



**We invite you to come and celebrate Holy Communion
at our morning service on**

Sunday, May 19th at 11.15am

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US

Letter from our Interim Moderator

I was once told a story of a lady who came to her church every Sunday. She would find her usual seat right at the back and bow her head in prayer. She never seemed to smile and, quite frankly, looked miserable all the time.

One Sunday the minister spoke to her and asked her if she was okay. The lady replied, 'No Minister, I'm not. Forty years ago, I did something terrible. It was something so bad I couldn't even tell my family about it. Ever since then I've been coming to this church every single Sunday asking God for forgiveness and I'm still waiting'.

The Minister just smiled and said to the lady, 'Remember that very first Sunday forty years ago when you came here and asked God for his forgiveness?'.

'Of course,' she replied.

'Well,' explained the Minister, 'On that day, God forgave you and He forgot all about the thing you did, so every single Sunday since then, He has had no idea what you are talking about!'.

It is so important for us to realise that for God, forgiveness is easy. Sometimes the most difficult thing for us to do is to forgive ourselves. So, if you are holding on to something from your past that you are ashamed of and sorry for, know that God forgives you. It is time now to forgive yourself.

Just as we continue to move away from the coldness and darkness of winter into the warmth and light of the summer sunshine, we can move on spiritually from the dark times in our lives and find solace, hope and peace in the promises of Jesus.

Enjoy the sunshine. Enjoy the longer, brighter days. Enjoy the freedom of the knowledge that, in Christ, your sins are forgiven always and forever.

The Psalmist writes, 'You, Lord, are good and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You'. Psalm 86:5

It's a bit dark and cold in my office today but it's gorgeous outside, so off to the garden I go. It feels so much better to be in the light and the warmth knowing that it is where God wants us all to be. You are forgiven, now it is time to forgive yourself.

Rev Craig Dobney,
Interim Moderator

St Leonard's in the Fields Church Services

Sunday, 5th May - Rev Alexander Gunn

Sunday, 19th May

Communion Service – Rev Alasdair Graham

Sunday, 12th May - Mr David Johnston

Sunday, 26th May – Rev Philip Majcher

Services are at 11.15am each Sunday.

For disabled parking and access, please enter from the Scott Street bay and ramp.

St Leonard's in the Fields

Beryl Smeaton

On March 31st, Beryl Smeaton, our Session Clerk of 6 years, retired.

During the Service Rev Alex Stewart paid tribute to Beryl and asked Ian McMillan to say a few words.

Ian thanked Beryl for her loyal service to the Church over 6 difficult years including two during Lockdown with its restrictions and then a further two during a Vacancy. Beryl was then presented with a Book Token and Flowers from the congregation.

She then thanked everyone for their support, especially the Session and those who do so much unseen work.

We wish Beryl well in her retirement.

Linzee Lindsay

Soup and Bread Lunch

The Soup and Bread Lunch, which was held on Sunday 14th April to raise money for Water

Aid, was very well supported by our own congregation and also those from Craigie Moncrieff.

The sum of £508.00 (including Gift Aid) was raised. This money will be sent directly to the charity 'Water Aid'.

Thank you all for your support.

Linzee Lindsay

Jambouree

Our singers look forward to returning to St. Leonard's on Thursday, 2nd May for rehearsals in preparation for the summer concert, "A Kaleidoscope of Music" which will be held in the church at **3pm on Sunday 2nd June**. The programme comprises a Kaleidoscope of musical styles including Disney songs performed by Junior Jambouree, a song from the current hit musical 'Hamilton', our young brass players, songs of the 60's, classical songs, musicals and Gilbert and Sullivan and more.

Compere is Alan Laing, choreographer and costume by Gwen Boswell, and I am musical director. Tickets cost £10 for adults, children free entry, and includes refreshments.

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 5 May.

Edna Auld

Sunday Coffees

Ladies of the Catering Committee unfailingly serve coffee and tea after the Service on Sundays. These refreshments are enjoyed by members of the Congregation giving the opportunity to chat together. We would like more volunteers to help on Sundays as the Team Leaders are frequently having to double up to help each other. At the same time, I thank those loyal ladies who do help. Please add your name to the list in the kitchen if you are able to join a team on a Sunday of your choice. *Linzee Lindsay*

Songs and Memories at St Leonard's in the Fields - Dementia Friendly Singing Group

All welcome for songs, tea, and biscuits.

When?

3rd Monday of the month at 2pm - 4pm

Where?

