



Holy Trinity



Kilmaveonaig



St Andrews



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**



Winter



December 2023, January and February 2024



Kinnaird from Donavourd November 2023 Photo: Ruairidh Watters

Rector's Reflections Winter 2023

I wonder, what is the most important part of Christmas for you personally. For me it has always been 'light in the darkness' manifest by the myriad of lights that shine out as we travel around in the dark and cold of our northern winters. Even the stars seem to shine more brightly.

But light comes in the darkness in many ways, for families struggling in the turmoil of war or natural disaster the miracle of new life, the coming of a child can be the ultimate hope for the future. Now sadly this is not always the case, too many of these newborn bursts of lights and hope are extinguished before they have even begun to shine, so why I ask, almost every year, would God choose to come to us as a baby?

A baby, a young one is almost the most vulnerable creature on the planet, totally dependent on its parents for care, food, warmth, all those things that are essential for life to continue. Surely a very risky strategy and one that depended upon the kindness, love, and care of so many people. Mary, who was risking everything, even her own life to bring this life forth. Joseph, who accepted the child of another (even if it was God, that's still a big ask) and all the others not spoken about who made sure the baby born in Bethlehem grew to be a man.

And I think that's the point; if we look at the stories in the Old Testament of how God appears to people, in a burning bush, in a still small voice after the earthquake, wind and fire, all of these are spectacular, other-worldly, bringing about a sense of fear and awe. But a baby, now that's different; a baby does bring feelings of awe and wonder, but also the need to protect and nurture. In other words for God to really be revealed to humanity, he had to become one with us and you do that by being born among us, as one of us, and that is what incarnation is all about.

Christmas Legends

I have been very honoured to be asked to lead the Christmas services at Pitlochry High School this year and have been working on things to say to the young people. One of the things I love is how legends & stories of Christ's birth from around the world tell us a profound truth, that Christ comes for all creation, here are two of my favourite examples and I will be using some of them at the school services as examples of how Christ was born for all and the message of love and inclusion that many of these legends show.

The first is what I believe is a West Country Legend that at Midnight on Christmas Eve the animals in their stalls kneel at the moment of Christ's birth; the second a legend that love is the most important gift we can give at Christmas.

The Oxen by Thomas Hardy

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.



So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

The Legend of the Poinsettia



There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy." Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet.

She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves symbolise the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

The Poinsettia is also a national emblem of Madagascar

Advent Course



**HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE LINKED CHARGE
ADVENT COURSE 2023**

*Silent Night Holy Night
Preparing for Christmas with 3 of the best loved Carols*

6th December 'In the Bleak Midwinter'

13th December 'It came upon the Midnight Clear'

20th December 'Silent Night'

2.30pm Wednesdays at The Paddock, Grandtully
Or
On Zoom

Contact Liz 01796 472005 or Lesley 01887 840416 for details

And into the New Year

And so as we look forward to the new year before us, we give thanks for all the blessings that have come our way in 2023 and at this time we pray earnestly for our world and its people, that they may learn to live together in peace and harmony. Tennyson's 'Ring out Wild Bells' sums this up for me.

Ring out Wild Bells

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.



With best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year

Liz Baker
November 2023

Services in December including Christmas

Holy Trinity Church, Pitlochry

16 December - 3.30pm The Pitlochry Nativity with Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Pitlochry High School (In Serenity Garden) All Welcome.

