



Holy Trinity



St Andrew's



Kilmaveonaig



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**

01796 472005

Contact - Ms. Lesley Whitwood 01887

Autumn Edition 2026

September, October & November



Loch Faskally Seonaid Hastie Smith

Message from Lesley, our Lay Reader

Thank you for your vote of confidence by nominating me for the Saint William of Perth Medal. It was an enormous surprise, so you kept the secret well – even my sister knew! I shall wear it on my scarf to remind me to keep serving. As I said, we need to keep sharing the tasks now until probably Christmas or just after. We will hope that the applicant (s? – and there has been a response), will be just what we need and will take up the reins as soon as possible. It was so rewarding to see so many of you in the congregation at Kilmaveonaig for the Joint Charge Confirmation service, even people in the balcony, and our best wishes go to Laurie and Hamish for their faith journey.

It has been quite a journey since Liz left us. We had our first wedding at St. Andrew's since 2013 and Tina from St. Mary's came to conduct that. I have also taken two funerals: one a burial and one a cremation, and one Thanksgiving service for Patrick Gordon from St. Andrew's; our love and prayers go to Sally and Alice. We have also been very sad at St. Andrew's to lose Kathleen Garbutt who died on Tuesday 18th August. She was a faithful sacristan and baker of cakes for any occasion, as well as taking her role in the Thrift Shop week in Aberfeldy. Our love and prayers go to John, Simon and Andrew.

Now the weather warns us that we are moving to Autumn and the season of creation where we focus on the bounty given to us by God in our wonderful world. No doubt you have been aware of how blessed we are in Scotland with some rain, moderate heat and therefore green grass, whereas others can only see brown fields or burnt forests and homes. Harvest festivals will happen in the next few weeks and that gives us a chance to share our gifts with those who are struggling with making ends meet at this time. Keats tells us that it is a season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness" and our harvest hymn reminds us that "all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above". So let us be thankful for all we have and remember that we share not only our food but also our time and talents with each other to support our church family and the wider community.

Lesley Whitwood



Sunday August 23rd 2026

The confirmation of Laurie and Hamish Lyon at Kilmaveonaig

Laurence Frank Duncan Lyon and Hamish Patrick Ivan Lyon were baptised at Kilmaveonaig in 2010 and 2012 respectively. Many years later when their much loved Grandpop, Andrew Gordon died so sadly and suddenly at home, they both played at his funeral and said to their mother and father Lucy and Jamie, after the event, that they had been thinking they would like to be prepared for confirmation by the Rev'd Roger Quick, who had officiated at their Grandfather's funeral, and to be confirmed at Kilmaveonaig. With the support of Liz and of Lesley, and thanks to the generosity of Bishop Ian, who found a space in his crowded diary, the service took place on Sunday 23rd August at 10.30am, with a congregation of some 80 souls, Family, Godparents and a fine following of the HPLC, to witness a very beautiful service to celebrate the joining of the Scottish Episcopal Church by two lovely (I am biased) young people.

Roger played the organ so beautifully, it was a joy to hear the precious instrument in such excellent hands. The Bishop, aided by Lesley lead such a memorable service – he was sad that it would be his last owing to his imminent retirement, and so were we all.

In the background there had been considerable activity – pew sheets with the entire service had been prepared by John and printed by Seonaid. Libby had the beautiful red altar frontal – Sursum Corda – in place and preparations for communion for 80 – Margot and Pam had filled the church with flowers.

Observing commitment by the young is in some strange way a moving experience, as was the choice of their hymns, two of which we sang at Andrew's funeral. He would have been so proud of his grandsons in their tartan trews.

May God bless them and our church and loyal congregations and what a fantastic tribute to Lesley Whitwood, that at the end of the service she should have received the Saint William of Perth commendation for exceptional work in the HPLC.

It was in every way a day to remember.

Lavinia Gordon

(see pages 14 & 15 for photos accompanying pages 2 & 3 submitted by John Martin)

Plan of services for the next three months

JC Joint Service for the whole Charge

SOW Service of the Word will be taken by one of the worship leaders

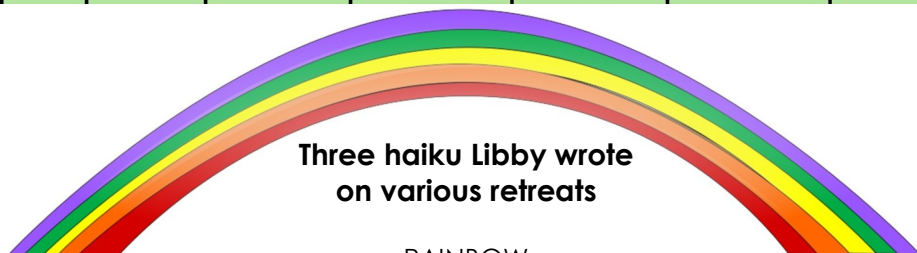
V Visitor as long the diocese can supply one so there is bound to be some flexibility if no-one is available to help.

