

Cathedral News

The Magazine of Perth Cathedral, St Ninian's



March 2022

Who's Who at the Cathedral

From the Provost

Dear Friends

The past month of February is always a short month, for which I'm often grateful, as it can be the worst month for difficult winter weather. We've had some frost and a few scurries of snow, but by far the most challenging thing we've faced have been storms producing winds of great force, bringing down trees and power lines and hampering our ability to move around freely.



I've been wondering why great storms are given a name. It seems that the Met Office hoped it would make people more aware of storms and how dangerous they can be. The last six have been called Arwen, Barra, Corrie, Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. I see that the Met Office allow us to send in suggestions for names and if you are interested in doing so you can use the following email address: nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk.

Of course, there are different types of storms in our lives. There are internal as

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well as external storms. Internal storms can drive us to fever pitch, often driven by things like fear, anxiety, hurt, anger – emotions that can sweep through us with such ferocity that we can feel completely felled.

I think in the past two years of pandemic we've all experienced turbulent times. Often chaotic circumstances beyond our control can make us feel both terrified and helpless. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all our lives, the world over.

My hope is that as the official laws and rules begin to be relaxed (21 March for Scotland), we too will calm down and understand that we just have to live with this virus. Maybe one day a vaccine will be developed that will completely protect us from Covid, but for now we have vaccines and anti-viral medication that can lessen the impact of this storm.

As always, I ask your prayers for those we know to be unwell and those who are housebound. Please pray for our Vestry members as they continue to give their time freely to maintain the life of our extraordinary cathedral and its activity. I ask you to thank God for our wonderful choir under the direction of Geoff Bolton, who help lift our worship of God through the beauty of their voices and music. Please also remember the places in our world where there have been tensions and fear of war, praying for God's peace.

Pray also that we may keep a faithful Lent and so prepare ourselves to once again celebrate the joys of Easter.

May God bless us all,

Hunter



Readings and Collects for March

First Sunday of Lent - 6 March

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and

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

Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11, Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16, Romans 10.8b-13, Luke 4.1-13

Second Sunday of Lent - 13 March

Collect: God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross. Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3.17-4.1, Luke 13.31-35

Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland - 17 March

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Patrick, whom you called to preach the gospel to the people of Ireland. Raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your Church may make known the immeasurable riches of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16, Psalm 96, I Corinthians 1.18-25, Luke 22.24-30

Joseph of Nazareth - 19 March

Collect: God, from the family of your servant David you raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son. Give us grace to follow him in faithful obedience to your commands; 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 7.4, 8-16, Psalm 89.1-4, 26-29(30-36), Romans 4.13-18, Luke 2.41-52

Third Sunday of Lent - 20 March

Collect: Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-9, Psalm 63.1-8, I Corinthians 10.1-13, Luke 13.1-9

The Annunciation of the Lord - 25 March

Collect: Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Isaiah 7.10-14, Psalm 40.5-10, Hebrews 10.4-10, Luke 1.26-38

Fourth Sunday of Lent - 27 March

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

Readings: Joshua 5.9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5.16-21, Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday - 3 April

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

Readings: Isaiah 43.16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3.4b-14, John 12.1-8

Dates for your Diary

Choral Evensong - 20 March at 3.00pm

**Handel's St John Passion, with the cathedral choir and soloists
Palm Sunday, 10 April at 3.30pm**

Trip to Pitlochry Theatre to see *Sunshine on Leith* - 1 June



What's Been Going On?

The Vestry

One suspects that all members of the vestry were delighted to be able to hold their first meeting in person (*pictured below*) since, probably, the very start of the pandemic in early 2020. Many thanks to resident paparazzo and vestry member Christopher Dingwall for this photo, and for others in this issue.



The Cathedral Website

This is currently being revised and updated. It would be helpful if members of the congregation, with access to the internet, could take a look and let either Maihri or Jeremy know of any corrections that should, or improvements that could, be made. The web address is www.perthcathedral.co.uk. Thank you!

