



 Saint Andrew's  
Episcopal Church

'The Net'

27th September 2024

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## A Letter from the Rectory...



This month's edition of 'The Net' is slightly less hefty than the last two, so please don't forget that it's up to *you* (not 'someone') to suggest or provide materials for inclusion. There are lots of things happening in the life of our congregation and this regular newsletter provides an invaluable way of keeping everyone in touch with what is going on. But the person who knows what is happening or has a photo of a recent event or has an idea for something interesting to share with everyone isn't someone else, it's *you*! So, please do consider suggesting something or contributing something yourself. Send your ideas and materials to [net.stasstas@gmail.com](mailto:net.stasstas@gmail.com) or to myself. I shall be delighted to receive them!

During 'the Covid years' we were compelled to stop circulating the plate for freewill offering during Sunday morning services lest something much more sinister were to be circulated inadvertently at the same time. The Vestry took the opportunity to encourage everyone to move instead to the covenanted giving scheme and to give directly by bank transfer on a weekly or monthly basis (or whatever). Lots of people did precisely that, and as well as meeting a short-term practical need this has made church finances much easier to handle for all sorts of reasons. I can't think of many organisations that would survive long, let alone flourish, if their regular income from members and supporters were reliant on a weekly 'whip round' at meetings!

Last year we nevertheless reintroduced the practice of circulating the plate at the 'offertory' during our Sunday eucharist. We did so not because we wanted folk to revert to this as their ordinary way of regular giving, but because it does provide a helpful way of representing our money as part of what we offer to God as part of the 'single, holy, living sacrifice' that the liturgy proclaims we are making as we gather together around the altar. It's a powerful symbol, and there's something spiritually healthy about owning it and being part of it at that moment in our worship, rather than just being aware that on a particular day of the month an amount will be transferred effortlessly from our own bank account into the congregation's account (important though that is!).

The symbolism is rather lessened in its force, though, when the plate, having been circulated, comes back and is taken up to the altar empty! (Actually, I don't think it has ever been *empty*, but it is sometimes very sparsely populated, especially when we don't have many visitors in church.) I wonder whether, as a way of enhancing the symbolic significance of this part of the service, folk might consider bringing something to place in the plate as it passes -- a small (but precisely NOT insignificant) monetary token of what happens quietly and efficiently and on a larger scale behind the scenes at the bank. A pound coin (a 50p coin even!) would suffice to recharge the meaningfulness of the action of circulating the plate, and the action of placing something in it, no matter how little, would, I suspect, fill that particular moment of the service with more meaning for each of us than it is otherwise likely to have.

~Trevor



## An exciting new ministry within our congregation

The Vestry of Saint Andrew's Church is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Dan Drage to the new post of Congregational Artist in Residence.

Dan recently completed a PhD at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (Dundee

University) having previously studied at the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts in the University of St Andrews. Dan is no stranger to us. The Drage family (Dan, Kimberley, Lily and Joanna) have been an important part of our life together as a congregation for the past seven years, and Dan has been active in producing art from time to time within the church and its grounds, including the remarkable installation during Holy Week and Easter 2022 (pictured below).



In his new role Dan will provide an identifiable and distinctive presence in the town and the community through practising art informed by the eyes of Christian faith. He will be able to develop existing links with the town's artistic community and establish new ones, networking in ways that involve both engaging people wherever they are and hopefully drawing people into our building to share and use its facilities and resources, thereby increasing a sense of welcome and belonging focused upon (but not limited to) shared occupancy of our space. Dan will be able to help artists explore questions about how and where exactly their work and their sense of artistic vocation and integrity fits into a world increasingly defined by the dogmas of an officially secular public space, and what theological resources the Christian Churches may offer to help make sense of that. He will

be able to help Christians and others to understand more fully the importance, historical prevalence, and contemporary potential of the arts as forms of theological engagement with the gospel and with the world, and their distinctive power to capture the imagination and thereby shape and reshape the hearts and minds of believers and unbelievers alike. But Dan is only going to be working one day a week in the first instance, so he's going to have to make some choices about where to start and what to do!



Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

Wednesday 16th October 7pm

BOOK LAUNCH

Loren Wilkinson

All are welcome!

"A beautiful and deeply personal exploration of the meaning of the circle and the cross, bringing together the message of Christianity with one of hope for those engaged with the crisis of our mother earth."  
 -- #draimcgilchrist author of 'The Master and His Emissary'

"Pondering 'Why is there anything and why are we aware of it?' Loren Wilkinson brings to bear a lifetime of thought and an astonishing breath of knowledge on a journey from the origin of the cosmos to our life-friendly but wounded planet. Beyond an enlightenment mindset, he glories in wonder and gratitude for gifts of a loving God, self-sacrificed on the cross, as the source of worship, science, and art. This book is a classic."  
 -- #michealosiadhail author of 'The Five Quintets'

CIRCLES and THE CROSS

Cosmos, Consciousness, Christ, and the Human Place in Creation

LOREN WILKINSON foreword by Peter Harris

Author, poet, and Emeritus professor at Regent College, Vancouver, Loren Wilkinson has been a significant player in the Christian environment movement since its incipience in the late twentieth century. In the autumn of 1996 Loren and

his wife Mary Ruth travelled to St Andrews and spent a sabbatical at St Mary's College, during which time they joined the life of the congregation at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church. In the intervening decades they have been regular visitors to the town. During that time, too, Loren has been working on a book which in many ways brings together the accumulated wisdom of his life's work. On Wednesday 16th October at 7pm Loren will join us for an evening of conversation and questions about the book hosted by the current Rector of Saint Andrew's Church, the Revd Canon Professor Trevor Hart.