RS Reserved Sacrament

C of S Church of Scotland

			Holy Trinity	St Andrew's	Kilmaveonaig	All Saints'
23	September 6	Pentecost 15 Trinity 14 Creation week 1	Lesley (RS)	Lesley (M/RS)	Denise Herbert	
24	13	Pentecost 16 Trinity 15 Creation week 2	Lesley (RS)	Lesley (RS)	Denise Herbert	
25	20	Pentecost 17 Trinity 16 Creation week 3	Lesley (RS)	Lesley (RS)	Matins	
26	27	Pentecost 18 Trinity 17 <i>St Adamnan</i> Creation week 4			(JC) Lesley (RS) & Harvest	
27	October 4 Harvest	Pentecost 19 Trinity 18 Creation week 5	Lesley (RS) Harvest	Lesley (RS) Harvest	DIY Matins	
28	11	Pentecost 20 Trinity 19	Dean Graham	Dean Graham	Lesley (RS)	
29	18	Pentecost 21 Trinity 20	Lesley (RS)	Lesley (RS)	Veronica Beaumont	
30	25	Pentecost 22 Trinity 21	SOW	DIY Matins	Lesley (RS)	

31	November 1	All Saints				(JC) Lesley (RS)
32	8	Remembrance Pentecost 24 Trinity 23	V	Lesley (RS)	With C of S	
33	15	St.Margaret	Lesley (RS)	Lesley (RS)	V	
	22	Christ the King	SOW	DIY Matins	Lesley (RS)	
Lesley away	Year B 29	Advent 1 St.Andrew		(JC) William / Annie Hogg & With C of S		



Three haiku Libby wrote on various retreats

RAINBOW

Within the grey cloud
The raindrops hold the sunshine
Spectrum and promise.



IONA CIRCLE

Saints and kings now dust
Become the Holy Island
Tilth, grain, altar bread.

I AM

Light, bread, shepherd, way,
All given for the journey,
A safe arrival.



'A haiku is an unrhymed Japanese poetic form that consists of 17 syllables arranged in three lines containing five, seven, and five syllables, respectively. A haiku expresses much and suggests more in the fewest possible words.'

From Stranger to Friend

The Provincial Lay Readers' Conference at Glenalmond this year had this theme 'from stranger to friend'. The sessions were led by Rev. Canon Dr. Sandra Millar who was a very lively speaker who shared lots of ideas and stories to illustrate the topic. The focus was on the way we welcome and draw others into our church community. This is most applicable to those large churches where a floating population means that new people attend services or events and may not



*Front quadrangle at
Glenalmond College*

be noticed or recognised. However it does also apply in many ways to our smaller congregations where a new face is easily spotted.

I believe that we are **very good** at welcoming new people so this is not a criticism in any way, but these are some topics we might consider:

When someone arrives, is there someone to greet them and give them the material they require or are they busy with other things?

What do we give the new arrival? Service book, hymn book, notices, extra hymn sheets? Is this all rather confusing? Would people new to the Episcopal Church need guidance?

Is it clear how to get into the church? Are there signs? This is particularly applicable to St. Andrew's. Is the door closed as soon as the service starts, making it look forbidding to latecomers?

Do we make it clear whether they have to pay, or how to make a donation? Is the collection plate just left at the entrance or is it taken round if anyone hasn't seen it?

If they want to keep in touch is there a way to leave their contact details?

Once the service has ended do they know whether there is coffee etc. and where to go? Do we make sure that strangers are not left standing alone?

Is the information about services clearly shown outside the church?
Is it clear where they can sit or do people guard their seats to the exclusion of others?

Are we so busy catching up with friends that we do not include visitors?

Is the language we use accessible to everyone?

Is it clear when to stand or sit?

Do we welcome children and understand that they may make a noise or need to move about?

Are dogs allowed? After all it is not safe to leave dogs in hot cars. Should we share the lovely poster about dogs in the porch at Holy Trinity?

In our churches we do the greeting very well, sometimes a bit too enthusiastically, but the comment is so often made that we are very friendly and welcoming. So how do we encourage people to come back, to be part of the community? To move from stranger to friend? Do we keep in touch – can we?

