

Cathedral News

A photograph of a silver chalice resting on the edge of a dark, circular baptismal font. The chalice is highly reflective and features decorative bands. The font's surface is dark and polished, creating a clear reflection of the chalice. In the background, a wooden bench, a framed plaque, and a large wooden cross on the wall are visible, suggesting a church interior.

September 2026

Who's Who at the Cathedral...

...and who is the contact for what

Provost	The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes	07584 091870
Manager	Chris Ahern	manager@perthcathedral.co.uk
Cathedral Bear	Bruin	c/o The Cathedral Garden



From the Provost

Dear friends,

Returning from a recent trip south we stopped at Penrith and visited the castle where my predecessor, the Jacobite priest and martyr Robert Lyon, was held the night before his bloody execution. We will be commemorating him again this year on Saturday October 31 with a celebration of the 1637 Scottish Liturgy. I then visited Penrith parish church where I admired two impressive brass chandeliers. I

was told that they were given to the church by the Duke of Portland (*photo on following page*) in 1746, the year of Lyon's execution, in thanks for the town's hostility to the rampaging Jacobite Scots. History looks different from different places and perhaps Penrith was chosen for Robert Lyon's execution because of this local hostility? There is much hatred in our world today and we are called to be a place of love and healing.



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Here in Perth, in the recent heatwave, we have been planning a different type of chandelier, Herschel heaters which will warm people in the nave in the bleak midwinter. Heating to go along with the healing. Tremendous work has been done by our dedicated heating group to get the requisite permissions and apply for grants and we thank all of you who have donated towards this good cause; congregational donations are already well into six figures. Information on how to donate is in the section on this month's Cathedral Gift Day.



A portrait of the pro-Hanoverian 2nd Duke of Portland. Yet another in our occasional but hugely popular series of people you wouldn't normally expect to find in the magazine of a cathedral with strong Jacobite links - but we do believe in diversity!

Music is an important part of our life, in our worship and in concerts. Both can bring us close to God. This month we see the revival of a Taizé service at the cathedral on a Sunday afternoon. We also have started three very popular concert series. Our Gaelic concerts in partnership with Live Music Now Scotland continue on a Wednesday afternoon each month, and, thanks to Mavy Giust Williamson, we have again StNinians@Noon on Friday 11 September and the contemplative piano concert after Evensong on St Ninian's Day. StNinians@Noon is a mixture of classical piano music and the folk group Celtic Spirit. Last month we tried it as an experiment, expecting about 10 people and almost 60 came! It was a beautiful experience.

This month sees the retirement of Geoff Bolton after nine years as our director of music. Geoff has contributed much to our musical life and shared his passion for liturgy and his deep faith. We wish him well in his retirement and are sure his talents will continue to be used. Our congregation had a choir before it had a cathedral, thanks to the pioneering priest Fr John Chambers in the 1840s, and we look forward to new developments in cathedral music.

If music is important, sacraments are central to our life as a Christian community. Last month it was a privilege to give the last sacraments (Holy Communion, Confession and Anointing) to Stuart Cameron before he died. Not all families

recognise the importance of the sacraments and a Christian funeral for their loved ones, so it is important to make your wishes clear in your will and a very good idea to note down your funeral wishes regarding hymns, readings etc. I have a secure file of these in my office, some handed on by my predecessor, and would welcome more. There is pressure not only from non-Christian relatives but from funeral directors to follow secular humanist patterns for funerals, and I would encourage you to resist this. Our faith gives us hope in the face of death but we are also honest about the sadness and pain involved. A normal Christian funeral involves the reception of the body into the cathedral with prayers the night before, a funeral service with the Eucharist, and then committal at the grave or crematorium. Christians have traditionally resisted the pagan custom of cremation because of our teaching on the resurrection of the body, but it is now allowed in our Church. I led the funeral of my father earlier this year, which was a tough gig, but it was a real moment of grace both at the church and crematorium. May your experience of death in Christ be the same.

At the other end of Christian life we have the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. We look forward to four baptisms in the coming weeks, of Aiden and Ernest, and of our adult catechumens Albert and John Andrew. In November we will have the confirmation of Fraser, Kylie and other members of our congregation. Please pray for them and if you would like to join them in being baptised or confirmed, contact me. There is more about confirmation later in this magazine.

