

Cathedral News



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

February 2020

St Ninian's Cathedral Who's Who



From the Provost

Dear Friends

Much has happened since the combined issue of our magazine for December/January. We've had a General Election and the start of the year-long process of uncoupling from the European Union. We all have different views and takes on what might happen. Uncertainty can breed fear and when we feel insecure, anxiety often weighs heavily! What should our approach be to all this as Christian women and men? We simply don't know how Brexit will affect us. What we do know is that as a Christian community we should be ready to help those around us should any hardships ensue. Interesting times to be faced with prayer and not worry.



Our AGM this year was for me both informative and uplifting. So many people to thank for their hard work, gifts and ministry. The cathedral is a highly active community. No one can doubt that.

There are a number of areas that stood out for me in 2019. Firstly, the work of the lay ministry team, caring for those who are unable to travel

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to the cathedral and those who are unwell. It can be a very lonely experience as we age, when our world shrinks, and we become less able. It is so important to know that we are being prayed for and visited regularly with home communion. All the lay ministry team are carefully trained, vetted and then licensed by the bishop. Our lay ministers represent the cathedral congregation and the diocese, bringing the love of God shared in the sacrament of Holy Communion. They deserve our grateful thanks.

Another area that the Vestry has been looking at seriously, is what we call the cathedral precincts...the areas surrounding the cathedral. We were successful in securing some grant funding from the Mushroom Trust, to whom we remain most grateful, and we are slowly but surely improving our grounds. This has been possible due to the considerable efforts and meticulous planning by Christopher Dingwall. Please do have a look at the garden to the front of the cathedral, where the wild garden has been improved considerably with raised beds erected for our school to plant up.

The cathedral Vestry really do work hard at times, but so often it doesn't feel like hard work, as there is much joy woven through all discussion and activity. Erica Knott's term of office as property convener has sadly come to an end, but she has agreed to be co-opted for a year to give continuity to the decisions made and the ongoing works that are necessary. If you are interested at all in the building and its maintenance, then please do have a word with Erica or me.



I want to thank again our treasurer Liz Gardiner for all the work and time she has given to us. As an accountant Liz has been able to do the accounts herself, just to be checked by the auditors. This involves many hours of meticulous work throughout the year and saves the cathedral much money...and in fact Liz has been dogged in her approach to ensuring that our finances are as good as they can be. I remain hugely grateful for the skill and expertise Liz so freely shares with us.

The summer opening team - cathedral guides - organised by Wendy Duncan are about 30 in number. All are trained and work in pairs. Most of us don't see the cathedral guides but they are there and much appreciated by visitors from all over the world. Maybe we forget sometimes just how lovely the cathedral is to walk into for the first time, and you only need to read the comments left by visitors to realise that many people have a very positive experience of both the cathedral guides and the building. We try to be open as much as possible and the commitment made by the summer opening team should be much lauded.

It is always dangerous to highlight and commend the work of a few named people, because there's the danger that some may feel they have been overlooked! I hope I didn't forget to thank anyone at the AGM who help make the cathedral what it is today.....?

As always, I ask your prayers for all we know who need them and especially our members who are unable at this point to join us at the cathedral. Let's give thanks for all who will visit the cathedral in 2020 in the hope that the experience they have, will be to further God's love and purposes.

Every blessing,
Hunter

Eddie the Eagle says...

I pick up a fair bit of casual conversation from people who pause to admire me and from them I gather we have just left some sort of organisation called Thee-You. I'm a bit surprised as I would have thought there was still some work to do in updating archaic language in church. I might write to my MEP about it.



Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral

Decorating the Cathedral



On Saturday 30 November a good crowd turned up at the cathedral to start the preparations for Christmas. Some might say it was early - it was indeed the day before Advent Sunday - but the church is used by schools for end of term services, and the Chapter House for the annual Christmas lunch, and they needed to be looking suitably festive. The flower team were out in force as were the tree



erectors and decorators and, as last year, Maihri fed the workers with her Baby Jesus cakes. It was a pleasant and fun morning.

The photos show Marietta perched somewhat dangerously on a ladder and Alison getting the Advent candles ready.

Lantern Parade



The annual lantern parade was held on Saturday 30 November and started off as usual at St Ninian's. People young and not so young gathered in the late afternoon darkness to make lanterns out of decorated jam jars and candles (*pictured left*), prior to singing carols in the cathedral, with Geoff Bolton on the organ and a small choir providing some lovely descants (*pictured below*). After introductory words from both Provost Hunter and Provost Melloy of Perth and Kinross Council the sizeable parade headed slowly towards St John's Kirk, led by a pipe band (*pictured overleaf*).





