

Cathedral News

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

July 2020

St Ninian's Cathedral

Who's Who



From the Provost

Dear Friends

You will see that this is the July edition of the cathedral magazine. Normally at this time we do a combined July and August edition, but Jeremy Duncan has kindly offered to put together an August issue as an extra, to help keep us all up to speed and in touch. Our thanks as always to Jeremy for pulling the magazine together and for producing, printing, collating and posting it out. I think somehow Wendy may be involved too [very much so! - Ed.] - so grateful thanks to them both.



We've all been living through a frightening pandemic. It makes me shudder each day as I listen to news of the numbers of people still dying from the effects of Covid-19. Numbers cannot tell of the grief, devastation and sadness of nearly 44,000 families who have lost loved ones. All that's left is prayer. Even though most of us don't know these families, we can still hold them in our hearts that they may know the love and comfort of God.

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Amidst all this we witnessed on our news programmes the brutal murder of George Floyd. It would be easy for us to point the finger and shake our heads at the USA, but racism and injustice is very much woven into the fabric of our own society, and in fact our nation has a long and sinful history of the most dreadful systematic racial injustice. We cannot change our history, but we can all start to look at our own prejudices and fears and try to sort out ourselves and our own history. The reality is, that we all have a responsibility to ensure equality for all. You only have to look at the sort of people Jesus spent his time with in his short ministry – the poor, the downcast, the sick, frail and vulnerable, to know, as Christian people, what we should be about. None of this is easy but it's something we really need to grapple with.

As you will know we are now in phase two of the Scottish Government's plans, allowing us a little more freedom whilst staying as safe as we can be. We now have the opportunity to open the cathedral for private personal prayer only, for funerals and for emergency weddings! This is not just a matter of opening the pearly gates. There are many things to be done and a few of us are working hard to get the cathedral prepared. I hope we can be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday. I will be around much of the time, but we are supposed to have at least two people on duty. Being on duty means sitting safely in the main office and directing people if needs be. If you think you could help then please do telephone me. There will be a short training session which is mainly common sense. I hope we will be open by Monday 6 July.

As I walk around and drive through Perth, I see pictures of rainbows placed in shop windows, house windows, even on bus windows. I think most of them have been produced by children. Of course, the rainbow has long been a sign of hope and change. If you remember Noah and the flood, when the water went down, God showed Noah a rainbow in the sky to assure him that it was safe to move freely on the earth. The rainbow became a sign of safety, welcome and love.

At this time of the year the LGBTQ community would normally have had what's known as PRIDE marches throughout towns and cities all over the world. Their symbol is the rainbow which signifies inclusion and

tolerance. It reminds us of our Gospel that encourages us to show respect for each other, to make sure all are included and loved. It's not difficult to think of a time when we have felt welcomed with warmth, love and kindness, enabling us to relax and to be ourselves, be who we are meant to be - to be exactly the person God created us to be.



What does it take for us, so that every person we meet, every single person, no matter who they are, how they identify, who they love, the language they speak, the colour of their skin or how rich or poor they may be, to make people feel welcomed and loved? What does it take?

This is what we are all called to do. To make others know they matter and that we care. Imagine what it would be like to make every person we meet feel as good and as warm and as loved as we feel when we are shown these qualities. It's something we can all do, no matter what God has called us to be in life. Maybe one of the good things to have come out of this pandemic, is that we are all vulnerable and that we all need reassurance and care and we all need to know that we are loved. The rainbow, then, is the perfect sign.

Please do keep in your prayers those we know to be unwell and those who are struggling and lonely, and give thanks for all those who help to sustain our lives.

With love and every blessing,
Hunter

Readings and Collects for July

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 5 July

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of your children we do also for him. Give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, but lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Zechariah 9.9-12, Psalm 145.8-15, Romans 7.15-25a, Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 12 July

Collect: Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 55.10-13, Psalm 65.(1-8)9-14, Romans 8.1-11, Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 19 July

Collect: Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 44.6-8, Psalm 86.11-17, Romans 8.12-25, Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 26 July

Collect: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Readings: 1 Kings 3.5-12, Psalm 119.129-136, Romans 8.26-39, Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 2 August

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-5, Psalm 145.8-9, 15-22, Romans 9.1-5, Matthew 14.13-21

Christian Aid News

Elaine Cameron from our sister congregation of St John's, Princes Street would like to thank everyone who sponsored her 'Round the Inch' cycle ride. She completed 100 kilometres in total and, together with Gift Aid, raised around £1500 for this very worthy charity.

