

Cathedral News

The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's



February 2021

Who's Who at the Cathedral

From the Provost

Dear Friends

Is it a bit late to wish everyone a Happy New Year? We knew before Christmas that there was a number of Covid-19 variants on the go and given the age demographic of our congregation, it prompted the decision to close straight after our Christmas Day celebrations. It was a difficult decision and one that made us feel unhappy but soon after this the governments in all four countries decided another lockdown was necessary.



We do not know when we shall be allowed to re-open, so we decided to have a Lent Course at home. Our lay reader Lis Burke has drawn this together. Each week different people present their topic. The first two weeks are posted out with this magazine with the remainder to follow next month. We start, of course, with Ash Wednesday on 17 February. There is a little laminated smudge cross as a reminder in the magazine. We will also put together a Holy Week at home guide

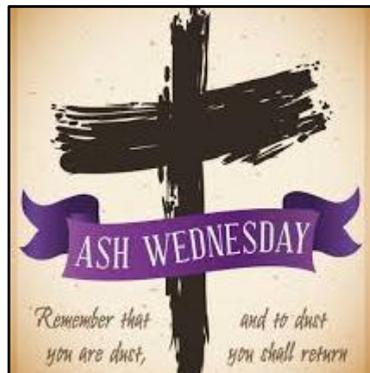
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with prayers and readings. I simply don't know if we shall be open for Easter and even if we are, there may be restrictions in numbers.

Ash Wednesday 17 February

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Lent 1 (21 February) The entrance door - Lis Burke

Lent 2 (28 February) The kitchen - our daily bread - John and Maureen Wright

Lent 3 (7 March) How we adorn our homes with art – Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews

Lent 4 (14 March) Mothering Sunday – Wendy Duncan

Lent 5 (21 March) Sharing our homes with pets – Rev'd Richard Sutton

Palm Sunday and Holy Week (28 March – 3 April)

EASTER DAY (4 April)

This is a hard time for everyone in our world. I keep thinking how lucky we are in that we live in a beautiful place with easy access to the countryside with lots of parks and places to walk in. During my ministry I've visited places in Africa, India and South America where there is unimaginable poverty and where, for many, there is simply no medical access.

As we await our vaccines, I think of the millions who live in extreme poverty with no real hope of help. But then we don't have to look to different parts of the world to see need. There has been a great reduction in income for some, with many

people struggling financially. I would urge you to please support the Food Bank in Perth. They are so much busier than they have ever been before and need our donations.

We have to have some form of Annual General Meeting, so we are doing it through the magazine. I have prepared a report on the previous year. Also, our treasurer has prepared an income and expenditure statement using draft figures from our accountants, Morris & Young. Once the vestry have received the full statutory accounts they will be approved. Anyone wanting a copy of the full statutory accounts should let Marion know in the office and she will post them out in mid-February. There are a few reports from people that are also included in this magazine. If you have any questions about the previous year, then please do get in touch.

I'd like to end by thanking all those who have helped keep the cathedral going – making signs, topping up gel bottles, taking names at the door, sanitising the cathedral (every chair, door handle and surface is constantly being cleaned for our safety). Thank you also to our lay reader Lis Burke who joined us and who has been a huge support. I am also grateful to Marion Swan who has taken over from Sue in the office as our administrator. After the Covid-19 outbreak Sue decided she wanted more time to be with her son at home. I am hugely grateful to Jeremy and Wendy Duncan for their work in ensuring magazines have been sent out to everyone. Then there are those who continue to phone members of the congregation, trying to keep us all up to speed and to reassure us that we are not forgotten, especially when we are restricted to life in our homes.

I think it's our duty to try and lighten dark spaces and to lift sad hearts. Like me, you've probably experienced difficult periods where worry, fear and confusion seem overwhelming. We are all in this together, the world over. My heart lifts each time someone tells me that they've had the vaccine. Let's pray that our country will soon be on a different path, one of recovery and that our whole world will combat this awful disease. Pray for all those who have worked endlessly in research laboratories developing vaccines. And let's thank God for those who sustain us by their love, care and kindness. Let's be open to a God who is able to surprise and amaze us and ask His blessing on each of us and those we love.

