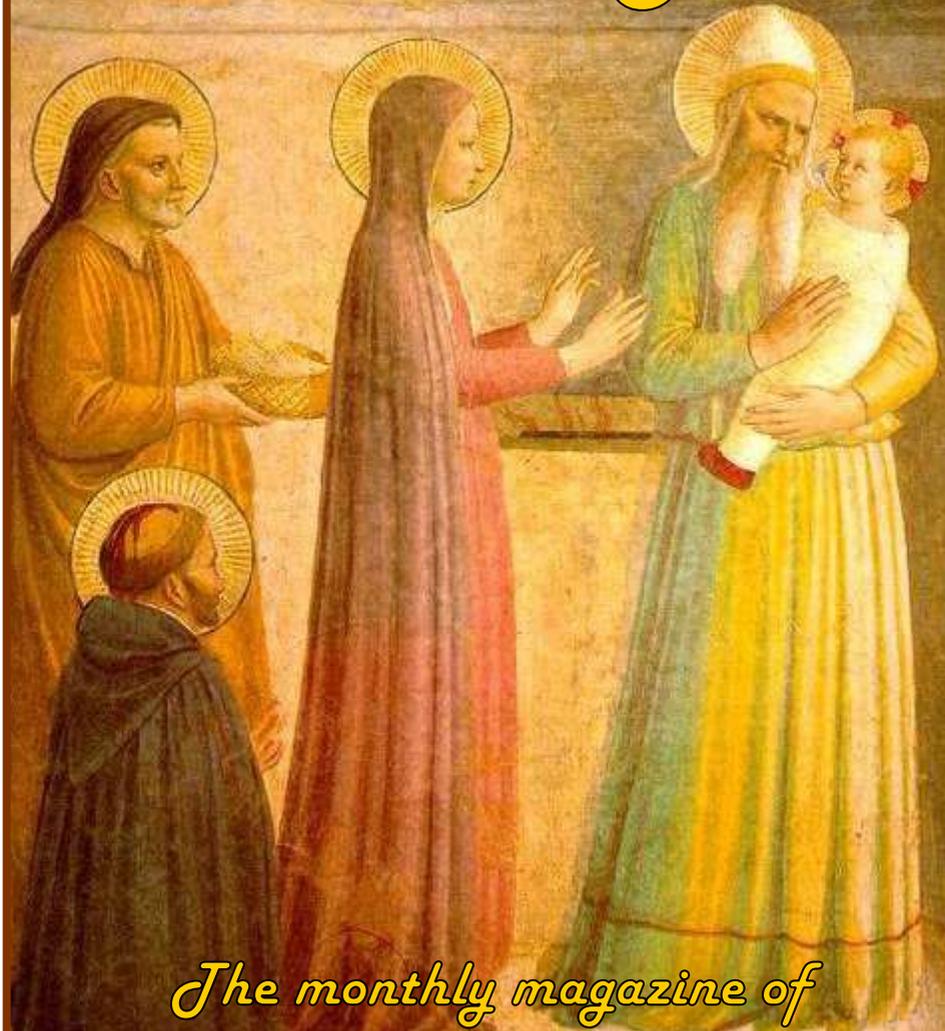


# *Cathedral News*



*The monthly magazine of  
Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's*

**February 2019**

**£1.10**

# St Ninian's Cathedral Who's Who



# From the Provost

Dear Friends



Winners and losers! Through the media of television, radio, internet and the press, we are constantly being told about winners and losers. It's always there, and it happens on many levels, starting from a young age. We are told that if we work hard at school, we will get to go to the best universities which will lead to the top jobs. We are trained that to be 'first' is what we should be aiming for. What a pressure we put on our young people today – being pushed all the time to achieve, achieve, achieve.....to stand out, to be the cleverest, best athlete, best dressed and even best looking! We are led to believe that we should try to be first.

The idea of being a winner is almost genetically engrained in us and the consequences of this often cause us unhappiness. How do we love each other when our competitive spirits make us see each other as rivals? We are constantly sizing each other up, rating each other's bodies, hair, intelligence, clothing, talents and achievements. But, as we do this, we can be left somewhere between feeling depressed or belittled when

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others outscore us, or inflated and pompous when we appear to come out on top.

