

Cathedral News

The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's

February 2024

Who's Who at the Cathedral

Manager

Chris Ahern

manager@perthcathedral.co.uk

Administrator

Marion Swan

01738 632053

From the Ministry Team

Faith in February

Have you ever wondered why we recite the Creed as part of our worship every Sunday? I discovered recently that the Creed was not included in the regular liturgy of the Eucharist in the early church. Initially it was only the liturgy for baptism that required any statement of belief.

As you probably know, the creed we use most often was developed at the Council of Nicaea in the fourth century. This was a drive for church unity in the face of various heretical ideas, mainly about the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Leaders from all churches at the Council agreed a common statement of faith, which developed into what we now know as the Nicene Creed. It was included in the Eucharistic liturgy a couple of centuries later.



Contents

Who's who	2	Black Watch window	10
From the ministry team	3	Christmas in the cathedral	11
Readings and collects for		Interregnum update	11
February	5	Annual general meeting	12
Hunter's installation as Canon	6	World Day of Prayer	13
Special notices for		The Rev'd Valerie Walker	14
February services	7	Choir news	16
Magazine subscriptions	7	Who was St Andrew?	17
Pancake party	7	From the Farquhar diaries	18
Roof leak	8	Eddie the Eagle	19
Lady Penn's funeral	9	Times of services etc	19
Birthday celebrations	10	Clergy contact details	20



This is the earliest known manuscript of the Nicene Creed, which dates from the sixth century. It is written in Greek, is in poor condition and is housed in the John Rylands Library in Manchester.

It isn't necessarily a bad thing to remind ourselves week by week of who God is and what God does, past, present and future. But perhaps we also need to remind ourselves of how our faith relates to our lives, and to the lives of those around us. How should we as Christians respond to the inequality and

injustice we see evidenced in daily news reports from around the world, near and far? How should we respond to the challenges facing our natural environment?

That's why I like this affirmation of faith, below, which was developed and authorised by the United Church of Canada. These lines give us a lot to think

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God
who has created
and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

about, a lot that is worthy of being in a creed, a lot by which to orient our lives as Christians. But even if we only considered the first line, that alone would make an enormous difference:

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

Blessings to you all,

Lis

Readings and Collects for February

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas Transferred) - 4 February

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God: as your only-begotten Son was presented and received in the temple, so may we proclaim him as the light of the nations and the glory of your people; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4, Psalm 84, Hebrews 2.14-18, Luke 2.22-40



Sunday before Lent (Quinquagesima) - 11 February

Collect: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord: that we, who are weighed down by our sins, may be delivered for the glory of your Name; 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: 2 Kings 2.1-12, Psalm 50.1-6, 2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9

Ash Wednesday - 14 February

Collect: O Lord, grant that your faithful people may enter this season of penitence with faithfulness, and complete it with steadfast devotion; 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: Joel 2.1-2,12-17, Psalm 51.1-18, 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10, Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

First Sunday of Lent - 18 February

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that, as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Genesis 9.8-17, Psalm 25.1-9, 1 Peter 3.18-22, Mark 1.9-15

Second Sunday of Lent - Sunday 25 February

Collect: O God, you see that we lack the strength to help ourselves: protect us both inwardly and outwardly: that our bodies may be guarded from adversity, and our minds may be defended from such thoughts as assault and harm the soul; 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: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16, Psalm 22.22-30, Romans 4.13-25, Mark 8.31-35

Third Sunday of Lent - 3 March

Collect: Merciful Father, we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: when we are discouraged by our weakness, give us strength to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17, Psalm 9, 1 Corinthians 1.18-25, John 2.13-22



Our former provost, the Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson, will be installed as an Honorary Canon of St Ninian's Cathedral at the Diocesan Evensong on 4 February at 3.00pm. Hunter would be delighted to see old friends from the congregation once again. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Chapter House, allowing plenty of time to catch up with Hunter afterwards. Do come along and lend your support!

Special Notices for February Services

Sunday 4 February is Candlemas when we shall be joined by Bishop Marinez from our partner diocese of Amazonia in Brazil. There will be a Sung Eucharist at 11.00am and a Diocesan Evensong at 3.00pm at which the cathedral choir will be joined by the choristers of Strathallan School.