Coronavirus Emergency Appeal

The coronavirus outbreak threatens the health of our neighbours near and far. Together we must respond quickly to help the most vulnerable. Coronavirus is now spreading across the world's poorest countries, putting people living in poverty at great risk. These people are already facing a lack of water, food and healthcare. Some are homeless or living with underlying health issues such as HIV. As coronavirus infection rates speed up, they will feel the impacts of the virus deeply. We must respond now. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. Please donate today, preferably via the website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal> or by phoning Christian Aid direct on 020 7523 2226.

Together with our local partners, Christian Aid is working to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world. We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection. We are providing essential soap, water and handwashing training. We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe. We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

Worshipping From Home

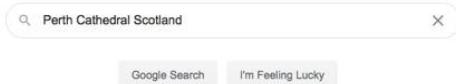
Online

A number of people have been having trouble accessing online worship so I thought I'd write a little guide to help with any problems.

- I. Open Google on your computer



2. Perth Cathedral in the search bar



3. Click on the first link that comes on your screen. This will take you to the cathedral home page.



Online Worship for the Second Sunday after Pentecost

For the Second Sunday after Pentecost (14 June) the Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, celebrates the Eucharist from St Duthac's Chapel, Arpafeelie.

Bishop Mark will be joined digitally by people from the Diocese of Moray, Ross & Caithness and the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. The service will commence at 11am and can be accessed at https://myoutube.com/watch?v=IdN_zygIDlo

[Read more...](#)



4. Click on the 'News' tab across the top of the page.

5. Click on the blue Youtube link for the most recent Sunday.

I hope these platforms help us feel connected to each other as well as aiding our worship. I'd love to hear any feedback about any of our cathedral social media so please do let me know any thoughts. If anyone is having trouble accessing online worship then please email me and I'd be more than happy to lend a hand. Stay safe everyone!

Maihri Cameron

By Telephone

The communications team of the Scottish Episcopal Church are pleased

to announce that we now have a method of joining our broadcast Sunday and Thursday worship services by telephone.

This service is designed for members of the congregation who do not have access to the internet, but who may wish to join our provincial broadcast services.

The service is run via Zoom, and as such there are a few steps to take to join the service, but we have aimed to make it as simple as possible.

The service is run via a freephone line and will not cost any money when dialling on a landline or mobile phone.

As we have no method of contacting these people, we would ask that you share these details widely amongst members of your congregation who do not have access to the internet. We do ask however, in order to keep this service sustainable, please only distribute the details to those who you think cannot access the internet as there is a cost implication to the GSO who will pick up the charges for every call.

How to join the service over the phone

In order to hear our broadcast service over the phone there are a couple of things you need to do.

1. Phone the freephone line before 11.00am. The phone line will be active from 10.45 before the service. In case of any difficulties, we encourage you to phone in as early as possible.
2. Once you have called the number you will be prompted to enter a 'meeting ID'. Type this number on your phone's keypad, then press the # key.
3. After this you will be prompted to enter a participant ID. Simply ignore this step, and once again press the # key.
4. You should then hear music, and a sporadic countdown until the start of the service.
5. The service will run according to the 1982 liturgy. While you are listening you will be joining hundreds of others worshipping at exactly the same time. Those who have been participating on the

internet have been praying along at home, some even joining in to sing. Although the service is recorded, everyone watching or listening is worshipping at the same time.

If you have any problems accessing the service, please feel free to contact the General Synod Office and ask for Aidan Strange - the Digital Communications Co-ordinator - to call you back on a number you provide. He will aim to be in touch before the next service to help you resolve any problems with the telephone service.

The details are as follows:

The phone number is 0800 260 5801

Sunday worship

Meeting ID: 817 1523 4515

The service begins at 11.00am

The phone line is open at 10.45am

The service lasts around 30-40 minutes

Thursday worship

Meeting ID: 894 7162 6403

The service begins at 6.30pm

The phone line is open at 6.15pm

The service lasts around 20-30 minutes



Aidan Strange
General Synod Office

How Are You Doing?

