

The Chronicles of St John's Kirk of Perth

July
2023

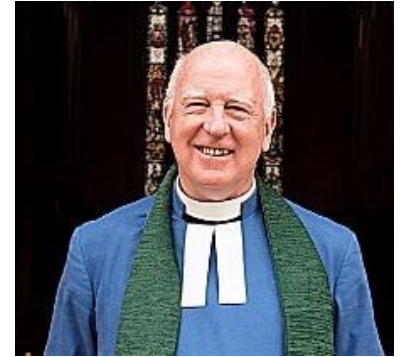


The Minister

Dear Friends,

We live in a polarised society, Left and Right, those for or against Independence, Climate Change supporters and those who deny there is such a thing. It is however sometimes helpful to be reminded that certain and assured as we like to think we are, we do not know everything. As Isaac Newton is said to have remarked shortly before his death:

“I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.” ^[1]



Newton was aware of his limitations and even today despite our many advances, our vision of the truth remains partial at best. It is, as Paul tells us, 1 Corinthians 13:12, *“but a poor reflection.”* Paul was of course speaking of life after death, but his metaphor also applies to life here and now. No one, after all, can look directly into the mind and soul of another. We know each other only by inference. Indeed, even with those we know well and love best, there can be moments when we sense a veil we cannot penetrate. We can only draw our conclusions from someone's speech, actions, tone, even sometimes from their silence when it comes to such things as, Love, Commitment, Empathy and Understanding or on the issues of Racism, Climate Change, Independence, Social Justice ... as only God can see and read the heart.

Just as there can be no victory without sacrifice, there can be no change without compromise. As a society I believe that we now need to change but such change must foster and benefit the common good as the Bible emphasises that we are judged by how we act towards those who are unlike us, and who may even call into question everything we stand for.

I therefore wonder who we could encourage or bless by taking time to listen and so begin to understand where they are coming from, even if we agree to disagree. If each of us did this, perhaps we could once again change the climate from stormy to calm, from 'us' and 'them', one conversation at a time.

I hope that you manage to have a break over the Summer, and I look forward to seeing you in St John's Kirk.

^[1] David Brewster, Memoirs of Sir Isaac Newton, English mathematician & physicist (1642 - 1727)

With every blessing,
Philip Majcher

News from the Kirk Session - Summer 2023

When I gave you an Update at Easter, the bees were just becoming active again. Now in July one of my hives has just given me 29lbs of honey, so supplies for the grandchildren are assured.

The work on the spire to repair the leaking lead and weakened timbers around the Bartizan belfry was held up whilst we obtained replacement stone to match our existing stone, and it is pleasing to report that the new lead and stone is now in place and the work has been completed to a very high standard. Our Property Convener, John Kinloch, has worked very closely with our Conservation Architects LDN and a first rate job has been done. Those repairs will not need revisited for many years, and by late July the scaffolding will have been taken down and the site huts removed.



We are indeed fortunate to have not one but two organisations working in partnership with our Congregation and Session to support St John's. Both the Friends of St John's and the Trust for St John's have been hard at work on our behalf.



St John's Kirk of Perth
Who was John the Baptist?

 <p>Why was our Kirk dedicated to St John the Baptist? St John the Baptist is patron not only to our Kirk, but of the whole city and even our football team! Here are some answers...</p>	 <p>John called the people to repent John went into the wilderness and, in the spirit of Elijah, he called for people to turn away from their sins and be baptised in order that God will forgive their sins. Why do we need forgiveness?</p>	 <p>John the Baptist baptises Jesus John protests that he is not worthy to baptise Jesus, but Jesus insists, saying that John was the greatest of the prophets. If Jesus was sinless, why was He baptised?</p>
 <p>The Birth of John the Baptist His father Zechariah and mother Elizabeth thought that they were too old to have a child. How do we know that John was destined for a special role?</p>	 <p>John's ministry of baptism Water is the symbol of cleansing, of decontaminating what is contaminated by what is wrong, evil or self-centred. What aspects of our lives need cleansing today?</p>	 <p>The role of John the Baptist He is seen as having a key role in God's plan 'preparing the way of the Lord'. How can that still be relevant today?</p>
 <p>The young John with his mother In this stained glass window in the north aisle there is a glimpse of the young John. He is seen learning about the Old Testament from his mother. What did the prophets foretell about John?</p>	 <p>John greets Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" John has grasped that, in Jesus, God was active on a cosmic scale. What would 'Lamb' mean to the people who heard John?</p>	 <p>The message of John the Baptist today John pointed people to Jesus "the same yesterday, today and for ever." Can we hear John's message in Perth today?</p>