Wednesday 14 February is Ash Wednesday when the celebrant at the 11.00am service of Holy Communion will be Bishop Ian.

Sunday 18 February. There will be a Cathedral Evensong at 3.00pm.

Sunday 25 February. At the 11.00am Sung Eucharist the cathedral choir will be joined by the choir of Ardvreck School.

Magazine Subscriptions

It's that time of the year again when we suggest that those who receive a paper edition of this magazine might wish to make a contribution towards paper, printing and postage. If it's affordable, we suggest a contribution of £1.10 for each issue, making £11.00 for the year. There has been no price increase (apart from postage) for the past nine years. If the magazine is sent to you by post perhaps you could add a further £7.50 to cover the cost of ten stamps. No charge for the envelope!! And of course there is no charge if you receive the magazine by email.

The Great St Ninian's Pancake Party!!

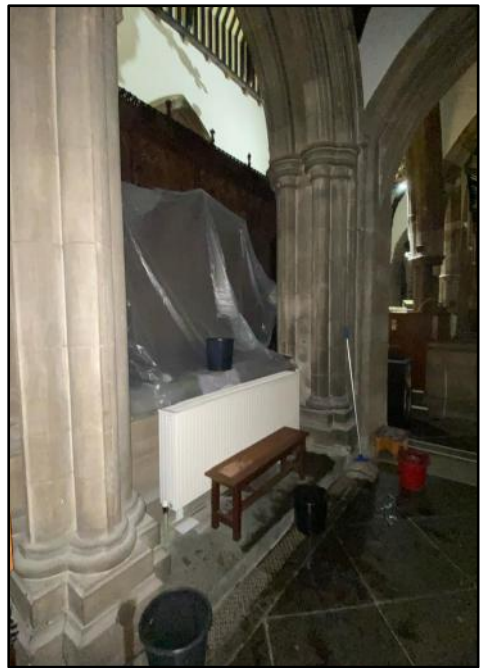
Yes, this popular event is back. Come along to the Chapter House on Shrove Tuesday, 13 February, between 6.00 and 7.00pm, for freshly cooked pancakes with not just lemon and sugar, but with SYRUP, MAPLE SYRUP, NUTELLA and SKOOSHY CREAM!! Tea, coffee and cold drinks also available. Then work off the excess calories with pancake races and pancake tossing competitions.

Please feel free to bring a friend and sign up in the Cloisters!

What's Been Going On?

Another Roof Leak

Storm Isha wreaked havoc across the country recently, and caused a major leak in the cathedral roof. Marion, John and Maureen were first on the scene on 23 January and were later followed by other members of the vestry. Much time was spent mopping up gallons of water and trying to protect the canons' stalls beside the organ with plastic sheeting. It was a difficult job as the stalls are high and the water was cascading in. Indeed, the sound track to a video taken that afternoon sounds horribly like a waterfall - not a sound that should ever be heard in the interior of a building! Not a great start to the year and, as we go to press, we are still waiting for the steplejacks to come and repair the roof.



Cover Photo

A January dusk falls over Perth, as seen from the road near the monastery on the lower slopes of Kinnoull Hill.

Lady Penn's Funeral

The funeral for Prue, Lady Penn, one of the biggest such services seen in the cathedral in recent years, took place on Thursday 14 December. Lady Penn was a close friend of the late Queen and a lady-in-waiting to the late Queen Mother.

The Court Circular for 14 December reads as follows:

Buckingham Palace

The King was represented by the Earl of Dalhousie at the funeral of Lady Penn...which was held in Perth Cathedral this afternoon. The Queen was represented by Mr James Hambro. The Princess Royal was represented by Mr Stephen Leckie. The Duke of Kent was represented by Brigadier Sir Melville Jamieson. Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvie, was represented by Mr Robert Balfour.

Members of the vestry were heavily involved in the preparations - tidying up, cleaning, preparing the Provost's Study for use by the royal representatives, and getting the kitchen ready for the caterers and the Chapter House ready for the attendees. They also had to bone up on royal etiquette. How, for example, were they supposed to address the representative of the King? Properly, apparently, he would be addressed as Your Majesty but that was not required on this occasion.