In between baptism and death, for some of us, comes ordination. This month sees another one of the seven Sacraments, ordination as the Rev'd Scott Brown is made a priest. It has been great having him here and we wish him well on his journey south to St John's, where he will assist Dean Graham. Fr Scott and Colin have had made, as a gift to the cathedral, a number of beautiful reproductions of our St Ninian icon for sale and these will be available by St Ninian's day.

Last month I became priest in charge of St Columba's, Stanley, as part of Bishop Ian's shedding of roles. Fr Ross our curate is the local priest in the village and has done wonders there both reviving the church and serving the local community. A curate can't have full responsibility for a congregation so my role will be to support him, as I'm already doing as his training incumbent, and to provide legal leadership. There is a long link between our two churches and I'm proud we can

support this great work of the Holy Spirit. Fr Ross is so competent I anticipate little work in this new role!

Finally do look at the new display, just inside the cathedral door, on our altar servers. They make a great contribution to our worship and currently have vacancies for new servers – speak to me or to Erica Knott. Our senior server, Barry Nisbet, was showing me the beautifully bound servers' books and we noticed that the Provost has the authority to appoint the Prior of the cathedral servers. Within a few seconds I had appointed Erica as Prior. She was our first female server and is doing wonders training the children who have joined our team. She is also doing great work looking after our buildings despite having a demanding job. Congratulations and thanks, Erica! She is one of many here whose selfless service allows St Ninian's Cathedral to do so much to serve God and our neighbour. God bless,



The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes, Provost

Collects and Readings for September

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 6 September

Collect: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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: Ezekiel 33.7-11; Psalm 119.33-40; Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 13 September

Collect: God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive

Readings: Genesis 50.15-21; Psalm 103 (1-7), 8-13; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who called your servant Ninian to preach the Gospel to the people of Northern Britain: raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your church may make known the immeasurable riches of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

St Michael and All Angels - 27 September

Collect: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Special Services at the Cathedral

at 4.00pm: Choral Evensong

at 5.00pm:	Music for Contemplation concert
Sun 27 Sept at 4.00pm:	Priestly ordination of Scott Brown
Wed 7 Oct, 2.00 - 2.45pm:	Gaelic concert
Sun 11 Oct at 4.00pm:	Taizé service
Sun 18 Oct at 4.00pm:	Choral Evensong for the Feast of St Luke
Sun 25 Oct at 11.00am:	Sung Eucharist with the baptism of Aiden Attidi Panagoda, and Ernest Cameron Greenwood, followed by a congregational meal
Sat 31 Oct at 12.00 noon:	Robert Lyon Mass
Sun 1 Nov:	All Saints.
at 11.00am	Sung Mass with Confirmations and Bishop Ian's farewell to the cathedral
at 3.00pm:	Choral Evensong and Diocesan farewell to Bishop Ian, and dedication of the icon and shrine to St William
Mon 2 Nov at 7.00pm:	All Souls, Requiem Mass
Wed 4 Nov, 2.00 - 2.45pm:	Gaelic concert
Sun 8 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
at 10.50am:	Sung Eucharist
at 4.00pm:	Taizé service

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 there is the opportunity to sponsor the flame for a month in memory of your loved ones – their names are kept on a sheet outside the Provost's Study. We now have some vacancies for the next year: December 2026; February; March; April; June; July;

August; September; October 2027

If you would like the flame to burn in memory of your loved ones (one or two names only, please), contact Provost Stephen on provost.perth@gmail.com . The money can be given to Chris our treasurer or paid by bank transfer to: 'St Ninian's Cathedral' 82-67-09, 20510733 with the subject: 'CANDLE your surname' In September the flame will burn in memory of **Fred Wilkie** and **May Honeyman**.

From the Registers

Albert Watt, admission to the catechumenate, Sunday 16 August

Joy and Peter Wright, renewal of marriage vows, Wednesday 8 July

Alodie Orr, funeral at Parkgrove Crematorium, Requiem Eucharistat St Ninian's Cathedral, 22 August

Stuart Eugene Cameron, funeral at Perth Crematorium, 25 August

What's Been Going On?

Farewell to Laszlo and Dominic...