With every blessing, Hunter

Readings and Collects for February

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

SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 14 February

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings: 2 Kings 2.1-12, Psalm 50.1-6, 2 Corinthians 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9

ASH WEDNESDAY 17 February

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Readings: Isaiah 58.1-12, Psalm 51.1-18, 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10, Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 21 February

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings: Genesis 9.8-17, Psalm 25.1-9, 1 Peter 3.18-22, Mark 1.9-15

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 28 February

Collect: God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross. Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16, Psalm 22.22-30, Romans 4.13-25, Mark 8.31-38

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 7 March

Collect: Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17, Psalm 19, I Corinthians 1.18-25, John 2.13-22

Annual General Meeting 2019-20

Let us pray:

○ God our heavenly Father, who has called us all to be members of your Church, which is the body of your Son; grant that your Holy Spirit may direct us, in all our concerns and deliberations for the welfare of this cathedral charge.

We thank you for the blessings of the past year and for the opportunities of the present time, and we ask you to lead us forward into the work that lies before us, that we may advance from strength to strength in the service of your kingdom, to magnify your name and to share in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We remember those who have died during the past year.....

Lord, we remember the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. We remember those who have died with affection and love and pray, that with them we may one day be reunited. Rest eternal grant to them ○ Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Provost's Report for Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's 2019-20

The Church year 2019 – 2020 started with a Provincial celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. This was organised by the then cathedral precentor the Reverend Canon Dr Carrie Applegath. The day was led by Bishop Anne of the Aberdeen diocese. This was a hugely successful and joyful event.

As a cathedral we enjoyed our usual Christmas celebrations. At the start of the year, we held our Annual General Meeting. We celebrated St Valentine's Day with a congregational lunch. We shared pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and were half-way through our Lent Course when we experienced lockdown for the first time.

Some months later, after ensuring we had complied with all the new safety rules and regulations and with Bishop Ian's permission, we re-opened the cathedral in July for private prayer only. When it was agreed that we could offer services once again, with a maximum of 50 people, we started to offer Morning Prayer each day at 9.30am, and services of Holy Communion on a Wednesday at 11.00am and again on a Sunday at 11.00am. Funerals have continued to be held both in the cathedral and the Lady Chapel. Our weddings were cancelled.

Bishop Ian carefully and with great grace managed a confirmation service and the Rev'd (Canon) Celia Matthews was installed as an honorary canon of St Ninian's Cathedral.

The cathedral precentor gave notice that she was moving on to take up a development role with the congregation of St Columba's Church in Stanley. We also welcomed to the cathedral staff the lay reader Lis Burke.

A number of positive things developed as a consequence of the pandemic. Firstly, the ministry team (ordained and licensed lay ministers) divided the congregation into groups making sure that each person in the group was called once a week. This was very successful and seemed to draw us closer together. We also decided that the cathedral magazine be sent out to every cathedral member and adherent monthly (only a small number being able to access the magazine online). We also spent more time visiting those trading in North Methven Street, where the cathedral is situated, and were able to offer some support and free advertising in

the cathedral magazine.

Our harvest offering this year was given to Perth Foodbank. The congregation responded well and have continued to support the branch. A nursery was built and developed within St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School and has been open and running successfully when allowed.

Our aims for this coming year are to further our links with the Tourist Board and to continue developing our information boards and flyers to encourage visitors. As an eco-church we also want to look seriously at renewable energies and the cathedral's carbon footprint.

Most of all, as a congregation we are looking forward to a time when we can stand shoulder to shoulder once again, to sing and to share the peace, to receive the bread and the wine and to give thanks for surviving this awful pandemic. I would ask you to remember all those who have not been so fortunate, whose lives were lost to Covid-19, praying for their loved ones.

Hunter Farquharson
Provost

Report from the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Co-ordinator

There was one application to join the PVG scheme.

As requested by Robert Nellist, the diocesan protection officer, I sent him a completed congregational safeguarding checklist, which included questions relating to the SEC Covid-19 guidance. I have also received from the General Synod office in Edinburgh notes for PVG applicants and PVG co-ordinators and digital PVG application forms and ID checks.

I received from Mr Nellist a poster produced by the Scottish Episcopal Church in connection with advice for women who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence, listing telephone numbers of those they can contact. At his request I have printed copies of the poster to be attached to the inside of the toilet doors at the cathedral.

There is no change in the number (21) of people involved in working with Children

and/or Vulnerable Adults who have membership of the PVG Scheme. I will, of course, continue to submit, in this case, digital applications for any new appointments in advance of the applicant starting work.

*Ann Stuart
Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Co-ordinator
January 2021*

Readers' Rota

From March 2020, reading in the cathedral has been a pared down activity – sometimes nothing and, when open, only one reader for the New Testament lesson. Thirteen people felt comfortable to continue and have adopted the safeguarding measures that were in place to ensure everyone's safety. Their reading has been appreciated. Thank you.

