



The Right Revd Ian Paton
Bishop of St Andrews
Dunkeld and Dunblane
Scottish Episcopal Church

23rd May 2024

Dear friends,

WILLIAM OF PERTH

Today, 23rd May, is the Feast Day of St William of Perth, one of my favourite saints. He lived in the late 12th century, 100 years before Robert the Bruce. William was a baker in Perth, and as a faithful Christian gave one in ten of his loaves each day to the poor. Finding a child abandoned outside the church, William adopted and raised him.

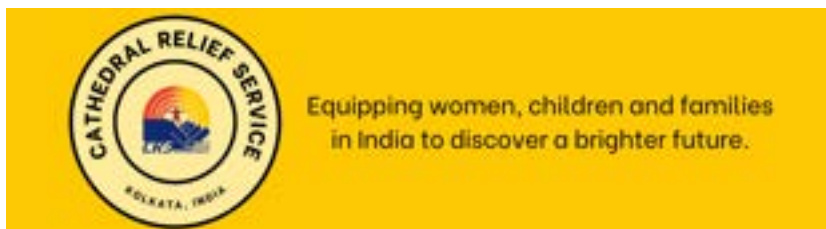
In 1201 William, with the now grown child, set off on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, but outside Rochester, on the way to Canterbury, he was robbed and murdered by the young man. His body was buried at Rochester, and people were drawn to pray there and there were healings and other miracles. William was canonised in 1254, and his shrine can still be found in Rochester Cathedral.

You may ask what this medieval story has to do with us? William represents an ordinary lay Christian, trying to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in a world that was uncertain, sometimes violent, and often cruel. By his generous giving and his care for the poor, he can still show us how to follow Christ in today's world. The betrayal and violence that led to his death were one result of that kindness, but even in death his memory and his prayers continued to do good and witness to the love that can overcome even death.

Please remember William of Perth today, and celebrate one of God's humble saints.



LENT APPEAL 2024



I would like to thank you and everyone in your congregation for the overwhelmingly generous response to the Bishop's Lent Appeal for the Nari Dana 'Ray of Hope' project in Kolkata. The total

raise so far is over £9,000, and there are some churches still intending to send their contributions. Thank you, for this wonderful gift to women in Kolkata, and for the many lives that will be changed by your giving. Please pray for Nari Dana ("women's wings" in Bengali) for the staff, volunteers, and the women whose lives are being transformed.

STANLEY APPEAL

As I reported at Synod in March, St Columba's Church, Stanley is being renewed and refurbished in preparation for the Diocesan curacy which will start there at the end of September. I hope that a service of Re-Dedication will take place on the anniversary of St Columba's original dedication in 1898, 18th August. I will confirm this nearer the time. As I reported, St Columba's has no reserves or funds of its own, and the renewal is being funded by Provincial and other grants and by the Diocese. But some more support is needed.

I am asking every congregation to consider making a financial donation to the Diocese for St Columba's. Whether your charge can afford £500.00 or £25.00, your gift will help us to re-open the church for worship and begin to serve the growing community with a growing church.

Some congregations might prefer to give towards something tangible. St Columba's needs 30 new chairs, which cost £110.00 each. Would your Vestry give the cost of one chair, or a number of chairs?



Thank you very much to those charges that have already contributed. If yours has not yet considered it, please use the attached leaflet to inform them and your congregation, and send your donation as soon as you can, by Bank transfer to: Diocese of St Andrews (SC017654) Sort Code: 82-68-31, Account No: 00187750 using the Reference 'Stanley 2024'.

WELCOME

to clergy who are taking up new roles in the Diocese:

The Rev Paul Singh - is coming as Rector of the new linked charge of St John's, Forfar and St Mary's Kirriemuir. Paul will be instituted on Thursday 4th July at 7pm, place to be confirmed. Paul and his family will be joining us from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, and they are very welcome.

The Revd David Gordon - is coming as Priest-in-Charge of St Michael's, Elie and St John's, Pittenweem. David will be licensed on Thursday 1st August at 7pm in St Michael's, Elie. David and his family will be joining us from the Diocese of Brechin, and they also are very welcome.

Please pray for Paul and David as they prepare for their new ministries, and for their families moving to a new home. And, especially if they will be part of your Area Council, I encourage all clergy and lay readers to come to the Institution or Licensing.

THANK YOU

to clergy who are leaving the Diocese:

The Revd Dean Norby - is retiring in August as Rector of the All Souls Group of churches in south Fife. I thank Dean for all he has done in this Diocese, and wish him and Elizabeth the happiest of retirements.

The Revd Chris Lowdon - is moving this week from St James, Dollar, to new ministry in the Diocese of St Albans in England. I thank Chris for his ministry at St James, and his work for the SEC in the Canons Committee, and wish him and Tracey a happy move to their new home.

FINALLY

Thank you to everyone for continuing to be faithful and outward-looking in your worship and your life as a congregation. May St William of Perth give us all encouragement as we follow him as pilgrim disciples of Jesus Christ.

With my warmest regards to you and your congregation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 't/a' followed by a stylized flourish.