

Cathedral News

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

July - August 2019

£1.10



From the Provost

Dear Friends

The hard work of trying to make the cathedral more visible in the city of Perth is beginning to have positive effects. Last month we had more visitors to the cathedral from all over the world than ever before. I think this is happening because the Vestry have been distributing professionally produced leaflets. Maihri Cameron continually updates the cathedral website, and Facebook pages are receiving more 'hits' (people looking at these pages) than before. Also the cathedral guides have had extra training and are welcoming so many more people. I am so grateful for all the hard work that has gone into this so far. We are hoping that with a few more people signing up to welcome visitors, we might be able to open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays! Once again, my thanks to Wendy Duncan for all her thinking, planning and gentle organising.



One of the next things the vestry is to address is what to put on the walls in the cloisters. The suggestion so far is to put up informative boards detailing the history of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the history of Perth Cathedral. If you have any ideas then please do put them forward for discussion. Of course everything we do depends on budget and what we can raise but we hope to lift the 'cathedral experience' for those who come through our doors.

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The cathedral choir are now on a well-earned break for two months. I am delighted to see a few new adults joining and Annette Cameron continues to offer vocal training to a number of children at our own primary school. The vestry will not meet in July and August as they too need a break from their relentless tasks and duties. They are a great bunch, full of good cheer and work like Trojans! Do thank them for their work.

Many of us go away at this time of year for a break and I always ask that you let me or your friends know at the cathedral. If you are to visit another church then please do take with you the love and prayers of the cathedral congregation and pass them on. You may even consider taking a few of the printed leaflets and leaving them in any church you visit!

Please keep in your prayers firstly those who are bereaved. It's so hard when we lose loved ones and prayer becomes so important. Please remember those who for whatever reason cannot now manage to church but who keep the faith at home and receive Holy Communion from the lay ministry team. And remember all those who travel on holiday that they return safely and refreshed.

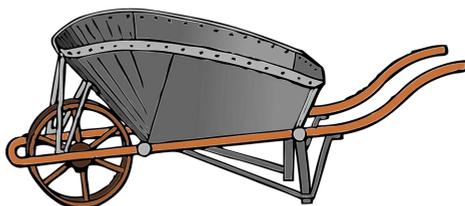
With every blessing,
Hunter

Cover Illustration

Constable's *Cornfield* adorns this month's cover. With a field of ripening corn and a thirsty boy, it seems to suggest summer...fingers crossed!

Provost's Day Off

A wee reminder to the cathedral community that the Provost needs one day a week off - if only to tidy his garden - and that day is a Friday.



Cathedral Round Up

Contemplative Creative Day

Around 15 amateur artists, from the cathedral congregation and beyond, turned up for another of Margot Dunnachie's popular contemplative creative days on Saturday 29 June. The theme was 'place settings' and, judging by the comments to the photographer, was clearly much enjoyed by all the participants. Here are some photos of the day...



One being contemplative and the other, Beth, being creative (above); a table of candles to aid contemplation (left); and overleaf, examples of finished art work.



Restoration Award

Bannerman Decorators, based in the Fair City, have been nominated for Johnstone's 36th annual Painter of the Year Awards for their role refurbishing St Ninian's Cathedral.

Ewan Bannerman (*pictured opposite*), a partner in the business, said work on the category A-listed building which dates back to 1850 had presented 'major challenges' for the decorators. 'A great deal of time and effort went into protecting the impressive stained glass windows, ornate choir stalls, pulpit and various priceless and sensitive ornamental structures,' he said. 'The cathedral could only be accessed by a single-width door and our team was working 20 metres off the ground. Specialist machinery was required which cleared the door with only two inches to spare. That led to a few sleepless nights beforehand but fortunately our measurements were spot on. The contract itself was

certainly testing as we had to dovetail with plasterers, electricians, joiners, lighting and sound engineers and then, finally, the organ tuners. As a long-established Perth business we are proud of the job, which has been much admired by visitors to the cathedral.'

The Perth decorating business has already picked up the regional winner's title for their work on the cathedral and will now travel to Manchester to compete against 21 other finalists for the national award.

Ewan said: 'We were delighted to be short listed for the UK awards. The quality of entrants from around the country was very impressive. The result of all this time and effort led to the decoration contract coming in on time, on budget and to the complete satisfaction of the client. A high quality finish was achieved using skilled, time-served tradesmen and high quality materials.'

Reprinted, with minor editing, from - and with thanks to - the Courier and Advertiser.



Summer Visitor Numbers Booming!

I'm delighted to report that there has been a significant increase in our weekday visitor numbers since we re-opened in April. We've already had lots of very positive feedback and many visitors have told us how impressed they have been with the quality of the restoration work, as well as the welcoming atmosphere of our much-loved building.

