

Cathedral News

A photograph of a cathedral courtyard. In the background, a large stone building with a prominent rose window and Gothic architecture. In the foreground, a group of people, including several in white robes with red stoles, are gathered on a green lawn. Some are holding books or papers, suggesting a religious service or ceremony. Pink flowering branches are visible in the foreground on the right side. The sky is blue with some clouds.

June 2026

Who's Who at the Cathedral...

...and who is the contact for what

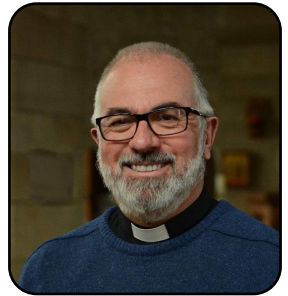
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Cathedral Bear	Bruin	c/o The Cathedral Garden



From the Provost

Dear friends,

Last month at the Sung Eucharist on Pentecost Sunday, as noted elsewhere in this magazine, we had the Lord's Prayer said in many languages, reflecting the diversity of our congregation. It was very moving; there is something special about praying in one's mother tongue or hearing others do the same. There is also something special about praying in a language one has learned, so many new things are noticed in familiar texts. I had that experience when praying in Latin daily in the monastery and it has had a lasting impact on my faith.



Diversity on its own, though, is not worth much. A diversity of what? Sin? The same is true of another obsession of the modern age, 'inclusion'. Rowan Williams famously wrote, 'I don't believe inclusion is a value in itself, welcome is. We welcome people into the Church, we say: "You can come in, and that decision will change you." We don't say: "Come in and we ask no questions." I do believe

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conversion means conversion of habits, behaviours, ideas, emotions. The boundaries are determined by what it means to be loyal to Jesus Christ.'

Pentecost challenges our secular attachment to diversity and inclusion. At Pentecost the first Christians were empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak about Jesus to people from all nations in their own languages. There was not only respect for the variety of people but also a valuing of their cultures; they didn't have to learn Hebrew or Arabic to join this new religion. But this diversity was not the end, it was one faith and one truth which was proclaimed in a diversity of languages just as we proclaimed the same Lord's Prayer in different languages. Diversity is only of value if it is built around the one truth of Jesus Christ. Inclusion is only of value if we are included in the one, holy, catholic Church of Jesus Christ. Only this truth can give meaning to the wonderful diversity of human experience.

Saints are an example of the great diversity of forms of holiness in the Church. Our Bishop Ian has a great devotion to St William of Perth, a local baker who lived a life of quiet devotion and service in the twelfth century and has never been forgotten. At the Evensong nearest to St William's feast in May, Bishop Ian launched the St William of Perth Awards by blessing the medals and awarding one to two members of our congregation who do a massive amount of service at the cathedral: Maureen and John Wright. It is unusual to give an award to two people together but everyone who nominated them did so as a couple. They are a great witness to Christian marriage being fruitful in service. Congratulations Maureen and John!

One of my priorities is to look out beyond the cathedral and build partnerships and connections. May saw some great concerts as part of our partnership with the Perth Festival of the Arts and this month I will be helping to lead the Kirking of the Council at St John's Kirk. This is a church service to ask for God's blessing on Perth and Kinross Council. It fell by the wayside after Covid-19 but I am glad it has been restored. In June I will also be attending the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, a sort of church parliament.

June also sees a couple of changes in our ministry team. Dr Maihri Greenwood starts her maternity leave and we wish her every blessing in this. Maihri has done much good work in the past year, not least as chaplain to our cathedral primary school which was reflected in the successful coffee morning in the Chapter House

which raised hundreds of pounds for the school and at which Maihri had an honourable and affectionate mention in the children's talk. Maihri will return to ministry later in the year but this month our team will be joined by the Rev'd Scott Brown who is being ordained deacon on 28 June and will be with us until his priesting on 27 September to be initiated into the mysteries of Episcopalianism. Unlike most deacons, Scott has already had a long and distinguished ministry including being Chaplain of the Fleet and a chaplain to His Majesty the King. We look forward to welcoming Scott and his husband Colin to the congregation. With Fr Philip having been an army padre and Chris Ahern, our treasurer, being ex-RAF, we are now a tri-service cathedral!

