The background of the cover is a photograph of tall, dark evergreen trees silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, with some light clouds. The trees are dense and their branches are visible against the bright sky.

# *Cathedral News*

*The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's*

*March 2021*

## Who's Who at the Cathedral

## From the Provost

Dear Friends

We are now in the second week of Lent. Lent brings us face to face with many changing and sometimes challenging spiritual landscapes. This is especially true for us in 2021 because of the pandemic. Our churches are closed and we are being encouraged to stay at home and keep safe. Our Lent Course this year brings our homes much more into focus. Last week we concentrated on our entrance doors and this coming week our kitchens are where our thoughts and prayers are to be focused.



It is almost certain that we will not be in the Cathedral to celebrate Easter, but you never know. Circumstances can change rapidly. So, on the basis of not knowing, I have included a traditional outline of Maundy Thursday through to Easter Saturday in the accompanying *Lent at Home, part 2* booklet.

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In the Gospel for Lent 2, we read Mark's account of Christ's Passion. Jesus revealed his plan to die in Jerusalem. It is a lesson in which Jesus began to lead his followers to the understanding that he was to suffer, to be killed, but would rise again. When Peter protested, Jesus took him aside and admonished him saying, 'Get behind me, Satan.' Jesus continued with clear instructions to the disciples, and many wondered about the nature of discipleship - 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' Hard words to hear at any time, never mind during a frightening pandemic!

You will also find in this magazine the next three weeks of our Lent Course, which includes Lent 3 (7 March) How we adorn our homes with art - Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews; Lent 4 (14 March) Mothering Sunday – Wendy Duncan; and Lent 5 (21 March) Sharing our homes with pets – Rev'd Richard Sutton. A Palm Cross is included for Palm Sunday on 28 March, along with my reflections for Holy Week.

We are still under 'lockdown' rules in Scotland and for sure we are wearied by this process of trying to stay safe. Isolation brings its own problems, but I am buoyed up by the care for each other that is being shown among the congregation. It is wonderful to learn how many of you have had your first jab and I hope and pray that sooner than expected we might all relax a bit. There is still some way to go. I'm finding all this frustrating, as are many, but praying for patience!

Praying is something we can all do at home easily and I would ask that you hold in our prayers those who are unwell, those in hospital and who are disheartened by loneliness. Let's remember all victims of Covid-19 and their families. Please pray too for those who are still struggling with the long-term effects of Covid-19.

Let's give thanks to God for those involved in delivering and administering our vaccines. We should also give thanks for all those who are working hard to keep our country functioning. Let's pray for ourselves and for our country, that this experience will make us stronger and a kinder people. Let's remember that resurrection isn't that far away!

With every blessing and a holy Lent,  
Hunter



## *Readings and Collects for March and Holy Week*

### **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

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 14 March**

**Collect:** Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Numbers 21.4-9, Psalm 107.1-3,17-22, Ephesians 2.1-10, John 3.14-21

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 21 March**

#### **The beginning of Passiontide**

**Collect:** Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Jeremiah 31.31-34, Psalm 51.1-13, Hebrews 5.5-10, John 12.20-33

### **PALM SUNDAY 28 March**

#### **Liturgy of the Palms**

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son entered not into glory before he was crucified, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it to be for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Liturgy of the Passion

**Collect:** Almighty and ever-living God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Isaiah 50.4-9a, Psalm 31.9-16, Philippians 2.5-11, Mark 14.1-15.47

## Readings and Collects for Holy Week

### MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it to be for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Isaiah 42.1-9, Psalm 36.5-11, Hebrews 9.11-15, John 12.1-11

### TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

**Collect:** O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. May our lives be so transformed by his passion that we may witness to his grace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Isaiah 49.1-7, Psalm 71.1-14, I Corinthians 1.18-31, John 12.20-36

### WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

**Collect:** Lord God, your Son our Saviour gave his body to be whipped and turned his face for men to spit upon. Give your servants grace to accept suffering for his sake, confident of the glory that will be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Isaiah 50.4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12.1-3, John 13.21-32

