



# *Cathedral News*

*The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's*

*May 2024*

# ***Who's Who at the Cathedral***

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# From the Deacon's Desk

Thursday 9 May 2024 is Ascension Day. There will be a celebration of Sung Eucharist at 7.00pm in the cathedral.

'Ascension' is one of those many 'church words' that may not have much, if any, meaning to those outside the church. In fact, the ascension of Christ and Ascension Day itself may seem like an obscure event or day even to church members. Portrayals of the ascension in art can appear awkward, or even

conflicting, with Jesus being carried by angels in early portrayals while in others he appears to be ascending on his own power into the clouds as though he could fly, and we may wonder what theological purpose or point this holy day has for us today.



In the Nicene Creed, we proclaim that Jesus, 'ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.'

Our Eucharistic prayer opens with a dialogue that includes the words, 'Lift up

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your hearts.' The people then respond, 'We lift them up to the Lord.'

The goal of this portion of the liturgy is to participate in, essentially, an ascension of the heart, by intentionally and prayerfully lifting up our hearts to God in faith, love and joy. From a spiritual and emotional standpoint, this is a moment to pause and bring our awareness into God's presence. In that sense, we are called to ascend to God, just as Jesus ascended to God, by lifting up our hearts, our souls, and our deepest selves to God. Our prayer reminds us that the Eucharist is not just about the fact that Jesus descended to the earth to come to us, nor did Jesus merely ascend into heaven, but that he ascended in order to draw us all to God because we too are called to ascend in heart, body and mind to the Lord.

In Christ we learn that ascension is a joint effort! Our entire spiritual journey is a joint effort that involves God coming to us and our responding and coming to God, descending and ascending together, with God working in us and us working with God.

Of course, we are called to ascend and lift our hearts to God not only on Sunday mornings or during the Eucharistic prayer, but continually. If we want to experience more joy in life, as well as praise and blessing, then we can lift up our hearts to God constantly in moments of ascension.

Think how our perspective might change if we ascended frequently by momentarily lifting up our hearts to God in the midst of life's challenges. Finding yourself annoyed by someone or something? Pause and lift up your heart to God! On the verge of losing your temper? Pause and lift up your heart to God! Has someone said something hurtful? Pause and lift up your heart to God! Are you



*Our recently cleaned painting of the Ascension by William Brassey Hole, now repositioned at the west end of the south aisle*

worried or anxious about something? Pause and lift up your heart to God!

Ascension can be done anytime and anywhere. And while this is certainly not a cure-all, it is quite difficult to remain angry or worry for long when we ascend and find our hearts with God in the joy of ascension.

Far from being an obscure event, ascension can be a practical reminder of how we might live out and practice our faith regularly, knowing that God has come to us and we have been called to come to God.

God bless,

Rev'd Peter

## ***Readings and Collects for May***

### **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

### **Ascension of the Lord - Thursday 9 May**

**Collect:** Almighty God: grant that we, who believe that your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, ascended to the heavens, may already dwell in spirit with him there; for he lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**Readings:** Acts 1.1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1.15-23, Luke 24.44-53

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter - 12 May**

**Collect:** O God, the King of Glory, hear our prayer: that as we believe your Son Jesus Christ to be exalted with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven; so also we may know his presence with us now, and to the end of time; who lives and

reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.  
Amen.

**Readings:** Acts 1.15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5.9-13, John 17.6-19

### **The Day of Pentecost - Sunday 19 May**

**Collect:** O God, who on the day of Pentecost enlightened the hearts of your people by the fire of the Holy Spirit: give us wisdom and understanding, and lead us into all truth; 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 2.1-21, Psalm 104.25-35,37, Romans 8.22-27, John 14.8-17, (25-27)

### **Trinity Sunday - 26 May**

**Collect:** Almighty and Everlasting God, you have given us grace in the profession of faith to recognise the glory of the eternal Trinity: keep us steadfast in this faith and bring us to see you in your perfect and eternal unity; 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:** Isaiah 6.1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17

### **Second Sunday after Pentecost - 2 June**

**Collect:** O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers: loose us from the chains of our sins; and keep us from all adversity; 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:** Deuteronomy 5.12-15, Psalm 81.1-10, 2 Corinthians 4.5-12, Mark 2.23-3.6

## **Cover Photo**

The cherry tree in the cathedral garden is coming into full bloom and cheers the old grey walls of this busy corner of the city. The whole garden, including the garden of remembrance, is looking particularly lovely at this time of year.