Finally, we look forward to welcoming Bruin the Bear to St Ninian's Cathedral as part of Bear's Big Adventure Trail, an interactive sculpture trail around Perth and Kinross from 22 June to 2 September which will be raising money for our friends at YMCA Tayside and their work with young people, ages 8-25. The leaders at the YMCA over the road asked us to host their very own bear. Bruin is a very fine and colourful bear and will live in our garden at the front of the cathedral. There will be a Blessing of the Bear and more information can be found at: <https://bearsbigadventure.com>. I hope Eddie the Eagle doesn't get jealous...



The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes, Provost

Collects and Readings for June

Corpus Christi - Thursday 4 June

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Exodus 16.9-15, Psalm 116.10-17, 1 Corinthians 10.16-17 or 1 Corinthians 11.23-26, John 6.(51-52)53-58

Second Sunday after Pentecost - 7 June

Collect: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Hosea 5.15-6.6, Psalm 50.7-15, Romans 4.13-25, Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

Third Sunday after Pentecost - 14 June

Collect: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Exodus 19.2-8a, Psalm 100, Romans 5.1-8, Matthew 9.35-10.8(9-23)

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - 21 June

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Jeremiah 20.7-13, Psalm 69.8-11(12-17)18-20, Romans 6.1b-11, Matthew 10.24-39

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - 28 June

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 our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Jeremiah 28.5-9, Psalm 89.1-4,15-18, Romans 6.12-23, Matthew 10.40-42

Special Services at the Cathedral

Thursday 4 June	7.00pm: Corpus Christi Sung Mass and Procession
Sunday 21 June	4.00pm: Choral Evensong
Sunday 28 June	4.00pm: Diaconal Ordination of Karen Kiefer and Scott Brown
Sunday 16 August	4.00pm: Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary
Saturday 19 September	Doors Open Day
Sunday 20 September	Patronal Feast of St Ninian (moved from previous Sunday) 4.00pm: Choral Evensong for St Ninian
Sunday 27 September	4.00pm: Priestly Ordination of Scott Brown
Sunday 18 October	4.00pm: Choral Evensong for St Luke
Saturday 31 October	12.00: Robert Lyon Mass using the 1637 Scottish Liturgy, in association with the 1745 Association and followed by lunch in the Salutation Hotel
Sunday 1 November	3.00pm: All Saints, Choral Evensong and reception to mark the retirement of Bishop Ian

Remembering Departed Loved Ones

The cathedral's Lady Chapel is a place of powerful spirituality where Jesus is present in the Sacrament, where we gather to pray, and where prayers are answered. In it a candle burns day and night to remind us of the loving presence of Jesus. It costs about £20 to keep the flame burning for a month and your donation can be given to the treasurer or Provost or made by bank transfer (subject - Lamp). You are invited to sponsor the flame for a month in memory of your loved ones. You can add their name to the sheet in the Cloister or contact Provost Stephen on provost.perth@gmail.com or Chris our treasurer on treasurer@perthcathedral.co.uk . In June the flame will burn in memory of **Anna and Peter Galletly**.

From the Registers

Sunday 31 May - Baptism of Elaine Wright and Joanne Wright

Lighting a Candle

A wonderful way to pray, which is popular at St Ninian's Cathedral, is lighting a candle. Many of them are lit each week in our votive candle stands. When the donations boxes on the candle stands were emptied recently, though, a problem was revealed. The box contained about £4 from the past three months, but during that period about 750 candles had been lit on the stand. If everyone put in the suggested donation of 50p there should be £375 in the donations box! Of course some will have made donations at the card reader or at other times, but it does suggest that we need to be reminded of more than just safety when we pray with a candle.

Prayer does not just involve the mind or spirit. Humans are bodily creatures and so we pray with our bodies: 'glorify God in your body and in your spirit' (1 Corinthians 6.20). Lighting a candle is a great way to do this and it has three parts:

1. pray, perhaps for a person or situation.

2. light a candle, which will continue to burn after you have gone, as your prayer stays with the Lord.

