

Cathedral News



December 2020 - January 2021

Who's Who at the Cathedral

From the Provost

Dear Friends

As Advent and Christmas loom on the horizon, I wanted to say how grateful I am to the cathedral community for their careful and caring approach during this time of pandemic. We've worked really hard to meet all the regulations and to keep cathedral life going. Within the last few days, joy of joys, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, with new vaccines being developed. They say some people may even be vaccinated before Christmas. Praise be! 2020 seemed so full of promise back in January!



Instead, this has been a year of challenge and change, not only for us, but for our world. I'm sure you will join me in thanking God for the skill of all the researchers, technicians and scientists involved in the creation of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Advent always commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, or the closest Sunday to St Andrew's Day, which falls on 30 November each year, ending on

Contents

Who's who	2	Cathedral garden 2020	22
From the Provost	3	The rood screen	24
Readings and Collects	6	My relation, the bishop	25
Christmas services	8	Data protection forms	27
Annabelle's photo corner	9	Advent lantern procession	27
Cathedral round-up	10	Advertisements	27
A socially-distanced Christmas	12	Christmas poem	28
Emmanuel's update	15	From the Farquhar diaries	29
Book recommendations	16	Cathedral AGM	29
Christmas greetings	18	Eddie the Eagle	30
January weather	20	Times of services etc	31
Christian Aid appeal	21	Clergy contact details	32

Christmas Day. We say it's one of the church's 'penitential' seasons (the other being Lent) when we prepare for the coming of the Messiah and the celebration of Christmas.

Our government and all the devolved parliaments have reached the agreement that we need time together with our friends and families at Christmas. I think there is to be five days of relaxation from the rules on households and mixing. This again is cause for celebration. Many of us are wearied by the situation and need a lift. Receiving a gift is exciting but the real joy of Christmas is to be found in each other.

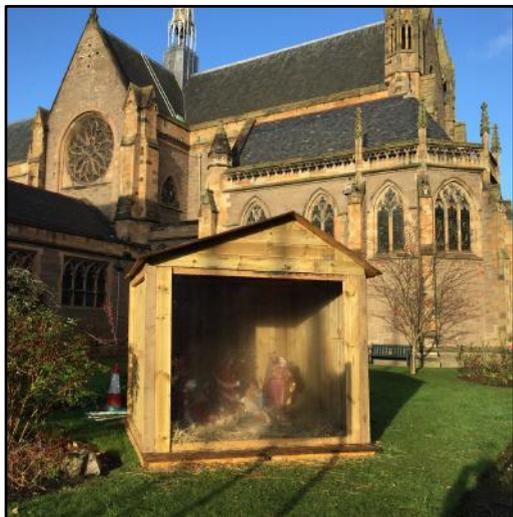
I don't want to put a dampener on Christmas, but there is still a long winter ahead of us, so we need to continue to care for each other and keep safe for a bit longer. Things may be relaxed for families, but the same rules still apply in church. There can be no Advent Carol Service, or Lessons and Carols, no community singing whatsoever! However, we are having two services on Christmas Day, at 9.00am and 11.00am.

Our Christingle is online this year and is presented by Lis Burke our lay reader. There will also be Christingles already made to be handed out on Christmas Day (all carefully made and sanitised!). There is the chance that more people may come to the service than we are allowed. I therefore propose to start taking names of those who want to come to the cathedral on Christmas Day at 9.00am and those

for 11.00am. I promise to make our Christmas services as joyful as possible within the coronavirus constraints!

The Methven Street Traders have once again erected their Christmas log cabin (pictured left), full of the characters that make up the nativity, in the front garden of the cathedral. My thanks to the Community Payback Team for erecting it.

The New Year 2021 will certainly be full of expectation with the hope of



mass immunisation. It's something to think about – will we all just return to the way things were before the pandemic or are there things we'd like to change? I think there will be many discussions over the next months.

So, what should our prayers be at this time?

Firstly, for the many tens of thousands of people

who have died due to Covid-19 and their families. This will be a sad time for many. Please remember all those who have contracted the virus and have been left with long term illnesses.

There is so much uncertainty around. Lack of employment and reduced wages through furlough have left many short of money. Maybe we can give thanks to God for everyone concerned with the distribution of food to those who need it. Let's also pray for all 'front line' people, not only those in our National Health Service, but the people who work in care homes and in education who certainly are putting their lives at risk in helping others. Hospitality has been severely hit by this pandemic and we are being told many places may even fold. Let's thank God for all our businesses in Perth who have managed to keep going somehow.

As always we pray for those we know to be unwell and those who find themselves at home. Pray that the roll-out for the vaccine is quick and efficient. Let's pray that the year 2021 will take us forward into a better way of life, free from coronavirus and mask free!!! May the God of hope sustain us all in these troubled times.

On behalf of the ministry team and the vestry may I wish you a very happy Christmas and all good things in the year to come.