Prayer

Since March 2020, each Wednesday morning at 10.00am in their own homes a small group of people have undertaken to pray for the congregation and those who make special requests. An updated list of the requests is emailed to the four folk involved on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Prayers are much appreciated and any requests can be passed on by email or telephone.

Sides Duty during Lockdown

When the cathedral has been open for worship in lockdown, sides duties have been crucial. Initially 12 and then 8 people (when everyone was familiar with what was required) have attended to the safeguarding procedures necessary to meet the Covid-19 regulations. Thanks to everyone for their willingness to do this.

During this time, Ann Clark stepped down after a very long period of faithful service. Her efforts were recognised at one of the services.

*Jennifer M Irving
12 January 2021*

From the Registers

Deaths

Alexander Turner - 6 April 2020

Irene Robertson - 24 June 2020

Rosalind Henderson - 1 July 2020

Melvin Cammidge - 19 July 2020

Ann Smith - 17 September 2020

Walter Morrison - 10 November 2020

*Rest eternal grant to them O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

A Round-up of Cathedral News

Sadly, for the reasons we're all aware of, there is virtually nothing to report. Christmas was marked by an online Christingle service, thanks to Lis and Maihri, and by two services on Christmas morning. At the main service, music was provided by Geoff on the organ and by Allister, Marietta and the Cameron family, who sang beautifully from either end of the cathedral. Sadly there was no service of Lessons and Carols and no Midnight Mass and we were back in lockdown on Boxing Day.

Christmas Tree Update

The tree, about which Eddie penned a notable verse in last month's magazine, has been found safe and well by Christopher Dingwall half way up the stairs leading to the tower room. We look forward to it playing its full part in the next Christmas celebrations.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Greetings to all members of the congregation of St Ninians – I hope you are all well and managing to find ways of keeping cheerful.

When I approached Hunter to ask if it was OK to take a photo of the Peace Pole outside St Ninian's to use in our press release, he suggested that I might like to write a short piece about it for the magazine – and also to take the opportunity to say 'hello' to all of you.



Onto the main reason for writing:

The endorsement of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force on Friday 22 January 2021 at midday. Quakers in Perthshire marked the occasion with an online period of Quaker worship, while around the world others marked it in their own ways – particularly the ringing of bells.

The treaty means that we are one step closer to the banning of nuclear weapons worldwide. As Paul Parker, a spokesperson for Quakers in Britain, has said, 'Love for our neighbour is the very heart of the Christian way of life. How can we love someone, and yet have a nuclear weapon, a horrific instrument of death, primed and ready for use, pointed towards them at the same time?'

For those of you who use Youtube, if you search for ICAN Can-can (posted by Penny Stone) you can watch an amusing version of a call to the UK Government to get rid of nuclear weapons within Britain.

Yours in peace and a big 'hello' to all who know me,

Stella Cranwell

Cathedral Crime Report

Our roving, nay intrepid, team of reporters on *Cathedral News* has uncovered further skulduggery and nefarious goings-on. Many will remember our scoop from a few years ago when we covered the story of the fraudulent Seven-Fold Amen which the choir used to sing. We were so far ahead of the game that none of our rivals has, to date, picked up on this story. In a devastating bit of detective work we showed that the supposed seven amens comprised only six, which represents almost 15% less than we thought we were getting. The effect of this is literally incalculable. Might Phase I of the cathedral restoration been completed more quickly? Might the fundraising campaign have raised 15% more cash? It has to be said that Allister Allan from the choir attempted to prove that there were indeed seven amens but, as someone once said, we should never let the truth get in the way of a good story.

The latest crime is somewhat more serious and is currently being investigated by the police. It is somewhat ironic that within days of the editor mentioning data protection forms in the previous edition he should have fallen for an email scam. It seems likely that an edition of *Cathedral News*, either a paper or an online version, was trawled for email addresses by the scammers who proceeded to masquerade as a member of the cathedral and sent a request to the editor to send an Amazon gift voucher to a third party, with the promise of paying it back immediately. Such was the plausibility of the email - the way it was phrased, the people mentioned in it - that the editor sent off the cash without a thought. It was only the following morning when another request for money was received that the rat was smelt and the police were contacted. Needless to say, the editor feels utterly foolish - it was more of a dent to his pride than his wallet - and will be far more wary next time.