On 24th June the Friends of St John's held an Open Day in the Kirk to recruit more Kirk Stewards to strengthen our existing team who keep the Kirk open for visitors. The day was very successful and enjoyable. People could watch and listen to the recording made by Friends member Andrew Mitchell of Dr Ian Cassells' Coronation Recital, which we were able to show on the big screens. If you would like to see it, it is on our Website. <https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/carillon> Also that day we began trying out the new leaflet that explains for our Visitors who our Patron Saint, John the Baptist was. The leaflet was developed with the help of Andrew Mitchell whose technical abilities are invaluable, and uses QR codes (those square

bar codes) to link to pages on our web site. They are fun to use and we will be interested to hear how your friends and family get on using them.

At least 8 new Stewards signed up that day, which was great, but Kay would be very pleased to have more as the Kirk is at last getting busier again and we really need more Stewards. Please contact her on kay.morrison@btinternet.com if you can help.

The Trust for St John's has also been busy, and we now have an Outline Strategy in draft form, setting out how we can secure the future of our beautiful Kirk. It is a major piece of work and Session will consider this when it meets later this month. We will have much more to say about that in the future, when our Fundraising plans are more developed.

In May, the new Perth Presbytery confirmed its approval of a revised version of its Plan. As anticipated St John's will be placed in Guardianship and will be allocated 0.25 of a Locum Minister. Arrangements to consult the Congregation on how and when the split of the Linkage with St Leonard's should happen will be considered by Session, and information on how this will happen will be given to Members once arrangements are in place.

I hope you enjoy a relaxing and peaceful summer.

With Best Wishes,
Bill Wilson, Session Clerk

Life and Work



[Life and Work](#) is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In a history spanning over 140 years, it has established itself as the voice of the Church of Scotland.

Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers across the spectrum, from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics, and the arts.

Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current social and moral issues; a monthly meditation and regular articles on the spiritual side of life; reviews of the latest books, videos, and Christian resources; and regular features on the Church worldwide.

General Assembly 2023 Special Supplement

Life and Work has once again published a FREE four page General Assembly Special Supplement for 2023 summarising some of the key decisions, debates and speeches from the week that can be [viewed here](#) – full link <https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2023-special-supplement>

In addition to the supplement, a General Assembly report will feature in the July issue of Life and Work magazine. Anyone that is not a subscriber and interested in this particular issue can purchase a single print or digital copy [here](#). The July issue is published on June 16 2023.

Church Events

Coronation of King Charles III

On Monday 8 May 2023 we held an afternoon tea to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. This was a great event and enjoyed by numerous church members and visitors. Many thanks go to all those involved in organising it.



During the coronation celebrations we were also entertained by delightful [carillon recitals](#).

It was an occasion when we welcomed many visitors to the Kirk to watch and listen on the large screens - many taking the opportunity to explore the building as they enjoyed the performance. For those who were unable to join us at that time, a recording is has been made and the recital will be played again on the Kirk's screens and streamed on the [website](#)

Perth Museum



A group of church members took part in a tour of the new Perth Museum. It was very informative of all the work which has been taking place in the building along with how the space can be used. There is a central column which will house the Stone of Destiny, above this there are two floors for various purposes from exhibitions to events. Between the two brass doors from South to North there is a walkway separating the museum from the café area. This walkway represents a vennel of which Perth has numerous.