17 December - 8.00pm Compline/Advent Antiphons on Zoom

18 to 23rd December - 10.30am, Morning Prayer/Advent Antiphons on Zoom

24 December – 10.30am - All Age Communion with blessing of the Christmas Crib

24 December – 8.00pm Christmas Communion

25 December – 9.30am Carols and Stories for Christmas (bring your presents)

31 December – 10.30am Holy Communion (a joint charge service)

Kilmaveonaig, Blair Atholl

17 December – 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight

25 December – 11.15am All Age Christmas Communion (bring your presents)

31 December – 10.30am Holy Communion (Joint charge service at Holy Trinity)

St Andrew's, Church, Strathtay

6, 13 & 20 December – 10.30am Advent Course at The Paddock, Grandtully

17 December – 11.15am 9 Lessons & Carols

24 December – 11.15am A Christingle Service for the whole family

24 December – 11.30pm Midnight Mass

25 December – 10.30am Christmas Communion (by Extension)

31 December – 10.30am (Joint with Church of Scotland)

All Saints' Church, Kinloch Rannoch Square

3 December - 9.30am Advent Holy Communion

22 December - 4.00pm 'The Christmas Story' Lessons and Carols

24 December - 6.00pm 'Carols at Christmas' (with Church of Scotland at the Old Church)

25 December - 11.00am Joint Service for all Rannoch Churches in the Old Church

31 December – 10.30am Holy Communion for whole charge **at Holy Trinity**

Or

31 December – 11.00am Joint Service for all Rannoch Churches in **the Old Church**

7 January – 9.30am All Age Service for Epiphany with simple Communion

For further details of these, our other regular services and Zoom Link contact Revd Canon Liz Baker 01796 472005



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

THE PITLOCHRY NATIVITY

Saturday 16 December 3.30pm
in The Serenity Garden at Holy Trinity Church

Join us at 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.

Simple costumes provided for anyone wanting to take part in our Christmas Story. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a torch or lantern if you have one.

There will be a collection for the Pitlochry Food Bank.

January & February Services

Holy Trinity

- 7 January – 9.30 Epiphany [Communion from Reserved Sacrament](#)
- 14 January – 9.30 Epiphany 2 Holy Communion
- 21 January – 9.30 Epiphany 3 Holy Communion
- 28 January – 9.30 Epiphany 4 Holy Communion
- 4 February – 9.30 Candlemas [Communion from Reserved Sacrament](#)
- 11 February – 9.30 Sunday before Lent Holy Communion
- 14 February – 9.30 Ash Wednesday Communion with Ashing
- 18 February – 9.30 Lent 1 Holy Communion
- 25 February – 9.30 Lent 2 Holy Communion

St Andrews

- 7 January – 11.15 Epiphany Matins
- 14 January – 11.15 Epiphany 2 Holy Communion
- 21 January – 11.15 Epiphany 3 Communion from Reserved Sacrament
- 28^t January – 11.15 Epiphany 4 Holy Communion
- 4 February – 11.15 Candlemas or Epiphany 5 Matins
- 11 February – 11.15 Sunday before Lent Holy Communion
- 18 February – 11.15 Lent 1 Holy Communion
- 25 February – 11.15 Lent 2 Communion from Reserved Sacrament

Kilmaveonaig

- 7 January – 11.15 Epiphany All Age Communion
- 14 January – 11.15 Epiphany 2 Communion from Reserved Sacrament
- 14 January – 11.15 Epiphany 2 Holy Communion
- 21 January – 11.15 Epiphany 3 [Communion from Reserved Sacrament](#)
- 28 January – 11.15 Epiphany 4 Matins
- 4 February – 11.15 All Age Candlemas Holy Communion
- 11 February – 11.15 Sunday before Lent Communion from Reserved Sacrament
- 18 February – 11.15 Lent 1 Holy Communion
- 25 February – 11.15 Lent 2 Matins

All Saints

- 7 January – 9.30 Epiphany All Age Communion
- 4 February – 9.30 Candlemas All Age Communion

Zoom Services

Morning Prayer - Thursdays 10.30am

- 11 & 25 January
- 8 & 22 February

Evening Prayer – Sundays 6.00pm

- 14 & 28 January
- 11 & 25 February



**THE BALLROOM, BLAIR CASTLE,
FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER at 4pm**

DUCHESS KITTY MP, 1874-1960,
A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

A Recital of Piano, Song and a little Pipe Music interspersed with excerpts from her life story, to celebrate the centenary of The Duchess of Atholl (Duchess Kitty)'s election to Parliament. The first Scottish woman MP.

Dida Condria - International prizewinner and finalist Young Musician of the Year (Keyboard) 2022

Colleen Nicoll – soprano

Muriel Johnstone and Lavinia Gordon – piano

Garry West – bagpipes

TICKETS: £15 to include tea and mince pies after the concert. Book in advance or pay at the door



**National Holocaust Memorial Day
Saturday 27 January 2024**

I am writing this at the end of November 2023 at a time when wars are becoming commonplace worldwide and the situation in January 2024 cannot be imagined.