St Leonards in the Fields Hall James Street, Perth PH2 8AG

For more details please contact:

Beryl Smeaton –
beryl.s.111@outlook.com or
Mary Wright
marypwright27@gmail.com

St Leonard's in the Fields Walking Group

Thursday 9th May at 10:30am

Lady Mary's Walk Crieff.

Grade A Circular.

Distance: 3.5 miles.

Start Point: MacRosty Park car park (NN 858 221).

Tuesday 28th May at 10am

Deuchney Hill from Scone.

Grade B Circular.

Distance: 6 miles.

Start Point: Scone Old Ch. Car Park (NO 131 255).

'A' Graded walks are shorter and largely on the flat but MAY have a few gentle climbs. B Graded walks can be a little longer and involve some parts which are uphill and MAY have short steep sections.

There is no need to book for any of the walks but it would be useful to know if you are coming so I have your contact details in case of last-minute alteration or cancellation. For further information contact me by email: sloch69@aol.com or Mobile: 07388 501827 *Andy Riches*

St Leonard's in the Fields Donations

As a regular or occasional giver to the work of the Church please consider making your contribution by cheque (to the Treasurer) or by a direct transfer to the Church's bank account if you are able, - details on request from David Grant, Treasurer, - this can be done at such regular intervals as suit you - e.g. fortnightly or monthly.

Donating online

At <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/> you may choose to give a one-off donation or donate every month. You can opt to direct your gift to a specific congregation or contribute to the general funds of the Church for use wherever the need is greatest.



Step 1 - If you choose to donate to our congregation, type in **Perth St Leonards-in-the-fields**

Step 2 - A UK taxpayer gift can be increased by 25% at no additional cost by agreeing to Gift Aid the donation. At this step in the online donation, indicate if you would like to do so, or qualify to, Gift Aid your donation.

Step 3 - The Donate button will take you to PayPal's secure website where you will be asked to fill in the amount you wish to donate, as well as your payment details. You have the option at this point of paying by debit or credit card if you'd rather not use PayPal. After donating, you will then be brought back to the Church of Scotland website.

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2024

The General Assembly will take place from 18-23 May 2024 at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh or it can be viewed online. The King has approved the appointment of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as His Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2024.

The Lord High Commissioner makes the opening and closing addresses to the Assembly and

carries out a number of other official functions.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as The Earl of Wessex, was previously appointed Lord High Commissioner in 2014.

The 2024 General Assembly will begin on Saturday 18 May, with an opening session at 9:30am including the installation of the Moderator. It will again be a hybrid event, and will be live streamed to allow those who are not Commissioners to view the

proceedings. Reports that will be presented to this year's General Assembly are available at: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/general-assembly-2024/reports-and-additional-documents>

For further information about the General Assembly, visit: [https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly-general-assembly-2024](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/general-assembly-2024)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We come together monthly from all denominations, to share a time of fellowship, talents and a cuppa, of course.

Small beginnings saw a project to knit squares, which resulted in four blankets being presented to four city centre churches, who were hoping to work together. Shawls continue to be our project, but local needs are also being met.

We meet up in our hall the last Saturday of the month from 10am – 12pm.

You are very welcome to join us to knit or crochet, or to learn how to. Our shawls are made to help people to celebrate happy occasions or to offer comfort in sad situations. If you know of anyone who would like a shawl, please contact Moira Laing on 01738 634588.

Book Group

The Book Group continues to grow and it is lovely to welcome new members bringing our membership up to 22. At the end of April, the group will have discussed *Clear* by Carys Davies and as always, the discussion will be lively and there will be

differing views on the star rating each member feels it deserves. One 4-star reviewer says of *Clear*: "A beautiful little novel about loneliness, resilience and human connection, but also about the Scottish clearances – the forced eviction of the rural Scottish population off their land between 1750 and 1860". This novel is eligible for the Booker Prize list 2024.

Waterstones is hosting a number of author events in May, some of which might be of interest to book lovers. I am particularly interested in D.V. Bishop's talk on his latest novel '*Ritual of Fire*'. This is his 3rd book in a series set in Renaissance Florence. I love stories set in this period and look forward to start reading the series of books.

If you are reading this news from the Book Group, and are not a member, please let us know of any books you are reading that you think you would like to recommend as we would love to hear from you. Or you could bring a book along to Sunday worship and give it to Pat, Marion or me and we will let members know about your suggestions.

As always please feel free to join The Book Group on the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm in St. Leonard's in the Fields church hall.