Afterwards, Lady Penn's daughter wrote a lovely letter of gratitude to the cathedral team. The bonus for us, apart from the donations made to cathedral funds, was that the beautiful funeral flowers (*shown below*) just about lasted until Christmas!



Birthday Celebrations

Congratulations to Pat Beatson and Chris Ahern who recently celebrated significant birthdays. Many thanks to Christopher Dingwall for the photos.



The Black Watch Window

The missing part of the Black Watch Window (pictured right) should be back soon, after a long absence undergoing repair. It was damaged some considerable time ago, owing to vandalism, and has since been in the hands of a stained glass specialist in Fife. And talking of that corner, a spotlight has been attached to the wall nearby which focuses light on the recently repositioned painting of the Ascension. It's not perfect, but it helps to illuminate the



Christmas in the Cathedral

There were perhaps fewer decorations in the cathedral this year which, in view of the smaller numbers turning out to help, was perhaps no bad thing. Even so, the pillars and windowsills were decorated, a nativity scene created, and two trees were erected in the cathedral itself and another in the Chapter House, so we didn't do too badly!



The Christingle Service on Saturday 23 December was, as last year, very well attended, with a good number of children and adults who did not have any obvious cathedral connection. It was good to see them all. The Christmas Eve main service took the form of lessons and carols (always a popular service), while the Midnight Mass started slightly earlier at 11.00pm. The feeling in the pews - well, some of them at least - was that this worked very well and could perhaps be repeated in subsequent years.



This was spotted in an Edinburgh window - a reference to the popular song, Feliz Navidad, which means Happy Christmas!

Interregnum Update

Six months on from Hunter's departure we, the Vestry with Bishop Ian's guidance, are reaching the final stages of writing the cathedral profile. Subject to the Bishop's approval we will then produce the job description for the post of new Provost and advertise this. Meantime our property in Gray Street is now under offer and when this sale is completed we will use the funds to buy a more modern and eco-friendly house which meets the Episcopal Church's requirements for clergy housing.

John Wright

Annual General Meeting

The cathedral AGM was held in the Chapter House after the service on Sunday 28 January. Thirty-two members were present and eleven apologies received.

The meeting was very ably chaired by John Wright, chairman of the Vestry, who began with the well-known prayer of St Francis before moving on to commemorate the members of the congregation whom we had lost in the past year. The low point of his year, he said, was when Provost Hunter announced his retirement, and the high point was the wonderful farewell we gave him at the end of July. Since then the Vestry has been involved, slowly but thoroughly, in the lengthy business of finding a successor. It is hoped someone will be in place by the late summer. John thanked the ministry team and the choir and organist for all they have done over the past year, and indeed everyone who has contributed in any way to the life of the cathedral. The editor can confidently say that that included everyone who was there at the meeting and many who were not.

All the reports and accounts, approved at the meeting, have been collated and were either sent out by email or made available in paper format on the notice board beforehand. If you haven't received or seen a copy of them, and would like to do so, then please get in touch with Marion in the office.

Director of music, Geoff Bolton, spoke briefly about music in the cathedral, beginning by saying we were blessed with a wonderful choir. It sounds as if our



former link with Strathallan School is about to be revived with choristers from the school joining our choir on a regular basis. As many will have noticed, the pedalboard on the organ is currently misbehaving - producing sound when it should not - and may have to be overhauled before too long. Apparently stuffing some socks in the offending organ pipe is not a long-term solution!

Maihri Cameron mentioned the defibrillator inside the Pearly Gates which, while fully operational, is still not available for public use when the gates are locked. Potential solutions are still being considered.

Chris Ahern gave two reports, the first as cathedral manager. He began by saying that change is coming to PKAVS, the voluntary service umbrella organisation which occupies the Gateway Centre adjoining the cathedral. He was unable to say much, other than that it should result in the cathedral having a closer relationship with that organisation. It sounds as if we shall also be having closer links with St John's, Princes Street, something which the Dean (who is also the Rector of St John's) is very keen on. Chris also touched on the heating system, pointing out that the complexity of its controls needs the skill of a NASA scientist. He is working on this and hoping that a better control panel can be found. Chris's report as treasurer was not too gloomy, despite a total deficit for the year of around £6700.