I'm not talking about healthy competition as in sport and I'm not saying it's wrong to 'win' or to try our best, but the argument of simply taking part doesn't seem as convincing as it once did, and the ideal of doing your best seems like a lame excuse for not being the most successful.

I think community can only happen when we can allow the talents and achievements of others to enhance our own lives and we can let our own talents and achievements enhance, rather than threaten, others. But we find this hard because everything around us points to competitiveness to the point where the achievements and talents of others threaten us. It's not good!

Our Christian faith invites us not to compare ourselves with others. Our faith invites us to believe that there is no need to stand out or be special, and to believe that other people's gifts are not a threat, but rather something which enriches all lives, our own included.

I suppose our faith teaches that none of us would make the grade for heaven had we been left to ourselves. Neither do we need to live in fear of not achieving a place in heaven - after all Christ has already achieved salvation for us and that's what makes us special. Jesus has taken the test, so to speak, therefore we don't need to worry or live in the shadow of an uncertain outcome. We learn through Scripture that we are loved just as we are and with Christ in our hearts there are no losers.

Every blessing,

Hunter



*This has no relevance to Hunter's article whatsoever, but the editor rather liked it and it fills the final space in the magazine...*

## Christmas in the Cathedral

Well, that's Christmas done and dusted for another year and what a lovely celebration it has been. From the encouraging number of children attending the Christingle service to the wonderful singing at the Lessons and Carols, from the Lantern Parade to the Diocesan Carol Service, and from putting up the tree and decorating the cathedral to the delicious Christmas lunch - all leading to the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve which, let's face it, was poorly attended this year. Perhaps that was owing to a particularly cold night, but it doesn't seem that long ago when it was almost standing room only at that particular service. Talking of the Lantern Parade, there was a major panic when someone noticed an article in the *Perthshire Advertiser* about lantern-making in the cathedral before the parade. Well, that was news to us, but nothing daunted Maihri C and Liz G quickly readied themselves in case anyone turned up. Apparently around 12 did, which even resulted in an enquiry about Sunday School at the cathedral. Anyway, here are a selection of photos with many thanks to all paparazzi, including Christopher Dingwall, Wendy Duncan and Tim Haynes.









*The Christmas cake and, below, some of Maihri's Baby Jesus cakes which were a reward for those helping to put up the Christmas tree.*

