

# Cathedral News

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

*July - August 2022*

## *Who's Who at the Cathedral*

2

## *From the Provost*

Dear Friends,

It is extraordinary what you can learn from your computer. Did you know for example that 1 July has been designated as International Joke Day? I read that we 'humans' have been telling jokes for a large part of our history. According to historians, the oldest recorded joke can be traced back to nearly 2000 years before Christ was born.



Seemingly, anthropological studies (the scientific study of humanity) have shown that laughter probably evolved as a way for humans to signal friendship and to strengthen ties with each other. Makes sense.

I'm sure we're all familiar with the well-known saying that 'laughter is the best medicine.' The origin for this can be found in Proverbs chapter 17, verse 22: 'A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.' It has been long recognised by the medical fraternity that the power of laughter has healing properties promoting mental and spiritual well-being. My computer tells me that babies and young children laugh hundreds of times a day, but as we grow

## *Contents*

Who's who	2	Doors Open Day 2022	14
From the Provost	3	Nothing like a dame!	14
Readings and collects for July and August	5	From the registers	15
Summer commemorations	7	Eco Congregation news	16
Diocesan Global Gathering	8	Editorial apologies	16
Platinum Jubilee celebrations	9	Ten reasons to be a Piskie	16
Baptism	10	From the Farquhar diaries	17
When in Rome	10	Eddie the Eagle	19
Behind the plaque	12	Times of services etc	19
		Clergy contact details	20

3

older, we only seem to chortle and laugh about twenty times a day.

Goodness knows, given the state of our world and the difficulties we are all facing with soaring costs, we need to find ways to lift our spirits. I therefore look forward to hearing some good jokes from you over the next two months...and hearing some laughter!

On a more serious note, many of you have expressed your worries and concerns to me about the ever-increasing difficult and heart-breaking situations we are faced with through the news media. I'm often tempted not to contend with our news programmes, but as Christian people we are called to engage with each other, our communities and through technology to respond globally. I'm not too keen on lifting pieces of scripture that can so easily be used out of context, but there are a few verses that I have turned to regularly in my life especially when I have felt anxious. Have a look at Psalm 46: verses 1-2 and 2 Corinthians 4: verses 8-9. I find within these ancient words much comfort.

July and August are traditionally holiday periods, so let's pray that we are all refreshed and strengthened in the warmer months, to help us meet each day with courage and joy. We hold in our hearts those we know to be unwell, especially those who find themselves isolated at home. We pray for healing and wholeness, and we continue to pray for peace in our world, justice for all and a willingness to treat all of God's creation carefully and with great respect. Let's remember Bishop Ian who will be attending the Lambeth Conference along with bishops from all over the world. Bishop Ian will share some of his Lambeth experience at The Gathering in the cathedral on 4 September (more details in this magazine and on the website).

May God's blessing be on us all.  
Hunter

So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



## Readings and Collects for July and August

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - 3 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 for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Isaiah 66.10-14, Psalm 66.1-8, Galatians 6. (1-6) 7-16, Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - 10 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 for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 30.9-14, Psalm 25.1-9, Colossians 1.1-14, Luke 10.25-37

### Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - 17 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:** Genesis 18.1-10a, Psalm 15, Colossians 1.15-28, Luke 10.38-42

### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - 24 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:** Genesis 18.20-32, Psalm 138, Colossians 2.6-15(16-19), Luke 11.1-13

## **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - 31 July**

**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 for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23, Psalm 49.1-11, Colossians 3.1-11, Luke 12.13-21

## **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - 7 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 for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Genesis 15.1-6, Psalm 33.12-22, Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16, Luke 12.32-40

## **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - 14 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:** Jeremiah 23.23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11.29–12.2, Luke 12.49-56

## **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - 21 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:** Isaiah 58.9b-14, Psalm 103.1-8, Hebrews 12.18-29, Luke 13.10-17

## **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - 28 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 for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Proverbs 25.6-7, Psalm 112, Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16, Luke 14.1, 7-14

## **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 4 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 for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 30.15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14.25-33

## **Special Commemorations and Festivals**

Some of the commemorations listed below may be transferred to our services of Holy Communion on a Sunday or Wednesday. Please check the Sunday pew sheet for more details.