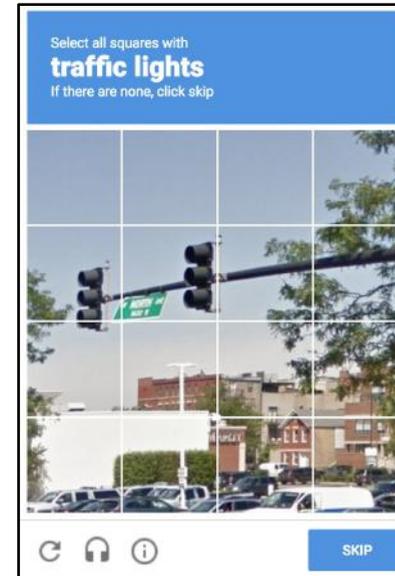


Pancake Party

Shrove Tuesday was celebrated in the traditional way on 1 March with a pancake party - the first in three years, thanks to a certain bug doing the rounds. Hunter and Wendy spent much of that morning making pancakes in the kitchen and laying a very attractive table in the Chapter House. Around 25 hungry souls turned up in the evening for a pancake feast, a story and pancake tossing. The conversation flowed and it was a very pleasant time together. Many thanks to Lis and other paparazzi for the photographs...

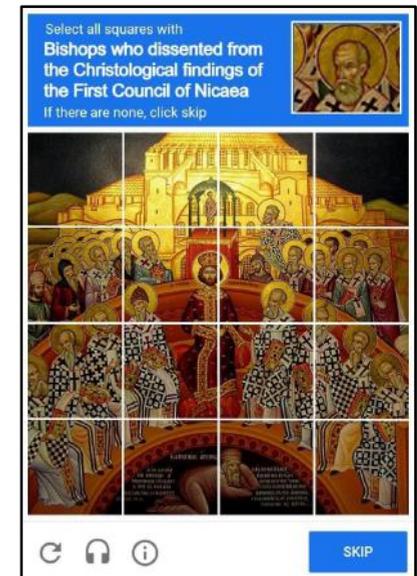


Proving You Aren't a Robot



You thought traffic lights were bad enough? Pity the poor clergy!

Many thanks to Provost Hunter for sending this in.



Climate Café Perth

Climate Café Perth is now an in-person monthly meet up at Perth Theatre. Join us in the theatre cafe to talk and take action on the Climate Emergency.

Taking place on the last Tuesday of every month, Climate Café Perth will explore local and global climate issues, the actions we can take in pursuit of climate justice and will host a range of speakers, artists and activists.

There will be space to participate and discuss issues that matter to you – creating a brilliant platform for designing and amplifying local change. You can book into the event to join us, or drop in on the evening.

Support for Ukraine

There is an appeal on page 11 for donations of material to help Ukrainian refugees and soldiers. The situation regarding donations seems to be changing fairly quickly so, if you can, and you wish to donate, keep an eye on Facebook - search for Polish Scouts in Perth - and get up to date information about particular needs and the latest places where you can donate (such as all local libraries).

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Winn and Andy (pictured below) who celebrated their Platinum Wedding anniversary in the cathedral on Sunday 6 February. This milestone is all the more remarkable when one remembers that they were married on the day George VI died!



THANK YOU

'Just to say a big thank you for the lovely flowers, goody bag and card we received on our anniversary. It was nice having it signed with all the good wishes, and a bit of a surprise as it was meant to be low key, but it was nice!'

Winn and Andy

Cover Photo

Many thanks to our gardener John Blackie who has sent in this lovely photo of the cathedral's memorial garden, showing snowdrops and snowflakes in full bloom. John writes " ...snowflakes (leucojum vernum) are fragrant drooping bells. They look almost exactly like snowdrops (galanthus nivalis) but more bell-like!



Support for Ukraine

ZWIĄZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO
ZHP
WIELKA BRYTANIA

Supplies collection for Ukraine refugees coming to Poland & those fighting for their Country

WHAT DO WE COLLECT?

