







Holy Trinity

St Andrew's

Kilmaveonaig



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







December 2024, January & February 2025



Moulin from the Black Castle - photo: Seonaid

Rector's Reflections Winter 2024 'The Scottish Episcopal Church welcomes you',

At the approach of Winter 2024/25 and as I approach the 10th Anniversary of my Induction as Rector of the Highland Perthshire Linked Charge I have been contemplating and reflecting on who we are as a church community and on the nature of the Scottish Episcopal Church and what it stands for in our society today.

So much is happening in our world today, to humanity, in politics and in the institutions of the church across the world itself, and the news and the image of all have it seems been sorely tarnished.

'The Scottish Episcopal Church welcomes you,' we state this clearly on what is affectionately known as our Pub sign, but what do we mean? So often in everyday life welcomes are only extended to those we perceive are like us. So do we as individuals or churches or nations welcome everyone equally, do we 'love our neighbour' or do we only love the 'neighbours' when their appearance, values and status match our own?

Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas and the run up to Ash Wednesday and Lent are a time when we annually remember the 'word' of God that came to us in love to teach us to love and that we were to welcome all of humankind, as our brothers and sisters, dirty shepherds, wise men, women and men of every description, fishermen, tax collectors, pharisees, the unlovely, the sick, the promiscuous, sinners and saints in equal measure. That is what our 'advertising sign,' outside every Episcopal church really means.

On 6th November, the day after the US election, a friend of Robin and mine who is an Episcopal Priest in the US and is Rector of All Saints Hoboken, published this piece in her Parish newsletter, and on Facebook, and I have adapted it slightly for use here, just as she did for her charge.

Many years ago, a welcome sign at Coventry Cathedral in the UK caused quite a stir. I think it is appropriate for these times, too. No one has been able to identify where it originally came from , so, whoever you are, thank you!

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, LGBTQIA+, confused, well-heeled or down-atheel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up, or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than then Francis of Assisi or haven't been to church since Christmas 10 years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome mums, dads, artists, scientists, tree huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, anyone at all. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organized religion. We offer welcome to those who work too hard, don't work at all, can't spell, or are here because Granny is visiting and wanted to come to church. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost on the A9 and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters, and most of all (the Scottish Episcopal Church welcomes) you.

Liz Baker Nov 2024

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Ian to all Charges on Safeguarding

Following events in the Church of England regarding Safeguarding, our Bishops have issued the following Pastoral Letter to be read and circulated across the Province. The letter was read to Congregations at Holy Trinity & Kilmaveonaig on Sunday and to St Andrews on 24th November. It is included in the newsletter for anyone who missed the readings.

Bishop Ian writes:

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would be very grateful if you would read out this pastoral message about recent events in the Church of England and communicate it to your congregations: The resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury this week, over failures in the Church of England's safeguarding processes and culture, is a serious matter. Although the SEC is a completely separate church, this has implications for us all.

Safeguarding in the Scottish Episcopal Church is a vitally important part of our life, and any concerns reported are passed, without fail, to the SEC safeguarding team in Edinburgh. Survivors are placed at the centre of any response, and any issue raised is dealt with in a necessary and proportionate manner, within the processes and Canons agreed across the SEC.

The Archbishop's resignation in our sister church may lead to changes in their structures. We cannot be complacent in Scotland: we remain committed to improving and learning in all we do, to ensure that we are as safe a church as we possibly can be for all.

With warmest regards, +lan St Andrews The Right Revd Ian Paton Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane Commissary for the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney



Special Services December, January & February

1st December 11.15am

Joint Charge Service at St Andrews to celebrate Advent 1 & the Feast of St Andrew.

> 15th December 9.30am at Holy Trinity Café Communion

17th to 23rd December 10.30 Morning Prayer with Advent Antiphons on Zoom (Not on Sunday 22nd)

> **23rd December 3.00pm** at All Saints Carols at Christmas

24th December 8.00pm at Holy Trinity first Communion of Christmas

> 24th December 11.30pm at St Andrews Midnight Mass

25th December 9.30am at Holy Trinity Carol Service with simple Communion

> **25th December 11.15am** at Kilmaveonaig – All Age Communion

25th December 11.15am at St Andrews – Communion by Extension

29th December 11.15am

Joint Charge Service at Kilmaveonaig for Christmas 1, St Andrews Joint with Church of Scotland.

