



Cathedral News

October 2020

Who's Who at the Cathedral

From the Provost

Dear Friends

In September we celebrated both the feast of our patron Saint Ninian and Harvest. At this time in the life of our cathedral, when everything is pared down due to the pandemic, it was such a joy to see some vibrant and colourful stands of flowers, one flanked by traditional sheaves of wheat. My thanks to the flower team who carefully arranged this. The flowers certainly lifted our spirits as did Isla Cameron, who stood near the high altar during this double festival acting as cantor. Given that singing hymns has been suspended, what glory to find in a single voice! The bishop's sermon too (reprinted on page 7) lifted us further in our (muted) celebrations.



I think most if not all of the annual crops have been reaped and our landscape here in Perthshire has changed once again. It's quite definitely autumn now. All the vibrant colours are fading, leaves are beginning to fall after our first frosts, growth slows, and we know that and hope plants are preparing to store energy over the colder months - a dying back in readiness for spring to burst forth early next year.

From what our politicians and scientists are saying, some form of vaccine for

Contents

Who's who	2	Across the Land (poem)	13
From the Provost	3	Classroom clangers	14
Readings and Collects	5	Lockdown part 2	15
St Ninian's Day sermon	7	Congratulations!	15
From Carrie	9	Eddie the Eagle	16
Blythwood Shoebox Appeal	10	Cathedral crossword	17
Doors Open Day 2020	11	From the Farquhar diaries	18
New look magazine	11	Times of services etc	19
The good Samaritan	12		

Covid-19 should be ready in the new year. Maybe we can equate this time of waiting for a vaccine (like the seasons of autumn and winter) with times of preparation in readiness for life without Covid restrictions. If our faith teaches us anything, we should remain hopeful for the future, be in readiness for what the future holds.

We know from nature and from what Jesus experienced, that death is also a sign of new life – we need to die to give birth to new existence - a death touched by the hope of something even more beautiful to come.

We are being asked to comply with new restrictions yet again. I know these rules are for our protection and safety. I would therefore urge everyone to comply, to keep each other and our neighbours as safe as possible. There are limitations on who can enter our homes and of course those of us who live alone will feel this quite keenly – and the question to ask is, 'How can I use this time of isolation positively?'



Sir David Attenborough said, 'If there is hope that can come out of [the pandemic] then that may arise from the whole world having experienced a shared threat and found a sense that we are all in it together.'

We are all experiencing a pandemic the world over. Let's hold in our prayers all world leaders, who are having to make hard choices in trying to navigate through these difficult days and to keep populations as safe as possible.

Let's offer to God the world's scientists and those in medical research, as they race to find a competent vaccine. Let's pray too for all young people whose education has been disrupted and who are restricted in so many ways...and all parents and grandparents who live with great anxiety and worry about their families.

This pandemic has affected us all financially, but we think of those who have lost their livelihoods, those who find themselves unemployed and who are searching for work.

As always we offer to God those we know to be unwell, those who are

housebound and those shielding.

And let's not forget ourselves, handing over to God our hopes and fears, asking for resilience and praying that we may grow in love and faith.

God bless us all at this time.

With love,

Hunter

Readings and Collects for October

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11 October

Collect: Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 25.1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4.1-9, Matthew 22.1-14

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 18 October

Collect: Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 45.1-7, Psalm 96.1-9(10-13), I Thessalonians 1.1-10, Matthew 22.15-22

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 25 October

Collect: Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18, Psalm 1, I Thessalonians 2.1-8, Matthew 22.34-46

ALL SAINTS DAY 1 November

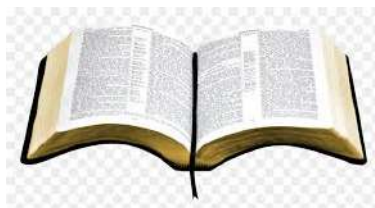
Collect: Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the mystical Body of your Son: grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Revelation 7.9-17, Psalm 34.1-10, I John 3.1-3, Matthew 5.1-12

