

# *Cathedral News*



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

## Who's Who at the Cathedral

## From the Provost

Dear Friends,

I don't often have trouble sleeping, but when I do wake and don't nod off quickly again, I turn the radio on. A few weeks ago, I listened as an interviewer asked some Scots what their favourite national dish was. It made me laugh, as not one mentioned haggis and neeps!



One person said fish and chips was Scotland's best national dish. Another decided that it was a good hot curry and yet another said that a Chinese take-away after a night on the tiles was Scotland's best.

The interviewer then stated that none of their choices was actually Scottish. However, to my surprise, one of those being interviewed disputed this quite strongly and put forward a decent argument, saying that Scotland is a multicultural country and has adopted many different types of food from around the globe that have worked their way into Scottish culture. When haggis and neeps were mentioned there was a gush of patriotism including naming Rabbin Burns!

## Contents

Who's who	2	Alison's book choice	14
From the Provost	3	Did you know...A A Milne	15
Readings and collects		Autumn Dusk (poem)	15
for October	5	Thank you!	16
Eco congregation news	7	Did you know...Dambusters	16
Virtual tour	8	From the registers	17
Doors Open Day	9	Making a green heart	17
Harvest festival	10	From the Farquhar diaries	18
Chansons concert	10	Eddie the Eagle	19
Unpacking love, part 2	11	Times of services etc	19
From Alister Allan	13	Clergy contact details	20

Far from enabling more sleep, this snippet of conversation set me thinking about Scotland, nationalism, patriotism and culture. Nationalism sadly has an ugly side to it. It can quickly become exclusive and, as we all know, tyrants who find themselves in power can use nationalism to manipulate millions of people. Think what Hitler managed to do using nationalism! I also think that we easily get nationalism mixed up with patriotism. They are quite different. I feel patriotic and love my country, and all colours and creeds of people can be patriotic too. It's not exclusive. Culture is slightly different in that our culture changes, sometimes quite rapidly. I think our culture is enriched when we knit bits of other cultures to our own and adopt them. I was only sad that no one mentioned mince and tatties!

Our Sunday readings have reflected in many ways what I was listening to on the radio. Jesus as we know tackled the Pharisees for their need to be exclusive. You had to follow the rules exactly, to be clean and pure to be acceptable to God. Jesus disagreed by pointing out that these were man-made rules and that all people, no matter their culture, could access God freely and without restriction.

I want us all to access God freely. I feel saddened when I hear people say that they're not very good Christians or not worthy of God's love. Surely we're all in the same boat, we all need forgiveness, and we all deserve love. God offers us this love without condition. Before each Holy Communion we share a communal confession and absolution. This generous act of forgiveness is part of Christian culture practised throughout the world, and prayer is central to it all.

Please hold in your prayers those who find themselves caught up in war and violence. As always pray for those whose lives are blighted by poverty. We should also balance that out by giving thanks for all the good things we have and experience in our lives, giving thanks for those who bring us joy and allow us to share in the love of God. Pray for those we know to be unwell, especially the housebound. Let's pray for each other.

With every blessing,  
Hunter



*The latest in our much admired series of photographs you wouldn't necessarily expect to find in a church magazine.*

## Readings and Collects for October

### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 3 October

**Collect:** Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Genesis 2.18-24, Psalm 8, Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12, Mark 10.2-16

### Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – 10 October

**Collect:** Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Amos 5.6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90.12-17, Hebrews 4.12-16, Mark 10.17-31

### Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – 17 October

**Collect:** Almighty and everliving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Isaiah 53.4-12, Psalm 91.9-16, Hebrews 5.1-10, Mark 10.35-45

### St Luke, Evangelist - 18 October

**Collect:** Almighty God, who inspired Luke the physician to proclaim the love and healing power of your Son: give your Church, by the grace of the Spirit and the medicine of the gospel, the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Sirach 38.1-4, 6-10, 12-14, Psalm 147.1-7, 2 Timothy 4.5-13(14-17), Luke 4.14-21 or 10.1-9

## Consecration of Bishop Ian - 20 October

### James of Jerusalem, Martyr c.62 - 23 October

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose servant James was faithful in prayer, devoted to the poor, and accepted persecution: grant us grace to follow his example; to walk in the way of the just; and to witness to our risen Lord, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Acts 15.12-22a, Psalm 1, James 1.26-27 or 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Mark 3.28-35 or Matthew 13.54-58

### Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – 24 October

**Collect:** Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Jeremiah 31.7-9, Psalm 126, Hebrews 7.23-28, Mark 10.46-52

### Simon and Jude, Apostles - 28 October

**Collect:** Almighty God, we thank you for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude. As they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so may we with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 32.1-4 or Isaiah 28.14-16, Psalm 119.89-96, Ephesians 2.13-22, John 15.17-27

### Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – 31 October

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose chosen servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in him the family of the earth is blessed, give us faith like his, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 6.1-9, Psalm 119.1-8, Hebrews 9.11-14, Mark 12.28-34



## Eco Congregation News

### Eco Craftism - Our Green Hearts

As we come closer to COP26 being held in Glasgow it is more important than ever to find ways to share the important message of addressing the climate emergency with those around us. As Christians we want our local communities to know that we have these 'green issues at our heart' as we do our best to care for God's creation. We want our communities to see our commitment to put that care into action, to bring about a fairer, transformed world. Making green hearts and placing them in prominent positions around our church and local community gives a visible sign of that commitment.

#### What to do



1. Using your creativity create hearts from the crafting media you prefer to work in such as fabric, wool or wood. You may prefer to make them from woven paper, or simply paint a heart shape onto a stone. Where you intend to place the hearts may make a difference to the media you choose. This is a great activity for individuals or for groups of people of all ages. As you create the hearts, talk about creation and why how we treat it matters so much, especially to Christians.

2. Place your hearts as a sign of your church's commitment to caring for the environment. You may choose to hang them from the church railings or put them on the noticeboard. Perhaps the painted stones could be added to your church garden. You might like to place a notice near the hearts to explain why they are there. You could give hearts to all the businesses locally to display in their windows and to your local MP, MSPs or councillors, explaining why caring for the environment matters so much.

3. Don't forget to take photographs of the hearts and post them to social media adding #ourgreenhearts – please mention @ecocongregationscotland on Facebook or @ecocongregation on Twitter and we will pick up and repost your pictures. Photographs could also be added to your church website.

**See page 17 for instructions...**



## What's Been Going On?



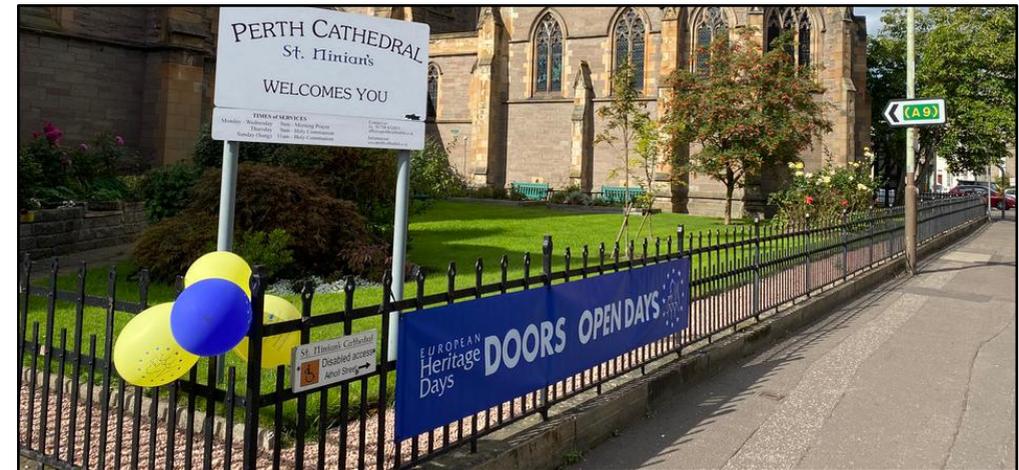
Two of the cathedral's youngsters are shown hard at work on a recent Sunday morning. Gabriel, pictured left with John, is helping to jot down names before the start of the Sunday service, and opposite is helping Eilidh to snuff out the candles after the service. They have bright futures as sidespersons and servers!

### Virtual Tour

Judy Ho (mother of the above Gabriel), who joined us from Hong Kong a few months ago, has been working with Wendy and Ciarán Quigley of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust to put together a virtual tour of the cathedral which should be available for viewing on the website before too long. Judy's husband, Man, has also been very helpful on the technical side, despite being almost 6000 miles away in Hong Kong! The tour allows anyone across the globe to look round the interior of the cathedral, including the Chapter House and the cloisters. Further information about what is being shown can be accessed by a simple mouse click.

