A low-angle photograph of a large tree with white blossoms against a clear blue sky. The tree's branches are filled with numerous small, white flowers, creating a dense canopy. The sky is a vibrant, clear blue. The overall composition is bright and uplifting.

Cathedral News

The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's

May 2021

Who's Who at the Cathedral

From the Provost

Dear Friends

When we live in a predominantly 'white' culture, as we do in Perth, racism against those whose skin is darker seems to be something that happens elsewhere. Some of us imagine it happens where there are larger populations with a greater mix of races. Of course, this statement is rubbish. Racism can and does exist everywhere and in many different guises. During the first Scottish independence referendum I was truly shocked and sickened to hear anti-English rhetoric. Racism sadly is not confined to the colour of your skin and in my view all racism is evil and ugly.



Perhaps this is why, when I was listening to the verdict of the policeman who murdered George Floyd, I found tears rolling down my cheeks. George Floyd was a 46 year-old black man from Minnesota in the United States, who was arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 note.

I watched as the policeman who murdered George Floyd, almost a year ago, was dealt a measure of justice. It was almost as if those responsible for the centuries of

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injustice and brutality inflicted upon the Black people of America, were finally being brought to account.

I admired those who kept vigil, those people of all races who kept saying, enough is enough. They didn't flinch against a power that all too often has made decisions based on ethnicity. They carefully recalled, remembered, and resisted.

No, these brave demonstrators refused to look away and to turn their backs on the trauma that's been visited upon Black people for far too long. They stood united against a systemic evil that sadly continues to plague our countries.

Can we say that out of this dreadful atrocity, those who stood by the family of George Floyd and all those who visibly demonstrated for justice, were showing the world what a little bit of God's kingdom might look like.

I would urge you that whenever we are faced with blatant racism, to peacefully but firmly and strongly object. We all need to recognise it's time to change our thinking in line with the Gospel. Chances are that Jesus may well have been a little darker in the skin than we want to imagine!

I continue to be so grateful to the small band of volunteers who quietly make sure our building is safe. Every time we have a service every chair and surface is disinfected and thoroughly cleaned. We have just learned that we will be able to have more than 50 worshippers in the cathedral, if we can. However two-metre distancing will still apply. We should therefore be able to squeeze in a few more bodies.

Prayer is always at the centre of our life in Christ together. I ask your prayers please for those we know to be unwell and for those who find themselves at home for whatever reason. Let's remember all those who support us and help to sustain our lives. May God's blessing rest on us all.

With love,

Hunter

Readings and Collects for May

Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles - Saturday 1 May

Collect: Almighty God, you gave to your apostles Philip and James grace and strength to bear witness to the truth. Grant that we, being mindful of their victory of faith, may glorify in life and death the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: Isaiah 30.18-21, Psalm 119.1-8, 2 Corinthians 4.1-6, John 14 (1-5) 6-14

Fifth Sunday of Easter - 2 May

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: Acts 8.26-40, Psalm 22.24-30, 1 John 4.7-21, John 15.1-8

Sixth Sunday of Easter - 9 May

Collect: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Acts 10.44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5.1-6, John 15.9-17

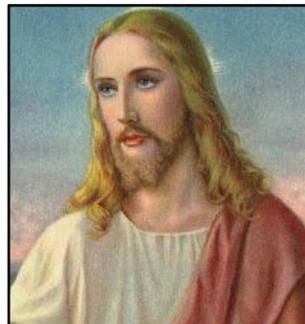
Ascension of the Lord - 13 May

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Acts 1.1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1.15-23, Luke 24.44-53

Matthias, Apostle - 14 May

Collect: Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose Matthias to be numbered



A not atypical image of Jesus with film star looks, blond hair and blue eyes.

in the twelve, preserve your Church from false apostles, and by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers keep us steadfast in your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Readings: Isaiah 22.15-25, Psalm 15, Acts 1.15-26, John 15.(6-8)9-17

Seventh Sunday of Easter - 16 May

Collect: Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Acts 1.15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5.9-13, John 17.6-19

The Day of Pentecost - 23 May

Collect: Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Acts 2.1-21, Romans 8.22-27, John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Trinity Sunday - 30 May

Collect: Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings: Isaiah 6.1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17

Thanksgiving for Holy Communion - Corpus Christi - 3 June

Collect: O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left 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. Amen.