However 'We do not have to take sides to show we care' (Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg the Senior Rabbi for the Masorti Jews on Thought for the Day during the Today programme, Radio 4 on November 16th.)

[Thought for the Day - Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg - BBC Sounds](#)

Please remember the 6 million Jews who were exterminated in the Holocaust, plus other groups including Soviet POWs, Roma, people with disabilities and anyone who was 'different', by lighting a candle, a yellow one if possible, on 27 January and placing it in a window.

We must not forget.

*Thank you
Isabel Sunderland*

A message from Bill and Sue Hoare

Hullo all. We think of you frequently but especially on Sundays. We are settling well in Yeovil, delighted to be here and getting the house straight.

We wake to sun more mornings than not but the wind has a chill to it and our open garden experiences all the storms but no damage to date and nothing like you have experienced.

My priorities on arrival were to find 1, an occupation/ interests for William; 2 a GP surgery & 3, a church.

William has joined the Somerset Wildlife Trust and is going to their members' day on Saturday at Taunton cricket ground. He has been amazing doing many small jobs around the house. Slightly frustrated that he can't do more of the bigger jobs but recognising that at 86 years old someone else needs to do them. However he is on the shed roof as I write, patching holes!!

We have become patients at an excellent Medical Practice just down the road with an adjacent pharmacy. Very handy. We were instantly given appointments for Covid & flu jabs which we have had with no side effects and both of us have been given appointments for a check up, which we understand is an annual procedure here for the elderly. Something I never had in Aberfeldy and William only since his Cardiac arrest. So, very Impressed to date.

We have six Church of England churches within a three mile radius to choose from and struck lucky with our second church. It is very modern, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary on 19 November with the Bishop of Wells, with a school attached. We have traditional hymns and liturgy with Sunday school going on at the back of the Church throughout the service, lovely. On Remembrance Sunday all the Scouts and Cubs attached to the school were present with their leaders. It was swinging room only, marvellous. The young vicar, married with 2 small daughters, gave an excellent sermon describing the history of Bassetts jelly babies & involving making first a sword then a poppy with a red pipe cleaner. Very appropriate.

The sweets were invented in 1864 by an Austrian immigrant working at *Fryers of Lancashire*, and were originally marketed as "Unclaimed Babies". By 1918 they were produced by [Bassett's](#) in Sheffield as "Peace Babies", to mark the end of [World War I](#). Bassett's themselves have supported the "Peace Babies" name. Production was suspended during [World War II](#) due to wartime shortages. The product was re-launched as "Jelly Babies" in 1953.

It is a very active congregation with some younger members so we have not been asked to do anything except attend various events.



As for the house, it was built in 1955 and has not had much done to it for the past ten years. We have put in a new kitchen, new flooring in the hall & kitchen and will have new windows and external doors installed by the end of the month. We love overlooking the recreation park where we see a fun run passing us every Sunday morning at 9.00am, football matches and lots of dog walkers and so not overlooked at all.

We hope the house will be straight by Christmas and then in the New Year we will install a garden room which will be our study and extra sitting space. The house is very bijou!!

Of course what has been really wonderful is to be so near Jane, my sister, the reason for the move. We are in touch daily and see her three or four times a week. It is so good to be here and available for her.

We hope that many of you will contact us if you are coming South and we would be delighted to put you up as well.

Love to you all Sue & William

16, Winston Drive, Yeovil BA21 3BH
01935 476807

Update from the Charge climate change group

As 2023 draws to a close, it's hard to deny that this has been a difficult year in terms of climate change. We've seen sea temperatures higher and levels of sea ice lower than ever before. There have been exceptional heat-waves around the world with vast areas destroyed by wildfires. By mid-September, we had seen 38 days with average global temperatures exceeding the 1.5 ° target– it's worth

being aware this had **never** happened prior to the year 2000. In July, we saw the highest Aever recorded global daily average surface temperature – possibly the warmest temperature on earth in the past 100,000 years! Carbon emissions have continued to rise, and are now higher than ever before. We are still far from the levels of investment that we'll need to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement by 2030.



