

Cathedral News

*The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's
July - August 2021*

Who's Who at the Cathedral

From the Provost

Dear friends,

What an explosion of growth there is in our countryside just now. I love seeing the seed-heads developing and getting fatter on sown crops. This magazine covers the next two months and by the end of August most of the sown wheat, barley and oats will have been harvested. The growing season in Scotland is probably a good deal shorter than in many other countries. At least the coronavirus hasn't changed the seasons!



We too grow in different ways and at different speeds. We often associate growth mainly with children and young adults. As with plants, it's fascinating to watch youngsters grow and develop, but all through our adult lives we continue to grow, change and develop.

There is no doubt that the coronavirus pandemic has changed us. We've been

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forced to think about how we place ourselves in society and what protection we might need to keep ourselves and our families as safe as possible. Perhaps after enforced isolations we take friends and family a bit more seriously and certainly not for granted. Amongst other things, I've certainly been made to think more about 'the church' in new and different ways...its identity, its mission and its relationship with society.

The banning of public worship for about a year has been one of the most obvious ways in which the church has had to adapt and change. We all hold different points of view but maybe a good thing to come out of this is that the Scottish Episcopal Church has developed a stronger relationship with the Scottish Office (the State) and with other denominations in Scotland.



Smoke from extinguished candles in the Lady Chapel - a final prayer rising...

At the cathedral, as you know, we had to find different ways of keeping in touch and this was done through phone calls and encouraging each other. I'm hugely grateful to everyone who took on a 'telephone ministry.' Of course, this has slipped into the background as we can now come to church to worship and to meet others. I was so moved to hear the choir singing at both David Robertson's funeral and the following Sunday service. I was also delighted that our

lay minister Lis has had a training session with those who take out home communion and so that has started up again – all done with great care and safety. If you would like communion at home then please do get in touch with Lis. All home communions are administered from the reserved sacrament and in one kind, bread only, as in church.

There has been much change, and I'd really like to hear from you - what you think about the pandemic and how it has changed you, your faith and your thinking. I'd like to put a selection of these in the next magazine, but I won't use any names. Please feel free to drop me a note or an email.

A number of people continue to be unwell in our congregation, so I ask your prayers for healing and wholeness. We always remember those who are more or less stuck at home for different reasons, but who remain faithful. Let's remember all who feel lonely and isolated. I found the following prayer... *Lord God, as we*

connect in new ways, may we go wisely where you call us. Lord, help us fight this coronavirus, and also help us fight the age-old virus of loneliness. And through it all, may we remember you are 'Emmanuel': God with us. We thank you that we are never truly alone, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless us all -
Hunter



A beautiful photo of the Tay at sunrise, taken by the Provost

Readings and Collects for July and August

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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – 18 July

Collect: Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-14a, Psalm 89.20-37, Ephesians 2.11-22, Mark 6.30-34, 53-56

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – 25 July

Collect: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Samuel 11.1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3.14-21, John 6.1-21

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – 1 August

Collect: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a, Psalm 51.1-13, Ephesians 4.1-16, John 6.24-35

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – 8 August

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: 2 Samuel 18.5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4.25-5.2, John 6.35, 41-51

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – 15 August

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: 1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5.15-20, John 6.51-58

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 22 August

Collect: Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: 1 Kings 8.(1,6,10,11) 22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6.10-20, John 6.56-69

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 29 August

Collect: Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: Song of Songs 2.8-13, Psalm 45.1-2, 7-10, James 1.17-27, Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 5 September

Collect: Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings: Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125, James 2.1-10(11-13), 14-17, Mark 7.24-37

The Magazine

We hope that most people who received the magazine by email last month are happy to continue reading it in this format. We do appreciate, however, that for some, and for a variety of reasons, an electronic version is not as easy to read or access as a paper copy. If you would prefer to stick with paper - and of course you are most welcome to do so - please let Marion in the office know, if you haven't already done so. While copies by email are a saving, both to the cathedral and the environment, it is more important that our congregation, near and far, can access this newsletter without too much difficulty.

