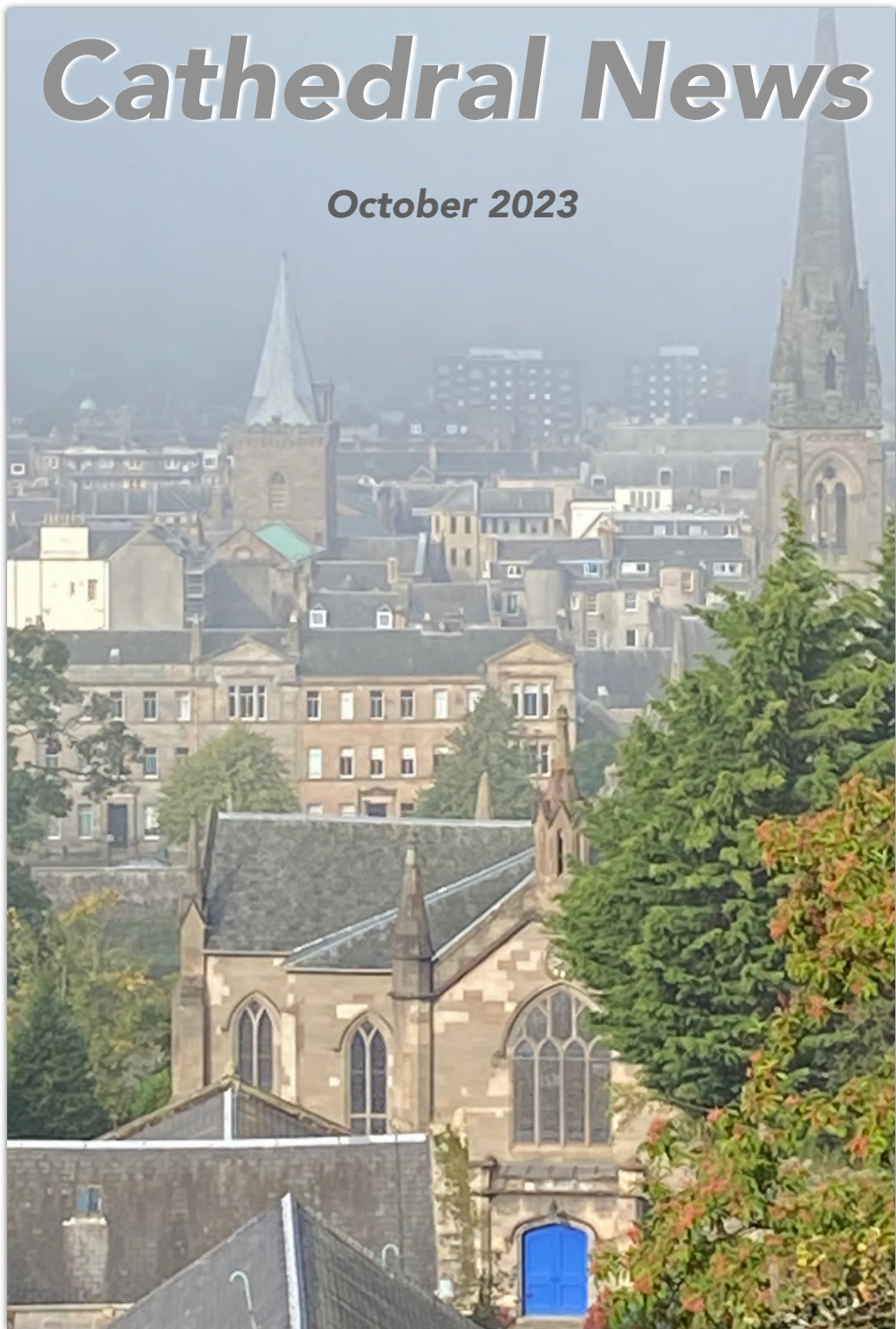


# *Cathedral News*

*October 2023*



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

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# From the Ministry Team

Dear Friends,

The month of October always seems like a time of transition between two very different seasons. We start the month with the last flowers and late-ripening fruits still in the garden, often bathed in sunshine, but as October draws to an end all growth has slowed down and stopped, the trees are almost bare and the days are becoming short, dark and damp.