Liz Stewart

Book Events

Members of the Book Group (and others) may be interested in the free evening talks at Waterstones in Perth including:

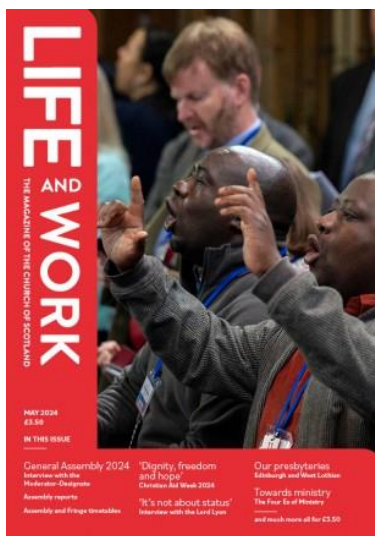
Wed 1st May, 6pm

Perthshire's Pound of Flesh author, Mark Bridgeman will present a murder trial where you are the jury and must decide the guilt or innocence from a historic case.

Tues 7th May, 6pm

The Stone of Destiny - An Evening with John Hulbert & David Maule who will discuss their respective books about Perth's newest resident stone. John's book is *The Stone of Destiny & The Scots*. David's book is *The Mysterious Case of the Stone of Destiny*. Details of these and other free book events during May are at: <https://www.waterstones.com/events/search/shop/perth>

Life and Work - the magazine of the Church of Scotland.



General Assembly 2024

- Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Shaw Paterson
- Reports to the Assembly
- Timetables
- 'It's Not About Status': the Lord Lyon, Joe Morrow, discusses his role in the Assembly ceremonies

A Gift to the Church

The editors of a new supplement to the Church Hymnary reflect on how the book took shape.

'Dignity, Freedom and Hope'

Christian Aid Week 2024

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

'My Eyes Have Been Opened'

Rebekka Read, a Young Adult Volunteer serving in New York, reflects on her experience

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Neil Glover on the challenges of rural ministry and how 'God always gives enough'.

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/current-issue>

Craigie & Moncreiffe Churches

There is one service a week at 10:30, alternating between Moncreiffe (Glenbruar Crescent) and Craigie (Wilson Street and Abbot Street). <http://www.candmchurch.org/>
 On the last Sunday of the month from September to May, Messy Church is at 10:45 in Moncreiffe.



May

5 May	Moncreiffe	The members of Craigie and Moncreiffe Churches extend a warm invitation to anyone from St Leonard's in the Field congregation to join them in the church activities
12 May	Craigie	
19 May	Moncreiffe	
26 May	Craigie	

	Moncreiffe	Craigie
Sunday	*Messy Church – 10.45am-1pm (Last Sunday of the month)	
Monday	Beavers - 6.15 –7.15pm Cubs – 6.45-8pm, Scouts – 7.30-9pm	Country Dancing – 7.30–9.30pm
Tuesday	Youth Group – 5.30–7.00pm (Primary 6&7)	Toddler & Baby Group – 9.15–11.30am The Guild – 2.00–4.00pm (alternate weeks) Rainbows – 5.45–6.45pm
Wednesday	Child Minding – 9.15–11.30am Bible Study – 10.00am–12.00noon	Toddler & Baby Group – 9am–12noon Brownies – 6.00–7.30pm, Guides – 7.30–9.15pm
Friday	Taekwondo – 5.00–8.00pm	

St John's Kirk - Services

For anyone not able to get along to St Leonard's services on a Sunday, the 9.30am Sunday service can be followed online at <https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnskirkofperth6605/streams>
 Also, St John's kirk has a short Wednesday service at 1pm. <https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/>

St John's Kirk – Vacancy

Assistant Church Officer - St John's is seeking an Assistant Church Officer to join the Kirk Family. Working to a contracted 15 hours a week, although hours are required to be flexible to meet the Kirk's busy environment with many services, concerts and events taking place throughout the year. If you wish to find out more about the position, please email personnelstj@gmail.com

St John's Kirk – Kirk Sitters for Open Kirk

St John's welcomes visitors between 10am and 4pm. Volunteers are needed to join the team who welcome visitors at the door of the Kirk, provide them with leaflets and other information, and answer basic questions. Some preliminary training will be given. 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. Interested individuals should contact former Councillor Willie Wilson on 01738 626270 or send a note of interest to stjohnskirksitter@gmail.com

Perth Festival of the Arts

From Wed 22 May to Sat 1 June 2024 for a vibrant celebration of the visual and performing arts, connecting leading artists from around the world with the rich cultural life of Perth. Performances in Perth Theatre, Perth Concert Hall St John's Kirk, St Matthew's Church, and other venues. Full details at: <https://www.perthfestival.co.uk/>

Free Concerts

23 rd & 24 th and 27 th - 31 st May	12.30pm	Schools lunchtime concerts at St John's Kirk
25 th May	11am	Perthshire Brass at St Paul's church plaza
25 th May	12.30pm	Perth Amateur Operatic Society, St John's Kirk

Street Pastors

Street Pastors operate in Perth and are focal points for rural communities in a large part of the presbytery area. They are part of the church's response to the needs of the streets, seeking in the name of Jesus to "listen, help and care".