On 19 July we said a fond farewell to Laszlo and his young son Dominic who have now moved up to Aberdeen. Laszlo, a chef at Gleneagles, treated us many times to his delicious cooking and indeed the editor remembers his bacon scones, accompanying a post-service coffee, with a tear in his eye. This time, as a final flourish, he treated the congregation to a wonderful goulash, a speciality of his native Hungary (*photo on following page*). We wish him and Dominic (*pictured right*) well in their new abode and envy whichever congregation is lucky enough to have them!





...And Welcome to Molly!

A warm welcome to the cathedral's newest member, Molly Shilliday, who was baptised by Father Ross on 26 July. Her parents, Rachel Bernard and Scott Shilliday, were married in the cathedral in 2016. Rachel is the daughter of Raymond and Carol, sister of Sarah (until recently the head at St Ninian's Primary)



and grand-daughter of the late Lena, a cathedral stalwart still fondly remembered. The editor was in awe of her knowledge of American rock music, displayed to great effect at a Christian Aid quiz a number of years ago!

Cathedral Volunteers

Many thanks to Emma and Bosandi for the work they have put in over several weeks this summer, particularly helping out with jobs that have long needed doing, such as sorting out cupboards in the Chapter House. They are pictured here, Emma on the left. They both achieved very good Higher grades and so far are on course to study medicine and engineering respectively.



The girls are working towards their Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award, which was established by the Roman Catholic bishops of Scotland in 2011. It encourages young people in their final year of schooling to engage in community service, personal reflection and spiritual witness.

Emma writes: Hi, I'm Emma. I'm delighted to have been a part of this wonderful team. Volunteering here has helped me build my confidence in communication through meeting new people. Exploring and learning the history of this cathedral has been an eye-opening experience. I would recommend other young teenagers out there to step out of their comfort zone and volunteer!

Bosandi writes: Hi, I'm Bosandi. Volunteering here has been such a beautiful and rewarding experience. I'm so grateful for the lovely people we met and the memories we made. I would encourage other students/young adults to also spend their volunteering hours here, at this wonderful cathedral!

Thank you, ladies, for the time you have given us and for your generous comments. Do comeback and see us and let us know how you're getting on!

Taizé at Perth Cathedral

Rediscovering the Gift

I am delighted that, beginning this September (Sunday 6th at 4.00pm), our cathedral will once again offer a monthly Taizé service. This is something that has long been close to my heart, and I look forward to sharing this beautiful and peaceful form of worship with our cathedral community.



In a world that often feels busy, noisy and demanding, Taizé offers us something different. It is meditative worship, a call to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Through simple, repeated chants, moments of prayerful silence, and short Scripture readings, we are invited to encounter God in a profound yet gentle way. The service takes place in the soft glow of candlelight, creating a space where we can simply be still before God and listen for his voice.

You do not need to know the chants or have experienced Taizé worship before. There are no expectations and no pressure - simply come as you are. Whether you are seeking peace, prayer, reflection, or a quiet place to rest in God's presence, you will be warmly welcomed.

Our intention is to hold the Taizé service on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in September. There may occasionally be slight variations to the schedule due to annual leave or other cathedral commitments, but dates will always be advertised well in advance so that everyone can plan accordingly.

I very much hope you will come and support this new venture. Whether you attend regularly or simply wish to experience something different, I believe you will find Taizé to be a deeply prayerful and enriching part of our shared life at Perth Cathedral. I look forward to welcoming you.

Fr Ross

St Ninian's Gift Day, 20 September

On our patronal feast this year there is a lot going on and Vestry has agreed that we revive our old custom of having St Ninian's Day as our annual Cathedral Gift Day. It is a day when we invite members of the congregation and friends to make a financial gift to the cathedral or reflect on their regular giving. Some of you have already given generously this year in your donations to the heating fund.

Last year, in broad terms, cathedral expenditure was about £197,000 while income was about £164,000 - a deficit of about £33,000. Income was roughly £55,500 from donations (£10,000 more than 2024), £9,000 from gift aid, £10,000 from grants, £13,000 from investment income, £41,000 from rental income, and £35,500 unrealised gains on investments. This year, income has increased significantly and the indications are that our deficit will be much smaller. We can pay our way in ordinary expenditure, but each year we are faced with unexpected large bills. This year it has included £10,000 to replace the fire alarm system and even more going on organ repairs; we also need to budget large amounts to keep our beautiful buildings in repair.

