The background of the cover is a photograph of Perth Cathedral and St Ninian's. The cathedral's tall, slender spire is the central focus, rising above a bridge and a river. The scene is framed by dark green trees in the foreground and a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The title 'Cathedral News' is written in a large, white, cursive font with a black outline at the top.

# *Cathedral News*

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

**September 2020**

# St Ninian's Cathedral Who's Who



# From the Provost

Dear Friends

May I start by thanking everyone who has made it back to the cathedral. We have done everything possible to make things safe. I feel overjoyed that each Sunday we get our regulated 50 people, or there about. With no singing and an abbreviated liturgy, the service is shorter. Numbers are up for the 11.00am service of Holy

Communion on a Wednesday, and my thanks to everyone who helps keep things going.



Talking of keeping things going... Sue our administrator has resigned. This means that we need to look for a replacement. At present Maihri Cameron is filling in where she can. She has agreed to do three hours on a Monday morning which is hugely helpful. This part-time post (nine hours a week) will be advertised but if you know of anyone with skills in administration and would like a part-time job then please do let me know.

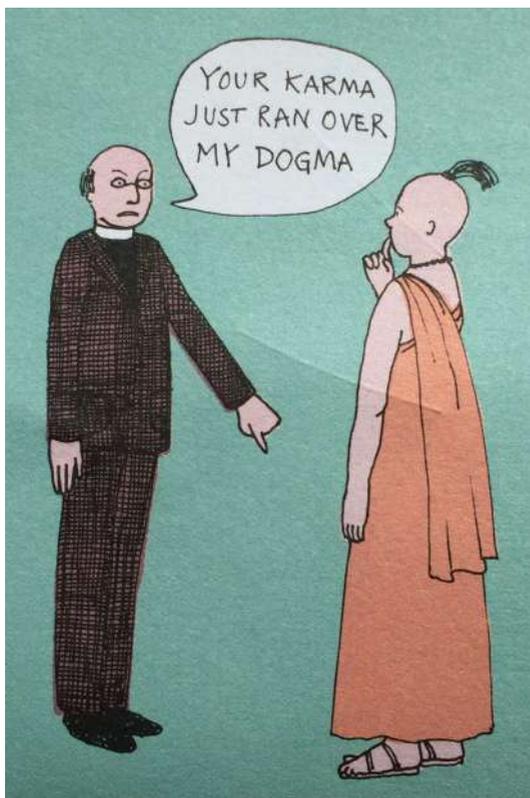
The time has also come for our three retired clergy to throttle back a bit. All of them have indicated that it's the right time. That doesn't mean

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that they won't be around, and Richard will carry on with the school chaplaincy in the meantime. I continue to be so grateful to Geoffrey, Richard and Celia. I know most of you will already have heard that Celia is to be made an honorary canon of St. Ninian's Cathedral. I think the service may take place in October. Lis Burke has therefore joined us at just the right time. Lis is a fully licensed lay reader and comes with huge experience and skill. I thank God for her and would ask you to keep her and her ministry among us in your prayers.

Now this month we have three things happening all at once. We shall have our Patronal Festival, Harvest and Doors Open all on Sunday 20 September. This has all been thought out most carefully and with safety much to the fore. St Ninian and Harvest will be the focus of the 11.00am service with the building open to visitors afterwards.

I continue to encourage you to keep washing or sanitising your hands. Someone was asking why we sanitise when we come forward to receive



Holy Communion. The reason is that in removing our masks we touch our faces and we're also putting the host into our mouths. It is really important that we touch as few surfaces as possible and sanitise as much as possible. Please also only touch your own pew sheet and take it home with you. All seats and door handles are sanitised by an antibacterial hand-sanitising gun after each service and at the end of each day.

Please do keep in your prayers all those who receive Holy Communion at home as well as for the licensed lay ministry team. Please pray for those who still feel isolated, especially from

family and friends. Also, spare a thought for those scientists and technicians who are working tirelessly to find a viable vaccine. As we move about more remember to adhere to all the safety advice.

