



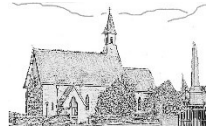
Holy Trinity



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**



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

Autumn

September, October & November 2024



The River Garry: Seonaid Hastie Smith

Rector's Reflections The Human Embodiment of God

As Autumn approaches and as we begin the long journey through the season of creation and into the days of remembrance we have had five weeks of lectionary readings from John's Gospel all about Jesus as the 'bread of life', and we have spent a considerable amount of time concentrating on 'eating the flesh and drinking the blood' of Christ, what is this all about? What does it mean? I mean in a way, this is a revolting idea.

As Barbara Brown Taylor an American Episcopalian makes clear as she tells this story in 'The Preaching Life' (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Cowley Publications, 1993), p. 73.

She was serving the Communion in church one Sunday when a small girl, obviously eager to taste what was about to be offered to her, came forward for her first communion. Her chubby fingers circled the chalice, Brown says, as she peered into her reflection.

"The blood of Christ," her pastor said to her, guiding it to her lips, "the cup of salvation."

"Yuck!" the little girl said, pushing the cup back. "You keep it. I don't want any."

And you can understand the child's reaction.

But you see what I have come to believe over many years is this. Because Jesus is the human embodiment of God what is really going on here is that Jesus is encouraging all of us to truly invite him in, to immerse ourselves completely in his presence, to fully engage in his way of life and to follow him without reservation. But we do fail because when it comes to offering one's self fully – that is, to eat the flesh and drink the blood – to the One who gave himself so fully for us, we would like to say, "You keep it. I don't want any."

So as we journey through the autumn, to the very moment in Bethlehem where our God becomes freely embodied as the babe in the manger, let us understand that God the importance of our human bodies, and of all life to our Creator.

In the words of Jesus (Creator sets free) in the 'First Nations Version' of the New Testament. *"And this is the bread that I will give as a gift to the world - my human body"*

Holy Trinity & All Saints

The merger between Holy Trinity and All Saints vestries finally took place on 1st July and is now complete apart from a few dotting of i's and crossing of t's. Monies and investments have been transformed and additions made to our Vestry. It only remains to change the constitution, which we are working on with the support of the Diocese and which will need to be ratified by an Extraordinary AGM as soon as completed.

Liz Baker August 2024



All Saints, Kinloch Rannoch

Special Services in HPLC September to November

22 September 11.15am Joint Charge service at Kilmaveonaig for Feast of St Adamnan

29 September 6.00pm 'Choral Evensong for Michaelmas' at Holy Trinity

6 October Harvest Festivals

9.30am at Holy Trinity

11.15am at Kilmaveonaig

3.00pm at All Saints

13 October

11.15am Harvest Festival, St Andrews

31 October 7.00pm 'Living Stones' A service for All Souls at St Andrews

3 November 10.30am Joint Charge Service at All Saints for the Feast of All Saints.

FROM THE ARCHIVES of Holy Trinity

Over the last few weeks a small, but perfectly formed, group of people have started sifting through Holy Trinity's church records with a view to clearing the rubbish and cataloguing the more interesting items. It's a mixed bag. On the one hand, there are files full of 20 year old gas bills and, on the other hand, some very interesting correspondence with the clergy going right back to Revd Thomas Walker – the first rector at Holy Trinity from 1840 to 1856. Christopher Bowstead (1891-1899) also features quite a bit and it is quite spine-tingling to handle letters written in their own hands.

So what are they about? Often they are letters seeking advice from bishops on church matters; there are calls to ministry; acknowledgements of donations etc. A theme that crops up from time to time is the uneasy historical relationship with the Church of Scotland. As recently as the 1960s, the then rector had to write to the bishop informing him that the Kirk minister in Blair Atholl had let himself into Kilmaveonaig to conduct a funeral without any permission or consultation, as if by right. A string of correspondence follows and it does seem that the Kirk, at that time, did feel that SEC churches were really Church of Scotland property and that their ministers had every right to use the buildings as if they belonged to the Kirk.