Our finances are the responsibility of all of us and we depend on all those of us who are giving generously (we only get £3,000 from the diocese and nothing from the state or Scottish Episcopal Church). This is why your giving is so important. The best thing to do is to set up a monthly standing order and, if you are a taxpayer, fill out a gift aid form which enables us to reclaim tax. An annual extra gift, as some of you have already done for our heating, also really makes a difference. For bank transfers our bank account is 'St Ninian's Cathedral' 82-67-09 20510733 - please clearly mark your payment with your name. If you would like to discuss the best way to donate, speak to our treasurer, Chris Ahern, at St Ninian's Cathedral or via treasurer@perthcathedral.co.uk. We have a generous congregation, thank you!

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9.7

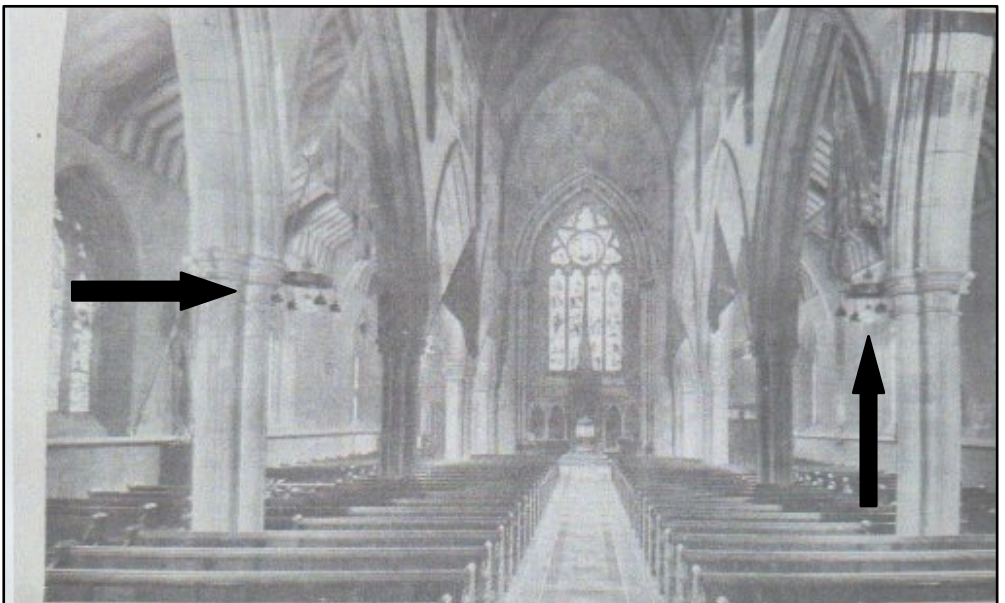
Stephen Holmes, Provost and Chris Ahern, Treasurer

Cathedral Heating

As you know the Vestry's heating group has been hard at work to find a way of heating the cathedral that is more effective, more affordable and greener than our current gas-fired system. The plan, recently outlined in the Provost's letter, is to install four new Herschel Halo infrared heaters in the nave (pictured right). These are both efficient and quite attractive... and remarkably similar in style to the 1920s gasoliers in the photo below! This system of heating the people



rather than trying to warm vast amounts of cold air is tried and tested and working well in other draughty church buildings. It can be seen in use in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's, Edinburgh and in St Andrew's church, St Andrews. Permission for the project has been requested from the diocesan buildings committee and we hope to hear confirmation very soon. To generate electricity to power this new system, as well as our other electrical needs, a solar array is



proposed for part of the south-facing roof overlooking the yard. Discussions have already been held with PKC Planning Department and encouraging feedback received. We have made a start with the fundraising for both these projects and various grants are being applied for, but we do have quite a way to go. All help most gratefully received and many thanks to those who have already donated!

Confirmation

Bishop Ian is making his last visit to the cathedral on Sunday 1 November, the Feast of All Saints. At the 11.00 Sung Eucharist he will be administering the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This is for those who have been baptised but not confirmed, and it confers a strengthening from the Holy Spirit. If you were baptised as a child it can be an opportunity to make a public commitment to Christ, and if you have come to the cathedral from a church which does not have bishops or confirmation, or from a period away from Christianity, it can be a way of re-affirming your faith before your new church family.

Preparation for confirmation involves some study of the Christian faith. We already have some candidates and if you are interested in joining them, please contact me.