The final item was the election of Tammy McGregor to the Vestry and the re-election of the lay representative and the alternate lay representative.

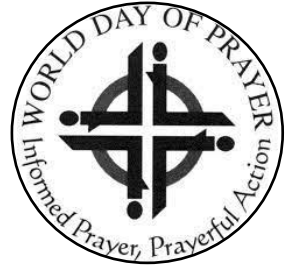
Sincere thanks must go to Vestry chairman John Wright, secretary Maureen Wright and treasurer Chris Ahern for all their hard work over the past year, particularly in the absence of a provost, and for getting all the material ready on time for the AGM.

Many thanks to Christopher for the photo of the AGM on the previous page.

World Day of Prayer

On the first Friday in March the Day of Prayer begins on the international dateline, in Samoa. Early in the morning, Christian men and women begin praying for our world...as the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to

build. It sweeps across the Pacific, touching Fiji and New Zealand, rolling on through Asia - Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Bangladesh... The countries of Africa are next, and then the Middle East. The wave reaches the shores of Europe as the day dawns there. Across the Atlantic, it moves onwards - the Caribbean, the Americas, and on to the Pacific again...until the sun finally sets over American Samoa, where the final service takes place...a worldwide circle of prayer is complete.



This year our prayers focus on Palestine, using material prepared by Christian churches in Palestine before the current situation developed. The invitation to write the service for 2024 was an opportunity to reflect on continuing challenging times, encouraging Palestinian Christians to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all the people who share the land, trusting for and hoping in the humanity of one another.

We are all invited to share in this worldwide wave of prayer by joining in worship at St John's (RC) church in Melville Street, Perth at 11.30am on Friday 1 March.

Lis Burke

(taken from the website of the World Day of Prayer - <https://www.wwdp.org.uk>)

The Rev'd Valerie Walker

Many people will remember Valerie with great fondness. She was a member of the cathedral congregation for a number of years before being ordained to the priesthood. In recent years she has been trailblazing ecumenical links between the Scottish Episcopal Church, into which she was ordained, and the Church of Scotland in which she ministers. This arrangement has recently been formalised when Valerie was commissioned as a Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain, working in Newburgh and Lindores.

Bishop Ian, who was unable to be present, wrote: 'I am so very sorry that ill health has prevented me from being present this evening. I am grateful to the Dean of our Diocese, the Very Rev'd Graham Taylor, for his willingness to stand in for me,

and to the Moderator, Jim Reid, and the Clerk, David Coulter, for all their work to make this commissioning possible.



Valerie during the service of commissioning.

'This is such an important day for our two churches, for the diocese and presbytery and for the church in Newburgh and Lindores. After the St Andrew Declaration committed us to work more closely together in service to the Gospel in our communities, Valerie's commissioning this evening, as pioneer ecumenical community chaplain, is sponsored by both the presbytery and the diocese. As a Scottish Episcopal ordained priest, Valerie will now be able to share her ministry of word and sacrament with the congregations in her care, and to serve the whole church in Newburgh and Lindores.

'I pray for Valerie's new ministry that begins this evening, for her congregations and communities, and for the continuing partnership of the diocese and presbytery over many years to come, and in many other places in Fife.'



The Very Rev'd Graham Taylor, Dean of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Rev'd Valerie Walker, and the Rev'd Jim Reid, Moderator of Fife Presbytery.

Choir News

Two former choir members have returned to the cathedral in recent weeks. John McRae (*pictured right*) came to the service on Hogmanay (and others in January too) with his sister, who mentioned he had been both a chorister and deputy organist many years earlier. Despite his long absence overseas he was still remembered by Molly and fellow chorister Alister. It was a sad story as he is not well and was making what he thought would be his last trip back to the UK from Australia, where he now lives. Three weeks later another visitor came in for a look at the cathedral who, it transpires, had also been a chorister here at a similar time.



