



Cathedral News

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

December 2019 - January 2020



From the Provost

Dear Friends

We have reached Advent 2019, the four weeks preceding Christmas! The liturgical colour has changed to purple signifying a time of preparation for the coming of Christ and our celebrations at Christmas.

Each year Advent seems take me by surprise, but I do look forward to it as I enjoy the readings and the hymns. Advent is a time of waiting, hope and looking forward. This is year A in our reading cycle when we focus on the Gospel of Matthew.



There is much that happens around the cathedral in Advent. We start with the decoration of the cathedral followed by the PACT Lantern Parade when we process from the cathedral through the town to St John's Kirk. On Saturday 7 December the cathedral hosts a Christmas lunch at 12 noon for the congregation and invited guests. We have a Diocesan

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Advent Carol service on Sunday 8 December at 4.30pm, led by the bishop and cathedral chapter. During Advent the cathedral is hosting the Provincial celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women on Saturday 14 December at 2.00pm. The choir will be singing as usual in St John's Centre on Saturday 21 December at noon and we have our usual service of carols and lessons on Sunday 22 December at 4.30pm. In between all these services we have parties and concerts and all sorts of events.

All this has to be part of our preparation for Christmas, when we celebrate once again the Incarnation, God coming into the world through the baby Jesus. Midnight Mass starts on 24 December at 11.30pm when the bishop will preside and preach. Christmas Day celebrations start at 11.00am. Christmas should be a time of great joy and real celebration for everyone. However, for some it can be a struggle, especially those of us on our own.

As always I ask your prayers for our common life together in Christ. Each morning in the cathedral all members of the congregation are remembered in prayer. We especially think of those we know to be unwell or those unable to move around easily who receive Holy Communion at home.

On behalf of the cathedral clergy and vestry may I wish you all a prayerful and reflective Advent and may every joy fill your hearts for a very Merry Christmas!

Every blessing,

Hunter

Provost's Day Off

Just a reminder that our hard-working provost needs a day off once a week - if only to catch up on the dishes - and that day is a Friday.



Perth Cathedral Christmas 2019

Sunday 8th December
4.30pm Diocesan Advent Carol Service

Wednesday 11th December
1.30pm St Ninian's Primary School nativity play

Friday 20th December
11.00am St Ninian's Primary School end of term service

Saturday 21st December
12.00 - 1.00pm Cathedral Choir sings in
St John's Shopping Centre

Sunday 22nd December
11.00am Holy Communion (sung)

4.30pm Lessons and Carols
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve
4.30pm Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
11.00am Holy Communion (sung)

First Sunday of Christmas 29th December 2018
11.00am Holy Communion

The Bishop, Provost, Clergy and Vestry wish you
every good blessing this Christmas and in the year to come.

Happy Birthday!

Many congratulations to Margaret Lye who celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday 24 November, and many thanks to paparazza Maihri Cameron for the photo.



Cathedral Round Up

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Once again the cathedral congregation rose to the challenge of filling shoe boxes - over 30 of them - with presents for the underprivileged in Romania and Hungary. Around 3770 boxes were sent from the Perth area to various other countries in Eastern Europe and also to Pakistan. The photos below and overleaf show the cathedral contribution, having been blessed by the provost, with some of those - Pat, Thalia, Wendy and Lyn - who helped fill boxes and who helped at the three-day intensive sorting and checking process at Perth Baptist Church.





The Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg

The cathedral hosted the Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg (pictured below) who gave a stunning performance of Russian choral works on Thursday 14 November. Around 90 folk turned up on a cold November evening and left thoroughly warmed by the singing, not to mention the enthusiastic applause. The first half was devoted to religious music and the second to folk songs. The editor was surprised to find that well-known pop song from 1968, *Those Were the Days*, was Russian in origin. The choir, numbering eight singers and one conductor, filled the cathedral with their remarkable voices, which ranged from those of the



operatic sopranos to that of Anatoli, a basso profundo, who sounded like a very low note on the cathedral organ. Most of the singers were relatively young and new to the choir, the conductor explaining that many of them stayed only a short time before pursuing careers in opera. One unfortunate incident occurred when the conductor, driving the minibus north from Lancashire to Perth, suddenly realised that his wallet, containing his driving licence and the previous evening's takings, and his passport were missing, presumed stolen. This involved visits to the police station in Perth and telephone calls to the Russian Consulate in Edinburgh, We trust the matter has been resolved satisfactorily.

