







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



March, April & May 2024



Rector's Reflections Spring 2024

This Easter we will welcome 'The Lord's Supper' a visual expression of the inclusivity of God's welcome for all people, no matter who they maybe. This will be displayed in the churchyard from Maundy Thursday for a week.



But what is the purpose? What are we trying to say here? You will note that the image contains an infinite variety of people of all ages, races and conditions, so it is a symbol of how we as a church acknowledge that God's love is for all without exception.

This Lent and Easter let us consider what that actually means considering the many crises in the world today, caused by war, famine, climate change and cost of living, for what it means to me is this, that as followers of Jesus we are, or we should be committed to this truth: At Christmas, 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us', and that Word incarnate (the Word enfleshed) has all the elements of a human body and as a human creature Jesus walks the earth and shares its beauty and its pain, its joy and its sorrows. Jesus smells, tastes and feels in the same way that all humans do. In Jesus, God joins the web of life, becomes part of Earth's biology (one of the reasons for the dog in the image). Jesus is God's 'Yes' to the life of all creatures. And the birth life and death of Jesus (The Lamb of God) shows God's divine solidarity with all.

As humans we are very good at excluding, for a multitude of reasons, and we so often forget that we are called by Christ himself to 'love one another', to 'love God and our neighbour as ourself' and to 'feed the hungry, clothe the naked and set the prisoners free', no exceptions are made in these statements, and yet as this poem by Kenneth Steven and the image of 'The Crucifixion of the Natives' by Mark Vincent Gray show how often cruelty and hatred of others strives to overcome God's love and grace.

Poem – 'Easter VI' Kenneth Steven (from 'Out of the Ordinary' Pub

2020) copyright Kenneth Steven printed with permission

I have crucified men for the theft of a few coins – I've not grown soft, It was when he turned his head, the nail against his flesh almost as if he seemed sad at what they did. And when thy raised him high at last, those eyes came still, following always following.

I have been many places and committed crimes for Rome I hardly knew were in my hands.

I'd feel no guilt. Yet that man follows me I see his face in every journey watching,

looking at me as he did that day.

I wonder who he was.

When Christ was born into this world, God became vulnerably human, taking on for all time kinship with creation, fully human and yet still the second person of the Trinity, thus letting us know that God understands the sin and brokenness of this world and loves us enough to come among us, to take on flesh so that we may experience his grace and his glory. That is the message of Holy Week, Easter, and beyond.

How we respond throughout our lives to that message, how we respond to the world around us, to the people of the world and the pain of the world will let our lights shine before others "so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven."

From Matthew 5:16 How will your light shine?

Liz Baker March 2024



Easter Services

Holy Trinity

Tuesday 26 March from 10.30am Creation of Easter Garden Maundy Thursday

1.00pm Launch of 'The Lords Supper Project – All are welcome in this place' followed by Prayers for peace in the Holy Land at 2.00 and 3.00pm.Please contact the Rector for further details.

8.00pm – 'The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper' with Handwashing and Watch.

Good Friday

12.00 noon to 2.00pm Open Church for Private Prayer & Contemplation 2.00pm to 3.00pm 'The Final Hour'

Holy Saturday

8.00pm 'The Easter Vigil'

Easter Day

9.30am Sung Eucharist (All Age with Easter Egg Hunt in the Serenity Garden)

St Andrews

Monday 15 7.00pm Evening Worship Good Friday 2.00pm 'The Final Hour' Easter Day 6.30am Lighting the Easer Fire

11.15am Communion by Extension

Kilmaveonaig

Lent Lunch Friday 15 March 1.00pm Good Friday 7.00pm Evening Service Easter Day 11.15am Sung Eucharist (all Age)

All Saints Maundy Thursday 28 March 4.30pm Vespers with Meditation for Maundy Thursday

Holy Trinity Dates for the Diary

Saturday 20 April Spring Fair Saturday 13 July Strawberry Tea



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, PERTH ROAD, PITLOCHRY PH16 5LY

Tel 01796 472005 for further details Registered Scottish Charity SC007020



Not English, but Anglican

The Scottish Episcopal Church

A Brief History

Zoom Presentation NOT ENGLISH BUT ANGLICAN

Friday 12 April 7.00pm



Baptism from Stonehaven Gaol

Consecration of Samuel Seabury

MUSIC IN BLAIR ATHOLL 2024 NEWSLETTER AND DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 2024

Dear All.