ALL SOULS DAY 2 November

Collect: Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Wisdom 3.1-9, Psalm 23, I Peter 1.3-9, John 6.37-40



Sermon for Saint Ninian's Day

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' (Matthew 9.35-38)

St Ninian is believed to have begun his mission to the southern Picts in 397, making him the earliest known Christian missionary to this land. He lived in a world in crisis, at the end of the Roman Empire, a world of need, of fear, of insecurity. Like the Celtic missionaries who came after him, Ninian moved from place to place with the Good News of Christ and God's love, without churches or structures to support him, without any certainty of being heard or well received.

'I am not the slightest bit concerned about making the Church strong again. I am interested only in whether we are fit to bring Good News to others.'

Ninian's world was not much different from Jesus' world, a world in crisis, at the end of its freedom from Rome, a world of need, of fear, of insecurity.

Ninian went, as Jesus did in the Gospel, 'proclaiming the good news of the

kingdom.' And, like Jesus, 'he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and dejected like sheep without a shepherd.'

Ninian's world does not sound very different from our own world, a world in crisis, at the end of the old normal, a world of need, of fear, of insecurity. Jesus said, 'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Ninian responded to that call in his world, as we are called to respond in our own, and become labourers in the Lord's harvest.

As we go on through this Coronavirus crisis, there is much discussion about the future of the churches Ninian founded. My own view about that is simple. I am not the slightest bit concerned about making the Church strong again. I am interested only in whether we are fit to bring Good News to others. Ninian did not found the Church in this land to look after itself. Jesus was not interested in setting up groups

of self-referential followers who would be concerned mainly with providing services for ourselves. The People of God exist only to offer love and healing to others in Christ's name. As Jesus had compassion for those who were 'harassed and dejected like sheep without a shepherd,' so that is the mission that Jesus gave to his disciples, to St Ninian, and to us.

But how is the Church expected to carry it out? It seems to me that there are three things Ninian did to follow Jesus. First, Jesus was concerned with building relationships, bridges not walls. One task of God's people is to build welcoming communities. The Gospels are clear that Jesus went out to lepers, gentiles and sinners. He told them that God loved them where they were – but loved them too much to leave them where they were. He welcomed everyone. We, like Ninian, are called to do the same.

Second, Jesus was also a Teacher. He spoke to people by proclaiming their dignity and the love of God for them. He spoke about sin and forgiveness, right and wrong – and our shared call to be holy as our Father is holy. Jesus was so clear in his teaching that many hated him. Like Ninian, we are called to be a community where people can grow in uncomfortable faith together, the faith that accepts us but also changes us.

Thirdly, Jesus wanted to make the Kingdom of God known. He taught it by his actions - eating with tax collectors and sinners - as much as by his words - 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.' His first emphasis was not merely teaching laws, but on what we do to be open to finding God in others, and to love others as we love ourselves. Like Ninian, we have to invite people to seek the Kingdom in others and in God.

There are other people doing this all around us. In the death, last week, of Ruth Bader-Ginsburg the USA lost a caring and incisive servant of the law. A lifelong champion of equality, she won equal employment rights for American women, and served as a Supreme Court Justice until her death. Why didn't she just settle for a quiet life as a successful lawyer, a caring parent, a respectable citizen, a faithful member of her synagogue? The answer is in what she said to her law students, and could have said to any of us today: 'If you want to be true, you will do something outside yourself, something to repair tears in your community. Something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a

meaningful life is – living not for oneself, but for others.'

In the world after Covid we will face many challenges in making organised Christianity fit for purpose. The needs around us and among us are very great - anxiety, loneliness, bereavement, mental health, unemployment, domestic abuse, education in crisis, young people fearing for their future, environmental destruction and the extinction of species. In such a world - a world in crisis, at the end of certainty, a world of need, of fear, of insecurity - the Jesus who has sought us out sends us out, to live not for ourselves but for others.