We are now experiencing a big increase in demand for weekend visits and have already had whole coach-loads arriving on a Sunday lunchtime! If we are to cope with this properly we shall need even more helpers to welcome them, so I'm appealing to everyone (including families and friends!) to ask if you might be able to spare a few hours every couple of weeks to help us keep the cathedral open on a Friday, Saturday, or a Sunday after church? The weekends are obviously a popular time for a city break so we should be on hand to welcome people in. I would envisage having two shifts on a Friday and Saturday, perhaps 10.00am-12.30 and then 12.30-3.00pm, and the Sunday afternoon would need to be from after the morning service till 3.00pm. The idea is to pilot this until September, keeping a note of numbers, and then review how it has gone. If you may be able to help with this please have a word with Wendy or Jeremy Duncan or one of the clergy. A new sign-up rota will be appearing in the cloisters soon so please do keep an eye out for this and choose a slot or two which suit you.

Wendy Duncan

Christian Aid News

Thank you very much for supporting me on the Christian Aid Tay Bridge Cross for which the cathedral congregation raised the wonderful sum of £500. This will go towards helping pregnant women in Sierra Leone, where ten women die every day in childbirth. Christian Aid hopes they will be able to train midwives, and to build small hospitals in their local communities where there is so much poverty.

Pat Butler

Congratulations, Pat - very well done! [Ed.]

Doors Open Day 2019

This year's Doors Open Day is on Saturday 14 September and the cathedral will be open from 10.00am - 4.00pm. If you haven't helped before you'll find DOD is a really fun day when we enjoy chatting to visitors (and to one another!) and showing off our building and many of its treasures, thanks to the hard work of our sacristans. It's also an occasion to celebrate the skills of our talented flower arrangers, musicians, artists, historians, bakers and catering team, so do come along! You don't need to stay all day but if you can spare a couple of hours to welcome visitors, guard treasures or serve teas that would be hugely appreciated.

Wendy Duncan

PACT News

Dates for the Diary

- ◆ St John's Episcopal Church: Cafe Church on the second Wednesday of each month in the Threshold at 5.30pm.
- ◆ Society of Friends: Hiroshima Day Walk on Sunday 4 August, gathering at 2.15 for a 2.30 start from St Ninian's Cathedral, walking to the Peace Post in Rodney Gardens.
- ◆ Scotland's Interfaith Week on 10 November at Perth & Kinross Council offices at 2 High Street, Perth.
- ◆ North Church: 'Nosh at the North', free hot meals for anyone who needs them, every Thursday evening at 6.30pm.
- ◆ Letham St Mark's: providing meals for school children during the holidays, combating 'holiday hunger', for four days each week of the summer holidays.

Andrew Ballantyne

A Recent Sermon by Bishop Ian

Bishop Ian preached the following sermon in the cathedral on Saturday 25 May at a special service to honour the sacristans and servers. A member of the congregation asked if it could be reprinted in the magazine...

Who is greater, the one at the table or the one who serves?

Many, many years ago, at the age of nine, so as to get out of Sunday school, I joined the choir and the guild of servers at my local church. This was a surprise to my parents who probably thought Sunday School the safer option as it didn't involve having to turn up twice every Sunday plus weddings and funerals for the fabulous reward of a half-crown fee. But I think I learned more about Christian faith and the church as a server than I did at Sunday School.

The church is inclusive.

In order to serve at the church, I didn't have to be anyone other than myself. When I became an altar server, I felt more comfortable climbing the steps to the altar, not because it lost its mystery, but because being there helped to deepen my experience of the mystery of God. The space became at once more familiar and more sacred. I felt at home in my church in the best way possible.

The church is tangible.

The church is not simply an idea; it exists through individuals and through sacraments and sacramentals. As an altar server the objects and symbols that accompany the sacraments became real to me. I learned to swing a thurible; I learned the difference between a purificator and a corporal, and a chalice and a ciborium. I learned that these words and objects were part of a faith that has a vast and fascinating history, vocabulary and tradition - and that I was part of that history.

In all things, humility.

As predicted, I did at times feel 'important' while serving on the altar. But most days I simply felt grateful to be part of something more important than myself. I was humbled every time I held the book aloft to

be read, carried the unconsecrated hosts to the altar so they could be transformed, poured out the water that washed the priest's hands, rang the bells at the consecration. I grew in my faith as I learned about and participated in the many small, sacred actions that surrounded and celebrated this banquet.

Clergy are human.

I learned that priests forget where they put their keys or where they left their sermon. They don't always understand how microphones work or which light switches turn on the lights by the altar. They sometimes can be rushed or late or grumpy. They can also be hilarious, kind, encouraging, enthusiastic and thoughtful. In short, they are just like everyone else.

The church is communal.

A sense of community was created by seeing the faces of the congregation from the altar. I was especially moved every year at the Easter Vigil, during which each face was lit by a candle, from the font to the choir stalls - and to see in each one the Risen Christ.