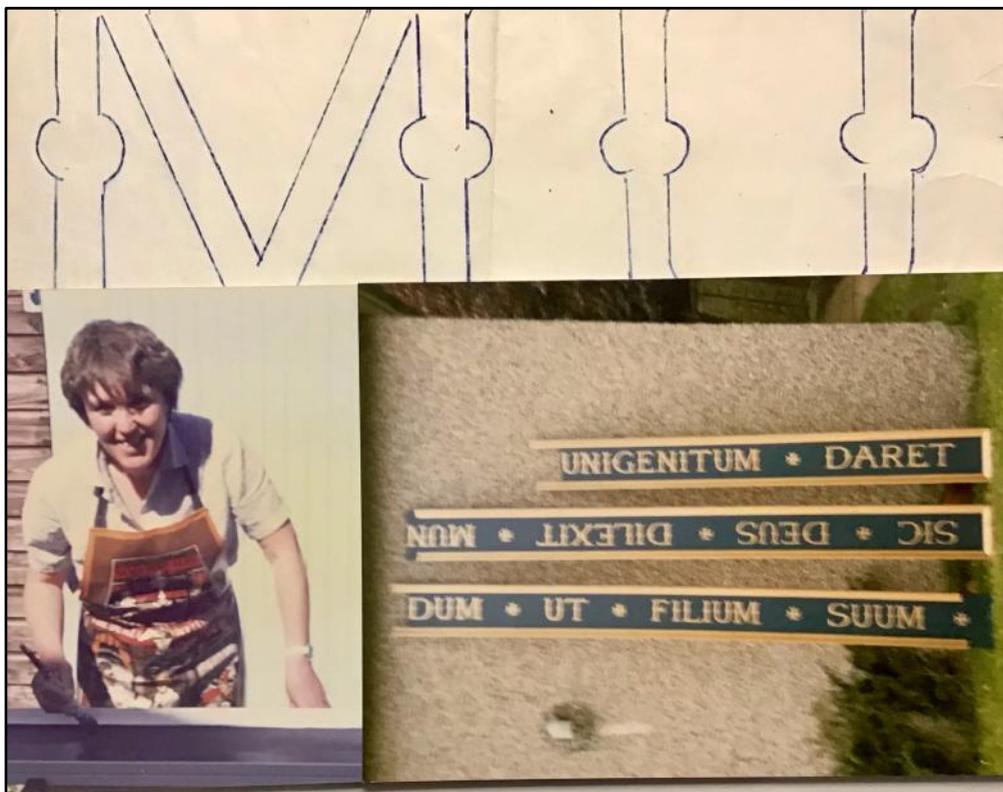
The Editor 'Fesses Up

Sincerest apologies to Pat Butler from the editor who inexplicably omitted her Christmas wishes to the congregation from the December-January magazine. Sorry, Pat - having checked the contributions twice I can only assume the mulled wine was a little strong!

The Cathedral Rood Screen

I was inspired, when reading Christopher Dingwall's article about the rood screen in the December-January edition, to add a bit about my role in its refurbishment back in 1986.

In that year the rood screen's two supporting pillars were removed as they tended to cause something of a bottle neck. They also obstructed a clear view of the High Altar. On inspection prior to their removal, it was found that the lower stone section of the Screen with the inscription on it would also need to be removed in order to insert a metal beam to support the remaining upper part!



Many thanks to Nancy for both the article and for the above photos. Was it really 35 years ago?!

I was approached by the Provost at the time, the Very Rev'd Graham Forbes, and asked if I could possibly replace the inscription. Up for a challenge I agreed to give

it a go on the condition I did not have to do a 'Michelangelo' and be hoisted up the scaffolding to do it. Firstly I have no head for heights and secondly, it was not the Sistine Chapel!

The original lettering had been painted directly onto the stonework of the cross-section. The replacement, however, would be done on three interlocking wooden panels, their total width measuring 24 feet across. The panels would then be fastened to the front of the new metal cross-beam.

I was able to get the dimensions of some of the lettering from the broken remnants of the original inscription which was by now lying in the cathedral yard. That allowed me to work on making a replica of the whole inscription as we wanted to keep the same typeface as the original. I then transposed the lettering in gold onto the panels which I had previously prepared and painted.

The fully restored inscription was up in place on the rood screen for St Ninian's Day that year. My aim had been to make an exact replica of the original which I was happy and some what relived to say I was able to achieve!

As mentioned above, the inscription panel is in three sections - next time you are looking up at the rood screen can you find the joins?

