

The image shows the cover of a magazine titled 'Cathedral News'. The background is a photograph of Perth Cathedral, a large stone Gothic-style building with a prominent rose window and a tall spire. In the foreground, there are several branches of pink cherry blossoms in full bloom, partially obscuring the view of the cathedral. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# *Cathedral News*

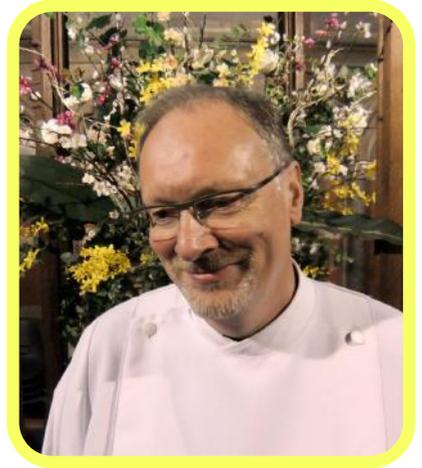
*The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's*  
*June 2021*

# *Who's Who at the Cathedral*

# *From the Provost*

Dear Friends,

The bottom shelf of my largest bookcase is filled with a number of thick dictionaries, volumes of books of famous quotes and Bible dictionaries that must be six inches thick. It occurred to me that I have not touched any of these books for years. The tremendous information that was daily gleaned from them can now be found online at the touch of a button. However, I cannot bring myself to part with these redundant volumes...



I remember being given a grant by The Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy (now the Clergy Support Trust) of £200 in 1987, to enable me to purchase the whole set of the Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible. Beautifully produced and firmly bound, they were central to any serious ministry, but now remain closed because the computer is easier and more expansive. However, I did reach down and open a

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large volume to find a surprise.

When I opened the book two leaves fell out, that I must have pressed between the pages many moons ago. I have a vague memory of doing this. One was a fig leaf and the other smelt like wild garlic.

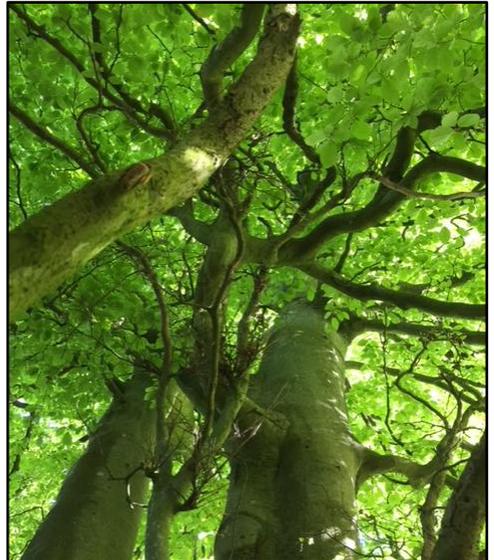
Both were almost grey in colour, brittle and

fragile, and I thought about how green they must have been at one stage in their lives.

Spring, of course, is the season when we become most aware of the colour green. There's an explosion of different shades all over the countryside. It makes for beautiful viewing. Late spring is also a good time for planting things, and I find it exciting when the first green of my potato shoots comes through. Of course, as the summer progresses these greens become darker and richer.

The Church's liturgical colour also turns to green for the long season of Pentecost through to the end of November. The colour is to remind us that just like plants, we need to take in fresh nourishment for our hearts and souls to grow and flourish, and then cast off what's no longer needed or relevant.

The pandemic has made me think and reflect much more on my life and what's around me and there have been some surprises. During the lockdowns of this pandemic, I seemed to develop a keener



sense of the world, our earth. I've always taken the care of our planet seriously, but not taken on board just how quickly we may be destroying it. Can it be that there is a link between these strange and lethal viruses developing, because of our abuse of our beautiful green/blue planet?



*The 'bug hotel'.*

The Church has the opportunity to take a lead in this by encouraging each other and our communities to 'Green Up,' as they say. Thanks to the Mushroom Trust and through the expertise of John Blackie our gardener, we've been able to really smarten up our grounds to the front of the cathedral and each morning I'm amazed at how many insects and birds now abound. In the wild part Christopher Dingwall has erected a bird stand and regularly tops up the feeders. I even saw lovely insects crawling about in the 'Bug Hotel.'