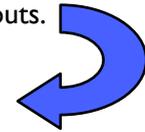
- WARM CLOTHES, SHOES, GLOVES
- BLANKETS, PILLOWS, SLEEPING BAGS, TENTS, BACKPACKS, VACUUM FLASKS, TORCHES, PRAMS/STROLLERS, CAR SEATS FOR BABIES & CHILDREN, CHILD'S CLOTHES
- PLASTERS, BANDAGES, PAINKILLERS, TOURNIQUETS, PADS, TOILET PAPER, CLEANING SUPPLIES, NAPPIES
- BOTTLED WATER (SMALL BOTTLES), CANNED FOOD, FORMULA MILK

Please bring clothes clean, neat or new. Please pack them in boxes or bags and sign them according to the category - e.g. Children's clothes or Cleaning products, etc.

WHERE & WHEN

POLISH SHOP TOUCH OF POLAND, 38 S METHVEN ST, PERTH PH1 5NU	DURING OPENING HOURS SAT 9AM-8PM SUN 11AM-7PM MON / TUE 9:30AM-8PM 26/02 - 02/03
POLSKI SKLEP POLISH TASTE 26 CRIEFF RD, PERTH PH1 5AF	DURING OPENING HOURS SAT 9:30AM-7PM SUN 11AM-5PM MON / TUE 9:30AM-7:30PM 26/02 - 02/03
ESOLPERTH DRUMMOND HOUSE 6 SCOTT STREET PH1 5EJ PERTH SECOND FLOOR	DURING OPENING HOURS SUN 11AM-5PM MON / TUE 9AM-7PM 26/02 - 02/03

PACT are asking local churches to publicise this collection, which is being undertaken by Perth Polish Scouts.



A Prayer for Ukraine

Lord God, it is difficult to comprehend what is happening in Ukraine. As our lives carry on as normal, the Ukrainian people are sheltering underground, some are trying to flee to safety whilst others try to protect their country.

Lord God, we ask protection for the Ukrainian people and that wisdom and compassion be bestowed on all those in positions of power. We pray for peace between nations and justice for all.

Unpacking Love: part 6

Agape love: the continuing story.

The pandemic which began in early 2020 has brought into sharper focus the widespread issue of loneliness. We have been obliged to remain separate from each other. Locked in and masked up, so many people have felt a hunger for human contact. And it is well known that isolation can be used as punishment; prisoners in solitary confinement have been terribly harmed. Martin Buber, who endured the atrocities of concentration camps during World War II, wrote one of the most profound books on the meaning of being human. He called it *I and Thou*. He says that 'All actual life is encounter.' Encounter, meeting, the I means nothing without the You. There is no doubt that being human means that who I am involves relationship, or Belonging.

I suggest that this belonging involves both people and place. I belong in this place, and I belong with these people. Let's try to use our prepositions smartly: I belong TO a place, but I belong WITH certain people. It goes almost without saying that the idea of Love as agape, which I have been developing, is based on the assumption of there being another. In the creation story in the opening chapters of Genesis, God says: It is not good for the man to be alone. Yet the story goes on to say that all of the animals were inadequate to address this essential need. The first human being needed Another. Paul Gilbert (*The Compassionate Mind*) says, 'We have evolved to have a need to live positively in the minds of others.' And in the Southern African Xhosa saying, I think the point is best expressed: 'Ubuntu!' It is variously translated; here is one version: 'People become people through people.'

We need others. Buber stresses that 'I-Thou' is one of the most basic words. So that for each of us to grow, we learn 'to concentrate on another person' (Erich Fromm, *The Art of Being*). The pathology of this is what psychology calls Narcissism. It's a serious form of, paradoxically, self-neglect. In the myth, Narcissus became so completely absorbed in himself, mirrored in the pool, that he perished from hunger. He had no reflection of himself in another person. No friend. No Other.