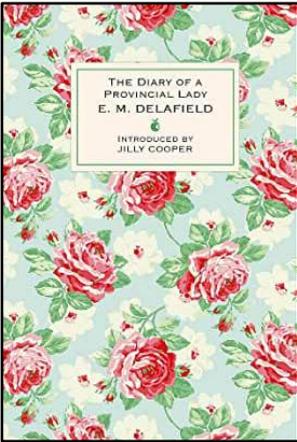
Nancy Brooks

Book Recommendations

The Diary of a Provincial Lady, by E M Delafield

In 1971, my mother gave me two books. One was *The Female Eunuch* by Germaine Greer, and the other was *The Diary of a Provincial Lady* by E M Delafield. Like every other left-leaning feminist of my generation I read the first with fervour, then put it on the shelf where it has remained pretty well undisturbed ever since.

The other, however, is a different kettle of fish entirely. The Provincial Lady is a fictionalized diary of a middle-class married woman living in Devon between the two world wars. Our heroine who is not named, and who has no outside work, struggles with the demands of husband Robert, two children, Robin and Vicky, and the domestic staff, Cook and Ethel. Also present is Mademoiselle, who is the doting



governess of Vicky.

There are characters throughout the book who inhabit the village in which the book is set and who are beautifully described. One of these is the odious Lady Boxe who is Robert's employer, and who pops in invariably at the wrong moment. The PL is in the middle of planting the indoor bulbs and, to explain away that this is too late in the year, she says she feels it her duty to buy Empire products. She felt that this was 'an excellent reply. Unfortunately Vicky comes into the drawing-room later and says "Oh, Mummie, are those the bulbs we got

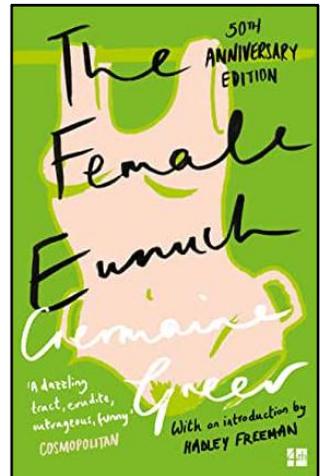
at Woolworths?"

A great deal of the PL's worries are financial, occasionally relieved by the pawning of Great-Aunt's diamond ring. At one point, Robert's uncle dies and leaves Robert £500. This is greeted with inappropriate glee, only dampened on the realization that the list of necessities she makes comes to over £1200. With a sigh, she goes upstairs to find Robert's top hat and the other 'accoutrements of woe' for the funeral. There are many set-pieces in the book which bring laughter and occasionally tears.

As I said, I got this book as a present. Sadly I lent it out, and didn't get it back. I did manage to find a paperback, luckily, of an omnibus edition which includes the two sequels, and re-read them all every ten years or so. The sequels, which find the PL in America and then in WWII, suffer a little from the law of diminishing returns, but are still great fun.

Last year I found in Oxfam a Folio edition of the first book, with illustrations by Nicholas Bentley, and snapped it up. And no, you can't borrow it.

By the way, *The Female Eunuch* is an excellent and definitive work of its time. As a good read, however, *The Provincial Lady* beats it out of the park.



Alison Ballantyne

The Leaning Side

There is the story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side.' After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The farmer replied, 'Well, it's like this...I've got an old barn out in one of my fields. It's been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms. One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So, I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side.

Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.

Many thanks to Andrew Ballantyne for sending in this thoughtful piece which he saw in Grapevine, the magazine of the Diocese of Brechin.

From Ron and Diana Cochrane

Dear friends!

Diana and I did not send Christmas cards this year to our cathedral friends. I am writing therefore to send you all good wishes for 2021, in the hope that the year ahead will be an improvement over 2020 for us all and that we can stay safe and well.

I expect that some of you will be wondering who we are. What with Diana's accident at the beginning of 2020, the lockdown followed by myself being asked to shield until the end of August and subsequently helping Aileen to move house for the second time in 2020 when we spent most weekends in Dunfermline helping - Diana giving the help and me mainly advising. Aileen is now settling in and enjoying her new home and is on a 'back to work' timetable which is super news.

We had hoped to be around more in 2021 but with another lockdown and the cathedral and all churches being closed, we will need to be patient for our return.

Many of you will remember our elder grand-daughter Eilidh, who was head chorister at Lichfield Cathedral. She was encouraged by her school music teacher to enter one of her music compositions in the National Centre for Early Music young composers' competition of 2020 which was televised in late autumn. We duly listened in, were thrilled by what we heard and were even more delighted to learn that she had won the competition in the under-18 age group. Part of the prize is to have her work performed at the London Cadogan Hall where it will be performed by the Tallis Scholars in March 2021. This was a very proud moment for her, her Mum and Dad and respective grandparents.