Green, a colour all around us to remind us of God's great love for us which we can return to God by caring for what He's given us, each other and our planet. Wendy Duncan is continuing to develop a new eco area for information and recycling at the end of the cloisters. We all need encouragement and advice to continue to grow in our understanding and love. There was a slogan bandied around in the early 1990s, 'God is Green,' and I think that's a very healthy theology!

As always I ask you to keep praying especially for those we know to be unwell. Illness is often isolating but doubly worse during a pandemic when we can't easily visit each other. For a good number of people, it's not so easy to get around due to the infirmity that comes with age – those who keep faith at home. We hope to be able to re-start home communions again soon, but our thanks to those who, at home, hold us in their prayers and continue to take an interest in the life of our cathedral.

With every blessing,

Hunter

# *Readings and Collects for June*

## **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:** O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** 1 Samuel 8.4-20 (11.14-15), Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4.13 - 5.1, Mark 3.20-35

## **Saint Columba, Abbot - 9 June**

**Collect:** O God, you called your servant Columba from among the princes of Ireland to be a herald and evangelist of your kingdom: grant that your Church, remembering his faith and courage, may so proclaim the gospel that people everywhere will come to know your Son as their Saviour and serve him as their king; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**Readings:** Isaiah 61.1-3, Psalm 34.1-8, 1 Thessalonians. 2.2-12, Matthew 5.13-16

### **Third Sunday after Pentecost – 13 June**

**Collect:** Almighty God, without you we are not able to please you. Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** 1 Samuel 15.34 – 16.13, Psalm 20, 2 Corinthians 5.6-10(11-13)14-17, Mark 4.26-34

### **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - 20 June**

**Collect:** O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** 1 Samuel 17.57 – 18.5,10-16, Psalm 133, 2 Corinthians 6.1-13, Mark 4.35-41

### **The Birth of John the Baptist -24 June**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people the wisdom to see your purpose, and the openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Isaiah 40.1-11, Psalm 85.7-13, Acts 13.14b-26, Luke 1.57-66(67-79)80

### **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 27 June**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love fulfils the law. May we love you with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and may we love our neighbour as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** 2 Samuel 1.1,17-27, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 8.7-15, Mark 5.21-43

### **Peter and Paul, Apostles - 29 June**

**Collect:** Almighty God, your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life. Grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Ezekiel 34.11-16, Psalm 125, 2 Timothy 4.(1-5)6-8,17-18, John 21.15-19

### **Thomas, Apostle – 3 July**

**Collect:** Almighty and everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with faith in the resurrection of your Son: strengthen us when we doubt, and make us faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our risen Lord; who with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns eternally, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Habakkuk 2.1-4, Psalm 31.1-6, Ephesians 2.19-22, John 20.24-29

### **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – 4 July**

**Collect:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of your children we do also for him. Give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, but lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** 2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10, Psalm 48, 2 Corinthians 12.2-10, Mark 6.1-13

### **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – 11 July**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** 2 Samuel 6.1-5,12b-19, Psalm 24, Ephesians 1.3-14, Mark 6.14-29

# *A Story for Trinity Sunday*

*Lis took the service on Trinity Sunday and told the following story which the editor has found on the internet...*

The late Anthony de Mello, S.J. tells the story of a bishop whose ship stopped at a remote island for a day. The bishop was determined to use the time as profitably as possible. He strolled along the seashore and came across three fishermen attending to their nets. In pidgin English, they announced to him that centuries before they had been Christianized by missionaries.

"We, Christians!" they said, proudly pointing to one another. The bishop was impressed. Did they know the 'Our Father?' They had never heard of it. The bishop was shocked. 'What do you say when you pray?' They said, 'We lift eyes in heaven. We pray, "We are three, You are three, have mercy on us."' "

The bishop was appalled at the primitive, downright heretical nature of the prayer. So he spent the whole day teaching them the Lord's Prayer. The fishermen were slow learners, but they gave it all they had, and before the bishop sailed away next day, he had the satisfaction of hearing them go through the formula without any mistakes.

Months later his ship happened to pass by those islands again and the bishop, as he paced the deck reciting his evening prayer, recalled with pleasure the three men on that distant island who were now able to pray, thanks to his patient efforts.

