



# *Cathedral News*

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

**March 2019**

**£1.10**

# St Ninian's Cathedral Who's Who



# From the Provost

Dear Friends,

The ancient practice of ordering our time around the life of Christ and his church includes the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, and Pentecost.



I understand that the word Lent is an old Saxon word meaning 'Spring'. It is not a word you will find in the Bible. However, the ethos of Lent - prayer, fasting, and generosity - is heavily emphasised by the writers of our Scripture and by the many characters we find there, including Jesus. We can surmise that the reality of Lent is woven throughout the whole of Scripture.

Lent marks a forty-day period leading up to the celebration of Easter. Why forty days? Moses fasted for forty days when he communed with the Lord on Mount Sinai (Ex. 34:28); Elijah fasted for forty days on his journey to meet God at Horeb (1 Kings 19:8); and Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert to prepare for his public ministry (Matt. 4:1-11).

During Lent, Christians have traditionally engaged in practices of self-denial, such as fasting, which is meant to guide our hearts and minds towards the sufferings of Christ. Another way of looking at it is to say that Lent is a time for abstaining from the things that disconnect us from

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the divine, from God. For forty days, we might set aside distractions and vices in order to practice self-denial, focus on repentance, seek clarity in prayer, and pursue intimacy with God.

In Scripture, God implores his people to have no other god but him - no addictions separating us from him and our ministry of love. With that in mind, we have to ask ourselves, what is it that I could lay aside during Lent that might help sharpen my focus? Some of us decide that our love of sugar can be laid aside for the period, giving up sweets, chocolate, cakes etc. Similarly, with alcohol.

However, a more modern question is that of technology. Can we dare to hope that with Lenten awareness, we might try to put some of our digital devices (telephones or iPads perhaps) aside, say for an hour or even just for the length of a family meal.... or for however long it takes to recharge ourselves, allowing for a reconnection with those around us.



The season of Lent offers a measured time when we can reflect on our lives as Christians and then reaffirm our calling to Love as part of the celebrations of Easter. Entering into this discipline should help us feel resurrected at Easter and to stand tall when we welcome the newly risen Lord with our acclamations that He is risen.

Prayer is of course central to Lent, as is holding those we love up to God. There are a number of people within the cathedral family who are struggling with health problems and who need our prayer and love. We also give thanks for the faithful who, although infirm mainly due to age, cannot join us but keep faith at home. I would also ask that you hold in your prayers the lay ministry team who faithfully take holy communion to those at home. Please also pray for the clergy for whom Lent is an especially busy time.

With love and every blessing,  
Hunter

# Cathedral Round-Up

## Valentine's Lunch

On Saturday 16 February around 60 cathedral members sat down in an attractively decorated Chapter House to enjoy the now traditional Valentine's Lunch which had been carefully prepared by the Provost and his team of helpers. A very convivial atmosphere was helped along by drinks on arrival and Prosecco on the tables. Of the two soups available one was described as a Love Potion and the chef, Marietta, asked those brave enough to try it to then guess the ingredients. It was, in fact, very good, though the editor, who along with Eddie the Eagle professes a deep knowledge of chocolate cake, was almost completely stumped. He guessed beetroot, but did not pick up on the red cabbage, red peppers, sweet potatoes and various other vegetables. Chicken in a white sauce with rice came next, followed by a choice of delicious puddings. Tea and coffee were then served along with a beautifully decorated Valentine's cake. The Rev'd Geoffrey Hall proposed a vote of thanks at the end. Well done and thank you to the Provost and the whole catering team!





*Some of the helpers at the recent Valentine's lunch, together with the cake.*

## **Contemplative Creative Day**

The photos on the opposite page show the latest creative workshop which Margot Dunnachie generously held at the cathedral.

Beginning with a quote from the twelfth-century St Hildegard of Bingen, 'At birth our Divine potential is folded up inside us like a tent. It is life's purpose to unfold that tent', we looked at a variety of carefully chosen poetry, Bible passages and other writings, all designed to get us thinking about our unfolding lives. And then we were encouraged to get quietly creative in any way we liked. By the end of the afternoon there were collages and paintings, poetry and beautiful handmade books... and a group open for that moment to the divine design in their lives.



## Summer Opening

The sign-up rota for summer opening, which starts again at the beginning of April, will soon be appearing in the cloisters. Please do see if you could spare an afternoon once a week/fortnight/month to come along and greet our visitors. No experience is needed for this, just a willingness to be on hand to welcome all who come through our doors. Volunteers who have been welcomers in previous seasons will know that some of our visitors come in for a little bit of quiet away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, while others are keen to look in detail at our historic building. Our job is to make them all welcome and point them in the right direction!