If we expected something different from our faith in Jesus Christ, perhaps we haven't really heard today's Gospel, and need the example and the prayers of St Ninian.

Many thanks to Bishop Ian who, on request, kindly sent in the text of his sermon given in the cathedral on Sunday 20 September.

From Carrie



It was lovely to be at the cathedral last Sunday for the Feast of St Ninian, and to see so many of you, albeit in a socially-distanced way. As many of you now know, I have been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church, Stanley, from 1st October 2020. This means, sadly, I will no longer be serving as Precentor at the Cathedral. I would like to thank Provost Hunter and all of you who have made me so welcome since we moved to Perth two years ago. The ministry I'm moving to is a diocesan appointment to support and lead the congregation of St Columba's during a time of change and transition. St Columba's has been in vacancy since 2017, and the formal linkage with St Mary's, Birnam ended last year. So these are exciting and challenging times for the congregation and vestry as we look forward to working together, building on tradition and, at the same time, discovering new ways of being Church in this time and this place. Please pray for the people of St Columba's, and for me. Pray that, as Bishop Ian said in his blessing on St Ninian's Day, that God will give us grace to follow St Ninian (and St Columba) in the way of Christ.

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal 2020

Update

Despite the difficulties they face every day, through poverty, illness, disability, or other disadvantages, receiving a shoebox brings great joy to the children and adults who receive them. And you can make such a difference to lives that are otherwise almost hopeless.



If you are having a problem sourcing an empty shoebox this year then please use a drawstring bag (no plastic ones please) instead. Maximum size 500mm x 300mm. These are available in a number of shops, especially sports shops. In the meantime we hope you will begin gathering items and can fill a box or a bag.

There will be a few changes this year because of Covid but

here are the key points:

1. The main thrust of the local appeal will be to raise funds in order to create a 'shoe box factory' during the week of the sort. We wish people to give if they can, towards the local Blythwood Perth Shoe Box appeal. This can be done by giving via the Perth Baptist Church, online or by cheque, clearly marked for Shoe Box Appeal. We also are planning on creating a Virgin Money Giving site, to enable those who prefer giving in that manner, and this should be operational in the next week or so.

The money raised will be used to purchase boxes and fillers, creating shoe boxes in a carefully controlled environment, avoiding quarantines and minimising risks to volunteers who are helping.

2. Traditional shoe boxes can also be handled, but will require to be filled in line with instructions, including being brought to a collection point the week before the shoe box sort (by 12th November). This will enable us to quarantine already completed shoe boxes for at least 48 hours in a safe environment prior to the sort.

3. Volunteers to help with the sort will have to be prebooked, filling in a booking

form using the Blythwoodperth@btinternet.com email address and will register for two-hour periods of shoe box sorting. At the end of the time, they are required to clean the area they worked in, before leaving. We will then do a big clean between each sort time slot. Two-hour work periods are followed by one-hour cleaning periods throughout the day.

I hope this provides you with some insight to the tasks that are now required to comply with the Covid restrictions and hope that you are still able and willing to support this very necessary work?

Leaflets for the shoe boxes and the Appeal 2020 video are available on the Blythwood Care site at <https://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal>

Wendy Duncan

Doors Open Day 2020

Many of you will know that Doors Open Day at the cathedral, scheduled for Sunday 20 September, had to be cancelled virtually at the last minute. We were one of the very few venues in Perth city to be opening our doors to the public but when another venue announced they would not open after all, owing to the threat of the virus, it made it very difficult for us to remain open without seeming insensitive to the health and concerns of our visitors. Sincere thanks to everyone who had volunteered to help on that day, from musicians, artists and flower arrangers, to those who had signed up to help in general. We hope and pray that next year's event will go ahead and be the best ever!