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Collect:** O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left to us this meal of bread and wine

in which we share his body and his blood. May we who celebrate this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Exodus 12.1-4(5-10)11-14, Psalm 116.1,10-17, I Corinthians 11.23-26, John 13.1-17, 31b-35

## GOOD FRIDAY

**Collect:** Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Isaiah 52.13-53.12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10.16-25, John 18.1-19.42

## HOLY SATURDAY

**Collect:** O God, creator of heaven and earth, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so may we await with him the coming of the third day and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings:** Job 14.1-14, Psalm 31.1-4,15-16, I Peter 4.1-8, John 19.38-42

## *Lent at Home 2021*

Now we are in the season of Lent I hope you have all dipped into the *Lent at Home* booklet you received with the February magazine. I was thrilled and delighted that we could put together material from so many different members of the congregation, setting out our focus for each week. Part 2, the remaining weeks of Lent, is included with this magazine edition.

It will be exciting to see the different ways each of us uses and works with the material. My plan is that one day in the future, when lockdown is over, we will find a way we can all share our experiences and look at the work that others have produced. That's why I suggested we might each put together a folder of all our work, to keep it together. Of course, if you don't have any folders to hand you can

keep your work in a big envelope or whatever you have available. If you speak regularly to other members of the congregation over the phone or by email you could start sharing your thoughts that way, each describing one thing you have learned or enjoyed as part of the course.

When I looked closely at my own front door, I was reminded that the house had an electric doorbell when it was first built in 1905, long before electricity was used anywhere else in the house. The arrival of guests must have been very important to the family it was built for. Tradespeople, of course, would go around to the back door, which was furnished with a knocker more suited to their status. For the past year the ringing of the doorbell has mainly just been a sign that a delivery has been left in the front porch. I am so looking forward to receiving guests and visitors again. But I think God is present in the timely delivery of gifts, groceries and essential goods just as much as in our gatherings of family and friends.

I know some of you are keen to meet online to share your experiences in Lent and I will plan an opportunity to do this. If you are interested, please contact me by email and I will send you details once it is worked out. Please use this email address: [layreaderswarden@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:layreaderswarden@standrews.anglican.org).

Lis Burke

## Lenten Listening

*In response to part 1 of the Lent at Home booklet, with its recommendations of hymns and music to listen to and contemplate, a choir member has written in with his own personal suggestions of a few more, to help our way through Lent.*

**Hymns.** All from the *New English Hymnal*:

Forty days and forty nights  
Lord Jesus, think on me  
As pants the hart for cooling streams  
Just as I am, without one plea  
Of the glorious body telling  
Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle  
The royal banner forward go  
O sacred head sore wounded

**Listening.** Any Lent anthem, such as

*Call to Remembrance* (Farrant)  
*Turn Thy Face From My Sins* (Attwood)  
*Ave Verum* (Elgar)  
*O Salutaris Hostia* (Elgar)  
*The Lamentation* (Bairstow)  
*St Matthew or St John Passion* (Bach)  
*The Crucifixion* (Stainer)

**Psalms.** When I was a chorister we sang Psalm 119, divided into shorter 32-verse sections over the Lenten season. Also, the shorter psalms between 120 and 130 would be apt. Psalm 22, verses 1 to 21, would be appropriate for Maundy Thursday.

Alister Allan

## Bishop Ian Speaks at Online Conference



Responding to the Sacred  
Gender and Liturgy in Conversation

12-17 April 2021

[genandlit@gmail.com](mailto:genandlit@gmail.com)

A free online conference with a new panel discussion released each day on Facebook and Youtube, 12-16 April, culminating in a plenary session and act of worship on Saturday 17 April.

Taking in a wide range of perspectives our speakers will discuss issues in the field of gender and liturgy, in the context of liturgical reform beginning within the Scottish Episcopal Church.

For more information visit

 [www.facebook.com/genandlit](https://www.facebook.com/genandlit)

 <https://tinyurl.com/genandlit>

Our speakers include:

Merete Thommassen (University of Oslo), Bill Paterson (MindfulnessFife), Bishop Ian Paton (SEC), Leon van Ommen (SEC, University of Aberdeen), Bridget Nichols (Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin), David Jasper (SEC, University of Glasgow), Lisa Isherwood (University of Winchester), Beverly Clack (Oxford Brookes University).