Readings: Exodus 16.9-15, Psalm 116.10-17, 1 Corinthians 10.16-17, John 6. (51-52) 53-58

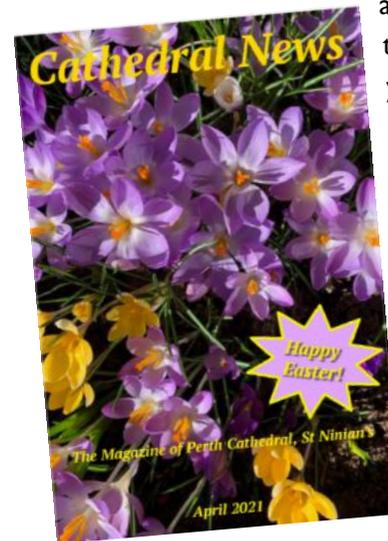
Second Sunday after Pentecost - 6 June

Collect: Almighty and ever-living God, whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Kings 5.1-14, Psalm 30, 1 Corinthians 9.24-27, Mark 1.40-45

The Magazine

Without exception we have all enjoyed receiving the cathedral's monthly magazine by post and this is set to continue. The printing of the magazine, the cost of stamps, paper and stationery is, however, expensive. So, in order to keep costs down we



are going to send the magazine electronically to those who have email addresses. I would ask for your patience whilst we set this up. We need those to whom we have sent electronically to let us know that the process is working. For those who don't have the joys and sorrows of computing, the magazine will be sent by post as usual. If you have an email address that we don't know about and you'd like the magazine sent this way, then please let Marion in the office know by sending her an email to office@perthcathedral.co.uk.

May I also remind you that the cathedral magazine is for us all, and we all have the right to put forward contributions. The editor of course has the last say but always welcomes articles. The magazine is also on our website and is read by people all over the world!

A Round Up of Cathedral News



The great news, of course, is that since Good Friday we have been back worshipping in the cathedral, the first time in over three months - since Christmas Day, in fact. The restrictions put in place because of the pandemic were relaxed in time for Holy Week and Easter, although the ban on congregational singing remained and numbers were not allowed to exceed 50. The photos show the flower team - Molly, Alison, Mavis, Wendy, Hazel and Jeremy - in action on Easter Saturday.



Christian Aid News

The climate emergency is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we can stop this climate crisis.

With all the usual fundraisers for Christian Aid week cancelled again this year, a group of cathedral walkers is teaming up with St John's, Princes Street to do a sponsored '300,000 steps for water'. We hope to raise £2000 for earth dams in Kenya which will help the people there cope with the devastating effects of climate change. 300,000 steps (almost 150 miles) will be divided into a series of shorter walks over the course of the month of May and this energetic group is confident of reaching its step target!

A Justgiving sponsorship page has been set up at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Perth300000stepsforwater> and we shall also have a donations plate at the cathedral for anyone who would prefer to give in that way.

Wendy Duncan

Wendy and Pat, together with Elaine of St John's, pose for the paparazzi on the North Inch.



Eco Congregation News

As you know the UK is hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November this year. The summit will bring countries together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. During the talks the eyes of the world will be on Scotland and, largely under the umbrella of Eco-Congregation Scotland, our churches are already committed to playing their part, to joining the conversation and to taking action on the climate emergency.



At Eco-Congregation Scotland's recent Annual Gathering churches considered how they might get involved in worship, action and advocacy ahead of COP26. The call has already gone out for the use church halls for meetings and as hubs for fringe events outside Glasgow. Volunteer chaplains are needed for the Well-being Space. Information is needed for the 'green maps' which are being created to highlight fair-trade cafes and food outlets, sustainable travel options around Scotland etc. There is lots to do and lots to pray about.