Summer Opening

The summer opening season came to an official end in early November when volunteers met for an informal supper in the Chapter House. Wendy Duncan reported on a very successful season and there was some useful discussion afterwards. Many thanks to Hunter and others for preparing a delicious meal and we were sorry that post-operative pain prevented the provost from enjoying the excellent chilli he had prepared earlier in the day. Volunteers can look forward to a few months off before we start again in the spring!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will be held in the Chapter House at 12.15pm immediately after the service on Sunday 26 January 2020. Please bring a packed lunch if you wish.

There are vacancies on the vestry to be filled. Candidates for election to the vestry must be communicant members and nominations must be proposed and seconded by members similarly qualified and candidates must have indicated their willingness to stand. Nomination forms will be available from the notice boards in the cloisters and should be submitted to the vestry secretary via the cathedral office by 10.30am on Sunday 26 January.

All Souls Service

A very moving Eucharist for All Souls was held in the cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday 3 November. As the list of the remembered dead was solemnly read out the congregation laid flowers in memory of loved ones around a wooden cross (*pictured on the opposite page*). Bishop Ian gave the following sermon:

‘Remember, remember, the whole of November,’ we might say. This month feels like a month for remembering. In the streets are people wearing poppies, to remember those who died in war. Remembrance of the cost of war is important to us. And this evening, we come to remember those whom we love who are separated from us by death.

It isn't easy to remember, when remembering brings back the pain of our loss. It isn't easy to remember when the relationship we shared had its difficulties or when we feel that there were things we wanted to do or say but didn't get the chance. Sometimes remembering is the last thing that we want to do or are able to do.

Christianity has a strong tradition of remembering. As Jesus neared his own death he shared the last supper with his friends. He taught them to remember him every time they break the bread or drink the cup together in his name, not just to remember his death but also his resurrection. He said that he would be really present with them, their risen Lord, whenever they gathered at his table. This act of remembrance - the Mass, the Eucharist, Holy Communion - is therefore about remembering all that lies ahead, not simply remembering all that lies behind us.

For many people who have lost someone close to them, there are simple things that make us remember the person – maybe the smell of the clothes left behind, or making a cup of tea at bedtime, or the photograph of that last holiday together. Sometimes these things will trip us up, but at other times they will be our greatest comfort.

In this poem, *Tomb*, Ann Lewin writes of how, as we work through our

grief, “memory recovers its perspective.”

The place of remembering:
where, as the work of grief is done,
memory recovers its perspective.
Letting the dead one go,
with aching sense of loss,
opens the way to finding again
a rounded person, gifts and faults,
delights and irritations;
makes it possible to share again
the jokes, the intimate glance,
keep company unseen.



‘As the work of grief is done, memory recovers its perspective.’ We don’t just remember the person who died as a perfect saint, but we remember the way they got on our nerves, or sometimes even angered us. We begin to remember the things that made us laugh and the things that made us hurt, the things that made us proud and the things that would embarrass us, it’s as though the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle are coming back together again.

When we lose someone close, it's as though a jigsaw puzzle has been thrown up into the air and all the pieces have been scattered far and wide. As we remember, the pieces start to come together – only the picture isn't quite the same. We have to look closely, over time, but there in the emerging picture, we may see that the life we shared has made a difference to the people we are now.

When I think of my father now, and pray for him, I don't any more think only of the frail old man in great pain with the illness that ended his life. I think of that sometimes, but also of the man, my Dad, who carried the wee boy on his shoulders, who made so many sacrifices for my education, who was always there when I needed him.