Every blessing,  
Hunter

## Readings and Collects for September

### **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**6 September**

**Collect:** Stir up, O Lord, the wills your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Ezekiel 33.7-11, Psalm 119.33-40, Romans 13.8-14, Matthew 18.15-20

### **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 13 September**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Genesis 50.15-21, Psalm 103.(1-7) 8-13, Romans 14.1-12, Matthew 18.21-35

### **ST NINIAN OF WHITHORN, & HARVEST - 20 September**

**Collects:** Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Ninian, whom you called to preach the gospel to the people of northern Britain. Raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your Church may make known the immeasurable riches of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to

come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Jeremiah 1.4-9, Psalm 67, 2 Corinthians 5.17-6.2, Matthew 9.35-38

## **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**27 September**

**Collect:** Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25.1-8, Philippians 2.1-13, Matthew 21.23-32

## **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 4 October**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Isaiah 5.1-7, Psalm 80.7-14, Philippians 3.4b-14, Matthew 21.33-46

# Introducing Lis Burke

## **Lis Burke – Lay Reader in the Cathedral Ministry Team**

Early in the year, when Bishop Ian first suggested I join the ministry team at the cathedral, I was slightly daunted by the thought of taking on a role which was so very different from my previous experiences as a lay reader. However, as we all know, the reality of the Covid pandemic has brought about a whole new set of changes, and my ministry now has a shape I simply couldn't have imagined six months ago. It is exciting to work with you all as together we find new ways of worshipping and living out the Gospel.



*Lis, pictured with Bishop Ian at the diocesan synod, at the time of her commissioning as diocesan warden of lay readers*

Many of you will know that I started in ministry at St John's in Princes Street and was an occasional visitor to the cathedral at that time. Some of you may remember that I joined you on a couple of retreats when you went to the Isle of Cumbrae. I trained for three years, gaining a

Diploma in Theology for Ministry and was first licensed as a lay reader at St John's. Later I was asked to join the ministry team of the Eastern Perthshire churches, which involved travelling between my home in Perth and the towns of Blairgowrie, Alyth and Coupar Angus for Sunday services, midweek events and pastoral visits. When I started conversations with Bishop Ian about the possibility of a role closer to home, he suggested that I combine work at the cathedral with the role of diocesan warden of lay readers, supporting and assisting the other lay readers in the diocese. For the past few months, before public worship resumed at the cathedral, my focus was on establishing a regular pattern of meetings for lay readers using the Zoom platform. To my surprise, we were the first diocese where lay readers met up this way! I have other long-standing diocesan responsibilities which remain unchanged, serving in the communications group and the ministry development group.

Having started life as a Maid of Kent, I moved to Perth 30 years ago and cannot now imagine living anywhere else. My husband Rob and I have enjoyed many walks around Perthshire and further afield, focusing on Kinnoull Hill in recent months during the lockdown. We have two daughters, Margaret and Katherine, who now live in Newcastle and Cardiff respectively and who have produced five grandchildren between them, three girls and two boys. Rob and I enjoy walking holidays and followed St Oswald's Way last summer, which was a real delight. Starting on Holy Island we walked down the Northumberland coast as far as Warkworth and then turned inland to reach our final destination of Heavenfield on Hadrian's Wall.

I have met many of you before at diocesan events, at the curling rink or more generally round and about, and I am looking forward to getting to know you all.

*Lis Burke*

## Online Services: a Reflection

As Christians, we are used to hearing that God is all around us. His love encircles us and is present in all we see and do. The message is brought to us through scripture, hymns, sermons, prayers and blessings and

enables us to see and hear God in all aspects of our lives. However, whilst I frequently hear this message, it was only through the recent lockdown experience that I really understood it. Like many of us, I was apprehensive about the form of worship that would take place after church services were suspended and how, or if, I would be able to offer my prayers to God without the sacred space of the church building or the fellowship of worshipping alongside others. I was concerned that it would enhance the isolation I was already feeling and remind me of the familiar worship routine I was prevented from experiencing.

The first online service I joined was led by the Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, from his kitchen table and I was surprised at how natural a setting it seemed for a service of Holy Communion. The first thing I noticed as the service commenced was a fruit bowl on the work top behind him. Whilst this is an ordinary object to have in a kitchen, it was its unusual appearance in a place of worship that enabled me to feel God's holistic nature. It represented the objects and actions of daily life



and its presence during Holy Communion connected these to God. It seemed to extend the sacrifice and love of God beyond the walls of the church building and into the rest of the world, enabling me to feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit through all I encountered.