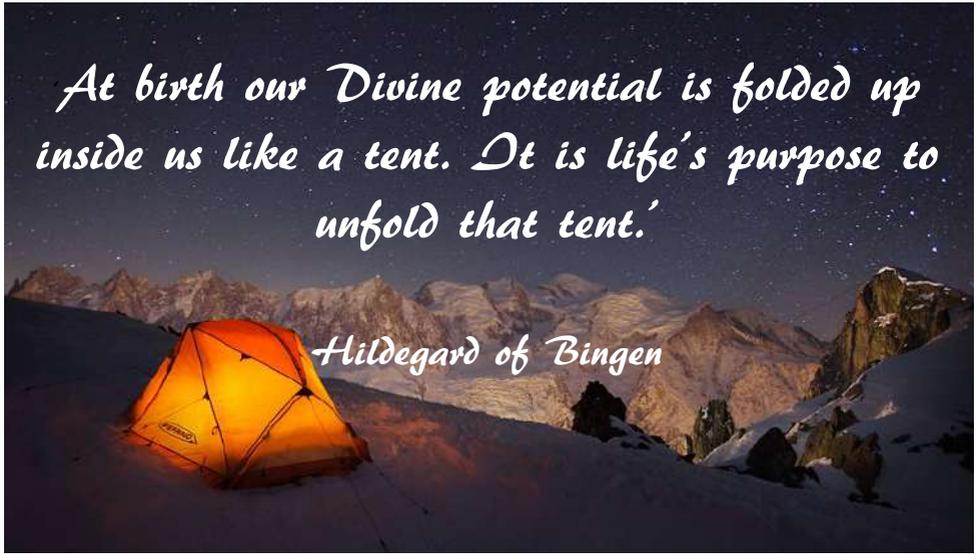


# Annual General Meeting 2019

The cathedral AGM took place on Sunday 27 January and was well attended by the congregation. Provost Hunter, who mentioned he was now in his twentieth year with us, gave a summary of the year's events which mainly involved the recently completed first phase of the restoration. He thanked in particular Fiona, Helen and Erica for their exceptionally hard work in pushing the project through to completion by the deadline of 20 October. (Erica later said that the vestry will continue to consult with architect David Willis over phases two and three and will report to next year's AGM about funding.) A great many others were also warmly thanked by the provost including the Rev'd Richard, for his work with the primary school and with Sunday Live; Annette Cameron for her work with the young choristers at the school; the clergy team of Celia, Richard and Geoffrey; the lay ministry team; Emmanuel for her lay ministry around the town; Geoff Bolton and Alister Allan for their work during the organists' interregnum; the choir, servers and sacristans; Andrew B for his work with PACT; and Gina for taking on the role of vestry secretary.

Treasurer Liz Gardiner presented the cathedral accounts and pointed out that we are currently struggling to break even. As regular giving is declining and expenditure increasing she asked the congregation gently to consider even a small increase in what we give.

The provost thanked the vestry for all their hard work over the past year and several members spoke about their particular roles. Those ending their association with the vestry include James G, Norrie (who had kept an eagle eye on the restoration work, despite ill-health), Helen (who had been almost full-time on cathedral work), Marietta and Gladys. Annette Cameron was elected to the vestry and there are still three places unfilled. Gina will shortly step down as vestry secretary, and was thanked for all she had done. She will be replaced in March by Barbara Grant. Liz G was happy to continue as treasurer, and Chris Brown and David Brand as lay representative and alternate lay representative respectively.



Contemplative Creative Day  
Saturday 23rd February 2019  
10.00am - 4.00pm  
Perth Cathedral (Chapter House)

A day of reflection on the 'unfolding of your tent', with an opportunity to creatively respond, if you wish, through art and/or poetry. Art materials, teas/coffees will be provided.

Cost £10.00  
(with all profits going to the  
Cathedral Restoration Fund)

To book a place please email:-

## Our Newest Members

A very warm welcome to the Noble family - David, Stacey and baby Harper - who were photographed after Stacey and Harper were both baptised on 9 December. A mere two weeks later they were persuaded to play the parts of Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus in the cathedral nativity play!



## Recycling Update

In addition to the Council's blue- and brown-topped recycling bins in the cathedral yard, there is now also a grey cupboard which has containers for recycling glass bottles, spectacles, stamps and aluminium foil (NB: this must be proper foil, not plasticised silver wrapping). Batteries can be recycled at most supermarkets and many of the larger shops. If you have any recycling queries please don't hesitate to ask a member of the Eco group and we shall do our best to help!

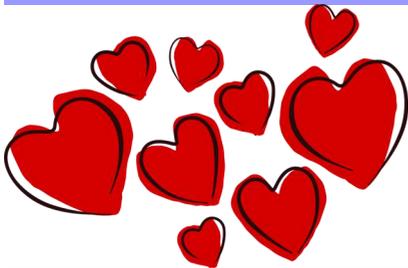
Wendy Duncan

## Translators Wanted!

The publicity team are looking for people willing and able to translate the new cathedral guide into different languages for our visitors from across the globe. French, Italian and Swedish versions are already underway and we'd be delighted to hear from anyone with relevant skills in German, Spanish, Dutch (single or double), Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Mandarin, or any other language, including Scots.

Wendy Duncan

## Valentine's Lunch



This year's Valentine's lunch will take place in the Chapter House on Saturday 16 February and as usual promises to be great fun. And it's still not too late to buy tickets...!

## Cover Illustration

The cover this month shows Fra Angelico's *Presentation in the Temple* which was painted for the Convent of San Marco in Florence in around 1440.