The poem talks of how 'letting the dead one go... opens the way to finding again...' For some of us it may take many years to reach beyond the 'aching sense of loss,' but every time we remember we gather some of the fragments together, the new picture starts to get clearer, we see new possibilities emerging, to become more aware of the bond of love that cannot be broken, and to 'keep company unseen.'

Remembering doesn't just connect us with the past, you see, remembering also connect us with the future, with hope and new life. As Jesus says in St John's Gospel - 'I lose nothing of all that is given me, and I will raise it up on the last day.' It is because the Lord has promised to lose nothing of them, that we can trust enough to let go of the ones we love, into the presence of the God who loved them into life, and keeps them safe in his love.

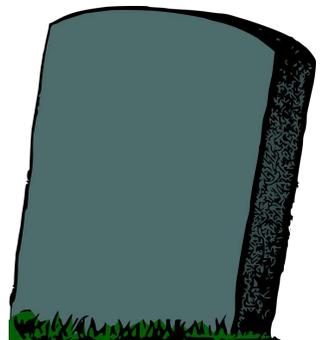
Bishop Ian

The Watchmaker's Epitaph

Here lies in a horizontal position
The outward case of
George Routleigh, Watchmaker.
Whose abilities in that line were an honour
To his profession.
Integrity, was the mainspring,

And prudence the regulator
Of all the actions of his life.
Humane, generous, and liberal,
His hand never stopped
Till he had relieved distress.
So nicely regulated were all his motions
That he never went wrong,
Except when set a-going
By people
Who did not know
His key,
Even then he was easily
Set right
He had the art of disposing of his time
So well,
That his hours glided away
In one continual round
Of pleasure and delight
Till an unlucky minute put a period to
His existence.
He departed this life
November 14, 1802,
Aged 57,
Wound up
In hope of being taken in hand
By his Maker
And of being thoroughly cleaned and repaired
And set a-going
In the world to come.

Many thanks to Fiona Crighton who has sent in this lovely epitaph from a churchyard in Devon.



PACT News

This year we have had an 'Angel Knitting Group', who have worked with the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and who meet at St Leonard's in the Fields to make angels. We now have lots of angels which will be offered as gifts at the following:

- ◆ the Christmas Tree Festival at the North Church, from Wednesday 11 - Saturday 14 December
- ◆ the PACT Carol Service at 7.00pm on 20 December in St Matthew's Church, Tay Street (see also the poster below)
- ◆ and at various other places in the community.

Andrew Ballantyne

PACT Carol Service

Come and Sing!

We are looking for singers for the Churches Together Choir at the PACT Carol service on **Friday 20th December.**



Choir is being led by Michael Ellacott, and there are 3 rehearsals

**Thursday 5th December at 7.30p.m, then
Sundays 8th and 15th December at 2p.m.**
in St Matthew's Church, Tay Street

Michael wants lots of singers! All welcome!



**FAMILY CAROL
SERVICE**

**Perth Action of
Churches Together**

**Friday 20th December, 7pm
St Matthews Church, Tay Street**

HOPE FOR LOVE IN OUR WORLD

**Guest preacher: Rt. Revd Ian Paton
Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld
and Dunblane**

Special Cathedral Service

25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

On 14 December, there will be a special service to mark 25 years since the first ordinations of women to the priesthood in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The service will be held at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth at 2.00pm. The Rt Rev'd Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, will preside at the Eucharist and the Rev'd Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson, Principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute, will preach the sermon.

The service is open to any who wish to attend. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by email to womenpriests@scotland.anglican.org so that the event organisers have an indication of likely numbers.

New Choral Work



At the time of writing Geoff Bolton and the cathedral choir are planning to perform a relatively recent choral piece at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. *The Lord At First Did Adam Make* was composed by Peter Nardone and was dedicated to the late Adam Duncan, formerly a chorister here at the cathedral, and to Adam

Warne. Adam D became a lay clerk at Chelmsford Cathedral, where Peter was organist. His good friend Simon Warne, also a lay clerk at Chelmsford, named his son in memory of his friend. Adam W is following in both their footsteps and is currently head chorister at Chelmsford Cathedral. Peter Nardone, a Scotsman, has published other choral works and has recently stepped down as organist and director of music at Worcester Cathedral. Of course, if the music doesn't arrive in time, it may not be performed at all!