This edition of *Cathedral News* also marks a time of transition: it is the first for a very long time with no letter 'from the Provost'. In the twenty-four years that Hunter served as our provost he was a constant source of inspiration and encouragement, leading us all to deepen our faith and further God's mission in new ways. At times it seems sad and empty in the cathedral without him, and especially without his dog Ted!

## Contents

Who's who	2	The Pilgrim Passport	14
From Lis	3	Shoe Box Appeal 2023	16
Readings, collects for October	4	Hunter's final sermon	16
Golden weddings	7	From the Farquhar diaries	20
Scottish Guild of Servers AGM	8	Forthcoming services	21
Sea Sunday	8	Book talk	22
Christian Aid quiz	9	From the registers	22
Harvest thanksgiving	9	Harvest Home	23
Doors Open report	10	The Ascension: update	24
Russia Unveiled	12	Organ course, part 2	24
Interregnum update	13	Thank you!	26
Concert at St John's	13	Eddie the Eagle	27
A sad case	14	Times of services etc	27

But we have a responsibility to use this time of transition wisely. As well as continuing our regular patterns of worship and witness, in the coming months we should all take time to assess who we are as a cathedral congregation, who God is calling us to be and how God is calling us to grow. Our vestry will be leading us all in this task, which will be followed by drawing up our Congregation Profile booklet - the first step in preparing to appoint a new Provost. You can expect to hear more from the vestry in due course. Please hold them in your prayers as they take on this very important role in addition to their ongoing duties.

Please pray also for Bishop Ian, whose encouragement, guidance and oversight are valued by both the vestry and the ministry team. We are grateful that Bishop Ian will be celebrating the Eucharist with us regularly on a Sunday and on other feast days.

I'd like to express a special word of thanks to all those who worked so hard to make our Doors Open weekend a success last month. Many of our visitors said how much they had enjoyed seeing our displays and hearing the live music on Saturday. The cathedral really was looking its best and it was fantastic to see so many people involved. It was also wonderful to see so many donations to the Foodbank when we celebrated Harvest Festival the following week.

Well done everyone!

Lis

## ***Readings and Collects for October***

### **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 1 October**

**Collect:** Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Exodus 17.1-7, Psalm 78.1-4,12-16, Philippians 2.1-13, Matthew 21.23-32

## **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 8 October**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of the spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19, Philippians 3.4b-14, Matthew 21.33-46

## **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - 15 October**

**Collect:** Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Exodus 32.1-14, Psalm 106.1-6, 19-23, Philippians 4.1-9, Matthew 22.1-14

## **Luke, Evangelist - Wednesday 18 October**

**Collect:** Almighty God, who inspired in Luke the physician the love and healing power of your Son: give your Church, by the grace of the Spirit and the medicine of the gospel, the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** 2 Timothy 4.5-13 (14-17), Luke 4.14-21 or 10.1-9

## **Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - 22 October**

**Collect:** Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Exodus 33.12-23, Psalm 99, 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10, Matthew 22.15-22

## **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost - Sunday 29 October**

**Collect:** Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 34.1-12, Psalm 90.1-6,13-17, 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8, Matthew 22.34-46

## **All Saints - Wednesday 1 November**

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the mystical Body of your Son: grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Revelation 7.9-17, Psalm 34.1-10, 1 John 3.1-3, Matthew 5.1-12

## **All Souls - Thursday 2 November**

**Collect:** Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Wisdom 3.1-9, Psalm 116.1-8, 1 Peter 1.3-9, John 6.37-40

## **Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost - 5 November**

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in him the family of the earth is blessed, give us faith like his, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Joshua 3.7-17, Psalm 107.1-7, 33-37, 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13, Matthew 23.1-12

# What's Been Going On?

## Golden Weddings



Many congratulations to Barry and Elizabeth Nisbet who celebrated a milestone wedding anniversary with cake and fizz in the Chapter House on 3 September. Thanks to Lis for the photo. Congratulations also to former provost Graham Forbes and his wife Jane who celebrated the same anniversary on the same day in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.



## Scottish Guild of Servers



The Scottish Guild held their AGM at St John's, Princes Street on Saturday 2 October, with Andrew, Barry and Erica all in attendance. Thanks to Erica for the photo.

## Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday was marked on 10 September with a most interesting talk from David Graham-Service, who works for The Mission to Seafarers Scotland. He is pictured here with Bishop Ian who is a trustee of the charity. The collection raised £198 for this very worthwhile organisation. Many thanks to Lis for the photos.





## Christian Aid Quiz

The annual Christian Aid quiz was held at Letham St Mark's on Friday 1 September and was another great success, with large numbers turning up, representing churches across Perth. Marjorie Clark was both question setter and quiz master and, it must be said, she does a really excellent job. The first question, which had many people stumped was, 'Name three streets in Perth which are not currently dug up.' A point nicely made! A few from the cathedral turned up and as far as can be ascertained did not disgrace themselves, in so far as they at least avoided the wooden spoon. Gill Kaye, one of the organisers, wrote to local Christian Aid groups: 'On return from my holiday, I was able to bank £1,007.25 for Christian Aid. This is a fantastic result, all due to the hard work put in by you in recruiting lots of teams and in providing for the crowd on the night. I believe well over 100 people participated. I wasn't sure beforehand if this would continue to be an annual event, but in the light of the enthusiasm shown on the night and the positive comments afterwards, I think we will have to fulfil my promise to "see everyone again next year". We will certainly try to make provision in advance for bigger numbers of tables...'

## Harvest Thanksgiving



This annual service was held on 24 September and resulted in a generous donation (*pictured left*) to the Perth and Kinross Foodbank. The foodbank has recently been requesting donations of the following items: UHT milk, tinned tomatoes, instant snacks, small bags of rice, small cartons/jars of coffee and tea, biscuits and jam. Many thanks to Andrew for the photo.

# Doors Open Weekend

The cathedral opened its doors to a good number of visitors over the weekend of 16 and 17 September, as part of the (usually) annual Doors Open Days event across Scotland, though this was the first such weekend since 2019, owing to Covid and the death of the Queen. It was a successful event with around 100 visitors on Saturday and 70 on Sunday, from near and far. We had locals who had never visited the cathedral before and others with long-standing connections. There were visitors from Spain, Austria, Ukraine, Germany, France, The Netherlands and the Philippines. One couple from Suffolk arrived on a tandem and told us they were touring round all 50 Episcopal and Anglican Cathedrals in Scotland and England ...we were 37<sup>th</sup> out of 50 and they asked us to stamp their special cathedral passports (*see also page 14*).

The cathedral looked at its best thanks to the efforts of a team of cleaners and to the addition of beautiful floral displays.

We used our new exhibition cases to full advantage with displays of conductors' batons, our Jacobite bag and communion tokens, the Queen's Bible, the unusual Ballachulish slate and information on the cathedral's link with Beatrix Potter. The sacristy team also put on show the beautiful vestments and silverware and Emmanuel's royal correspondence made an interesting display. We allowed visitors to delve into many of the old registers of births, marriages and deaths and to examine our wonderful hand-painted manuscripts and 19th-century diptych.

The children of St. Ninian's Primary provided beautiful art work of fairy-tale dragons, stained-glass crosses and drawings of the Perth skyline. A big thank-you to them.

We had lots of music throughout the weekend. Emmanuel played for two hours on Saturday morning and the choir sang a wonderful and varied selection of music in the afternoon. On Sunday visitors were able to hear them during morning service, rehearsing at 2.00pm and then during Evensong. A huge thank-you to them for enhancing the weekend.

The children's quiz was a success for the families who came and a new record was set for the answer to the final question ...how many crosses can you find

throughout the cathedral? It's now 320!

There was a little café set up in the Chapter House, which was also decorated beautifully, with refreshments available throughout both days. This also meant we could offer a quick bite at lunchtime for our volunteers, who also enjoyed spending time together to catch up.

Many members of the congregation came along to offer help and support...many thanks to them all. Thank you also to Peter, Lis and Philip for their efforts to make the weekend a success.



*John and Maureen Wright*

## **Post Script!**

Huge thanks, of course, should go to John and Maureen for masterminding so successfully this year's event (and, it should be said, last year's too, which had to be cancelled at the last minute, after all the work had been done, because of the royal death). A final thank-you to Christopher and Lis for the photos on this page. See also page 26.