A talk by the Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches highlighted the impact of climate change in a part of the world where islanders face drastic damage from rising sea levels, cyclones and floods. He gently pointed out that we can all do something to help by trying to live our lives a little more sustainably and by planting seeds of hope, peace and love for the future. He reminded us that humankind is not apart from, but a part of, God's creation.

One of the most powerful ways to consider change is by talking, listening and telling our stories. Eco-Congregation Scotland has produced a pack of monthly themed resources to help congregations begin awareness-raising conversations about the climate emergency and to encourage everyone to take action. Maybe this is something we might try at the cathedral? Have a look at <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org>.

As Scotland welcomes the world we look forward to Net Zero carbon and a Just, Green Future.

Wendy Duncan

My first year in a care home...

...and some memories of the past.

About 18 months ago my mobility was becoming worse and Joe, my husband, was finding life very difficult, especially at night because if I had to get up I would grope my way to the bathroom, fall down and be unable to get up again. The emergency doctor, at a weekend, said I would have to go into a care home. He started phoning and found a place in a fairly small home some distance from Perth. I've been there ever since and have been very lucky to find myself in such a nice place.

The death of the Duke of Edinburgh has made me look back on my life as I'm sure many people of my age do – I'll be 89 on my birthday and Joe is already 91. Until very recently, he has been amazingly mobile and competent and we have just been celebrating our 66th wedding anniversary with a lovely quiet visit in my care home, complete with champagne and cake, courtesy of the staff – just the two of us and it is, I think, a mark of what a special home this is.

My first memory of the Royals was when I was about four and I heard my father say (he and my mother were missionaries in Manchuria at that time), 'So he has actually done it.' He referred to the abdication of King Edward VIII. Some months later we were invited to a garden party at the British Consulate to celebrate the crowning of King George VI. I was not impressed with the people but I was very impressed with the house and garden! The house had two staircases! And the consul and his wife had a little girl of about my and my younger sister's age with whom we could play.

In 1939 the Second World War started. The Japanese had not come into the war yet but missionary families with children were advised to leave Manchuria. My parents decided to leave as did several other families. We all got as far as Japan. All British and European ships had left and we waited in Kobe for two weeks before going to Yokohama after hearing of a Japanese passenger ship that was going to Vancouver. I was eight years old with two younger sisters (three little slave girls as the Chinese called us). The grown-ups on this voyage were frightened the Japanese would declare war and the ship would go back to Japan. However, that didn't happen and after five lovely years in Canada, and after VE day, we sailed back to Liverpool from Montreal. We sailed in the last convoy of the war and the voyage

took 16 days.

The royal family had played no part in my life until, at the age of 13 and having the distinction of having travelled one and a half times round the world, all by train and ship, I began to hear about them and read about them – the two princesses being of great interest and of course the young naval officer who soon married the Princess Elizabeth. He was a most remarkable man and will be sorely missed.

On returning to Belfast, Ireland, my father resumed his life as a Presbyterian minister and in due course became Moderator, a post held for just a year. As Moderator, he got invitations to go to some royal functions in Edinburgh and London. The one I remember best was in 'Edinburgh – dress formal'. Joe and I were married and living in Broughty Ferry with our four children at that time and my parents came to stay with us. My mother had a beautiful black velvet dress which she had taken to China – high neck, long sleeves, down to the ground and she looked lovely in it. They were, I think, a bit in awe of this visit. If my mother hadn't come, as eldest daughter, I could have gone but I had to make do with hearing all about it. They had a very good time and I just wish I could remember what they said the Duke of Edinburgh had said to them. My father was very impressed as everybody seems to be – the Queen, as always was lovely.