Now that introduces us to a particular dynamic for our growth. To begin, I turn to the deceptively simple work of David Augsberger, Mennonite author and

counsellor. He is describing the stages of a marriage but this applies to all kinds of relationships. First, he says, there is 'We are We.' There is a kind of immature oneness, with no differences. We both do the same, like the same, go the same... In the middle stage, there is 'I am I and You are You.' In the relationship, there's a reawakening of each one's distinctive tastes and preferences. From a complete overlap, there seems to be no overlap at all. Augsberger then adds the third stage. 'I am I and You are You and We are We.' What is called for is the skill to hold both together. Another writer, the author, priest, and theologian Henri Nouwen invites us to learn balance intimacy and distance, which is difficult. In the words of one person suffering from a mental health issue, 'Go away a little closer...' Mark Vernon says that 'friendship requires a recognition of the distance as well as the proximity of another self' (*The Philosophy of Friendship*). He cites Nietzsche, that 'it is not how one soul approaches another but in how it distances itself from it that I recognise their affinity and relatedness.' Achieving this balance takes a lifetime. I am going to offer some thoughts about this growth through balancing intimacy and distance.

Gordon Allport (*Becoming*) suggests that in the tension between the two, autonomy (distance) makes a person 'free to become.' In the relationship between what he terms the Tribal and the Personal, an individual benefits from the space, the distance from others, to move towards their potential. Yet there is a constant aim to bring these two aspects together. Where Allport develops the subject of the individual, S B Kaufman explores the need to be part of a group. He calls it Connection, of which intimacy is a part. Kaufman describes connection as 'a fundamental need that affects our whole being.' And it is composed of two subneeds, '(a) the need to belong...and (b) the need for intimacy...with important implications for growth' (Scott Kaufman, *Transcend*).

So we all need both connection and distance, and I suggest that a key to maintaining the balance between the two is that simplest and yet toughest of all skills, communication. In the theme that I have been exploring, the idea is that agape-love includes a profound commitment to genuine communication, because we want both to express ourselves and to hear the self-expression of the other. John Powell, in his famous little book, *Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am*, presents a version of a model communication. In our relationships with others we range from elementary clichés, where we disclose nothing of ourselves, gradually

through different and riskier strata to a place where each person feels safe enough for complete openness about themselves. That is achieved when each person believes that they have been heard, and that each has been completely safe to express their own soul. That is why Buber says that 'Love is responsibility of I for Thou.' The key to maintaining a balance between being near and being distant is in that place where each prioritises the other's need to communicate.

That all seems very daunting, and each step towards full openness seems risky. The possibility for growth is beset with risks. In relationships it is often the case that we are out of step; it takes effort and commitment - agape love - to turn a clumsy attempt at relationship into a dance of genuine communication.

Chris Brown

Choir News

On 10 April (Palm Sunday) the choir will perform the rarely heard *St John Passion* by Handel (1685-1759), from a 1932 Paterson/Novello edition by Walford Davies and the Scottish musician, J Michael Diack. This is a more manageable length for church choirs than the German Handel Society's Chrysander edition.

The soloists will be Andrew Donaldson (tenor), Moira Docherty and Frances Taylor (sopranos), Barbara Scott (contralto), Emmanuel Patterson, singing the part of Pilate (contralto), and Alister Allan, singing the part of Jesus (bass arias).

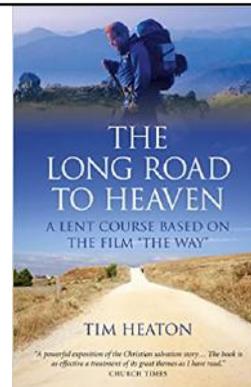
The performance will take place at 3.30pm. Please come and support us.

Alister Allan

Forthcoming Music



As part of the improvements to the website (see page 7) a list of music to be played and sung in the month ahead will now appear under the heading of Worship on the Perth Cathedral home page. Hymns, psalms, settings, voluntaries and anthems for March 2022 are already shown. So, if you have a particular fondness for Buxtehude's *Passacaglia in D minor*, make sure you come early and bag a seat near the organ on 6 March!



LENT COURSE 2022

MONDAYS 10.30AM
IN THE LADY CHAPEL

I'm really excited to be joining in with my first in-person Lent course at the cathedral, and especially one that is based around such an interesting film that I have enjoyed watching. Since the church is partway through a "Season of Pilgrimage" it is particularly appropriate that the course we have chosen, "The Long Road to Heaven", is based on "The Way", a film which follows the fortunes of one pilgrim walking the *Camino de Santiago* in difficult circumstances, and of a small group who travel alongside him, each on their own journey.

