



Holy Trinity



Kilmaveonaig

St Andrew's



All Saints'



The Newsletter of Highland Perthshire Linked Charge

**HOLY TRINITY, Pitlochry
KILMAVEONAIG, Blair Atholl
ST ANDREW'S, Strathtay
& ALL SAINTS', Kinloch Rannoch
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCHES**

**Rector - The Reverend Canon Liz Baker
01796 472005**

October & November 2021



Rector's Reflection – And Winter Came

It is getting dark much earlier now and we are gazing towards the year's end. It is time to reflect on the days that have past and time to pause to try to catch a glimpse of the future.

But first we come to a time of remembering; remembering what has gone and what and who we have lost, for as October looms over the horizon, and November follows swiftly after, we enter a time in the Churches' calendar of remembering. At All Hallows, All Saints and All Souls we remember lives and seasons now gone and on 11 November we remember the fallen in the conflicts that so beset our world.

Here in the Highland Perthshire Linked Charge we have been very lucky; we have not lost many people during the past 18 months of pandemic and isolation, but we have lost so much. Time, to be with each other, moments of celebration and joy, that have had to be curtailed, music and fellowship that before, perhaps, we took for granted. But we have much to be thankful for; so much beauty around us, the ability to communicate via the internet and telephone and, for the last few months, by being able to meet in our churches and worship God together.

We now face the winter and we do not know what the next few months will bring, what we do know is that we are not alone; in all our concerns, anxieties, hopes and dreams we have the one who will never fail us, Jesus Christ Our Lord, who promised to be with us unto the ends of the earth and his promise will never fail.

With every blessing

Liz
September 2021



Harvest Festivals

This year because of Covid we will be celebrating Harvest in individual Churches

October 3 at Holy Trinity 9.30am, Kilmaveonaig 11.15am and at All Saints at 3.00pm.

October 10 at St Andrews 11.15am.

The Serenity Garden and Eco Divina

I am sure you have noticed how much has happened in the Serenity Garden recently, from Riversong, to our Climate Sunday Evening Prayer and on 18 September a performance of 'Requiem' (photos on page 4). But the garden is there to be used at anytime and by anyone, to sit, to walk, to think, to play, to pray, so I wonder if you have thought about praying with nature or Eco Divina.

Eco Divina is praying with nature. It is a creative way of connecting with God especially when we are in a beautiful landscape - along the sea, in a park, or in the woods. Often our prayer becomes dry because we do not connect to God in creative ways.

Eco Divina is another way of practicing awareness of God's presence or seeing God in all things. If in Lectio Divina we pay attention to words and phrases that stand out as we read a scripture passage, in Eco Divina we heighten our senses to take in nature and meet God.

1. Sense of sight. We observe every flickering of the leaves, the ripples and waves, the grandeur of mountains. We savour God's enormity, capacity, and generosity.
2. Sense of hearing. We hear the birds chirping, the wind whistling, the sounds of life in our midst.
3. Sense of smell. We notice the odours around us like the smell of the earth, the smell of a flower, the smell of freshly cut grass.
4. Sense of touch. When you are awake you feel the water as you dip into the sea or river. Feel the freshness and softness. Allow this sensation to refresh your tired body. Immerse in the water and allow it to take your weight.
5. Sense of taste. This sense generally has to do with food. Allow your palate to speak to you. Some say that certain food can give you ecstasy as you savour the different flavours. This can be a form of soul care.

The practice of Eco Divina as a creative way of praying involves two essential disciplines: openness and capacity to be with nature. All our senses are awakened to an openness that we are able to receive God. Please pass onto any friends or family.

I have a short leaflet if anyone would like a copy with some scripture and readings to help you pray with nature. Please contact Liz on bethmaybaker@yahoo.co.uk

Requiem

On 18 September we were privileged to host a performance of Requiem at Holy Trinity in the Churchyard and Serenity Garden, by Jo Clifford and Lesley Orr this was a moving ceremony to mourn and celebrate the lives of those lost during the pandemic, it expressed all the feelings of fear, sorrow anguish and anger that we have all had to deal with as Covid raged.