# Christian Aid News

## Standing together for climate justice

Our planet is heating up. This means more extreme climate events, rising sea levels and critical threats to human life. We have the power to stop this climate crisis. The world will be watching as COP26 comes to Glasgow in November. We've worked for years to create an ambitious Climate Bill in Scotland. Now, we'll be standing together with the global community to ensure the UK Government responds urgently to the global climate emergency.

### What is COP26?

COP26 is the 26th meeting of world leaders at the UN climate change talks. The conference has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris agreement was signed in 2015. For many, these UN climate talks remain the best, and only, global platform to build consensus on climate action and climate justice.

### Why Glasgow?

In the 19th century, after hundreds of years of shipbuilding, our Dear Green Place became a heartland of industrialisation. But as Glasgow's wealth increased, so did its poverty. From inequality rose up a people who are unafraid to speak truth to power – wherever it sits. Just like the world's oceans, the river Clyde is rising. And so are we.



### Get ready for COP26

#### Scottish Churches: COP26, Divestment & Investment in Just & Green Recovery

Join this webinar on 3 March to find out how churches in Scotland – both locally and nationally – can support a just and green recovery by divesting from fossil fuels and re-orienting investments towards a clean energy future.

*This information is taken from a recent Christian Aid online newsletter.*

## Climate Fringe: What can Churches do for Climate Justice?

Join this online Zoom meeting on 16 March, via the Christian Aid website.

In the year that the UN climate talks 'COP26' come to Glasgow, there are many ways that churches and people of faith can contribute meaningfully to climate action - before, during and after. Join Christian Aid, SCIAF, Tearfund and Eco-Congregation Scotland to hear from inspirational campaigners from churches who have taken action on climate, how their faith inspires them, and find out how you can get involved in 2021.



## From Rachel and Scott Shilliday

I hope everyone is keeping safe in this current lockdown. We would like to announce a little bit of good news that happened in 2020, the birth of our son Archie Thomas Shilliday, born on 10 November 2020. We are both over the moon along with Nana and Grandad, Carol and Raymond Bernard. We have been



enjoying family life as a three and time has got away with us, hence the delay in the announcement. Better late than never as they say!! Archie is now three months old and we look forward to getting back to some normality soon to be able to come back into the church and see everyone. Keep safe and see you all soon!

## From Maihri Cameron

When Covid-19 initially struck the country I found myself unexpectedly in lockdown with a family in central London. I had planned to work for them for five days and ended up staying for three months! This time around I seem to have found myself in lockdown with a different family in a different part of the country...Norfolk! A little village called Burnham Deepdale to be precise. I arrived in early January and I plan to return home just in time for Easter Sunday. It's a long stint and it has been quite a learning curve but the family are very kind and welcoming. I have taken the children on trips to the beach and enjoyed the beautiful countryside. We have been snowed in a couple of times but managed to get out in the garden. To be honest though, I'm finding it pretty tough being in such an isolated spot living with people I've never met before. Being so far from the cathedral community, friends and family is hard but it's a tough time for all of us and I'm keeping you all in my prayers. I'm looking forward to returning home in a few weeks time by which time, restrictions might be lifted a little. In the meantime, I thought I'd share some photos of the glorious Norfolk scenery!

Stay safe everyone.

*Oddly enough, shortly after Maihri's email arrived, the editor and Mrs Editor sat down at ten to three for some honey and tea...and realised the honey came from Burnham Deepdale. Spooky or what?*



## Little Things in Lent

Surely, in these crazy days when endless days seem spent  
on living with restrictions - what can we do in Lent?  
If meeting with our families is but a distant dream,  
Would it be so very bad to crunch a custard cream?  
So, sitting in my caravan (our house is still not built)  
I've decided to be grateful, and not engage in guilt.  
I cannot hug my children, birthday breakfast via Zoom  
But we laughed and munched our croissants, each from our separate rooms.  
I do my weekly shopping. Mask's ok if you can hurry  
But it beats a child-fuelled car queue for a plastic pot McFlurry.  
I cannot meet with distant friends, some who live alone,  
But I can send a postcard, or email them or phone.  
I cannot visit galleries just like I used to do,  
Instead I notice snowdrops just beginning to peep through.  
I have no need for outfits new, I've nowhere smart to go  
But in my jeans and wellies, I can enjoy the snow.  
And sitting in our caravan at minus 12 degrees -  
I am grateful to inform you – gin and tonic doesn't freeze.