The impacts of climate change are already catastrophic in some areas of the world – and the effect continues to be unequally felt between the Global South and the developed world. Scientists are warning that by 2100, between one third and one half of the world's population will be living in parts of the world where life cannot be sustained, due to severe heat, and limited food availability. And ironically, most of the world's emissions growth is in developing countries, which cannot afford investment in green energy. Support is urgently needed to address this challenge, for the benefit of the whole planet.

There are some positive signs, although many of them still have caveats attached. We are beginning to see some signs of climate change goals being supported by policies that could make a difference. There has been a worldwide surge in renewables, which is now meeting 80% of new demands for power – although limited by a bottleneck in getting renewable initiatives connected to the grid. We are seeing an increase in electric vehicles, although there are still real challenges in producing them using green and ethical processes. Worldwide, sales of heat pumps have jumped by double digits for the past 2 years, but we are very far away from eliminating emissions from existing buildings.

Investment in clean energy across the world is now 70% greater than investment in fossil fuels, although there is a real lack of investment in some areas, such as cleaning up industrial processes. This year the UN in Montreal also agreed a new biological diversity framework to halt biodiversity loss and stop deforestation by bringing 30% of the world's land and oceans under protected status by 2030. And global tree cover loss dropped by 9.7% between 2021 and 2022, with a new EU law prohibiting the import of products of deforestation from 2025.

So, as we approach Christmas 2023, where does all this leave us? The Scottish Episcopal Church has grabbed the challenge with both hands, setting ourselves a net zero target for 2030. The church has appointed a net zero delivery director (Paul Willims) and is beginning the process of recruiting a team of five net zero officers to support him in implementing our net zero action plan: [Net Zero Action Plan 2023-30](#). Progress is overseen by the Provincial Environment Group (PEG).

In Highland Perthshire, our Linked Charge climate change group continues to meet every 3 or 4 months. We are awaiting further advice from the PEG, particularly in terms of tackling the larger challenges, like replacing the gas boiler in Holy Trinity! But in the meantime, we're focusing on the small things that we can do more easily: recycling, buying locally & from sustainable sources, remaking & renewing things instead of sending things to landfill and buying new. We're buying renewable energy, looking for solutions to insulate and prevent draughts in our church buildings, and focusing on encouraging biodiversity in our church grounds. We are particularly grateful for the Serenity Garden at Holy Trinity, and all the hard work of our volunteers in making such a beautiful space that is appreciated by so many. We're also thinking about how best to share information across the Charge about what's going on, including keeping people informed about progress with the Net Zero Strategy. And working wherever we can with other groups in our communities, including Handam, our climate cafes and Pitlochry Theatre. Our climate change group is open to everyone and we'd love to have some new members for 2024!

Ultimately, as we look at what's happening to the world around us, and to the people whose lives and livelihoods are decimated by the impact of climate change, we know we cannot do nothing. We have to try – and this means doing what we can as individuals and communities, as well as supporting organisational, national and international

initiatives. We are, and will continue to be, a people of hope: “We recognise that hope is not a state of mind passively accepted, but a radical act of faith which comes through the active choices and decisions that we make and in the actions that we undertake. We will work to support and inspire one another, remembering that we are not alone in this struggle, and that together we can make a difference. We will always hold in faith that through focused effort, we can make a positive impact in the world and that a flourishing future is possible. Through grace, hope will pull us forward.” (Scottish Episcopal Church Net Zero Action Plan 2023 – 2030).

Let Justice Flow Freely

Let justice flow freely,
not drip in desperate, sporadic splats;
through blocked-up, constricted channels
controlled by the status quo.

Let justice roll down like waters,
fast and flourishing,
bringing respite and reparation
to people and planet.

Climate chaos, driven by an addiction to
consumption,
has choked us all, God.

The elite rich suffocate
under stuff that cannot satisfy,
while so many more struggle to survive at all.

Wake us up to the world
– may we hear the song of sustainability
over the constant rumble
of ‘what we want.’