Back in 1893, the Kirk minister at Blair Atholl wrote to Christopher Bowstead advising him not to spend any money refurbishing Kilmaveonaig because the Kirk could walk in and reclaim the building at any moment. Bowstead was also warned not to hold "services" at times which clashed with the Kirk services – or there would be trouble, as this would be seen as "seducing parishioners away from the National Church." The Kirk minister couldn't even bring himself to use the word "church" when referring to the Episcopalians – he used the word "party." Naturally, services at Kilmaveonaig and at the Kirk both start at 11.15 these days!

Thankfully, such interdenominational squabbles are a thing of the past, but that, of course, doesn't mean an end to internal squabbles! There is a letter from some of the congregation at Holy Trinity to the bishop, informing him that he is not welcome in Pitlochry as he has "ruined the church!"

The church organ also seems to have been the catalyst for internal strife – but more about that in the next newsletter when we have digested it all and redacted the names of those involved!

It isn't all bad news and disagreement, of course. There are very human letters too. For instance in 1826 a parishioner felt moved to write to the minister with profuse apologies for being unable to attend services because of an industrial accident. There is a record – in Latin – from the bishop, proclaiming the ordination of Thomas Walker (see picture). And, of course, there are endless financial accounts in pounds, shillings and pence. There are architects drawings of original features like pulpits, reading desks and candle holders. All quite fascinating.

The oldest document we have found so far is dated 1729. This, of course, is long before Holy Trinity was even a twinkle in the church's eye, and written between the two Jacobite uprisings. We must remember, of course, that there were Episcopal congregations in the area long before Holy Trinity. The letter of 1729 is from the male communicant members of the "meeting house" in Strathtay to one Walter Stewart, inviting him to be the next minister. The letter is written in that rather comical style which results when "common folk" try to speak posh – and it is a bit awkward in places. So much so, that a note appended to the letter from a small group of the congregation suggested re-wording some of it before sending it. Even the re-worded version is awkward. The gracious-sounding invitation to become minister contained a reminder that he would be paid £25 per annum "which is as much as you get where you are now." An instant response was required and there was a threat that if Stewart were not minded to accept the invitation, then the "meeting house" would involve the bishop and compel the poor man to take the position. As it happens, the invitation was accepted and Walter Stewart is recorded as minister from 1728-1752 at Kilmaveonaig [note the slight discrepancy in dates.]

One day, we hope to make a display of some of these documents and to catalogue everything that we find in order to help researchers in the future. Meanwhile, we wear our white cotton gloves on Thursday afternoons and continue to unearth these treasures from our shared past.

John Martin

Illustrations on following page

In Dei Nomine. Amen.

Omnibus ubique catholicis per praesentes pateat, -
Nos Patricium Torry D.D. miseratione divina Episcopum
Dunkeldensem, Dunblanensem & Fifeum, Myseria sacra
Domini nostri Jesu Christi, in capella apud Blair Athole, ce-
lebrantes, devoti Numinis praesidio fretos, Thomam Walker tunc
nobis pro vita integritate, morum probitate, eruditione, et
orthodoxia commendatum, ad sacrum Presbyteratus or-
dinem promovisse, et secundum morem et ritus Eccle-
siae Scotticae ordinasse, die octavo decimo Julii, et anno
era christiana millesimo, octingentesimo, & trigesimo octavo.