# Russia Unveiled

The veil was lifted by Dr John Byrom, until recently a lecturer in the English Department of the University of Moscow. He addressed the Men's Group meeting for Tapas and Talk in the Chapter House on Wednesday 19 September. In a word he found Moscow and Russia gargantuan - Moscow is 80 miles across, twice as big as London. The trains, stretching to one and a half miles in length, were pulled by engines so loud that drivers become stone deaf after ten years and are compelled to retire. The splendid underground stations had trains running every two minutes. Above ground he bought a train ticket which was inspected by five officials before boarding - inspection times have to be factored in before calculating arrival times. He joined a two-hour queue for a museum containing many works of art which would have taken a lifetime to view. He went to the theatre to see *Romeo and Juliet* with ticket No 4,322 in the 6,000-seat auditorium. On walks he observed how other pedestrians kept impassive faces showing no emotion, fearing someone might be watching! He walked past a



*Putin behind the wheel. The latest in our wildly popular series of photos of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in an Anglican church magazine*

concrete block of flats one mile long with a pavement kept clean by little old ladies with dustpans and brushes. Running from the Kremlin was Putin Street, a one-way thoroughfare with three lanes. However, when Putin pleases he drives down the centre lane in the opposite direction! John's nerve was tested when driven to the Borodino battlefield at 90mph along the four-lane motorway with cars weaving across the lanes and crashed vehicles strewn along the hard shoulder. Borodino was the site of Napoleon's defeat in 1812 when he was forced to retreat from Moscow.

John's talk revealed both the beauty and the beast he experienced in Russia. He was thanked and given a book token by the Men's Group. £100 was raised in donations which were shared by the cathedral and the British Red Cross.

*The Rev'd Geoffrey Hall*

## Interregnum Update

As Vestry chair I have been canvassing views and opinions from any and all members of the congregation. I am in discussion with the Bishop and the Dean and after this we shall meet as a Vestry to discuss and reflect upon the future of our cathedral as we see it. This protocol is required before we can compose our congregational profile. We need a period of prayerful discernment and reflection as we consider what we hold dear and how we see the future of St. Ninian's.

*John Wright*

## Concert at St John's, Princes Street

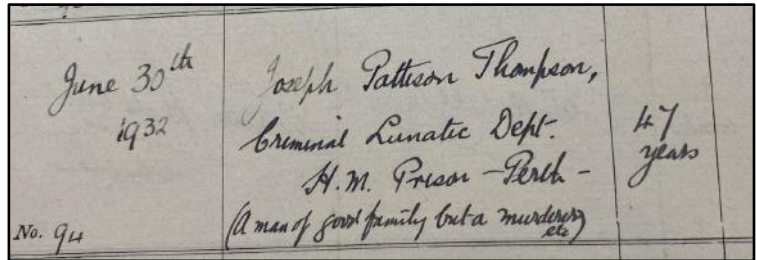


The poster, as received from St John's, is perhaps a little hard to read. It is advertising a programme of love and war songs - In Love and War - featuring well-known local musicians Pavlina Ivanova, Kenneth Maciver, David Thomson and Edna Auld, with readings from Alan Laing. It takes place at 7.00pm on Saturday 28 October at St John's, Princes Street. Tickets cost £10.00, with children admitted free.



## A Sad Case

At Doors Open Day recently, the editor spent some time browsing through the old registers which were on display.



He was struck by the number of child deaths, which were far more common in the days before the development of antibiotics. And then the eye alighted on a comment beside the entry for Joseph Pattison Thompson whose funeral was held in the cathedral in the summer of 1932. He was 47 and his address was listed as 'Criminal Lunatic Dept., HM Prison Perth'. At the foot of the entry, in brackets, was written: 'A man of good family but a murderer etc'. Thanks to the excellent British Newspaper Archive website, it was the work of seconds to find his case. It seems that he had been a marine surveyor with the Board of Trade, working in Glasgow, and in an episode of insanity had murdered his poor wife in 1927 by cutting her throat and stabbing her in the chest. The newspaper report described his court appearance, 'with his hair ruffled and coat collar turned up, and apparently oblivious to his surroundings...' A desperately sad case indeed.