Pre-season briefing sessions will take place on Wednesday 20 March and Tuesday 26 March, both in the choir vestry, between 10.00am and 12 noon, and are for everyone who would like to be part of this team. They are likely to involve a spot of coffee and cake whilst information (both practical and historical) is given out and stories and experiences shared. If you feel you might be willing to help with this important aspect of the cathedral's life please do contact Wendy or Jeremy Duncan or a member of the clergy.

Wendy Duncan

## Lent Course

This year's Lent Course is based on the 2017 television series *Broken* which was written by Jimmy McGovern and featured Sean Bean as a troubled but respected Catholic priest in a poor area on the outskirts of a major city in the north of England. The course runs over six Tuesdays, starting on 12 March, 2.00 - 4.00pm. Please sign up in the cathedral.

## Pancake Party!

This year's pancake feast (definitely!) and races (possibly!) will take place in the Chapter house on Tuesday 5 March, from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Please sign up in the cathedral.

# John Henry Newman

It has recently been announced that a miracle attributed to John Henry Newman (1801-90) has allowed the Pope to confirm his canonisation later this year. He was one of a group of Anglicans who converted to Catholicism in the 19th century, in Newman's case in 1845, but what exactly were the doctrinal issues that led these people to convert? On a visit to Doune in 1893 the Rev'd G T S Farquhar was in conversation with the incumbent the Rev'd Robert Cole (1815-1894). Cole was the son of a Church of England vicar and was educated at Queen's College, Oxford. He moved to Doune in 1875. According to Cole his conversion was for entirely different reasons from those generally given. Farquhar wrote the following in his diary:



*A portrait of Cardinal J H Newman, painted by Sir John Everett Millais in 1881. Millais's wife was Effie Gray from Bowerswell in Perth.*

'Apr. 24. 1893. Not for the first time lately I took the duty at Doune yesterday. Old Mr Cole, who is one of our Canons & Synod Clerk, is very poorly there. I enjoy a quiet Sunday in such a place. The old man was telling me some of his reminiscences - how he used to hear Newman preaching in Oxford. Particularly he remembered going with Bp Selwyn on S. Simon & S. Jude's day and Newman's silvery voice as he began the Sermon "Of S. Simon & S. Jude but little is known" remains with him to this day. He declares Newman never would have seceded if he had met with any sympathy from the Anglican authorities; he was of a sensitive disposition and needed some one to lean on and when instead of sympathy he got abused and prosecuted he was secretly wounded and couldn't manage to hold out in spiritual solitude and went where they were kind to him. So thinks old Mr Cole.'

*Margaret Lye*

## Poetry and Prayer in Lent

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 ([www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk](http://www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk)) or direct from Ewen on xxxxxxxxxx.

## Meet the Vicar

Some 40 years ago a task began. It was a relatively modest task, to develop a Biblical study into the nature of man. In Psalm 8 there is the question, 'What is man?' What does it mean to be a person? What and who am I? What is it about us that makes us so alike and yet so distinctive?

There are lots of answers to that in both the Old and New Testaments. This should come as no surprise because it's an issue that has been addressed by philosophers, psychologists, poets and priests, for as long as history can trace.

The task begun in the 1980s has slowly become a major exercise for me. I call it 'a framework for therapeutic conversation.' Its title, A.VICER, is pronounced 'A Vicar', as in the church status.

I had the privilege of introducing A.VICER to two groups of people in Chicago in September last year. The response was such that I am now encouraged to make it more widely known.

So what is this all about? There is a bewildering array of choices in the supermarket of psychological help and personal development. With the best will in the world, many of these ideas are treated as mutually exclusive. Some approaches are fairly sound, while some are questionable, a few are frankly bizarre. A.VICER is one way of including a handful of approaches into a memorable structure. Thus the insights of some psychologies and philosophies and theologies can be brought together in a way that makes for a coherent programme of personal growth and psychological health.

In the 1960s Khrushchev declared that Soviet space exploration had searched the universe and found no sign of a god. More recently neuroscientists claim that the brain has been explored and no sign has been found of such a thing as a self. Such grandiose claims are misleading. In A.VICER there is a way of exploring the idea of the self that does not reify it, but still takes it seriously. The self is about our

    Volition (I choose, decide)

        Identity (I am, uniquely)

            Competencies (I can)

                Ethics (I value, believe in)

                    Relationships (I belong)

There is scope in each of these sections to hear what major thinkers have to say, and to explore ways in which we can develop and grow. Conversations focused on these units become therapeutic as they enable insight and provide tools...and hope.