5th January at all our Churches – Celebrating Epiphany

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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Pitlochry High School invite you to

The Pitlochry Nativity



at Holy Trinity Church and in the Serenity Garden

Join us for our family Community Nativity with carols, festive drinks, mince pies and a visit from Father Christmas in the wonderful outdoor setting of the Pitlochry Serenity Garden. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a torch or a lantern if you have one.

Collection for the Pitlochry Food Bank

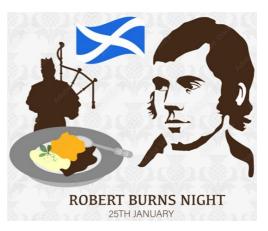




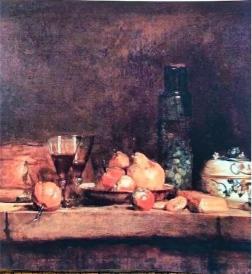


Burns Night Lunch 12.30pm 25th January

Join us for a lunch of Haggis, neeps at tatties. Apple Pie & Cream and a glass of wine or tot of Whisky at Holy Trinity With poems and music and of course speeches. Join us for the celebration £12.00 per person



FAVOURITE RECIPES by Alice Gordon



Alice Gordon's Cookery Book

For sale, at $\pounds 15$. If you would like a copy please contact Alice on 01887 830796 or Mobile No. 07586 800371.

She is happy to post one out or pass one to you by arrangement.

The Lost Village of Kilmaveonaig

The next time you visit Kilmaveonaig, we cannot guarantee that you'll see a splendid rainbow, as in this photograph, but you don't need one to remind you what a special place it is. As you know, the church dates back to the 7th century—but why is it up a track and so far from the village? The answer, of course, is that Kilmaveonaig was the village, long before Blair Atholl was a twinkle in a Duke's eye.

Half close your eyes and imagine the church surrounded by a dozen other buildings. There was a school, a schoolhouse, an inn, a forge and even a brewery. With a little more imagination, you would hear the sound of children going in and out of the school; you would see the smoke rising from the chimney of the blacksmith's forge; you would hear fiddle music coming from the inn and maybe catch the yeasty smell coming from the brewery. Once a year, there was a fair—the Fair of Bishop John—in honour of the Bishop of Dunkeld who took Kilmaveonaig under his wing in the 12th century. The main road north—Comyn's Road—ran past the church on its way towards Inverness via the Old Bridge of Tilt. General Wade later upgraded it to one of his infamous military roads. So you aren't just looking up a track at a church, but you are also looking back in time—maybe farther back than you can imagine. What you see in your mind's eye is the lost village of Kilmaveonaig.

There is archaeological evidence of settlements in the Vale of Atholl dating back to the Iron Age—maybe as far back as 1000-500BC. It is an ideal place for habitation. It has shelter, two rivers, flat land and gentle hills, woods, pasture and relatively easy passage both to the north and south. The two rivers—the Tilt and the Garry—would also have provided some protection from invaders like the Vikings and even those pesky English! It is no wonder that settlements like Kilmave-onaig arose here, and no wonder that the early Irish monks like Beoghna and Adamnan settled here and established their holy places in the 7th century.

In the following centuries, Kilmaveonaig changed from being a monastic foundation and became a parish church. Its Celtic flavour gave way to the rather more formal taste of papal Roman Catholicism. In 1275 it is recorded as supplying money to fund the Crusades. Fast-forward by 500+ years to when everything changed in the 1820s. The 'new' bridge over the Tilt was built in 1822 and General Wade's road was abandoned in favour of a new one connecting with the new bridge. New houses and the hotel sprung up along the new road. The buildings surrounding the church came down quite rapid-ly, and the land was returned to agricultural use. Only the church remains.