In the past I have sometimes found that something separates my faith from the secular aspects of my life and consequently distances me from God. The fruit bowl reaffirmed God's encompassing companionship and whilst it is a strange instrument to communicate this message, perhaps it demonstrates God's sense of humour!

*Maihri Cameron*

## Doors Open Day 2020

For obvious reasons DOD 2020 will be a very slimmed down version of our usual offering. Once again it falls on the day we celebrate our Patronal festival and Harvest - 20 September - and the flower team have very kindly agreed to do some seasonal displays. Visitors will be limited, there will be no cathedral treasures on display and no refreshments served. However Geoff, Alastair and Emmanuel have very kindly agreed to play as visitors take a self-guided, socially-distanced, one-way walk around the building. In the Chapter House we plan to have a small display of people's lockdown creativity: drawing, painting, any kind of crafts, writing, photos (perhaps a snap or two of a gardening project, a nature walk or even a bit of redecorating?) - in fact whatever folk are willing to share.

Of course, we are looking for volunteers to help us steward that afternoon. We certainly won't need as many as usual, but if we had two small teams - one from 12.30 - 2.15pm and another from 2.15 - 4.00pm that would be tremendous. We totally understand, however, that people may not want to participate in this kind of event at present, so please don't feel under any pressure to do so.

*Wendy Duncan*

**DOORS  
OPEN  
DAYS** **2020**

## Paintings in Lockdown, part 3

Well, I have finally made it and completed the challenge of producing 60 pieces of artwork! I still had 10 more paintings to do after last month's magazine went to print so here they are! At times it took me longer to come up with an idea of what I would produce for the subject title than it did to execute it.

Can you match the following titles to some of the paintings ? Reflection. Sparkle. Remote. Soul. Antique. Seat. T.V. As an added question - who can remember and name the programme being watched ?

I have enjoyed the challenge and opportunity to keep on painting during this unsettling period of time we are in.

*Nancy Brooks*



# Literature in Lockdown

## THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL by Anne Brontë

Recommended by Barry Nisbet

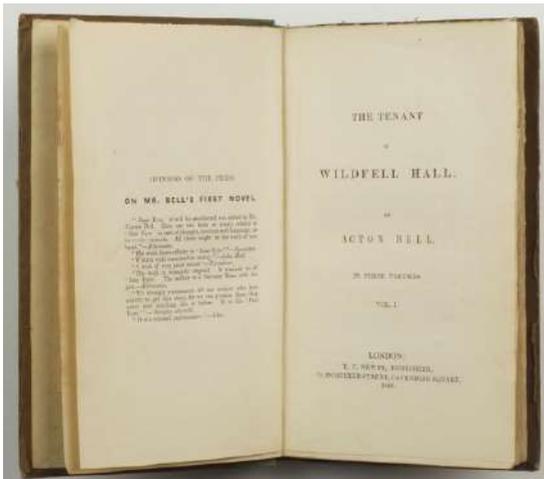
Sadly, secondary school home readers turned me against many great classics of English literature. For example, Scott, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Hardy etc were compulsory reading. To ensure compliance, there was, at the end of each term, an exam to confirm pupils had read and digested them to the teacher's satisfaction.

However, over the years I have shaken off this prejudice. Prompted by a recent television documentary I embraced the above. Anne Brontë was apparently one of the first writers to attempt to document the problem of marital discord and breakdown, focusing on both mental and physical violence. This shocked some of her contemporary readers. In this novel also she details graphically how, in her day and for many years after, a woman's property after marriage belonged entirely to the husband. As befitting the daughter of a clergyman the book is full of apt biblical

references as well as those from Shakespeare and many other writers. She was clearly very well read.

I shall not spoil the read for you by mentioning any of the plot and do not ruin it by reading the introduction first! Whatever else the book has or does there is a positive romance at its heart.

Hopefully you will mark this more lightly than my English teacher.



*A first edition of The Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Anne Brontë, a pioneer of transgenderism who was then writing as Mr Acton Bell*

## Birdcare in Lockdown



I have been busy protecting birds during lockdown! I made a post and concrete base, using four two-inch plastic poles which I then painted. These I covered with mesh and netting, leaving space for small birds to fly in and out.

There are loads of seagulls and pigeons near us. I don't like them coming into my garden as they are messy and destructive, so I have an Amazon hawk stuck on my roof (*on the ridge to the left of the dormer window*), and owls placed near the house, which scare these nuisances away!