The Christmas Lunch

Such is the popularity of the annual cathedral Christmas Lunch that you would be forgiven for assuming that the photo above shows the crowds queuing overnight to get in - and not the Lantern Parade setting off. It would have been worth the wait as it was once again a very successful and most enjoyable gathering. The Chapter House looked wonderfully festive, with a Christmas tree in one corner, brightly decorated tables and fairy lights around the walls. Provost Hunter and Marietta, together with their team of helpers, served up a delicious meal of soup, roast turkey and all the trimmings, puddings and coffee - all produced from a fairly small kitchen. One suspects that if the Gospel writers were alive today they would have dropped the loaves and fishes parable in favour of that of the cathedral kitchen and the meal for 70.





Well done to all the team - table and room decorators, chefs, drinks pourers and food servers, washers-up and driers, dishwasher emptiers, raffle ticket sellers and raffle prize donors, kitchen cleaners and Chapter House sweepers and tidiers - and probably a host of others too!

Celia prepares to cut the Christmas cake...



The Choir

Christmas, of course, is one of the busiest seasons in the choir year and despite their hectic schedule they - and not forgetting organist Geoff and organ scholar Liam - provided us with wonderful Christmas music and some stunning descants. As usual they sang to an appreciative audience of shoppers in the St John Shopping Centre following which they adjourned to the Royal George Hotel for a well-deserved lunch.



Christingle Service

Well done to Maihri who, although a member of the lay ministry team, led her first service - the Christingle on Christmas Eve afternoon - in the cathedral itself. And a warm thank-you to sister Isla for accompanying the hymns on the piano. A large congregation of around 90 turned up, many of whom were not members of the cathedral. It was a gentle and lovely start to the Christmas celebrations.





And Finally...

...it wouldn't have been Christmas without the nativity scene, which this year was placed at the west end of the cathedral, by the font. Thalia surveys her work, and that of her family!

25th Anniversary

The cathedral recently hosted the 25th anniversary commemoration of the ordination in Scotland of women as priests. Perth was an appropriate venue for this Scotland-wide ceremony as it is believed that Celia might actually have been the very first, Bishop Michael Hare Duke having ordained her a day ahead of the others. The following photos show some of the moments during a very moving but happy day...



Cathedral clergy, servers, sidesmen and welcomers all in action before the start of the service and below, the bishops and priests start to process in to the cathedral.







On the opposite page, a wonderful array of Scottish bishops and women priests, including some of those ordained in December 1994. Opposite below, Celia, possibly the first woman priest in Scotland, together with Annie, one of the most recent. And on this page, the impressively decorated cake!

Cathedral AGM

The cathedral AGM was held after the morning service on 26 January and as usual was well attended by the congregation.

Provost Hunter, after the welcome, began by reading out the names of members of the congregation who had died in the previous year, and later added, when talking about declining numbers, that we had lost over 40 regularly attending members in the past three years. After his report, which included heartfelt thanks to the members of the clergy team, several members of the vestry spoke about their particular responsibilities.

Christopher Dingwall, in talking about the cathedral precincts, made an appeal for any unwanted garden tools that could be used by the gardener John Blackie. He also warmly thanked all the volunteers who have given so much time to keeping the cathedral garden looking attractive.

Maihri Cameron drew attention to the cathedral's new website and also to our presence on Instagram as well as Facebook.

Annette Cameron indicated that chorister numbers might be boosted by a link with another school - more information to follow. She is also hoping to restart the Friends of Perth Cathedral Music.

Erica Knott announced that Phase I of the restoration project has finally been completed and that the Heritage Lottery Fund have made their final payment. A recent inspection of the building found it to be in generally good shape, although the drains in Atholl Street continue to be a problem - not helped by the number of empty crisp packets which seem to find their way into them.

The provost thanked the vestry for all their hard work over the past year and announced some forthcoming changes, both in the vestry and in other cathedral organisations. Barbara Grant has stood down as vestry secretary and was thanked for all her work in that role. She has been replaced by Jackie McRae. Erica Knott's time on the vestry has come to an end and she too was very warmly thanked for the huge amount of work she has done, particularly with regard to the cathedral restoration and to the property committee. To the relief of all there are plans to co-opt her onto the new vestry. Barry Nisbet has hung up his cassock after many years as prior and head of the servers and has been replaced in both roles by Ian McRae. A proper acknowledgement of Barry's contribution to the cathedral will be made shortly. Andrew Ballantyne is stepping down as the cathedral's representative on PACT (Perth Action of Churches Together) and a replacement is sought. Chris Brown, after attending a great many meetings in his capacity as lay representative, has been replaced by David Brand. Alison Ballantyne replaces David as alternate lay representative. Ethel Spence and Sheila Watters have retired after many years of stewarding and were thanked for all their work.