Monday 4 July	St Thomas, Apostle
Friday 22 July	Mary Magdalene
Monday 25 July	James, Apostle
Saturday 6 August	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Monday 15 August	Mary the Virgin
Wednesday 24 August	Bartholomew, Apostle
Monday 29 August	The Beheading of John the Baptist

## **Stir Up Sunday**

There are a number of collects, it would seem, that begin with the phrase 'Stir up, O Lord...' and its use at around the time of Advent would traditionally be regarded as the time to make the Christmas pudding. But the one (above) for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, with its references to 'richly bearing the fruit' and 'richly rewarded', well, you can almost smell the pudding bubbling away on the stove top!



# ***Diocesan Global Gathering***

**Sunday 4 September 2022**

Please mark this date in your own and your church's diary now, our next Diocesan Gathering, at the cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday 4 September. Like the last Gathering we had, in October 2019, everyone is invited to come to the cathedral following their Sunday morning worship, and to bring a picnic lunch (teas and coffees will be provided). From 2.00pm there will be activities and at the end of the afternoon there will be tea, and the Gathering will end with Evensong. Please ensure that your congregation know they are invited.

This will be a 'Global Gathering' at which I will give the diocese a report about the Lambeth Conference, taking place in Canterbury at the end of July into early August. I hope that our partner bishops from Amazonia and Calcutta will join us by video link - they will not be able to visit us before Lambeth as they did last time, because of Covid.

## **Lambeth Conference Canterbury, UK • July 26 - August 8, 2022**

The theme of Lambeth this year is 'God's Church for God's World.' Please let your congregation

know about the Lambeth Conference website - [www.lambethconference.org](http://www.lambethconference.org) - where there is much more information about the theme, the scripture set for the conference (I Peter), and a guide to praying for the conference and the bishops who are coming from all around the world to attend.

Our Global Gathering will be about more than Lambeth, as I hope that every church in the diocese will come prepared with some photos and stories to contribute to an exhibition around the cathedral celebrating any links they have with the worldwide Church. These can be 'official', but also personal links people have made. I hope there could be many to be seen on 4 September.

Please get in touch if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions for the Global Gathering. And I look forward to seeing you and many of your congregation on 4 September.

*This is taken from a recent communication from Bishop Ian to the clergy of the diocese.*

# ***What's Been Going On?***

## **The Platinum Jubilee**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in the cathedral after the morning service on Sunday 5 June. The National Anthem was sung and glasses of fizzy elderflower champagne (much more British than ordinary champagne!) were enjoyed, together with a variety of nibbles.



## Baptism

A warm welcome to our newest, and youngest member, of St Ninian's! George Albie, the younger son of Ian Cowmeadow and Sarah (nee Bernard), was baptised during the morning service on Trinity Sunday, 12 June. George is pictured below together with his older brother, Freddie, his parents (second and third from the right) and his godparents. Many thanks to Christopher Dingwall for the photo.



## When in Rome

As the title would indicate, I thought I'd share some musings from my recent trip to Rome, if you will indulge me! A trip my mother and I had been hoping to make together for some years now, and finally we made it. I could describe to you the wonders we visited, show many a photo that attempts to capture what it's like to visit the Colosseum, ancient ruins, magnificent fountains, stunning architecture, hidden streets and monasteries, and indeed treasures from within the Vatican by the likes of Michelangelo, Raphael, and so many others. I could also tell you about the wonderful foods, beautiful Tiber river walks, and the hundreds of umbrella pines (a personal favourite). However, I wanted to share what struck me in the most vivid and moving way, and that is how alive Christianity is there. Also, how spiritually uplifted and refreshed I felt from being simply present in a place where it is so deeply woven in the fabric of everyday life – priests and nuns mingle in the

streets of Rome, monks wander to and from their monasteries, churches are everywhere and filled with activity. Of course, I hear you say, is it any wonder?! I think what I'm trying to get at is that we all become accustomed to the culture of our day where we live; so, to be somewhere for a few days where Christianity is truly everywhere, is natural, respected, enriching and beautiful, rather than a source of suspicion (at best) as mostly portrayed by the media, or something that frequently remains hidden as a result of such limited portrayal, was liberating and inspirational. To be present in St Peter's Square and gently sing the Lord's Prayer (in Latin!) with Pope Francis on a sunny Wednesday morning during his weekly general audience, along with hundreds of pilgrims, was a unique experience, deeply comforting, the memory of which I shall treasure. I feel my soul rising up just thinking about it!