Returning to my first year in a care home, life has been very different to what it might have been without the pandemic. The precautions that have had to be taken have made life quite difficult for carers who have coped cheerfully, despite their masks. Some carers are very young but have a maturity beyond their years. One of the biggest problems for residents has been the restrictions on visiting, also a problem, of course, for family and friends. Many, (thankfully not in my care home) have missed the last chance to see, hug and kiss their family members or friends. Hopefully, this is going to change now there are vaccines that are successfully protecting the recipients from Covid-19.

I have to say that if you do have to go into a care home, I hope it will be as good as the one I'm in and with as pleasant and competent carers. I have been very lucky in that I have been able to be visited by my husband Joe and also by our son Michael who is the only one of our children within reach of the home. My thanks go to Emmanuel for her prayers and phone calls which are much appreciated.

Mary Orr

From the Registers

Deaths

Elizabeth Beats	Gwenda Clement
Frances Jack	Mansel James
Jean Buckingham	Casey Cameron-Nebolisa
Raymon Thomson	Hugh Farquharson
Maureen Findlay	

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

Annabelle's Photo Corner



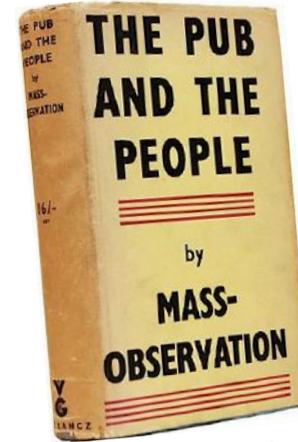
Blooming wonderful! How I love this time of year with all the anticipation of new flowers through spring and summer. We are so thankful to have the riverside walk and Rodney Gardens in Perth; the scented flowers are divine. Expect to see honeysuckle in these pages soon... my personal favourite.

Alison's Book Recommendations

Mass-Observation: Britain in the Second World War

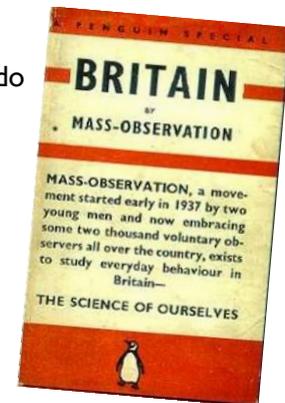
Edited by Sandra Koa Wing

At first glance, this didn't look promising, but it clicked a memory for me. A few years ago, Victoria Wood (so missed) made a film for television called *Housewife 49* based on the diary of Nella Last. The diary itself was a contribution to the Mass-Observation which was started by Tom Harrison following the abdication crisis in 1936, and by 1939 had achieved a wide coverage of British life. Harrison recognized that war historians would write the war's military history, but would not portray how the war was experienced at home by ordinary people living their lives through it. The editor points out that the diarists were for the most part literate, middle-class and inclined to be left- rather than right-wing.



They did not pretend to be representative of the British people as a whole, but they do provide what was, during the nation's most challenging times, a snapshot of how people coped with the difficulties of worrying about 'big issues'; about sons and husbands fighting, about rationing, about air raids and about the future. There were the little things too - 'What can you do with an odd spoonful of sugar?' An astonishing number of things, apparently, according to Nella.

Reading the diaries, one gets to know the characters a bit, and finds favourites. There is Nella, whose contribution to the WRVS becomes a way of lifting her heart and her confidence. There's Muriel, whose time in the Land Army leads her to a job as head gardener at a stately home where she is happier than she has ever been. At one point, she and her friends 'got very excited about the Derby (1944), and for the first time in her life had a bob each way on Mustang and Garden Path which I was assured were dead certs.' She was quite disappointed to lose her bet, then 'felt ashamed to think that where such



vital issues were at stake and men's lives going with every snap of the fingers we should be betting on racehorses.'

Edie Rutherford is another favourite. 'Work again today. A lovely sunny day nicer than any day of the Easter holiday, drat it.' She approves of the Brains Trust on the wireless. 'For the first time, two women. Hope they do that more often; must break down the idea women haven't as much sense as men!'

