuel Patterson
Lay Representative



Warm Spaces

Our second winter warm space season ended on the Monday of Holy Week with a final lunch in the Chapter House. Around 50 turned up for a real end-of-term celebration which included not just a delicious buffet lunch and live music from Raymond Borley (*pictured below*) but the handing out of certificates, by vestry member Jamie on behalf of Perth & Kinross Council, to thank the volunteers for their service. To put this in context, the council had provided a grant to pay for the cost of hot drinks and food and to help towards our heating costs.

It has been a very successful scheme - at least as far as the cathedral has been concerned - as warmth, nourishment and companionship have been offered to, and appreciated by all, including some of the less fortunate in the city of Perth. It is to be hoped that this form of active, practical outreach will be continued next winter. The following photos illustrate the final 'warm space' of 2023-24.





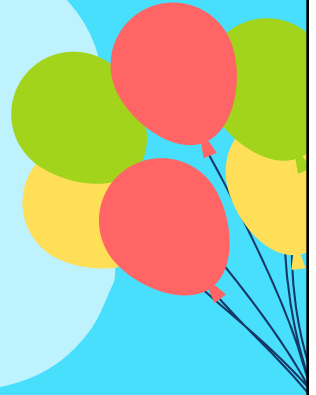
**FREE
ENTRY**

**SATURDAY 27TH APRIL
11.30AM TO 1.00PM**

JOIN US FOR OUR 2024

PARENT COUNCIL

SPRING FAYRE



**WHERE: ST. NINIAN'S
EPISCOPAL PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
BOUNCY CASTLE • FOOD • STALLS**



THERE WILL BE A SMALL FEE FOR SOME OF THE STALLS AND FOOD

News From St Ninian's Primary School

As you know we have been collecting food and essentials for families connected to our primary school during the winter months. They have been greatly appreciated particularly by families that have been struggling. In addition to targeted support for specific families the donations have been made available for parents to pick up when visiting the school.

At a recent parent contact event the donations, as well as second hand-uniforms, were made available to any families that wanted them - as shown in the photo below.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to both this appeal and our ongoing support for the Perth and Kinross Food Bank.

Rev'd Peter



Cathedral Cleaner Required!

Many of you will know Harshani who, as well as being a member of our congregation, has also been our cleaner and a valued welcomer for the past 16 months. Harshani and her husband Amal hail from Sri Lanka and new UK visa regulations unfortunately mean that she is no longer able to work for us. She very kindly did some voluntary work for us in Holy Week, and at the Easter morning service was presented with a gift voucher and a bouquet of flowers. She and Amal have been lovely people to have with us and we wish them well

for the future. Meanwhile, if you know of anyone who might be interested in a part-time cleaning job, coupled with the welcoming of visitors, applications should be in by Friday 5 April. While this notification is somewhat late, owing to the slightly delayed publication of this issue of the magazine, the job has been advertised elsewhere in the cathedral over a longer period.

Cathedral Cleaner

From Easter we shall be looking for a new cleaner for the Cathedral. We thank Harshani very much for her loyal service over the past 16 months. If you would be interested in this position please speak to Chris or Marion in the office for more information.

Application by letter please by Friday 5th April



Cover Photo

The floral cross in the cathedral garden comes good for Easter! But we might have to ask David, our singing gardener, to put some extra compost on the rather weedy-looking clump at the end of the right arm of the cross!

Christian Aid Booksale

Perth Christian Aid supporter, Gerry Watson, writes as follows:

Last year, you may remember, I was collecting books for the annual Christian Aid sale at St Andrew's and St George's West Church in Edinburgh (the final total to Christian Aid was over £60,000). This year, for various reasons, this book sale will not be held.

Kinnoull Church, however, will be running a book sale on Saturday 11 May (to coincide with Christian Aid Week) but on a more simple format with the proceeds again being donated to Christian Aid. The sale will run for one day only, 10.00am till 4.00pm, in the church hall where teas and coffees will also be available.

The reason that I am writing is twofold:

- * I'm on the lookout for second handbooks and I am happy to uplift
- * If anyone would like to be involved on the day, please let me know

Finally, I would like to thank everyone and their church members who assisted and donated to the Edinburgh sale last year. Perth's contribution, although mixed up in the total, was substantial. A friend and I filled a large van (much bigger than a transit) full of books and drove it to the sale two days before the sale started.