Provost Stephen

Cathedral Garden

David Martin-Smith from our choir generously looks after our beautiful cathedral gardens. He is often in on a Thursday afternoon and if you would like to join him or do some work in the gardens at another time, do get in touch with him. It is good for the soul.

Provost Stephen

Cover Illustration

A lovely photo by Lis, showing the East Window reflected in the still water of the font. Lis has also provided many of the other photos which appear in this month's magazine, for which we thank her!

GAELIC CONCERTS

Summer / Autumn 2026

- Wed 1st July Grace Morton, singer-songwriter
Wed 5th Aug Mairi McGillivray & Katie Allen
Wed 2nd Sep Kaitlin Ross & Catriona Hawksworth
Wed 7th Oct Isla Ratcliff & Evie Waddell
Wed 4th Nov Kristina Leesik & Séamus Ó Baoighill

All at 2.00pm – 2.45pm. Doors open 1.45pm.



Grace Morton



Mairi McGillivray & Katie Allen



Kaitlin Ross & Catriona Hawksworth



Isla Ratcliff & Evie Waddell



Kristina Leesik & Séamus Ó Baoighill

Enjoy a relaxed and informal performance from outstanding emerging musicians. The event includes refreshments and a chance to meet the artists. Free of charge, donations welcome.

**The Chapterhouse, St Ninian's Cathedral
Perth, PH1 5PP**

Funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig | Taic Freumhan
Coimhearsnachd



Music at the Cathedral

Noon at St Ninian's

The first in this new series of lunchtime concerts was given by pianist Mavy Giust Williamson who was joined by violinist Ola Standton and the folk music trio Celtic Spirit, comprising Steve Saunders and Stuart Williamson on guitar and mandolin, or maybe vice-versa (!), and Ola on the fiddle. It took place on 31 July in front of a large and appreciative audience.

Mavy's performance included the well-known slow movement from Beethoven's *Pathétique* sonata and two Chopin Nocturnes beautifully played and with a *tempo rubato* of which Chopin would have thoroughly approved. She was then joined by Ola for two gorgeous piano/violin duets, *Spiegel im Spiegel* by Arvo Part, and the well-known *Meditation* by Massenet.

The final part was a change in mood, if not in pace, with some beautifully flowing Celtic tunes. Many congratulations to all performers and our grateful thanks to them for allowing all proceeds to go directly to the cathedral. The high turn-out suggests that the format for Noon at St Ninian's is a good one: a midday start (in between morning coffee and lunch), a popular programme, and entry by donation is perhaps exactly what is required.

Music for Contemplation

Mavy returned to play a short concert of contemplative music, following Choral Evensong on 16 August. Her programme included several well-known classics, including the first movement of Beethoven's *Moonlight* sonata and Satie's *Gymnopédie*, some Celtic-inspired pieces and recently composed items in a classical style. It was a lovely concert with, again, all donations going to the cathedral, but unfortunately numbers were significantly fewer. Mavy will return in September for more of these highly recommended musical treats.

Gaelic Concerts

Unfortunately the editor missed the first of these concerts but, judging by the number of people streaming out of the Chapter House on 5 August, and by the comments, this promises to be a successful venture.

Thank you!



It was announced recently that Geoff Bolton, our organist and director of music, is retiring at the end of September. We thank him for his nine years of dedicated service and wish him well for the years ahead. We shall miss his gentle manner, his deep knowledge of liturgy and the organ repertoire - and not to mention his skill at the console!

And thank you too from the editorial team at *Cathedral News* to our former paparazzo-in-residence Christopher Dingwall who, after many years of service, has very quietly laid down his camera. Christopher was a dedicated photographic chronicler of cathedral life, regularly sending in photos of events, services, birthday celebrations etc - you name it, Christopher and his camera were never far away!

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Erica Knott who, as the Provost has mentioned, has been appointed Prior of the cathedral's servers. Erica has given many years of her life to St Ninian's, including being a server since childhood. It was she who resurrected the servers following the Covid shutdown and has succeeded in encouraging some of our younger members to take up this rewarding part of church life. Her new appointment is very well deserved and we wish her well in her new role. Her dog, Fala, is shown right with a congratulatory glass at the ready!



Did Anyone Notice?