With love,
Hunter



The nativity scene, already in place beside the pulpit

Readings and Collects for December and January

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6 December

Collect: Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11, Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13 December

Collect: God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-8, 19-28

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 20 December

Collect: Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16, Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26, Romans 16.25-27, Luke 1.26-38

CHRISTMAS DAY

Collect: God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 62.6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3.4-7, Luke 2.(1-7)8-20

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 27 December

Collect: Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 61.10-62.3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.22-40

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 3 January

Collect: God of power and life, the glory of all who believe in you, fill the world with your splendour and show the nations the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Jeremiah 31.7-14, Psalm 147.13-21, Ephesians 1.3-14, John 1.(1-9)10-18

THE EPIPHANY 6 January

Collect: Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son, guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6, Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

The Baptism of the Lord 10 January

Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Genesis 1.1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19.1-7, Mark 1.4-11

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 17 January

Collect: Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: 1 Samuel 3.1-10(11-20), Psalm 139.1-5, 12-17, 1 Corinthians 6.12-20, John 1.43-51

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 24 January

Collect: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Jonah 3.1-5, 10, Psalm 62.6-14, 1 Corinthians 7.29-31, Mark 1.14-20

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 31 January

Collect: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Deuteronomy 18.15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8.1-13, Mark 1.21-28

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 7 February

Collect: Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 40.21-31, Psalm 147.1-12, 1 Corinthians 9.16-23, Mark 1.29-39

Christmas Services 2020

There are no services planned for Christmas Eve but, as the provost has said in his letter, there will be two services in the cathedral on Christmas Day - at 9.00am and 11.00am. There will be online services but at the time of going to press the SEC office in Edinburgh was unable to say who will be presenting them and when. There will also be an online Christingle service from the cathedral, presented by Lis B with the assistance of Maihri C. Maihri writes..

Christingle countdown!

This year we can't have a Christingle service in the same way we normally do but that doesn't mean it isn't happening at all! We would love you all to be involved and any children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews (I might even get my cat to help) are welcome too! For each of the four weeks of Advent we would like you to select one item from your home that could become part of your Christingle. To

help you with your Christingle creations Lis has created a video which will be available on our website and Facebook page very soon. Lis will demonstrate how to make a Christingle as well as reflect on why we make them and why each part is important. If you have oranges, sweeties, red tape and a candle - that is fabulous, but if you don't we encourage you to be as creative as possible in building your own unique Christingle.

Advent 1 - The Orange: Not everyone likes oranges so alternative objects could be a ball, any round-ish fruit (apple, melon), a ball of wool or string,

Advent 2 - The Candle: If you are under 16 then please check with an adult before lighting any candles! The little candles from birthday cakes are great but if you don't have any, a torch is just as good!

Advent 3 - The Sweeties: For those of you who are watching your sugar intake try raisins, grapes, olives or nuts.

Advent 4 - The Tape: If you don't have any red tape to hand, string, a scarf, coloured paper or ribbon would work just as well.

We would love to see photos of your creations, so please email them to cathedralmagazine@gmail.com.

Annabelle's Photo Corner

Some walks are filled with rainbows. This was taken around and about the lovely



Comrie, on a long walk with a friend. The rainbow symbolises important things... and what better way to contemplate the possibility of hope and goodwill among all humans when one appears in the sky? Thanks be to God!

And thanks too to Annabelle O'Connell!

A Round-Up of Cathedral News

Remembrance Sunday

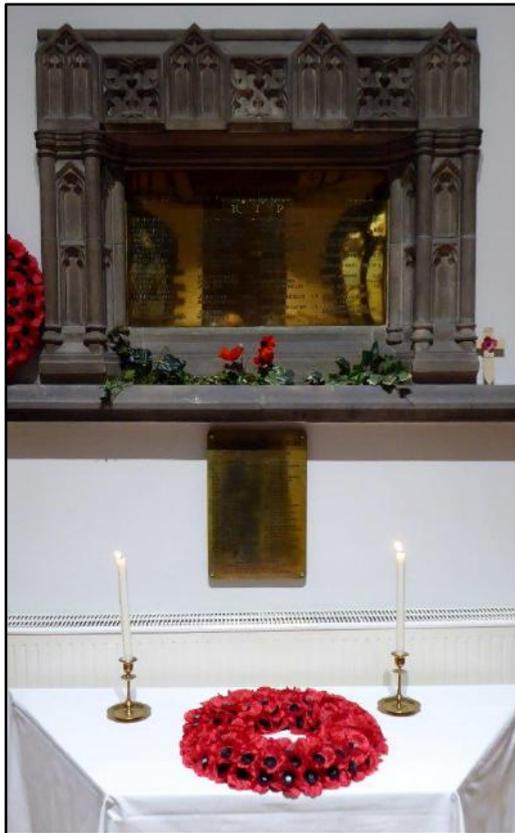
Just as it does every year, this year's Remembrance Day service gave us all the opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for the courage and bravery of all those who gave their lives for their country. The two-minute silence was observed at the beginning of the service and The Last Post was played on the organ. While, unfortunately, we were not permitted to sing the National Anthem, Alister performed it wonderfully on behalf



of us all. Lis read the poem *In Flanders Field* and Shirley created a most beautiful display of poppies at the font. Colonel Struan Robertson of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders laid the wreath for all the cathedral members who died in both world wars and Drum Major Kenny Forbes laid the wreath at the Black Watch window.

Maihri Cameron

Many thanks to Christopher Dingwall for sending in these photos of Remembrance Sunday at the cathedral.



The Great Four-in-One Service!