The diarists are all very informed and aware of the progress of the war and although they long for the end, are unsure and nervous about what will happen when it does all end. It occurs to me that while there can be no comparison between the two events, there is a similar nervousness about our soon-to-come freedom following the lockdown.

The book I have is the Folio edition which I bought at the Oxfam shop, but I'm sure a copy can be found online.

Alison Ballantyne

Face Masks

Ever since face coverings became mandatory in public places, I've been making them for myself and family members, trying out different styles. I use two layers of 100% cotton, plus a non-woven inner layer, which makes them fully machine-washable and reusable. The elastic ear loops are adjustable and a metal strip makes them fit closely around the nose. Hunter says they are the first masks he has worn which didn't make his glasses steam up! I have a few spares left which I could pass on for the cost of materials (£5.00 each).

Lis Burke.



From the Farquhar Diaries

2 May 1921. ...The Bp of Aberdeen who is great for the revival of the Women's Diaconate, as recommended by the Lambeth Conference (to the alarm of many) held a meeting of Women to consider what should be done about giving the Lambeth proposal legislative sanction in Scotland. N. and a party of ladies from Perth went to Glasgow for the purpose of opposing the proposal. The Women seemed pretty equally divided, half being keen for & the other half against. The full Lambeth proposals (especially giving power to Women to conduct Matins & Evensong & preach to mixed Congregations) were actually rejected by the meeting but a motion in favour of reviving female Diaconate as Holy Orders was carried. To my disappointment I saw three of the Perth party (not including N.) vote for the proposal. I was certain they had got muddled and after they got back to Perth it seems that some pretty lively discussion took place & it was discovered that they thought they were doing as they intended, i.e. voting against the revival of the Diaconate. When they were convinced that they had actually voted for it, they sent off a round robin to the Bp of Aberdeen to tell him so! If he accepts their withdrawal it will turn his majority into a minority of one! The whole of the first forenoon, from the Primus's opening address & the Lord Provost's speech and all through the business (Foreign Missions) was one long eulogium of Bp Campbell. The speeches were extremely good & constituted a great tribute. The most important business, I suppose, consisted of getting the new arrangements about the distribution of the Clergy Fund, in view of the present poverty of the Clergy, into working order... I have just finished reading Wordsworth's "Prelude" for the fourth or fifth time... The author's experiences in the French Revolution & his meditations thereon would greatly benefit society in its present fevered condition.

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



Robespierre - the architect of the Reign of Terror in Revolutionary France and the latest in our much commended series of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine.

Eddie the Eagle says...

If you've been in church recently you will have noticed that my position as chief of the cathedral's avian community is being challenged by the growing number of pigeons currently flying around the interior and generally making themselves at home, if not actually unwelcome. They are, of course, company but I'm getting a little concerned when they start saying they ought to be represented on the vestry. Perhaps it's time to get that pigeon-sized hole in the Black Watch window repaired?



Two recent junk emails caught the editor's attention recently and made him query the level of Christian understanding in this country. One invited us to celebrate because it was Good Friday and the other was promoting a new e-card, 'perfect for a Christian interpretation of the Easter holiday...' Oh dear!

An Irreverent Cartoon for Pentecost



Cover Photo

This month's cover photo is a simple one of white blossom against a clear blue sky. It was taken in the recently reopened Branklyn Garden where the cafe is highly recommended. The garden's not bad either...

Correction

Many thanks to Barry Nisbet who with his eagle eye has pointed out that the reference on page 8 of the April issue to the closing of St Fillans church should read St Fillan's, Killin. The episcopal church at St Fillans has been closed for many years. St Fillan's, Killin is to become a pilgrim chapel.