She was then encouraged to write a carol for the Lichfield Choir which was given its first performance at their Cathedral Gift Service. The director was so well pleased he included the carol *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day* on Christmas morning. Please ignore the ramblings of a chuffed papa.

Meanwhile, we send our love and prayers for all in this second surge of Covid-19, so we can all take care of ourselves and others and to stay safe.

The winning entry in the under-18 category of the Young Composers Award, *As if there were no such cold thing* by Eilidh Owen, can be heard online on the website of the National Centre for Early Music. It's a beautiful piece and Ron and Diana should be very proud of their granddaughter! Go to...

<https://www.youngcomposersaward.co.uk/2020>

My Relation, the Bishop

My paternal grandfather, Kenneth Mackenzie, was the sixth son and tenth child of Donald Mackenzie, senator of the College of Justice. He went to Loretto School and Keble College, Oxford. From St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol he went to St Paul's, Dundee as a curate. He then became rector and provost of St Paul's, 1905 - 1907. He was consecrated Bishop of Argyll and the Isles on 25 January 1907 by Primus Wilkinson at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. He married in 1897 Alice White, daughter of James White of Balruddery. They had six children, including my father,

Kenneth Nigel Mackenzie, who was born in 1901.

He went to Glenalmond and Keble College, Oxford, followed by Edinburgh Theological College. He was deaconed in 1924 and served as curate at St Bride's, Glasgow between 1924 and 1928. (He was ordained by Bishop Reid in Glasgow who later became bishop of this diocese.) My father married my mother, Aline Macdonald Shaw, in 1927 in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. In 1928 they moved to Nether Lochaber (with Kinlochleven). Then in 1932 they moved to Oban where he became diocesan supernumerary for Argyll and the Isles. He was synod clerk for the diocese, 1932-64, and canon of St John's Cathedral, Oban, 1943-64.

We lived in a church house in Oban from 1932 to 1964. My parents bought the boggy ground around it and created a productive vegetable garden, cut peats for burning and created a lovely rhododendron garden. Some were very special. My father was very involved with local activities in the area. He produced plays and amateur operatics. He was a very keen photographer and was a keen and very good sailor, having been given an old sailing boat by a cousin (which we still have!). He also kept bees in the garden. He curled, as in those days there was ice on the ponds in winter! He was a good dancer and judged highland dancing at some local highland games before the war. He died in 1964.

On my late husband, Patrick's, side, his great uncle Alfred Scott Gatty was vicar of St Mary's, Ecclesfield, near Sheffield for 63 years. I pity the parishioners!

Anne Mackenzie Smith

Our old friend, the Very Rev'd George Farquhar, noted Anne's grandfather's consecration in his diaries, as follows:

'Provost Mackenzie of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, was consecrated Bp of Argyle [sic] and the Isles in our Cathedral here on Friday. The Provost (Plumb) had taken enormous pains beforehand to have all arrangements, ritual and otherwise, perfect and he was successful. All the Scottish bishops were present in their scarlet robes... Rev J Simpson, late of St Paul's, Dundee, preached...a delightful sermon. I did not hear it very well from the stall. On the previous evening I had a sore throat and very nearly gave up the honour of singing the Litany but, though I slept badly through the night, my throat was better and I managed very well. No one...knows of a bishop ever having been consecrated in Perth before.'