To say that the church "remains" is to do it an injustice. Despite destructions during the Reformation, the Jacobite uprisings and the period of the Penal Laws, it has been restored many times by the faithful folk who have called it their spiritual home, as we do today. So the rainbow is a very fitting reminder of peace after storm. Not that we need it; we all know how special Kilmaveonaig is. The village may have disappeared, but the church stands as testament to fifteen centuries of Christian worship rooted in God's love and the faithfulness of his people - past, present and future.



John Martin

Nativity

So, modern pundits tell us, They got it wrong, the Old Masters, With their serene, golden-haired Marys Demurely receiving on Tuscan terraces Angels in pastel robes, with wings -Gilded feathers, absurdly small -Against a backdrop of pointed pines and vines and olives Climbing sun-lit hills.



Then there are the wooden stables, straw-thatched,

With shepherds, donkeys, cows and kings

Neatly arranged around

Plump, placid Christ-children,

Calmly displayed by blue-gowned virgins.

Beautiful but wrong.

We know better now. We face reality. Two Jewish adolescents, in occupied territory, Were driven from their home village By the lust of an imperial power For more oppressive taxes. No room for them in the inn Because their fellow travellers Refused to give up their places. "Pregnant? Nothing to do with us." An indifferent innkeeper offered the enclosure Where the animals were kept: "You can put it in the manger when it comes. There's straw enough." Visitors came: horny-handed farm-workers, Reeking of sheep and humanity; A few dabblers in the occult Bringing wildly inappropriate gifts When food and clothing and hard cash would have been more suitable. Finally, a paranoid tyrant forced the little family To become asylum-seekers, Strangers in a strange land.

And what's the message in all this reality? Life's a bitch – Face it; endure it; plod on?

Such realism keeps its eyes firmly fixed On the flotsam on the water, Misses the clear, bright depths.

One star-lit night Shepherds saw the veil between heaven and earth Lifted. Were wrapped in God's glory; Received the message of salvation; Heard the heavenly host rejoicing. In a stable of sorts, God was made man, Saw, for the first time with human eyes, His own creation. Was cradled by his mother, felt the love in her bending face: God and humanity at one, Just as He always intended. Men from afar who understood it all Brought gifts for kingship, priesthood and death. Yet, realism would say,

This new life, badly begun, ended in premature death,

With whips and fists and thorns and nails.

But, oh, look deeper to the glory of love and forgiveness,

Begun in a stable and completed on a cross.

Begun on a Bethlehem night

When glory shone around,

When love came leaping from the sky,

When joy erupted into the world

And peace became more than a pious hope.

Oh, feel it even now, this very Christmas.

Maybe the Old Masters were right To paint not the reality, But an ever-present, transforming beauty -A deeper truth.

Cherith Nixon



HPLC Climate Change Update Winter 2024.

It seems like not so long ago that we were watching the outcomes of the COP 28 summit – and now we're doing the same for COP 29. As I write this, the challenges of reaching an agreement at the COP have seemed greater than ever before. It's not unusual for the COP to run into the weekend in order to get an agreement over the line, but this year, AOSIS (the Alliance of Small

Island States) walked out of the negotiations and there was talk of the conference collapsing altogether. An agreement was reached in the end, but again, many feel the deal isn't nearly strong enough to support the level of change that's needed to meet the target of limiting warming to 1.5° (or even 2°) above pre-industrial levels.

It's complex but the key issues are, as always, twofold:

- The level of climate finance offered by richer countries to those who are poorest and most at risk from climate effects that they have had no part in creating. This year the agreement is for richer countries to pay £239bn per year by 2025, but it isn't clear which countries will pay what.
- The commitment to reduce the use of fossil fuels. This year's agreement doesn't evidence any further progress, but simply repeats the commitment to 'transition away' from fossil fuels that was in the Dubai agreement last year.

Reports of weak presidency from Azerbaijan, too much influence from the big oil-producing nations and the spectre of a change in US policy have added to the challenge in securing an agreement this year. What happens after the COP, remains to be seen.

Here in Highland Perthshire, hunkered down against the snowy ravages of Storm Bert, it's hard to believe that climate change doesn't have something to do with the extremes of weather that countries across the world are experiencing. But it's also hard for us to really experience and understand the reality of the risk posed by climate change to our world, its people, and its animal and plant life. Which makes it hard for us to commit to the changes that we all need to make in our own lives to contribute to a healthy future for our planet.