Treasurer Liz Gardiner presented the cathedral accounts which showed a small surplus, which is clearly 'a good thing'. The provost expressed his great appreciation of all her hard work, support and sound advice. He also announced that the late Willie Murray had left the cathedral £50,000

in his will.

The three vacancies on the vestry were filled by Ian McRae, Jackie McRae and Annabelle O'Connell.

The new vestry will be looking at fund-raising for Phase 2 of the restoration project - concerning the stonework - though it is not anticipated that major works will begin in the foreseeable future. However, some stonework is in a very poor condition and will require remedial action soon.

Finally, Hunter and Carrie would like feedback on the new liturgies for Christmas and Epiphany, and in particular on the Eucharistic prayers which are still at the experimental stage.

Before the meeting ended Irene Rose thanked Hunter for all his work on our behalf.



Birthday Celebrations



Many congratulations to Muriel Martin, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, and to Andrew Ballantyne who is ten years younger. Muriel is pictured with her daughter, also Muriel, and grandson David who used to be a server here.



Many thanks to Christopher Dingwall, Tim Haynes (cover photo of the Advent candles which has been used in this issue for Candlemas!) and others who have kindly submitted photos for the magazine. Keep 'em coming - thank you!

Readers' and Intercessors' Rota

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

John Byrom

9 February - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58.1-12

Pat Butler

(Psalm 112)

1 Corinthians 2.1-16

Maihri Cameron

(Matthew 5.13-20)

Intercessor

Irene Rose

16 February - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sirach 15.15-20

Tim Haynes

(Psalm 119.1-8)

1 Corinthians 3.1-9

Christopher Dingwall

(Matthew 5.21-37)

Intercessor

Chris Brown

16 February - Choral Evensong at 4.30pm

Philippians 3.17-21

Alister Allan

Luke 6.17-26

Alister Allan

23 February - Sunday before Lent

Exodus 24.12-18

Erica Knott

(Psalm 2)

2 Peter 1.16-21

Jennifer Irving

(Matthew 17.1-9)

Intercessor

Christopher Dingwall

26 February - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2.1-12, 13-17

Beth Dark

(Psalm 51.1-18)

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Wendy Evans

(Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21)

Intercessor

Precentor

Garden Tools Wanted



Christopher Dingwall made an appeal at the recent AGM for garden tools that are no longer needed by their owners. They will be made available to anyone working on the cathedral garden. Please speak to Christopher if you can help.

Provost Fortescue

It is a truth universally acknowledged that if a plaque has been attached to a cathedral wall for 140 years, then someone, sometime, will eventually show some interest in it. This has just happened with the high relief sculpture of Provost Fortescue which was put in place in the cathedral in 1879 and which is now in the provost's office. Richard Blake, who used to be a cathedral member many years ago and who now lives in the Borders, is researching the work of the sculptress, Mary Grant, of the Kilgraston family, and hopes to travel to Perth soon to see it.

Lights and Locks



If visiting the cathedral outwith normal opening hours would you please remember to switch off the lights and lock all the doors before leaving. Thank you!



From the Farquhar Diaries

The Very Rev. Patrick Murray Smythe was appointed provost at St. Ninian's in 1911, remaining there until his retirement in 1934. In 1920 he appointed a committee to speak for the congregation, and George Farquhar in his diary wrote:

15 January 1920. Restless reform is his life and I think he pictured to himself that, if he could only get democratic representation it would be all of his spirit, whereas, now that he has got it, his changes are not acceptable. The old fashioned ways, which he assumed were dead as a doornail, are what the democracy wants. Being old fashioned myself, but a Conservative, the changes have not been altogether acceptable to myself, but out of loyalty to the Provost I have said nothing. His minimizing of Matins & Evensong; his dropping the 'Saint' before the Saints' names; his coldness towards the seasons of the Christian Year; his critical attitude towards the Nicene & Apostle Creeds: his terrific emphasis upon the Holy Communion and practical treatment of fasting as a necessity before it: his always siding with "the other side" in controversial points of Theology & Politics make up an aggravating whole. And yet his own personality is very attractive. Nothing will induce him to quarrel; he is always smiling and always hard at work for the Church. Altogether he is curious to me. This bright, amiable, inoffensive, smiling brushing-aside of all the little things which you love in the Church, and the quasi-unconscious insistence on things which aggravate make up, as I say, a curious blend! Of course, as he is a highly sensitive & refined (though not, I think very sympathetic) man, ...he is far too accomplished a gentleman, man of the world & Christian, to act upon an impulse of hurt feeling and he will be most bland and companionable with the sidesmen - and score off them too, shouting with good-natured laughter!

An interesting pen portrait of a provost whom some in the congregation might still remember? Many thanks as always to Margaret Lye for this extract from her published edition of The Diary of the Very Rev GTS Farquhar.

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.

TRADCRAFT 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 March issue is 16 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
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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