*Angels Unawares* by Timothy Schmalz (more information can be found on this website - <https://angelsunawares.org/the-sculpture/>)

This photo was taken that morning from St Peter's Square which features a very powerful piece of sculpture representing all nations and tribes huddled on a boat. The boat is packed with migrants, heavily burdened with the weight of humanity's most difficult experiences; but

from the centre, emerges a single pair of wings, poignantly, a reminder that even in the darkest times humanity faces (and indeed creates), there is God's presence, living it all with us, in the thick of it. It's not easy staying aware of that in difficult times, and faith can be really hard! It was just wonderful though to see contemporary Christian art leading us to that message of faith and hope. We also visited a beautiful Basilica with a mosaic from the 6th century representing the Second Coming of Christ. Two saints, Cosma and Damiano, are there with Jesus. The story this represents is that of physicians who helped treat people they were



Roman-Byzantine mosaic in the Basilico dei Santi Cosma e Damiano representing a parousia, the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

forbidden to heal. Angels too – if you will -, present again in difficult times, performing life-saving services for which they perished. All of this and more made me feel blessed to have visited Rome and the Vatican City, and I was heartened to know that upon my return I could

share this with our Christian community here at St Ninian's. Speak to me anytime if you'd like to know more about some of the places to visit or where to get top notch gelato! Thank you for reading.

Annabelle O'Connell

## Behind the Plaque

Promoting the cathedral as a tourist destination might be a way forward in future years and when considering what our USP - unique selling point - might be, there are one or two to consider. The cathedral is, for example, one of the few Category A-listed buildings in Perth, though of course there are others and that selling point is therefore hardly unique. The fact that the cathedral was the first new Anglican cathedral to built in mainland Britain since the Reformation, is certainly another. However, the Jacobite associations of the Scottish Episcopal Church might well be worth exploiting, particularly as Visit Scotland have said that anything Jacobite brings in the tourists. And, it seems, we have these in plenty.

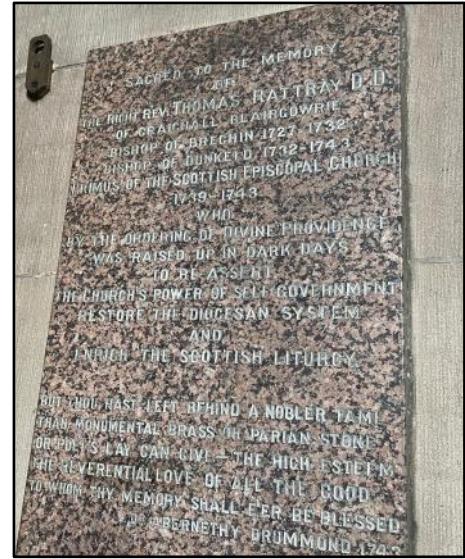
Take, for example, the innocuous-looking plaque to Bishop Thomas Rattray in the south aisle (pictured on opposite page), which is placed fairly high on a pillar, on the left-hand side when going towards the Lady Chapel, with a hard to read inscription.

The bishop, as the plaque states, was a bishop of both Brechin and Dunkeld dioceses (Perth having been in the diocese of the latter), and a primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The 'dark days' refer to the long period when the church was persecuted for its links to Jacobitism and those links were very real. And indeed it might not be stretching things too far to say that the SEC was the Jacobite church.

Bishop Rattray died in 1743, just two years before the 1745 uprising, in which his son, John, was very nearly hanged. The following is based on John's entry in Wikipedia: John Rattray, having trained as a doctor, joined the Jacobite army just after their victory at the Battle of Prestonpans in September 1745, when the call went out to Edinburgh surgeons to care for the wounded. Rattray, having responded to the call, stayed with the Jacobite army as it advanced into England, eventually becoming surgeon-general and personal surgeon to Prince Charles. After the battle of Culloden, Rattray surrendered to the Hanoverians and was imprisoned in Inverness.