It's not often you celebrate - on the same day - the liturgical Hogmanay of Christ the King, a confirmation, a licensing and an installation, but that is what happened on Sunday 22 November. And just for good measure we even had the bishop preaching. The photos overleaf show Councillor Chris Ahern, together with his family, who was confirmed by the bishop, and Lis Burke who was formally licensed as a lay reader at the cathedral. Celia, pictured right, and below with the bishop and provost, was installed as a canon. Many thanks to our resident paparazzi Christopher Dingwall and Lis Burke for the photos!





A Socially-Distanced Christmas

If you believe the media, there is a real risk that Christmas will be cancelled this year. Of course the restrictions on public events and family gatherings will make this a very different Christmas, but there are still many ways we can celebrate in our homes, and there is much that is worth celebrating. I hope that you will enjoy selecting from these suggestions that I have put together – maybe you will find something that starts a new tradition!

Feasting with others

Not everybody is used to gathering together around a crowded table at Christmas, but if this is an aspect of Christmas you will miss, try making these changes:

- Forget the traditional roast turkey and trimmings, and choose a different celebratory meal that is simpler to prepare. Maybe this is the year to enjoy a steak or vegetable pie!
- Donate some extra treats to the Foodbank, using the collection point in a local supermarket.

- Make biscuits, sweets or mince pies to give as presents to your neighbours.

Visiting family members

Not all of us are used to having a house full of people, but many of us will miss our usual shared family activities. Here are some ways of sharing Christmas with others even if you are not all in the same house:

- Choose a Christmas carol that you all know, and ask everyone to draw a picture or do some craftwork before Christmas to illustrate it. Take photos of your work and send them to the rest of the family, or put the originals in the post to each other. Ask everyone to listen to the same carol at some time on Christmas Day.
- Take time to think of the person who chose each of the presents you receive and open. Remember to acknowledge and give thanks for each gift.
- Send everyone in the family a note or a picture after Christmas, to show you are still thinking of them.

Christmas music

With no carol services and no singing in public places, look for new ways to explore the Nativity through music:

- Listen to Christmas music as a 'concert' at home, not as a background to another activity. You may have a selection of Christmas CDs to choose from, or check for programmes of Christmas music on the radio or TV.
- Sing carols at home.
- Listen to some Christmas music that is new to you, such as...
- Contemporary Christian composers
- Mediaeval Christmas music

- Christmas music from a different culture or tradition, perhaps Russian or Greek Orthodox.

Sharing the Light

With fewer public events taking place, look for ways of sharing the Christmas light at home:



- Make a Christingle to light on Christmas Day as a centrepiece on your table. Share a picture of it with others. There are instructions for making Christingles on the websites of the Aberlour Trust and the Children's Society – or look out for videos online! And see also pages eight and nine of this magazine.
- Consider making a donation to the Aberlour Trust.
- Light a candle in the window or

put a Christingle where it can be seen from outside the house. Pray that the light of Christmas may be shared by all.

The Rt Rev'd Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, wrote in a recent press article, 'Who knows, in years to come we might remember finding some good in the challenges brought by the pandemic. This might be the year when we were forced to have a more simple Christmas, but found ways to make the great festival in our winter more meaningful for all.'

Lis Burke

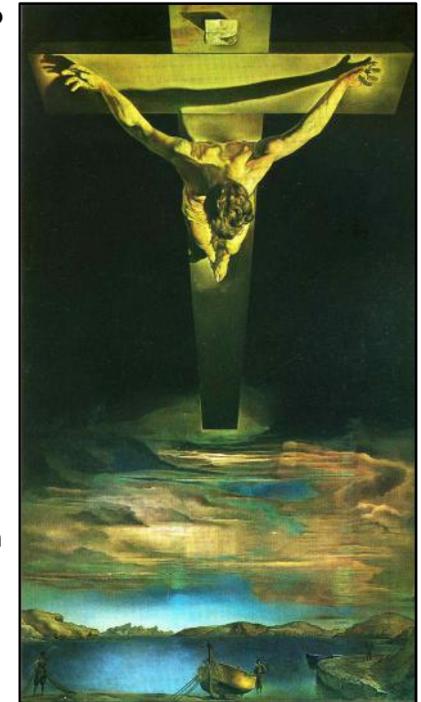
Cover Illustration

This month's cover is a lovely photo by Bill Crighton showing the *Adoration of the Magi* from the Childrens' Window in the south aisle.

An Update from Emmanuel

As many of you know, I am doing an MLitt, distance learning, at St. Andrews University. The full title of the course is *The Bible and the Contemporary World*. The first module is on theology and the arts, and I am doing a module a year. My first essay was on *The Role of Christian Revelation for the Arts*. We had to choose two art forms to focus on. I chose the *St. John Passion* by Bach and Salvador Dali's *Christ of St. John of the Cross* (pictured below). Our second essay concerned J. R. R. Tolkien. I had to examine his theological aesthetics, especially found in *Leaf by Niggle* and *On Fairy-Stories*. I chose to focus on the gift-exchange idea in respect to this.

When I was young, I read *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* several times. I was scheduled to do an essay for Sixth Year Studies on the difference between good and evil and how good always triumphed in the end while at St. Mary's Music School, but it never happened. So, I was glad to do this one, although I am being stretched academically. There are webinars every week on study skills, going back to basics and helping me with aspects such as critical thinking. We have two choices for the next essay, which I will do on *Boxers and Saints* by Gene Luen Yang. There are also tutorials with Dr. Stoddart, the course director, and a bulletin board which we contribute to, and lectures from Dr. Rebekah Lamb. The reading list is extensive and all of this keeps me very busy and focused.