Suddenly he saw a spot of light in the east that kept approaching the ship and, as he gazed in wonder, he saw three figures walking on the water. They were the bishop's fishermen.

'Bishop,' they exclaimed, 'We hear your boat go past and come hurry hurry meet you.' 'What is it you want?' asked the bishop. 'Bishop,' they said, 'We so sorry. We forgot lovely prayer. We say: "Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come"... then we forget. Tell us prayer again.'

It was a humbled bishop who replied, 'Go back to your home, my friends, and each time you pray, say, "We are three, you are three, have mercy on us!"'

# *A Round Up of Cathedral News*

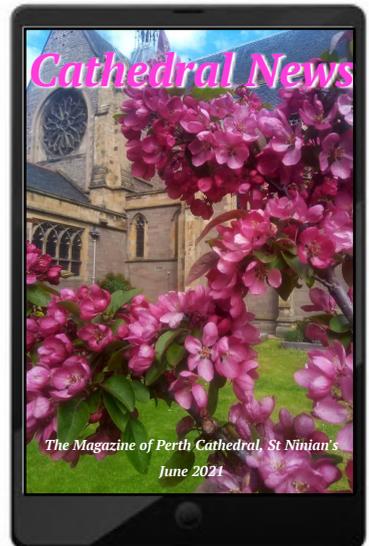
There is a slight sense that we are very gradually returning to normal at the cathedral. True, communion is still bread only, we must not sing and we should still remain as socially distanced as before, but we can now have up to six cantors singing the setting (not forgetting Geoff on the organ), and we even had an incense-filled cathedral for Pentecost, though this was done before the service started. Also, now that we are in Level 2 along with much of Scotland, we also have new signs on display indicating that the maximum capacity of the building, based on the current social distancing rules, is 212. This, however, assumes that the cathedral will be occupied by families of four, all sitting together, and all two metres from the next family of four. In reality, with our mix of couples and singles the capacity may not be much more than 70 or 80.



*The Physical Distance-Based Capacity poster which is legally required to be displayed in the cathedral.*

## *The Magazine*

As mentioned last month, this edition of the magazine is being sent by email to those for whom we have email addresses. The reason is to save paper and reduce the considerable costs of printing and postage and we hope that those who receive it in this way will find it acceptable. The magazine will be sent by post to everyone else. There will inevitably be some teething problems so please let us know where we are going wrong. One other benefit of an electronic copy is that the photos look a lot better and can easily be enlarged on your screen. Please contact Marion in the office at [office@perthcathedral.co.uk](mailto:office@perthcathedral.co.uk) to report any issues.



# *Christian Aid News*

The 'walking warriors' of St Ninian's and St John's, Princes Street have done it! Pat Butler and Wendy Duncan, our home team, combined with Elaine Cameron, Graham Kingsley-Rowe and David Willington from St John's to complete well over 300,000 steps for Christian Aid. They were joined in the effort by Jenny Whittle and John and Maureen Wright. As a result, and thanks to the magnificent support from both churches and from friends and family near and far, they smashed through their target of raising £2000 and at the time of writing have exceeded £3500 - and that is before Gift Aid is added to the total. This should be sufficient to build at least three earth dams in Kenya. As Elaine C has written, 'taking all these steps gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better, and resolve that joint fund-raising makes sense both financially and interpersonally!' The less welcome result of their walks around the Perth area is blisters, aching legs and tiredness!



*The weary walkers back in Perth at journey's end. From the left, Elaine Cameron, Graham Kingsley-Rowe, Wendy, David Willington and Pat.*

The online Justgiving page will remain open during June, the web address for the project being: [justgiving.com/fundraising/Perth300000stepsforwater](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Perth300000stepsforwater) .

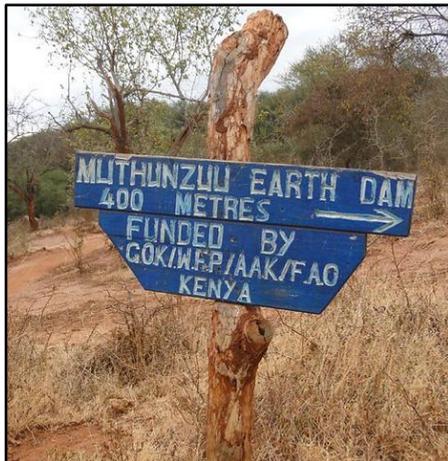


On behalf of Pat, Elaine Cameron and myself, I'd like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who has helped us raise over £3500 for the 2021 Christian Aid appeal - '300,000 steps for water.'