Key to it all is 'A' for the very ancient Greek word Agape (pronounced agapy), a distinctive word for a love that nurtures growth through empathy and altruism.

Since this framework is proving to be helpful, I would like to create opportunities to introduce it to a wider audience. Whether for your own development, or as a tool in helping others, or out of sheer curiosity, if you would like to 'meet A.VICER' please let me know. A smallish number might meet in the cathedral. If there are interested people from a wider circle Blend coffee shop are willing to make their premises available.

Chris J Brown

## Cover Photo

This month's cover is a stunning photo by Tim Haynes of the cathedral's West Window which depicts the Fall and Redemption of Man. The window was completed in 1890 and underwent major repairs following a freak storm in 2002 (despite what it says on the sign beneath the window!)

## Eddie the Eagle says...

Oh, I do love St Valentine's Day! I spent a long time writing a magnificent ode to the one I love best in the whole world. I thought you might like to admire this literary masterpiece which, dare I say, would have had Shakespeare himself weeping in disbelief.



*Roses are red and violets are blue;  
Their fragrance is beautifully heady.  
They remind me, and possibly you,  
Of a wonderful eagle called Eddie.*

*It's sitting proudly on the mantelpiece in my eyrie...*

## From the Farquhar Diaries

**7 March 1919.** The great Peace Conference is sitting at Paris and working vehemently. They have accepted President Wilson's scheme of a League of Nations. That, however, is itself so huge & complicated an affair that my mind wobbles, when I try to grasp it. Why did they not make as early a peace as possible their first object? This somewhat confuses me.

Russia has gone to pigs and whistles under the cruel despotism of the horrible and bestial Bolsheviks. Germany is swaying & tottering as if about to fall into the same vile cauldron: the conduct of our miners etc in this country is not altogether reassuring. Poland, reborn, is fighting on four frontiers: scores of new nations made up of the debris of the Austrian & Turkish Empires & of the Balkan peoples would be at daggers



*'Bestial Bolsheviks' - the latest in our widely acclaimed series of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine. Cathedral News leads the way in the cut-throat world of ecclesiastical editing...*

drawn with each other, were it not for the Council of the five great nations at Paris. If I were to attempt to write a sketch of it all, this Diary would swell to the dimensions of an Encyclopaedia! The Bp. lunched with us to-day. He told us of an extraordinary incident which happened while he was instituting Rev. A. Inglis at Kirkcaldy the other day. It was at the most solemn part of the Service. Mr. Inglis had been kneeling before him, as he sat in his chair before the Altar. At the proper moment Mr. Inglis stood up before him to move a little to the side. Mr. Inglis accordingly turned half round & took one step back, but in doing this he went down over the edge of the step and immediately his head was where his feet had been and his feet, struggling wildly, where his head had been! Of books lately I have read several of Barrow's Sermons. There is no reading I like better. Also one of Horsley's. Several of the "Idylls of the King," which give me intense pleasure. Also Dawson's delightful "Makers of Modern Poetry" & Sir Hubert Parry's "The Art of Music."

*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 March

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

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

### **First Sunday of Lent - 10 March**

Deuteronomy 26.1-11, Romans 10.8b-13, Luke 4.1-13

### **Second Sunday of Lent - 17 March**

Genesis 15.1-12 and 17-18, Philippians 3.17-4.1, Luke 9.28-36

### **Third Sunday of Lent - 24 March**

Isaiah 55.1-9, 1 Corinthians 10.1-13, Luke 13.1-9

### **Fourth Sunday of Lent - 31 March**

Joshua 5.9-12, 2 Corinthians 5.16-21, Luke 15.1-3 and 11b-32

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent - 7 April**

Isaiah 43.16-21, Philippians 3.4b-14, John 12.1-8

## From the Registers

### **Baptisms**

Alexander Ogden - 1 April 2018

Emilie Findlay - 3 June 2018

Eva Marshall - 2 September 2018

Matthew Cammidge - 4 November 2018

Harper Noble - 9 December 2018

Stacey Noble - 9 December 2018

# 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 April issue is  
24 March.**

**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  
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**Provost**

**(and Hospital Chaplain)**

The Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson  
provost@perthcathedral.co.uk

**Assisting Clergy**

The Rev'd Canon Dr Carrie Applegath (priest@perthcathedral.co.uk)  
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**  
**St Columba's, Stanley**

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