We will meet at 10.30am on Monday mornings in the Lady Chapel, starting on Monday 7th March and ending on Monday 4th April. Each week we will watch some scenes from the film and share our ideas about them, beginning and ending in prayer. This will be a good Lenten preparation and hopefully fun too! Although the book provides useful background material, the ministry team (Hunter, Peter and myself) have decided that it is not necessary for each person following the course to have their own copy because time doesn't allow us to use all the material in the book. The most important preparation for the course is a determination to open our minds and learn from each other.

If you're not able to join the group on Monday mornings, why not watch the film at home? I have it on a DVD that I am happy to lend out, or you might be able to get it cheaply (or even free) on Prime or Netflix. I could let you have a copy of the suggested topics for discussion or lend out a copy of the book alongside the DVD.

The following prayer is suggested for those who are following this Lent course:

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
your only Son was lifted up
that he might draw the whole world to himself.
May we walk this day in the way of the cross
and always be ready to share its weight,
declaring your love for all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

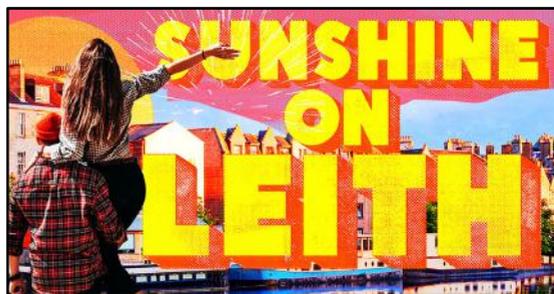
Lis Burke.

Pitlochry Theatre Trip

Sunshine on Leith

Wednesday 1 June at 2.00pm

After a break of two years we are able to return for a show at Pitlochry. A group booking has been made with a reduction of 15% on the ticket prices which will be £29.00 (centre) and £25.00 (side), in the same area as in previous years. To book to see this popular musical, please contact the Rev'd Geoffrey Hall.



Alison's Book Choice

The Pursuit of Love

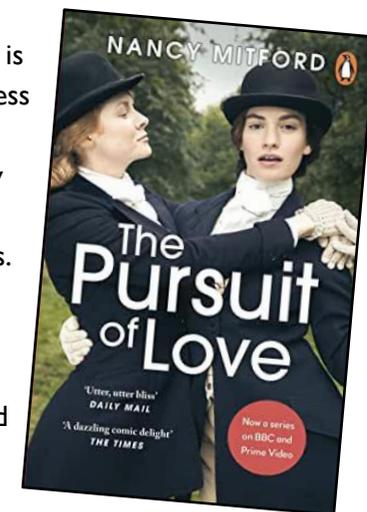
by Nancy Mitford

I'm doing a lot of re-reading these days, and have returned, with some glee, to Nancy Mitford.

Given my origins as (according to my father) one of a long line of sheep-stealers from Fyvie, and as a good socialist, it's difficult to understand my enjoyment of the lives of 'the rich man at his castle', but Mitford is great fun. There were six Mitford girls, educated by governesses and living with their parents and their siblings in the country. They were all very different. Diana married Oswald Mosely; Deborah realized her childhood dreams and became a duchess; Jessica eloped to Spain with the very unsuitable Esmond Romilly before going to America and allying herself with the Communist Party; Unity was obsessed with Hitler, and shot herself in the head. And missed. Pamela, the second daughter was never heard of again, and Nancy, her elder, wrote novels whose characters were loosely based on her family's lives.

Our narrator in this novel is Fanny, first cousin to the Radlett children as the daughter of Lady Radlett's sister, known universally as the Bolter. (Her five ex-husbands include a Mr Rawle and a Mr Plugge, entertainingly.)