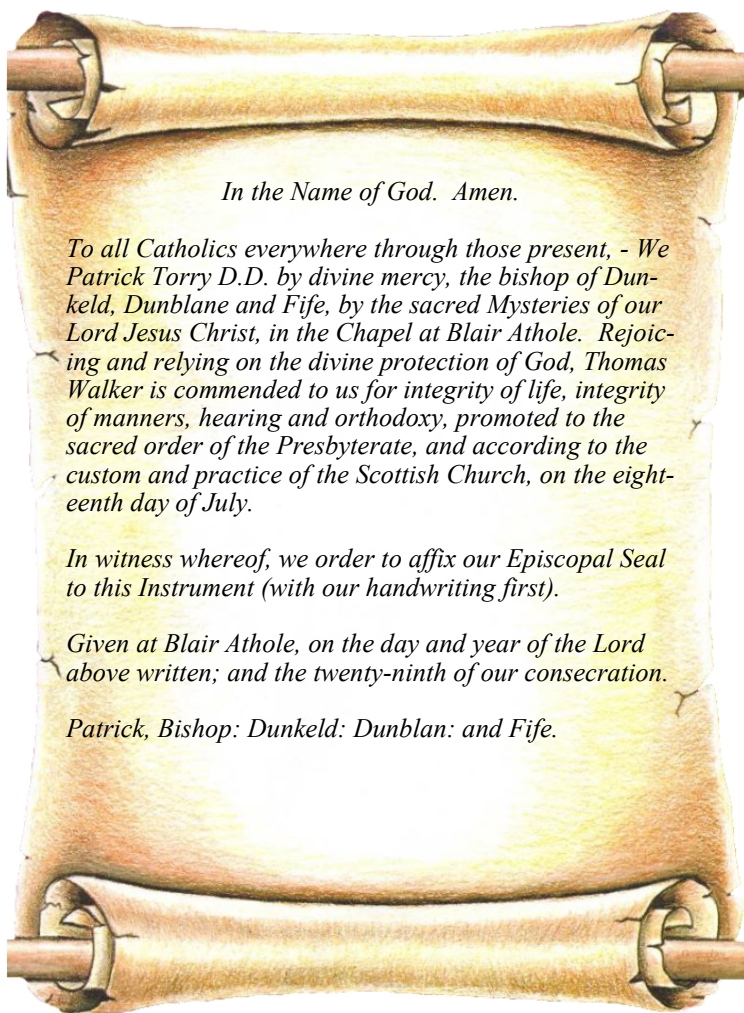
In cuius rei testimonium Instrumento huic
(chirographo nostro prius munito) Sigillum nostrum
Episcopale appendi mandavimus.

Datum apud Blair Athole, die annoque Domini
supra scriptae consecrationis nostrae vigesimo nono.

Patricius Episc: Dunkeld: Dunblan: et Fyf:

18th July 1838

The 1838 certificate in Latin from Bishop Patrick Torry DD, confirming the ordination of Revd Thomas Walker at Blair Athole [sic]. It is signed and sealed by the bishop.



In the Name of God. Amen.

To all Catholics everywhere through those present, - We Patrick Torry D.D. by divine mercy, the bishop of Dunkeld, Dunblane and Fife, by the sacred Mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Chapel at Blair Athole. Rejoicing and relying on the divine protection of God, Thomas Walker is commended to us for integrity of life, integrity of manners, hearing and orthodoxy, promoted to the sacred order of the Presbyterate, and according to the custom and practice of the Scottish Church, on the eighteenth day of July.

In witness whereof, we order to affix our Episcopal Seal to this Instrument (with our handwriting first).

Given at Blair Athole, on the day and year of the Lord above written; and the twenty-ninth of our consecration.

Patrick, Bishop: Dunkeld: Dunblan: and Fife.

