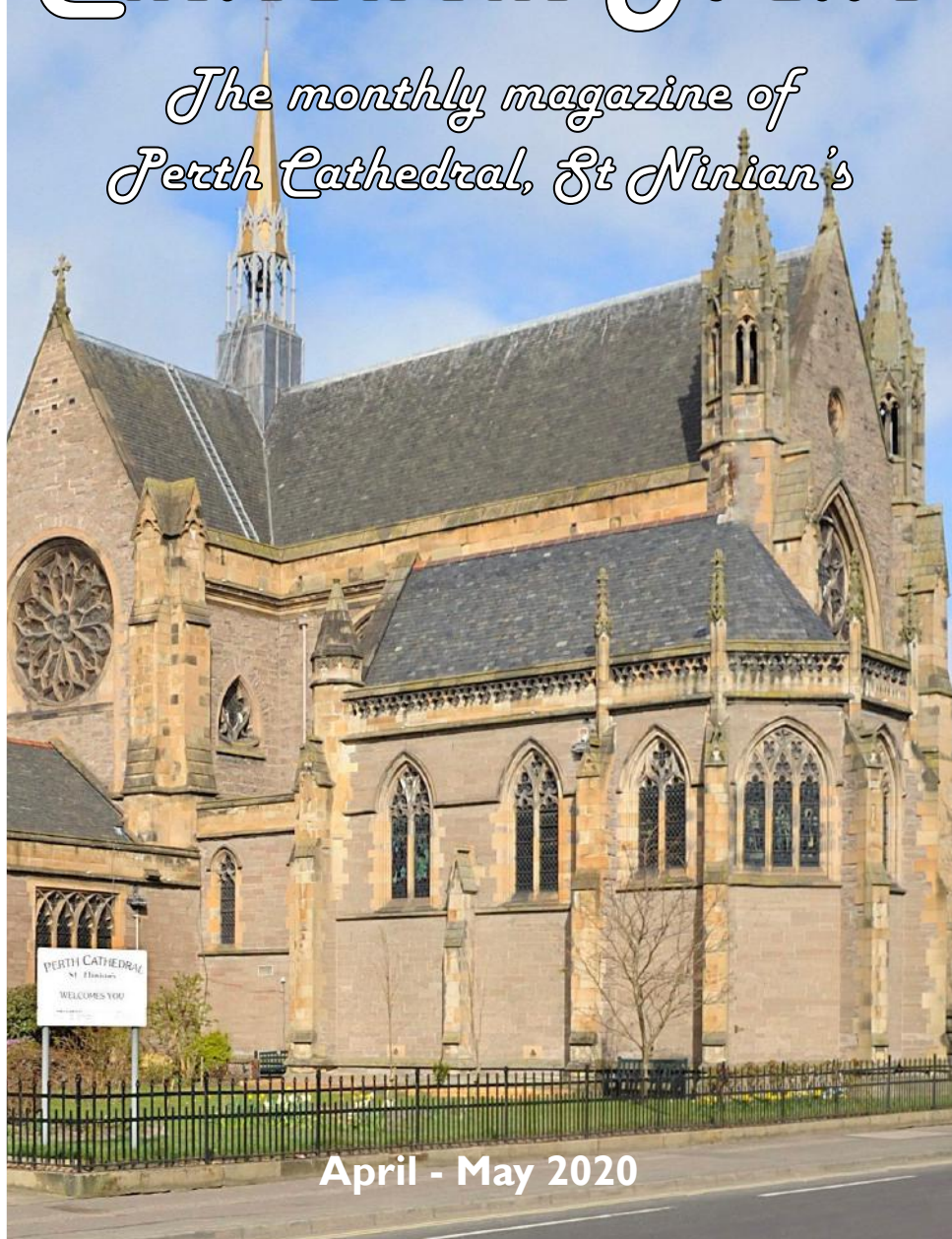


Cathedral News

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



April - May 2020

St Ninian's Cathedral Who's Who



From the Provost

Dear Friends

**Alleluia, alleluia, Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Many of us are in total self-isolation, with shopping being delivered by different people and organisations. If you are 70 years of age and older this is a wise plan to follow, if at all possible. For those of us who need to go out, social distancing is so important as is keeping our hands clean. Wearing a mask seems to be a personal choice but if it makes you feel more secure, then I would say wear one if you want.