David, Graham and Jenny from St John's plus John and Maureen from our own congregation have generously contributed their own steps to our total, with the result that we walked nearer 400,000 steps between us!



As you know, the money is needed for building earth dams in Kenya which faces famine as a direct result of climate change. Each dam costs £900 so we shall be funding the building of three community dams plus a good bit towards a fourth.



Despite the aching legs and occasional blisters we all thoroughly enjoyed this collaborative project with our sister church and look forward to working together again. Many, many thanks!

*Wendy Duncan*

# Eco Congregation News

## Using Less Stuff!

In Scotland, we already work to ambitious targets in reducing our emissions (we have a target of 75% reduction by 2030) but the single greatest cause of the climate crisis here and much of the world, is the carbon emissions created by everything we produce, consume and too often bin after just one use. The climate crisis is really all about wastefulness after all. We need to make things last by reducing, reusing, repairing, remaking - and finally - recycling everything.

Four-fifths of Scotland's carbon footprint comes from products and materials. The production, consumption and waste of these products and materials are heating the earth at an alarming rate. This includes the energy needed to grow, make, process and transport them, whether they are made here in Scotland or elsewhere. Climate change doesn't respect borders and it affects everyone.

By moving to a circular economy, we keep the value of the materials we use and avoid producing more waste. We can be more resilient by reducing demand for the extraction of raw resources and for waste disposal.



*The 26th United Nations Climate Change conference is scheduled to be held in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021 under the presidency of the United Kingdom. It's getting closer!*



We will continue to work with colleagues in the UK and elsewhere to drive emissions down, but unless everyone understands that we must use less “stuff”, we really are fighting with one hand tied behind our backs.

*Zero Waste Scotland*

# *Summer Opening 2021*

Believe it or not, but we are already open to summer visitors! This might sound strange, bearing in mind Covid-19 and the dreadful spring weather we have had recently, but visitors are turning up in small numbers and once again we are looking for volunteers to help keep the cathedral open. The rota is now online and powered by Doodle Poll, so anyone with access to the internet can easily sign up for a slot from the comfort of home, with diary to hand. Those who cannot access the rota in this way should contact Marion in the cathedral office (01738 632053) and check availability with her.

## **Instructions for using the volunteers rota using a PC, tablet or laptop:**

- \* Go to the cathedral's website at [www.perthcathedral.co.uk](http://www.perthcathedral.co.uk) .
- \* Scroll down the home page to 'Volunteers'.
- \* Click on the month you want (June, July and August are already up there). At this point you may need to agree that Doodle can store some data so you can use this poll.
- \* Check Table button is highlighted (rather than calendar format).
- \* Click the blue cross or just type in box to add your name to the list of participants.
- \* Click on the slot or slots you'd like to select. (And ignore 'there are some poll options you haven't seen').
- \* Click the 'Send' button at the bottom (and don't worry about 'subscribing to updates').
- \* Finally click 'Back to Poll' just to check it has updated correctly.

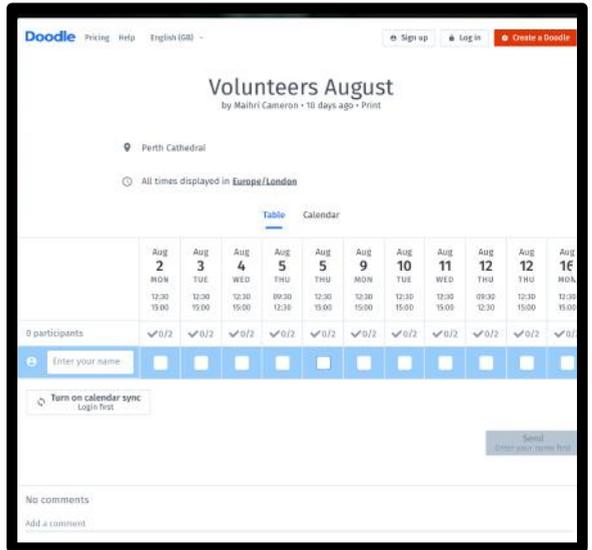
## **And if you need to make a change at any point:**

- \* Hover the cursor over your name until the blue pencil appears.