3. make an offering of money. This is not just 'paying for the candle' but represents a sacrifice of what is important to you, a sacrifice which is joined to your prayer.



All three parts make up the prayer. No one is obliged to light a candle, and God hears our prayers whatever bodily offerings we make, but we are told to pray with a pure heart.

Provost Stephen

What's Been Going On?

Piano Recital

An audience of around 40 turned up at the cathedral on Saturday 2 May for a wonderful recital by our very own Emmanuel Patterson.

She set the tone by first playing what many amateur pianists think of as Mozart's easy sonata in C but played it with such verve, excitement and virtuosity that it was truly thrilling. The speed of her fingers in the runs was astonishing. Thereafter she played a mixture of classical, Scottish songs and show tunes, ranging from Bach to Chopin and Debussy, from *Thank you for the Music* to *Smoke gets in your Eyes* and even *Bonnie Dundee* had a look in.

A shout-out to choir member Toby Moschard, who turned the pages and who himself is giving an organ recital in Perth later in the year, and to the most generous donor of the piano who was in the audience and who must have been delighted by its supporting role in this excellent concert.

Donations from the very appreciative audience raised around £250 for the organ fund. Very well done, Emmanuel, and thank you! (*Photo on following page.*)



The Pontarddulais Male Voice Choir

There was a full house for the Pontarddulais Male Voice Choir in the opening concert of Perth's Festival of the Arts, and a full house meant a full cathedral. And what a good choice of venue it was, for the programme was based on hymnody. A rendering of *Cwm Rhondda* was inevitable, but a lovely version of *Ar Hyd Y Nos* was sung with moving restraint. A large choir, big enough to fill two coaches, singing quietly was impressive and made an arrangement of *You'll Never Walk Alone* nearly lyrical. David Douglas, the tenor soloist, added emotional intensity in singing the *Flower Song* from 'Carmen' and *Bring Him Home* from 'Les Miserables'. The emphasis of the evening, however, was on a perceived Celtic connection with *My Love is like a Red, Red Rose* and *An Eriskay Love Lilt* contrasting with the hymns in Welsh and a rousing Welsh national anthem. The acoustics of the cathedral were tested and responded positively to a fine choir summed up in Karl Jenkins's *Benedictus*. Many thanks are due to the concert organisers and our own team of welcomers. The average age of the choir, however, seemed to be a touch north of seventy: one only hopes that the great tradition of the prize-winning male choirs can beat off the temptations of tech to continue in fine voice.

John Byrom

Perth Amateur Operatic Society



Perth's only remaining amateur operatic group - since the folding of the former Perth Cathedral Operatic Society - gave a concert in the cathedral as part of the Perth Festival of the Arts. They are pictured left, looking very happy!

Cathedral Choir

Continuing with the musical theme, our choir too has been particularly busy, singing Choral Evensong as part of Perth Festival, and also singing Choral Evensong at St James', Muthill, on 3 May. The service was a celebration of the church building's 190th anniversary and the congregation totalled an impressive 135. The choir, plus a couple of clerical interlopers, is pictured in a selfie by Annabelle, all also looking very happy!



Pentecost and Many Languages

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Pentecost service by reciting the Lord's Prayer in different languages. It was a really special part of the service and a wonderful way to mark the day together.

We heard the Lord's Prayer in English, French, German, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Sinhalese, Latin, Portuguese and Welsh, with each language bringing its own beauty and character. Hearing familiar words spoken in so many different ways was both moving and joyful.



Pentecost is the perfect day for this, as we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. In the story of Pentecost, people from many different places and backgrounds were able to hear and understand the good news in their own languages. It is a reminder that God's love and the message of the Gospel are for everyone, and that the Church is a gathering of people from all nations and backgrounds.

It was lovely to celebrate that in our own congregation and to recognise the wonderful range of languages and skills we have among us. We are blessed by the gifts people bring, and it was a real joy to hear them shared in worship in this way.

Thank you again to everyone who took part and helped make our Pentecost

celebration so memorable. It was a simple but very meaningful reminder of the richness of our church community and of the way we are brought together in faith, even through many different voices and languages. Unfortunately not everyone could stay for the photo (*on opposite page*) afterwards but most of our brilliant linguists are pictured here.