Many thanks to Christopher and Marietta who both sent in photos of the choir Christmas lunch (*below*) which was held in the Royal George Hotel on 16 December. And of course huge thanks should go to the choir themselves, and to Geoff, for the magnificent singing and playing over the Advent and Christmas seasons. Well done everyone!



Who was St. Andrew?

St. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter and a son of Jonah. The apostolic successor to Andrew is the Patriarch of Constantinople, according to Eastern Orthodox tradition. The name Andrew means 'manly,' or 'brave.' St. Andrew was born between AD 5 and 10 in Bethsaida in Galilee. We find out in the Gospel of John that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1.35ff). Andrew is reported to have been martyred and crucified in the city of Patras in Achaea in AD 60. This was an x-shaped cross or 'saltire.' It was named a St. Andrew's Cross. He regarded himself as undeserving to be crucified on a similar form of cross as Jesus had been.

Relics

Relics of the Apostle Andrew are lodged in different sites, including St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh. In September 1964, Pope Paul VI, in a gesture of goodwill towards the Greek Orthodox Church, recommended that the only relic of St. Andrew held in the Vatican City be sent back to Patras, from where it had been taken in the fifteenth century. Patras was where the saint had been martyred.

Scotland

According to legend, the relics of Andrew were taken by sacred direction from Constantinople to the location where the Scottish town of St. Andrews exists today. A later story has it that the Pictish king Oengus II led an army of Picts and Scots into battle against the Angles in AD 832. Oengus was mightily outnumbered and, while praying on the day before the conflict, he vowed that if he won the battle, he would make Andrew the patron saint of the nation. On the morning of battle, white clouds creating an X shape in the sky were seen. Oengus won the battle. Based on this story a white saltire set against a celestial blue background became the national flag of Scotland. There is, however, proof that Andrew was honoured in Scotland prior to this story's existence.

Andrew's association with Scotland may have been strengthened after the Synod of Whitby, as the Celtic Church presumed that Columba was outranked by Peter and that the brother of Peter would be a better patron. Andrew is also regarded as the first apostle.

Legacy

Andrew remains the patron saint of many cities and countries, including Romania, Scotland, Barbados, Russia, Ukraine, and the towns of Esgueira in Portugal, Pienza, Sarzana and Amalfi in Italy, Paranaque in the Philippines, Luqa in Malta, and Patras in Greece. He is said to be the establisher and the principal bishop of the Church of Byzantium. Benedict XVI names Andrew 'the Apostle of the Greek world'.

The feast of Saint Andrew is commemorated on 30 November in both the Western and Eastern churches. It is also a bank holiday in Scotland.

Emmanuel Patterson

Emmanuel would like to make it clear that much of this article derives from Wikipedia.

The editor has found that St Andrew is also the patron saint of fishmongers, gout, singers, sore throats, and women wishing to become mothers. So... if you are a fish-loving member of the choir who perhaps wishes to start a family but is suffering from a sore throat and a sore toe, then Andrew is your one-stop go-to saint.



From the Farquhar Diaries

4 February 1924. I took the duty at Leven yesterday because there is a vacancy there. I have had a long correspondence with the Vestry there about getting a Locum Tenens for February. After all it has ended most unsatisfactorily. As Bp's Commissary I have sanctioned a most unsatisfactory man for two Sundays - the very man I was trying to avoid. The mistake came about through there being two men of the same uncommon name, one passable and the other not. I have never heard that there were two and thought I was dealing only with the former. No other name was forthcoming and I had to secure someone. Immediately after sending off my sanction a very satisfactory man turned up - just too late! I hope things will go right!

Eddie the Eagle says...

It turns out that my tongue in beak comment last month about a campaign to restore the organ has been remarkably prophetic. I hear from organist Geoff that the pedalboard needs to be restored or replaced. I further prophesy, should my gift of prophecy develop further, that I shall have my own book added to the Old Testament. The Book of the Prophet Eddie the Eagle would go quite nicely before Ezekiel. And if there's no space then they could get rid of gloomy old Lamentations.



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 March magazine is **18 February**.



**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

Registered Scottish Charity SC010656