\* Click on the pencil till the whole line is active (blue) and remove a tick or select another date by clicking a box, and continue as before.

NB: You will notice that we have allowed for only two volunteers per slot, but you can volunteer to do as many empty slots as you like.

The information displays a little differently on a smart phone but it should be relatively similar and straightforward to follow....! hope!



The Doodle Poll volunteers rota on the cathedral website.

Wendy Duncan

## Tea and Coffee Rota...Can you help?

As Covid restrictions lessen we hope to restart offering tea and coffee after the 11.00am Sunday service at some point this summer. The current team of volunteers is quite small and it would be great if anyone else felt they could offer their services. The task involves a team of two who prepare, serve and clear up afterwards and you would need to be able to manoeuvre quite a large urn and be able to lift a tray of mugs in and out of the dishwasher. Currently it is a once-a-month duty but this would be reduced if there were more volunteers on the rota. If you would be willing to join the rota please contact John or Maureen Wright.



Tea and coffee after the morning service was served in the Chapter House before lockdown...

# *From the Registers*

## **Death**

Maureen Findlay - 2 April 2021

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

## *From Alister...*

Dear friends,

Having been at home for a few weeks now after my recent heart-attack, I would like to thank those of you who sent cards or phoned me.

During my slow recovery I had lots of tablets to take, some more than once per day, and I also had my second Covid jab. I had a small heart monitor from PRI for two days, and last Thursday (20th May) I saw my GP at Drumhar Health Centre, where I had blood taken, and temperature and blood pressure checked. This was in preparation for going back to Ninewells the following day for an investigative procedure to see if I needed a third stent in the heart. As it turned out the doctors decided that this was not required and that my condition could be managed by medication, should I feel any discomfort.

I can do light housework and can now start driving again, but I am not allowed to do heavy work like gardening - I have someone doing this. I have exercises (seated) from the physio in the cardiology department of PRI to do daily, and I have been able to take short walks.

I am hoping to be back singing in August, bearing in mind that my recovery is slow.

*Alister Allan*

## *Morning Prayer*

Please note that as from Monday 14 June Morning Prayer will revert to its usual time of 9.00am, rather than 9.30am.

## ...and from Emmanuel

I am always blessed by the help of my friends, family and neighbours, especially during this time of the Covid pandemic. My neighbours Jes and Anne-Marie keep me aware of the goodness of people in general, which is relative to the unconditional nature of God's love. I thank also Fiona, Rev'd Richard, and many others for regular phone calls and e-mails. God Bless Jo and Mary, my dear friends. We are all on this earth for various reasons. I have found that my ministry of prayer has expanded enormously lately. I use *Thy Kingdom Come* online initiative advocated by the Archbishop of Canterbury and other eminent church leaders. I try to do Morning and Evening Prayer every day, as well as other prayers during the day. Recently, Morning Prayer has been with St. Andrews University Chaplaincy online every morning at 8.45am. That has finished now for the summer. I am grateful to Dr. Donald and Rev'd Sam and the others in the group for that. What about my recent reading? This varies. I have been focusing a lot on the subjects of Surveillance and Theology which are the next topics for my MLitt at St. Andrews University which reconvenes in August with a study week. This is cutting edge theology, which is led by Dr. Stoddart. What about Scripture? I read the Bible daily with help from the UCB booklet, which I highly recommend. And how about family? I see my sister Frances twice a week: at Fife Opera on a Wednesday evening online, and on Zoom on a Saturday. Recently, we had lunch at the Quarry Mill Café and went for a lovely walk. I love being in the countryside. Every week, I also meet with my friend Anne-Marie and we drive to Starbuck's and have coffee and cheese and ham toasties and cakes of all descriptions. Both Anne-Marie and Jes give themselves totally to me as friends and neighbours. It has been so good to be at the cathedral lately, especially singing as a cantor. Thank God for all our wonderful gifts. Thank you also to all the people who get me there and back. I couldn't do without my friends and family. May God bless you all this summer and give you all that God desires for you.