I hope that you are all coping somehow with the coronavirus. I hope to see you sometime soon.

As someone has said, we are all in the same storm but in different boats. And it is ok not to feel ok. I am sure that we can all identify with these words at this difficult time.

Emmanuel Patterson

Book Recommendations

As you will imagine, I've been reading a bit. I have now finished the last volume of Hilary Mantel's trilogy of novels about Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's 'fixer'. The last one, *The Mirror and the Light*, ends with his execution, possibly because the king couldn't stand Anne of Cleves whom Cromwell had virtually procured or because it was thought that he (Cromwell) had designs on Princess (later Bloody) Mary and cutting his head off was one way of limiting his ambition. The book itself is a work of such skill that one reviewer said the Booker judges could take the year off. In the event, it wasn't even shortlisted. It is 800 pages, so, if you read in bed, I would recommend the Kindle version.

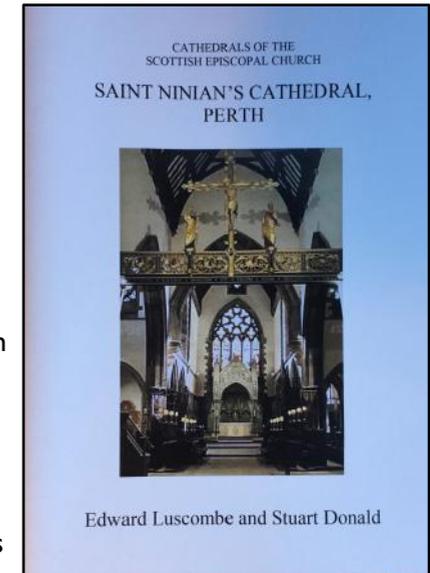
Following on from that, I found in Oxfam (where else?) a Folio edition of the life of Cardinal Wolsey, written by George Cavendish, *Wolsey's Gentleman's Usher*, which is a wonderful read, and the language is extraordinary. It covers all the life's main events, and is both poignant and, in places, very funny. It probably isn't in print now which is a shame.

Working as a volunteer in the Oxfam bookshop is great fun, but it can be expensive. I didn't read much poetry when I was younger, but now I do like a poem. Among others I have been discovering some of the verse of Clive James, who died last year. The collections of poems, *Sentenced to Life* and *Injury Time*, together with the epic poem *The River in the Sky* were all written after the diagnosis of his terminal illness and informed the poems. They are a mixture of the poignant, the charming and often the amusing, all overlaid by his intellectual versatility and his astonishing erudition and I would recommend them to poetry lovers and to those of us who are struggling with a medium which we have largely overlooked.

After James had lost the ability to write, he dictated to his daughter some of the poems which he remembered and had learned over the years, and recalled them in an anthology, including his appreciation of each poem. There are about 80 poems, written by different poets from around the world and the book, published as *The Fury of Joy*, is as wide-ranging as it is inspiring. By the way, the numerous *Memoirs* he published are all worth their weight in gold.

Alison Ballantyne

If you're looking for a stocking-filler for someone with an interest in Scottish Episcopal church history, whom you're trying to tempt along to the cathedral, then *Cathedral News* has just the thing for you. *St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth* by Edward Luscombe and Stuart Donald is a well-illustrated paperback running to around 65 pages and is full of information about the cathedral building and the clergy connected with it. For example, our present provost, Hunter, is apparently the second-longest serving provost since the cathedral's foundation 170 years ago. The authors also state that during his provostship 'the standard of music in St Ninian's Cathedral has remained consistently high', so, clearly, it must be a good book - as indeed it should be, with Ted Luscombe having served as Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Stuart Donald being the honorary archivist of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.



Caffe COCO

Offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the heart of Perth's new historic Quarter beside the town lade.

From great and wonderfully smooth artisan Italian coffees and delicious traditional Scottish breakfasts, to light lunches, sumptuous cakes, tasty soups and wholesome sandwiches. All available to sit in or take away.

We are dog friendly. A recent quote from one of our customers -

'Lovely cosy little cafe, with great selection of food and drink. Nice, pleasant staff and good value for money. Well worth it.'

We have remained open throughout the pandemic proudly maintaining a service to our customers, particularly key workers, in partnership with our fellow independents. Thank you for your continued support.

Support Us Support U !!!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

Postmen are still allowed to deliver mail but, as many of you will know, the current regulations seem to forbid the exchange of Christmas cards within the cathedral community. But fear not! Eddie the Eagle has been asked to pass on Christmas greetings from and to the congregation and he's been hard at work on his computer. Indeed, some of the less than Christmassy language emanating from his eyrie suggests he might have been overdoing it, but then again, it's probably hard to type with talons...



John, Maureen and Laura Wright send our St. Ninian's friends...
...Fond Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas.



Hi Humans, this is me Susie and my big friend Nelson checking in! We're playing tug of war, it's one of our favourite games. Our other best game is 'bite yer neck', that's great too. We have a busy life looking after an old vicar and his lovely wife. We go for lots of walks, keeping a close eye on Richard, in case he falls over. Hope all you lovely humans have a great Christmas, and lots of turkey, we've been promised some.