## Doors Open Day

Well, it was actually two days, thanks to a small misunderstanding with the Doors Open Day organisers! The original plan had been to keep the cathedral open for a couple of hours between the end of the morning service on 19 September and Harvest Evensong at 3.00pm. Instead, we found ourselves open on the Saturday as well, between 10.00am and 4.00pm, and despite it a being a fairly low-key event - with music from Emmanuel and an art display (pictured below) by the children of St Ninian's Primary School, but with no catering or the usual treasures on display - we still attracted around 125 visitors over the weekend. There were several compliments, including the usual ones from people who had lived in Perth for many years but who had never ventured inside, and at least one couple asked where they could leave a donation. All in all, a useful exercise. Many thanks to Wendy D for organising it, to Emmanuel for playing and to the team of welcomers.



## Harvest Festival

The harvest and patronal festivals were celebrated on 19 September at both the morning service and at Choral Evensong. A large quantity of food (pictured below) was handed in which was later passed on to the Perth and Kinross Food Bank. Many thanks to all our generous contributors!



### Cover Photo

This month's cover photo, taken at the harvest festival weekend, is a view of the font with a colourful display of Shirley's windfall apples at the foot.

## The November issue...

...might be a week late. We shall aim to have it sent out before the first Sunday in November, but it might have to be the following week, with editorial apologies in advance!

## Chansons Concert

As Alister says on page 13, the popular local singing group Chansons will be giving a concert in the cathedral on Sunday 12 December at 7.30pm. More info to follow!

## Unpacking Love: part 2

In the last issue, I started a series of articles about the word 'love'. And the kind of love I am discussing is more than a pleasant, if soft, option. I offered this definition:

'Love is about enabling the growth of people through unconditional, altruistic, empathic compassion that transcends, not just our selfishness, but even our obedience to rules and laws.'

### Agape love

There is much to be said for personal growth, but like many kinds of growth, it is best when it has some structure, balanced development. So here are five ways in which our personal growth can happen. I shall be introducing these (but this is only a place where I can offer a little sample) in the next essays.

Before I talk about the five, here is something they have in common. An easy way to begin each is to begin a simple sentence:

I believe in...

I am...

I will...

I can...

I belong...

All, I hope, will become clear.



'I believe in...' In other words, there are values I believe in, something is important to me. So the aim of this article is to think about growing as a valuing person. Some things are obviously important to me; others I only discover in various ways. Values, in other words, are what I stand for. The more you look into it, the more there is to see. For a start, we all have values that are there for all to see, and others that are hidden or even unknown to us. These tend to come to light in certain circumstances: moments of crisis, or careful questioning. Faced with the same scenario, one person realises that he or she wants to see the law being upheld, while the other wants to see some kindness being shown. Under the pressure of the situation, it becomes clear but almost surprising. And we go through life adopting and discarding some of these values. That is a part of growth.

Some of us consciously believe in, say, democracy, or believe in a good education for all. You may think that children should respect their elders, or it may be important to you that children should be seen AND heard. The key is to realise that some things are important to you, and you seem to have imbibed them from a very early age. As you have grown and matured, you will have come to appreciate other values, and now you would delete them. My good friend Edith Cormack defines values thus:

'(They are) guiding principles which provide standards for evaluating human behaviour. They exert significant influence on our sense of identity...'

Borrowing from the works of George Kelly, Fay Francella, and Dorothy Rowe, I suggest that we look at two sides to our selves as values-persons. At the centre of our being there lies a core anxiety. It has been called 'the threat of non-being'. We all have an issue with this. If the worst should come to the worst, I may simply cease to exist! Paul Tillich is a good read about this, in *The Courage to Be*.

'The courage to be is the courage to accept oneself, in spite of being unacceptable.'

If I were to be carefully and sensitively interviewed in a particular way, at the very end I will find a dread melting, like an ice cube, or going to pieces like a dismembered old jig-saw puzzle. Our core anxiety is that ultimately we shrink or crumble into nothing.

In a sense, you are what is really important to you. Says Eric Baker: 'Serious beliefs are about values and identity.' So your growth will come through discerning, discarding, and deciding on your values.

In that light, I suggest that our values involve at least three things; what is truly important to us needs to be described in the following ways. They are

1. **Meaningful.** More of this will come to light in the next article, when we think about stories. Socrates said that 'the unexamined life is not worth living.' That is why stories, our stories, are the main road to examining who and what we are. That is why the million and one little tales about our selves cluster in a whole being by being meaningful. It is not a story unless it means something.