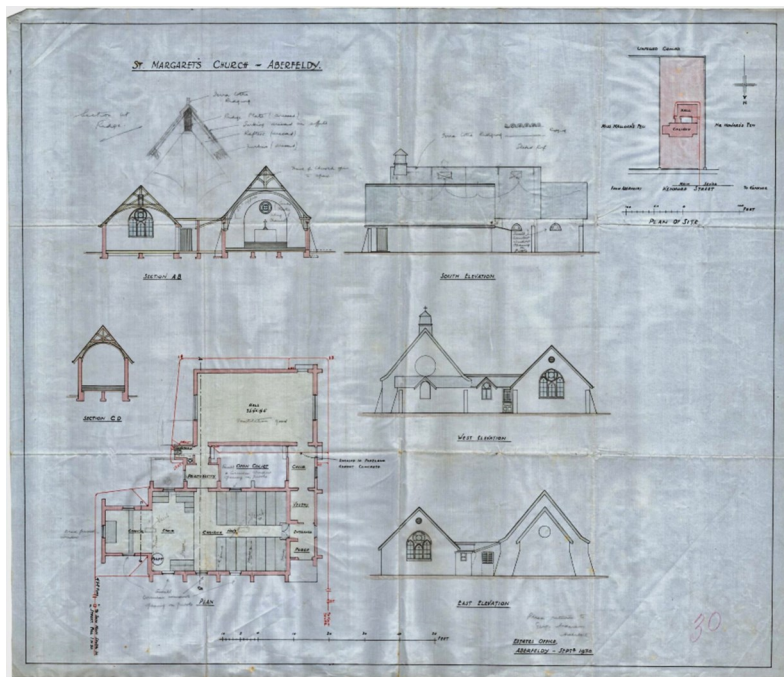
Translation by John Martin

Treasures from the Holy Trinity archives

The Breadalbane Heritage Society was given some historical architectural drawings which related to St. Margaret's in Aberfeldy when they were to have new heating in 1930 and St. Andrew's when the chancel was to have the nave added in 1914 /19.

Scans of these two documents make interesting viewing. St. Andrew's had the nave added, and a porch which was later demolished when St. Margaret's closed, and a larger vestibule was added to extend the church and give a meeting room in 1984. The plan also shows a proposed addition to the north side of the church which was never built, although it can be seen in the interior behind the organ that the archway was ready to accommodate the extension. Much later a vestry extension was put in that area but certainly not as large as the proposed extension of 1919. The names of various workmen are added at the top right; local surnames still in the area.

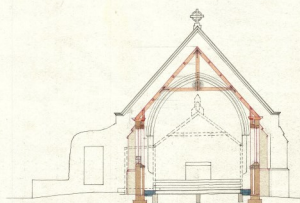
Copies of some of the drawings are now in the church vestibule at St. Andrew's for viewing; the originals will remain in the Breadalbane Heritage Society archive.



St Margaret's Church, Aberfeldy 1930

STRATHTAY EPISCOPAL CHURCH PROPOSED EXTENSION

This is one of the Plans referred to in
Minutes dated April 1914. See minutes reference.
William Gifford Smith, Esq. Chairman
James Augustus Smith, Esq. Secretary
John Smith, Esq. Treasurer
John Smith, Esq. Clerk



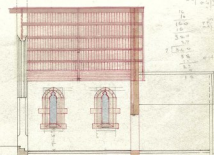
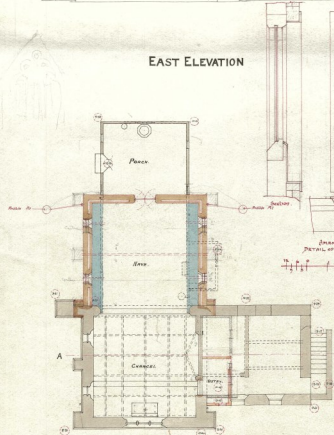
WEST
SECTIONAL ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

LONG SECTION

PLAN

SECTION A.B.



By J. Gifford Smith
J. Gifford Smith

Strathtay Episcopal Church 1914 / 15

Lesley Whitwood

Update from Climate Change Group

Just a quick hello from the climate change group this time, to update you on a few things:

1. Some of us met with Daniel Prince from the net zero team, and are focused on getting a future energy plan in place for Holy Trinity. We have agreed to work with the SEC to pilot a partnership approach with Warmworks ([Warmworks • Bringing warmth to homes and communities.](#)), to see if they can add value to planning for renewable energy solutions in church buildings. Whilst we aren't planning to implement big changes until nearer to 2030, we are keen to have a plan in place so that we can work on funding options and make sure that we can take advantage of any opportunities to align with other works that we need to carry out to the walls and roof. Watch this space....
2. Following the visit from Bethany Nelson from the net zero team there was a lovely article about the serenity garden on the SEC net zero portal. It follows this article.
3. The SEC has now finalised the energy footprint tool that they want every church to use to calculate and monitor its energy footprints. So we should be able to get on with doing this for all four of our churches in the autumn. As a quick reminder, we last did this in 2022, based on figures for 2019/20. We used a different tool, but our results were:
 - St Andrews: 1.45 tonnes
 - Kilmaveonaig: 797 kg
 - Holy Trinity: 13.1 tonnes
 - All Saints: 600 kg
4. Following the grim news reported in the last newsletter that Eco-congregation Scotland was struggling to keep operating following a reduction in grant funding, it's great to hear that they reached their fundraising target to allow them to restructure and keep going, albeit on a different model. They are still looking for any help they can get with running costs, though – you can donate to their crowd-funder appeal here:

[Support Eco-Congregation Scotland - a Charities crowdfunding project](#)

Finally, just a quick reminder for everyone that we are coming into the **Season of Creation**, running from 1 September to 4 October, which is the feast of St Francis. In the season of creation, we are encouraged to come together with a focus on celebrating the glory of creation – and sharing our concerns for the climate crisis. There are lots of resources on the Ecocongregation website to support both worship and private prayer and reflection: [CREATION 2024 \(ecocongregationscotland.org\)](https://ecocongregationscotland.org)

Among them is this prayer from the Revd. Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator, National Synod of The United Reformed Church Scotland:

God of all hopefulness and joy
as the Season of Creation approaches
enable us to take time to notice signs of hope within creation;
wildflowers blooming on derelict land
species returning to natural habitats once more
days when renewable energy supply outstrips demand.
May these signs of hope prompt us to act

Val Holtom

Holy Trinity Pitlochry: Bringing peace through the Serenity Garden



I recently had the pleasure of visiting the beautiful Serenity Garden in the grounds of Holy Trinity, Pitlochry. The Serenity Garden is a community space where locals and visitors benefit from a tranquil spot to engage with nature and take time out of the hustle and bustle of life. Within the garden children can follow the animal trail, book hunt, or look for fairy doors, as well as taking time to notice the many signs of nature. There is plenty of seating for visitors to sit peacefully or socialise with friends, and for use during the various events which are held in the garden.

“At first glance a church with a church yard, at second glance a piece of paradise” – comment in the visitors’ book.



Val Holtom, who chairs Holy Trinity's Climate Change Committee, described one of the strategic priorities for the garden project, as having a positive presence in the community. This is clearly being demonstrated by the number of organisations using the garden: including a Mindfulness group, Pitlochry choral society, a mums and toddler group, a local book group, local families and the church for weddings, services, carol concerts and the Christmas nativity play. In 2023, in partnership with Pitlochry Festival Theatre, the church ran children's groups incorporating themes of caring for one another, diversity and care for the environment.

Another way this strategic priority can be seen, is through the dedicated group of volunteers, from the church and the local community, who meet weekly to work in the garden. Regular tasks include maintaining the raised beds where flowers for use in the church, and vegetables for the community are grown. Recent projects have included planting up a large border, building a new shed for storing tools and creating a water drainage system to collect rainwater from the shed roof²



Pam Godwin, from the Serenity Garden project, told me about the ways the garden cares for God's creation: "Holy Trinity is an eco-church and recycling, repurposing, and reusing are key to all what we do in the garden. All garden waste is composted, all leaves from the many trees are turned into leaf mould, the wood from fallen trees is being dried for use in the next few years and stone given by the adjacent distillery has been used to rebuild boundary dry stone walls. We have constructed composting and leaf mould areas and a bug hotel, installed a water butt and planted a native species hedge. Without the use of pesticide and herbicides we have removed areas of non-native Himalayan Balsam.