Maihri Greenwood

From The Rev'd Scott Brown CBE

I'm grateful to the Provost for this opportunity to introduce myself to you, and for the privilege to serve alongside you for three months over the summer period.

My journey to ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church has not been by the normal route, but is a continuation of a ministry that began many years before.

For the last 33 years I haven been a Minister of the Church of Scotland. I studied for my Bachelor of Divinity degree in Aberdeen, and served my probation in Falkirk. I was ordained by the Presbytery of Hamilton in April 1993. For 22 years I served as a Chaplain in the Royal Navy, culminating in being for four years the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Royal Navy's senior Chaplain. I was only the second not to be from the Anglican tradition. I was an honorary Chaplain to Her late Majesty and was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours list in 2014 on my 'retirement'. My ministry in the Royal Navy saw service in Northern Ireland, in the Arabian Gulf for the Gulf War in 2002, the Falkland Islands, Australia and Norway. I had the privilege of participating in many national events and commemorations, including the Diamond Jubilee celebrations for Her late Majesty, and the joy of preaching in many fine pulpits.

My subsequent service was in parish ministry, in two rural parishes to the west of Stirling, in Buchlyvie and Gartmore. It was a joy to minister to folks there, in the highs and lows of life, and to work with them to be the Church of Christ in their community.

I also had the immense privilege of being the National Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, participating in the Festival of Remembrance and events around the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.



Scott, who will be ordained Deacon in the cathedral on 28 June, is pictured right. His husband Colin is on the left, with Bishop Ian in the middle. Margo the spaniel is not shown!

The tug of the Spirit to the Episcopal Church has been with me for many years. I discussed it with the Bishop of Portsmouth roughly 15 years ago, having worshipped in the Church of England for many years in Hampshire. A greater sense of catholicity, an understanding of order, and a deeper awareness of our Christian history and heritage were the main draws.

On the personal level, I am married to Colin, who has journeyed with me for 29 years, and we live in Port of Menteith, near Stirling. We worship in St Modoc's Church in Doune. We have an 8 year old black cocker spaniel called Margo!

The St William of Perth Award

Many congratulations to John and Maureen Wright who are the first recipients of the St William of Perth Award, given in thanks for, and recognition of, all the many ways in which they quietly and faithfully serve the cathedral and its congregation.

Saturday 23 May is the feast day of St William of Perth, an ordinary lay Christian



of the 12th century, who tried to live a good life and was eventually murdered in Rochester by his adopted son in ca 1201, while on a pilgrimage to Rome. He is the patron saint of adopted children.

He represents for Bishop Ian so many people he has met in our congregations who serve in hidden ways, often with kindness, often with sacrifice. It is to celebrate them that Bishop Ian created the St William of Perth Award in this diocese.



Cathedral Library Minute Book

We have been given the Minute Book of the Cathedral Library which a gentleman found among the effects of his late father. The book was probably lost at the dispersal of the library at the end of the twentieth century. It covers the 1930s and begins by recording the donation of a reading glass belonging to Bishop Jonathan Watson 1760-1808 of which the frame is made by a long lock of the bishop's own hair. Does anyone know where this unusual relic is?

Provost Stephen

Bishop Ian's Easter Sermon

'The Christ you talk about is living now.'

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Today we are rejoicing because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. But people ask, 'Where is the proof?' And in the strict sense of proof - empirical, verifiable, repeatable - it is true, we cannot show the world the Resurrection, exactly as it happened; there is no scientific hypothesis to explain it, no words adequately to describe it.

In fact, although we associate Easter with early morning, dawn and first light, that was merely the time when the women discovered the empty tomb. Christ was raised, the Resurrection happened, not at dawn, but in the night, in the dark. No one saw it happen, there were no human witnesses of the actual event itself.

We could spend time trying to verify or falsify the Resurrection, to prove or disprove it, but that really is the least interesting aspect of it. Because we could be persuaded of the fact of the Resurrection without it making the slightest difference to our actual lives.

The hymn writer Sydney Carter (author of *Lord of the Dance*) wrote a little poem that makes this point:

Your holy hearsay
is not evidence:
give me the good news
in the present tense.