The Leper 2021

Coronavirus was unknown in Jesus' time. Leprosy is perhaps the nearest parallel. Lepers were unclean, with rent clothes, a clanging bell, and the ritual cry of 'unclean'. Leviticus details what the leper can and cannot do, and the Church in the middle ages simply swiped the Levitical regulations. The logic was impeccable, the disease required drastic measures. The priest led the leper into the church and read the burial service. He had to wear a black garment, so everyone could recognise him, and live in a leper- or lazarus-house. Attending mass wasn't an option, but he was allowed to peer through the leper squint. The leper bore the physical pain of the disease and the anguish and heartbreak of being banished from all human contact. Think COVID.

Jesus did not drive away the lepers. Jesus sees them as human beings, not as the walking dead. He touches the untouchable. To him the man was not unclean, he was in need of God's healing touch. I still remember some 30 years ago, with feelings of fear, based on ignorance, feelings of which I was then and still am now ashamed, holding the hand of a young man dying of AIDS. As his life ebbed out, he reached for human touch, for a sign of God's love and acceptance. I can't remember what I said. I can remember driving home along the banks of the Tay that afternoon, feeling hopelessly inadequate, both as a human being and as a priest. His mother phoned me that night. His anguish had gone. He died peacefully. I learned the hard lesson of God's healing touch that day.



The leper squint or hagioscope at the parish church in Stambourne, Essex. It was important in mediaeval times for Christians to witness the elevation of the host.

And finally, and counterintuitively, each of us is also challenged to be like the leper. The leper in the gospel breaks all the rules, risks coming close; he commits everything to Jesus' authority, seeking his healing touch. We are challenged to

surrender ourselves to this very confrontation and allow all the traditional boundaries to be destroyed and ourselves set free to love God, to love the leper. As always with Jesus, the question is asked, the answer never forced, only our loving response sought.

The outbreak of coronavirus serves as a powerful reminder of how God in creating our world, our universe, has given all in the very act of creating, so the giver of life now shares in the pain of our universe, exactly as we do. The Crucified God too became the outcast, the leper, to break down all the barriers we so skilfully erect around ourselves. The bells that ring from the kirk ring out not the leper's warning of 'unclean': they proclaim the harmony of heaven and the altar where all can kneel and receive the Bread and the Wine of the Leper. And, like the leper who returned to give thanks, we too return to the Christ of the Eucharist to give thanks, not squinting from afar, but stretching out hands to receive the Bread of Life.

Graham Forbes CBE

*The Hon Consul for Portugal in Scotland
Chair, The Parades Commission, Northern Ireland*

This article was first published in The Expository Times, vol 132 (8), 2021 and is reproduced by kind permission of Sage Publishing, USA. Many thanks to the Rev'd Geoffrey Hall for suggesting the article be reprinted in Cathedral News and to our former provost, the Very Rev'd Graham Forbes, for writing it!

From the Registers

Deaths

Robert Duncan McCallum Davie

David Headrick Robertson

William Michael Matthew Robertson

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

What's Going On?

Singing again!

The great news is that we are allowed to sing again! Who would have imagined a couple of years ago that any government would be micro-managing our lives to such an extent that such a sentence is even possible to write? Sunday 6 June, a date with connotations of liberation, was the day our voices were freed and the first hymn, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation* was an appropriate first choice. And when we got to the end of the hymn, with the lines *And let the amen, sound from his people again* there was scarcely a dry eye in the house! We are not back to how we used to be pre-pandemic, but the choir (yes choir- we are no longer limited to cantors!) are robed and singing the setting, a Psalm and an anthem and the congregation are singing three short - or abbreviated - hymns, rather than five. But we are getting there!

Garden signs

Christopher Dingwall, Margot Dunnachie and others have been hard at work designing new signs for the cathedral garden which should be appearing shortly. A recent audit of signs in and around the cathedral showed that a large number of

different fonts have been used in recent years. To promote a corporate image, it has been decided to use Spectral SC Regular and Trebuchet Bold as our official fonts from now on. The photo below shows Christopher, Margot and Wendy discussing things over a picnic lunch in the cathedral garden.