One of the more noticeable bears around the city this summer stood outside the Council offices at the foot of the High St. It was rather nice to see the cathedral prominently featured on it, at the bear's shoulder rather than, as one might have expected in a Presbyterian country, somewhat nearer the bear's rear end!

New Display

Former Prior, Barry Nisbet, with the assistance of new Prior, Erica Knott, have put together a superb display (*pictured below*) showcasing the work of the cathedral servers over many decades. It shines a spotlight on a fascinating aspect of cathedral life which aspires to be as unobtrusive in its work, and therefore as unnoticed, as possible. It's in the display cabinet on the left as you leave the cathedral. Don't miss it!



Our Pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral

With the imminent retirement of Bishop Ian and his parting donation of an icon, St. William of Perth is enjoying a higher profile in our cathedral. While on holiday in Canterbury recently, as recipients of the St William Award, we were invited to make a pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral.

For those unfamiliar with his story St William was a devout baker from Perth who donated every tenth loaf to the poor. He found a baby on a church doorstep, adopted him and taught him the trade. In 1201 they set out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land but, while in Rochester, William was murdered, allegedly by his adopted son. His body was found by a woman of unsound mind who plaited a

wreath of honeysuckle and put it on his head and then on her own. She was immediately restored to health. William's body was taken for burial to Rochester Cathedral where people began to visit his shrine for healing in growing numbers. St William is the patron saint of adopted children.

Throughout our visit we were overwhelmed by the warm reception we received from everyone we encountered and we had VIP treatment. Mother Susie welcomed us and later mentioned Perth Cathedral during the lunchtime prayers. Canon Kenneth Clark (*pictured below with John and Maureen at the spot where St William is buried*) took us to the staircase leading to the shrine, where the stone steps are now covered in wood as they had been worn down by pilgrims ascending on their knees (we opted to use our feet!) This led up to the shrine marked by a banner. St William is buried beneath the floor at this spot. Canon



A stained glass window at Rochester Cathedral, depicting St William with his cockle shell, the traditional symbol of a pilgrim



Kenneth showed us the new icon of St William which is soon being installed at the shrine (*opposite page, top*) - the depiction of William's Perth church looks remarkably like St John's Kirk! After praying with us at the shrine the Canon gave us the great honour of being first to sign a new Register of Pilgrims.

He then handed us over to Myra Amor who gave around two hours of her time to guide



us through the whole building. She was truly inspirational, a fount of knowledge about every aspect of the cathedral, whose enthusiasm, learning and remarkable memory impressed us immensely. Highlights of our tour included the modern triptych (*pictured below left showing St William dressed as a pilgrim beside a large dog*), another Scottish connection in the

statue of St. Andrew to whom the cathedral was originally dedicated, the magnificent choir, the Gundulf door (*pictured right*) from around 1080, one of the oldest in the country, the highly decorated Chapter Library doorway, the 13th century wheel of fortune fresco, and the Textus Roffensis, a priceless book containing the earliest



collection of English laws in the vernacular.

Our visit to Rochester Cathedral will stay with us forever and we hope that Perth Cathedral's bond with Rochester will thrive and grow.

John and Maureen Wright



Doors Open Day 2026

Once again this annual festival of who we are, what we do and what we have is coming into view. John and Maureen are again the organisers. The event takes place on Saturday 19 September, 10.00 - 4.00pm, and Sunday 20th, 10.00 - 5.45pm. The Sunday events include a talk by Provost Stephen on 'St Ninian's Cathedral in Fifteen Objects' at 3.00pm, Choral Evensong at 4.00pm and a piano recital, Music for Contemplation, at 5.00pm.

If you are interested in helping at any time over the two days - and it's always a fun event - please speak to John Wright.

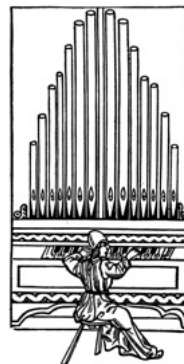
St. Andrews Organ Week 2026

Sunday 26 July. My good friend Anne-Marie drove me through to St. Andrews for the beginning of the organ course. This year we stayed in Whitehorn Hall just round from University Hall in Kennedy Gardens, where we had our breakfast. Welcomes and introductions were at the Laidlaw Music Centre in the McPherson Recital Room at 3.00pm. The first lecture, presented by Bine Bryndorf and Henry Fairs, was on Carl Nielsen's organ masterpiece, *Commotio*. The next lecture was given by Camille Bloche who spoke about the challenges (and opportunities) of recruiting organists in Sweden. Dinner throughout the course was at St. Regulus Hall and the food was good.