## The Pilgrim Passport

An indomitable couple, Linda and Jon Reed from Rackheath in Norfolk, raised many smiles when they called to visit us during the Doors Open Day weekend on their tandem tour of the English and Scottish cathedrals. They had heard about the pilgrimage though Cycling UK which has joined forces with the Association of English cathedrals to create a pilgrim passport. This is along the lines of those used by pilgrims on the Camino de Compostela where pilgrims embark on their own special journey, spending time on the way learning and thinking about their lives and perhaps asking for God's guidance. They are hoping the Scottish cathedrals will soon join this pilgrim passport scheme. Luckily we found an old metal stamp in the office, as well as a cathedral explorer sticker, and were able to add our endorsement to their precious documents.



They had left Norfolk on 1 June and travelled through all weathers. They were hoping to be home again in the middle of October where Norwich Cathedral would be their final stop.

Their adventures were fascinating as they criss-crossed the country, calling at cathedrals from Chelmsford to Truro, back to to London (where they had a personal tour of Westminster Abbey) and then west again to Hereford, before heading up the west coast via the Isle of Man to Glasgow, Oban, Inverness and Dundee. After

Perth they were turning for home, stopping off at more magnificent places of worship as they pedal down the eastern side of the country. We thanked them for their inspiring visit and wished them God's speed on their homeward journey.

*Wendy Duncan*



## **Shoe Box Appeal 2023**

Since our first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 we have sent more than 2.5 million boxes - each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals,

orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine. Full details of suggested items can be found online at the Blythwood website - <https://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/> . Cash donations are also welcome, as it costs around £7000 to send a lorry-load to eastern Europe.

Filled boxes and cash donations towards filler items should be handed in to the cathedral by Sunday 29 October. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your gift truly makes a difference.

*Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal*

## **Hunter's Final Sermon as Provost**

**Given at Evensong on 30 July 2023**

As you may know, just over twenty-four years ago I was preparing to leave the lovely congregation at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, to come here to Perth. I was visiting some elderly parishioners in a care home to say goodbye, and whilst there was asked by a resident nurse if I was an Anglican priest. She told me a very elderly woman at the end of her life had asked specifically for an Anglican priest to pray with her, so I went upstairs to find a tiny, frail, elderly lady, half conscious, crumpled and curled up on her bed.

The nurse helped this old soul to sit up, and I sat on the bed at the other side with my arm around her back for support, and we started to say the Lord's Prayer together. Halfway through, she seemed to fall asleep, with her head resting on my shoulder. Very gently the nurse informed me that this woman had died and



promptly left the room with me in the same position, propping this now deceased soul up in bed. All of a sudden, another woman rushed into the room and shouted at me, 'What have you done to my mother.' It turned out that this was the deceased's daughter, who had travelled all the way from Australia as quickly as she could, in the hope of seeing her mother before she died. When she calmed down, we laid her mother down and prayed.

And what a fascinating woman her mother turned out to be. This old soul had been a child prodigy pianist with an extraordinary gift. Aged three, she had been listening to a family friend play a piece of relatively sophisticated music, and afterwards climbed onto the piano stool and replicated what she had heard perfectly. She became well known, and all through her childhood gave concerts in Australia. After some formal training, she began to play all over the world. She eventually married an American ambassador and gave recitals for presidents, royalty, all sorts of different people in different countries. However, I soon learned that her first and true love was the rainbow. Her daughter had brought with her from Australia one of a number of her late mother's leather-bound books, containing a collection of photographs, paintings, prose, poems, and descriptions of rainbows, including lunar rainbows. It was fascinating stuff, and I looked through the whole book, transfixed. On the inside cover were words by William Wordsworth, another great lover of rainbows. He wrote:

*My heart leaps up when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky;  
So was it when my life began, so is it now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old, or let me die!*

As an aside, William Wordsworth's nephew, Charles Wordsworth, became the second bishop of this diocese. He was also responsible for the boat race that started between Oxford and Cambridge.

Anyway, back to Dunfermline. There were four of us at the crematorium for this extraordinary woman's funeral; her daughter, granddaughter and great-granddaughter. Her ashes were to be taken back to Australia. Dunfermline Crematorium, as some of you will know, has two large, long windows that stretch the length of the facing wall, which makes the place bright, and you can see a vista of trees and sky. We stood around the coffin, listening to one of her piano

recitals, reading aloud rainbow prose and poetry, and then just as I was saying, 'Go forth upon your journey, dear child of God', the daughter nudged me. I followed her eyes and there stretched from one corner of the crematorium window to the other, a perfect rainbow had appeared. The daughter nodded a knowing nod, and said, 'I thought one would come'.