They offer to take anyone interested out as an observer, which would help people consider if God is calling them to be a Street Pastor.

Unable to go out at night, but interested in and caring for teenagers? Perth also operates School Pastors in two secondary schools and urgently needs more recruits to cover all shifts. Can you help?

For more information contact chair.perth@streetpastors.org.uk

Perth North Church, Mill Street

Meet to pray every Sunday from 0930 to 0955 using Zoom. On the Website in 'Sunday Live' click on the link which takes you to Live Prayer Meeting and then just follow the instructions.

Perth North Church, Mill Street

Dementia Café is a monthly gathering where people with dementia, their family, caregivers and friends can be together in a safe, welcoming environment, in the company of other caregivers. This is a group for people who are able to attend safely on their own, or who are accompanied by someone to support them.

Volunteers and health and social care professionals are available for the purpose of emotional support, advice/guidance and opportunities for social interaction.

The Dementia Cafe is held on the first Wednesday of the month at North Church Hall, High Street, Perth between 9.30am-12:30pm. For more information, please phone Andy Bennett on 01738 474566 or Diane McLellan on 01738 476831.

Church of Scotland Stamp Appeal 2024

Firmly Planted is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This year, by donating our used stamps, stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing the tree nurseries.

Please leave a border of ½ inch / 1.25cms around each stamp.

You can either bring your stamps to church on a Sunday, give them to your church visitor, or we can arrange to collect them from you at home. *Mary Wright*

Perth Congregational Church, Kinnoull Street

Janet Bennett will play the harp and clarsach at an Anniversary Concert at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 7th May. Donations at the door.

Christian Aid

Marion McMillan writes: Christian Aid Week this year starts on **Sunday 12th May**. Our help is vital in supporting the work they do through the world. Apart from working with some of the world's most vulnerable countries, they work with partners across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Their partners are leading Palestinian and Israeli organisations, striving to promote justice for a sustainable peace and work towards

protecting the most vulnerable and marginalised people.

If you feel you could help by collecting during Christian Aid week, I would love hear from you as would our loyal band of collectors. My phone number is 01738 624894.

Marion McMillan.

St Matthew's Church, Tay Street

Lesley Mackie presents 'Don't Put Your Daughter ...', an afternoon of entertainment between 2pm – 4pm on Saturday 11th May. Tickets for £6 (that includes tea and cake!) are available from the church office or after Sunday Service, or on the door.

Kinnoull Church Blether Buddies

Last Wednesday of each month in the **Kinnoull Church hall** at 2pm – 4pm. An informal meeting for men and women of all ages. Play Dominoes or board games or bring any crafts you are interested in. For more details contact Stella McIntosh 01738561998 or Helen Ramsay 01738560570

Book Sale

Kinnoull Church is having a Book Sale in the church hall on **Saturday 11th May**. Coffee and tea will be available and all proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

Kinnoull Church Zoom Prayer meeting

Every Wednesday at 8pm

Click on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/Kinnoull> or join Zoom with Meeting ID 745 1404 3580 and Passcode OkphBE

<http://www.kinnoullparishchurch.co.uk/>

'Get Nourished' is a helpline that provides practical tips and advice on how to stay nourished. It is open to members of the public living in Tayside who are experiencing unintended weight loss or poor appetite, and are concerned about the impact this is having on their health and wellbeing.

The helpline is also available for carers and family members who are concerned about an individual

they are supporting. The advice line will provide food advice and support to help prevent signpost undernutrition and will callers to appropriate services and partners within the community.

Gemma Johnsen, Health Improvement Practitioner with NHS Tayside, said, "It is important to be aware of your weight and appetite, particularly if you are older or have a pre-existing medical condition. There are many things which can affect our nutritional wellbeing including loneliness, mental health conditions and recovery during illness."

The Get Nourished team can be contacted on 01738 450556.