*Marietta MacGregor*



## Gardening in Lockdown

Despite the variable weather we have had this summer Wendy and I have much enjoyed getting to grips with our garden. We moved to our present home almost five years ago and while the house was a joy to move into - in spite of all the upgrading required - the garden had been sadly neglected for several years and presented something of a challenge. Nothing daunted, Wendy, as a farmer's daughter, rolled her sleeves up and got stuck in. I preferred to supervise and point out weeds that she had missed. Hazel has been a wonderful gardening guru to us, supplying not only useful advice but a large number of plants and cuttings from her own amazing garden. Gina, Pamela and others from the congregation have been equally kind. The photo below shows part of the herbaceous border which five years ago was little more than a barren wasteland. And even I, who hated gardening as a child, have come to appreciate the delights of gentle weeding amongst the shrubs and flowers on a sunny summer's morning.

*Jeremy Duncan*



## Social Distancing in Church

Father Nathan Monk, a former priest, shared photos from Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New Orleans on Facebook, which show how the church is creatively handling social distancing guidelines in the pews. The pews that should remain empty to keep people distanced have signs hung with blue tape. These are some of them...

‘I have prepared a place for you...just not this pew.’

‘Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. And if he were here today, he still wouldn’t be allowed to sit in this pew. NOT EVEN ABRAHAM, PEOPLE. Find another seat.’

‘Reserved for Elijah only.’

‘You will find me when you seek me... just not in this pew. Keep seeking.’

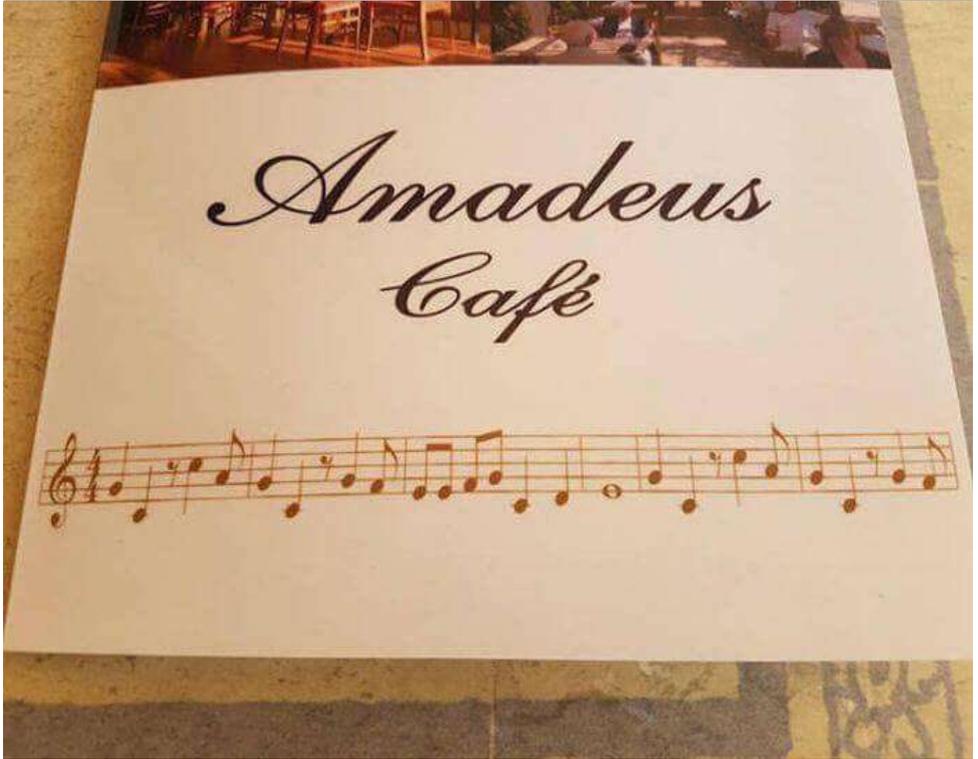
‘Remember when the Lord put a flaming sword at the entrance to the Garden of Eden, so Adam and Eve couldn’t go there? ‘Flaming sword’ can also be translated blue tape.’