That same night, preparing for my move, whilst packing up books in the rectory in Dunfermline, I came across an apocrypha, and perchance opened it at the book of Ecclesiasticus, also known as Sirach. And there to my amazement was a sentence which I have used at the start of every funeral service since, beautifully read this evening by Wendy.

*Look upon the rainbow and praise him who made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof. It compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle and the hands of the most high have bended it.*

I then did some research and, as many of you will know, rainbows feature prominently in scripture. Genesis 9: *I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth and all living creatures.*

You will also remember Joseph and his amazing technicoloured dream coat, the basis for which can be found in Exodus 28, where priests were encouraged to wear different colours in order to seek a better relationship with God. And the famous one from Revelation 4, when St John sees a rainbow around the throne of God.

Of course, we can now explain scientifically why rainbows appear, but we're still amazed by these heavenly arcs. There are rainbows everywhere, but the most amazing rainbow on record has to be the one the Apostle John saw in heaven. It would appear that this is the only permanent full rainbow that exists. They fade so fast on earth, but we might say that John's rainbow is part of the furniture of heaven. Could we say it's part of the presence of God? It would appear to be a complete circle, all the way around the throne of God. We see rainbows cut in half, because we can't see below the horizon where the other half is. But John saw the whole circle in heaven. It had to be one of the most beautiful sights human eyes have ever beheld.

You know, beauty doesn't need any other reason for being. It doesn't have to have a message, or some symbolic meaning, for beauty is an end in itself. It feeds the mind and the inner self.

We do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, and to me one of God's loveliest words is 'rainbow'. O, beauty is a paradox. All you can do is look and stand in awe at the beauty of a rainbow. They serve no other purpose other than just being awesome. So much of what God has made, has no practical value. It's just beauty for beauty's sake. God is saying by this that beauty is a practical value in itself.

I've met so many beautiful people here in this cathedral congregation, in the charges I have served, and in the diocese - a whole rainbow of ministries that together are an extraordinary expression of faith and love. May we always know what a difference we make in the world, by reflecting the many colours of joy to be found in God. And it is together that we allow the beauty of God to encircle the earth.

As my time as provost comes to an end, I do wonder what life holds for me next, where the Holy Spirit might lead me. What will be my own personal eschatology. All I can do is to look upon the rainbow and praise him who made it. And just to assure you, although I did consider it, I'm not about to burst into song with 'Somewhere over the rainbow!'





*Many thanks to Elizabeth Nisbet for the above photographs, taken during Hunter's final weekend.*

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

**23 October 1923.** For the 40 years I have been at the Cathedral, we have only raised 2 candidates for Holy Orders, ie Harry Rorison & Charles Stewart. I have often lamented that there have not been many more. However, a young man, Richard Rainsford, of most respectable but humble origin, has gone to the Theological College in Edinburgh. The Rev P J Hulbert of Kirkwall, however, with whom he worked as a sort of Lay Reader at Invergordan [sic], tells me that he was

£30 a year short of what is needed for his expenses at college. I therefore wrote to various rich Church people on his behalf and have already received £20 and the promise of £5 for two years - total £30. That is exactly half of what he wants.

*Richard Rainsford, who was about 23 at this time, lived in Scone together with his family. His father, Frank, worked for Inland Revenue. He died in Glenrothes in 1975 but whether or not he was ever ordained is unknown to the editor. [Having written that, the editor, when browsing through the old cathedral registers, came across a funeral in 1936, one only, which had been carried out by 'R. Rainsford', so, presumably, yes, he had been ordained!]*

## **Forthcoming services**

### **Regular Services**

Wednesdays: 11.00 Holy Communion (said)