Shielding ourselves will mean different things in different situations, but if you are living at home there are some simple things we can do to make it difficult for Covid-19 to get a foot in the door! We don't all have access to hand sanitiser but washing with soap is just as effective. We should wash our hands after touching shopping as we put it away. We should wash after touching anything that others have recently touched. We also need to stand well back if someone comes to our door, and we are told we must not invite anyone in, unless totally necessary.

Wellbeing is now widely being discussed – trying to stick to a routine

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does help. Taking exercise, eating well and regularly, keeping in touch with people and praying, praying and praying...

This pandemic causes great anxiety, worry and uncertainty for us all. It's really good to share this and to be honest. Every day is different and our emotions are like yoyos! As we try to be kind to others, we need also to be kind to ourselves. Having a Christian faith does not exempt us from these difficult times. But our faith should give us some of the support and encouragement that we all need.

We learn from scripture that we should respect those who govern us and order our society. I would urge you to take seriously the measures our government have adopted, and to remember that scrupulous observation of these measures is not only for our own protection, but also for that of the most vulnerable in our society. If we don't observe the measures put in place, we not only put ourselves at risk, but others.

All Christians around the world will be praying for this pandemic to come to a swift end. I should imagine that's the wish of all who work in the area of medicine, especially in our hospitals and in nursing homes, where people are putting their lives on the line for others. Please pray for all scientists in every country as they race against time to develop a vaccine. In my own prayers I've been trying to use the Psalms as a focus and below are two well-known psalms that I seem to use more and more.

The wonderful thing about our response to the coronavirus is the way in which we are having to make connections with one another and our families in new ways and the resolve it's giving us in reaching out to each other. There's joy, much joy to be found and shared. I read in the Sunday papers that due to self-isolation a baby boom is now envisaged and that in 2033 these babies will be known as the quaranteens! You have to laugh!

With love every blessing.

Be safe!
Hunter

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff -
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.



The still waters of Loch Ness

Some verses from Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength:
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved:
and though the mountains are shaken in the midst of the sea;
Though the waters rage and foam:
and though the mountains quake at the rising of the sea.

'Be still, and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted upon the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Readings and Collects for May

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 26 April

Collect: O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 2.14a,36-41, Psalm 116.1-3(4-9)10-17, 1 Peter 1.17-23, Luke 24.13-35

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3 May

Collect: O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 2.42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2.19-25, John 10.1-10

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10 May

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his

commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 7.55-60, Psalm 31.1-5,15-16, 1 Peter 2.2-10, John 14.1-14

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 17 May

Collect: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 17.22-31, Psalm 66.7-18, 1 Peter 3.13-22, John 14.15-21

ASCENSION OF THE LORD 21 May

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 1.1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1.15-23, Luke 24.44-53

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 24 May

Collect: Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 1.6-14, Psalm 68.1-10,33-36, 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11, John 17.1-11

THE DAY OF PENTECOST 31 May

Collect: Almighty and ever-living God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 2.1-21, Psalm 104.25-35,37, 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13, John 20.19-23

SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST - TRINITY SUNDAY 7 June

Collect: Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Readings: Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13.11-13, Matthew 28.16-20

Just a Thought... and Something to Do

From the Provost

In times of crisis, such as this coronavirus pandemic, I believe that being proactive in prayer is a strong response. We can all pray daily for hope, strength, and healing for ourselves as well as for our families, friends, neighbours, and for our nation.

I've set up a little prayer corner in my home, to give myself more of a focus. The cross is from the First World War, found during the Battle of the Somme. The icon is of St Luke, a gift from the people of St Luke's Glenrothes. Many scholars believe that Luke was a Greek physician, so a good focus for healing. And the lamps are for evening meals outside, but as I light them inside, I'm reminded of our beautiful cathedral and the congregation! I



find it calming, just to sit and look at the religious items and to pray and to listen to God....to 'Be still and know that I am God.'

May I encourage you to do likewise, if you can. I offer my anxiety to God about how long this is going to go on for. I offer my distress and upset for those whose lives have been cut short, for those who grieve and those who are suffering as a result of Covid-19. I think of those whose livelihoods have been disrupted or their businesses closed altogether – those who are struggling financially. And of course I give thanks along with everyone else, for those selfless people who put their lives on the line for others.