2. **Purposeful.** This will be addressed further in another article about our

strengths. Our skills, our powers, what we are especially good at, make up who we are. From that comes our set of roles. Or in other words, we all need to tie our values to our strengths in order to have a sense of purpose. Schopenhauer called it 'the will to live', but I am getting ahead of myself.

3. **Satisfying.** In *The Art of Loving*, Erich Fromm says: 'Love is the only sane and satisfying answer to the problem of human existence.' It is important for us to learn about the key word: Enough! The word 'satisfy' is rooted in the Latin for 'enough'. We can make a decision to live a life balanced between too little and too much. The reason for having a good idea of our values is that we can then steer between poverty and abundance.

So with a view to avoiding complacency about who and what we are, I am suggesting that love as agape is about the environment in which our values can be uncovered, evaluated, and nurtured. And clearly, the better we understand ourselves, the more we enable others to grow too.

Chris Brown

## *From Alister Allan*

Firstly, I would like to say what a great pleasure it is to be back singing in the choir, which is helping my recovery. I am still on eight different tablets per day, and I have the nitro-lingual spray for anginal pain, and I have recently had check-ups with my GP and the nurse at Drumhar Health Centre.

Secondly, I give notice that Chansons (*pictured below*) will be performing in the cathedral on Sunday 12 December (7.30pm). The programme will include some Christmas music. Ticket details will be announced later.



## Alison's Book Choice

### A Table Near The Band

By A A Milne

Who knew A A Milne wrote anything else? Not I, for one, and quite fun they are too. I found in Oxfam four paperback volumes of Milne's adult fiction (adult as in not for children, not as in pornographic). Clearly they form a set whose covers are illustrations of couples dressed in Twenties fashion. First published in the 1930s, they were re-published in 2017.



*A Table near the Band* is a collection of short stories. I tend to avoid short stories; sometimes I think that they are just novels with the plot falling through the floor at an early stage. This is an entirely prejudiced view based on nothing very much and given my affection for William Trevor entirely without good cause.

The Milne stories are clever, and beautifully written as are the other books in this quartet.

*Two People* is a story of Reginald who seems to have everything: money, beautiful young wife, splendid country house. He writes a much-acclaimed novel and realizes through the process that his marriage is not what it seems. They move to London where Reginald is drawn to the intellectual and artistic set and the couple's unhappiness continues.

*Four Days' Wonder* is a spoof on the works of detective novelists fashionable at the time – Dorothy L Sayers et al and is very funny indeed.

*Chloe Marr* is different from the others in that, although quite light and easy to read, it has more to say about peoples' inner and outer essential personalities and the 'human condition'.

All in all, I was very taken by these. Apparently A A Milne had a lot to say. As well as novels, he wrote poetry, essays and plays, none of which I regret to say, I knew anything about. As they say, every day's a schoolday!



Alison Ballantyne

**Did you know...** that the author of the quintessentially English books about Christopher Robin and his bear, Pooh, had Scottish roots? A A Milne's paternal grandfather was Banffshire born and bred! The surname Marr, as in *Chloe Marr*, is most frequently found in the Banffshire and Aberdeenshire areas.



## Autumn Dusk

**Half-sights and half-sounds,  
slight smells - apples and damp ground,  
leaves lapsing into rich humus;  
interweaving counter-point of curlew calls,  
owl deep-hollowing out of billowing trees;  
bat-wings flailing ripe night air,  
winnowing rich grain of insects;  
robins halting-the-heart  
stippling on hedge and bush  
bright points of sound;  
chestnut trees turning to golden fountains  
and spiked green hail;  
geans and rowans differently burning  
to reds and glowing purple;  
shapes of hills and great trees by-the-river  
merging, water and land flowing  
into darkness half-seen, half-heard,  
drawing and moulding me  
to a new half-knowing.**

Many thanks to Pamela Robertson for suggesting this beautiful poem for the October issue. It was written by her husband, the Rev'd Edward Robertson who died in 2011. Prior to his retirement in 1993 he was priest-in-charge at St. Kessog's, Auchterarder and St. James', Muthill. He was latterly a member of the cathedral congregation.



### Lay Representative

David Brand (pictured right, out on the hills), who has been our lay representative (and before that our alternate lay representative) for several years, has stood down. He was recently presented with a bottle of his favourite gin as a token of thanks from the congregation who gave him a warm round of grateful applause.