## Summer Opening 2019

After a year off from the demands of summer opening, we shall once again be endeavouring to keep our building open to visitors, from Easter (or possibly earlier as Easter is so late this year) to Doors Open Day. We very much hope that, as in previous years, members of the congregation will be willing to offer an occasional, or even a regular, afternoon to help with manning this venture. If you are interested and have time to give, then please do speak to Wendy Duncan or one of the clergy. A sign-up rota will soon be appearing in the cloisters.

Wendy Duncan

## Magazine Subscriptions

Yes, it's that time of year again when subscriptions to *Cathedral News* are due. For a mere £11.00 you get a whole year of access to the wisdom and witticisms of Eddie the Eagle, not to mention our acclaimed series of photos of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine - PLUS articles that have been copied and pasted from previous editions. What more could anyone want? Our treasurer, Liz Gardiner, will be happy to receive payment.

## Eddie the Eagle says...

One of my readers has been in touch to ask for my views on Brexit. Well actually, as long as the free movement of cathedral lecterns continues, I'm happy either way. But I thought she might appreciate this sign which was spotted in a bookshop window. I think it says it all...



## Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Many congratulations to Jennifer, Maihri and Emmanuel (not pictured) who were recently admitted to the Lay Eucharistic Ministry by Bishop Ian. They now have permission to administer the reserve sacrament to the housebound within the cathedral congregation. By the way, the black shadow at the foot of the photo is Ted!



## Poetry and Prayer Workshop

Some folk in the cathedral may recall Ewen Gilchrist, who was minister at St. Matthew's on Tay Street for a number of years.

If you ever enjoyed any of his services, and particularly the way that he wove non-Scriptural readings and poetry into worship, then you might want to sign up for a one-day workshop he is running at the Bield in Blackruthven, a wonderful, comfortable and creative Christian retreat centre just outside of Perth.

'Poetry & Prayer in Lent' will explore – amongst other things – the place of poetry within our worship experience; whether poetry competes with or compliments scripture; and how poetry and prayer can fuse into one wonderful, mysterious whole. Furthermore, if you enjoy planning or leading worship from time to time, in small or large groups, this should be a very rewarding workshop.

The workshop is on Saturday, 23 March between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

You can get more details from Marianne Anker-Petersen at the Bield or direct from Ewen.

# Decoding the Bishop's Throne

It is all too easy to overlook details of the architectural decoration and furnishings of our cathedral, many of which have symbolic significance. The bishop's throne or 'cathedra' (Latin for 'chair') is one piece of furniture that we all pass on the way to Communion, but which people rarely stop to examine. As might be expected, the back of the bishop's seat (*pictured right*) includes the arms of the three former charges which were united to form today's diocese of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. What is less obvious however, being above eye level, is the elaborate wooden canopy which, as well as being topped by the figure of a winged angel, includes five small female figures.



Of the five figures, three are clearly intended to represent the three Christian virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, drawing their inspiration from images which are commonly found in books and prints of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Of the three virtues Faith stands steadfast, and would probably have held a chalice or cup of faith in her right hand, and a crucifix in her left hand, though the right hand has been broken off and the upper part of the crucifix is missing. Alongside her is the figure of Hope (*pictured left*), depicted holding a ship's anchor, being a symbol of safety and security. The third Christian virtue is that of Charity or Love, symbolised here by the female figure protecting a child with her left hand, while clutching a flaming heart in her right hand.





Of the two remaining figures, one can be seen to represent Justice, one of the four cardinal virtues. In her left hand is a set of scales symbolising the weighing of evidence, while her blindfolded eyes indicate her impartiality. Her right hand would probably have held a sword as a manifestation of the power of her judgments, though as with the figure of Faith, this has been broken off. The symbolism of the fifth figure (pictured left) is less obvious. She is seen to be holding an open book in her left hand and what appears to be a palm frond in her right hand, while her right foot rests lightly on a globe. The open book can be interpreted as symbolising

knowledge and a reverence for the written word – presumably the Bible in this case – while the palm frond can be taken to represent the victory of the spirit over the flesh. The globe may be taken to represent all of humanity or the created world.