Once upon a time most people had experience of church from childhood, or knew about the rituals but many people now have no residual experience and the words and concepts may be strange. At the end of a service recently someone asked me what the Lamb of God meant so we need to be careful about assumptions.

If we are satisfied with our welcome, how can we move forward from that to encouraging our visitors, or people new to the area, to come back?

Any ideas on these topics would be welcome: let Vestry members, or Lesley, know your thoughts or new ideas about inclusion and retention.

Mud, mud, glorious mud!

The trouble with the Queen of Sheba is that she's always arriving and never departing – and we've all had house-guests like that! So quipped former Rector, Roger Quick, to a packed village hall in Blair Atholl for a concert on Friday 21st August. He and Lavinia Gordon then treated us to a piano duet of Handel's well-known *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*.

The concert, *Young at Heart*, brought together a number of Lavinia's grandchildren and was a fundraiser for Kilmaveonaig church. A mixture of fun and serious musical pieces followed and featured piano, trumpet, violin, bagpipes and drum. Lavinia sang *Send in the Clowns* while a young Petra enchanted us with a traditional Māori song – a *pepeha* – which expresses an identity based upon rivers, mountains and land, rather than just a name. Laurie played a Mexican tune on his trumpet before accompanying his brother Hamish's bagpipes on the drum for some traditional Scottish tunes. Tilly played a Beethoven *Écossaise* on the violin making the musical talent of the wider family very reminiscent of the von Trapps. The hills were certainly alive with the sound of music!

Roger's party-piece of playing well-known tunes in the styles of classical composers included *How Much is that Doggy in the Window* in the style of both Bach and Joplin. How does he do that? Everyone joined in with the chorus of Flanders & Swann's *Hippopotamus Song* at the end.

Missed it? Never mind. Type this into your web browser to see and hear the concert on the *'och-aye' player: <https://shorturl.at/8qcZZ> (*If you are reading this online then just click on the link and it should take you to the full concert on YouTube.



The Christian Gardener

I wonder if you've ever thought that there could be a perspective of gardening from a Christian angle? Perhaps a bit like the idea of an Islamic garden. For myself, it would not be the structure or the design, but would more involve the objectives of gardening. What are the reasons we garden? The following are my motivations, not necessarily a finite list or a list in any type of order of importance:

- 1] Gardening can be, and should be, an act of worship – an alabaster jar laid at the Lord's feet.
- 2] To give pleasure to passers-by or visitors – to lift their day.
- 3] To provide a haven for wildlife & increase biodiversity.
- 4] To help us (our Temple of the Holy Spirit). become physically and mentally healthy.
- 5] In a small way, to make microhabitats to ease the effects of the environmental and climate change catastrophe – aiding us by helping us feel we are at least able to do something.
- 6] Providing, in a small measure, towards us being self-sustainable.
- 7] Helping community to happen and evolve.

Peter Wickes



Serenity Garden Update

The summer months have been kind to us, in fact too kind, necessitating frequent watering of the bedding plants and some of the newly planted flowers and shrubs. Overall, the garden has fared well and certainly has not been as badly affected by the lack of rain as other gardens. Visitors to the garden from south of the border recount tales of desert like gardens, dead plants and brown lawns. Who would have thought that our weather would attract not deter tourists!

The garden has a new visitor attraction which some of you may have noticed. It is a vintage red letter box, acquired at auction and now proudly standing in the garden for all to see. We intend to invite visitors to post their thoughts and prayers through the letter box and perhaps, nearer Christmas, invite children to post their letters to Santa!

The Memory Cairn at the rear of the garden remains one of the most popular attractions in the garden, so popular in fact that it has grown far too large. Alistair, one of our new volunteers, has therefore built a second much lower cairn alongside, which is already proving equally popular.

We continue to wage war against the invasive ground elder weed. Yes, it has a long history of medicinal and edible uses with attractive umbels of white flowers but the fact remains that left unchecked, it will take over the garden and overwhelm smaller and less vigorous plants. The war will never be won but we are winning one or two battles in the herbaceous borders.

**Interesting fact.* Episcopalians know this weed as ground elder but our Church of Scotland friends call it 'Bishop's weed'. Apparently (so I'm told) this is because the Episcopal church can't get rid of elders and the Church of Scotland cannot get rid of bishops!

Goodbye and happy gardening!



Pam Godwin





Bring you r children and grandchildren to the Serenity Garden where they can post their letters to Santa!