The story opens in the coming-out season of Louise who is snapped up by an ageing, dull but kind Lord Fort William, and transported to an equally dull castle in Scotland, where she thrives. The following year, it is Linda's turn to come out, and she and Fanny share a season. Fanny meets a young Oxford don and falls in love. Happily the feeling is mutual, and they marry but he doesn't feature further in this story. Linda meets and is captivated by Tony Koesig, a man of little brain and less charm. He rescues a drowning animal but achieves nothing more romantic. Tony invites Linda and Fanny to lunch at his undergraduate rooms in Oxford, unchaperoned. They are found out and all hell ensues. After a cooling-off period, Linda is allowed to marry Tony. (No-one else is going to want her now.) Sadly, the pair do not get on, and when Linda has a baby, Tony calls her Moira. Linda doesn't like her much and blames the baby's constant crying on her having seen herself in the glass.



Linda meets Christian Talbot, who is a penniless, passionate socialist, and he whisks her off to Spain, where he is working to help refugees from the Civil War. Linda does her best, but is lonely and unappreciated. She comes to understand that Christian does not really love her, and runs off to Paris, where her money and her options run out. A man finds her, in the railway station, wrapped in her fur coat, and sobbing on her suitcase. As one might expect, Fabrice, who is a colonel in the French Army, is sophisticated, clever and, helpfully, very rich. He sets Linda up in a charming flat, where she is quite content. The skies, however, are darkening all over Europe, and Fabrice sends her back to England to be with her family until her baby is born, and until Fabrice is free to come for her. Of course, he does not, and she never sees him again.

I won't give away the ending. Find out for yourselves. It's really worth it.

Alison Ballantyne

From the Farquhar Diaries

3 March 1922. Yesterday Mr Athol MacGregor was called to his rest - certainly one of the greatest benefactors the Cathedral has ever had. He was not only a steady Church-goer & Communicant but his one great happiness since his retirement from active life in India (where he successfully held posts of very high responsibility) was to work for the Church and to give beyond his means to it. He had always some scheme on hand. He attended Chapter meetings as a Trustee & all kind of other meetings, at all of which his advice was most useful. He was also great at the Rep. Ch. Council, till deafness disabled him. Here he used to make speeches, the subject matter of which was splendid but the manner of delivery bad beyond description. He spoke no louder than he would to a neighbour sitting by the fire-side. He was also afflicted with a stammer. Moreover he had a heavy moustache, whiskers & long beard, so that, while the Council could not even hear the sound of his voice, they could not so much as see his lips moving. His really most valuable suggestions were entirely lost thence. Accordingly, it was through smaller Committees that he exercised his influence. I am writing just as thoughts come into my head. Three of his greatest accomplishments, of which I am aware, were (1) the mapping out of districts for each charge in the Diocese. His accurate knowledge of the ground was quite wonderful. (2) His providing the funds for the building of the beautiful Chapel at the Cathedral, in memory of his wife and (3) His being in every way 'a pillar in the house of God', when the Cathedral was swindled out of £12,000. It was he who by prompt & munificent giving & by leading the way for others, who under God enabled us to weather the catastrophe... But, side by side with this enthusiasm, he must, I think, be ranked theologically as being of 'the dry Church' school of thought. If future generations want to know what he looked like, let them try to imagine for themselves a picture of Abraham and that will give them Mr Athol MacGregor - old, weak, venerable. Nevertheless, he was a very strong-willed, masterful old gentleman! If God raises up such a one in each generation, the Church will get on. It is interesting to note that his Mother was the daughter of Captain Hardy, who was with Nelson at his death on board the Victory. At the present moment his body is lying in the Chapel, draped with Rob Roy tartan, before the Altar with six tall candles burning all round the coffin. R.I.P.

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

Eddie the Eagle says...

Along with the cathedral's tenuous connection to the Dambusters Raid, my friend Margaret Lye tells us we also have a link with the Battle of Trafalgar! I would feel inspired to squawk Onward Christian Soldiers with even greater gusto, except that we never seem to sing it at all these days. Good tune, bad theology I suppose...



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.