I found this prayer (which I have adapted slightly) written by Archbishop Michael Jackson, Dublin & Glendalough;

A Prayer in the Time of the Coronavirus

Almighty and all-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the coronavirus Covid-19
in Scotland and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease.

Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.

Cathedral Round Up

Pancake Party

How quickly things change! The normality of this year's pancake party, on Tuesday 25 February, seems an age ago. It was, however, another excellent evening of tucking into piles of pancakes, enjoying good conversation and finishing off with races and tossing competitions. Thanks as always to Hunter and Wendy who spent the morning slaving over hot frying pans, to Pat and others who set up the Chapter House, laying the tables with lemon, syrup, fruit salad and skooshy cream, and to those who tidied up afterwards. The photos below and opposite show some of those who attended and who took part in the races etc. Opposite, below, shows Lily Cate attempting the highest toss. The wily editor, entering for the pensioners' highest toss and having observed one youngster's success, asked him what the technique was. He explained and it worked. The aforesaid youngster, however, didn't explain how to catch the d****d thing when it came down!





One of our Newest Members!

A very warm welcome to Hudson Alan Martin Treacey who was baptised in the cathedral on Sunday 23 February. Hudson is the son of Karys McHattie and Oliver Treacey, grandson of Alan and Trudi McHattie and nephew of Lucy. There have been a few babies baptised in the cathedral in recent weeks; the editor would be delighted to publish their photos too if they - or even their parents - would care to email them to him at cathedralmagazine@gmail.com .



Prior Barry Steps Down

Retiral of Head Server and Prior

I had been considering for some time standing down as prior of our cathedral's servers and head server. Eventually, I decided to demit office at the end of the church year in November 2019.

I have had the privilege of being prior since 1987, when I succeeded the late Charlie Kidd. Thirty-two years later, I have passed the burden to someone younger and fitter than I am.

When I began to consider my retiral, I was not at all sure who would follow me and take up the responsibility. But, cometh the hour, cometh the person and Ian McRae stepped forward and agreed to take over. I wish him every success, in the hope that he enjoys the position as much as I have done. Ian has kindly agreed that I may continue serving but, at my request, less frequently.

I am continuing as guardian of servers in Perthshire and Angus and as membership secretary of the Scottish Guild of Servers.

I began serving at the altar as a schoolboy about 1954 at St John's Church, Forfar. I was joined by my brother and the two sons of the then rector, the late Rev'd Canon Douglas Noble. In my early days, when at an early morning celebration and was overcome by the occasion, I fainted onto the stone floor of the sanctuary and was scooped up by the rector's wife and removed to recover in the vestry. A generation later my elder daughter Fiona also collapsed by the altar while serving at the early service in the cathedral and was scooped up by myself and taken through to the sacristy.

With a break during my university years, I have been a server for over 60 years and, so far, have not fainted again!

I have been greatly blessed by the ability and commitment of the servers with whom I have worked over the years. I have also been supported



New prior, Ian McRae, wishes the prior prior, Barry Nisbet, a happy retirement. Not wishing to pry or anything, but Barry should, a priori, now have more time to devote to his other interests...

and inspired by Provost Hunter and the many clergy whom I have been privileged to assist at the altar.

I must thank and remember those who have been sub-prior, including the late Tom Richmond and Chic Layland. More recently, I must mention my sub-prior, Irene Rose, who has been an immense support to me. I hope she will continue her good work in her allegiance to Ian.

I should like to thank and remember all the sacristans whose care, over the years, of the vestments, silverware and all the holy objects has assisted us in our duties.

Finally, I must thank my wife Liz for her comfort and support, especially during stressful times, including the rigours of Holy Week and impending

big services including ordinations, consecrations of bishops and so on. Additionally, when I would become frustrated at my lack of computer skills, Liz always stepped in and pressed the correct buttons to design templates and process rotas, documents and reports.

Finally, I want to thank you, the St Ninian's congregation, for your love and support over so many years.