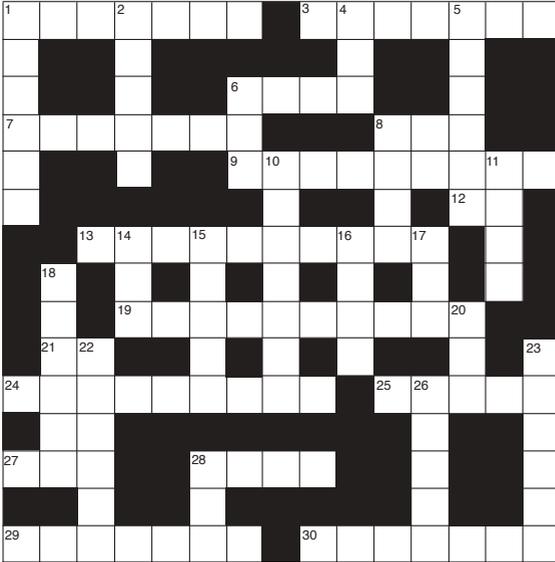
From the Farquhar Diaries

30 January 1921. N. & I spent nearly the whole of last week at the Plumbs' in S. Andrews. A heavy snow-fall was going on when we left Perth on Monday morning & it did not stop till Tuesday evening. It was a good thing for me, because I had been gradually muddling deeper & deeper into a cold in Perth and it gave me an excuse for sitting for two days by the fire, which did me no end of good. The Plumbs are delightful people to stay with... We had a good deal of conversation about different things. He does not agree with me in the line I took in the "Chronicle" against Benediction and the extra-liturgical worship of the Sacrament. I am sorry but Bp Gore's book "The Body of Christ" has convinced me that these are uncatholic developments. However, I am thus left alone and without power in the Cathedral in the matter of the Provost's 9 a.m. Celebration. With indomitable tireless work, & unquenchable enthusiasm he has after many years pertinacious effort succeeded in establishing this Service on a stable footing. He has communicated his enthusiasm to a large number and they have generally at least 60 communicants. In these days it is indeed a matter of much thankfulness to have any Service so heartily supported.... This success of "the 9 a.m." marks the post war period at the Cathedral with a new character. When I was at S. Andrews I read the Schweich Lectures on the Sumerian story of the Creation & the Deluge older than the Chaldaean one. This afternoon we had another inter-denominational discussion on Unity. We had as our object the Bishop of Bombay's official questions about the Faith of the re-united Church. The Presbyterians were to-day very stiff about the Nicene Creed - all except Mr. Ritchie, our host. We had got them last meeting to admit the Nicene Creed to their standards but to-day it was with all kinds of qualifications. They would have it as a statement showing historically, what the faith of the Church in the 4th century was etc. etc.

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

Crossword Solution
Across 1 Hassock, 3 Pancake, 6 Both, 7 Tuesday, 8 Who, 9 Egotistic, 13 Prepare the, 19 Wilderness, 24 Wednesday, 25 Way of, 27 The, 28 Lord, 29 Eyedrop, 30 Lanyard.
Down 1 Hunter, 2 Sense, 4 Ash, 5 Abbots, 6 Bye, 8 With, 10 Gerbera, 11 Iona, 14 Row, 15 Poles, 16 Tint, 17 Ess, 18 Rate, 20 Sky, 22 Adhere, 23 Offend, 26 Abbey, 28 Leo.

Cryptic Cross Words!



ACROSS

- 1 Owns footwear to kneel and pray (7)
- 3 & 7 A flipping time (7,7)
- 6 Not right, soup for two (4)
- 8 A doctor but not in the NHS (3)
- 9 Selfish me, what I've got is tickety boo! (9)
- 12 Therefore a note (2)
- 13, 25, 27 & 28 Utterance heard in 19 across (7,3,3,2,3,4)
- 19 Fury hesitating before headland where you hear a voice crying out! (10)
- 21 A small thank you (2)
- 24 (see 4 down) (9)
- 25 (see 13 across) (3,2)
- 27 (see 13 across) (3)
- 28 (see 13 across) (4)
- 29 Irrigation to improve sight (7)
- 30 Within a country returning beam, it's somewhere to hang your whistle! (7)

DOWN

- 1 Colour around the NT, right Provost? (6)
- 2 Seen around South (5)
- 4 & 24 across Following on from 3 & 7 across (3,9)
- 5 Boast about a note for these monastics (6)
- 6 Somewhere in Derby Eve says farewell (3)
- 8 He's so funny beside hospital (4)
- 10 African daisies by any other name (7)
- 11 This isle has 26 down (5)
- 14 A truncated tree causes a dispute (3)
- 15 North and South Europeans! (5)
- 16 Colouring can happen with time (4)
- 17 This is the nineteenth letter I've written! (3)
- 18 Tear up fee (4)
- 20 A heavenly TV (3)
- 22 Stuck poster in this place (6)
- 23 Gone at last to break the law (6)
- 26 Baby with note turns out to be somewhere 5 down live (5)
- 28 The French have nothing to sign (3)





A big 'thank you' to Marietta McGregor who decorated the cathedral for Christmas on her own. She then took the decorations down (with a little bit of help from Christopher Dingwall – our thanks to him too). All this was done safely and with great joy. Thank you, Marietta!

Eddie the Eagle says...

I have been enjoying the articles on 'My Relation, the Bishop' and wondering about my own foreagles. It would be nice to trace a family link with the great lectern in Canterbury Cathedral but alas, I fear my roots are rather more modest than that. I was an Edinburgh orphan until you lovely people in Perth took me in and gave me a home - since when you have been my admiring fans. Thank you! Before that I suspect I was not so much a foundling but a foundry-ling...oh, the shame!



Lockdown Meme of the Month

Many of us with smartphones are being bombarded daily by memes, such as this one, to raise a smile during lockdown. Why not send in your favourite to *Cathedral News* and we'll publish the best? It will keep the congregational pecker up!