The Big Hoof



The [Big Hoof](#) charity, convened outside St John's Kirk for a stop off in their near 200-mile journey as part of a coast-to-coast charity ride.

Foodbank News

It will be 10 years in September since we first opened our doors, little realising demand would keep growing & that we'd still be going strong. Any other business, 10 years open and a growing client base, would be a cause for celebration. Instead, we are looking at a sad reflection on our society.

Your continued support in filling the box at the back of the Kirk is very much appreciated. We couldn't keep going without support from folks like you.

We are currently in need of the following;

tinned meat/fish
potato mash
long life fruit juice
UHI milk
jam
instant snacks
sweets and crisps



Any donations of these items in church or supermarket are gratefully received. Every little helps!!!

Anne Chatt
Foodbank Representative

perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk/

Charities

Fairtrade works with farmers and workers so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect our shared environment.



<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.



<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Fair Pay for Social Work

The Presbytery Roundup for June contains a message from the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt. Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton.

Sally states that CrossReach is a living example of our commitment to be the body of Christ in our local communities. Carers deserve our love, gratitude and respect, but they deserve to be paid fairly.

A declaration supported by Church leaders calls on the Scottish Government to ensure front line Social Care Workers are paid a minimum of £12 an hour immediately.

There is further information on the CrossReach website, www.crossreach.org.uk where the declaration can be read in full and signed.

There are also videos showing the work of CrossReach including the 'Daisy Chain Project' in Govanhill which supports families and children.

I recently sent a cheque for £20 from a member of the congregation to support 'Daisy Chain'. Next month the focus in the Sunday Intimations will be on the work of CrossReach.

Marj Wylie.

Church Districts

The Elders of St John's are addressing the best and most efficient ways of keeping in touch with all members of the congregation. You may already have had contact with your current Elder to select one of the following communication methods:

- 1 a personal visit by an Elder
- 2 to be contacted by email
- 3 to be contacted by telephone
- 4 to have information by post
- 5 to check the Church website/Facebook for information

If you have not indicated your preference, you can still do this by emailing the [Roll Keeper](#).

We will keep in touch with you regularly by your preferred contact method. For those who have selected to still receive a personal visit or phone call then we will have a team of Elders allocated to contact you.

If for any reason throughout the year you require an Elder or the Minister to contact you, then please email the Roll Keeper at rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com or call 01738 582137 and this will be arranged for you.

Opening Times

We aim to keep the doors of St John's open to the public from Monday 3rd April between 11.00am and 4.00pm dependent on church events and the availability of volunteers.

On Saturday 24 June 2023 the friends of St John's held an open day for visitor to the Kirk and to encourage people to become a volunteer Kirk sitter (steward). The stewards' main task is to welcome visitors at the door of the Kirk, and provide them with leaflets and other information, and answer basic questions. Some preliminary training will be given, but stewarding is a fun task, and the volunteers are an enthusiastic team and regularly meet interesting people from Perth, the rest of Scotland, and across the world.

Each year we have between 10,000 and 12,000 visitors per year, when the Perth Museum opens next year, that number will probably rise to over 30,000. There are a group of volunteer stewards, mostly from the congregation, who have been welcoming visitors faithfully for many years, but they do need more help.



If you would be interested in becoming a Kirk Sitter, then please contact Kay Morrison on 01738 447123.

Church Family

Death of Members

Mrs Margaret McFarlane
Mr Hamish Munro

May 2023
June 2023



Retiral

Douglas Pringle - After 12 years as our Church Officer, Doug has announced that he will be retiring at the end of September. Doug has just been such a great asset for St John's and it is hard to contemplate him leaving, but he has earned a more peaceful life, that is for sure. And he will still be an active elder so we will still see him regularly.



There will be more to say later, but in the meantime, and thanks to Doug for giving us plenty of notice, we will be advertising soon for a Church Officer in various places, including on our own Website and Facebook pages. Or email the [Session Clerk](#) for more information.