May peace fall like rain and justice
spread like morning sun.

AMEN

Prayer in the Season of Creation, by the Right Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

Val Holtom



Directing Pantomime

This autumn I have been directing the pantomime at Birnam Arts, "Jack and the Beanstalk" which starts on 30 November for three days. Pantomime always carries the message that the good succeed and the bad are punished and certainly this happens in this show where Jack and his family fight oppression and gain a happy ending, the giant falls to his death and his evil henchman is disgraced. The audience are caught up in the action by being invited to cheer the hero, sympathise with the poor widow, shout "O no it isn't!" etc. and to boo Rancid, the evil henchman.

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This year there have been some difficulties with casting and that has meant that all problems with gender definition have had to be shelved. The Dame is always played by a man, a pantomime convention, just as the hero is usually a girl playing a man. If that wasn't confusing enough, this year, the evil henchman is being played by a woman, as a man. Due to a family problem for the original fairy, the part is now being played by a man – dressed as a woman. And the two of them are married! I remember playing a breeches part in a pantomime in the past when my husband played the dame. So who put the bins out and who did the cooking? And which side of the bed did you occupy? In simpler times this was just pantomime tradition which just led to comedy but now perhaps we have made gender definition too complex. The fairy also plays the giant: does this suggest that good and evil are inextricably mixed?

And the real star of the show has to be Daisy the cow, especially the back half who has to spent all the show bent over and never showing their face (I've played that part too). Even the front half has to be hidden in the cow's head.

In pantomime nothing taken too seriously and the aim is to entertain the whole family exercising the dramatic convention of "suspension of disbelief". Nothing is as it seems. What any dramatic production does is to unite a group of people in an exercise in producing something which should bring joy to others and this always demands a great deal of work, not just for the performers but also those backstage who don't get the glory and the applause but deserve it all the same. How often in life this happens – so thank you to all those backstage workers in all walks of life who just get on with things that need doing.

[Jack on the Beanstalk at Birnam Arts](#) - Click for information and tickets BUT HURRY—THE SHOW RUNS 30 NOVEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER!

Lesley Whitwood

Rachael's Ordination



On Saturday 23 September 2023 off we went to see our girl Rachael priested. Already a Deacon she was now to be ordained by Bishop Ian at St Mary's Church, Dunblane.

With Canon Liz driving on this lovely day, we set off south-westwards, found St Mary's Church by a busy roundabout whose road sides were already chokka with parked cars. No problem – Rev Liz spotted a gap and insinuated LB51 SEC therein.

The church was sun-filled, airy and decorated, with groups of people chatting and congregating.

There was Rachael meeting and greeting in her usual friendly way seemingly unfazed by the imminent formalities – but then she had probably been enlisting the help of her, our, Almighty Lord since the wee small hours.

Charlotte and Lydia (how these babies grow when you don't see them for a week or three...) both were obviously in the elements too. The organ called us to attention with the entrance hymn by Bishop Michael Hare Duke 'Lord your love has called to bring all that fills the earth below'. Beautiful, hopeful and so appropriate. Look it up!

Then the Liturgy of Preparation with its Collect reminding us as members of your holy church that we all have a vocation and a ministry. The readings of Isaiah 61, Psalm 132 with the response "*Let your priests be clothed with Justice*" and the Gospel of John 20.19-23 - all served to concentrate our minds and ensure the sanctification of our thoughts and prayers for Rachael as she commits to the promises and vows of ministerial priesthood.

Bishop Ian's sermon was, as usual, uplifting, helpful and gently authoritative.

After Rachael's Declaration to Bishop Ian's questions we, the people, loudly Assented our trust and support to Rachael.

Then came the solemn moment of Laying on of Hands, following which Rachael was vested in Stole and Chasuble standing before us holding the three symbols of Bible, Chalice and Paten (applause!) and then leading us all in the Proclamation of the faith of the Church. Then followed the Liturgy of the Sacrament, Communion, Blessing and Dismissal.

It was very good to be there.