**Did you know...**that St Ninian's has a connection with the famous Dambusters raid of 1943? Air Chief Marshall Sir Ralph Cochrane (pictured right), who was closely involved in the planning of the raid on the great German dams, was a grandson of George Boyle, 6th Earl of Glasgow (pictured left) who, of course, was one of the founders of this cathedral. It would be nice to

think that the old earl talked to young Ralph of the cathedral he had helped found in Perth, but he died several years before his grandson was born.



## From the Registers

### Deaths

**Moira Dewhurst - 16 July 2021**

**Ivy Wilson - 1 September 2021**

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

## How to make a fabric heart

### You will need

- green fabric (approximately twice the size of your heart pattern)
- thread
- stuffing
- 30cm of ribbon to create a hanging loop
- fabric pens or sewing notions (optional) and basic sewing skills



### Method

1. Cut two heart shapes of whatever size you wish.
2. If you want to decorate the heart by drawing or adding other items, it is best to do it at this stage. Remember to leave the seam allowance undecorated.
3. Pin the two shapes with right sides together.
4. Sew around the hearts allowing 1.5cm of seam allowance, remembering to leave a gap of 5cm at one side for turning the heart through and stuffing it.
5. Clip around the seam allowances taking care not to cut through your stitching. (This makes it easier for the curved seams to open up.)
6. Turn the shape the right way out. Use the end of a wooden spoon or pencil to ease out the fabric around the curves.
7. Fill the shape with stuffing then using a slip stitch sew the gap closed.
8. Fold the ribbon in half and sew it securely to the top of the heart.

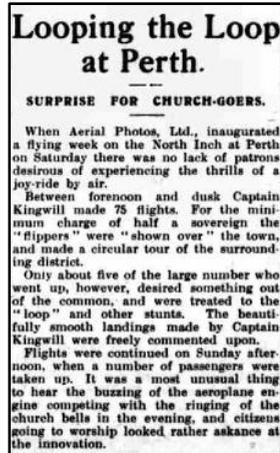


## From the Farquhar Diaries

**7 October 1921.** An aeroplane has been on the N. Inch for some days taking passengers for short flights. N. and Miss Halkett took a flight to-gether. It was pretty courageous of them! They went up 2000ft. N. says she is very glad to have been but she would not like to go again.

**28 October.** For the last few days I have been at a retreat held at Elie in Fife. I only went because it was arranged by the Bishop and I feel that in every way I can I must support his Diocesan action. Moreover Mr Sutherland Graeme's addresses were remarkably intellectual & spiritual for so young a man, but I was somewhat upset by his persistent advocacy of private Confession and also by his manner of celebrating the Holy Communion. The Words of Institution and the Invocation were absolutely inaudible and the rest of the Service only just audible. Moreover in the parts addressed to the people, he stood with his back towards them. Altogether I felt as if the retreat were not actually in my atmosphere. It is very nearly a year now since we gave up having a Chaplain and I resigned the Supernumeraryship & stayed at the Cathedral. Finance was at the bottom of it all. But our debt of £1000 is now paid off and the Provost sees his way to applying part of the interest on the £10,000 which he got some years ago to supplying the Chaplain's stipend. However I do not think that some of the Chaplains we have had were worth the £250 a year, which since the war is the least that can be offered them. They did not identify themselves with the Cathedral, nor thrown themselves into the work. During the Retreat (during which by the bye I had a bad cold) I re-read Gosse's Life of Bp James Taylor. What a delightful man he must have been and yet how storm-tossed - nearly always a round peg hammered into a square hole! I really do think that it is no good sign of the Scots Presbyterian Ministers in Charles II's time that they reduced Archbp Leighton to despair & drove Bp James Taylor frantic! Both these men were Saints & geniuses.