The statue of Dr John Rattray at Leith Links. The sculptor was David Annand who also did Nae Day Sae Dark in Perth High Street.



As an aside, Dr John was a keen golfer and was instrumental in drawing up the first rules of the game which were later adopted by the Royal and Ancient in St Andrews. He died in Edinburgh in 1771.

## Doors Open Day 2022

A quick 'heads up' to say that the cathedral will as usual be taking part in Doors Open Day which this year falls on the weekend of 17-18 September. All help and support will be gratefully received! This year's theme is 'the year of stories' and it is hoped that we can put together a display of reminiscences of St Ninian's 'in the olden days' by members of the cathedral congregation. So if you have any particular memories you'd like to share please do jot them down!

## Nothing like a Dame!

I had always intended my stage debut nine years ago, as the bishop in *Les Misérables*, to be my swansong. This all changed, however, in March when I was in Perth Theatre to chair the Film Society and was drawn to a 'taster' session for a show, *Oh when the Saints*, a celebration of the city of Perth and St. Johnstone FC. My not so guilty secret is that, after St. Ninian's, my second place of worship is McDiarmid Park, where another diverse and supportive community gathers in faith.

Before I knew it, I was attending other drama sessions and found myself cast as Dame Rangers a.k.a. Roseanne, an Ugly Sister flaunting her vices of entitlement, prejudice and patronising rudeness. I was also sharing a dressing room with a prison guard and a renowned cartoonist - life's rich pattern.

Since then my theatrical journey has seen me on stage in Perth for six performances and joining in an emotional and, at times, pantomime celebration of St. Johnstone and our Fair City. The sense of teamwork, commitment, enthusiasm and friendship has surpassed all my expectations. My wig and crinoline have given me a flamboyance I never had in my bishop's robes!

Perth offers many wonderful opportunities and, for me, St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth Theatre and St. Johnstone have provided a wonderful and lasting sense of belonging, community and fulfilment. I shall remain forever grateful.

John Wright

The following is an extract from a review in the Dundee Courier...

## 'So Perth, so realistic, and funny'

That this group are amateurs only adds to the authenticity of it all. Martin McCormick's script is light and down-to-earth, filled with funny lines at the expense of the characters and their underdog club.

One great setpiece featuring Rangers and Celtic as a pair of bickering pantomime Ugly Sisters is as raw as Scottish football satire gets.

A play so Perth it had Stuart Cosgrove doing the voiceovers and John Swinney in for the first night, it nails the unlikely crossover between theatre and football with heart and enthusiasm.'



This photo, downloaded from the internet, shows our esteemed cathedral sidesman in a rather different light! John, as Dame Rangers on the left, was brilliant in what was a quite superb show.

## From the Registers

### Baptism

George Cowmeadow - 12 June 2022

### Marriage

Genevieve Evans and Tracey Fothergill - 7 May 2022

### Deaths

Patricia Strutt - 13 February 2022

Heulwen James - 23 February 2022

Joe Hutchison - 25 April 2022

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

## Eco Congregation News

Unfortunately the talk on 'Recycling in 2022' by Niamh Anderson of the Perth and Kinross Waste Awareness Team, scheduled for 15 June, had to be postponed. She will, however, be giving her talk sometime in the autumn, possibly early October, and we shall advertise it in this magazine.

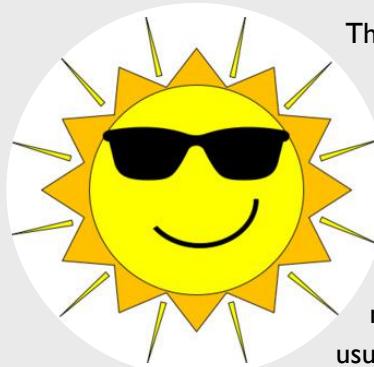
Meanwhile, the answers to questions that many of us have, along the lines of 'how and where do I recycle...' can be found on the Zero Waste Scotland website at <https://wasteless.zerowastescotland.org.uk/what-to-do-with>. There are almost 80 articles on how to deal with, for example, wrapping paper, bubble wrap, inhalers, foreign coins, clothes hangers etc. Well worth a look!