The living truth
is what I long to see:
I cannot lean upon
what used to be.

What happened
nineteen hundred years ago
may not have happened:
how am I to know?

So shut the Bible up
and show me how
the Christ you talk about
is living now.

'Show me how the Christ you talk about is living now.' The only way to do that is to ask if he has made any difference to people's lives.

And there is plenty of evidence that he has. In the Gospel, the Resurrection

turned Mary Magdalene into an urgent witness, an apostle to the other apostles. In Acts, we heard how those apostles, who deserted Jesus in fear for themselves, found the courage to proclaim the risen Christ, and to risk their lives by doing it.

That turnaround, is part of what we mean by Resurrection. Through their message the life of the world was changed, aware of a different kind of perfection, a hope in love, justice and peace. It did not erase suffering, but it redeemed it. It did not silence injustice, but called us to act. It did not erase death, but gave life a meaning that death cannot touch.

Yes, Resurrection is Jesus rising from the dead, we need not doubt that the God who created all the world out of nothing could bring life out of death in Jesus. No one saw it happening, but we can see its effects when the risen Jesus changes people. First Mary Magdalene and the disciples, but also people who now encounter him every day, in others, in their hearts, and in bread and wine.

The effects of Resurrection are seen in their refusal to be imprisoned any longer by history and its long hatreds, away from despair and all its defeats, to the possibility of a change that begins in our own hearts.

It is the determination to take the first step out of the tombs that imprison us. It may be a personal circumstance that immobilises us, or a social evil that confronts us; whatever it is, we refuse any longer to accept it, because the logic of Resurrection calls us to get up and walk out of the tomb that confines us. We prove that Christ is risen when he is risen in us - when our words and actions bring life where there is death. 'Show me how the Christ you talk about is living now.'

I read last week about a remarkable person called Bryan Stevenson, an African-American lawyer who rather than make easy money in corporate America, works for death-row inmates in Alabama. He encounters daily the racism of a justice system which treats African-Americans differently, who are more likely to be imprisoned for longer, or be sentenced to death for crimes for which others receive a life sentence. Stevenson is sometimes asked by the condemned to accompany them to their execution. He says: 'I was holding this man's hand, thinking, "Where were we when you were three and your mom died? Or when you were seven and being abused? Or aged nine, dealing with adults who were

cruel? Or when you came back traumatised from war?"

Stevenson tells them - black or white, guilty or innocent - that they are worth more than the worst thing they have ever done. 'If you have stolen, you are more than a thief. If you've told a lie, you are not just a liar. If you are racist, you are more than a racist. Hope is our superpower.'

Resurrection is not only about extraordinary people like Stevenson. It is also about our ordinary daily lives. It is about how we treat our families, our neighbours. It is about the patience we show in relationships, the responsibility we take for our commitments, the respect we give to others, especially when they are different from us. Living the Resurrection is waking up every day and choosing life over death, in the small things as well as the large, choosing to be Resurrection people in a world that so often chooses death over life.

'Show me how the Christ you talk about is living now.' Proving the Resurrection means trusting in the event that no-one actually saw happening, hoping in Jesus raised from the dead, and believing that he changes the world, and my own life. It means committing myself to the possibility of new life, and taking the first steps towards change. That means struggling with my reluctance to change, my refusal to trust in the call to new life in a world held in the grip of death.

That is the proof of the Resurrection, only that will show the world how 'the Christ we talk about is living now.'

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Several people have asked if Bishop Ian's Easter sermon could be reprinted here in the magazine. Many thanks to the Bishop for sending it in. We hope to reprint his sermon on St William of Perth, also requested by our congregation, in the next issue.

Cover Illustration

This photo was taken at the end of the Rogation Sunday service on 10 May when clergy and congregation trooped into the cathedral garden to ask for God's blessing on the land and on fields and gardens.

Armenia and Georgia

Last October I had the most fascinating holiday in Armenia and Georgia. Armenia is proud to call itself the first Christian country but both countries have an ancient history and a very religious one. They have many beautiful buildings with lots of very religious ones and both produce the most delicious wine. In the Areni area of Armenia a group of archaeologists found pots filled with petrified grape skins and seeds dating back to 4100 BC - the oldest winery in the world!