J Barry Nisbet
Head Server and Prior 1987-2019
Thanks be to God

Letters from Lockdown

Following a suggestion from the Provost, the editor has emailed a few members of the congregation and asked them to write about their experiences of the lockdown to date. Thank you to all who have responded so far and, if the lockdown continues, the editor would be delighted to receive further contributions for publication in the June magazine. Separation from family and friends, including the cathedral family, is a lonely business and it's perhaps comforting to know that others have similar difficulties and concerns.

From Fiona Crighton

Bill and I seem to be having no problem finding things to do in our house and garden as we endeavour to keep to social distancing and stay upbeat at this difficult time for us all.

We are very lucky to live in such a beautiful area, so taking exercise daily consists of Bill walking around and about this lovely place whilst I generally try to increase my circuits of our large garden. We have to take advantage of the M&S 'golden oldies' hour, 8.30 - 9.30am, on a Monday or Thursday to buy food as our nearest relatives are about an hour away from us. How do we spend our time, excluding the usual cleaning, cooking, washing and ironing which we share? Well, we have puzzles lined up daily to complete, and waiting in the wings is a 1000-piece jigsaw and a paint-by-numbers set! We are re-visiting hobbies that

in 'normal' times we wouldn't have time to do. Bill has resurrected his Hornby Dublo model railway after about 60 years, which needs some TLC. I have more time to read and catalogue my large collection of Rupert Bear annuals, newsletters, books and other Ruperty things. Incidentally Rupert celebrates his 100th birthday this year and I hope to have a family birthday party, not only to cheer Rupert on for another 100 years, but to celebrate nine family birthdays that have or will take place shortly. We keep in touch with family by phone and email daily which is very helpful, whilst a dozen or so of our friends are contacted regularly. Praying is a hugely important part of our day (thank you, Hunter and Carrie, for your uplifting prayers and readings). We have family members who are in the frontline of this pandemic, in nursing and the police, and knowing our Lord walks with us all is a great solace at this worrying time. I miss my choir colleagues, singing in the Cathedral, and being able to give family and friends hugs - something to look forward to. Bill misses his colleagues in the National Museum and we both hope that the wonderful work being done to develop a vaccine to make all safe and well once again will come to fruition soonest. We hold all of you in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all and keep you safe.

From Margot Dunnachie

I would love to be able to describe my life in lockdown as I imagined it would be when the lockdown began. I had plans of getting down to some much needed decluttering and organising of my flat, of doing some creative work, and re-reading and trying to grasp more fully a book about cruciform theology. However in reality no decluttering has been done, the making of one birthday card for a friend is not exactly a creative flow, and while I have been doing some reading, the book on cruciform theology is still lying unopened! Circumstances may have changed but I am still the same person, I am still a thinker, and by that I mean I think about doing a lot of things but it's a minor miracle if I actually get around to doing any of them!

So how do I spend my days? Mostly I drift through them in an undisciplined way: I write emails to friends, telephone my family, go for walks down by the Tay estuary which exercises my body and feeds my

soul, watch TV, and every seven to ten days I pluck up the courage to shop for food; as time has gone on, I'm glad to say, this has eased from having a niggle of fear about it to just slight trepidation.

I have enjoyed watching the online services on YouTube and the one discipline in my life is that over breakfast there is a meld of reading, meditating, praying and journaling, sometimes very meaningful and other times I'm just going through the motions. A couple of weeks ago, through the SEC website, I came across this phrase in Zechariah 9 'Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;' this unusual pairing of 'hope' and being a 'prisoner' caught my attention. In this season of lockdown may we all be 'prisoners of hope' for that is our stronghold against fear and despair. Until we are able to meet together again, health and peace to you all.

From John and Maureen Wright

Our lockdown began in a dramatic fashion when our youngest daughter, Laura, had to rush down to her sister in Bolton to home-school and look after our granddaughters while their parents responded to increased hours on the front line in the NHS. Determined not to lose our fitness John decided to take isolation to a new level by jogging alone on the North Inch at 6.00am. This was followed by a home exercise routine, using cans of beans as weights. By day three John was on his own as Maureen headed out to buy a support bandage for a sprained wrist!

Our morning routine began with a quiz. We were invited to join a family league of 20 teams and each day it was nerve wracking to see how we had scored the previous day. Much time was spent working out anagrams and trying to identify actors and pop stars, most of whom we didn't recognise!