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



Perthshire Advertiser,  
5 October 1921

## Eddie the Eagle says...

The green heart initiative (page 7) sounds rather like a green St Valentine's Day and I'm looking forward to receiving many of them. In fact the first person to put one round my neck will win an afternoon in my company with a cup of tea and a large slice of chocolate cake. *Terms and conditions apply (ie, please supply a teabag, the chocolate cake - two slices - and a pot of double cream).*



## 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>9.00am</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.00am; Eucharist 11.00am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.00am</b>

### Giving

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

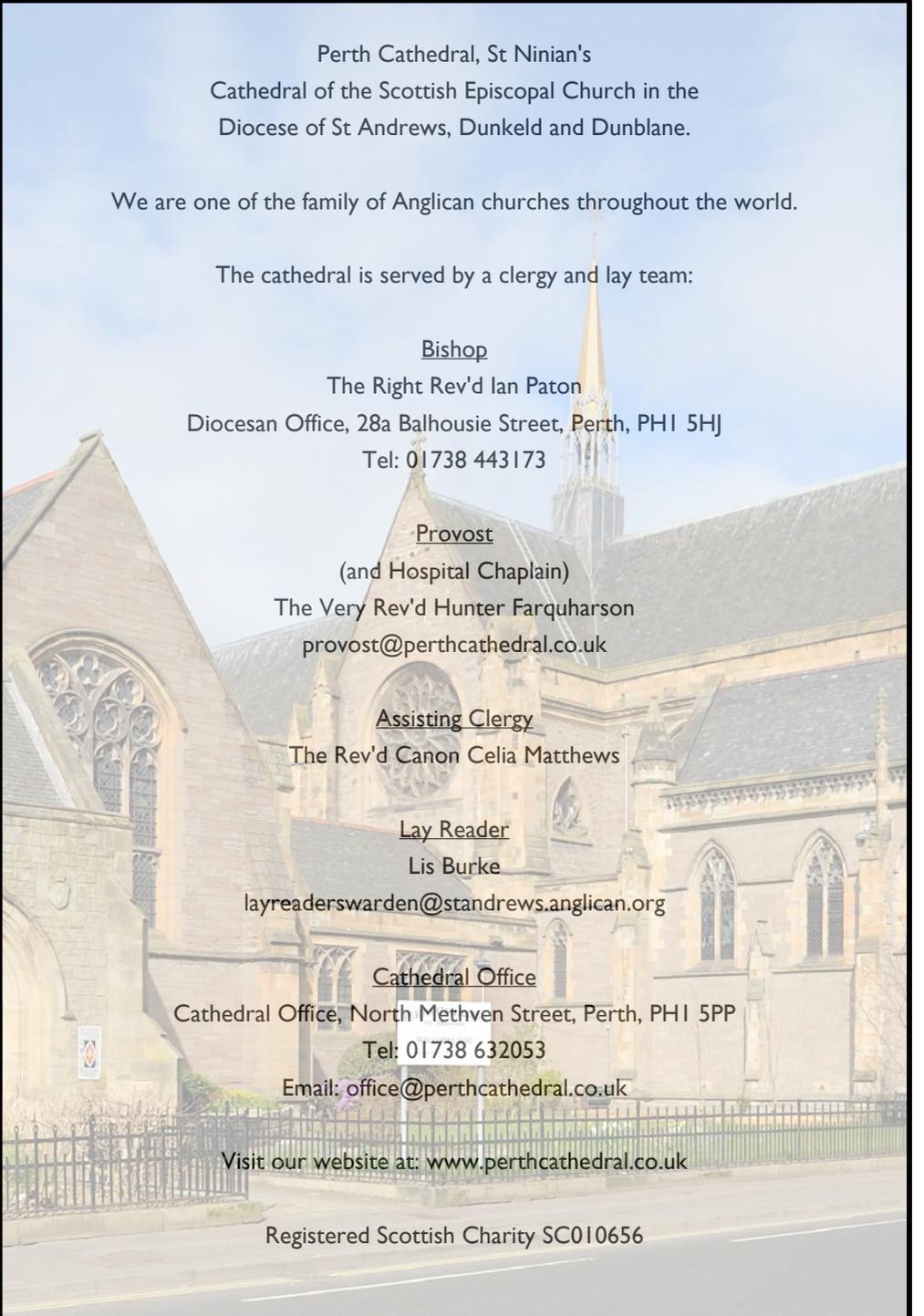
### Flowers

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

### And finally...

If you have an article for the magazine, or a suggestion for one, please either pass it to the editor, Jeremy Duncan, or email it to [cathedralmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralmagazine@gmail.com).

The closing date for inclusion in the November magazine is **24 October**.

A photograph of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's, showing its Gothic architecture with a prominent spire and large stained-glass windows. The text is overlaid on the image.

Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's  
Cathedral of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the  
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

We are one of the family of Anglican churches throughout the world.

The cathedral is served by a clergy and lay team:

Bishop

The Right Rev'd Ian Paton  
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

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