Wendy Duncan

New Look Magazine

Sharp-eyed viewers will note that the magazine looks a little different this month. Fed up with problems with MS Publisher the editor is trying out iStudio Publisher. He is still displaying his L plates and cannot quite get the hang of line spacing, but he is trying. Please contact him with any suggestions for further improvement.

The Good Samaritan

We are all aware of the suffering, distress and loneliness caused by Covid-19. Here and there, however, often unsung acts of kindness have been taking place.

Take Neil for example, (not his real name). Neil is a busy delivery driver in Edinburgh. He knows his customers and they know him to be cheery and reliable. One day very recently, he was driving past Haymarket Station, when he noticed an unexpected black ball in the rear of his van. He knew this 'parcel' had not been there earlier so he pulled over to investigate. On opening the back door of his van and without warning, the black ball unfurled into a large cat which shot past him on to the busy street.



Several of the cat's lives, and Neil's too, were expended as he chased the black cat over streets and along alleyways. Eventually, he cornered it and placed it back securely in the van. Now, Neil could easily have left the cat to its own devices. After all, cats are said to be able to find their way home, although this one was, by now, several miles away in a big city. He also knew that rescuing the cat

would impinge on his timely delivery of goods. This is especially important for delivery drivers who are held to tight schedules and lateness is not looked kindly upon by their employers.

Nevertheless, mindful of the importance of pets to their owners, he decided he must retrace his long route to revisit the private addresses to which he had delivered that morning. No-one had lost a black cat. One lady, however, did have a black cat but not this one. She agreed to care for the runaway while Neil continued his round. She put out the description on a local site, while remaining in communication with Neil. When no-one responded, they agreed to place a message on social media.

This brought success. The owner was grateful to both Neil and the temporary foster mum for their rescue and was delighted to be reunited with her moggie. The cat's opinion is not known.

Elizabeth Nisbet

Across the Land

**Across the land the golden rays
Proclaim the dawn of shorter days.
The early morning light dispels the shroud of night.
The day begins, man is revealed -
To labour in the harvest field.**

**With youthful heart the work begins
And the fruit of the seed is gathered in.
Man's strength to toil the land, God's gifts within his hand.
The day wears on, the sun at noon
Declares the man with earth atune.**

**Continuing his earthly task
Man gathers in his harvest fast.
The shadows of the sun tell man his work is done.
He travels home his soul replete.
He knows his harvest is complete.**

**And as the sun sinks in the sky
Man knows his time for rest is nigh.
The cycle of rebirth restores the fallow earth.
For Winter's sleep and rest will bring
New blessings and new life in spring.**

Annette Cameron

This lovely poem was written about ten years ago in memory of Annette's father, a keen gardener.

Creation Time



Since 2008 churches in Britain and Ireland have been encouraged to observe Creation Time which takes place every year from 1 September to 4 October (the feast of St Francis). It is a way of prompting us to think about the part that we each play during our brief span on earth, to pray for God's creation and then, as the Provost said in a recent sermon, to get on and 'walk the walk'.

Signs of harvest abundance and autumn colour are all around us at this time of year and it's right to thank God for that. But there's always more that we can do

now and throughout the year. Eco congregation Scotland (at the following web address <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org>) has a lot of information about Creation Time and all things environmental and we are encouraged to get involved in any way we can. I was heartened to read Patsy Thomson (Warden of Lay Readers for Moray, Ross & Caithness) urging us not to write off our responsibility for the environmental mess we are in, but to 'take action to make things better for future generations. Stop dwelling on the incremental, death-dealing tragedy of climate change, but turn away from contributing to all the degradation and pollution, and live. We've to get ourselves a new heart and a new spirit pronto!'

Here's a Creation Time prayer: May the God whose names are many but whose nature is constant, the One whose story is complex, but whose purpose is clear, enable us to deepen in love, develop in understanding and be determined in action so that we and the world we inhabit can move ever nearer that which God intends. Amen.