Farewell



Marjorie and Celia

I just wanted to say farewell to everyone at St Ninian's and to thank all those who have given me so much support recently. I will miss the beautiful services, all of you and the great times we had on the catering front – either for cathedral events or with the team for community lunches. We had so many laughs and great fun and I take so many memories away with me.

We are moving to Glasgow to be near our family and small grandson who will be one in January. A new adventure begins but I will miss the old one!

I wish everyone a very happy and peaceful festive season and hope to see you all again one day.

Marjorie Hunter

Cathedral Express!

The Rev'd Richard was on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway recently and found himself in a preserved Caledonian Railway carriage with a photo of the cathedral altar on the wall. The coach and photo both date to ca 1900-1910. The altar has a mere two candles and a flower arrangement on it. Many thanks, Richard!

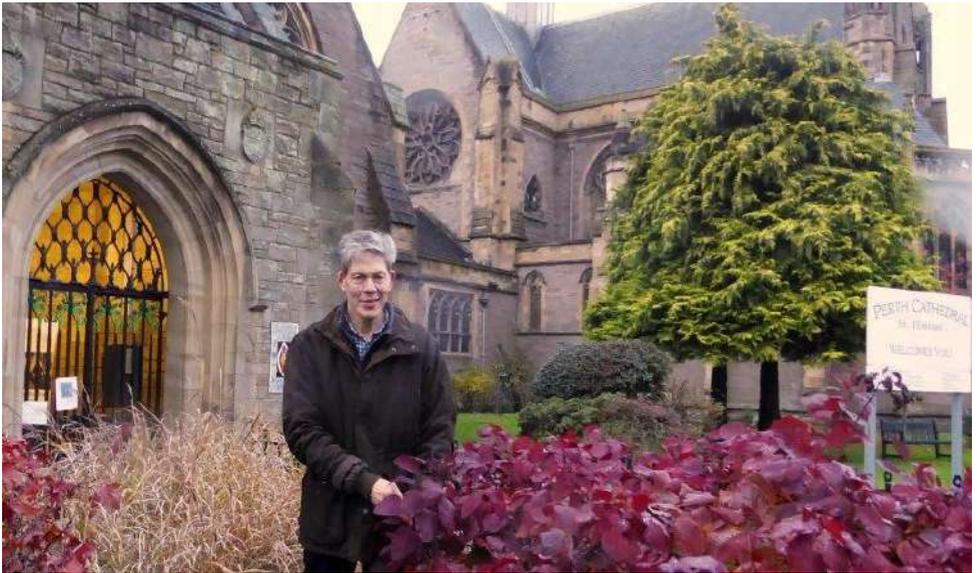


Cathedral Garden Update

Following on from the completion of work on the interior of the cathedral, work is about to begin on the improvement of the cathedral grounds. Thanks to a generous grant from the Mushroom Trust, we have been able to appoint John Blackie of Heritage Gardeners as part-time overseer of a two-year project which is designed to improve the appearance and usefulness of the green space around the cathedral. Permission has been obtained from Perth and Kinross Council to remove the two overgrown cypress trees which are blocking the views of the building and killing the grass beneath them. These are to be replaced with smaller broadleaved species, one of the purposes being to create year-round interest and colour. Other priorities will be the redesign of the wildlife garden to create a more attractive and biodiverse area, and the upgrading of the school garden plot which is used by children from St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School. With these and other changes, we intend to create an attractive space which will not only improve the views of our spectacular building, but which can also be used by local residents and visitors alike for relaxing or enjoying a picnic.

Christopher Dingwall





Gardener John Blackie (above) with the two now-removed cypress trees behind him. On the previous page, the newly treeless garden, and below, the empty space has been partially hidden by the nativity scene, ready for Christmas.