In the church hall we all partook of delicious snacks and beverages with much joyous mingling and exchange of good wishes and thanks to Rachael for her time with the Highland Charge and her more earthly legacy of The Serenity Garden which is so popular and tended by committed teams, whom Rachael inspired.

Come and see us (and preach to us).

God Bless you in your work and family life Rachael.

Benita Wyllie

A Taste of Egypt

Andrew and I and two friends, one an artist, have just returned from a memorable journey through Cairo and the Northern and Southern Nile valleys. We arrived in a country where many had cancelled their holidays owing to the tragic happenings in Israel and Gaza - a thousand + miles away but near enough to frighten some (mostly not British!). The Egyptians depend upon tourism for their livelihood and they were pleased to see us. We found ourselves in the hands of Mohammed Emam, a 38 year old Egyptologist and father of two, Harun (Aaron) and Noah. His English was as skilled as his guiding and we were transfixed as we moved by car along eight lane highways crossed by people and animals to the Step Pyramid built in 2650 BC to the Pharaoh Zoser - the world's oldest pyramid -to the Great Pyramids of Giza, the final resting places of Kings Kufu, Kafre and Menkaure - but when in the C19th the French hacked their way into the first Pyramid they found nothing but one empty coffin. Interestingly research has proved that the workers who built these unbelievable edifices were not slaves but an organised workforce of Egyptian farmers who were well fed and cared for. And so to the inscrutable Sphinx, who did not disappoint and who guarded the cemetery. (His beard resides in the British Museum.) We flew to Luxor - an elegant city, whose recently restored 3km Avenue of Sphinxes dominates the scene along with the unforgettable Temple, largely built by Amenhotep and Rameses III between 1390BC and 1279BC.

We admired the huge complex of Karnak outside Luxor, piling up information as we went and valuing the extraordinary presentation by our guide which is impossible to emulate in this short piece.

When we arrived at the Valley of the Kings and visited four of the exceptional tombs which were corridors of hieroglyphics and images of such great beauty and so phenomenally restored, we were almost overwhelmed by the skills of the ancient Egyptians 2,000 BC.

The rest of our travels took place from a Dahabeya - a beautifully appointed boat copying the C19th style with four or five cabins and plenty of outdoor space from whence to admire the slow pace of life beside the Nile. Agriculture giving way to sand as you moved further from the river. It was idyllic and took us eventually to Aswan - the two dams (1902 and 1972-80) which dominate this section of the Nile and control the passage of the river that previously flooded huge areas of Egypt, as well as providing mega watts of hydroelectricity.

This tiny taste of our travels will now lead you to the island of Philae where the first signs of the arrival of Christianity are to be found on the pillars of the Temple dedicated to the Goddess Isis, the last temple to be built in the classical Egyptian style in 690 BC.

Although Christianity did not become the official religion of Egypt until the 4th AD, Egypt was one of the first countries to embrace the new faith brought by St. Mark in c 45AD.

Dear Readers, please find a way to learn more about this fascinating country. We were enthralled and amazed in equal measures and promised our guide that we would spread the word. I recommend the biography of a decadent(!) ancestor of mine, pioneer Egyptologist and renowned traveller: William John Bankes. 'The Exiled Collector' by Anne Sebba.

Lavinia Gordon



Christmas Promise

From Robert Morris, from Llanidloes, Wales, who visited Holy Trinity this summer while on holiday, and afterwards travelled with Lesley over to St Andrews, Strathtay for a second service that morning. He enjoyed meeting our congregations very much and has sent us this message.

'It is nice to look forward to the Christmas Season with carol singing, bible stories and the birth of Jesus and to have a special reunion get together with family and friends, as well as giving and receiving Christmas presents and cards from loved ones. My old boarding school headmaster, Mr Clapp wrote in his card "Have a nice Christmas. Don't over eat or drink too much. Think of people who are less well off; pray for homeless people, especially children from broken homes, to be given a good caring home; and for abandoned animals to be given a good home too. Try to do something for charity like carol singing as it is rewarding. Remember the bible story of the birth of Jesus and hopefully we have a promise." I have been to a lot of carol singing and concerts and have enjoyed many Christmas meals as my mother's cooking was first class and I remember going to a Christmas fair and buying raffle tickets for fund raising, which is also rewarding, and when I won a raffle prize of a food hamper that was a bonus. Let us hope Christmas is promising happy times.'