The team are keen to enhance biodiversity even more, by reducing the cutting of grass and allowing areas of the garden to be wild spaces. Peter Wickes is heading up plans to section off areas of grass, leaving wildflowers to grow, whilst





maintaining mown paths for people attending the graveyard. He is also looking into developing new areas of biodiversity by planting wildflower seed, species bulbs, native flower plugs and climbers such as open headed roses and clematis. The gardening group has been awarded £1,500 from the Enchanted Forest Community Fund to create an accessible pathway around the garden. Other grant applications are being worked on, to bring the total up to

£15,000, which is the sum required to install an all-ability access way.

“The garden is a peaceful place which made me feel at peace with myself” – comment from a visitor.

The Serenity Garden is always open and free to visit and sometimes there are plants or produce available to buy on a donation-only basis. So next time you’re in or near Pitlochry, stop by for a moment of calm.

Published by Bethany Nelson, Empowerment Coordinator Net Zero Team on 4 June 2024 on the SEC Net Zero Portal.

[Holy Trinity Pitlochry: Bringing peace through the Serenity Garden](#)

[Warmworks • Bringing warmth to homes and communities.\)](#)



Online Quiet Day

Exploring the book of Creation

14 & 18 Sept 11.00 – 3.00pm

"I open the book and the words fly out of the page"

Kenneth White 'Letter from Harris

With Revd Canon Liz Baker



**In the Celtic Tradition, God Speaks through two books,
the Bible and creation.**

Morning Session: 'The Wildness of God' in the book of creation, we will explore, by going outside, opening a window, and wherever we are, listening to the sounds of life (creation) all around us. Take time to listen for the still small voice that is the presence of God in all things and using poems by R. S. Thomas & Wendall Berry as examples of finding God and grace in the natural world.

Afternoon Session: 'The Creatureliness of God' looking at a selection of passages in our book of Scripture (various translations - Including First Nations Version

(an Indigenous Translation of the New Testament)
and using a simple form of Lecito Divina.

The day will end with a short service of music and prayers with space for you to offer your own reflections, thoughts, writings, prayers and any art work you may have felt moved to create on the day.

Zoom meeting. Topic: Exploring the Book of Creation

Time: Sep 14, 2024 11:00 -3.00pm

Sep 18, 2024, 11.00 - 3.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting



Bicycle Racks

If you fancy cycling to Holy Trinity Church your bike should be safe as a new bike rack has been installed outside the wall just to the left of the noticeboard.



On 25th August our friend Robert Morris, from Llanifloes, Wales, once again visited our services at Holy Trinity, Pitlochry, followed by St Andrews, Strathtay. He so enjoyed his visit last year that this is his second annual visit. Last year he picked up a copy of the newsletter and subsequently sent the editor a short piece to include in the following edition. This year he had a contribution prepared to give to the editor.

Pitlochry Church with the Garden

On my visits to Pitlochry, Perthshire, it is lovely coming to a nice Parish Church with a garden. It sits by a railway bridge and you can see the trains pass by the church. There are lovely flowers growing and well looked after hanging baskets. The church has a well kept graveyard for people to remember their loved ones. It is very nice coming to a Parish Church where visitors are made so welcome. You can sit in the gardens to draw or paint and take photographs to take home memories.

It reminds me of God who created the land, gardens, streams and rivers on Earth and it is nice to thank God for the things we have on Earth and see the Garden of Serenity. Picturesque scenery is always lovely when the sun comes out. I'll always remember the Pitlochry Church with the Garden.

Robert Morris, Llanifloes, Powys.



Patchwork in Pitlochry at Holy Trinity

Friday 6 September 2pm - 4 pm.

Open to anyone interested in Patchwork and Quilting, this will be a course for beginners but all levels are welcome as we can all learn from or be inspired by each other.

This meeting will be to explain exactly what is involved and what necessary equipment is needed.

There is no need to buy anything for this lesson as I have enough to share. However, if you would like to bring a small amount of fabric with you, please do so to practice using the cutters etc. 100% cotton only - no polycotton.