Gerry Watson

*Kinnoull Church is, of course, on Dundee Road at postcode PH2 7EY. Gerry can be contacted by email at ger.watson@hotmail.com and by phone on 01738 631526 or 07981 181260. If you have any donations to this very worthy cause, **please do bring your books into the cathedral and leave them on the big table at the back** for Gerry to collect nearer the time. Alternatively, he has offered to uplift them directly, in which case please contact Gerry direct to make arrangements.*



Jesus Christ Superstar

In February I went to see *Jesus Christ Superstar* with my mum at the Edinburgh Playhouse. I had never seen it before but my mum had and recommended it. I was very excited to go and overall we really enjoyed it. There were a few parts of the production I struggled with, including the choreography which seemed to use only one side of the stage and the lyrics weren't very clear so I couldn't really hear what the performers were singing about, but I have never seen an adaptation of The Passion so full of energy and emotion. I found it very moving the way Jesus and Judas in particular expressed their experiences, decisions and struggles. My favourite part of the show was during the scene of the Last Supper. The apostles finished their dance in a perfect re-creation of Leonardo da Vinci's painting which must have been difficult to do but they did it very effectively.

I think the most joyful part of the whole experience was that every seat in the theatre was taken. I know it can be a struggle at times to get people interested in Christianity so I was delighted to see so many people coming to see the musical. I'm sure a lot of them came just for the music or dancing rather than the story but I think it's really exciting that the show provided an opportunity to reach out to people who don't normally go to church or show any interest or belief in God. Perhaps they didn't all take in the message or the story but some of them might have, and I felt very uplifted that so many people came to support a Christian event. I know *Jesus Christ Superstar* isn't a musical to everyone's taste, but I hope you will all agree that it is deeply encouraging to experience such support for something that is central to our faith.

Maihri Cameron



Two York Churches

Mrs Editor and I found ourselves in York at the beginning of Lent, to attend the dedication ceremony of our goddaughter Vanessa's little daughter, Tilly. Vanessa grew up in an Edinburgh parish of the Church of Scotland but started going to the York Community Church when she was studying music in that city. Indeed, she felt so at home there that she is now training to become a pastor in the church. The church, on a Saturday afternoon, was filled with those who had turned up to support Vanessa and her husband. They were friendly, the music (guitars and drums) toe-tappingly catchy, and the prayers very informal. There was a certain amount of arm waving, as you would expect, and Vanessa's mother said that she, with her arms firmly at her side, had never felt so Presbyterian. The ceremony was followed by tea and much cake and in the evening the church leader opened his house to a large number of Vanessa's family and friends for a buffet supper.

By way of a postscript, Vanessa was diagnosed with a brain tumour seven years

ago and the St Ninian's prayer group put her on their prayer list and kept praying for her during her many operations and a lengthy convalescence. She still has operations ahead of her but the outlook is good.



This photo, from the church's website, shows Vanessa leading worship

The tumour, however, has left

her with partial deafness - very tough for a part-time musician - and with a degree of facial paralysis. She is a remarkable young lady and we, as her godparents, are hugely grateful for the prayerful support St Ninian's gave her.

The following day was the first Sunday of Lent so we took the opportunity to

attend the sung Eucharist in York Minster (*pictured right*). We expected much from the soaring Gothic architecture and great things from the choir (a visiting choir, as it happened, from the south of England) and were not disappointed. It is a truly wonderful building.



However, we also went with a preconceived notion that it, being such a busy

tourist destination, would be perhaps a little impersonal. How wrong could we be! We were greeted in a very friendly fashion at the door and while sitting waiting for the service to start were identified as visitors by a verger and by Canon Tim who both came to welcome us. And then, during the peace, Canon Tim ventured down the aisle again and said, 'It really is very good to see you.' We in turn passed on the greetings of the St Ninian's congregation to that of York Minster.

We returned to Perth feeling very uplifted by our experience that weekend. Two very different services in two vastly different churches - one a repurposed Methodist chapel and the other a building which has been described as one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals - and yet both making a big impression on us because of the welcome we received.

News from Cathedral Dogs

Baxter (*left*) and Brandy were snapped in the Chapter House at the last warm space session of the winter.

Baxter, so named because he loves soup, and Brandy because he, er, only rarely touches the stuff... or so he says!



Interregnum Update



St. Ninian's Cathedral Perth

Registered Scottish Charity SC010656

PROVOST



www.perthcathedral.co.uk

St Ninian's Cathedral, at the heart of the city of Perth and the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, is seeking a new Provost who will build on the Cathedral's strengths and enable further growth. The congregation is friendly, welcoming and inclusive, and proud of the Cathedral's Anglo Catholic worship and choral and musical tradition.