If you've enjoyed hearing about how other members of the congregation are doing during lockdown then they would like to hear from you too! Why not send even just a line or two to *Cathedral News*? We'd love to hear from you. Contact details on pages 2 and 27 of this issue!

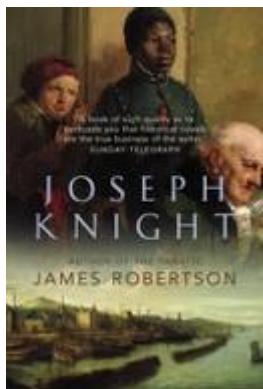
Literature in Lockdown

Many of us have been finding we have had a bit more time for reading during the lockdown. We asked some of the Vestry members to tell us about a book they have enjoyed and would recommend.

Maureen Wright

JOSEPH KNIGHT by James Robertson

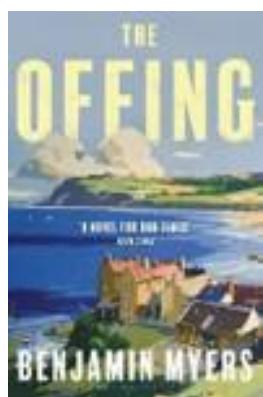
Recommended by Alison Ballantyne



This book is a fictional telling of a true story about a slave called Joseph Knight who was bought by the Wedderburn family from Dundee to work as a house slave in their property on Jamaica. He was brought back to Dundee, where he lived with John Wedderburn, was educated, fed, clothed and given sixpence a week 'pocket money'. Knight fell in love with a housemaid and they left for Dundee. He later took his case to the courts to establish his right to stay in Scotland and live how he wished. It's a page-turner and very relevant in these controversial days.

THE OFFING by Ben Myers

Recommended by Maureen Wright

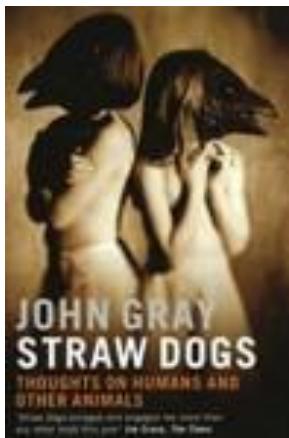


I read this when I found out it was set in Robin Hood's Bay near Whitby, which we planned to visit this summer...before that plan was scuppered. This novel has some wonderful descriptions of the countryside and nature. It tells the story of a 16 year-old, Robert, who has left school at the end of the Second World War and wants to see if he can find any other work rather than spending his life as a miner in his Durham village. He walks as far as Robin Hood's Bay where he ends up spending the summer staying in an outhouse at the cottage owned by the eccentric and outspoken Dulcie Piper (Dame Judy Dench would be

perfect if there was a film version!). They form a friendship and Dulcie opens Robert's mind to so many aspects of life and the world.

STRAW DOGS by John Gray

Recommended by John Byrom



If you like to challenge yourself and brush up your pessimism at the same time, then *Straw Dogs* by John Gray (Granta Books) is just the job. It's a stimulating read, proposing that the notion of progress is just one of the many illusions that humanity depends upon in order to survive. The argument (by a convinced atheist) comes in very short mini-chapters of about two pages each, ideal for thinking about while walking the dog. A few sections are quite strenuous going, but most, especially towards the end of the book, are very easy to follow. You may find some of this book enraging, but while your diary in these lockdown days may be empty, your thoughts certainly won't be.

THE ENIGMA GAME by Elizabeth Wein

Recommended by John Wright

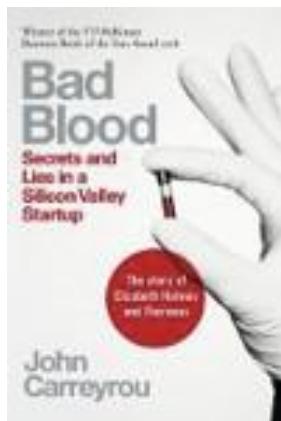


My book was picked up, on a lockdown walk, from a 'Help yourself' box sitting at a garden gate in our street. It tells the story of a teenage orphan, Louisa Adair, who moves from London to Montrose in 1940 in her role as a companion to an interesting old lady. This adventure story, written for young people, had real appeal for this old person, too! As the title suggests, Louisa finds herself drawn into the war effort through meeting up with members of the Royal Air Force stationed nearby. I very much enjoyed this book and learned a lot about the impact of the war in north-east Scotland. I was also pleased to discover that we have a thoughtful and generous New York Times bestselling author living

in Perth, as it turns out the box was at the author's own gate!