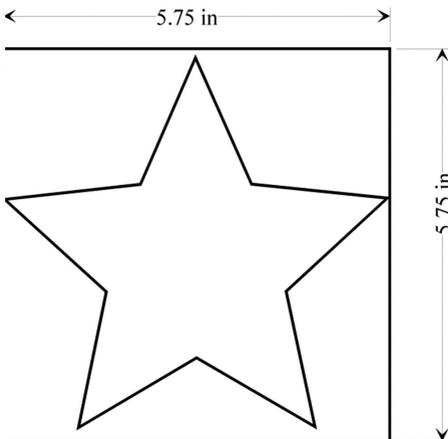
Celebrating All Souls Night

Paint the Sky with Stars



*“Place a name upon the night
One to set your heart alight
One to make the darkness bright
Paint the sky with stars”*

Again, this year for the Feast of All Souls Tuesday 2nd November we plan to hold a service not only to remember those who have left this world behind but also all the people, events, and things we have lost during lockdown. Using the template you can cut out a star/or trace the outline and write the name of a beloved member of your family or name a precious moment you have been separated from by the pandemic on the back. You might like to colour your star.



Please cut out your star or stars and write the name/memory you want remembered and either return to your local church or send to the Rector: 3 Knockard Place, Pitlochry PH16 5JF

(Star template attached to email and included with newsletters)

Holy Trinity – eco-congregation update

A few of us in Holy Trinity have been getting together to talk about the church's climate change commitment and what we can do to support the agenda. We've come up with lots of thoughts and ideas, which we're now trying to sort through and pin down a bit, but we've managed to progress a couple of things:

- We've made a link with Handam & arranged for them to supply us with cleaning materials – we're also talking about other ways we can work together, which feels quite exciting
- We've applied to Zero Waste Scotland for an energy audit to help us think about what we might do to make the church building more eco-friendly. We're particularly keen to think about heating & insulation – with draughty windows a priority!

We'd love to talk about this with folks across the charge - if there's anyone interested at St Andrews or Kilmaveonaig we thought we could organise an evening in late October or November for conversation & refreshments – if anyone's interested, contact Val or Agnes on 01796 549235 – or speak to Lesley or Lavinia.

In the meantime, we'll keep an update going in the newsletter, accompanied with a couple of **ECOTIPS** each month.

ECOTIPS

- Recycling soft plastics: You can now recycle clean, soft 'scrunchable' plastics at Pitlochry Co-op. What is scrunchable? Scrunch it up tight - if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic. The instore collection point is near the front doors and they will accept soft plastics from any brand or retailer and includes:

Plastic carrier bags

Lids from ready meals

Yoghurt pots

Chocolate, cake and biscuit wrappers,

Fruit and vegetable clear wrappers

Toilet roll wrappers

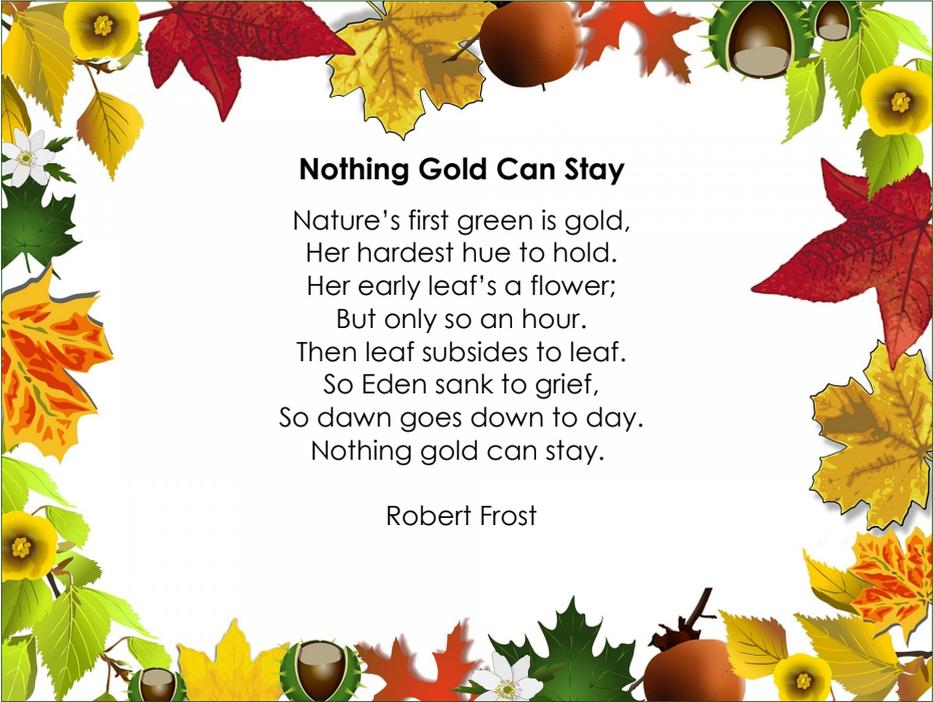
Wine box inners.