Men's Fellowship

The cathedral men's group has recently been resurrected and met for the first time in early November at the Glover Arms for a pleasant meal and relaxing conversation. The next gathering will take place early in the new year. Do come along! Please contact the Rev'd Geoffrey Hall for further details.

News of Former Clergy

The Rev'd Thomas Brauer, who was attached to the cathedral until the end of 2016, made a brief return visit this month. Although he is now a parish priest in Christchurch, New Zealand, he is currently over in Scotland, finishing off his PhD at St Andrews. It was good to see him again and hear news of his wife, Cheryl, and children Josh, now nearly 10, and Elsa, 5.

Cover Illustration

A Christmas picture with no Christ Child, star, oxen, gifts, wise men or even an inn. Not a swaddling cloth be seen. And yet the 16th century Dutch picture in the Pushkin Museum in Moscow is entitled *The Nativity*. All you see are four faces, lit - seemingly - from floor level. It's difficult to tell whether they are looking in the same direction. Who are these people? They are not dressed like shepherds or kings. Is that Mary looking at her son? The light illuminates the faces of the onlookers as if searching them. You might think that the light comes from a babe, lying outside the picture, and that is a satisfying thought, but it cannot be conclusive. For me, it's a picture about waiting, of something from a black background, something about to happen, a picture, perhaps, of Advent. If this is a new birth, the onlookers don't seem very happy about it. In this picture, there is waiting and arrival, but also a refusal to give a clear message about this or any nativity. Is this a moment of piety, shock, worry and bewilderment for the onlookers before the wonder of it all?

John Byrom

Christmas Eve in Tunis, 1943

The editor has been working on his father's memoirs and enjoyed this account of Christmas Eve in Tunis where he was serving with the RAF.

On Christmas Eve another friend and I attended High Mass in a huge modern cathedral (*pictured right*) - the Cathedral of St Louis - atop Byrsa Hill of ancient Carthage. It was quite an experience. There were huge crowds waiting to get inside at eleven o'clock but we managed to obtain a seat a few minutes later and thousands of



people poured in, military and civilian alike of all nationalities, men, women and children. The interior of the cathedral was of white stone with highly-coloured inlaid work on the roof and ceiling. The carpets were all red and the high altar of white marble, itself dressed in beautiful white linen, was enclosed within a catafalque of white and red cloth descending from the high centre dome. All around were myriads of electric light bulbs making the interior look like a fairground at times. The choir boys began to sing in Latin and French the usual Christmas carols with modifications. Then the venerable figure of the archbishop appeared behind the cross-bearer and circumperambulated the aisles giving the blessing. He took up his position in the pulpit still holding his crook of office and wearing his golden mitre. There was plenty of ceremony in the whole show. Unfortunately, a young fellow standing next to me fainted and I had to carry him out, which meant I lost my place. However, I squeezed back in and when the others fainted - there were about half a dozen in my corner - other lads did the needful. Then just before Holy Communion an excited and drunk Frenchman broke into the cathedral brandishing a revolver and desirous of shooting some Yank. While his idea might have been basically sound, his choice of location was quite at fault and most of the people round about took a definitely dim view of the whole proceeding. Ultimately his presence was removed from where I was standing by a bunch of British soldiers and ejected without ceremony to the world outside.

Readers' and Intercessors' Rota

1 December - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2.1-5 (Psalm 122)	Alister Allan
Romans 13.11-14 (Matthew 24.36-44)	Alister Allan
Intercessor	Cate Wilson

8 December - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11.1-10 (Psalm 72.1-7 and 18-19)	Elizabeth Nisbet
Romans 15.4-13 (Matthew 3.1-12)	Elizabeth Nisbet
Intercessor	John Byrom

8 December at 4.30pm - Diocesan Advent Carol Service

Readings and readers to be chosen by Bishop Ian

15 December - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10 (Psalm 146.4-9)	Emmanuel Patterson
James 5.7-10 (Matthew 11.2-11)	Emmanuel Patterson
Intercessor	Christopher Dingwall

22 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16 (Psalm 80.1-7, and 16-18)	Cate Wilson
Romans 1.1-7 (Matthew 1.18-25)	Cate Wilson
Intercessor	Emmanuel Patterson