BAD BLOOD by John Carreyrou

Recommended by Annette Cameron



This book tells the true account of the rise and fall of the American biotech company Theranos and the work of the investigative journalist, John Carreyrou, who uncovered one of the biggest corporate frauds of the 21st century.

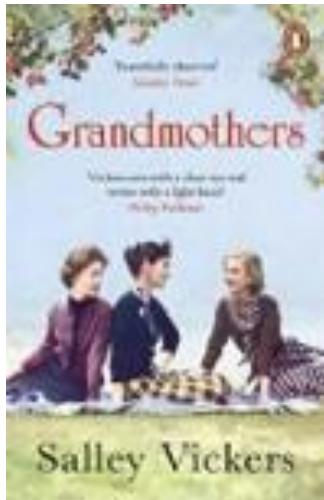
Theranos was a privately-held health technology corporation founded in 2003 by 19 year-old Elizabeth Holmes. It was initially seen as a breakthrough technology company, with claims of having devised blood tests that needed only very small amounts of blood which could be performed very rapidly using small automated devices the company had developed. Theranos was hyped to its investors and in the media as a breakthrough in the blood-testing market. It claimed its technology was revolutionary and cost far less than existing tests. Theranos raised millions of dollars from venture capitalists and private investors, resulting in a \$10 billion valuation at its peak in 2013 and 2014. However, in 2015 John Carreyrou of the *Wall Street Journal* began investigating the company and revealed that the claims Theranos made were false and it was, in fact, a multi-million dollar fraud.

This book gripped me from the start and was difficult to put down. The sequence of events was so fast moving, with each twist and turn becoming more and more astounding. If it had been fiction, then it would have been a fantastic read but the fact that this truly happened, and so recently too, was jaw-dropping.

GRANDMOTHERS by Salley Vickers

Recommended by Wendy Duncan

I was expecting to like this book having enjoyed Salley Vickers ever since I read *Miss Garnet's Angel* years ago. It's the gentle story of three very



different grandmothers and their relationships with the youngsters in their lives. Humour and pathos are skilfully balanced as each woman reflects on her own life and they begin to interact with one another. And the important role of 'oldies' in family life is heartening, for this granny at least. All the women are rather fun and just a bit subversive. Nan, my favourite, is a secret poet who, abetted by her grandson, is carefully planning her own funeral, right down to buying her wicker casket and using it as a sofa in her flat!

SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS by Thomas Erikson Recommended by Maihri Cameron

THE RUNAWAY INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

surrounded by idiots



The Four Types of Human Behaviour
(or, How to Understand Those Who Cannot Be Understood)



thomas erikson

-person communication for the most effective social interaction in any scenario. It covers body language, conflict handling, influencing and delivering news through a range of entertaining anecdotes and easy to read language. Whilst I feel personalities are more complex than the book describes, I found myself recognising certain characteristics of people I know and learning more about myself as well. So if you're looking to understand how people function and why we struggle to connect with each other at times, this book is worth a read!

This month I have been reading a basic but interesting approach to understanding people. I was drawn to it partly because of the bold title and partly because understanding how to interact with people from all walks of life is a skill I strive to develop. A colour-coded personality trait matrix is at the core of Erikson's concept with personalities categorised into Red (dominant), Yellow (inspiring), Blue (analytical) and Green (stable). The book is a guide to recognising the qualities of each personality type and how to adapt written and in

Paintings from Lockdown



During the lockdown I have been part of an internet Isolation Art Challenge. Initially this was set to be a 30-day sketching/drawing/painting challenge to be done while in lockdown. The aim of the group was to produce a piece of artwork each day based on themes given, some being rather obscure such as ‘essential’, ‘material’, ‘random’, ‘miss’ and ‘make’ being just a few! Due to the worldwide interest the challenge has now been extended to 60 days - so I still have a few more ‘masterpieces’ to produce! It has been relaxing and fun to do while in these uncertain and worrying times.