We do hope that you are all well? The following newsletter is to supply dates for your diaries, booking information will follow in March.

APRIL 14th 7pm in Blair Atholl Village Hall

JEMIMA AND THE FUSE - "Jemima Thewes and her husband Tim Lane. an experimental folk act from Scotland ranging from pin drop ballad to our own brand of Feckno-Folk Techno, which gets the gudience dancing. It is a big sound for a small team and is received enthusiastically!"

APRIL 28th 7.30pm at Blair Castle

HERE LIES OUR LAND – The concert is a celebration of Scotland in music and song including a first performance of Muriel Johnstone's "Bannockburn" (a setting of eight poems submitted for consideration as the words to be inscribed on the rotunda at the Bannockburn Site), traditional Scottish and Gaelic songs and works by Scottish composers: Sir James Macmillan, Tom Cunningham, Ken Johnstone and Hans Gal (Lecturer in Music at Edunburgh University and one of the founders of the Edinburgh International Festival).

> Pitlochry and District Choral Society plus Tenor - David Douglas; Piper - Annabel Charlton and Fiddler – Pete Clark

SUNDAY 5th MAY 3pm at Blair Castle

ANNUAL RECITAL BY STUDENTS OF THE YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL

Preceded by the Friends' Lunch at the Steading, Lude.

We cannot tell you how much we appreciate the generosity of the Friends of Music in Blair Atholl - they are the reason that we can still afford to put on concerts and to support musicians appropriately. The lunch before the Yehudi Menuhin School Concert is well-earned. and we always have space for more Friends.

Programme details and names of musicians will follow.

Finally will you read on to the next page for a request.....

From Joe Thompson – "The best piano player in London" (Sandi Toksvig and Kate Moss)

Dear All,

Listening to music, especially live music, provides us with a wonderful escape. Playing music is even better, while sharing music transcends just about everything and can provide light in the darkest of places.

On **Saturday 9 March from 9am-1pm**, my good friend and piano student Lavinia Gordon will be performing a modest "pianothon" to raise money for an artist's shelter in Gaza, which is being built around a very special piano - the only concert grand piano in Gaza.

To learn more about this Braveheart of the piano world, that has survived years of bombing, and even now still provides an oasis of hope for local musicians, young and old click here <u>www.palmusic.org.uk</u>

Lavinia wants to do her bit to raise some money to help this project run by **the Music Fund in conjunction with Palmusic UK** and since it is such a great cause, I will be hosting the zoom call on which Lavinia will be bravely performing from up in the Highlands of Scotland. I will also help to keep the tunes flowing during her breaks, and I invite you to do the same.

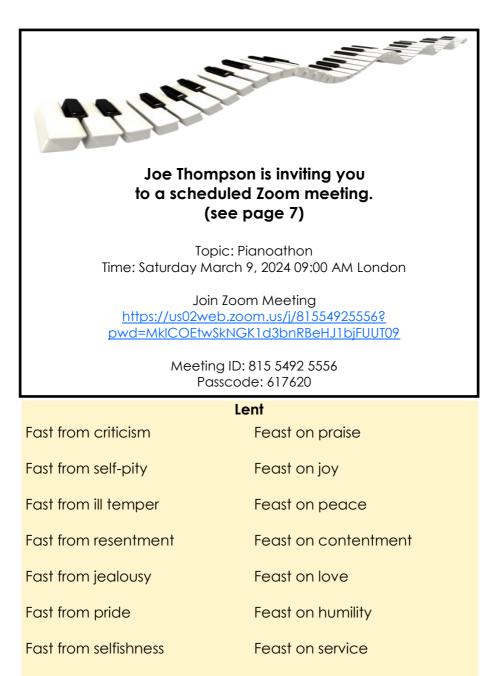
We hope to play 88 tunes, one for every note of this unique piano. If you would like to contribute a piano tune, use the link below to join the zoom call, but let me know beforehand. Or perhaps you'd like to drop in for a listen. The best way of communicating once on the call is via the "chat" feature using text.

To donate to the cause, here is Lavinia's charity account. (We couldn't set up a 'just giving' link). All of the money will go to the project. **Mr and Mrs AD Gordon Charitable Trust 60-93-03 14052851**

It will be a modest drop in the ocean, but we do hope you can "drop in" and join in the fun :)

Joe

SEE OVER FOR THE ZOOM DETAILS



Fast from fear

Benita Wylie

Feast on faith

The following words of wisdom entitled '**For a Leader**' by John O'Donohue, were sent by Lavinia's son-in-law to his niece, one of her granddaughters, on her 10th birthday.