Wendy Duncan

Lockdown Part Two

It may not be officially a lockdown but it feels pretty close to it. So, as we all sense that feeling of 'here we go again', here are a few thoughts to keep our spirits up...

For those young enough to be still in employment, yet old enough to hate the

morning after the night before, the office Christmas party has probably already been cancelled.

NO weeding until next spring!!

There may again be a shortage of loo paper in the supermarkets but with all guests banned from your home at least what you've got is all yours.

You can stay indoors with a clear conscience when the snow and ice return.

You won't have to clean the house for MONTHS!!

You can curl up with a good book (or a box set and no one will know).

And as for noisy teenagers stuck in their halls of residence at university and not allowed to come home for Christmas? Result!!

With all the extra time you have at home you'll be able to enjoy more television. You know, Boris, Nicola, Matt Hancock, Chris Whitty, Sir Patrick...oh, hang on...

Many thanks to John, Maureen and other contributors!

Congregational Congratulations!

Many congratulations to our treasurer, Liz Gardiner, on the birth of her new grandchild. Liz is pictured right with Cillian Edward who was born on 9th September.



Congratulations, too, to Joe and Winifred Hutchison and Joe and Mary Orr who have recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversaries.



Have you got news to share with the cathedral family? Send it in, ideally with a photo, to Cathedral News - contact details on page 19!

The Great Cathedral Crossword!

Win a holiday brochure to a destination of your choice!!! 

Many thanks to Margot Dunnachie for compiling this challenging crossword. Answers at the foot of this page.

The editor has been trying out a new desktop publishing software - his new toy. I told him there were far too many gimmicky things he was playing around with but he wouldn't listen. He'll be putting my words of wisdom in a speech bubble next and that would be the last straw...

Eddie the Eagle says...



Cover Photo

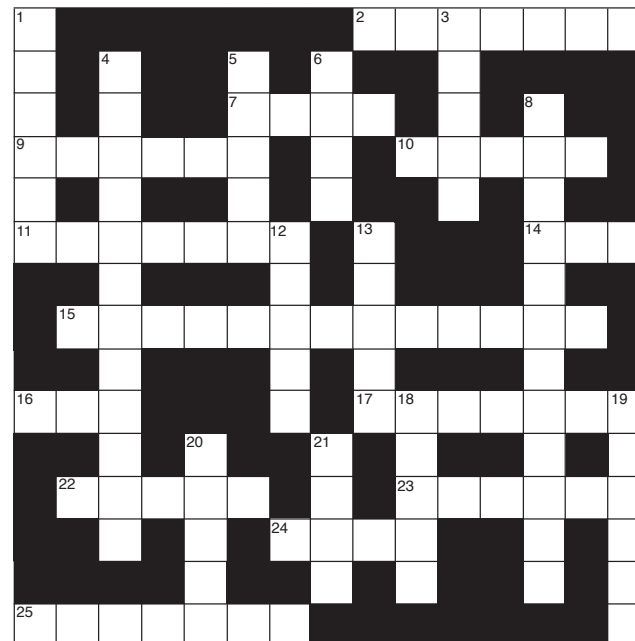
This month's cover shows Kinnoull Church in its autumnal boskiness, reflected in the mirror-like waters of the Tay.

Crossword Answers

Crossword Solution

Across 2 Timothy, 7 Noun, 9 Inroad, 10 Scape, 11 Numbers, 14 Son, 15 Eddie the Eagle, 16 Inn, 17 Trumpet, 22 Nahum, 23 Grotto, 24 Arch, 25 Epistle
Down 1 Ninian, 3 March, 4 Jeremy Duncan, 5 Under, 6 Luke, 8 Apostle Peter, 12 Satan, 13 Cheat, 18 Right 19 Thomas, 20 Burnt, 21 Mark,