For the full list please check:

<https://www.coop.co.uk/environment/soft-plastics/packaging-list>

- Try switching from single use wipes to reusable cloth wipes that you can use again & again. For example, you could try [Home - Little Gubbins Store](#) for baby wipes, or [Plastic Free, Ethical & Sustainable Shopping from &Keep \(andkeep.com\)](#) for make-up pads. Or you could go for a plain old-fashioned flannel.....!



Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

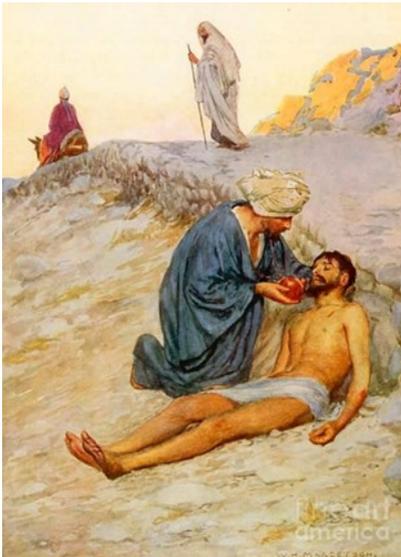
Robert Frost



Photo: Loch Faskally 2020
Seonaid Hastie Smith

A reflection on the Good Samaritan by Hill Carmichael

I encountered this which speaks to us of the way that fear, for ourselves and our families, affects our behaviour, an important thought as we face a future where none of us knows what happens next.



He Writes:

“This is not a story about being nice. This is a story about the transformation of the world.” My Professor went on to explain that Jesus is responding to a question by sharing that there are three types of people along the road between Jerusalem and Jericho.

The first type are the robbers, whose ethic suggests that “what is yours is mine at whatever cost”. And the robbers will take whatever they need through violence, coercion and whatever means necessary. These are the people who will leave us physically,

mentally and emotionally beaten and bruised along life's road with nothing left but our shallow breath.

The second type of person to walk along the dangerous road between Jerusalem and Jericho is represented by the priest and the Levite, whose ethic suggests that “what is mine is mine and I must protect it even if it means you get hurt in the process”. They aren't bad people. Both the priest and the Levite are deeply respected in their communities. They very likely follow all the societal rules and norms.

They sit on local boards. They pay their taxes on time and likely coach their son's or daughter's teams. They also show a great deal of love to those within their immediate communities, but because of what crossing the road to help might cost them, they put their head down and go about their business. So, without even recognizing it, they do more harm than good. Their focus is inward toward their needs and the needs of those who are most like them. It's an ethic that leads the good and decent priest and Levite toward a life of valuing their reputations instead of relationships. And it often results with them choosing their own individual rights over the health and well-being of their neighbours. Unfortunately, this is the category where I fall most often

throughout my life. And if we're all being honest, I'd say it's the category that most of us fall into more than we care to admit.

Then there is the Samaritan, whose ethic is love. And along one of the most dangerous roads in all of history seems to live by a code that says "what is mine is yours...if you have need of it".

My safety is yours...if you have need of it.
My security is yours...if you have need of it.
My resources are yours...if you have need of them.
My health is tied to your health.
My well-being is tied to your well-being.

Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. preached on this text often and once said that the real difference between the priest and the Levite from the Samaritan is the question that each must have asked. The priest and the Levite likely asked, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?". The Samaritan likely asked a very different question - "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Fear has a way of making us all behave badly. It was true for the priest and the Levite, and it is still true for us today. When fear is the ethic of our lives, we tend to cling to our own safety and our own individual rights. When fear is the ethic of our lives, we retreat, mind our own business and rarely cross to the other side of the road to help. And when fear is the ethic of our lives, we end up placing our hope in mottos like "We Dare Defend Our Rights" or "Don't Tread On Me" as opposed to Jesus' greatest commandment to "Love God and Love Your Neighbour".

It doesn't take looking out the window for very long to know that we are all on a road somewhere between Jerusalem and Jericho right now. It's dangerous out there. The heart-break and exhaustion are real. It's not just the virus. It's everything. It's layers and layers of being beaten and bruised along a dry, hard road these past 18 months.

So, we have some choices to make. We can choose to make our decisions with an ethic of fear. And for a time, choices based on fear have a way of making us feel safe, but that is fleeting at best.

The other choice is to cross the road to help our neighbour. When we cross to the other side, we'll get a glimpse of something Jesus talked an awful lot about. We'll see what transformation looks like. We'll finally understand who we are called to be. And best of all, we'll finally encounter the Kingdom we've been longing for.

Highland Perthshire Linked Charge

Holy Trinity Church is a Registered Scottish Charity No SC007020
Kilmaveonaig is a Registered Scottish Charity No SC005481
St Andrew's is a Registered Scottish Charity No SC017058
All Saints' is a Registered Scottish Charity No SC003117

Contacts



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Holy Trinity Vestry

The Rector

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Alison Crocker-Tough *Book Keeper & Investments* 01887 840267

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Gina Charleson *Rector's Warden* 01796 473025

Ann Covell *People's Warden* 01796 470129

Vacant *Fabric Officer*

Paul Covell 01796 470129

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01796 549235

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Kilmaveonaig Committee

The Rector

Lavinia Gordon *Secretary* 01796 481230

Andrew Gordon *Treasurer* 01796 481230

Libby MacRae *Lay Representative* 01796 481443

St Andrew's Vestry

The Rector

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Alistair Barclay		01887 840380
Roger Pope		

All Saints' Vestry

The trusteeship of All Saints, under OSCR rules, is in the process of being transferred to Holy Trinity.

HPLC Website:

www.hplc.scot

Facebook:

Highland Perthshire Linked Charge

The Rector's Blog:

<http://lizbakers.blogspot.co.uk>

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**Copy for the next issue for the December & January issue to the Editor by
midday on Monday 22 November 2021**

In addition to notices, relevant and interesting articles are welcome.

Scottish Episcopal Church

HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE LINKED CHARGE SERVICES

Holy Trinity, Perth Road, Pitlochry
Contact – Robin Baker 01796 472005

Kilmaveonaig (St Adamnan's) Blair Atholl
Contact - Mrs. Lavinia Gordon 01796 481230

St Andrew's, Strathtay
Contact - Ms. Lesley Whitwood 01887 840416

All Saints, Kinloch Rannoch Square
Contact – Robin Baker 01796 472005

Service Times:

Holy Trinity 9.30am
St Andrews 11.15am
Kilmaveonaig 11.15am
All Saints – Closed

Zoom Services:

Thursdays at 10.30am
Sundays at 6.00pm.

Please check our Website for weekly details www.hplc.scot

Sundays and other Festivals

October		November	
Sun 3 Oct	Pentecost 19	Mon 1 Nov	All Saints
Sun 10 Oct	Pentecost 20	Sun 7 Nov	Pentecost 24
Sun 17 Oct	Pentecost 21	Sun 14 Nov	Pentecost 25
Mon 18 Oct	St Luke Evangelist	Sun 21 Nov	Christ the King
Sat 23 Oct	St James of Jerusalem	Thu 25 Nov	Thanksgiving Day
Sun 24 Oct	Pentecost 22	Sun 28 Nov	Advent 1
Thu 28 Oct	St Simon & St Jude	Tue 30 Nov	St Andrew Apostle
Sun 31 Oct	Pentecost 23		