Annette Cameron

## News of Cathedral Dogs



Douglas Campbell wrote in recently with a news update from his dog, Monty. Then, just before this issue went to press, he got in touch again to report that very sadly Monty had to be put to sleep on 19 February. This is an old photo of Monty who, Douglas reports, was quite fond of beer! He was born on St Andrew's Day 2007 and was a cheeky spaniel, not above pinching socks and shoes...and the occasional gammon steak from a plate. We send our condolences to Douglas on the loss of Monty.

## The Rood Screen

Interesting contributions have appeared in *Cathedral News* on the cathedral screen. It was designed by Sir Ninian Comper for the church of SS. Andrew & George in Rosyth (dedicated in 1926) and is depicted in Symondson & Bucknall, *Sir Ninian Comper*, (2006) p108. The church was only ever half-built and closed in 1986.

Screens in churches have had a hard time throughout the Christian era. Pugin said that a chancel screen is not an ornamental option but a vital principle of church design. In Orthodox churches this is still the case but it was a battle that he lost within his own Roman Catholic community. Its theological significance predates Christians to the worship of the Israelites in the Tent of Meeting built to be a microcosm of the seven days of Creation. In these structures the Veil of the Temple was the meeting place between time and eternity and the Christian church building is the lineal descendant of the Temple and the chancel screen the Veil. For further reading go to Kirby M, Ed, *Chancel Screens Since the Reformation* (2019).

Margaret Lye

## Cathedral Saints Supporters

Of course, we are all supporters of saints here in the cathedral, but we also have a sizeable group of Saints supporters in the congregation, not least of them John and Maureen Wright whose grandson Jack, now aged 6, recently won a competition run by St Johnstone FC. Many congratulations to Jack (*pictured right in a tweet from St Johnstone*) on his winning art work, and of course to St Johnstone on their excellent 1-0 victory over Livingston FC in the Scottish League Cup final on Sunday 28 February. God is clearly a saints supporter too!



# Alison's Book Recommendations

## ***A Dance to the Music of Time***

**by Anthony Powell**

Some years ago I watched a serial on Channel 4 adapted from the novels by Anthony Powell. On the principle that the book is always better than the television, I resolved to read them. There are twelve, the library said. Twelve!! Went home to start on volumes 1-3. So far, so good. As anyone will tell you, deep down I'm shallow. So got volumes 4-6, and in the middle of volume 5, I got side-tracked by Jilly Cooper, or whomever, and there the matter rested until just before lockdown #1, when I came upon, in Oxfam, a lovely Folio edition of volumes 1-3. Lockdown started and I decided to get the others on Kindle (this bungalow cannot contain every book in the world). By June, all are done, and I am very pleased with myself.



The title of the series refers to a painting by Poussin, which Nicholas Jenkins, the narrator, recalls when he sees a group of working men gathered round a brazier. The painting (*shown left*) in which, hand-in-hand in intricate revolutions, the seasons tread in rhythm to the notes of a lyre. The novels centre round a group

of upper-class young men from their schooldays at Eton at the end of the First War, through their careers until late middle-age. Our hero is Nicholas Jenkins, his friends are Charles Stringham, and Peter Templar and coming up behind, the wonderful Kenneth Widmerpool, who, despite the odds, becomes a successful Labour politician after what is sometimes called a 'dazzling' war. The premise is that in that class everyone knows everyone else and their lives weave into each others' with an intricacy which can be occasionally irritating when one has to go back three volumes to remember Lady Isobel's sisters' names. Widmerpool is a fascinating

character. He is an outsider at school; no-one quite remembers why, but it was 'something to do with a coat'. Widmerpool forgoes university to obtain articles with a firm of solicitors which leaves him three years ahead of the others in professional terms. He is ambition personified and eventually, and improbably, marries the beautiful, manipulative Pamela Flitton, who dies in a necrophiliac session with a French novelist in an hotel room. She is also (probably plot-stretching) the cause of Peter Templar's murder in a Cairo bar.