With best wishes, Robert

HOPE

Hope was rocked in the arms of Mary.
We stretch out our hands for the sign
of the Body that's broken and risen
and the laughter that's pressed from the vine.

There are times when it hurts to be human,
love and justice absorbed by the night;
but the Child never ceases the struggle,
born in us, to rekindle the light.

*By Michael Hare Duke from his Collection 'Hearing the Stranger'
(submitted by Libby Macrae)*



Jean Kirby is not sending many cards this year but would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas

Autumn Brides from our Charge!



Taran and Gareth



Reverend Canon Elizabeth
& Mr Robin Baker
are delighted to announce the
marriage of their daughter

Taran Eilidh Baker
with
Gareth Thomas Barnwell

son of
Captain Alan & Mrs Gillian Barnwell,

which took place at
Holy Trinity Pitlochry
on 21 October

The ceremony was conducted by the
Right Reverend Ian Paton, Bishop of
St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

Rowan & Fraser

Robin & Seònaid Hastie Smith
are delighted to announce the
marriage of their daughter,

Rowan Rosemary Hastie Smith
with
Fraser Hugh McDonald

Son of Douglas & Jane McDonald
of Kilmaccolm

Which took place
at Kinkell Byre, St Andrews,
on Saturday 4 November 2023

The ceremony was conducted by
The Reverend Canon Mike Parker



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

Treasurer to The Linked Charge David Noble 07977 574697

Holy Trinity Vestry

The Rector

Robin Baker *Secretary/Treasurer* 01796 472005

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

Gina Charleson *Lay Rep./Rector's Warden* 01796 473025

Ann Covell *People's Warden* 01796 470129

Paul Covell *Reordering & Technical Co-ordinator*
01796 470129

Val Holton *Alt. Lay Representative* 01796 549235

Agnes Keegan *Fabric Convenor* 01796 549235

Peter Wickes 01796 635139

Pam Godwin (co-opted) *Serenity Garden Co-ordinator*
01796 482826

John Martin (co-opted) *Kilmaveonaig Rep.* 07801 233412

Kilmaveonaig Committee

The Rector

Lavinia Gordon *Secretary* 01796 481230

Andrew Gordon *Treasurer* 01796 481230

Pam Godwin *Lay Representative* 01796 482826

St Andrew's Vestry

The Rector

Lesley Whitwood *Lay Reader & Secretary* 01887 840416

Jennifer Valentine *Rector's Warden* 01796 474444

Vacancy *People's Warden*

Cecily Hill *Lay Representative*

Loretta Davis Reynolds *Treasurer* 01887 840266

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Angela Gibbs 01887 840223

Sue Sherriff 01887 840332

Roger Pope

Tony Taucher *Fabric Convenor* 07874 024352

All Saints' Vestry

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

HPLC Website:

[HPLC Webpage](#)

Facebook:

[Highland Perthshire Linked Charge](#)

The Rector: Liz Baker

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

by

Noon on Monday 2 March 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
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

December 2023		January 2024		February 2024	
Sun 3	Advent 1	Mon 1	The Holy Name	Fri 2	Presentation of
Sun 10	Advent 2	Sat 6	The Epiphany		Jesus in the Temple
Sun 17	Advent 3	Sun 7	Epiphany 1	Sun 4	Epiphany 5
Thur 21	St Thomas, Apostle	Sun 14	Epiphany 2	Sun 11	Last Sunday after
Sun 24	Christmas Eve	Thur 18	Confession of St		Epiphany
Mon 25	Christmas Day		Peter, Apostle	Wed 14	Ash Wednesday
Tues 26	St Stephen, Deacon & Martyr	Sun 21	Epiphany 3	Sun 18	Lent 1
Wed 27	St John Apostle	Thur 25	Confession of St	Sun 25	Lent 2
Thurs 28	Holy Innocents		Paul, Apostle		
Sun 31	Christmas 1	Sun 28	Epiphany 4		