# What's Been Going On?

## Sri Lankan Surprise!

Coffee drinkers after church on Low Sunday were treated to a delicious curry lunch in the Chapter House provided by Tyro and Ayesha Panagoda. It was a lovely surprise from the couple from Sri Lanka who have been regular worshippers with their infant son at St Ninian's for over two years. They run a shop selling oriental spices and ingredients just along North Methven Street from the cathedral called Tay Larder Eco Shop and Refillery. They also run a curry stall at markets - one such market was cancelled because of the weather so next day being Low Sunday, rather than waste the ingredients, Tyro and Ayesha served up a very welcome curry in the Chapter House after the service to eat there or take away. *Deo gratias!*

*Rev'd Geoffrey Hall*

*As the word 'Refillery' in the shop name suggests, you can take in an empty bottle of washing-up liquid and get it refilled. This service also includes many other items such as shampoo, conditioner, bathroom and kitchen cleaning stuff etc. Much more eco-friendly than buying from a supermarket! Thanks to Lis for the photo...*



## The Black Watch Window



This window, which had its lower section damaged by vandalism a while ago, has finally been repaired. The actual repair and restoration was carried out by Liz Rowley, who has a studio in Newport-on-Tay, and the glass was installed under her supervision by McLeod Glaziers of Perth. This photo of the window - in its full glory and without the rather ugly temporary wooden cover at the bottom right - was sent in by Lis.

## New Cleaner and Welcomer

Following the recent 'retiral' of Harshani, who had to end her employment with us owing to the new changes to UK visa regulations, we are delighted to welcome Jacqui Ahern as her replacement. Jacquie, as you have probably deduced from the name, is the wife of cathedral manager, Chris. She has now started work and, as she doesn't know too many cathedral folk, please do say hello if you happen to see her.





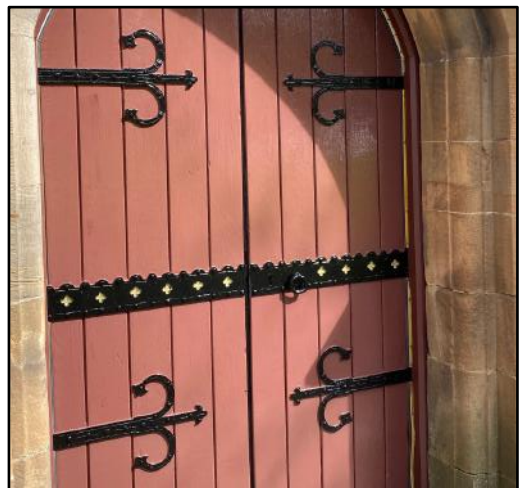
## Choir News

The cathedral choir was snapped by Lis at the end of the Choral Evensong on Sunday 21 April. The choir is delighted to have a new member, young Vidunya from Sri Lanka who is standing next to Christopher. On this occasion the choir was augmented by the choral scholars of Strathallan School.



## Community Payback Team

As you may have noticed John and his team of community payback workers have been busy with their paintbrushes in the cathedral precincts recently. Having completed the power-hosing of the flagstones leading from North Methven Street to the Pearly Gates (and how much better they look!) they have since been painting the exterior doors and railings. Shown right is the door at the west end of the cathedral, with the decoration in its metalwork carefully picked out in gold - a beautiful job. If you agree, then, if you see them, let them know - they do appreciate some encouragement!