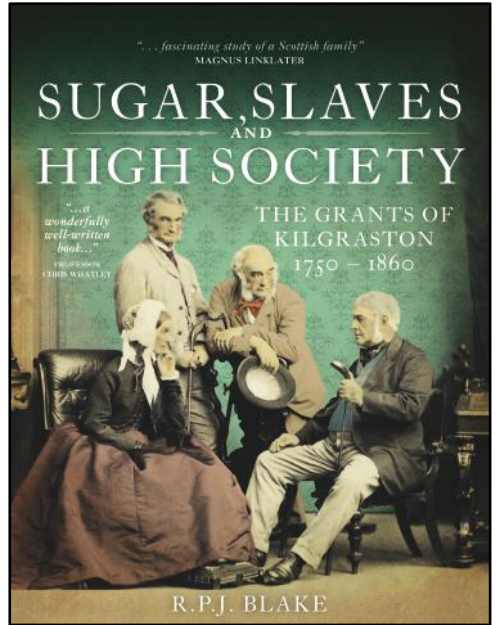
Sundays: 11.00 Sung Eucharist

### **Additional Services 2023**

Sunday 17 September at 3:00pm	Evensong
Sunday 15 October at 3.00pm	Evensong
Wednesday 1 November at 7.00pm	Sung Eucharist - All Saints
Thursday 2 November at 7.00pm	Sung Eucharist - All Souls
Sunday 19 November at 3.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 3 December at 4.00pm	Advent Readings & Carols
Wednesday 20 December at 1.30pm	School Nativity
Saturday 23 December at 3.00pm	Christingle
Sunday 24 December at 9.30am	Holy Communion (Said)
Sunday 24 December at 11.00am	Festival of Readings and Carols
Sunday 24 December at 11.00pm	Midnight Eucharist of Christmas
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am	Sung Eucharist

# Book Talk

A reminder that members of the congregation and their friends are invited to attend an illustrated talk, at St John's, Princes Street on Thursday 12 October, when Richard Blake, a former member of St Ninian's, will be giving a talk on his recently published book, *Sugar, Slaves and High Society: the Grants of Kilgraston, 1750-1860*. It is now available for sale at a cost of £25.00 and has had wonderful reviews. The talk is free of charge and Richard will donate 10% of the price of each book sold on the evening to The Tumbling Lassie, which exists to raise awareness and funds for charities fighting against modern slavery and people trafficking and to help survivors in Scotland and beyond (<https://www.tumblinglassie.com>). The talk starts at 7.15 pm, though wine will be served from 6.30. In order to get an idea of numbers, it would be appreciated if those who wish to attend could let Richard know at [admin@buskinbooks.co.uk](mailto:admin@buskinbooks.co.uk).



## ***From the Registers***

### **Baptism**

Jonathan Robert Ogden - 16 July 2023

### **Death**

Elizabeth (Betty) Harris - 11 July 2023

*Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord,  
And let light perpetual shine upon her.*

# Harvest Home

When I was little I used to spend a lot of time with my grandparents and my Grandad Ron often wrote poetry. He grew up in a farming family so his poems were often centred around the seasons. After he died, I typed up his collection of poems so I could look back on them. His harvest poems are my favourite and it seems an appropriate time of year to share one of them with you all. I hope you enjoy it. The photo is of Grandad Ron and me in about 1995.

*Maihri Cameron*

## Harvest Home

The fodder cut for cattle feed,  
Helps supply the milk we need.  
Oats and barley and the wheat,  
For the cereal and bread we eat.

When the fruit is picked, it may  
Be stored in many different ways.  
A vast amount is put in cans,  
Quite a lot made into jams.

The vegetables we often find,  
Can be gathered at any time.  
Usually when at their best  
And frozen, so that they stay fresh.

Now the harvest is gathered in,  
Once again our praise we sing.  
Giving thanks unto the Lord,  
For the food that has been stored.





## **Final Update on the Ascension**

In case you haven't already seen it, this splendid painting by William Hole, recently cleaned, is now hanging on the south wall of the cathedral near the west end. Our electrician has been looking at it with a view to having it properly illuminated in due course.

## **The St Andrews Organ Course 2023**

*Many thanks to Emmanuel for sending in her account of the organ course which she attends each year. This is the second and final part.*

**Tuesday 1 August.** My lesson today was with Gabriele Damiani - Gabs - at All Saints Episcopal Church. He is director of music at Our Lady's Abingdon (OLA), running the entire academic and practical music programme in the school. He studied at the Guildhall in London and was previously organ scholar at Westminster R C Cathedral. A lovely man. I had lunch at the Zest Café which does a good bacon roll and cappuccino. I had a practice session on St. Salvator's Chapel organ and later Henry Fairs performed at the Caird Hall in Dundee.