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 (currently suspended)

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

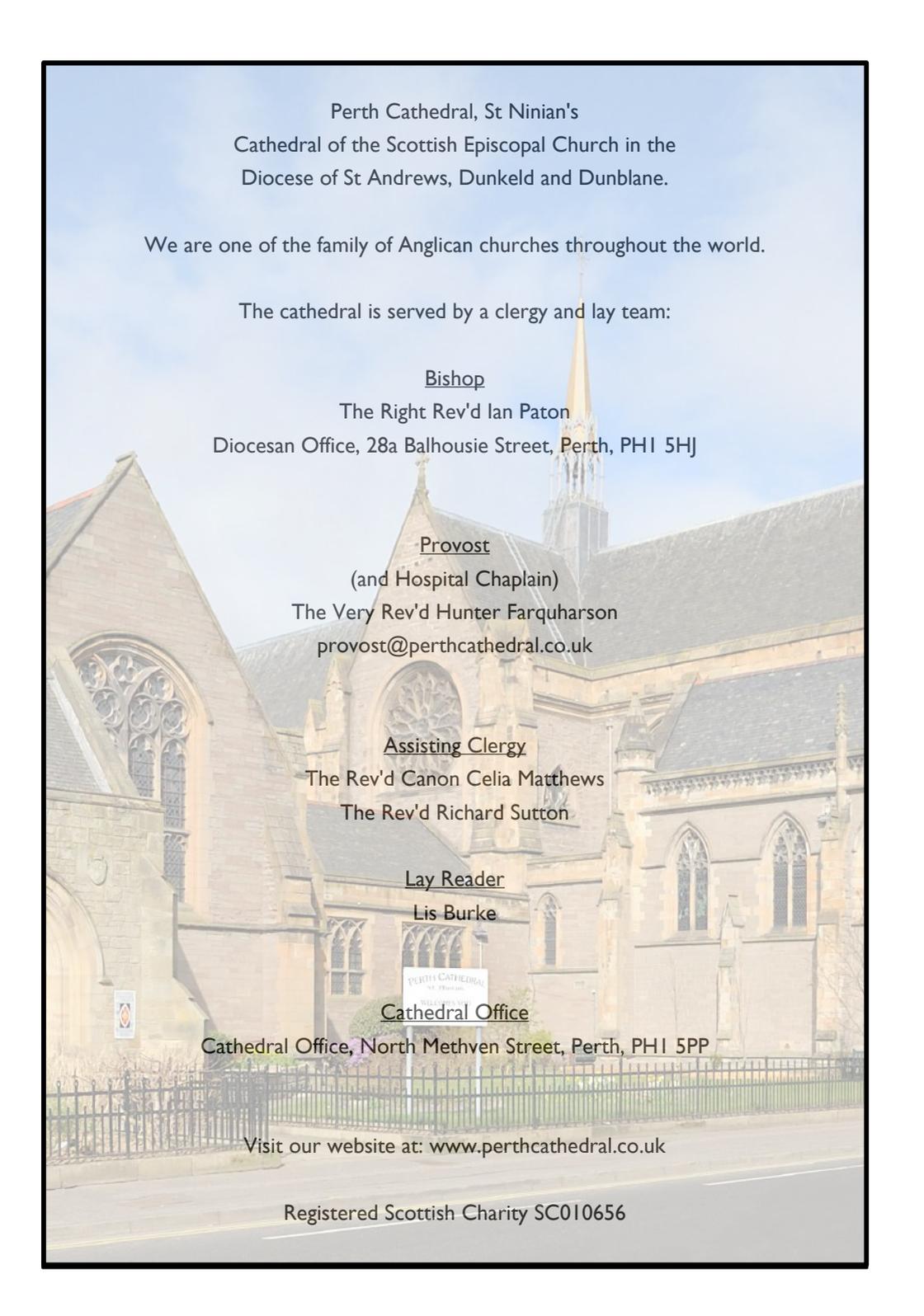
Flowers greatly enhance our worship. If you can help or donate, please contact Molly or Hazel.

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 ... The closing date for inclusion in the March magazine is **21 February 2021**.

Cover Illustration

This month's cover photo, kindly provided by Annabelle O'Connell, is sadly suggestive of a cathedral in lockdown (even though it was taken from inside the building, in the cloisters!).

A photograph of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's, a large Gothic Revival church with a prominent spire. 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

Provost

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

Assisting Clergy

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

Lay Reader

Lis Burke

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