Lavinia thought is was a lovely thing to do.

May you have the grace and wisdom To act kindly, learning To distinguish between what is Personal and what is not.

May you be hospitable to criticism.

May you never put yourself at the center of things.

May you act not from arrogance but out of service.

May you work on yourself, Building up and refining the ways of your mind.

May those who work for you Know you see and respect them.

May you learn to cultivate the art of presence In order to engage with those who meet you.

When someone fails or disappoints you, May the graciousness with which you engage Be their stairway to renewal and refinement. May you treasure the gifts of the mind Through reading and creative thinking So that you continue as a servant of the frontier Where the new will draw its enrichment from the old, And you never become a functionary.

May you know the wisdom of deep listening, The healing of wholesome words, The encouragement of the appreciative gaze, The decorum of held dignity, The springtime edge of the bleak question.

May you have a mind that loves frontiers So that you can evoke the bright fields That lie beyond the view of the regular eye.

May you have good friends To mirror your blind spots.

May leadership be for you A true adventure of growth.

By John O'Donohue

Update from the HPLC climate change group

Since our last newsletter was published, the SEC has updated its net zero toolkit, which you can find on the SEC website,

here: Welcome | Net Zero Toolkit (secnetzero.org).

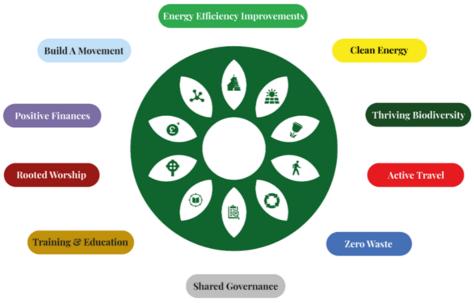
In his foreword, the Primus says:

"The College of Bishops commends the Net Zero Toolkit to all the dioceses, charges, congregations, and individual members of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and asks you all to engage with the Toolkit without delay and begin to make real change now.

People of faith are also people of hope, we believe in the hope of salvation, the hope of God's love and care for us and for this planet. Difficult as some of the changes may be, they are also signs of hope, each step on the road will bring hope to ourselves, to others, and to all of God's Creation."

Please do have a look at the toolkit – it's structured around 10 key areas (called petals), identifying key objectives that will take us towards our net zero target. Sitting under each petal are key tasks for congregations to consider; and under each task, is a series of cards suggesting basic actions, supported by guidance, that will help us get on with the task. Whilst we still need to examine the toolkit more closely, this approach really does appear to present us with good support and guidance to help us develop our own net zero plan for the charge.

The toolkit is designed as an online tool, but the checklist of tasks can be downloaded to be used as a planning guide. The petals look like this:



We've arranged a meeting in the hall at Holy Trinity for 7pm **on Thursday 11 April**, to have a good look at the toolkit. We plan to take stock of where we are and start developing a local plan for the charge that will help us make our contribution to the net zero target. All are welcome, so if you'd like to join us, please just email Val Holtom at <u>valag317@gmail.com</u>.

Following the meeting, we're planning to get climate change noticeboards up and running in each of the churches in the charge to provide information about our plans and progress. It feels like a daunting task – but we believe we can make a difference, if we work together, & take it one step at a time.

Val Holtom

Walk Lightly Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God.

Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas show your glory, Spirit of Love.

And yet the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendour, has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.

> And so the ice is cracked the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snow caps melt.

God our Father, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and love for all that you have made.

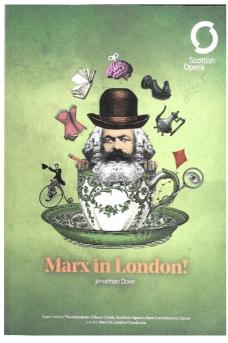
Amen.

(Caritas, adapted from a prayer written by Linda Jones/CAFOD).

POLITICS

It is sometimes said that politics and religion should not be combined – that may be so, but if it is, then the advocates may be reading a different Bible to mine. I am not a political animal; I tend to feel that whereas broad policies may differ the people are all human and have the same personal concerns which colour their politics. Imagine my surprise then when I found myself attending two very political performances within two weeks, both of which dealt with a very secular philosophy which still reflected some religious concepts of equality, morality and freedom of expression.