Our Autumnal Journey

Autumn is a time to reflect
A time to remember our friends
A time to turn over a leaf for the season to come
When we realise our saviour soon will come

The green leaves that turn
Remind us it's time to impart
Our thoughts and prayers from the heart
We know we all still have much to learn

The charge is made up of many different leaves
Each one intrinsically unique
As in nature when we see the worker bees
If only they could speak

It is with faith and hope that we pray
To keep us all strong all the way
From church to church we pray to our Lord
Who we implore will all remain onboard

So we ask you Lord to keep us strong
In this time, let us do no wrong
That our priest will soon be among us, not a stranger
To celebrate the arrival of you in the manger

Paul Merralls

News from Laura McIvor

(formerly a member of Holy Trinity Church who has returned to live in N Ireland)

I have some news for you all.

I have sensed a call to ministry for a long while now, and even though I have taken the first steps and was commissioned by my Archbishop and Primate of all Ireland, The Most Reverend John McDowell, I have felt God calling and urging me further.

Through great support and encouragement from my family, I put myself forward to a panel of bishops for consideration for full time stipendiary ministry. After a lengthy and rigorous process the House of Bishops have granted my application and I begin training in September. This means I will study a three year Masters of Theology at Trinity College Dublin, before I am ordained, then begin a two year curacy under a more senior minister. After these five years I will then become eligible for an incumbency and lead a parish of my own.



It is with sadness and trepidation that I handed in my resignation to my teaching job and will step away from teaching after 16 years, leaving all that I have worked hard to achieve and now become the student again.

Please continue to pray for me and the other two ladies who will be joining me on this venture.

Laura

The photo of my recent commissioning as a Diocesan Reader with Archbishop McDowell (left) and Rev. Canon Gary McMurray as Warden of Readers in the Armagh Dioceses within the Church of Ireland.



Bishop Ian presents Lesley with The Saint William of Perth Medal





Lawrence (Laurie) Lyon (above)

Confirmed by Bishop Ian on Sunday 23rd August

Hamish Lyon (left)



Bishop Ian will retire on 1st November

Who was Saint William of Perth?

William was born in Perth, Scotland, in the 12th century. He was a wild and mispent youth, but as he matured he had a conversion of heart and devoted himself to God. He was a baker, and for love of God he gave to the poor every tenth loaf he baked. One morning, at the church he attended daily, William discovered an abandoned infant left on the doorstep. He adopted the boy, naming him David, and raised him as his own. Several years later, probably in the year of Our Lord 1201, William and David set off on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. His foster son, however, turned out to be truly ungrateful and greedy, and near the English city of Rochester, David struck his adoptive father over the head, cut his throat, and disappeared with their money. William's body was discovered by a local madwoman, who made a crown of flowers and placed it, first on William's head, then on her own head. She was immediately cured of her madness, and thanks to this miracle, William's body was interred in the local cathedral in Rochester, where many miracles continue to take place at what became his shrine. William of Rochester, as he is also known, is considered a martyr for having died while on pilgrimage, as well as a patron of adopted children.



From Bishop Ian

I have found William to be an example and inspiration because he was an ordinary lay Christian, trying to live a good life, but also suffering because of his goodness. He represents for me so many people I have met in our congregations who serve quietly and faithfully, often in hidden ways, often with kindness, often with sacrifice.

The St William of Perth Award will be an ongoing celebration over the years of lay people in the life of our Diocese who give such hidden and humble service for the sake of others and for Christ.

2026 Presented to Lesley by Bishop Ian at Kilmeonaig on
Sunday 24h August 2026



Rt Rev Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane will retire on 1st November 2026

After eight years as Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Rt Rev Ian Paton is to stand down later this year as he retires from full-time ministry. Bishop Ian, who was ordained in 1982 and priested the following year, started his ministry in Reading then becoming Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford in 1984. Returning to the land of his ancestors, he moved north of the border to the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1990 as Vice-Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh; in 1994 he spent three years as Rector of Holy Trinity Haddington and St Anne's Dunbar; in 1997 moving to Old St Paul's on Jeffery Street in Edinburgh. Also, during his time at Old St Paul's he spent years as Honorary Anglican Chaplain at the University of Edinburgh. He was consecrated Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane on 20 October 2018. The news of Bishop Ian's departure from the College of Bishops was announced at General Synod in June, when the Primus, Bishop Mark Strange, confirmed that he had received Bishop Ian's letter of intention to stand down on All Saints' Day, and paid brief tribute to his fellow Bishop in the first 'farewell' of the coming months.