Love and Greetings from us ALL: Gina, Richard, Susie and Nelson.

Andrew and Alison B are sorry not to see their friends at Christmas, but wish everyone a happy Christmas and a happy new year.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from Margaret and Alison Cunningham.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and all the very best for 2021. With love from Marion Swan.

Chrys Fraser wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and a very good New Year.

Greetings and best wishes to all at the cathedral from Shirley E.

To Geoff and choir members - as I do not have email I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. My season's greetings also to everyone at St Ninian's, from Alister Y Allan.



With love and best wishes to everyone for a very happy Christmas! - Anne M-S

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine.
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours, and love be mine
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea, and gift and sign.

May God be with you at
Christmas,
Love, Celia



Netta Layland wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Marietta and Stuart wish a blessed, happy, cheery Christmas to all the clergy and congregation of St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. Stay safe!

Wishing all my new church family a very happy Christmas as we celebrate the Nativity together. Lis.

Dear Cathedral family,

It has been wonderful to spend another year with you fabulous people (even if lockdown did get in the way a bit)! I wish you all a very happy Christmas and I look forward to 2021 with you all (whether that will be in person, on Zoom or from lockdown!)

Much love, Maihri xx

In this Christmas season
 may the light of Christ be yours,
 may the love of God be yours,
 may the joy of the Spirit be yours.
 Wishing you health and peace in 2021,
 Margot

Jackie and Ian McRae would like to wish all our friends at the cathedral a very merry Christmas and hope you all have a much better 2021. Much love! x

Margaret Barker wishes all her cathedral friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best Christmas greetings to all my friends at St Ninians. If we can't sing carols in church, we can sing them joyfully in our hearts and hopefully with the angels...John B



Wendy and Jeremy send their warmest greetings to all the cathedral family and wish them a very merry Christmas. Let's hope the 'happy new year' bit lasts beyond mid-March this time!

Wishing you all a happier 2021 - sorry about 2020! Love Covid-19.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all, from Wendy E.

January Weather

January isn't known for decent weather but fingers crossed Perth won't be as bad as it was in 1635 when more than six feet of snow was recorded in the streets. Many thanks to Margaret Lye for sending in this snippet from the Chronicle of Perth...

In januar 1635 from ye 26 day yairof till ye 16 day of februar Thair fell furt suche and hudge snow That men nor women could not walk wpone or streitis It was ten quarter or Twa ellis heiche throu all the toun Tay was 30 dayis frozen ower Thair was great skairstie of wictuall + elding mylnes gaid not and yair wes no passage nor trawelling to bring any in AT yat tyme aill wes waie skant They knockit malt in knocking stones...

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

Sadly we've not managed very much for Christian Aid this year for obvious reasons, but as you know it's a hugely worthwhile charity which exists to help build a world where everyone can live a full life free from poverty.



The 2020 Christmas appeal is to help those in areas battling the ruinous effects of storms, droughts, famine and disease, which are a direct result of climate change. It's also to provide emergency supplies to those for whom this coronavirus pandemic has made an already difficult

existence well nigh impossible, such as the small producers unable to sell their usual cash-crops whose families are dying of hunger.

If you'd like to make a donation to Christian Aid's 2020 appeal there is a bowl on the table by the entrance door to the cathedral, and also some of the familiar red envelopes in the cloisters, which can be returned to Pat or me. Thank you!

Wendy Duncan

||| *Marian's of Perth* |||

**Open 10am to 4pm
Monday to Saturday**

We would love to welcome you into Marian's of Perth this Christmas.

2-10 North Methven St, PH1 5PN | 01738 622884
www.mariansofperth.co.uk

Cathedral Garden 2020

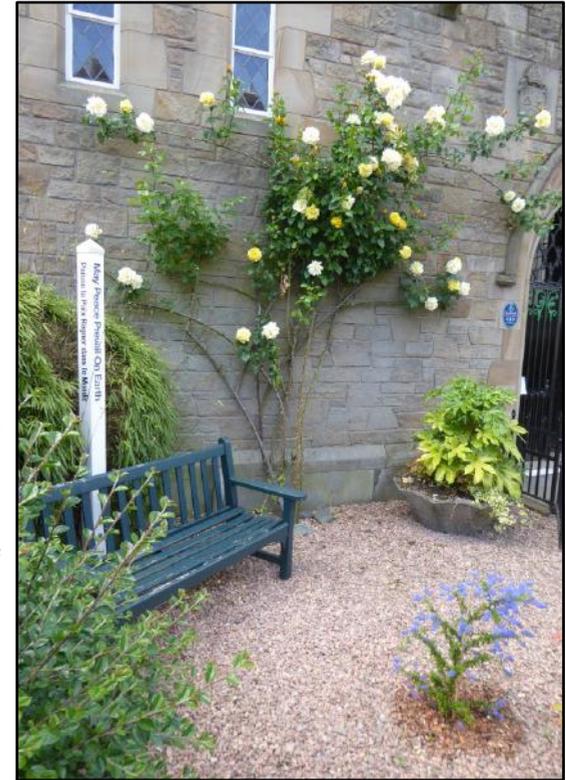


Much has happened in the 18 months or so which have elapsed since the cathedral received a grant from the Scottish greenspace charity the Mushroom Trust towards the refurbishment of the cathedral precinct on North Methven Street. The garden ground, having been off-limits for much of 2018 during the re-roofing, had become sadly neglected and untidy. With two large cypress trees obscuring views of the building and killing the grass because of the heavy shade below their canopies, it was decided that part of the grant should go towards their removal and the reinstatement of the ground as lawn. While the garden had previously benefited from generous donations of plants and from voluntary input by members of the congregation, it was felt that the area would benefit from professional advice. Consequently, also with the help of the Mushroom Trust grant, the cathedral was able to appoint John Blackie of Heritage Gardeners to oversee the replanting. The result has been that, in little more than a year, the garden has seen some major changes.