The saddest, and indeed the most devastating, parts of Armenia's history are the genocides of 1895 and 1915. These are well documented in the Genocide Museum in Yerevan and seem to have been just as cruel as those of the 1930s and 1940s and should be as well known. Films in the museum vividly tell the stories.

Armenia has the site of the oldest shoe! It was found by a student who thought it might be about 700 years old. It turned out to be from around 3500 BC.

One of the most sacred and ancient monasteries is called Khor Virap (*pictured below*). It is in a magnificent position with Mount Ararat towering behind it. The Turkish border is nearby, but Armenians may not pass that way and have to go the long way round via Georgia. Khor Virap is in one of the most sacred areas of the country as Mount Ararat has been fought over for generations and is as important to the Turkish people as it is to the Armenians. It is believed that it was there that Noah's Ark landed after the flood.



Monasteries abound, so many built on very high hilltops or into the side of mountains. We saw a few of the most spectacular, Geghard and Haghpat to name but two. And most amazing and sacred is Echmiadzin, known as Armenia's Vatican City and home to the head of the Armenian church, Catholicos Karakin II.

It is said that two of the apostles convinced Gregory the Illuminator of their beliefs. He refused to make a pagan offering to Anahit, an Armenian goddess, and so was imprisoned for a decade in a pit with snakes. He survived and was pardoned by King Turidates III who converted the kingdom to Christianity in AD 301.

I saw two christenings in the monasteries we visited and it was an experience to remember, seeing the priests with their long beards and cloaks. I had lots of lovely experiences, including lighting candles in the ancient monasteries with local people. Young people too lit candles in every building I visited.

As we left Armenia, we passed an area where Yazidis lived. Our guide told us they came from Syria and have settled in peace after abuse over the years from other people. We were told that in both Armenia and Georgia Jews, Muslims and Christians all live peacefully together. And I did see all kinds of people.

Back in Georgia we followed the magnificent Georgian military highway all the way to the Russian border which was just a few kilometres away. There we visited the most beautiful church in a monastery high in the Caucasus mountains which were already full of snow. Skiing is very popular up there and the season was soon to begin. The church we visited was Tsminda Sameba with Mount Kazbek looking down on it. I bought a religious trinket of Mary and baby Jesus there which I love. In Georgia's splendid Svetitskhoveti cathedral the robe of Christ is believed to be lying beneath the central nave.

Another memorable experience was Gori, the birthplace of Stalin. We visited the Stalin Museum - he was not the best example of a man but it was an extraordinary history lesson.

Both Armenia and Georgia have so much to offer: beautiful landscapes, friendly people, wine, good food and great culture. Tbilisi is especially beautiful with a river running through it. It has an ancient baths, statues and the biggest statue of

Mother Georgia overlooking all of the beautiful city and out to the countryside beyond. One day I would like to return and visit the monasteries I did not see.

Also of interest is the Georgian flag which consists of St George's red cross for Jesus and two small red crosses top and bottom depicting the nails which were driven into Jesus' hands and feet.

All in all it was a very interesting and spectacular holiday, well worth seeing and fascinating for Christians but just as great for everyone. The Georgian government is pro-Russian hence we saw lots of protests and graffiti being not so kind about Russia. On my first walk, I saw some of that graffiti and then we saw the demonstrators outside their parliament. They do have a good point and they do not want to be Russian again.

Annette Perry

Christian Aid Book Sale

Many thanks to everyone who contributed books to the recent sale in Kinnoull Church. It was a hugely successful day, with over £3500 being raised in just six hours, twice the sum raised last year. Pictured below is a quiet moment during the sale.



The Christian Publishing Revival

The church of Saint Bartholomew the Great near Smithfield in London has stood in one form or another since 1123. Though the number of people identifying as Christian in London has declined in recent years, Saint Bart's has recently been drawing crowds of young people to its pews. So the Rev Marcus Walker tells me - and the youth are keeping him on his toes.

'I'm having to brush up on recent publications in theology', he says. 'People want to know things they didn't 15 years ago, like "Where can I read about Just War?" and "What's a good commentary on Galatians?"'