# **Interregnum Update**

The closing date for applications for the position of cathedral Provost has been extended to 27 May and the Bishop and Dean will pass us a list of suitable candidates very shortly after that. The vestry will meet and consider these and invite a chosen number for interview. After interviews on 5 and 6 June, and with God's help and guidance, we hope we shall have found our new Provost - who will, I'm sure, find our cathedral congregation and community both welcoming and supportive.

During this past month of Interregnum we in Vestry have been dealing with practical matters of management, maintenance and finance. We are in good heart and look forward to welcoming more visitors and new members as we go into summer.

*John Wright*  
*Vestry Chairman*

## **The Provost's House**

The Provost's House in Gray Street, which has been rented out for many years, has - as we go to press - just been sold. A huge 'well done and thank you' to Erica who has been the driving force behind this. The Vestry is now looking for a more modern and eco-friendly house somewhere in Perth for the new Provost.

## **Colonel Struan Robertson**

Many of us will be sad to hear of the recent death of Struan Robertson. Struan was for many years a faithful member of the St Ninian's congregation, playing a full part on the vestry, helping out each year with Doors Open Day and, latterly, serving as a sidesman. We shall always remember his cheery 'good morning' and warm smile. An old school friend of the editor who was a serving officer in the Argylls and a friend of Struan, said that he was known in the regiment as 'Gentleman Struan'. Struan's wife, Gabrielle, also active in the congregation and an occasional organist too, died in 2013. We send our condolences to his daughter, Alice, who lives near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, to where Struan had moved in order to be closer to his family.

# Christian Aid News



## Christian Aid Week 2024

St John's Princes Street and St Ninian's Cathedral  
Christian Aid Group warmly invite you to support our 2024  
Fundraiser for Christian Aid Week



**A Soup, Bread and Cheese Lunch**  
in aid of the people of Gaza will be held  
on **Saturday 25th May from 11am—1.30pm**  
in the Threshold, Princes St.

**Learn about Christian Aid's response in the Middle East**

**Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to  
people hit by crisis**

The Christian Aid Group of St Ninian's and St John's, Princes Street are holding a joint fund-raising event in aid of the people of Gaza. Do come along to a soup, bread and cheese lunch in the Threshold (the St John's hall adjacent to the church) in Princes St on Saturday 25 May, between 11.00am and 1.30pm.

Meanwhile, as mentioned last month, a Christian Aid book sale is being held in Kinnoull Church hall on Saturday 11 May, 10.00am to 4.00pm, and many Perth churches, if not all, will be contributing to it. Please leave donations of unwanted books on the large table at the back of the cathedral from where

Gerry Watson will collect them. He has also offered to collect them from people's homes, if bringing them in to the cathedral is difficult, in which case please contact Gerry direct. Offers of help on the day would also be gratefully received - again, please contact Gerry direct if interested.

# Congregational Church Anniversary

## Anniversary Concert

by Janet Bennett  
(Harpist & Singer)



*Pedal Harp & Clarsach*

on Tuesday 7 May 2024

Doors Open 7.00 pm, Starting at 7.30 pm

in Perth Congregational Church

Donation on Entry

Perth Congregational Church are celebrating the 125th anniversary of their church building with a concert in the church on 7 May at 7.30pm. Their present church in Kinnoull Street was opened in 1899 when the Evangelical Union church merged with that of the Congregational Union, both then in Mill Street.

The concert will be given by Janet Bennett, a leading harpist who trained at the RSAMD in Glasgow and is now based in the Newcastle area. Of her many claims to fame she once appeared on *Downton Abbey*! Entry to the concert is by donation.

## Curry Cooking Classes!

Many thanks to Marie-Nöelle (pictured below left) who sent in these photos: her son Sacha had treated her, and Hans (left in the other photo), to a curry class at the Tay Larder - run by cathedral members Ayesha and Tyro - which they both enjoyed very much. They were shown some recipes and learnt a lot about spices.