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

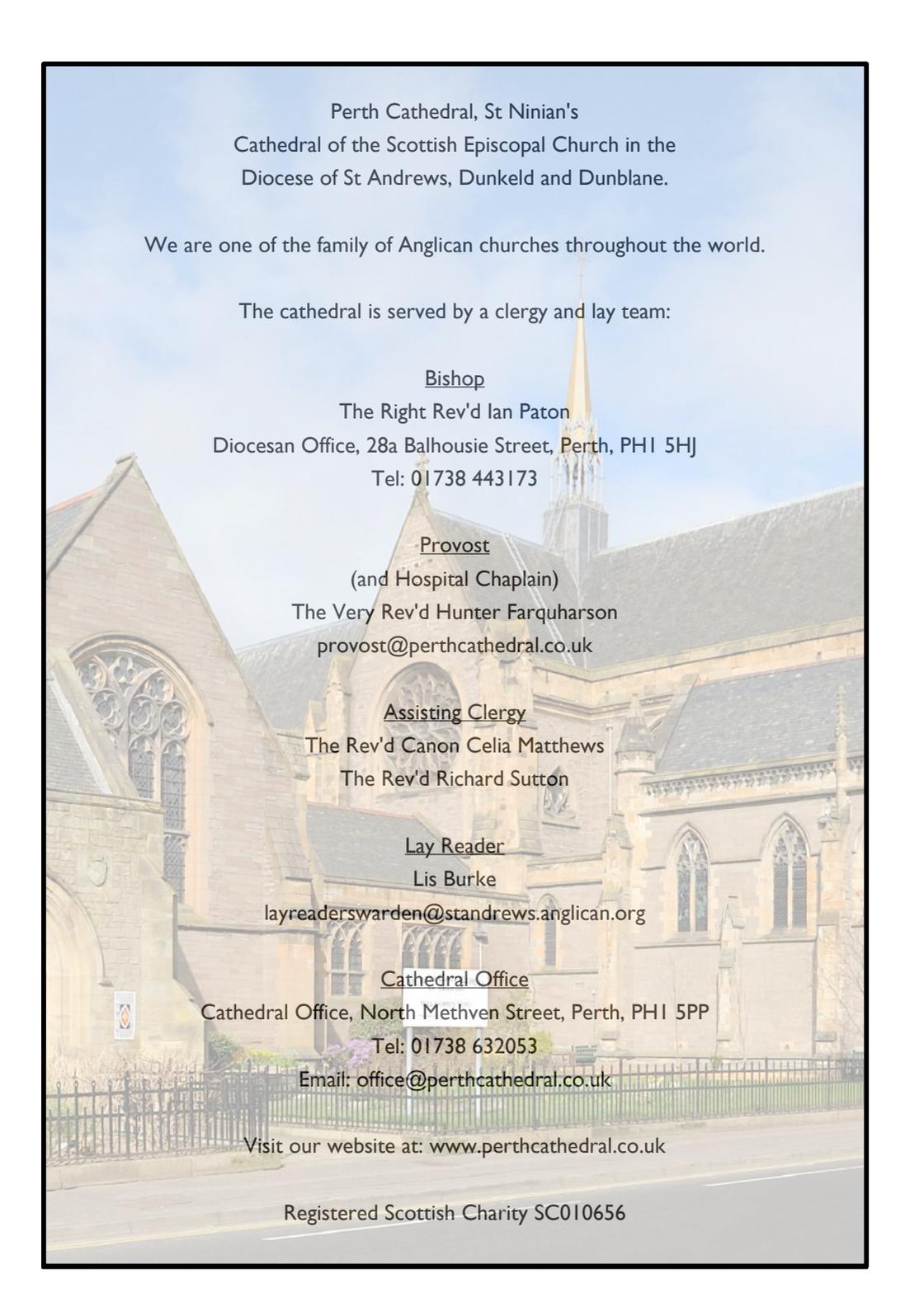
For all committed giving, envelopes and covenants, please contact Liz Gardiner, our treasurer, who will be delighted to advise.

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 June magazine is **23 May**.

A photograph of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's, showing its Gothic architecture with a prominent spire and large stained-glass windows. The cathedral is set against a clear blue sky. 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.

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