We have been glad of the apps which keep us in touch with family and friends and we appreciated receiving communications from the team at St. Ninian's. It was lovely to receive a palm branch in the post and we have greatly enjoyed the services on YouTube. As well as the spiritual element it has been fun to see inside the homes of various clergy and to admire their decor!

Easter Sunday was a particularly special day for us this year as John celebrated his 70th birthday (and manfully accepted his new status as 'vulnerable'). It was certainly memorable but not one he would wish to repeat! A highlight was a 'virtual' party when seven groups of family called in and sang *Happy Birthday*.

We have filled our days with tasks in the house and garden but, so far, have resisted the temptation to invest in a power washer, which seems to have become the 'must have' item in our street. The air is filled with what sounds like a swarm of bees (competing with the bird song) as water gushes down the road, revealing bright garden walls which used to be grey. However, if lockdown goes on much longer we may not be able to resist!

We are looking forward to the day we can all meet again in the cathedral.

From Cate Wilson

I've just come in from our summerhouse. The sun is shining warmly and were it not for a cool breeze, it could full summer. How far away the horrors of the coronavirus seem in our garden! And yet a wave of fear can come over me all too often when I think of my daughter and her husband toiling away for the NHS. I push the anxiety away from me. It will not help them. Next I feel guilty because I am not still working as a doctor and doing something to ease the suffering of Covid patients. It is difficult to accept that staying at home is the best contribution I can make.

Each day rolls by. Domestic tasks, a local walk or cycle on the Inch, my university course work, reading, and listening to music take up much of my time. I message, email and call friends and family, some enduring Covid and some being shielded. I hope to be a check-in and chat volunteer but that is not yet set up properly, which is frustrating.

There are two situations that I find very hard to deal with. One is supermarket shopping. I get scared and angry because people are coming too close, loitering in the aisles. That makes me bossy and I tell them off.

I don't feel good about that. Then there is seeing the grandchildren and not being able to hold them. I can't help but get tearful afterwards. All these things I need to lay down before my Lord and trust in him. I am trying. 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' 1 Peter Chap 5 v 7 NIV.

From Jennifer Irving

I am actually enjoying 'life in lockdown'. Last October and November I went away on a six-week silent retreat and in many ways it has been a great preparation for what is happening now. Then, my days were lived simply and according to a set pattern and I have adopted a similar one now:

Breakfast and prayers

Emails and phone calls

Coffee

Domestic activities, exercise (walking or cycling) – often combining with getting essential shopping

Lunch

Gardening and interest activities

Evening meal

Phone calls, emails, reading etc

Review of the day and prayers

Bed

I let each day unfold and am amazed at the variety that materialises. The review is full of thanksgiving and gratitude. I limit myself to one daily news bulletin and focus on the positive things that happen rather than getting diverted into worrying about things I cannot affect. I link in with the cathedral family each day but particularly on Sunday at 11.00am and Wednesday at 10.00am for prayer and meditation with three others. I coordinate the prayer requests and circulate them to Emmanuel, Andrew Ballantyne and David Brand. We are happy to receive requests for prayer. These are held in confidence. Life is unhurried and less frantic but thankfully God seems to be with me each day.

From Jamie Gardner

At time of writing, we have nearly had a month of lockdown already, and looking at least at another three weeks before any sign of restrictions ending. It has certainly been a month to remember. I think like most people I wasn't planning on giving up quite so much for Lent!

The lockdown day, 23 March, will be a day to remember as I had just moved job, just had my first day and had already planned the next day in the office with papers I planned to work on printed out - they are still in the drawer, untouched. Little did I know, when I said 'See you tomorrow morning', that that would be the last time I would be in the office and indeed Perth.

On the Wednesday night I got a call about 9.00pm telling me that I had been selected as a key worker to start up the Blairgowrie Activity Centre on the Thursday morning for NHS staff children. This was one of those moments of not knowing - how many would be there, who would I be working with, and how am I going to keep social distancing in a play and care environment? There are certain Biblical references about being cast out into the unknown, and this certainly felt like it. I arrived at the campus in the morning and was pleased to see that at least one familiar face was also there and as equally in the dark as I was. The team consisted of five staff, so we muddled our way through the seven days we were working together, until other staff teams were set up.