Nailed it. This church managed to keep a light mood and inject some Bible-based humour into an otherwise serious situation, got people to follow public health recommendations, and didn’t get preachy or judgey about it. ‘Fun’ and ‘uplifting’ are not generally words people use to describe public health mandates, but that’s how people in the comments on Monk’s post are describing these pew signs.

Well done, Redeemer Presbyterian. Helping us laugh so we don’t cry.

*Many thanks to friend Morag-Anne Elder, from Tayport Parish Church, who sent in this article - slightly adapted - to Cathedral News.*

## For the Choir



The owners of the Amadeus Café in Mahon, Menorca, wanted some beautiful music to decorate the front of their menus. Some Mozart would, of course, been appropriate - such as the instantly recognisable theme of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. Instead, though, they seem to have outsourced the job to someone with little musical knowledge.

If you cannot work out the tune, look at the bottom of page 19...

## Cover Photo

The cover shows St Matthews Church in Tay Street, photographed in late summer from the end of Moncreiffe Island.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editors

I had the pleasure recently of reading August's *Cathedral News*, and what a heart-warming experience that was. Despite the difficulties imposed by lockdown, the contents were so lively and interesting and the photographs reflected a Church that looks outwards with courage and hope and to its people with the affection and care that Graham and I remember so well. Good luck with Doors Open Day and all the other things planned for the months ahead.

With the love of all the Forbes family,  
Jane

The Priory  
Pittenweem  
KY10 2LJ

*Many thanks to Jane Forbes for her kind letter. Jane's husband, Graham, was Provost of St Ninian's from ca 1983 to 1990, before moving to take up the same role at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. He and Jane have since retired to Fife.*

## Eddie the Eagle says...

The heavy rains of summer and consequent flooding of some parts of Perth have been a disaster for those affected. I've been very lucky in avoiding having to pump out my eyrie high up in the cathedral. Many Perth people have said they too are glad that I haven't been flooded, which shows what a much loved eagle I am....I think.



## From the Farquhar Diaries

**22 September 1920.** I met the Bp to-day for the first time since he went to the Lambeth Conference. ...He came to lunch and, though very hurried for time, gave us a most interesting account of his experience both at Lambeth & Geneva... Bp Henley-Henson fought hard for the unconditional acceptance of Presbyterian Orders but I forget which Bp reminded him that the Scottish Presbyterians took up the same line themselves towards other Dissenters. He was overwhelmingly outvoted but will probably continue his Erastian line...The Anglican Bps there had a private Conference with the Presbyterians and were flabbergasted by the furious onslaught made on the Lambeth proposals by (the Scottish) Professor Curtis. The other Presbyterian delegates, however, implored them not to take Curtis as voicing their average view & the Professor was not elected by them as their further representative. Things went well between us and the Greeks. They were doubtful indeed about the 39 Articles & as to whether we regarded Orders as a Sacrament, but they admit that historically we have the Apostolic succession. Our Bp and Bp Gore, who represented us, were ready to agree to dropping the 'Filioque,' when Anglicans recited the Nicene Creed along with the Orthodox. They were anxious to come to a complete understanding with us. One pathetic figure was a Russian Bp, who had been twice imprisoned by the Bolsheviks and twice liberated by the Poles. He declared that (I think my memory is correct) 25,000 had been massacred by the Bolsheviks and showed photographs of desolation. (And yet our Labour Men will persist in regarding Bolshevik Russia as the Garden of Eden restored.) The two Bps had an interesting & important intermediaryship between the Greeks & the American Presbyterians. The Greeks were very amiable with us Anglicans, because our rule in eastern lands was never to proselytize from the Greek Church, but only to help them to improve themselves. But they 'drew the line' at the American Presbyterians because they proselytized remorselessly.

*It all makes current British, European and American politics seem quite tame!  
As always, many thanks to Margaret Lye for this latest 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**

**(temporarily suspended, apart from those in bold)**

<b>Sunday</b>	Sung <b>Eucharist</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.30am; Eucharist 11.00am</b>
Thursday	Eucharist	9.00am

## **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.

## **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](mailto:cathedralmagazine@gmail.com).

**The closing date for inclusion in the October issue is 20 September.**

## **POSTSCRIPT**

The editor's computer problems continue. Many apologies if the finished version of this issue is not up to the usual standard.

## **The tune...?**

...is the theme from the 1960s cartoon series, *The Flintstones*.

**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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**(and Hospital Chaplain)**

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The Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews

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