The Peace Garden to the left of the main entrance, with its splendid yellow rose 'Peace' is one area that has benefited from new shrub planting intended to form more of a screen from the pavement and to create a sense of enclosure and tranquillity.

New planting has also been put into the Garden of Remembrance, across the way. The overgrown cypress trees have been replaced with two new rowan trees and a crab apple, the flowers and foliage of which will add colour and interest to the lawn without shading the ground and obscuring views of the building. Two raised beds have been created for use by the children from St Ninian's Primary School. Although the Covid-19 pandemic prevented their use during 2020, we look forward to them being put to good use by children from the school in years to come.

Thanks to the attention given to the precinct by gardener John Blackie,



and the regular mowing undertaken by Alan Gorrie of Garden Care Services, the cathedral can now boast one of the most attractive green spaces to the north of the city, a place which complements the cathedral's splendid architecture, and where visitors and local residents alike can come to relax.

Christopher Dingwall

The Cathedral Rood Screen

One thing that has become much easier to appreciate since the lighting was upgraded - as part of the recent refurbishment of the cathedral - is what remains of Sir John Ninian Comper's handsome rood screen. This was installed in its present position in 1924, although the lower section was later removed, leaving the cross-beam surmounted by a crucifix, flanked by the figures of St. Mary Magdalene to the left and of St. John the Baptist to the right. The cross beam bears the Latin inscription in gold letters 'Sic Deus Dilexit Mundum ut Filium Suum Unigenitum Daret', which can be translated as 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son'.



Above the inscription are six carved panels bearing images of the Kings of Judah. Reading from left to right these are: Juda Propheta, or Judah who was founder of the Davidian line of Kings; Jesse Propheta, or Jesse who was the father of King David; David Rex, or King David, the psalmist seen here plucking the strings of his harp, but also remembered for having killed Goliath the Philistine; Salomon Rex, or King Solomon, successor to King David, holding his sceptre or staff of authority in his left hand; Josaphat Rex, or King Jehosaphat, whose reign was marked by peace and prosperity, with his sceptre in his left hand and his right hand clasped across his



King David



King Solomon

bosom; and finally Ezechias Rex, or King Hezekiah, also carrying his sceptre in his left hand. The kingdom of Judah, also known as Judea was more or less equivalent to the southern part of the modern state of Israel. Even in the time of the kings represented on the cross-beam this was a land of tension and conflict, as it is today.

The other elements of Comper's design are the four cartouches at the extremities of the crucifix. As seen in the stained glass of the east window, or carved in stone at the entrance to the cloister, these represent the four evangelists, St Matthew at the foot, St John at the head, St Mark to the left and St Luke to the right.

Christopher Dingwall

My Relation, the Bishop

During this pandemic, many people with time on their hands have been researching their family tree. I already knew that my great-grandfather invented tracing paper. Well, someone had to do it.

Further family research unearthed the fact that I have a fairly remote link to a bishop! A distant relation was none other than Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram (1858 - 1946), Bishop of London in the first half of the 20th century. Oh, and a further tenuous claim to fame: Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram was a descendant, on his mother's side, of the diarist Pepys.

He was a colourful character, marked by an exceptional spirit of kindness and compassion, noted for having an 'unquenchable adolescence.' He was invariably optimistic, and especially during the First World War, and no doubt rather jingoistic. (So said the Prime Minister H H Asquith.)

His ministry began after his student days in Oxford, when he, and a great many others, immersed himself in the East End of London. He became Bishop of Stepney (1899 - 1901), before being appointed to the London diocese, where he remained for the best part of 40 years. He was not the first, nor the last, clergyman to stay beyond his usefulness, but there is no doubt that he was loved.

Ingram had an astonishing energy, and was committed to a very active life. When he was not preaching to thousands, he was playing tennis or golf, and when other vigorous activity was not available, 'a stiff walk'. A curious link to our cathedral? He loved to fish, and when in Scotland fished the Tay with Provost Smythe of Perth Cathedral. I was stunned to learn that on his holidays he normally took 14 pieces of luggage. EasyJet would not have taken him. His luggage included his robes, for he would conduct services, often several times a day, even on holiday.

Although never a profound scholar, he was very devout, and intensely sincere. Without the learning and erudition of bishops like William Temple or Lightfoot or Westcott, of Ingram it would have been said that 'the common people heard him gladly'. Cathedrals and churches were always packed to hear his sermons. His preaching was direct and inspiring. One indication of his influence was that in 1934, a full Royal Albert Hall celebrated the fact he had led an astonishing number of people to become ordained: to be precise, 2205 men, who signed a book in tribute.