The thirst that Walker has observed about his congregation for books that explore Christian ideas seems to extend beyond Saint Bart's walls. Last year, in Britain, there was a 10.5% rise in the sales of books in the 'religion' category...Bible sales, in particular, are climbing to record highs - up 106% since 2019.

Such is the confidence in the Christian genre that Penguin Random House recently launched its first Christian imprint, Ebury Vine. It's led by commissioning editor Charisa Gunasekera, who says that the decision was driven by a team at Penguin who keep track of trends: 'They realised that people were becoming more interested in faith and religion.' In a tough climate for non-fiction, Ebury Vine has got off to a remarkable start: three of the four books published so far have charted in the *New York Times* bestsellers list.

Gunasekera believes sales are being driven by Gen Z readers, especially those 'who haven't been raised in religious environments, and are trying to find a deeper wisdom at a time that feels increasingly uncertain. They are looking for comfort and guidance and peace.'

For the Rev Fergus Butler-Gallie...the flowering of interest is most welcome. 'I'm having conversations with agents and editors and publishers that weren't happening 10 years ago.' There is, he believes, 'a shift in culture' underway: 'You now have secular publishers actively seeking to publish religious books.'

This is an extract from a recent article in the Daily Telegraph - 'We're not doing anything special, it's just that God's back' by Leaf Arbuthnot. It is reprinted by kind permission of The Telegraph.

Thank you!

A big thank-you to everyone who contributed to our coffee morning fundraiser for the primary school playground. It was a really lovely morning, and wonderful to see so many people from the cathedral and school community.

We were delighted to welcome members of the congregation, parents, grandparents and staff from the school, and there was such a warm atmosphere throughout. A huge thank-you as well to everyone who helped by baking and bringing along such an amazing selection of cakes and home baking - there was certainly plenty to enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee!

One of the highlights was having the Primary 5, 6 and 7 class with us, along with Mr Scougal and Mrs Philp. The children spoke about their ideas for the playground and the plans to make it a more inviting and enjoyable space, with planters and other additions for everyone to enjoy. They also sang a song for us, which was a real treat, before helping serve tea, coffee and cakes.

It was lovely to see the cathedral and school communities spending time together and supporting the children in such a practical way. Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised nearly £400 for the playground, which is a fantastic amount.

Thank you again to everyone who came along, baked, helped and supported the event – we really appreciate it, and it made for a very special morning.

Maihri Greenwood



And Thank You Again!

Many thanks on behalf of the congregation to the band of willing helpers who gave up their Saturday morning on 30 May to spring-clean the cathedral. Dusting, and polishing, washing and weeding, sweeping and strimming were some of the jobs attended to, both inside and in the garden and yard. Well done and thank you to everyone! And many thanks to Annabelle for the photo.



A (Temporary) Farewell to Maihri



Ordinand Dr Maihri Greenwood, or simply Maihri as she is widely known, will be on maternity leave by the time this magazine is published. She says she will still be around as a member of the congregation and cathedral family, but not writing articles for the magazine, or working in the office, or organising coffee mornings, or being chaplain to our primary school, or assisting with services etc etc etc. We send our love and prayers for a safe delivery and for the weeks of sleepless nights ahead!

Live Music Now Scotland

The cathedral has teamed up with Live Music Now Scotland to put on a series of concerts featuring some of Scotland's finest musicians. Starting in July we shall be hosting a series of nine monthly free music events. More information will be available shortly.

The chief executive of Live Music Now Scotland, Jude Anderson, is pictured here in the cathedral when she visited in May. The organisation was founded by Yehudi Menuhin in 1977 and extended to Scotland in 1984.



Congratulations!



Many congratulations to Beaton Lindsay, the butcher just over the road in North Methven Street, who recently won a national award for his sausages - National Champion (Beef Links) - at the biennial Scottish Craft Butchers Championships. We regard Beaton as one of our cathedral family and he very kindly reciprocates with free meat and sausage rolls for some of our large catering events. Do support him if you can!