The first was a production of George Orwell's "Animal Farm" at the Octagon Theatre, Bolton where my son works and the second was an opera "Marx in London!" as part of my interest in audio description of opera. Chronologically, I should have seen them the other way round.



A well researched biography, "Marx in London!" condenses his history into the story of one day in the life of Karl Marx while he lived in London and it showed how the person differed from the philosopher: the philosopher had high ideals but the person was incapable of living within his means and was something of a philanderer. In the morning all Marx's furniture was seized to pay his debts, he tried to pawn his wife's remaining family silver and we saw him trying to have his wicked way with a servant (who had incidentally borne him a son 18 years earlier in her employment). By the end of the opera his furniture was returned thanks to the intervention of Friedrich Engels and the silver was stolen, then returned, and he was reconciled with his wife. All this

might have cast doubt on his philosophical integrity but in one scene he gave a speech to an assembled company about his political views which was masterful enough to win him a great deal of money from a wellwisher (which he then gave away to fund celebrations of his success). He also gave some of his last available cash to a poor woman. Another scene represented the good effect that his views had on future generations of people seeking equality – suffragettes, Nurses, miners, LGBT activists and many other workers all giving a splendid chorus number. So we were left with the impression that Marx was a flawed idealist in advocating communism.

In "Animal Farm" Orwell was examining how the ideals of communism were corrupted by the selfishness of those who came to power, all shown in the parable of the pigs ejecting the humans from the farm and ruling in their stead. The other animals were convinced that their lives would be so much better but gradually the pigs took on the traits of the farmer in exploiting the working animals so that the slogan "all animals"



are equal" became "all animals are equal but some are more equal than others". The production had a small cast portraying the animals: they wore the blue overalls of workers but had frames of animal heads when they were being particular creatures. It was an athletic performance and the actors were very convincing in their portrayal of the movements of animals. It was particularly moving when Boxer, the old cart horse was taken to the knackers and the other animals realised that he had not been given an honourable retirement as had been promised. Orwell was commenting on what he saw as the decay of the ideal of communism in Russia due to power corrupting the leaders.

In both cases the audience was asked to examine the way in which ideals became compromised in the muddle which is real life. Perhaps something which we can reflect upon.

Lesley Whitwood

Hellfire Pass (Thailand) and Anzac Day

Anzac Day is on Thursday 25 April. This is the national day of remembrance when Australian and New Zealanders specifically honour their troops. It was inaugurated to commemorate the first day that Australians fought in battle in WW1 but is generally observed now for all who died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations and there are ceremonies around the world specific to the Australian and New Zealand Services. November 11th is the International day of Remembrance.

Many nationalities of allied prisoners, including many Australians, died in Thailand during WW2 during the building of the Burma-Thai railway along the river Kwai. The prisoners who worked on it died in cruel and appalling circumstances and conditions. Hellfire Pass is noted for the harsh conditions and heavy loss of life suffered by its labourers during construction. It was called Hellfire Pass because the sight of emaciated prisoners labouring by burning torchlight resembled a scene from Hell. The prisoners were imprisoned in camps up and down the railway and Hellfire Pass is an example of their incredible feat of resilience where they had to dig by hand through solid rock using dynamite, jack hammers and rudimentary tools. The railway was never completed and many Australians, amongst others, died of disease and beatings. Hellfire Pass was lost to the jungle in the years after the war when the railway was demolished. But it was rediscovered in the 1980s. It is now the site of Anzac Day ceremonies and the location of the Australian government's Hellfire Pass memorial Museum and a



walking trail for visitors.

Robin and I have just returned from a long holiday in Asia basing ourselves with our eldest daughter, Kirsty, who has lived in Bangkok for 19 years. We visited Vietnam, Cambodia (including Angkor Wat), Laos and Penang, and some of the Thai islands.

During our last week we visited Hellfire Pass, with my brother Ruairidh, who also lives in Bangkok. When Kirsty arrived in Thailand in 2005 she joined the British Club Bangkok Pipe Band as she had been a bagpiper at school and with the OTC at St Andrews University. A few years later the band were invited to play at Hellfire Pass for the Anzac commemoration.



The following is an account of that day:

"The Ghosts Remain at Hellfire Pass.