Emmanuel Patterson

### **Next Month!**

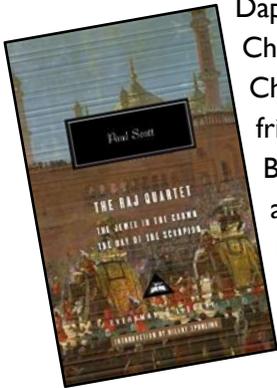
The Rev'd Geoffrey Hall has sent in an excellent article about the Christian response to the coronavirus, by former provost Graham Forbes. It appeared in *The Expository Times* and will be printed next month if permission can be obtained.

# Alison's Book Recommendations

## The Raj Quartet, by Paul Scott

*The Jewel in the Crown* is the title of the first of these four novels; the 'jewel' being India's perceived position in the British Empire. The series starts at the time of the Quit India riots in 1942 and ends with the communal massacres following Partition in 1947.

This novel sets out, in the form of correspondence and diaries, to explain two incidents and their effect on the city of Mayapore. The first of these is the rape of Miss Daphne Manners in the Bibighar Gardens.



Daphne is an English girl, who lives with her aunt's friend Lady Chatterjee in the McGregor House in Mayapore. Lady Chatterjee is what would now be called an 'influencer' and is friendly with both Indians of the middle class and with the British rulers. Daphne meets and falls in love with Hari Kumar, a young Indian reporter from a local newspaper. Hari went to live in England at a very young age to live with his father, a successful businessman, and was sent to Chillingborough public school. Later his father's business failed and Hari had to return to India where he feels very out of place: 'not

white enough to be English, but too English to fit in with local Indians'. One night, Daphne and Hari make love in the Bibighar. They are set upon by a group of men - Muslims, according to Daphne's evidence - who tie Hari up and rape Daphne. Daphne insists that Hari must leave her alone, and not reveal that he was there.

At this point, we meet Ronald Merrick, the local police superintendent, who arrests Kumar and some of his friends. Merrick had had hopes of marrying Daphne and was angry and threatened by her friendship with Kumar. He tortures Kumar who refuses to say anything except that he had not seen Daphne for weeks. He is then thrown into jail under the pretext of assembly regulations.

The second incident concerns the murder of Miss Crane, a mission teacher, and her Indian colleague on the road to Dibrapur. Riots ensue.

Daphne dies giving birth to a daughter, Parvati, whom she believes to be Hari's child, and who is raised by Daphne's aunt, Lady Manners.

## **Volume Two – *The Day of the Scorpion***

We next meet Merrick, following his transfer from the police to the army, when he agrees to be best man at a room-mate's wedding in the princely state of Marat. Teddy Bingham, our bridegroom, is an officer with the Muzzirabad Guides, who is marrying Susan Leyton, the younger daughter of prisoner-of-war Colonel Leyton. There is an incident. On the way to the church with Teddy, a stone is thrown at the car which slightly injures Teddy. Mirat's ruler, the Nawab, has a personal assistant, Count Bronowski, a White Russian émigré, with a very shady history. Bronowski recognizes Merrick and the bride's family have become aware of his history. At the railway station (I refuse to call it a train station), bidding farewell to the honeymoon couple, a woman approaches Merrick, begging him to release her nephew Hari from prison. We discover, not that we are surprised, that there is a list of those who will be held responsible by a future Indian government for their sins and Merrick is on it.

The third and fourth volumes will be covered next month.

*Alison Ballantyne*

## ***Richard Shepherd of York***

I have just read of the death of a wonderful musician, Richard Shepherd, who was headmaster of the Minster School, York, between 1985 and 2004. When holidaying annually in York, Matins and Evensong have always been a joy to attend. It was here that Bill and I first came across Mr Shepherd and his talent. He had a beautiful rich voice, was an alto lay vicar in the cathedral choir, and led sung responses at Matins and Evensong. He had been made chamberlain on his arrival at the Minster. A very talented musician and composer of operas and church music, he was involved in the York mystery plays, and held numerous musical posts in Yorkshire and further afield.

He had first shown a keen interest in singing at Gloucester Cathedral under the wonderful Herbert Sumsion. He remembered Britten and Kodaly attending the

Three Choirs Festival in which he sang. A choral scholar at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge he read music under David Willcocks and in 1970, when he was director of music at Salisbury Cathedral School, was encouraged by Lionel Dakers, head of the RSCM, to compose - which he did successfully throughout his life. When York Minster stonemasons over some years made new gargoyles, we were delighted to see Richard Shepherd immortalised on one of them, now in place on the Minster. We remember with thanks a fine musician who will be missed.