Nancy Brooks

Vestry in Lockdown

The Vestry Zoom Meeting

'Oh, someone else is joining. I can see their sitting room.'
And one by one the vestry members all joined in on Zoom.
We'd had our 'heads up' email with the link in blue,
Just click on this, we were assured, was all we had to do.
Not all of us could make it, although we all did try it,
Some even struggled getting through a Hyde Park Corner riot!*

So with our 40 minutes ticking on the clock
We had a month of business to evaluate, take stock.
The Provost, he reported that the Bishops, far from napping,
Were Zooming in this very week to chat about what's happ'nning.
But it appears, despite the cautious Church of Scotland lead,
We are still the 'stay at home' directive all to heed.

So how should we move forward whilst still within four walls?
Well, we found our congregation all looked forward to our calls,
And the magazine was popular and so - without petition -
It was agreed to publish an extra month's edition.
The time was ticking forward and we talked of those furloughed,
And the Provost's engine, which had chosen to explode.

Only ten more minutes, any other business now?
But as none of us had answers yet to when or where or how -
We smiled and waved, said cheerio each from our separate place,
And 'til next month's Zoom meeting, asked God to keep us in his grace.

Annette Cameron

*Annette's daughter Maihri had been working in London, looking after young children, and together with her young charges had been caught up in the Black Lives Matter demonstration in Hyde Park that day.

Letters from Lockdown

From Chrys Fraser

Having been in lockdown since 19 March Netta and I had our first outing on 1 June - a real adventure. We walked into town, keeping a social distance between ourselves, and with gloves and masks at the ready. We went to the bank, the chemist and a few shops including Marks and Spencer. Wow, it was wonderful!

We have been so blessed to be living in lovely Bowerswell where we have enjoyed the beautiful spring blossoms, white and pink, the birds singing their hearts out, unaware of Covid-19, squirrels red and grey, deer and loads of baby rabbits.

With the camaraderie of the tenants it has not been an unhappy time. Shopping has been done by our families and a neighbour, Robert, who also picked up some plants for us to bring some colour to our gardens - at the moment they are 'blooming lovely'!

This whole thing has made me aware of what is important to me, and my faith has played a very big part. I hope all our church family have stayed safe and well. I can't wait until we're all together again in our church to thank God that 'we made it'.

No hugs, just elbow bumps!



Netta and Chrys at Bowerswell

From Barry and Liz Nisbet

Hello from Edinburgh where Barry and Liz are living at present.

Although very much missing our books, stored belongings and garden, the dry and sunny spring has meant we enjoy daily walks around the West End of Edinburgh. Walks have included the New Town, passing, for example, the music school where Emmanuel studied and the street where Hunter lived as a student. A former railway line offers a lovely stroll under a canopy of self-seeded trees, and the Union Canal is also a favourite.

A long, straight *cul de sac* running parallel to Haymarket Station is usually crowded with cars but in lockdown, it is a tranquil haven, which we walk along regularly. There, we can watch trains roll by and look out for ones heading to Perth, where we shall buy a new home when allowed to do so. Taking notes of the numbers of passengers reveals this varies from zero to four.

Friday evenings see an eagerly awaited video-linked House Party quiz with our daughters and Barry's sister and family in Washington DC. Our seven year-old grandson in Scone advised he would devise a quiz for the following Friday but it would be top secret. Liz suggested to Barry that it would most likely be about *Paw Patrol* or *PJ Masks* - children's programmes focused on being useful by helping others. Accordingly, we tuned in and made notes. Grandson, however, had other ideas. All questions focused on the solar system. One question was: 'Which is the largest object in the Kuyper Belt?' Granny, who watches Discovery TV and listens to Radio 4, knew that one. Not one question mentioned Chase or his helpful pals.

When lockdown restrictions were relaxed, we were able to join our daughter and family in Edinburgh, to celebrate her birthday. In their warm and sunny garden, we blew giant bubbles over the roof and up into the trees and were kept amused by our four year-old grandson's tales of this and that. For a few short hours, life was normal.

We enjoyed watching the Bishop and Carrie celebrate Easter Day from

the cathedral, when we were happy to learn that the Paschal Candle will not be lit until the congregational family is back worshipping in St Ninian's.

We also watch Sunday Eucharist from various churches, including Old St Paul's, where the Rector, John McLuckie, was a curate at St Ninian's in the 1980s.