Summer visiting

A recent edition of the *Perthshire Advertiser* carried an article about our summer visiting together with an appeal for anyone interested in acting as a welcomer. By way of illustration, they used a photo similar to the one above, which features Wendy Evans and Susan, a visitor from Newcastle who was willingly press-ganged into posing for a cathedral paparazzo. Our last appeal via the PA resulted in two or three volunteers coming forward, including Jane S. who has since become a welcome member of the congregation. Information about how to sign up on the welcomers' rota was published in the June edition (still available on our website).

Loo closure

To everyone's relief two of the three cathedral loos are open and to the even greater relief of everyone, particularly to secretary Marion, adjacent to whose desk it is situated, this one is most definitely NOT to be used!



Virtual Cathedral Tours

Karen McClain Kiefer, the recently appointed Diocesan Digital Missioner, had a meeting with Wendy Duncan to discuss the possibility of producing a virtual tour of the cathedral for our website. Karen and Wendy are pictured in the cathedral garden, notebooks in hand. Watch this space...or rather, the cathedral website for progress!



Chansons

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed strange chalk markings in the cathedral yard. They are not, as had been suggested, evidence of some dark, satanic ritual, but merely the social-distance markings of local singing group Chansons (pictured below) who have been using the yard for open-air rehearsals.



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Home Communion

With the easing of coronavirus restrictions I'm excited to announce that our established lay ministry team is able to restart their ministry of taking communion to congregation members in their homes, sharing the bread that was consecrated on Sunday morning. Our visitors are fully trained in the necessary precautions to minimise the risk of spreading infection, and those who visit residents in care homes also comply with the additional precautions needed in that context. We follow the approved liturgy and guidance published and made available by the General Synod office of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

I'm delighted to have taken on the responsibility of overseeing this important and much-appreciated ministry. We hope that everyone who is unable to join us at the Eucharist in the cathedral will soon be able to receive communion at home, if that is what they would like.

If anyone formerly involved in this ministry has a cathedral home communion box at home, could you please return it to the sacristy, or contact me. Thank you!

Lis Burke



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A Little Known Story about a Prince

Although written somewhat in the style of a fairy story this is a true story, somewhat embellished it with imagined scenarios and names...

Once upon a time, a long time ago before mobile phones or the world-wide web had been invented, every year at a certain time, a Prince would come on holiday with his parents and family to their castle in Scotland. He was the oldest of his siblings and consequently one day he would have the responsibility of being King, but while on holiday he liked nothing better than to roam freely in the hills and



Prince Charles at 19

mountains that surrounded the royal castle. One day he walked and climbed so far that he crossed over the ridge and descended into the valley of Glen Doll on the other side of the range. By this time he was feeling rather tired and the thought of walking back again didn't appeal, especially as it would be getting dark before he reached home, so when he spotted a gamekeeper's cottage he knocked on the door to ask for their help. The gamekeeper and his wife were astonished to find the heir to the throne standing on their doorstep but their astonishment turned to dismay when they heard the Prince's request. 'I'm sorry to bother you,' said the Prince 'but I wonder if I could use your telephone to phone for one of the drivers at the castle to come and pick me up?' 'We're very sorry, Your Royal Highness, but

we don't have a telephone. We have tried to get one but BT have said it is too expensive to extend the line from the head of Glen Clova up Glen Doll just for one house.' This time it was the Prince's turn to be dismayed: he was going to have to walk back home! But then the gamekeeper spoke again, 'I'll drive you down the glen' a distance of about five miles, 'to Glen Clova Hotel and you can phone from there and have some refreshment while you wait for your driver. It's where we go if we need to make a phone call.' 'Oh thank you,' said the relieved Prince, 'that is very kind of you.'

'Sandy,' called the gamekeeper as he entered the hotel, 'I have a royal visitor for

you who needs to use your telephone.' Sandy recognised his friend's voice and came out of his office saying, 'Very funny John, since when did you become roy...!' Sandy's jaw dropped when he saw the Prince but he quickly recovered his composure and said, 'Welcome, welcome, come through to the office, Your Royal Highness, and telephone from there. Meanwhile what can I be getting you by way of refreshments?' The gamekeeper bade farewell knowing that the Prince would be well looked after by his friend Sandy.