Goodness, there's a lot of it. My favourite quotation is a remark by Charles, bored by university life, to the effect that he 'might join the French Foreign Legion, or the Canadian Royal Mounted Police, whichever has the shorter hours.'

There are many complex people in these books, beautifully drawn, and more slightly dodgy plots than a field of allotments, but it is a marathon rather than a sprint. Go with the DVD, it's fun.

*Alison Ballantyne*

## ***Watch your Language***

It's easy to make mistakes. For some time when I was young and at evensong I thought that the scripture moveth us in sunny places rather than sundry (many different) places. The wrong idea completely. But sometimes the difficulty can lie within the language itself rather than one's hearing. Take lust, for example, which had little to do with sexual desire - its modern meaning - but was simply a general wish. However, such stumblings can be full of unexpected insight. If God prevented something, it used to mean that he went in front, to guide, and health was close in meaning to salvation. A particularly interesting example is 'comfort'. In the Bayeux Tapestry under the heading of 'King William comforts his troops' is a picture of a king at Hastings poking a spear up the rear of a rider in front of him. Uncomfortable, I'd say, but to comfort used to mean to strengthen, to fire people up. The word was just beginning to change its meaning to a modern hint of physical luxury in the sixteenth century. You can see this in the language of Psalm 23. The waters of comfort could be there to put some zip into your spiritual journey and the Lord's rod and staff may not be as consoling as meets the eye, a passage of scripture with a hard edge. Converting one's soul is a serious - and difficult - Lenten matter. As the hymn has it, 'not for ever by still waters would we idly rest

and play But would strike the living fountains from the rocks along our way.' I sometimes wonder whether as Christians we have any choice in the situation.

John Byrom

Sincerest thanks to everyone who contributes to *Cathedral News*. Without you, the magazine would be half the size and not nearly as interesting. If you feel like putting pen to paper and letting us know how you're getting on in lockdown, or how your family and cats and dogs are doing, or about your clerical relation, or anything at all that you think might be of interest to your friends at St Ninian's, then please get in touch. Contact details on the inside back cover! And if you feel you cannot write, my assistant editor, Eddie, tells me a lot of rubbish passes across his desk each month and he eventually turns it into half-decent prose. Unfortunately I think he was referring to me... Ed.

## *My Relation, the Bishop*

Bishop How was not actually my relation, but that of my wife Gabrielle. Her father, Walsham Temple Crewe Maynard, known as Walsham, inherited his first name from his ancestor Bishop W. Walsham How, best known as the author of the hymn *For all the saints who from their labours rest*.

Researching his life was greatly helped by the internet; tracing the family connection was not so easy. A framed photograph of Walsham How (*on opposite page*) has now been passed on to our son Angus Struan Walsham. Fortunately on the back of the photograph frame we found vital clues to the family connection. These were written by Constance, sister of Temple Maynard, father to my father-in-law Walsham. Further clarification came from words pencilled by Gabrielle. Constance writes that Walsham How was her first cousin, his father having married a Miss Maynard, sister of Gabrielle's great-grandfather.

William Walsham How was born in 1823, son of a Shrewsbury solicitor. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and later at Wadham College, Oxford. Interestingly Gabrielle's father Walsham also went to Wadham where he shared rooms with Alex Chinnery Haldane of Gleneagles. How went on to University College, Durham and was ordained in 1846 before serving in a number of parishes in Shropshire. He was Rector of Whittington for 28 years, and it was during these

years that he wrote most of his published works.