Thus, it would seem the five figures can be interpreted as representing the qualities that might be expected of the occupant of the throne, of faith, compassion and worldly wisdom. There are strong parallels between these figures and four of those to be seen on the stone panels which decorate the garden walls at Edzell Castle near Brechin, which date back to 1604. At Edzell the west wall of the garden supports seven panels depicting the three Christian virtues and the four cardinal virtues, adding Fortitude, Prudence and Temperance to the figure of Justice. A similar example is to be found in the series of carved heads of the seven virtues which decorate the colonnade of what is known as the Canterbury Quadrangle at St John's College in Oxford, dating from the 1630s.

*Christopher Dingwall*

## From the Farquhar Diaries

**5 February 1919.** We had our annual Diocesan Council in the Chapter House. The impression left on my mind is that it was the best we have had since the war began. I think there was a better attendance and the members, both lay & clerical seemed to have the interest of the work at heart. The two chief items of business were the public report made by Mr. J.G. Miller of the financial calamity in Cathedral & Diocesan funds. The liquidator feels that he has got to the bottom of the losses now & can fix them at £12,322 and the Bishop announced that up to this date he has received £5000 for the Restitution Fund and the liquidator hopes to recover £3000 for us from the bankrupt's funds. I think we ought to be thankful for the progress made in replacing the capital & also for the fact that all the year's expenses at the Cathedral were guaranteed. The other point of interest was the note taken as to whether women ought to be allowed to become members of the Rep. Ch. Council and its boards. The motion in favour was carried by a considerable majority & I hear that Brechin, Aberdeen & Moray have gone in favour but Edinburgh against. It was a strange thing and what for all my earlier life I could not have believed of myself to find myself voting for such a motion. I think I feel that I am confronted with a fait accompli. Women have now the parliamentary & municipal vote, besides have long been admitted to the Universities & the Medical Profession. They are there! And it was one thing long ago to think that it would be better not to have them there and quite another to try to turn them back after they have got there.



*Six years earlier, suffragettes had burnt down the Perthshire cricket pavilion on the North Inch - which might place our reverend friend's views in context!*

*Many thanks to Margaret Lye for another extract from her published edition of The Diary of the Very Rev G T S Farquhar.*

## Readings for February

### **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany - 3 February**

Jeremiah 1.4-10, 1 Corinthians 13.1-13, Luke 4.21-30

### **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - 10 February**

Isaiah 6.1-8 (9-13), 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Luke 5.1-11

### **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - 17 February**

Jeremiah 17.5-10, 1 Corinthians 15.12-20, Luke 6.17-26

### **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany - 24 February**

Genesis 45.3-11 and 15, 1 Corinthians 15.35-38 and 42-50, Luke 6.27-38

### **Sunday before Lent - 3 March**

Exodus 34.29-35, 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2, Luke 9.28-36 (37-43)

## From the Registers

### **Deaths**

Ella McIvor - 12 July 2018

Morag Lawson - 18 July 2018

Robert McBain - 3 August 2018

Frank Fitzpatrick - 11 August 2018

Ann Byars - 5 September 2018

Adam Smith - 9 September 2018

Helen Ross - 18 September 2018

F Peter Lole - 20 November 2018

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

# 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	Sung Eucharist	11.00am	
Monday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	
Tuesday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	
Wednesday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	Eucharist 11.00am
Thursday	Morning Prayer	9.00am	

*Tea, coffee and chat follow in the Chapter House after the Sunday service.*

## **GIVING**

For all committed giving, envelopes and covenants, please contact Liz Gardiner, 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.

## **TRAI DCRAFT STALL**

In the Chapter House every Sunday after the main service - run by members of the Traidcraft/Eco Group.

## **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 March issue is  
17 February.**

**Perth Cathedral, 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

**Provost**

**(and Hospital Chaplain)**

The Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson

**Assisting Clergy**

The Rev'd Celia Matthews

The Rev'd Richard Sutton

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Other Episcopal churches in the Perth area:

**St John's, Princes Street, Perth**

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