We are praying for a Provost who will

- preach, teach and inspire us
- be a sympathetic communicator who listens and offers wise counsel
- while respecting our traditions in worship and music, be able to develop the liturgy
- lead and support the realisation of the principal goals of the Cathedral's five year plan - namely growing and nurturing the congregation, maximising the potential of the Cathedral building, and moving towards Net Zero
- be a senior priest of the Diocese, who works closely with colleagues and with the Bishop

We offer

- a welcoming, diverse and growing congregation
- a cohesive Vestry which finds solutions to problems
- a modern eco friendly house and support to settle-in
- a Diocese with a strong identity and a commitment to work together

Appointment subject to PVG Safeguarding Record Disclosure (Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007)

A Cathedral Profile and application form can be downloaded from the Diocese of St. Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane website:

<https://standrews.anglican.org/vacancies>

If you would like to discuss the role further, you can arrange an informal conversation with the Bishop of St Andrews, the Right Revd Ian Paton, via bishop@standrews.anglican.org, or the Dean of St Andrews, the Very Revd Graham Taylor, via dean@standrews.anglican.org.

To apply, please complete the application form and send with C.V. to:

The Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane
Diocesan Offices, 28a Balhousie Street
Perth PH1 5HJ

or bishopsec@standrews.anglican.org

The closing date for applications is **Monday 29th April, 2024.**

The interviews for those who are shortlisted will take place on

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th May, in Perth.

Please keep both days clear.

The big news, as this magazine is being printed, is that after much work by the vestry and ministry team the vacant position of provost is finally being advertised. Shown left, it will appear initially for a four-week run in the *Church Times* and is also being advertised on Facebook and on the 'news' page of our website where you can read both the cathedral profile and a profile of the person we are looking for. The closing date for applications is 29 April with two days of interviews, for those short-listed, on 15 and 16 May. This is a big step forward and the vestry are to be congratulated for getting this long process to its final stages.

Eduardo el Águila



Daughter Lizzie, her husband Ben and I visited the Ducal Palace and gardens in Seville in January. It has been in the family of Alba for centuries, all very rustic and natural with very informal gardens, orange trees (of course!) and the lovely palace which surrounds its courtyards. The family live there and we could smell cigar smoke wafting out from the balcony above, no doubt as they were enjoying their tapas lunch, as we walked round the courtyards and rooms open to the public on the ground floor. The doors to the

private chapel were open and although a rope prevented us from entering, it was nice to see one of Eddie's Spanish cousins also in residence by the altar. Although Eddie might think that he could do with a polish, maybe it allows this particular eagle to fit in with the rustic charm of his surroundings.

Penny Fenwick

From the Farquhar Diaries

21 April 1924. Easter Monday. Yesterday was a great day. Altogether we had 602 communicants... I was asked to preach at Evensong and all the 40 years I have been at the Cathedral I would have eagerly done so, looking upon it as a great privilege to continue the apostolic message of 'bearing witness to the Resurrection', but I felt too done and tired. I felt as if I were some other person when I came into the full Cathedral and thought that I had actually declined to be the preacher. Mr Sutherland Graeme took my place and, as he did 'bear witness to the Resurrection' in his own way, I was quite satisfied.

More and more, it seems, is our Reverend friend feeling his age. Extracted from The Diary of the Very Rev G T S Farquhar, which was edited and published by the late Margaret Lye, a member of our congregation.

Eddie the Eagle says...

It's good to see cousin Eduardo once again, there on the opposite page. We went to Magaluf for a week when we were young and irresponsible and, despite both of us planning a career in the church, we both got a bit tipsy (ahem) and he decided to stay in Spain. I'm glad he found a church appointment, though judging by the lack of polish (rustic charm or not) he seems to have let himself go a bit.



Times of Services etc

At St Ninian's we extend a warm welcome to all those who come to share in the worship of God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Services

Sunday	Eucharist	11.00am
Wednesday	Eucharist	11.00am

Giving

For all committed giving, envelopes and covenants, please contact Chris Ahern, our treasurer, who will be delighted to advise.

Flowers

Flowers greatly enhance our worship. If you can help or donate, please contact Molly or Hazel.

And finally...

If you have an article for the magazine, or a suggestion for one, please either pass it to the editor, Jeremy Duncan, or email it to cathedralmagazine@gmail.com. The closing date for inclusion in the May magazine is **21 April**.



**St Ninian's Cathedral
of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.**

We are one of the family of Anglican churches throughout the world.

The cathedral is served by a clergy and lay team:

Bishop

The Right Rev'd Ian Paton
Diocesan Office, 28a Balhousie Street, Perth, PH1 5HJ
Tel: 01738 443173

Provost

Vacant

Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Philip Francis
philipfrancis@hotmail.co.uk

The Rev'd Peter Higson
peterjhigson@hotmail.com

Retired Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews

Lay Reader

Lis Burke
layreaderswarden@standrews.anglican.org

Cathedral Office

Cathedral Office, North Methven Street, Perth, PH1 5PP
Tel: 01738 632053

Email: office@perthcathedral.co.uk

Visit our website at: www.perthcathedral.co.uk

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