During Lent, as well as joining the provincial services on a Sunday, I have had the joy of being involved in an Envoy group which is organised by the Church Army. This was like a mini Xplore project, with online teaching and group discussion for each of the weeks. Xplore is a Church Army project for those between 18 and 30 who want to live missionally doing evangelism. It runs from September to June each year and is peer-led. Everyone gets to do evangelism within their own context.

I wasn't completely sure what I would make of the six weeks, and whether it would be right for me, but once I had agreed a time and day to meet over Skype with the course facilitator, Emma, I felt that I would go into it with an open heart and mind. The first call was a bit difficult

with technology, and it was just Emma, Meg, a children and youth worker in Essex, and I. This was great and allowed us to share our faith journeys and give each other some new and fresh ideas for working with children and young people. A week later the group grew from three to seven, when some of the other current Xplore participants joined in. A lot of the content was reaffirming for me and I got a lot out of the six weeks. This week, the final one, was really special at the end as each person prayed for me as I left the group. Maybe in September I will be doing the full Xplore, we will see.

Another regular activity, at this strange time, as well as the Daily Office, going for a walk in the evening and on a Sunday, the Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship leadership team have been doing a blog or vlog for the young people, families, and the congregation of Holy Trinity Dunfermline. I have been doing a weekly update, often in the fields while on a walk, and sharing thoughts about my week. You can see some of the updates on the website: <http://holytrinitychurch.org.uk/yf-social-distancing-update/> .

Provincially, we are supporting our young people through this crisis. We have had to cancel the Glenalmond Youth Week in August, but the leadership team are still busy planning online activities and worship to bring young people together across the province. So far we have had two very good acts of worship and evening prayer over the last few weeks. Anyone with access to social media can see the worship videos that were used as part of the online service. I am continually in awe at the thoughts and deep connections to faith that young people in our diocese and province share openly with each other, and the rest of us in the church.

Hopefully, before too long, we will be back, worshipping together in our cathedral, and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

From Erica Knott

I have been working from home since 18 March when my organisation - Scottish Natural Heritage - made the decision that we should all work from home. My routine in some respects has not changed much. I still have Fala, who is 6 months old, to walk and so we get up and go for a

walk on the North Inch or along the River Tay upstream and downstream most days. Monday to Friday sees me working from home. The first few weeks were spent adjusting to the new normal, with a lot of video conference calls and telephone calls. I am lucky to have members of my team who have been working from home for more than ten years and who have helped the rest of us understand some of the more challenging technical glitches we face. Some of the team are juggling small children and partners who are key workers, so we are all having to manage our expectations about what we can achieve. My workload has increased – the importance of the climate change emergency and the biodiversity crisis alongside this pandemic is highlighting what we will need to do as we emerge from lockdown. Encouragingly, the Scottish Government are discussing the need for a green recovery alongside the economic recovery, so my area of work on marine renewable projects will continue to increase in importance. At work, after a recent staff wellbeing survey, I was so heartened to read two of the key messages from our senior leadership team:

You are not ‘working from home’ - you are ‘at home during a crisis trying to work’.

Your personal physical, mental and emotional health is far more important than anything else right now.

My colleagues and I realise how lucky we are to work in such a thoughtful organisation.

Holy Week and Easter also took on a new meaning for me, and I really appreciated the suggestions for prayer and readings sent out by Hunter. I also managed to follow the online services on the Scottish Episcopal website. It was great to see familiar faces including Carrie and the Bishop celebrate Easter. I regularly keep in touch with my three brothers and their families and once a week I deliver shopping to a neighbour and also to Dorothy Clough. I won't mind when food shopping returns to normal and doesn't take up quite so much of my free time. I took a day off in mid-April as it was my birthday. I wasn't sure what it would be like, but in the end the weather was kind, and I had an enjoyable time out in the garden and considered how fortunate I am, with good health, room to

myself in a house and garden and with spring bringing everything to life around me. I hope to see you all back in our cathedral soon, safe and well.