Mrs Janet Currah

Those of us who remember Janet, a longtime member of our congregation who moved to the north of England a few years ago, will be sad to hear of her death in hospital in Carlisle on 5 May. We are told that she loved her time in Perth, was very fond of the cathedral and, perhaps even more so, of St Johnstone FC! She continued to receive and read *Cathedral News* until the very end, and apparently a copy was placed in her coffin along with her Saints scarf. A lady of great taste!

From the Farquhar Diaries

28 June 1926. It is settled that we are to leave Perth in the middle of November or thereabouts. The house is on our hands till the November term and N. has been to St Andrews, where she has been fortunate in securing good rooms at a moderate price. *[Farquhar here blames the actions of the trades unions for restricting the availability of houses to buy or rent]* So we are forced to 'take rooms'. Consequently we cannot take our own things with us and are confronted with the necessity of getting rid of them. What we are to do with our furniture is not yet clear but alas! Alas! It is clear that I shall have to part with my books, which represent the accumulation of my life and some belonged to my Father & some were School and College prizes. Besides the disappointment of it, there is the labour and trouble involved. I am cataloguing them for execution. Then I have to go over a great accumulation of papers destroying many and putting a few into the Cathedral Library. And another cognate and most interesting thing I have been doing is rewriting a good many of my old, longer poems...I also possess about 1200 MSS sermons. Without which I shall not be able to make any decent appearance in the Pulpit, being a 'painful preacher' and slow of thought and speech.

Retirement beckons our old friend, The Very Rev'd G T S Farquhar, from whose diary, edited and published by the late Margaret Lye, this extract is reprinted.

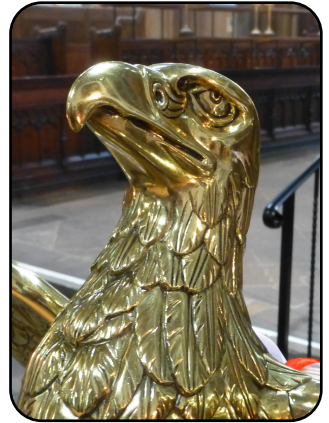
Introducing Bruin the Bear



A photo of Bruin the Bear who will shortly take up residence in the cathedral garden for the duration of the summer. Despite Eddie's - shall we say - 'misgivings' about his arrival, he is sure to be a popular addition to the cathedral team. Welcome!

Eddie the Eagle says...

A very warm welcome to two new members of the ministry team, The Reverend Scott and the Irrelevant Bruin, who both arrive to take up positions in the cathedral this month: Scott as a new deacon and Bruin as a highly polished bear in the cathedral garden. And despite what the Provost says on page 3, of course I'm not jealous. I've only been part of the magazine's editorial team for fifteen years or so, working my talons to the bone, and still haven't had an official mention on page 2, unlike that rotten bear outside who, if he dares show his ugly face inside, will be dealt with...



Times of Services etc

A warm welcome to everyone who comes to our services!

Sunday	Said Eucharist 9.30am; Sung Eucharist 11.00am Sunday Club 12.15-ish, after the end of 11.00 service in term time, for primary age children Choral Evensong 4.00pm on the third Sunday of the month
Tuesday	Morning Prayer 9.30; Rosary Group 1.00; Evening Prayer 5.30
Wednesday	Morning Prayer 9.30; Said Eucharist 11.00; Evening Prayer 5.30
Thursday	Morning Prayer 9.30, Evening Prayer 5.30 Toddler Church 10.30-12.00 in term time (for ages 0-5)
Friday	Morning Prayer 9.30 Said Eucharist 11.00am, with anointing and prayers for healing

And finally...

Please pass any contributions for the magazine to the editor, Jeremy Duncan, or email them to cathedralmagazine@gmail.com. The closing date for inclusion in the July - August magazine is **21 June**. Thank you!

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

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

The cathedral is served by a clergy and lay team:

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Diocesan Office, 28a Balhousie Street, Perth, PH1 5HJ
Tel: 01738 443173

Provost

The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes
provost.perth@gmail.com

Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Philip Francis
The Rev'd Ross Stirling-Young
The Rev'd Scott J Brown, CBE

Lay Reader

Lis Burke

Ordinand

Dr Maihri Greenwood

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