Perth & Kinross Foodbank provides three days' nutritionally-balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred in crisis. Leave donations in the front vestibule of the church or locate your nearest drop-off point:

<https://perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

The following items are needed at this time:

- Fruit Juice (long life)
- Tinned meat / fish
- Long-life UHT milk
- Potato mash
- Instant meals / snacks
- Jam
- Sweets, Crisps

If you, or someone you know, need help from the Foodbank, get in touch by contacting:

Perth & Kinross Scottish Welfare Fund Team on 0345 30 111 00 (Mon-Fri 9-4pm) or email welfarefund@pkc.gov.uk Depending on your circumstances you could be eligible for a crisis grant, otherwise you could be referred for a food parcel.

Starter packs is a charity run solely by volunteers which provides packs containing basic household items such as pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, towels, toiletries, bedding etc to low income and previously homeless individuals and families who have been given a new tenancy in the Perth and Kinross area. They also provide kettles, toasters and slow cookers when they are donated or when funding allows.

Cash donations are used to supplement the packs when there is a shortfall and to pay for the running of our unit where they store the goods and make up the packs.

Starter Packs are supported by Perth Action of Churches Together and Perth Action for the Homeless.

If you are looking for a volunteering opportunity Starter Packs would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact numbers:
01738 580188 or 07565 774619,
07761 134776, or 07900 394532

or e-mail
starterpacks@cath-org.co.uk

Mary Wright

From the Archive

Aberdeen Press and Journal - Friday 18 May 1984

Perth city-centre kirks in danger

FOUR of Perth's city centre churches could disappear if controversial and radical presbytery committee proposals are adopted. The first moves came early this year when the presbytery instructed their union and readjustments committee to come up with proposals for the future of the kirk in Central Perth. Then, at a crisis meeting in March, ministers and representatives of the city's seven churches asked the committee to draw up a list of the buildings they envisaged remaining if cuts were to be made. A "discussion" letter in which St John's Kirk, the North Church and St Leonard's In-the-Fields have been named as those that should be retained, is now circulating among kirk sessions. This could result in St Matthew's, Tay Street; St Paul's, Old High Street; St Leonard's, King Street, and St Andrew's, Atholl Street,

being closed. Although no reasons have been given, it is understood that St John's has been selected to be retained for its historic value, St Leonard's In-the-Fields because it is an A Listed building and the North Church because of its location. "The future of the churches is very much in the melting pot at the moment," explained senior presbytery clerk the Rev. Tom Gibb. "We have for long been looking at ways of rationalising the city's churches due to falling attendances and high running costs." The practice of linking congregations has long been successfully adopted in many of the country parishes and it is understood the presbytery hope this can be repeated in the city, where all the churches are within close proximity and draw their congregations from common areas.

St Leonard's in the Fields Contact Details		01738 ...	e-mail
Interim Moderator	Rev. Craig Dobney Minister of Comrie & Dundurn	01764 679196	CDobney@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	<i>To be appointed</i>		
Church Secretary	Wendy Lindsay	632238	office@stleonardsinthefields.co.uk
Catering	Linzee Lindsay	710777	duncraig@dlpltd.com
CATH	Margaret Montgomery	634329	
Flower Committee	Christeen Siewwright	621509	christeens9@hotmail.com
Freewill Offering	David Lindsay		david@dlpltd.com
Gift Aid	Jim Granger	552600	jaggranger@blueyonder.co.uk
Magazine Distribution	Lindsay Adamson	254104	
Minute Secretary & Presbytery Elder	Pat Giles	625805	patgiles190@icloud.com
Organist	Edna Auld		misaloud@icloud.com
Prayer Shawl	Mary Wright	635881	marypwright27@gmail.com
Property Convener	Wilf Bainbridge	635243	
Roll keeper	Dorothy Moir	624402	dmoir150@gmail.com
Pastoral Care	Beryl Smeaton	639364	beryl.s.111@outlook.com
Safeguarding	Beryl Smeaton	639364	beryl.s.111@outlook.com
Starter Packs	Mary Wright	635881	marypwright27@gmail.com
Treasurer and Finance Convener	David Grant	626364	davidgrant13@btinternet.com
Treasurer, Assistant	Margaret MacArthur	441297	margaretmacarthur@btinternet.com

St Leonard's in the Fields Newsletter – June/July/August

The final date for receipt of articles etc for the Summer edition of your Newsletter is **Thursday, 23rd May**. Please send anything you think will be of interest to the congregation to StLeonardsPerth@gmail.com at any time before then.