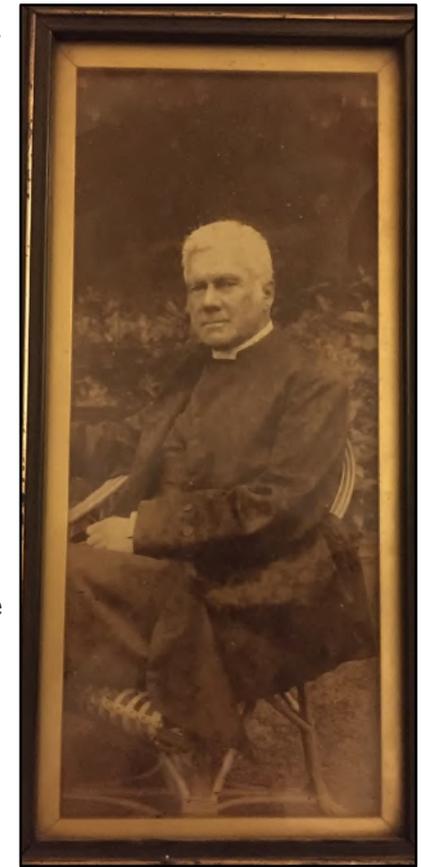
Apart from *For all the saints* Walsham How wrote some 60 hymns, including many for children. In addition he wrote a number of theological works about controversies surrounding the Oxford movement and attempted to reconcile Biblical creation with the theory of evolution. He had an excellent knowledge of British flora and was a respected botanist.

In 1879 he was consecrated the first modern suffragan bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury in St Paul's Cathedral, and given the title Bishop of Bedford with responsibility for the East End of London. Constance Maynard writes that he liked to sign his letters 'Yours affectionately, Isle of Dogs'. Here he was much respected particularly for his work with women and children, helping the destitute in the London slums; he was often referred to as the 'Children's Bishop' and the 'People's Bishop'. His sermons were known to be straightforward, earnest and appealing.

In 1888 Walsham How became the first Bishop of Wakefield. He left his mark there, giving particular assistance to the factory workers of West Yorkshire.

He died in 1897 while on holiday in Leenane, County Mayo, Ireland. I like to think that there is another family connection here as the Maynards had strong Irish ties. Bishop How was buried at Whittington in Shropshire where there is a memorial to him and his wife Frances, who had given him great support and encouragement and had died ten years earlier. There is a marble memorial to him in Wakefield Cathedral and a plaque in St Helen's, Bishopsgate, London.

Walsham How was clearly a good man, who retained as a bishop the common touch he had shown as a parish priest. I am so glad that I will know something



about him when in future I sing all eight verses of that glorious hymn. The fifth verse seems appropriate in the current pandemic:

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.  
Alleluia!*

Inscribed on the memorial at St Helen's, Bishopsgate are the final words of the sixth verse: *Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.*

Struan Robertson

## *Annabelle's Photo Corner*

Many thanks once again to Annabelle O'Connell for providing the cover photo, showing sunset over Kinnoull Hill. She writes: 'As daylight increases and more clement weather appears, I am reminded of the precious gift of sunset walks at the end of the day. A time to reflect on this journey of Lent towards Easter with renewed hope.' It was only after the sudden and recent thaw that the editor decided on the sunset photo rather than her snowy one opposite!



**Did you know...**that the people behind the **what3words.com** website and app have divided the entire globe into 57 trillion three-metre squares and have assigned to each square just three random words? These three words are sufficient to pinpoint any location in the world. St Ninian's Cathedral must have in the region of 100 such squares, so any point within the building can be identified very precisely. Eddie the Eagle, for example, resides at garden.aims.grass and the pulpit is at settle.blank.rats. Post-church coffee, when it resumes, can be had at fast.librarian.custom while the biscuits - and you have to have a biscuit - are at easy.incomes.donor. These words may not replace postal addresses but come into their own when trying to meet someone in a large crowd or an open space. Take a look - it's fascinating!