As Bishop of London, he found himself caught in the controversy over a revised *Book of Common Prayer*. Evangelical in fervour, yet Anglo-Catholic in devotion, he was genuinely surprised that the argument could be settled just by good manners and personal charm.



Arthur Winnington-Ingram, Bishop of London, as caricatured by 'Spy' in Vanity Fair in 1901.

He was no doubt naive in that respect, as in many others, and yet his relatively superficial answers to the many problems people expressed to him was pastorally effective. He said that the aim of his ministry was simply to help people to love God a little better. His way of tackling one of the great mysteries was: 'If I did not believe in Jesus Christ, I could not believe in a good God' (*Winnington-Ingram*, by S C Carpenter, Hodder and Stoughton, 1949, p112).

Chris Brown

The editor would like to include further articles by members of the congregation about clergymen in the family. If you have a rector, minister, moderator, cardinal or pastor in the family why not put pen to paper - or finger to keyboard - and tell us a little about their life and perhaps the effect such a life has had on you?

Data Protection Forms

A wee reminder from our administrator, Marion, to please return any outstanding data protection forms. Thank you!

Advent Lantern Procession

Probably no reminder is needed but despite the presence of the nativity scene in the cathedral garden there will be no Advent lantern procession this year. And no PACT carol service either.

Advertisements

You will probably notice the two adverts in this issue. Over the years the cathedral community has formed a good relationship with our neighbours in North Methven Street of whom several have been very good to us. In these difficult times for local businesses, Provost Hunter has decided that we should try to reciprocate their help by offering free advertising in *Cathedral News*. When the economic situation improves we may suggest a small fee for advertising, which would help with the production costs of the magazine, but until then we are making no charge. If you can, please do support our advertisers - our neighbours!

To Love and to Wonder

They said it will all be over by Christmas,
they've said that about a war and a pandemic, they've been wrong.
This Christmas will be different and yet it will be the same as others,
it follows a difficult, painful year.

This virus seemed to seep into every moment of our lives.
During lockdown walking with the dogs in the forest,
I felt, if I looked behind me, I'd see a great dark, black cloud, hissing along.
And the countryside ranger shouted at us:
'Go Home, Go Home!'
So this Christmas will be different.

I remember, as we all do, other Christmases,
with my beloved bride of just four days
in the old church as it kept its nine hundredth Christmas.
Strong and firm, and bathed in warm candlelight,
full of excited children for the nativity,
and one small angel, called short behind the stalls,
and having to use John Smith's copper bowl.
But this Christmas will be different.



Yet still is Christ born and lives in all of us,
both young and old and those not yet born.
Just as in other Christmases we find Him in bread and wine,
and by creeping across the rustling straw to worship Him,
to look upon this Christ child and sweet Mary His mother.
To worship, to love and to wonder.

Yes this Christmas will be different, but Jesus Christ will still come to us,
filling us with His love and helping us to love his humanity.
It will be different, but no less than other Christmases.
And so like those who have gone before us,
we gather, to worship, to love and to wonder.

Richard Sutton

From the Farquhar Diaries

16 December 1920. On Sunday I took what seems likely to be my last Supernumerary engagement. It was at Cupar Fife, for Canon Paterson, who is seriously ill. I have held the office in this Diocese since September 1883 and I had held the same appointment in Brechin during 1882. I could have given it up long ago, had I chosen, but I was very fond of the work and especially of not being obliged to preach to the same people year in & year out every Sunday. I have been in the habit of re-writing my Sermons in the light of having preached them in two or three places till I got them right. But it is the cost of post-war living which has brought about the change. It is estimated that the Cathedral income will not nearly meet the expenses at the new rate and so we are going to try to do without a Chaplain. The Rev. Wood Smith has gone off to the living of Dollar and I am to stay in Perth on Sundays. People are all congratulating me on no longer having to travel at the weekends. But I liked it. I was at home in all the various charges in the Diocese. In fact I think my Sundays will be far harder at the Cathedral, for I shall have to take a Boys' Class and to write far more Sermons - to be preached only in their first editions.

As ever, many thanks to Margaret Lye for this extract from her published edition of The Diary of the Very Rev G T S Farquhar.

Cathedral AGM

The Annual General Meeting might have been held online using Zoom, but the majority of us at the cathedral don't have access to that, so I propose to simply write about some of the things that have happened throughout the past year. If you wish me to include something, then please do send it to Marion at office@perthcathedral.co.uk or hand in a written copy. This will all be included in the February edition of *Cathedral News*.

Treasurer Liz Gardiner has been hard at work putting together the yearly accounts. This is a time-consuming task, but one Liz does so well. We are adrift somewhat but that was expected as our income has dropped. A full set of accounts will be available in the New Year should you want them. Again, a list will be left out for those who want a full copy.

Hunter

Eddie the Eagle says...

I know I tend to get mixed up with words. Yes, I voted for Brexit because I thought it was a new breakfast cereal and, yes, I confused the virus with the Primus. But I know what the vaccine is! It's a new type of vacuum cleaner! Apparently they stick it in your arm and Hoover the Primus out, sorted! Oh, what a clever eagle I am...

And finally...just so you can say at Christmas dinner that you've heard an even worse one...

I bought my wife a fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see her face light up when she opens it.



Has anyone seen our Christmas tree, either lost, stolen or strayed?