It has been good to keep in touch by reading *Cathedral News* and learning what members of the congregation are doing in lockdown. Positive news to lighten the dreadful strains we are all experiencing. We look forward to hearing more in the next edition.

From Trish Melville

My calendar tells me this is my 17th week in lockdown - where has all the time gone?

At first I spent my days, like most people I suspect, cleaning the house from top to bottom and tidying up my flower pots in the courtyard garden. Then there was the baking. I was getting quite good at my fruit scones and banana loaf, which I shared with my family who live a short walk away by parcelling them up and leaving them hanging on their garden gate. A surprise awaited them most days with the anticipation of what delicious treats might be inside. After sampling too many cakes and scones I decided it was time to get fit.

I then started exploring on foot the many winding country roads which I found right on my doorstep. Places I hadn't ventured to before like Tillywhally, Tillyrie, Stronachie, Netherton and many more. I loved every minute exploring these new places! At the beginning of lockdown, the trees were bare of leaves and I watched them daily from bud to bursting into full bloom and into many different shades of green. The hedgerows with all the wild flowers, so many surprises on my daily walks.

I would wander through the farm at Tillyrie, watching the lambs skipping and playing in the fields. In one field there were four huge bulls - impressive, majestic-looking beasts. On one early morning visit I had the

pleasure of them bellowing so loud it echoed all around the countryside. It was something else! I was glad that they were on the opposite side of the fence.....

On another day, walking to Stronachie, I came across a large flock of sheep and lambs coming towards

me on the road, blocking my path. A voice shouted for me to keep walking on and that they would soon move. The farmer was right and it was such a delight being in the middle of the flock with bleating lambs looking up at me.



Next I decided that in order to venture further I would get my bike out. It was dusted down as I hadn't been on it for a while. It was hard work getting going and my knees were creaking and groaning. I struggled on for two weeks and, when almost ready to put the bike up for sale, I realised the struggle was because my tyres were flat! There was no stopping me after that and I'd go further and further every day covering 27 kilometres on one of the days. Tour de France here I come!

The main thing I noticed with lockdown is the peace and quiet with no cars, buses or planes. I could hear the birdsong every morning which seemed much louder and more colourful than before. And the air felt much fresher. I could see the scars on the hills in the distance with more clarity. The loch water was now crystal clear and for a moment it felt like we were giving back to nature. It felt like going back in time to when things seemed simpler. If we can take anything away with us from this lockdown, I hope that people will appreciate the world we live in and take note of what is on their doorstep. To appreciate family and the community and most of all to value our health.

Open Plate Collection



In response to a number of enquiries from members of the congregation about what they should do about their weekly giving envelopes, treasurer Liz Gardiner says that everyone should just hang on to them for the time being and bring them along to the cathedral when we are up and running again.



Cathedral Garden

Christopher Dingwall is still keeping an eye on the cathedral garden whenever he is in Perth. He has been watering plants and refilling the

bird feeders and says, 'The four trees, two rowans, crab apple and holly all got more than two gallons of water each, while all the small shrubs got a reasonable helping.' The wildlife garden and school plots also had a good soaking. The picture (*left*) shows the Peace Garden with the wonderful yellow rose 'Peace', now in full bloom.



Prayers for Jan

Some of you might know Jan Withers who it is believed might have sung in the cathedral choir in years gone by. She is, sadly, seriously ill and has asked for the prayers of her church friends. We wish her well.

I would be really grateful if you could pass on the following message to all my singing and church friends to update them on my current health situation.

I am happy to have been discharged from hospital tonight, but unfortunately not for long. My understanding of my diagnosis so far is that the clots that they have confirmed on both lungs are due to some kind of lung cancer - the exact type and stage will hopefully be confirmed by a biopsy in the next few weeks and then we will be able to consider the prognosis and treatment options...

I would really welcome prayer from anyone who feels able to support me in this way, as it is only through my faith in God that I can stay strong through whatever lies ahead...

Meanwhile, I will try to keep up my singing at home as far as my breathing allows ...