Marking Bishop Ian's final attendance as a member of General Synod, the Primus highlighted the Bishop's role as a member of the College of Bishops, his work with the Liturgy Committee, and his ministry at Old St Paul's in Edinburgh, where he was Rector for 21 years. "Ian, you have worked tirelessly for this Church and we want to honour you for that and to thank you. "There will be many other opportunities [ahead of retirement on 1 November] and you will become thoroughly fed up with this, but I had to say something today! "In response, Bishop Ian thanked the Primus for his kind words and added: "Thank you everyone for your good wishes. I can hardly believe I have just attended my last Synod. "I wish this Church every blessing that God can send it because this Church is a blessing to this land and its people. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve it and to serve you and to serve the people we serve together. "If I would say one thing as I begin to approach stepping down from active ministry in this format, it is 'be true to God and be **true to one** another'. Don't conceal things that we have difficulty over but resolve them, and resolve them before God.

"May God bless you for many years to come."

(Photo of Bishop Ian on previous page)

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

Contacts



The Rector

Vacant

Contact - Ms. Lesley Whitwood 01887 840416

Holy Trinity & All Saints' Vestry

The Rector

Vacant

Val Holton	Secretary/Treasurer	01796 472005
Gina Charleson	Lay Rep./Rector's Warden	01796 473025
Ann Covell	People's Warden	01796 470129
Paul Covell	Technical Co-ord.	01796 470129
Val Holton	Zero Carbon Co-ord.	01796 549235
Agnes Keegan	Fabric Convenor	01796 549235
Peter Wickes	Alt. Lay Representative	07863 760116
Pam Godwin (co-opted)	Serenity Garden Co-ord.	01796 482826
John Martin (co-opted)	Archiving / Kilmaveonaig Rep.	07801 233412
Carol Powell	All Saints' Rep.	01882 634205
Interim	PVG Co-ord. I	01796 549235

Kilmaveonaig Committee

The Rector	Vacant	
Lavinia Gordon	<i>Secretary</i>	01796 481230
Duncan Gordon	<i>Treasurer</i>	01796 481642
Pam Godwin	<i>Lay Rep.</i>	01796 482826
John Martin	<i>Alt. Lay Rep.</i>	07801 233412

St Andrew's Vestry

The Rector	Vacant	
Lesley Whitwood	<i>Lay Reader & Secretary</i>	01887 840416
Jennifer Valentine	<i>Rector's Warden & PVG</i>	01796 474444
Mary Barclay	<i>People's Warden</i>	
Alison Wyllie	<i>Lay Representative</i>	
Loretta Davis Reynolds	<i>Treasurer</i>	01887 224599
Angela Gibbs		01887 840223
Sue Sherriff		01887 840332
Roger Pope		
(Vacancy)	<i>Fabric Convenor</i>	

HPLC Website:

[HPLC Webpage](#)

Facebook:

[Highland Perthshire Linked Charge](#)

Lay Reader: Lesley Whitwood:

lesleywhitwood@btinternet.com

Website Co-ordinator:

a.barclay@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor:

Seonaid Hastie Smith, Barra, Knockfarrie Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5DN

Tel: 01796 472439 **seonaidkhs@gmail.com (new email address)**

Copy for the Winter Issue to the Editor

at the latest by midnight Friday 27th November

(Editor will return from holiday on Saturday 28th November)

We cover many of the notices weekly in the pew sheet but the newsletter allows opportunity for interesting and relevant articles, posters for special occasions such as fairs, special lunches, Festivals (Christmas!) and reports etc. Also, In Memoriam obituaries. Most welcome are poems, stories, accounts, historical items linked to the Charge and anything you may feel might interest others.

Scottish Episcopal Church HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE LINKED CHARGE SERVICES

Holy Trinity, Perth Road, Pitlochry &
All Saints' Kinloch Rannoch
Contact - Ms. Lesley Whitwood 01887 840416

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

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

Usual Service Times

Holy Trinity 9.30am

St Andrews 11.15am

Kilmaveonaig 11.15am

All Saints – 9.30am 1st Sunday of month

ONLINE ZOOM SERVICES

Sundays - 6.00pm Evening Services

Thursdays - 10.30am Morning Prayer – from Holy Trinity

Events

Holy Trinity Serenity Garden Group – Tuesdays 11.00am and
Open Church with Coffee and Conversation. All welcome

St Andrew's House Group – Last Wednesday of the month
contact Ms. Lesley Whitwood 01887 840416 for details