Monday 27 July. My first organ lesson was with Andrew Forbes in St. Andrews Episcopal Church. I played Bach, Buxtehude and a piece by a Swedish composer. Andrew is the assistant course director and comes from Perth. He is director of music at Glasgow Cathedral. I attended an afternoon lecture by Simon Harden at the Music Centre. This was about Heinrich Scheidemann and the Hamburg Magnificat tradition. The first concert was in the evening in the McPherson Recital Room with Andrew Forbes playing the organs and Kirsty Main the violin.

Tuesday 28 July. My organ lesson today was with Chris Bragg at All Saints Episcopal Church. Chris is the artistic director of the organ course. He teaches meticulously, taking great care with every detail. There were drop-in workshops and practice slots every day. The afternoon lecture was by Nabil Hanna and was about the organ works of Rued Langgaard. This year's course, with the theme

Northern Breezes, had a decided Scandinavian slant. The evening concert was at St. Salvador's Episcopal Church in Dundee with Camille Bloche and Bine Bryndorf.



Wednesday 29 July. Steven McIntyre was the tutor for my organ lesson today at All Saints Episcopal Church. He is a gifted young man in many ways. We were at the organ course together many years ago as music students. He was previously cathedral organist at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow and is now director of music at Dunblane Cathedral. The lecture today was a panel discussion of the registration paradox in the free organ works of 17th century Northern Germany. Chris Bragg was in the chair with Bine Bryndorf and Simon Harden contributing. I spoke about the differences between smaller and larger organs, concerning registration, manuals and the pedal board. The third concert was at St. Salvator's Chapel and was given by Henry Fairs and Nabil Hanna. Henry played *Commotio* by Carl Nielsen (1865-1931) and other pieces. Nabil played music by Rued Langgaard (1893-1952). Henry Fairs is professor of organ at the Universität der Künste Berlin. He has been an honorary professor of organ at the University of St. Andrews since 2014.

Thursday 30 July. Camille Bloche was my teacher today at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Each daily lesson lasted an hour. Camille studied at the Sorbonne University in Paris, and in Copenhagen and Gothenburg. The concert tonight was at Dunblane Cathedral with Steven McIntyre and Simon Harden.

Friday 31 July. This morning we had a group lesson/masterclass with seven participants, and Henry Fairs and Nabil Hanna teaching. We each played a piece and I chose Bach. My friend Rhona had really improved. I said that later to her and she was really pleased. Nabil was born and raised in the Galilee in northern Israel. He is studying in Copenhagen. In 2022, he was awarded the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. There was a final sharing session at the Music Centre, followed by thanks and goodbyes. Chris Bragg thanked everybody, and as usual I thanked him. Anne-Marie picked me up and we set off back to Perth. Many thanks to her. I look forward to next year's organ course, God willing.

Emmanuel Patterson

Final Snippets

Christian Aid Quiz

The annual Christian Aid quiz takes place on Friday 4 September at 7.00pm in Letham St Mark's church hall. Teams of up to four people are invited to enter, or just turn up by yourself and make a team with someone you didn't know before. The entry fee is £8 per person, payable on the night, and this includes refreshments which, judging by previous years, will be superb. There will also be the opportunity to buy plants and produce.

For further information contact Perth Christian Aid Group, c/o Gill Kaye on 07801818535 or by email at gill_kaye@hotmail.com.



Cross Repair



Thanks to our excellent page on Facebook, the editor has learned that the Comper cross which precedes the clergy and servers at the start of the service has been repaired. The editor didn't know it was either made or designed by Comper - presumably Sir Ninian - and wasn't aware it needed repairing. So if you really want to keep up to date with what's going on in St Ninian's don't bother with the magazine, check out Facebook! Search under Perth Cathedral - St Ninian's. There are plenty of photos of cathedral life on it, including this one of server Ian holding the cross aloft, with acolytes Avinu and Atira, on either side. Many thanks to the Men of Leith's Men's Shed for carrying out the repair.