## An update from the Church Garden...



Some of you may have noticed a large plant in a pot which has appeared in the Church garden. This is a Sweet Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*) which has been donated by friends of Ros and Richard Scotcher. In due course it will be planted in the central bed where it is currently resting. It is considered by some a 'must have' of the herb garden – leaves, flowers, and fruit can all be used in cooking.



It is also a symbol of love and constancy and often included in bridal bouquets. And this is where (we think) the story of our plant begins. When Magdalene Anstruther of Balcaskie married Thomas Erskine of Cambo in 1911 (pictured below) she wore a coronal of myrtle leaves from a plant in the garden (as recorded in the Courier of the day!). We believe that the myrtle now growing at Cambo came from this plant, which then provided a cutting to grow in Jean Tynte's garden – now James Tynte-Irvine's. From there a cutting turned into the plant which I hope will thrive in this sheltered south facing bed.



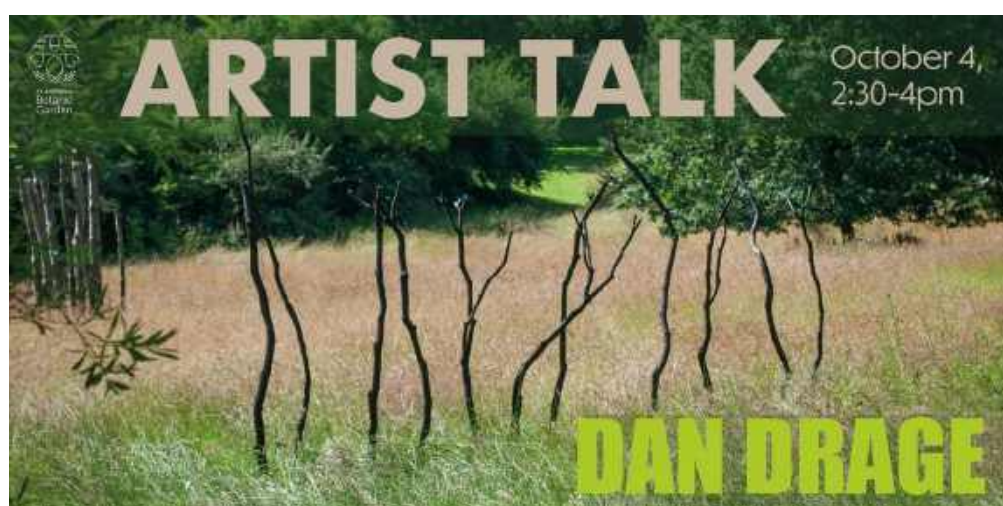
There is a story that the Balcaskie myrtle came originally from the bouquet of one of Queen Victoria's daughters – possible but unsubstantiated! Whatever its origins it is lovely to have in the garden for all to enjoy.

I have not had as much time for the church garden this summer as I would like and that challenge continues. If anyone feels moved to weed or prune please do – remembering always please that as an Eco-Congregation we do not use pesticides and herbicides in the garden any more.

~ Jenny Evetts



Saint Andrew's Church Garden  
Hedgehog being shy in the  
Rectory carpark



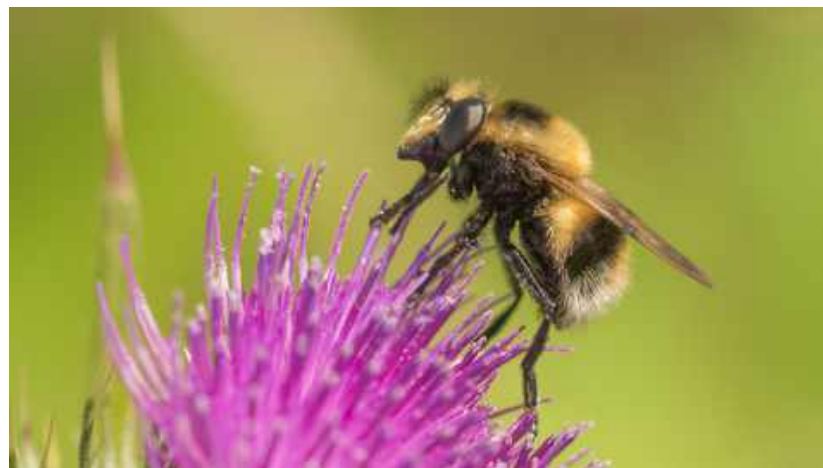
Dan Drage will be offering an artist-led tour of his installation 'Gathering Surface' in the Botanic Garden and reflecting on it one year on! Followed by an opportunity for Q and A.

Please note, this event is ticketed by St Andrews Botanic Garden and early booking is advised so as to avoid disappointment!



As the days grow shorter and temperatures drop, don't let the annual garden clean-up distract you from the need and opportunity to help wildlife – especially pollinators. Here are a few tips for giving nature a hand at this time of year.

Leave the leaves whenever and wherever possible. Sending your leaves to the county landfill is the worst thing you can do because it robs your garden of natural fertilizer and even contributes to green house gas emissions. Instead, leave them on your garden beds where they will create a habitat for wildlife ranging from small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians to moth and butterfly larvae. If there are too many leaves, use the remainder for mulch.



Nurture autumn-blooming native plants. These are critical for pollinators. With bumble bees, for example, only mated queens live through the winter and they need to forage during the autumn to put on fat stores. According to James Cane, a biologist and head of the non-profit WildBeecology, contrary to conventional wisdom, autumn, not spring, is the premier time of year for planting or transplanting. You should get plants into the ground before it freezes so they will have a chance to establish their root systems.

Finally, leave seed heads and flower stalks alone. Like fallen leaves, they can be essential habitat for overwintering insects.

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