Fast forward two weeks - I can use the phrase 'fast forward' because this story happened in the era of VCRs and video tapes - fast forward two weeks and there was another knock at the gamekeeper's cottage door. The gamekeeper's wife opened the door. 'Good morning, Mrs McGilvray' said the man on the doorstep, 'I'm from BT and we've come to fit you with a telephone line and telephone. There's no cost, it's all been paid for.' The gamekeeper and his wife looked at each other surprised and delighted. 'Well now,' said Mrs McGilvray 'isn't that a great kindness?' And the gamekeeper and his wife lived happily ever after, connected to the outside world at last!

Margot Dunnachie

Christian Aid News

With donations still trickling in, it looks like the walking warriors of St John's, Princes Street and St Ninian's will break through the £4000 barrier - double the original target of £2000. A fantastic achievement which will pay for the construction of four earth dams and thus benefit the water-poor of Kenya.

Cover Photo

A shaft of heavenly sunlight shines on the Peace Garden, of which the Peace Rose is a striking feature. Our friend David Robertson, who died in June, carefully tended this rose over many years.

Happy birthday!

Many congratulations to choir stalwart Martin Cameron who recently celebrated his 60th birthday. There was no cake, alas! but the congregation sang the usual birthday greeting in fine form!

Alison's Book Recommendations

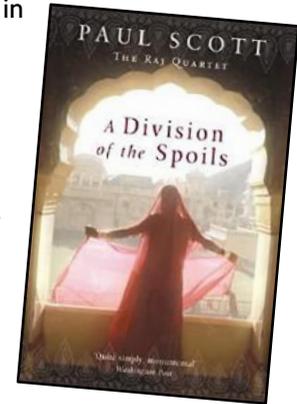
The Raj Quartet, by Paul Scott

Volume Three – The Towers of Silence. This volume brings the story to Pankot, the summer home of the Leyton family, which comprises Colonel Leyton, the Colonel of the Pankot Rifles, who is a prisoner-of-war in Germany, Mrs Leyton (Mildred) and her daughters Sarah and Susan (who is pregnant). Sarah is in the ATS, working locally. They live in a grace-and-favour residence while Rose Cottage houses Colonel Leyton's stepmother and her companion, Miss Batchelor, who was a mission teacher. Susan's husband, Teddy Bingham, is killed in action, pulled out of a burning jeep by (now) Major Merrick, recently transferred from the police. Susan gives birth to a son, and asks Sarah to visit Merrick, who suffered severe burns and lost his left hand in the rescue attempt. Reluctantly, Sarah (who is a better judge of character than anyone else in this tale, and cannot stand Merrick) goes to visit him in hospital, where she learns the details of the incident. Merrick and Teddy found an Indian soldier who had abandoned his regiment to join the Japanese. Teddy thinks he can persuade the man to remember the ethos of the Muzzifirabad Guides, whose honour is represented by the theory of 'Manbap' - the regiment is your father and mother - and takes a jeep into the country, where he is ambushed.

Merrick is the most interesting character throughout the series. He is convinced of the inferiority of the Indians, and of what he sees as his own duty. He is promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and is assigned to find and prosecute those who have defected to the Indian National Army on the Japanese promise to free India from its imperial masters. This task somehow enables him to ingratiate himself with the Leytons and through various coincidences and sleight of hand he manages to be on hand when Mohammed Kasim, a Muslim member of the Hindu Congress Party, is reunited with his son Sayed who is an officer in the Indian Army and has defected to the INA. Also present is Kasim's younger son Ahmed, who is now aide to Colonel Bronowski in Mirat.

Eventually, Merrick marries Susan, who was traumatized by Teddy's death and has had psychiatric treatment. It transpires that Merrick, by bullying a private in the clinic, has gained access to all Susan's discussions with her psychiatrist and gained her trust.

Volume Four - The Division of the Spoils. The war ends. Merrick is now head of Security in Mirat, working for Bronowski and living in Mirat. Susan, who is well doped up, is unaware that her husband is not only homosexual but sadistic and is given to employing handsome young men, who turn up apparently looking for work. Some of these young men are taken on and the others vanish until Merrick tires of the chosen one, or beats him up. Those who are behind the men or boys eventually kill Merrick in revenge for his treatment of Kumar and his persecution of Indians. The story is put out that he had a riding accident, and there is a funeral.