The sound of the pipes and drums of the British Club Bangkok Pipe Band echoed off the sheer rock walls of Konyu Cutting shortly before 11 o'clock last Sunday morning, as the band marched into the clearing at Hellfire Pass. Gathered round the Memorial were ex-POW's, sons and daughters, grandchildren and friends, and others yet who had simply come to pay their respects to those who suffered and died during those terrible days of 1942-45 in the construction of the Burma - Thai railway.

A cloud of yellow butterflies patterned the clearing and indigo blue dragonflies came out from the thick bamboo jungle to hover in the heat of the morning air. The prayers and tears have not stopped, there is no closure here; the heartache and tragedy of what took place on the Burma-Thai railway in 1942-45 has not become a distant memory.

The traditional bagpipe lament, The Flowers of the Forest, brought everyone silently and solemnly to their feet. As the pipes fell quiet, the bugle sounded the Last Post hauntingly over the clearing. The trees have not forgotten what they witnessed back then. As if on cue, as the two-minute silence commenced, the jungle surrounding the clearing at the far end of Konyu Cutting began to sway - a sudden breeze whipped through the 60-foot bamboos and thrashed them back and forth quite angrily for a few moments, and then settled into a gentle whispering, and then was gone. Loose leaves fluttered down upon the gathering and all was hushed once more. The bugle broke the silence, the butterflies resumed their flight, and perhaps the souls of men who never went home may rest again awhile."

For Robin and me the opportunity to visit the railway cutting was very powerful. Both our fathers served in Burma in WW2. Fortunately neither were captured but could too easily have been amongst those so cruelly treated

as prisoners. They had many friends who were. We also visited the immaculate Chungai War Graves Cemetery which was filled with British and Dutch graves. A sobering experience.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.



Seonaid Hastie Smith



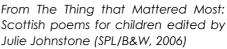
'Peaceful' Sunset over the Kwai River, Kanchenaburi, Thailand February 2024 Photo by Ruairidh Watters (Seonaid's brother!) March Weather (submitted by Libby MacRae)

Wind in Pines Wind on water Wind in rushes Wind on feather

Sun in leaves Sun on loch Sun in reeds Sun on duck Rain in trees Rain on river Rain in moss Rain on eider

All one morning All together In an hour March weather

Tessa Ransford





Reflection Bench: a place to sit and reflect, to gather with family and friends, or have a cup of tea and warm up after swimming and a rewarding commission to design and make.

We were commissioned to design and make a bespoke garden bench to remember a special husband, father and grandfather. The bench is located beside a loch in Scotland and when Angus saw the beautiful landscape mirrored in the water he was inspired to design the Reflection Bench. The seat becomes the shoreline and the structure above is mirrored in the structure below. A traditional wooden clinker boatbuild-

ing technique was used and slats of oak were steamed and bent over each other to build up a complex curved shape that provides a comfortable backrest and an enveloping hug. Seventy six copper rivets reinforce the structure. Each are hammered through, trimmed and hammered into a smooth dome. The rivets will develop a lovely green patina over time and the oak will weather to silvery grey. The oak is from a windblown tree on Glen Lyon Estate.

We often engrave outdoor benches with text or poetry or in this case a few lines from a song. We will be returning to RHS Chelsea Flower Show 21-25 May and taking a version of our Reflection Bench.

> Lorna Ross Angus Ross Furniture

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



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Kilmaveonaig Committee The Rector Lavinia Gordon							

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Andrew Gordon	Treasurer	01796 481230
Pam Godwin	Lay Representative	01796 482826

St Andrew's Vestry

The Rector		
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All Saints' Vestry

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

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Copy for the next issue for the Summer issue to the Editor by Noon on Monday 27 May 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 PERTHSHIRE 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

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

	March 2024		April 2024		May 2024
Sun 5	Lent 2	Sun 2	Palm Sunday	Mon 1	St Philip & St James
Sun 12	Lent 3	Thurs 6	Maundy Thurs		Apostles
Sun 17	Lent 4	Fri 7	Good Friday	Sun 7	Easster 5
Sat 25	The Annunciation	Sat 8	Holy Saturday	Sun 14	Easter 6
Sun 26	Lent 5	Sun 9	Easter Day	Thurs 18	Ascension Day
		Mon 10	Easter Monday	Sun 28	Pentecost
		Sun 16	Easter 2	Wed 31	Visitation of the
		Sun 23	Easter 3		Blessed Virgin
		Tues 25	St Mark, Evangelist		-
		Sun 30	Easter 4		