*Fiona Crighton*

*This article includes material from the obituary which was published in a recent edition of the Daily Telegraph. Many thanks to Fiona for sending it in.*

## ***News from Cathedral Cats***



One of the joys of lockdown has been teaching MacKenzie the cat to play snakes and ladders! She wins nearly every time!

*Maihri Cameron*

## *From the Farquhar Diaries*

**8 June 1921.** The state of Ireland has been for a long time so horrible that I have ceased to follow the particulars of its history. But an event happened yesterday, which ought to be mentioned, i.e. that an Irish Parliament for Ulster was opened. The overwhelming majority of its members are of course Loyalists i.e. those, who refuse to sever their connection with the British Empire. There ought also to be a southern Parliament, but that part is under a reign of terror. I continue to be much discouraged by the fall in Church attendance. For 30 years we have been getting at least 250 for Matins & Evensong on ordinary Sundays and much more on special days and it was the creation of that state of things by Dean Rorison, beginning with 1886 and its subsequent consistent maintenance that was the encouragement of my life. On Sunday we had about 140 (including 20 of a choir) at 11 a.m. and about 100 at night. Just 80 or so without the Choir! That is like pre-Rorison days! It has nothing to do with the Cathedral in particular. In fact I believe other Churches are even worse. It is just a wave of religious indifference that has swept over the country since the war. On the other hand it must be added that the Celebration at 9 a.m. introduced by Provost Smythe has done something substantial to counterbalance the above loss. For at that there are always from 60 to 80 communicants on ordinary Sundays and double that if there is anything special. And the Easter Communicants approached 500.

**14 June.** To-day I have read Prof: Einstein's Lecture on his alleged, epoch-making discovery about 'Relativity'. I anxiously & earnestly perused every sentence, but, when I came to the end, I might just as well have read it backwards in Chinese. Not one single word did I understand and I really am eager to know what it is all about. Even the plot of Wagner's great Trilogy affords a detached sentence here & there which I can disconnectedly understand and Browning is penetrable after a persevering & vigorous attack - but Einstein! Not one faintest glimmer of what he is after!

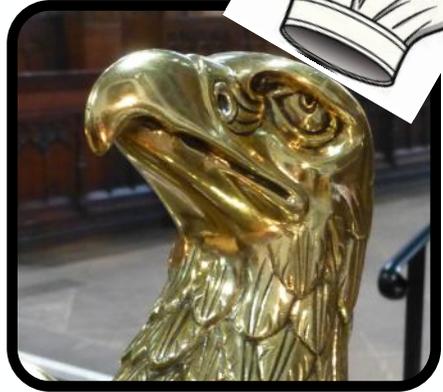
*Many thanks to Margaret Lye for this extract from her published edition of The Diary of the Very Rev G T S Farquhar.*

爱因斯坦

*Einstein in Chinese. The first in our great new series of facts you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine.*

## Eddie the Eagle says...

The pigeon problem appears to be sorted! It was simple really. I just replaced the Bible that's normally on my back with Mrs Beeton's recipe book, open at the page for pigeon pie - 'take a dozen pigeons and a quart of cream' etc. They gave me filthy looks but didn't hang around. Oh what a clever eagle I am!



### Traidcraft Stall

Irene Rose is looking for some kind soul to take over the running of the Traidcraft stall on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested should should leave a note with Marion in the office.



"These are plenty complicated enough for now — why don't we save the Trinity stuff for later?"

### Did You Know...

...that the organ pipes of the original instrument were brightly painted? The colouring was designed by Frederick Helmore, brother of Thomas, who collaborated with John Mason Neale (who was himself associated with St Ninian's) on several well-known hymns such as *Good Christian men, rejoice*.

# Cover Photo

This month's cover shows the cathedral behind the recently planted crab apple tree which was then in full bloom. Many thanks to our gardener - and part-time photographer - John Blackie. Your humble editor, famed in the family for being extremely unobservant, has finally noticed that the tree is still quite small - John must have been almost lying on the ground to take this lovely shot!