Love from Jan xx

Online Worship Statistics

The editor, on a recent walk, met a local minister who said he is getting 10 times the number of participants at weekly online meditations, as opposed to those held face to face in the church (from around 12 up to around 120) and roughly four times as many at online Sunday services. People from all over the world as well as those living locally join in. But of course no one knows for how long! As a keen family historian, the editor has found it interesting to drop in on online services at churches where his ancestors were baptised or married - but usually only for a few minutes. It's as well to be a bit wary of statistics!

James Ramsay and William Wilberforce

Historic slavery has been much in the news of late so perhaps, sometime in July, we could light a candle in the cathedral to the memory of James Ramsay and William Wilberforce who died in that month in 1789 and 1833 respectively. The latter, of course, is well known for spearheading the 20-year campaign to abolish the Atlantic slave trade which in time led to the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire.

Less well known is James Ramsay, an Anglican priest and leading abolitionist who was born in Fraserburgh in 1733. The editor is grateful to Stuart Donald, the honorary archivist of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, for bringing Ramsay to his attention. Ramsay joined the Navy in 1757 and when his vessel intercepted a slave ship, carrying over 100 slaves in dreadful conditions, his life was seemingly changed for ever. He took Holy Orders shortly after and worked amongst slaves in the Caribbean. On his return to the UK and through his writings in the 1780s he became a hugely influential figure in the anti-slavery movement. As one of his biographers has written, ‘...the abolition of the British slave trade in 1807 probably owed more to James Ramsay’s personal integrity, ethical arguments and constructive proposals than to any other influence.’

Eddie the Eagle says...

I'm SO looking forward to seeing everyone again soon. I know we're only open for private prayer, as from 6 July (hopefully), but I've already

had an extra go at the Brasso to look my best. And the good news is that while this awful virus can last for weeks on stainless steel, it is rendered inactive in minutes on brass. I bet all those cathedrals with stainless steel eagles are wishing they had me on their staff. Anyway, feel free to give me a hug - I'm quite safe... and looking forward to it!



News from Cathedral Dogs

Brandy has been a great companion over these past months of lockdown. Being a dog of senior years (ten plus!) we had need to visit the vet in May. It was quite an experience under the lockdown rules; when she came out and saw me by the car, she nearly pulled the arm off the poor veterinary nurse! As an ex-guide dog pup, Brandy relishes human company and sorely misses the attention she receives on Sunday mornings!



Brandy with her new toy boy, Barny.

Raymond Borley

The Last Supper in Lockdown

Many thanks to Penny Fenwick for sending this in...

"Alright, does everyone have sound?"



From the Farquhar Diaries

15 July 1920. All this time the Bishop is at the Lambeth Conference and we have not heard from him. We have frequent intercessory prayers at the Holy Eucharist & Evensong for the Conference. I have had several things to do, which would have fallen to the Bishop - nothing of startling importance but just enough to give me the unusual feeling that a Dean has something to do. I signed papers for the recovery of Insurance money on the Church Hall, which was burnt down at Inverkeithing & the Rev. H. Sclater assures me they have got it... I am doing my best to get round the congregation and may perhaps succeed in doing half before we go on our holiday in August. Mr. Wood Smith has made a good start as Chaplain in succession to Mr. Murdoch. He seems to have a head and to be willing to work. The workmen have been very much in evidence of late in our new house (31 Barossa Place) separating the wing, so as to make it a complete habitat for the Verger (Sabine) and also to make our part of the house complete when cut off from the other. And yet the 'cutting off' is such that it will be the easiest thing in the world to re-unite the whole house, should it be desirable to do so. Not only have N's plans for the flitting from 1 Balhousie Avenue worked out admirably, but also she has managed both the flower and the vegetable gardens extraordinarily well. Everything is outrageously expensive just now, and it is a very great saving to have a plentiful supply of vegetables out of our own garden. The reason why I do not note public events since the close of the war is because they are so numerous, so momentous, so complicated & so anxious, that I must either write volumes or nothing and I have only time to do the latter.

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

Cover Illustration

The cover photo is of a quiet sunlit path on the slopes of Kinnoull Hill, in early summer.

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 lock-down) or donate, please contact Molly or Hazel.

TRAIDCRAFT 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 August issue is
19 July.**

**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:

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Provost

(and Hospital Chaplain)

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

Precentor

The Rev'd Canon Dr Carrie Applegath

Assisting Clergy

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

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Other Episcopal churches in the Perth area:

St John's, Princes Street, Perth

St Columba's, Stanley

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