I, for one, am grateful for the leadership shown by the Scottish Episcopal Church and its very evident commitment to our net zero target. The church has, as the saying goes, put its money where its mouth is and invested heavily in driving the net zero programme forward. We have some enormous challenges ahead, but it does feel that it's 'on us' to step up and do our bit. That bit might feel small and insignificant, but ultimately, it's true that every small contribution makes a difference – and we can all do something.

Having said that, the coal-mouse flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time, an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."

What's happening in the linked charge?

In the last newsletter we updated you on the meeting we had with Daniel Prince in the net zero team and plans to consult with Warmworks on planning a transition to renewable energy solutions in Holy Trinity.

Unfortunately, having consulted with a number of installers, Warmworks has advised that we need to get the remedial work to the church building sorted first, to repair the impact of and prevent future water ingress and dampness. Without this, measures for energy efficiency and new heating systems are unlikely to perform as expected. We now need to spend some time considering how we align our remedial works with energy efficiency measures – but of course, to progress any of this, we're going to need money! It's a little disheartening, but we're determined to focus on what we **can** do, rather than on what we can't.

The Climate Change Group is due to meet on Monday this week (25th November) and we'll update you on our plans in the next newsletter. In September, the SEC issued the new version of the energy footprint calculator to all churches. The footprint for Holy Trinity has come in at 8.5 tonnes for 2023, which, encouragingly, is nearly a 4-tonne reduction on our previous footprint from 2019, which was 12.3 tonnes. That was measured using a different tool, but nevertheless, 8.5 feels a lot better than 12.3! We suspect that the key reason for the reduction is the switch to a green electricity tariff, but we have taken other measures such as the installation of a HIVE thermostat system. We will now monitor our footprint on an annual basis. As yet, we don't have readings for the other churches in the charge, but we will have them by the time of the next newsletter. In September, some of us attended a diocesan climate gathering in Perth Cathedral – about 60 people attended, and benefitted from four workshops on positive finances, rooted worship, zero waste and training and education.

And in the community ...?

In **Pitlochry**, many of you will know that sadly, the Handam shop will be closing down – there just hasn't been enough footfall to justify its continuing operation. However, the larger shop in **Aberfeldy** is still going. You can read more about Handam here: <u>https://www.handam.co.uk/</u>

There are other climate focused activities going on in both Aberfeldy and Pitlochry, details here:

Aberfeldy climate café: meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, at the Birks Cinema (<u>https://www.climate.cafe/climate-cafes/climate-cafes/climate-cafe-aberfeldy/</u>)

Aberfeldy repair cafe: meeting 3rd Saturday of the month, 2-4pm at Glen Lyon coffee roasters (<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>Aberfeldyrepaircafe/</u>)

Pitlochry climate café: meeting 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm, in Pitlochry Library (<u>https://www.pitlochrycc.co.uk/news</u> }

Pitlochry repair cafe: meeting every 4th Sunday, 12-3pm, in the Moulin Hall. Next meeting 1st Dec, then 2nd Feb (<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u><u>PitlochryRepairCafe/?locale=en GB</u>)

Pitlochry and Moulin men's shed: <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> profile.php?id=61565436021106

Pitlochry Garden Share: <u>https://</u> www.facebook.com/pitlochrygardenshare



A poem for the season (submitted by Liz)



Something Told The Wild Geese (1934)

Something told the wild geese It was time to go. Though the fields lay golden Something whispered,—"Snow." Leaves were green and stirring, Berries, luster-glossed, But beneath warm feathers Something cautioned,—"Frost." All the sagging orchards Steamed with amber spice, But each wild breast stiffened At remembered ice. Something told the wild geese It was time to fly,— Summer sun was on their wings, Winter in their cry.