## *From the Farquhar Diaries*

**5 March 1921.** I spent three nights in Edinburgh at Mrs. Mansfields last week in order to attend meetings of the Liturgical Revision Committee. .... I moved that it should be permissible to omit the Venite on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday & it was carried. It having been agreed that the Athanasian Creed should only be used once in the year i.e. On Trinity Sunday, I carried that it should also be permissible to use it in whole or part at other times. It was on my motion too that the title "Low Sunday" (for 1<sup>st</sup> aft. Easter) should not be adopted. But all these & other such points were eclipsed by the heat & vigour with which I attached the proposal to introduce all the "Seven Sacraments" tidily arranged with their respective "outward visible signs" and "inward spiritual graces" into the Catechism. I frankly told them I

was "horrified" when I first read the proposal. At this there was a burst of laughter but A..J. Moravien said from the chair "This is no laughing matter. I too was horrified." ... feeling that a stand must really be made in dealing with this question I somewhat warmly held to my course. It is chiefly "The Sacrament of Penance," mediaeval as it is, that I object to. And the Sacramental nature of Marriage is extremely difficult to define: it needs study. Are heathens, united by a life-long vow, not married? What is the outward visible sign & the inward spiritual grace - but of course the need for Christians to have the Church's



Blessing on their marriage I clearly see & that it must be lifelong. But suddenly to rush us into the exact number of 7 Sacraments without study --!

**17 March.** The congregational feature of the time continues to be the saddening decrease of the congregations at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. - perhaps at the outside 150, instead of the long-accustomed 200. Indeed, trusting to memory, they seem to be down to the Pre-Rorisonian days' level - 1883-1886. We hear that this is a very general experience all over the country, but partly with us I cannot help thinking that the next to no encouragement which the Provost gives to the people to come.

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

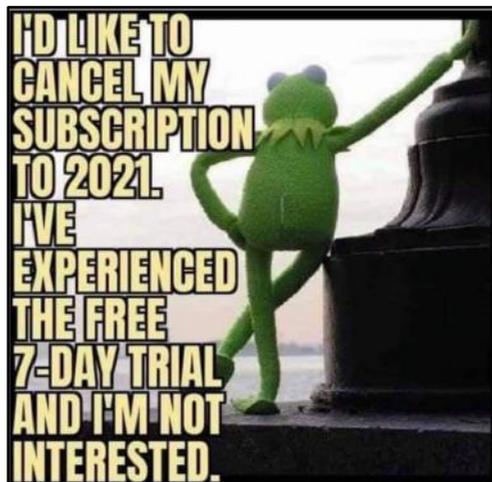
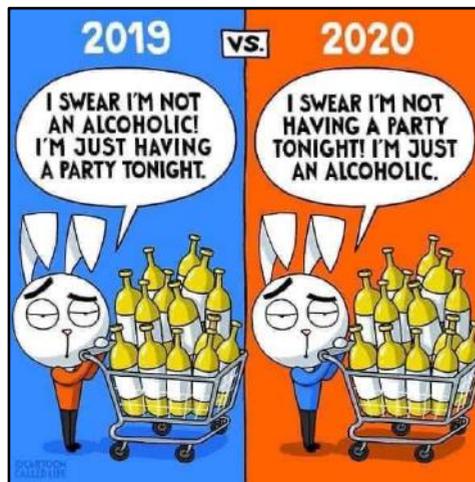
## Eddie the Eagle says...

Being stuck in my eyrie all day, having been furloughed by the Provost, I've little to do but read my Bible and admire my stash of chocolate cake. But then I thought: this is Lent, the right thing to do is **not** to have a stash of chocolate cake. So I ate it. And now I'm feeling holy and so fat I don't think I should try flying anywhere for a while. Not so much 'beware of low-flying eagles' as 'beware of plummeting cathedral lecterns.'



## Lockdown Memes of the Month

Two memes this month! Keep sending them in to *Cathedral News* and cheer us all up!



## Vestry Update

The Vestry has identified two important issues which need to be addressed this year. The first is how we might better promote the cathedral to visitors of all sorts once we're permitted to be open again. And the second is to look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint to Net Zero by 2030 in line with the Episcopal Church policy. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions on either of these matters please get in touch with a member of the vestry or the office. We're all going to need our very best thinking caps on in this challenging time.

Wendy Duncan

## 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)

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

### 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](mailto:cathedralmagazine@gmail.com). The closing date for inclusion in the April magazine is **21 March 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

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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

Assisting Clergy

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

Lay Reader

Lis Burke  
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