Piano Recital

There will be a piano recital by local musician Ástmar Olafsson on 12 September at 4.00pm in St John's Kirk. The programme will include works by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Satie. Entry is by donation and all proceeds will go to Help Musicians which is a leading charity supporting professional musicians at difficult times. When he was director of music at Craigclowan School Ástmar helped to train our young cathedral choristers. He himself is Icelandic and first came to the UK to study piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Alodie's Farewell

A Requiem Eucharist was held in the cathedral on Saturday 22 August to celebrate the life of Alodie Orr. Alodie was a dear and loyal friend of the cathedral and an occasional contributor to *Cathedral News* who had battled illness for a number of years. She was in her early forties. A large number of friends turned up to say farewell including, it seemed, half the population of Newburgh where she had made her home. Amongst the tributes to her was a beautifully written one by her aunt which was read by her mother Mary Ann. She mentioned Alodie's perhaps carefree spelling style which led her to rely on her computer's spellchecker - with the occasional unfortunate results. On one such occasion she sent someone a recipe for what she thought was baked aubergines which was received as baked aborigines - which might have been acceptable in the worst days of the British Empire, but not now! She was a lovely lady who is sadly missed by her grieving family, as well as by the cathedral family and in the Newburgh community. The photo below shows some of those attending the post-service reception in the Chapter House.



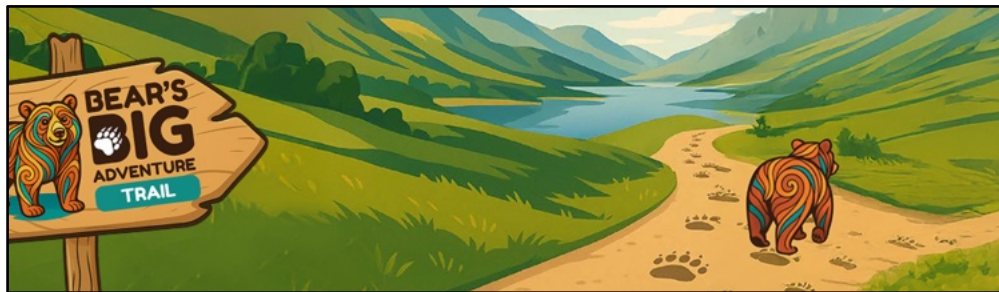
From the Farquhar Diaries

20 September 1926. When Mr Speir of Culdees died the Bp was asked to choose one of his pictures for the Cathedral. The Bp sent the Provost and he, in my opinion, made a very great mistake. He selected a large oil-painting of the 'Assumption of the B.V. Mary'. He maintains that he thought it was the figure of an Angel! Ever since it has been 'stored' in the Bp's Vestry in the Cathedral. Once or twice the Provost has suggested hanging it up in the Nave but my expostulations have hitherto prevailed. Judge of my horror, therefore, when I beheld it suspended in the Nave. I immediately protested vigorously vivā voce to the Provost and by letter to the Bishop. I cannot understand how the Bp could have given his provisional consent to what to me is an outrage. However, the picture had vanished a few hours after my protest.

This extract from the Diary of the The Very Rev'd G T S Farquhar, edited and published by the late Margaret Lye, concerns the large painting which now hangs over the door between the cathedral and cloisters. Farquhar, as seen in this extract, did not approve of Anglo-Catholicism in the SEC and the public display of this painting was for him a step too far. One wonders how quickly the picture reappeared after Farquhar's retiral...

Farewell to Bruin

Bruin the Bear, who has been a feature of the cathedral garden over the summer months, is off on his travels. He'll be leaving us in September and auctioned, together with all the other 60-plus bears around the city and county, at a big charity event at Scone Palace on 17 September. Bids between £1500 and £5000 are expected, all proceeds going to YMCA Tayside. The bears have caused a lot of interest among visitors and locals alike and will be missed.



Eddie the Eagle says...

I'm distraught. I've just had a great summer with my new best pal Bruin the Bear, sitting outside in the cathedral garden in the sun and enjoying the occasional cocktail (obviously when no one's around). And now I hear he's going to be sold and we won't see him around the cathedral anymore. I thought slavery had been abolished 200 years ago, but no, it seemingly still goes on in Perth. If anyone has a spare £5000 to save Bruin please let me know.



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 October magazine is **20 September**. 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:

Bishop

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

Provost

The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes

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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