Whilst this will be a machine patchwork course there is no need to bring machines to the first meeting. We will discuss what we are going to do during the course.

Any queries please phone Isabel Sunderland 07856 339230



DIOCESAN NET ZERO GATHERING

22 SEPT 2024

14.30 – 14.00

AT

ST NINIAN'S CATHEDRAL

**The Gathering starts at 2.30pm but you are invited
to arrive after 13.15 with your lunch**

Stations include:

- **Positive Finances**
- **Zero waste**
- **Rooted Worship**
- **Training & Education**
-

Further details to follow

What to bring:

- **Packed Lunch**
- **If you have an item you no longer**

**Further details or if you wish to attend please
contact Liz 01796 472005 or Val 01796 549235**

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



The Rector Reverend Canon Liz Baker 01796 472005

Holy Trinity (Pitlochry) & All Saints' (Kinloch Rannoch) Vestry

The Rector		
Robin Baker	<i>Secretary/Treasurer/Investments</i>	01796 472005
Alison Crocker-Tough	<i>Book Keeper/Investments</i>	01887 840267
Gina Charleson	<i>Lay Rep./Rector's Warden</i>	01796 473025
Ann Covell	<i>People's Warden</i>	01796 470129
Paul Covell	<i>Reordering & Tech. Co-ord</i>	01796 470129
Val Holtom	<i>Alt. Lay Representative & Climate Change Co-ord.</i>	01796 549235
Agnes Keegan	<i>Fabric Convenor</i>	01796 549235
Peter Wickes		01796 635139
Pam Godwin (co-opted)	<i>Serenity Garden Co-ord.</i>	01796 482826
John Martin (co-opted)	<i>Kilmaveonaig Rep.</i>	07801 233412
Carol Powell	<i>(All Saints')</i>	01882 634205
Charlotte Baker (All Saints)	<i>PVG Co-ordinator</i>	07940 907712

Kilmaveonaig Committee

The Rector

Lavinia Gordon	<i>Secretary</i>	01796 481230
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Andrew Gordon	<i>Treasurer</i>	01796 481230
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Pam Godwin	<i>Lay Representative</i>	01796 482826
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St Andrew's Vestry

The Rector

Lesley Whitwood	<i>Lay Reader & Secretary</i>	01887 840416
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Jennifer Valentine	<i>Rector's Warden</i>	01796 474444
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Vacancy	<i>People's Warden</i>	
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Cecily Hill	<i>Lay Representative</i>	
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Loretta Davis Reynolds	<i>Treasurer</i>	01887 840266
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Alistair Barclay		01887 840380
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Angela Gibbs		01887 840223
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Sue Sherriff		01887 840332
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Roger Pope		
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Tony Taucher	<i>Fabric Convenor</i>	07874 024352
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HPLC Website:

Facebook:

The Rector: Liz Baker

Lay Reader: Lesley Whitwood:

Website Co-ordinator:

[HPLC Webpage](#)

[Highland Perthshire Linked Charge](#)

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Copy for the next issue for the next issue to the Editor

by

Noon on Monday 25 November 2024

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 Square
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

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

Sundays and other Festivals

September		October		November	
Sun 1	Pentecost 15	Sun 6	Pentecost 20	Fri 1	All Saints
Sun 8	Pentecost 16	Sun 13	Pentecost 21	Sun 3	Pentecost 24 or
Sat 14	Holy Cross Day	Fri 18	St Luke Evangelist		celebrate All Saints
Sun 15	Pentecost 17	Sun 20	Pentecost 22	Sun 10	Pentecost 25
Sat 21	St Matthew Evangelist	Wed 23	St James of Jerusalem	Sun 17	Pentecost 26
Sun 22	Pentecost 18	Sun 27	Pentecost 23	Sun 24	Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
Sun 29	Pentecost 19	Mon 28	St Simon & St Jude	Thu 28	Thanksgiving Day
Mon 30	St Michael & All Angels	Thu 31	Vigil of All Saints	Sat 30	St Andrew Apostle