Susan and Sarah are returning to Pankot from Mirat, accompanied by Guy Perron, an historian who served in the Army and who had come back to see the Partition ceremony and renew his friendship with both Bronowsky and Sarah. Also in the party is Ahmed, who is on a business errand for Bronowsky. The train is stopped by a cow on the tracks, and a mob attacks the train, to kill any Muslims. Someone had drawn a crescent on the door of the British party, and demanded that Ahmed go with them. He does. The train eventually goes on to Ranpur, where the extent of the massacre is revealed. Sarah, who loved Ahmed, is distraught that no-one, including herself, had not stopped him. Partition comes and the folly of drawing an administrative line through the sub-continent becomes apparent, and remains so.

These novels reveal the descent of the Raj with power and empathy. The characters live with me and have affected my politics and my view of the world. I hope they affect you too.

Alison Ballantyne

Doors Open Day 2021

The annual festival of heritage and architecture takes place over the weekend of 18 and 19 September. We shall very probably be taking part in some way but whether or not we shall actually be open to the public or just have an online presence on the Doors Open website is still to be decided. Bearing in mind that at the time of writing Covid cases are still rising and that in September we may be more free to go away on holiday, we may well opt for the latter. More information next time!

Wendy Duncan

From the Farquhar Diaries

29 July 1921. To-day (Friday) has been a busy one. Expecting the Bishop for lunch, and Nellie having already started the holiday by going off to Fochabers, I began by digging potatoes and turnips in the rain. Then I read one of Barrow's Sermons (I had been out at 8 a.m.) and then attended a meeting of the Rosyth Committee, at which it was decided to ask Mr Comper to draw plans for the new Church. This is at last another step forward here. Next we had a Chapter meeting at which we had a long & difficult discussion about Mr Norie Miller's offer of £600 to erect a rood-beam with Crucifix & figures of B.V.M. & S. John. Very curiously I



*A summer challenge!
What is the
connection between
Peter Rabbit and
Atholl MacGregor?
Answer next month!*

had called on old Mr Athol MacGregor yesterday afternoon and, when I told the old man lying there in his bed, he got furiously angry against having a Rood at all. Considering how much he has done for the Cathedral, especially in providing funds for the building of the Chapel and coming heavily to the rescue at the time of the financial crash, the Chapter felt that they would not like to hurt his feelings & in this connection took also into consideration a similar outburst of Sir James Ramsay of Banff & the fact that 11 out of 14 Sidesmen had been also against a Rood. Also no one was very much taken with Mr Pearson's design for the Rood... On the other hand there was the Chapter's general desire for a Rood (though I

have certain misgivings as to whether the generality of our people are prepared for it) and the difficulty of refusing so generous an offer. We solved the matter for the present by proposing to tell Mr Norie Miller that we are anxious to accept his offer but that in view of the opposition & the unsatisfactoriness of the design we suggested delay in the meantime (Both Mr.A.M. & Sir J.R. are far over 80).

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

By way of background to this extract, Margaret points out that Pearson, the architect of the later additions to the cathedral, persuaded the vestry to get rid of the original Butterfield screen. His own proposal to replace it got nowhere. At this time Comper was asked to design a church for Rosyth which was only ever half-built and his design for a screen was later installed at the cathedral where it remains in truncated form.

Eddie the Eagle says...

New signs are being produced to encourage greater use being made of the cathedral garden. In my humble opinion [*humble??!* Ed.] the best way to get people into the garden is to erect signs saying 'KEEP OUT', 'NO ADMITTANCE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES' and 'THESE GROUNDS ARE OURS. GO AWAY.' Anyway, it's summer - happy holidays, one and all!



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	9.00am
Tuesday	Morning Prayer	9.00am
Wednesday	Morning Prayer	9.00am; Eucharist 11.00am
Thursday	Morning Prayer	9.00am

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 September magazine is **22 August**.

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:

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(and Hospital Chaplain)
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