Rachel Field

Patchwork Classes at Holy Trinity

Many apologies but these classes will start a little later than anticipated as I have had an unexpected set back. I will contact those of you who have said you are interested and should there be anyone else who would like to know more please don't hesitate to phone Isabel Sunderland on 07856 339230



Holy Trinity East Window – Top Section

Unless you take binoculars to church, some of the detail in the East Window at Holy Trinity will have escaped your attention. We know that the window was designed by the famous Charles Eamer Kempe (1837-1907), and it was given in 1906 in memory of William A. Atkinson. I'm not entirely sure who he was but there was a William Adair Atkinson at Knockfarrie House in the late 1800s.

Kempe's signature is in the form of a wheatsheaf, and it can be found on the very left edge of the window, at the bottom of the panel containing Mary, the Mother of Jesus. You can see this from ground level. The wing-tip of one of the carved golden angels points to it, by coincidence.

The very top section of the window depicts Christ, the Lamb of God, enthroned in typical Gothic Revival architecture. The Lamb carries a banner depicting the cross; his halo signifying that, once slain, he is now risen and glorified. Flashes of lightning can be seen behind him and these are all allusions to the imagery of the book of Revelation which are incorporated into this section of the window. Revelation mentions flashes of lightning coming from the throne of the Lamb in chapters 4, 8 and 16.



John Martin



During November Robin and I visited this lovely church in Haputale, while visiting nearby Ella, one of the most glorious locations in Sri Lanka, high in the hills surrounded by many tea estates founded by Scottish planters.

St. Andrew's Church is an Anglican church in <u>Haputale</u>, <u>Badulla District</u>, <u>Sri Lanka</u>. It is one of the oldest buildings in Haputale and one of the old-

est European buildings in the district. The foundation stone was laid on 7 April 1869 by Lieutenant General Hodgson and it was consecrated for worship on 19 September 1869. It was built by James Andrews, who worked at Sherwood Tea Estate, and Richard Wylie, from Pita Ratmale Tea Estate. The church's interior is small but well furnished. The <u>pews</u> and kneelers are upholstered with red velvet and leather and the ends of the pews are decorated with intricate woodcarvings. The altar is surrounded by stained glass windows, imported from Scotland, that depict the significant events in the life of Jesus. It has a marble baptismal font, imported from England, located at the en-



trance of the church. The church was declared a protected archaeological site in November 2002





We met the priest in charge, Father John, who welcomed us and showed us around his beautiful church. His weekly congregation is around 120!

Seonaid Hastie Smith

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



The RectorReverend Canon Liz Baker01796 472005

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

The Rector			
Robin Baker	Secretary/Treasurer/Investments		
		01796 472005	
Gina Charleson	Lay Rep./Rector's Warden	01796 473025	
Ann Covell	People's Warden	01796 470129	
Paul Covell	Reordering & Tech. Co-ord	01796 470129	
Val Holton	Alt. Lay Representative &		
	Climate Change Co-ord.	01796 549235	
Agnes Keegan	Fabric Convenor	01796 549235	
Peter Wickes		01796 635139	
Pam Godwin (co-opt	01796 482826		
John Martin (co-opte	07801 233412		
Carol Powell	(All Saints')	01882 634205	
Charlotte Baker (All So	07940 907712		

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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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Jennifer Valentine	Rector's Warden	01796 474444
Vacancy	People's Warden	

Lay Representative

Treasurer

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

Noon on Monday 24 February 2025

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

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

December 2024		January 2025		February 2025	
Sun 1	Advent 1	Wed 1	The Holy Name	Sun 2	Presentation of
Sun 8	Advent 2	Sun 5	2nd Sun after		Jesus in Temple
Sun 15	Advent 3		Christmas	Sun 9	Epiphany 5
Sat 21	St Thomas Apostle	Mon 6	The Epiphany	Sun 16	Epiphany 6
Sun 22	Advent 4	Sun 12	Epiphany 1	Sun 23	Epiphany 7
Tue 24	Christmas Eve	Sat 18	Confession of St	Mon 24	St Mastthias
Wed 25	Christmas I, II, III		Peter Apostle		Apostle
Thur 26	St Stephen	Sun 19	Epiphany 2		
Fri 27	St John Apostle &	Sat 25	Conversion of St		
	Evengelist		Paul Apostle		
Sat 28	Holy Innocents	Sun 26	Epiphany 3		
Sun 29	1st Sunday after				
	Christmas				