Penny's donated Christmas tree seems to have been mislaid.

Ed, Ed, Eddie the Eagle, said to the tree, said he,

'You must never go down to the end of the town without consulting me.'

Perhaps it's been wandering vaguely, quite of its own accord?

Has it gone down to the end of the town?

Forty shillings reward!

Last seen in quiet repose in store at the back of the church. It's understood it's return would be good -

It's Eddie's Christmas perch!

(With apologies to A A Milne)

E.T.E



Times of Services etc

At St Ninian's we extend a warm welcome to all those who come to share in the worship of God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Services

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

Giving

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

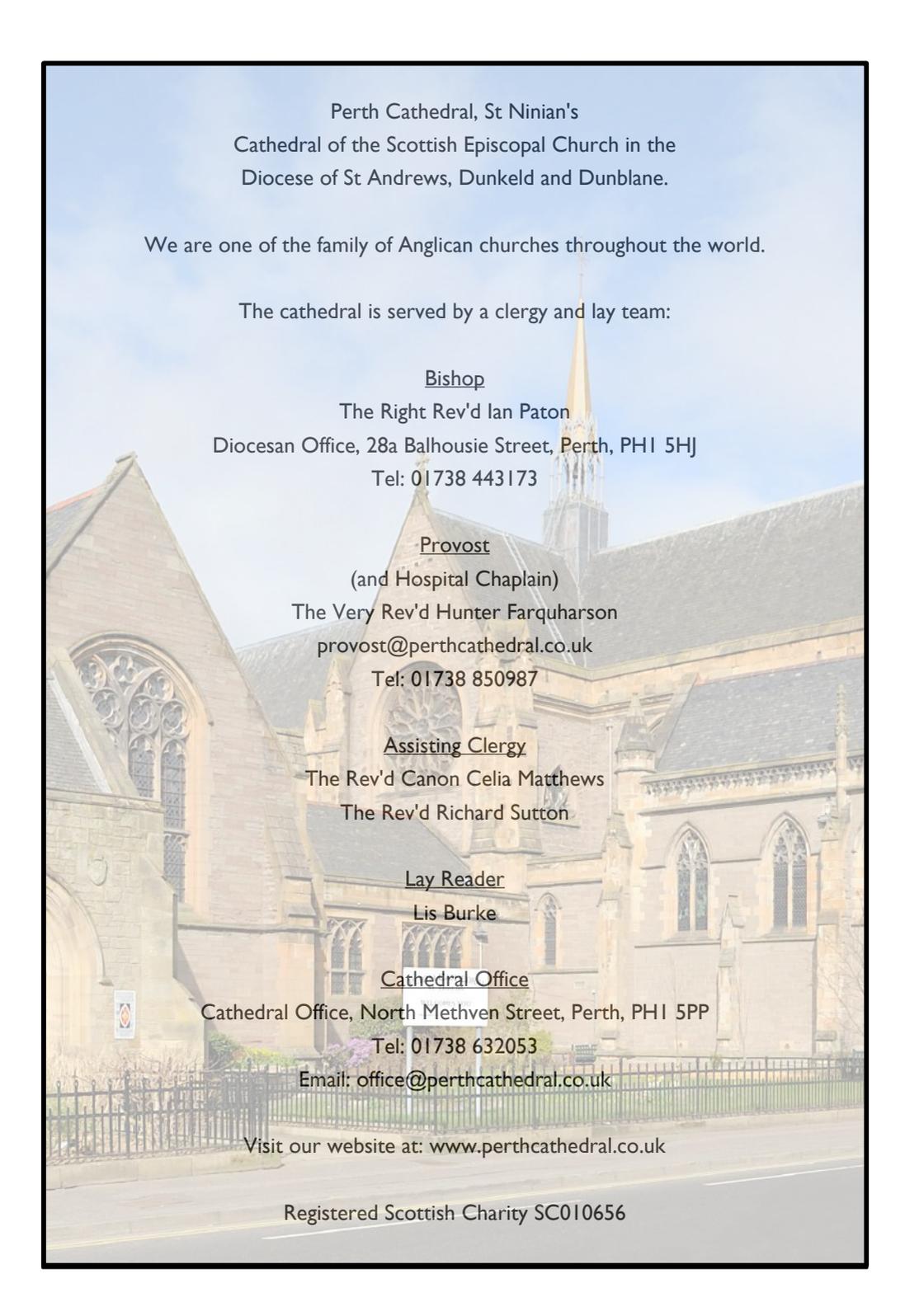
Flowers

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 February magazine is

22 January 2021

A photograph of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's, showing its Gothic architecture with a prominent spire and large stained glass windows. The text is overlaid on the image.

Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's
Cathedral of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

We are one of the family of Anglican churches throughout the world.

The cathedral is served by a clergy and lay team:

Bishop

The Right Rev'd Ian Paton
Diocesan Office, 28a Balhousie Street, Perth, PH1 5HJ
Tel: 01738 443173

Provost

(and Hospital Chaplain)
The Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson
provost@perthcathedral.co.uk
Tel: 01738 850987

Assisting Clergy

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

Lay Reader

Lis Burke

Cathedral Office

Cathedral Office, North Methven Street, Perth, PH1 5PP
Tel: 01738 632053
Email: office@perthcathedral.co.uk

Visit our website at: www.perthcathedral.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC010656