22 December at 4.30pm - Christmas Carol Service

Genesis 3.8-15	Christopher Dingwall
Genesis 22.15-18	Maihri Cameron
Isaiah 9.2 and 6-7	Pat Butler
Isaiah 11.1-4 and 6-9	Tim Haynes
Luke 1.26-35 and 38	Beth Dark
Luke 2.1 and 3-7	Elizabeth Nisbet
Luke 2.8-16	Wendy Evans
John 1.1-14	The Provost

24 December at 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Isaiah 52.7-10 (Psalm 98)	Cate Wilson
Hebrews 1.1-4 (5-12) (John 1.1-14)	Cate Wilson
Intercessor	Maihri Cameron

25 December - Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7 (Psalm 96)	Jennifer Irving
Titus 2.11-14 (Luke 2.1-14 (15-20))	Jennifer Irving
Intercessor	The Precentor

29 December - First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63.7-9 (Psalm 148)	Jennifer Irving
Hebrews 2.10-18 (Matthew 2.13-23)	Jennifer Irving
Intercessor	Irene Rose

5 January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60.1-6 (Psalm 72.1-7 and 10-14)	Nick Record
Ephesians 3.1-12 (Matthew 2.1-12)	Jennifer Irving
Intercessor	Chris Brown

12 January - The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42.1-9

Alister Allan

(Psalm 29)

Acts 10.34-43

Pat Butler

(Matthew 3.13-17)

Intercessor

Cate Wilson

19 January - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7

Alison Ballantyne

(Psalm 40.1-12)

I Corinthians 1.1-9

Andrew Ballantyne

(John 1.29-42)

Intercessor

Pat Butler

19 January at 4.30pm - Choral Evensong

Galatians 1.11-24

John 1.43-51

26 January - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9.1-4

Shirley Earl

(Psalm 27.1 and 5-13)

I Corinthians 1.10-18

John Byrom

(Matthew 4.12-23)

Intercessor

Emmanuel Patterson

2 February - The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

Malachi 3.1-4

Beth Dark

(Psalm 84)

Hebrews 2.14-18

Wendy Evans

(Luke 2.22-40)

Intercessor

Maihri Cameron



From the Farquhar Diaries

12 December 1919. We had a congregational meeting a night or two ago to consider the question of a war memorial to our young men, who were killed. It is not an easy point to settle. The Provost wanted to fit up the N. Chapel as a Memorial with a large Crucifix in it but Mr Pearson ruled it out on architectural grounds. We are all unanimous on a brass or tablet with the names, but we can get no further. Mr Pearson was up from London the other day & suggested a rood screen with a Crucifix. That would be very appropriate. However I warned one of the meetings that I did not think that the average Church feeling in the Diocese would ex animo welcome a Crucifix. I think some of the inner circle were rather scandalized at me, but I wanted them simply to face facts. They are inclined to force the pace, without knowing they are doing it, whereas in Scotland the great mass of the people think & think & say nothing & you don't know what they think & because they are silent English people think the coast is clear. I was so far justified, however, that Sir James Ramsay sent in a violent protest against a Crucifix & our new congregational Secretary, Mr Philip, wrote saying he would prefer the brass alone, but, he did not say why.

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



The war memorial on Remembrance Sunday 2019, photographed by Christopher Dingwall



Thank You!



Remembrance Sunday

Our thanks to Captain Raymond C. Borley RE (Royal Engineers) and Mr Fraser Brown on behalf of the Black Watch, who both kindly laid our wreaths at the Remembrance Sunday service.

From the Registers

Eddie the Eagle says...

I did enjoy squawking with the Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg (see *photo*) but I don't think the conductor knew much about music. He kept saying, 'Eddie, B quiet.' I looked at my music and could see several B flats, lots of B naturals, the occasional B sharp (well, it was Russian music), but no B quiet. I don't know what they teach them at the Moscow Conservatoire these days...



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	Eucharist	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 February issue is 19 January.

**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

Registered Scottish Charity SC010656