Service Dates

Sunday Service

Every Sunday at 9.30am

St John's Kirk

Every Sunday at 11.15am

St Leonards in the Field

Morning Service is held on every Sunday throughout the year, **currently at 9:30am** with the first Sunday of each month being occasions when the sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated during morning worship. Holy Communion is also celebrated on Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter day and Pentecost.

The minister then takes the St Leonard's in the Fields morning service at 11:15am

Wednesday Service

Every Wednesday at 1.00pm

St John's Kirk – Knox Chapel

There will be no Wednesday services during August

Greek Orthodox Service

Saturday 15 July 2023 at 10.00am

St John's Kirk

Saturday 19 August 2023 at 10.00am

St John's Kirk

Saturday 16 September 2023 at 10.00am

St John's Kirk

Saturday 21 October 2023 at 10.00am

St John's Kirk

Saturday 18 November 2023 at 10.00am

St John's Kirk

Saturday 16 December 2023 at 10.00am

St John's Kirk

In order to enable as many people as possible to share in worship, there is a ramp at the south door for wheelchair and pedestrian access; an audio induction loop system is in operation and large print hymn books are available at the door.



Events in St Johns Kirk

Fundraising Launch	Friday	11 August 2023	11.00am
Doors Open Day <i>As usual we will be looking for volunteers to help with this event. If anyone would like to be involved contact Sue Hendry at suehendry.tors@me.com</i>	Saturday	16 September 2023	10.00am
Chanson Concert chansons.co.uk/	Saturday	30 September 2023	7.00pm
Perth Chamber Music perthchambermusic.org.uk/	Monday	2 October 2023	7.00pm
	Friday	20 October 2023	7.00pm
	Monday	4 December 2023	7.00pm
RACHD Service	Wednesday	4 October 2023	9.00am
Chiara Lordi Piano Recital	Saturday	7 October 2023	1.00pm
Sopranaria Moirá Docherty and Barbara Scott (sopranos) with Robert Duncan (piano)	Sunday	22 October 2023	3.00pm
Clorstaidh Chaimbeul (Accordion)	Saturday	4 November 2023	1.00pm
Organ Recital - Morley Whitehead	Saturday	2 December 2023	1.00pm
Scottish Ensemble Candlelit Concert	Monday	11 December 2023	7.00pm
Craigclowan Concert	Friday	15 December 2023	9.00am

Check out our [website](#) for further upcoming events in the Church, some are even free!

Communication

Visit the Website	st-johns-kirk.co.uk/
Online Services	youtube.com/results?search_query=st+johns+kirk+perth
Follow us on Facebook	facebook.com/stjohnskirkperth/ 
Music and Concerts:	st-johns-kirk.co.uk/concerts-and-music
3D Inside St John's	st-johns-kirk.co.uk/flythrough
St Leonard's in the Field	slitfperth.co.uk/

Contacts

Locum Minister	Revd. Philip Majcher	01738 813226 07789 046187
Interim Moderator	Revd. Craig Dobney	cdobney@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Bill Wilson	07958 447858 clerk.stjohns@gmail.com
Depute Session Clerk	Kay Morrison	01738 447123
Treasurer	Lorna Ferguson	01738 632206
Gift Aid Convenor	Wilma Malcolm	01738 622807 st-johns-kirk.co.uk/support-donations cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/
Events Coordinator	Wilma Malcolm	01738 622807 st-johns-kirk.co.uk/venue-hire
Roll Keeper	Aileen Morrice	01738 582137 rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com
Friends of St John's	Website	
Church of Scotland	Website	Contact Form 0131 225 5722
Perth Presbytery	Website	perth@churchofscotland.org.uk 07596 868064
St Leonard's in the Field	Website	office@stleonardsinthefields.co.uk 01738 632238

Final Thought

And finally,

Despite all its current difficulties let's have a little round of applause for the NHS-75 years old this month. Happy Birthday!!!



Anne Chatt