## Editorial Apologies!

Many thanks to Margot D for pointing out a couple of omissions from last month's report on the Christian Aid Big Brekkie. The plant stall was manned by both Judy Norwell and our own Pat Butler and the plants were provided by Judy and Hazel Harward. Apologies to the cathedral ladies concerned who, typically and kindly, said nothing at all to the editor!

## Happy Holidays!



The entire staff of *Cathedral News* are taking a break for a couple of months (not particularly well-deserved but they're taking it anyway) and wish you all a very pleasant summer. We'll be back in the autumn with more gems from our assistant editor, Eddie, more photos of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine, a bit of church news and of course our usual first-rate editing, proof-reading and

## Robin Williams' Top Ten Reasons To Be An Episcopalian

The comedian and film actor Robin Williams listed these top ten reasons to be an Episcopalian. He was, of course, an American and is clearly taking a dig at some aspects of the fundamentalist churches of his homeland.

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is colour-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry – none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

*And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:*

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

## Cover photo

A peaceful corner of the cathedral garden in full bloom - or as peaceful as the passing traffic of North Methven Street will allow!

## From the Farquhar Diaries

**10 July 1922.** On Thursday N. and I went to S. Andrews. We stayed at the Bishop's. To our great relief he looked just like himself, notwithstanding his recent accident, only Mrs Plumb said that he becomes very easily tired and shows signs of indecision. Of course he ought not to begin work yet and is in need of complete rest. That is essential after concussion of the brain. But all the same he is working again. Difficulties at Pittenweem and Burntisland, in both of which places the respective Clergy ought to be got rid of. ...The Graduation ceremony at St.

Andrews was much more imposing than I expected. The Library Hall in South St was crowded. Not only N, but also Willie & Fanny; the Bp and Mrs Plumb were in reserved seats. But the University procession was what surprised me. A great number of Professors, Lecturers etc & the Vice-Chancellor (Irvine), all in the most gorgeous robes took part in it. Quite a hundred undergraduates of both sexes were capped and received attractive looking hoods. Among the Hon L.L.D's the only one I knew anything about was Dr Styles. Besides myself amongst the D.D's were Principal M'Giffert from America: Principal Blomfield of Lancaster Baptist College and organiser of some important Fund in the Established Church. The Students were considered by those, who had experience, to have behaved extremely well, nevertheless called out witty things & sang songs. But they never really interrupted the proceedings. A luncheon in honour of the honorary doctors followed. Principal Irvine presided. He proposed the toast of our health, both D.D's & L.L.D's. He made very kindly references to the former but seemed to "come away from the roots" more freely with reference to the latter. Dr M'Giffert replied for the D.D's. I was very pleased to hear him say he was profoundly

humiliated by American policy since the war. Dr Styles & others replied for the L.L.D's and I was sensible that the assembly were very much in earnest about advancing the cause of natural science in the University. In introducing me for my degree Principal Galloway laid all the stress on the historical books and my 'Sacred Year'. An unexpected circumstance came to light about my hood. I had ordered it of course. But Mr Ritchie, the tailor, told me he was only lending me one because the material for mine was held up in Dublin on account of the battle, which has been raging there, in connection with the Civil War being waged between the two Roman Catholic factions in the south. This same war in R.C. Ireland has broken out (after years of incessant massacring) between

those who are supporting Home Rule within the British Empire and those who have formed an independent Republic.

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



Liam Lynch, the IRA chief of staff during the Irish Civil War. The latest in our greatly admired series of photos of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in a church magazine.

## Eddie the Eagle says...

Having been silenced last month ('too little space' the editor claimed), I can at last proclaim my utter loyalty to, and admiration of, Her Majesty the Queen and offer her my heartiest congratulations on achieving her platinum jubilee - and if that doesn't get me an OBE (Order of Brilliant Eagles) then nothing will. From one fine old bird to another, well done, Ma'am!