From John Byrom

Up here in the countryside, lockdown looks quite like un-lockdown. My students in Moscow are having a hard time, unable to find out whether their examinations are going to take place or not, so I'm still answering their questions about the details of English - but apart from that it's been all about birds, bees, lambs and painting my shed. God the Creator. At school I never studied biology, so, deafened by birdsong, I've been reading books about the natural world, in particular a Norwegian volume *Insektenes Planet*. A revelation all about flies. I never knew that there were 4100 types of wasp in Norway or that if you had 25 banana flies and let them rip without predation for a year, the diameter of the ball they would create would be greater than the distance to the sun. A termite queen drops one egg every three seconds - for life: so she won't be asking what the children will do when they grow up. A chance to contemplate the fact that small may be beautiful, but it's certainly massively important.

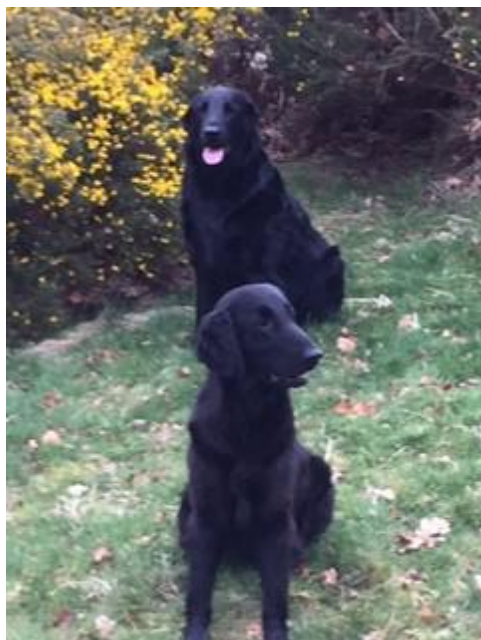
From Maihri Cameron

The last few weeks have been quite an adventure! Off I trundled to London for a five-day nannying job in mid-March and I'm still here six weeks later! So far lockdown has enabled me to develop a variety of new skills including: teaching - I'm home-schooling my two eldest charges, according to whom I should 'stick to the day job' - thanks guys! ; DIY - my proudest achievement so far is building a flat-pack play kitchen for my youngest charge (thank goodness he likes it!); dressmaking - my six-year old's Barbie now has a more extensive wardrobe than any celebrity; online shopping - I've discovered the best way to keep the housekeeper happy is to find her a regular supply of Jaffa cakes (thank you, Amazon Prime!); patience - when the children have asked me several times in one day if the government considers the tooth fairy to be a key worker (still working on an answer for that one). I hope my skill set will continue to grow over the next few weeks but through all this learning, I think I've

experienced every emotion possible. There have been moments of joy, disbelief, exhaustion and frustration. I don't think I've ever been more grateful for the technology available to communicate with friends and family but I still I can't wait to see you all when lockdown is over!

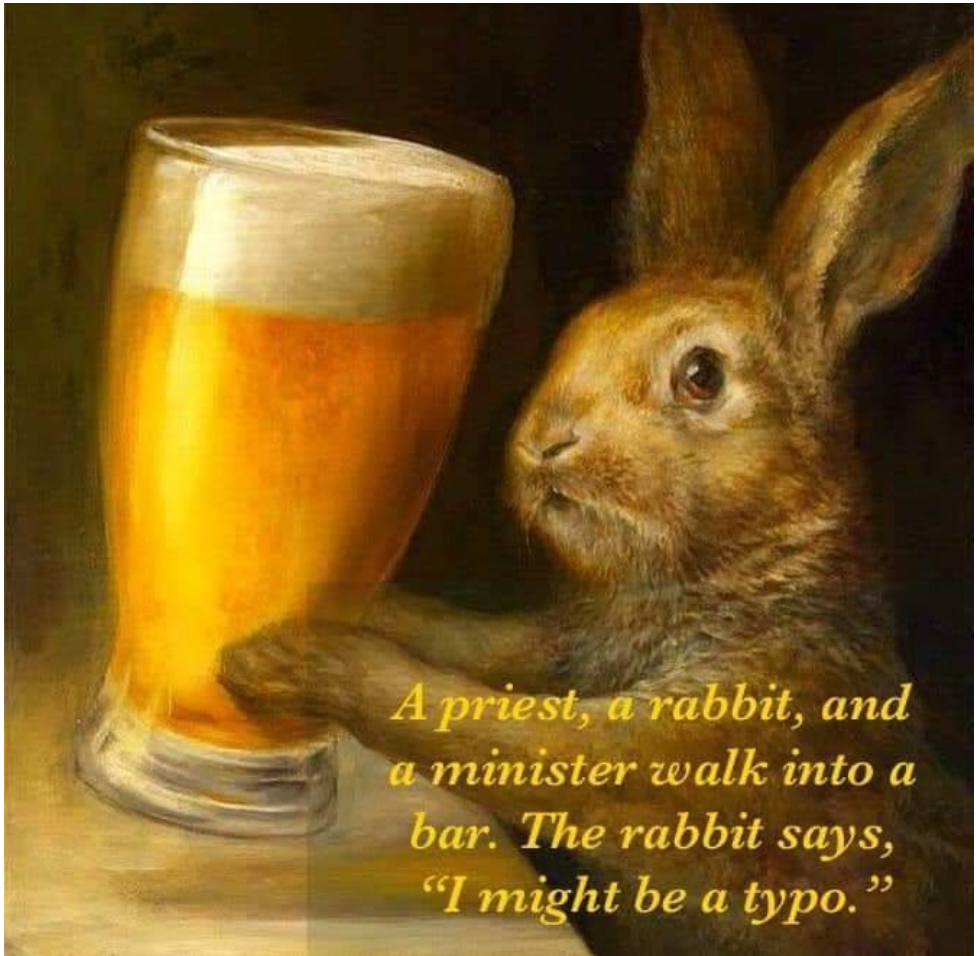
Dogs, dogs and dogs!