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2 Tiny, not new, holding insect for recipient of two letters (7)
- 7 A nun has nothing for this word (4)
- 9 Fashionable street makes progress (6)
- 10 The first part of goat to take the blame (5)
- 11 Anaethetists are part of OT (7)
- 14 The oceans leave seasons to give this issue (3)
- 15 An avian friend of the Cathedral flying around, i.e. thee add glee (5,3,5)
- 16 Without hesitation inner room has no vacancies at Christmas (3)
- 17 A president to film making an instrument (7)
- 22 A silent Scottish bee is a minor prophet (5)
- 23 Cave in long rot to nothing (6)
- 24 Architect builds this first! (4)
- 25 Sleep it off in order to write a letter (7)

DOWN

- 1 Our saint ends up with the bishop (6)
- 3 A month to spoil the church (5)
- 4 June, my dancer, twirls around for the editor (6,6)
- 5 In the sea flounder below (5)
- 6 See this man on the radio (4)
- 8 A job to the French with a dog perhaps hesitating to give an early disciple (7,5)
- 12 The devil within sat another test (5)
- 13 A hundred to warm up, not what to do in exams! (5)
- 18 Write it down for the radio. Correct! (5)
- 19 The curtailed mass had nothing in it for a doubter (6)
- 20 With time at the end a stream becomes charred (5)
- 21 The stain of a Gospel writer (4)

From the Farquhar Diaries

22 October 1920. As if the strike of the Miners were not a great enough evil, the Railway Trades Union have given orders that all the railwaymen in the kingdom are to come out on Monday, if the Miners & Government come instantly to an agreement. It seemed as if the very blackness of darkness were upon us. We could look for nothing but a huge, national, financial collapse in a war-shaken country. However to-night a rumour is flying about that some sort of compromise has been brought about & the Strike ended — God grant that it may be so! All yesterday forenoon N. & Miss Maxtone Graham & I were writing out lists of the congregation in groups — about 20 groups — for the purpose of getting workers of some kind or another to do that, which the Sidesmen refused to do i.e. take envelopes round to each communicant and explain that really, unless the annual income of the Cathedral is raised by about £600, we shall be faced by a most serious crisis. It looks to me beyond our power, but at all events we must do our best and we shall raise something. Although the attendances at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. have fallen off sadly — perhaps 150 instead of 300 as heretofore — yet the collections are up by £100 and the 9 a.m. Service, while depressing 11 a.m. along with the Zeit-geist of non-Church-going, the communions made on Sundays have risen by about 1000 in the year. So there are lights & shades! ... For the last three or four years the “Scottish Standard Bearer”... has been getting very emaciated in size and therefore uninteresting in content. This has not been through its own fault at all. Simply the preposterous charges made by printers is knocking hundreds of publications out of existence. But I am sure that its 30 annual volumes will be very valuable in the future to the Scottish Church Historian. However, Mr Mann of Selkirk is boldly rushing in to the breach and is going to begin “The Scottish Churchman”, which will to all intents & purposes be the continuation of its vanished predecessor. I should like to get a footing in it. We had just decided also to end the local Cathedral Magazine, because really we could not pay £80 for half as much annual printing as we used to pay £18 for. But Capt. Cowland thinks the Church Army will do the printing at a reasonable rate, so we are going to try to continue during 1921, along with “The Scottish Churchman.”

And it's still going! Many thanks to Margaret Lye for this latest extract from her published edition of *The Diary of the Very Rev G T S 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)

Sunday	Sung Eucharist	11.00am
Monday	Morning Prayer	9.30am
Tuesday	Morning Prayer	9.30am
Wednesday	Morning Prayer	9.30am; Eucharist 11.00am
Thursday	Eucharist	9.00am

Giving

For all committed giving, envelopes and covenants, please contact Liz Gardiner, our treasurer, who will be delighted to advise.