## 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

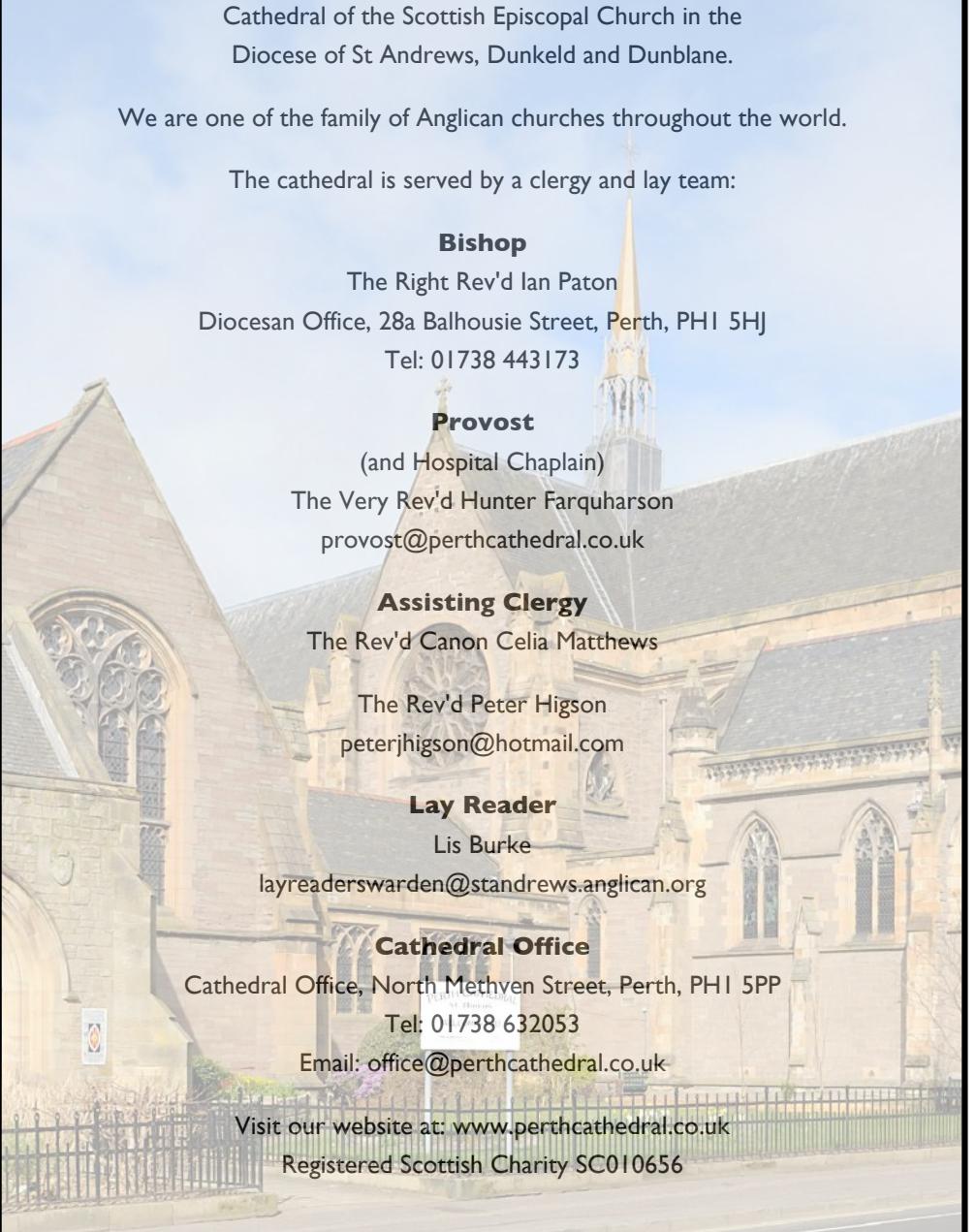
For all committed giving, envelopes and covenants, please contact Liz Gardiner, our treasurer, who will be delighted to advise.

### 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 September magazine is **21 August**.



## **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](mailto:provost@perthcathedral.co.uk)

### **Assisting Clergy**

The Rev'd Canon Celia Matthews

The Rev'd Peter Higson

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