## *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**

<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>

**Please note that Morning Prayer will start at 9.00am as from Monday 14 June.**

### **Giving**

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

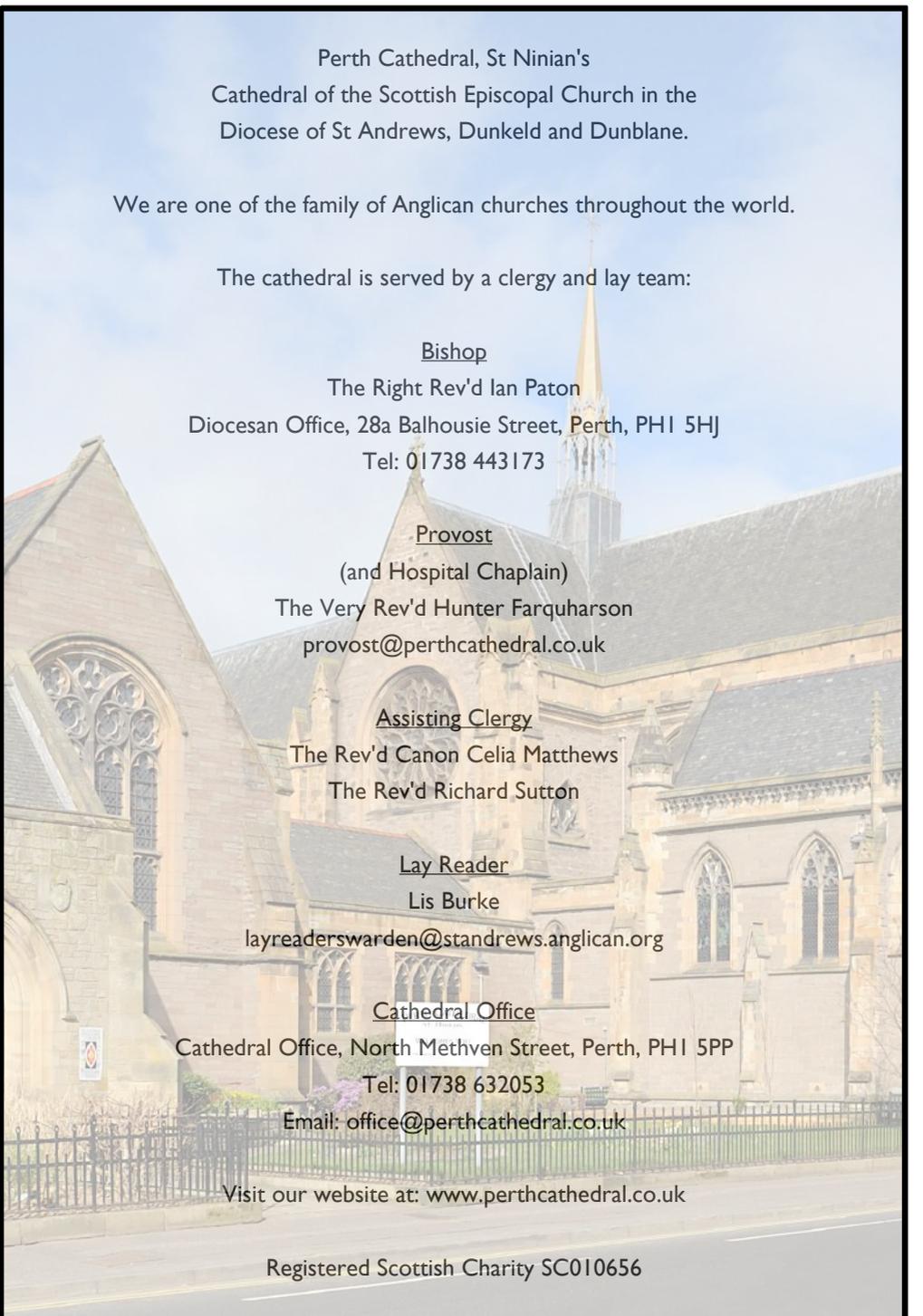
### **Flowers**

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 July-August magazine is **20 June**.

A photograph of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's, a large Gothic Revival style stone building with a prominent spire. The cathedral is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there is a black metal fence and a paved area.

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:

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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

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