At services we learn to serve.

The elderly ladies commended me or corrected me on my serving skills after Mass. My parents beamed each time I served. In short, I learned that our actions as servers affected how others experienced the service. And so I strove for flawless execution of the book-holding or cross-carrying. But I also made mistakes. One Maundy Thursday I spilled the entirety of the foot-washing water down the chancel steps. The sacristan pitched in to help clean up and her smile let me know that I was not the only person ever to make a mistake at Mass. On her knees beside me, she saw my mistake as an opportunity to demonstrate the spirit of service we prayed about that day, and to teach me a lesson; don't place large bowls of water too close to the edge of the steps. And that God's grace is not easily thwarted by our own imperfections.

You don't choose those you serve with.

I served beside Jane, who ate the wax off the candles; Andrew, who feared ringing the bells; and Jake, who always seemed one second away from lighting a cigarette with the hot coals meant for the incense. There

were occasional arguments over who got to carry the cross (the tallest server often won) and who would be forced to carry the boat. And yet we almost always found something to laugh about in the sacristy. We learned to get along, to be okay with not getting our way.

Our faith must be lived publicly.

Sometimes it must be lived in front of a crowd of people, some of whom think that what you're doing is weird. Some years, I felt a bit idiotic on Palm Sunday as I walked round the church - out in the public street! - in cassock and surplice - while trying to avoid the eye of anyone from school who happened to be passing. But most days on duty, the privilege of participating outweighed the embarrassment. And more often than not, I found my classmates more interested in learning than judging, as they wondered about the smell of the incense or the weight of the cross.

Jesus said, 'The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.'

Those who serve the altar and the sacristy show us all something of what that means when they enact humble service for the Lord's table, and they show us the importance of serving one another, from wherever we stand.

From the Registers

Deaths

Isabel Campbell - 13 May 2019

John Clement - 13 May 2019

Yvonne Davie - 22 May 2019

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

From the Farquhar Diaries

23 July 1919. Never in all my life has the internal condition of the country been so alarming. It is not merely, as in former crises, the probability of the Government of the day doing injustice but of there ceasing to be any Stable Government at all and the red Revolution spreading from tortured Russia & Hungary to Britain. It is not merely that the miners of Yorkshire have struck and, though they are richly paid, diminished the coal supply of the country to an alarming extent, but they are flooding & destroying the mines in the same way as the Germans destroyed those of northern France, in order to paralyze the country for years! Deus, in adjutorium! The hall in the Watergate, in which the late Captain Brittain so long carried on our Mission so successfully has been sold over our heads to a wine merchant for a store. As things had got much run down since his death more than a year go, it was debated whether it should be closed altogether. But Capt. Cowland is proving to be a most worthy successor and he seems to be on the point of buying for £500 the mission chapel of the Established Church in Thimble Row. This is an equally suitable locality and moreover it gets us out of the difficulty of the Mission being strictly speaking in the S. John's district.

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

Eddie the Eagle says...

We've had so many visitors from Spain recently, coming to admire me (and possibly also the cathedral), that I've booked a holiday in Benidorm! I think the name translates as 'sleep well' so I'm looking forward to a month of peace and quiet and getting away from the crowds. Happy holidays!



Readings for July and August

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - 7 July

2 Kings 5.1-14, Galatians 6.(1-6) 7-16, Luke 10.1-11 *and* 16-20

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - 14 July

Amos 7.7-17, Colossians 1.1-14, Luke 10.25-37

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - 21 July

Amos 8.1-12, Colossians 1.15-28, Luke 10.38-42

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - 28 July

Hosea 1.2-10, Colossians 2.6-15 (16-19), Luke 11.1-13

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - 4 August

Hosea 11.1-11, Colossians 3.1-11, Luke 12.13-21

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - 11 August

Isaiah 1.1 *and* 10-20, Hebrews 11.1-3 *and* 8-16, Luke 12.32-40

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - 18 August

Isaiah 5.1-7, Hebrews 11.29-12.2, Luke 12.49-56

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - 25 August

Jeremiah 1.4-10, Hebrews 12.18-29, Luke 13.10-17

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - 1 September

Jeremiah 2.4-13, Hebrews 13.1-8 *and* 15-16, Luke 14.1 *and* 7-14

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 8 September

Jeremiah 18.1-11, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14.25-33



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 on the first and third Sunday of the month, 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 .

**The closing date for inclusion in the September issue is
18 August.**

**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
Tel : 01738 443173

Provost

(and Hospital Chaplain)

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

Precentor

The Rev'd Canon Dr Carrie Applegath (priest@perthcathedral.co.uk)

Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Celia Matthews
The Rev'd Richard Sutton

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

Other Episcopal churches in the Perth area:

St John's, Princes Street, Perth

St Columba's, Stanley

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