**Wednesday 2 August.** The lesson today was with Henry Fairs. He helped me to really relax on the McPherson Recital Room organ which was difficult to play. Most of you know that I suffer from a chronic vertigo/severe balance problem which makes playing the organ even more of a challenge. This year Geoff Bolton, who teaches me regularly, made me a booklet of music with various Italian composers as its theme, including Bossi, Scarlatti and others. I also prepared a Bach Chorale Prelude. I played the Bach and Scarlatti recently at a cathedral 11.00am service when Geoff had a week off. The various tutors had their own ideas on the prepared music, sometimes very different from each other. I



attended most lectures. Chris Bragg, the artistic director of the course, Steven McIntyre and Andrew Forbes, the assistant course director gave a presentation lecture on the Sowne of Organe, a charity which surveys and records Scotland's organs. Chris Bragg has been instrumental in the design and development of the Laidlaw Music Centre and the housing of the 1868 T. C. Lewis organ in the unique McPherson Recital Room. Like myself he studied at the RSAMD in Glasgow. Chris is the organist of St. Salvador's Episcopal Church in Dundee. Andrew Forbes is director of music at Glasgow Cathedral and is originally from Perth where, like me, he was taught by Eoin Bennet. He studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly the RSAMD) and Glasgow University. The next lecture in the Gifford Room was by Ben Shute, a renowned violinist. He addressed stylistic approaches on the violin to Italianate music in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The third concert was by Giovanna Riboli and Ben Shute in the McPherson Recital Room.

**Thursday 3 August.** My organ lesson today was with Chris Bragg on the organ of St. Andrews Episcopal Church. We did the Bach Chorale Prelude and he helped me with pedalling and fingering. I had a practice on the Cookie Mattheson room organ at 2.30pm. Tom Wilkinson, who, like me, had attended St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, gave a lecture in the Gifford Room on 'What did Bach learn from Vivaldi?' Dr. Guido then presented the final lecture which was 'An overview of the Italian organ building tradition from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.' After dinner, we boarded a coach for Crail Parish Church. Katelyn Emerson and Ben Shute gave an excellent concert there. Katelyn is a renowned organist and teacher. She performs internationally as do all the tutors, has won several competitions, and serves on the faculties of organ academies throughout the USA and Europe.

**Friday 4 August.** We had group lessons today, starting at 9.00am, and I played a piece by Scarlatti. Our last sharing session was at 2.00pm when Chris Bragg wrapped everything up and I gave a vote of thanks. We said our goodbyes and Andrew Ballantyne drove me home to Perth. I am very grateful to him and look forward to next year's organ course.

*A considerable amount of this article has been taken from the Organ Week Handbook for Participants. E.P.*



## 50th Wedding Anniversary

Barry and Elizabeth Nisbet would like to thank sincerely all at the cathedral for the tasty cake, fizz, greetings cards and all expressions of goodwill at the recent celebration of their Golden Wedding.

### To Chrys Fraser

Last month's issue carried a thank-you from Chrys, following her recent illness. As she has now stepped down after 20 years serving as a sacristan, we turn the tables and thank her for her many years of service, doing a job that is so crucial to the smooth running of our services but which few people see. Enjoy a well-earned retirement, Chrys, and thank you!

### Doors Open Weekend

John and Maureen would like to thank everyone who helped in whatever capacity at the Doors Open event on 16 and 17 September. So many turned up to assist, whether in cleaning and polishing, setting up displays, providing refreshments and washing dishes, singing and playing, welcoming and tidying up afterwards. The cathedral and its congregation were seen at their best and a number of very complimentary comments were received. Thank you, one and all!



And, as usual, the music's organic too

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

From my vantage point on the chancel steps I've noticed a curious phenomenon in recent months. Apparently increasing numbers of the congregation seem to have forgotten if they put on their wristwatch that morning. From around 12.15 onwards more and more seem to look down and check it's there. Strange...



### **Cover Photo**

Three city centre churches in autumn mist and sunshine, taken from the lower slopes of Kinnoull Hill.

### **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 November magazine is **22 October**.



**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**

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Diocesan Office, 28a Balhousie Street, Perth, PH1 5HJ  
Tel: 01738 443173

**Provost**

*Vacant*

**Assisting Clergy**

The Rev'd Peter Higson  
peterjhigson@hotmail.com

The Rev'd Philip Francis

**Retired Clergy**

The Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews

**Lay Reader**

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