As most of you will know, the Provost has a new rescue dog called Bridie (*below left*), named after Saint Bride. She has started to settle down and is now keen on gardening, but makes a bit of a mess at times. Perfect Ted, of course, just watches from afar!



Cover Illustration

Many thanks to Bill Crighton for sending in this recent photo of the cathedral. He took advantage of a much quieter North Methven Street to photograph it, in its entirety, in spring sunshine. It has, though, been somewhat cropped to fit the page - with apologies to the photographer!



*A priest, a rabbit, and
a minister walk into a
bar. The rabbit says,
“I might be a typo.”*

Eddie the Eagle says...

Was it something I said? Apart from the clergy I haven't seen a soul for days, weeks even. Is there something going on in the outside world I don't know about? I thought I overheard the Provost say it was all to do with the Primus, but I may have misheard him...



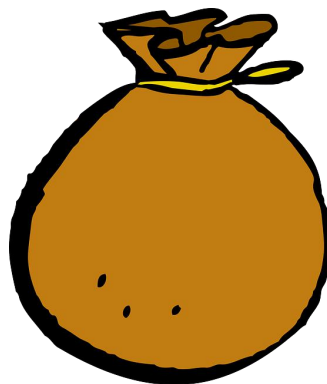
From the Farquhar Diaries

21 May 1920. Having finished the great task of writing my “Memoirs of Perth Cathedral 1883-1918”, which took nearly three years, I have had time to read a little and I have read the second volume of an English translation of Plativer’s “Lives of the Popes” but it was altogether beyond me to follow the ceaseless, centuries-long faction fights in Italy. I have also re-read Bernard’s 1864 Bampton Lectures on “The Progress of Doctrine in the N.T.” I think it is a most suggestive & edifying book. N. & Elizabeth with some help from me in the book line have got the house (1 Balhousie Bank) where we have lived very happily for the last 16½ years, pretty well but not altogether upside down, with a view to our “flitting” into 31 Barossa Place, about 200 yards way. For some time we have had access to the garden of No.31 and have planted a good many vegetables which are springing up. We are to move at the end of next week. We shall greatly miss the beautiful view over the N. Inch but are extremely thankful that we have got such an excellent house & so near the Cathedral to move into & the outlook both in front & behind is into our garden & there are trees about.

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

The Great Pluto Challenge

There were no correct entries - indeed, there were no entries at all - to the recent competition/challenge to find the link between the March Farquhar diary extract and the ex-planet Pluto. So here’s the answer... the Schweich lecture read by our very reverend friend was given by one C F Burney whose daughter, Venetia, aged 11, is credited with suggesting the name for the newly discovered planet. Eddie told me it was an easy question and I’d have a bulging postbag. Ah well...



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 (temporarily suspended)

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 (after the lockdown) 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 June issue is
24 May.**

**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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