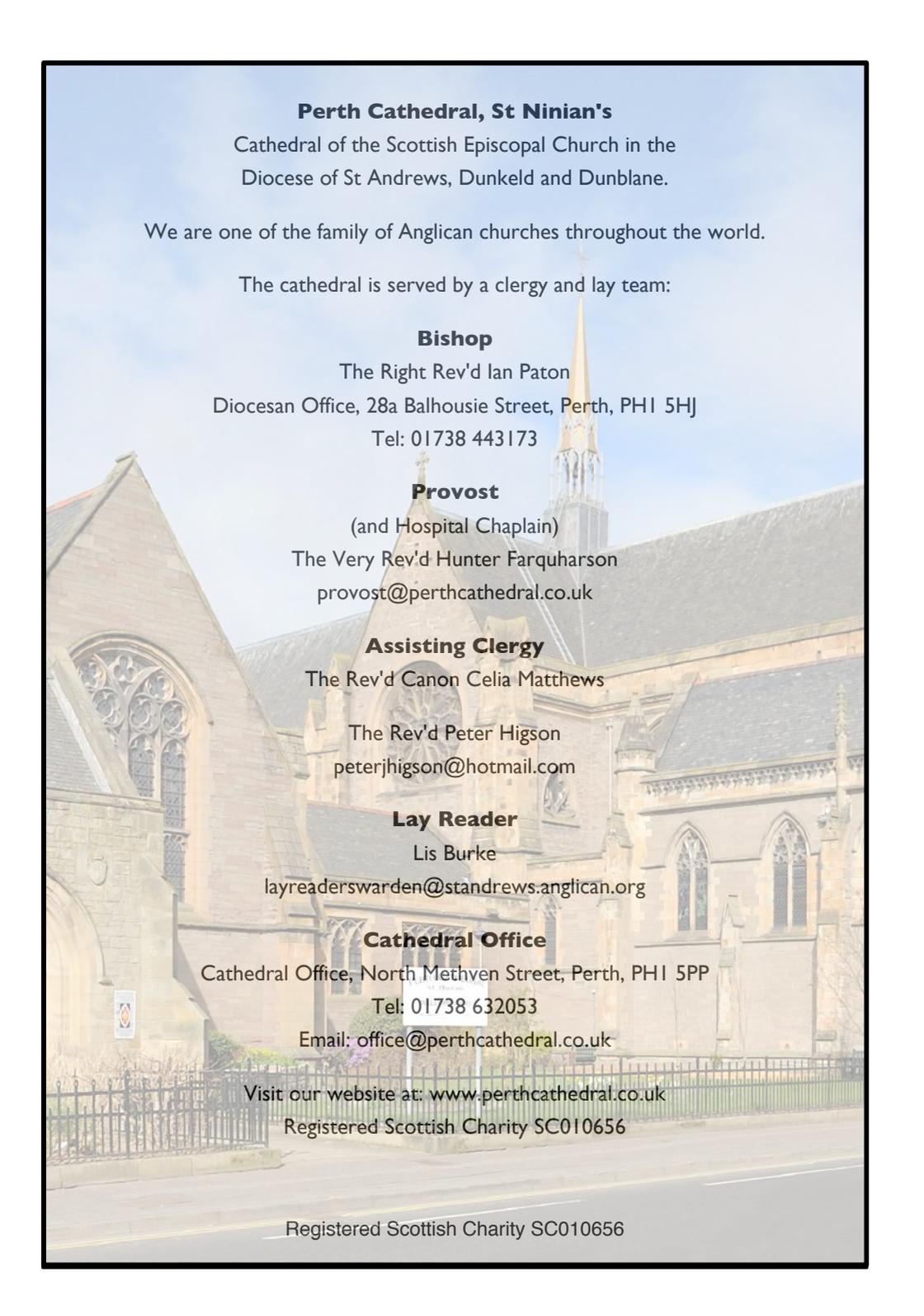
Flowers

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 April magazine is **20 March**.



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

The Rev'd Peter Higson
peterjhigson@hotmail.com

Lay Reader

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layreaderswarden@standrews.anglican.org

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