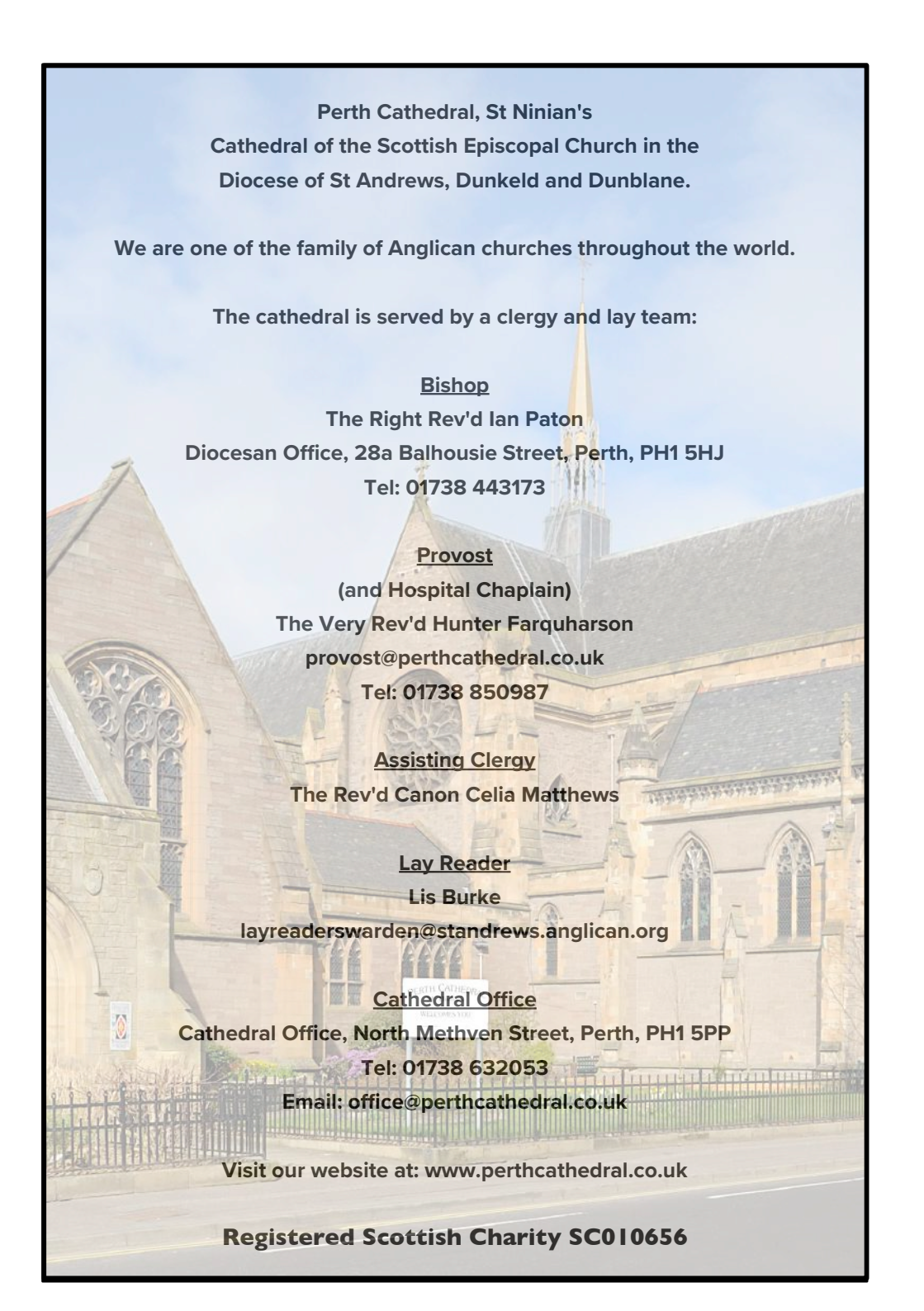
Flowers

Flowers greatly enhance our worship. If you can help 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. The closing date for inclusion in the November magazine is

18 October



**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
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Provost

**(and Hospital Chaplain)
The Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson
provost@perthcathedral.co.uk
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Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews

Lay Reader

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