# Summer Opening

It seems no time at all since we were winding up the winter warm space sessions. And yet, here we are again, embarking on another season of summer opening. As always we would very much appreciate the help of anyone who would care to keep the cathedral open for a few hours a week, and offer our visitors a warm welcome. With the new museum having opened, tourist attractions such as ours have been advised to expect a greater number of visitors than in previous years, and of course with our new contactless payment machine we would hope to see a corresponding increase in donations too. Please speak to Wendy Duncan if this would interest you. Training will be given and you can do as much or as little as you feel able to offer. We are advertising our opening hours for 2024 as follows: Sunday to Wednesday, 9.30 to 12.30, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 to 3.00, and Saturday, 10.00 to 12.00. The office staff and Jacqui (*see page 8*) will keep the building open during the mornings but we do need help especially on Thursday and Friday afternoons, 12.30 to 3.00. Of course, anyone willing to offer help in the morning too will not be turned away!

*Wendy Duncan*

## Sunday Coffee Rota

A big thank-you to all who volunteer to make and serve our weekly refreshments after the Sunday service. More helpers are still needed - as you may have noticed on Easter Sunday! Many thanks to those who at no notice stepped into the breach to pour coffee and tea and cut and hand out the Easter cake. There is a coffee rota on the notice board outside the Chapter House, so release the inner coffee shop owner and sign up if you can!

## Heating

The treasurer, having received the latest massive winter fuel bill, is probably feeling hot and sweaty - well, that's one way of keeping warm in the cathedral! The heating (with the exception of the office areas) is now off for the summer, so please bear this in mind when dressing for church. How we heat our beloved building in the future is a matter for the new Provost and Vestry but for the sake of our planet and our pockets we cannot continue to burn fossil fuel at this level.

## ***From the Farquhar Diaries***

**28 May 1924.** The Presbyterian general assemblies have been meeting and have been very notable. At last, after negotiations, which have been going on since 1908 (except for interruption through the War), the two great bodies of Presbyterians, the 'Established' and the 'United Frees' have taken a step, which practically commits them to union. The bill totally revolutionizing the endowments of the Established Church which recently went through Parliament, has been accepted by the Established Assembly and approved by the U.F. After that, the two churches are morally bound to unite. There will thus be a mighty change in the ecclesiastical atmosphere of Scotland - whereat I rejoice; it is right that it should be so. At the same time it will greatly change our prospects. We have always been a small minority among a sea of Presbyterian sects. Now we shall be utterly overshadowed by one huge, national Church...Yesterday I looked in at old S. John's in Perth [*ie, St John's Kirk, which was then undergoing a huge restoration, which included the removal of the interior walls which had formed the old East, West and Middle Church parishes*], which they are restoring. I am perfectly amazed to see what a splendid building it is and at the colossal genius of ugliness, which the 'Reformers' must have had in order so completely to disguise the true character of the building. Now therefore in this place the new great National Presbyterian Church, which had nothing to compare with our Cathedral, will overshadow us architecturally and it is impossible but that they will gradually introduce a new style of Service outwardly rivalling ours.

*A fascinating Anglican perspective on the great Presbyterian rapprochement which culminated in 1929, largely reversing the Disruption of 1843. Our old friend, though, is obviously feeling a bit insecure! 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.*

## ***Perth and Kinross Food Bank***

In case you have heard to the contrary, the Food Bank people have been in touch to say they will NOT be moving to proposed new premises in York Place for the time being. They continue to operate from Pullar House in Kinnoull Street.

## ***Eddie the Eagle says...***

There has been a fuss in the paper recently about the sale of a painting by Hitler and whether or not you can separate the intrinsic merit of a work of art from its creator. As assistant editor of this worthy journal I confess that until recently the font we used was Gill Sans - created by one Eric Gill who, along with some perfectly acceptable interests had some decidedly unsavoury ones too. I'm glad I managed to persuade the editor to switch to a less controversial font! Meanwhile, if anyone has been traumatised by its use please complain to him, not me!



### ***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](mailto:cathedralmagazine@gmail.com). The closing date for inclusion in the June magazine is **19 May**.



**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**

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