

St.Saviour's Church, Bridge of Allan

# Newsletter



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Autumn 2023

## Dear Friends,

I was delighted to hear the news that Revd. Aaron Moffat-Jackman has been appointed Rector of St Saviour's and St Modoc's. I look forward very much to meeting him and his family and to celebrate with you at his institution.

As Aaron will start his ministry in January he will be preparing to come to his new position during Advent, the same time in the church year as I started at St Mary's almost six years ago. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation.

As Christians we hit the pause button for four Sundays in order to reflect and pray before we throw ourselves into the celebration of Christ's coming among us. I remember a number of people saying to me in the weeks leading up to my institution that because I already knew the congregation of St Mary's, I would be able to hit the ground running. My wish, however, was to hit the ground kneeling so that I might do things God's way. I hope that you will give Aaron time to get to know you and the community he is called to serve and that you will join him in prayer so that together you will grow in your understanding of the work Christ has for you to do towards the advancement of his kingdom.



In the meantime, as the nights draw in and the temperature drops, we come to the Season of Remembrance. We pause once more to remember with thanks those from our church family who have died. In the funeral liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church there is a prayer of farewell, often said by a relative, which starts by giving thanks for the individual and for the love and friendship he or she gave during their lives. It then goes on to pray that nothing good in that person's life would be lost but would be of benefit to the world, that all that was important to him or her would be respected by those who follow. It asks that the person who has died may go on living in the hearts and minds of his or her family and friends, in their courage and their consciences, and that they, because of their loss, would be even closer to each other as they live in peace and friendship here on earth.

My prayer for you in the midst of the preparations for the coming of your new rector, is that you would pause to remember and give thanks for those people who enriched the life of St Saviour's in years gone by and to seek to emulate them. One of the qualities which is sadly lacking in many churches today is faithfulness in Sunday worship, a practice which is vital not only for the spiritual wellbeing and growth of the individual but also of the body as a whole. Another is generosity in giving - of time and talents as well as of regular financial donations - which is crucial for the flourishing of ministry and mission. May the weeks ahead provide an opportunity for you to consider afresh how you put your faith into action within your church community and perhaps set new patterns in readiness for a new chapter in the life of St Saviour's.

With love, Nerys

## The Winter Drop In

*Terry Moran writes;*

The Winter Drop In will re-convene on Tuesday 31st October - meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays as before, from 12 till 4pm. We will continue to offer soup, rolls, tea, coffee etc. This year we hope to offer a programme of activities also. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to volunteer as a helper - even once a month would be appreciated.

Also, if anyone could possibly help with publicity for the Drop In, we would be delighted to hear from them.

## A Message from the New Rector

Aaron Moffat-Jackman writes;

“Hi everyone – my name is Aaron, and I’m writing this message just to share a bit about me and my family. I’m a 40-year-old Mancunian, happily married to Gemma, and we have two amazing children: Hope (13), and Abraham (12). We’re a down-to-earth family who like a laugh and don’t take ourselves too seriously. Hope loves fashion, quirky vintage collecting, music, and East Asian cuisine. Abraham is a gamer and is fascinated by the natural world, especially unusual and dangerous creatures!

Gemma and I share a passion for music, dancing, singing, enjoying good food, and staying active. We relish spending time with people but also treasure those quiet moments with a good book and a cup of tea. As a mixed couple, with Gemma’s Scottish heritage and my West Indian roots, we take pride in celebrating the richness of our backgrounds.

Prior to joining St Saviour and St Modoc, we spent the last two years serving a wonderfully generous congregation at St Peter’s in Musselburgh. Our ministerial journey began in rural Saddleworth, Manchester, where we had quite a menagerie of animals, including sheep, chickens, ducks, geese, pigs, rabbits, cats, and dogs. While we won’t have as many animals with us in our new home, we’re looking forward to introducing you to our four cats and our two dogs, Fen and Kevin.

Our journey has now led us to Bridge of Allan and Doune. For as long as I can remember, I’ve harboured a deep desire to ‘see God’s face’. I’ve come to realise that I can’t do this alone, which is why my calling to the priesthood revolves around journeying with others, meeting people where they are, and sharing God’s love with them. I’m excited to continue this sacred journey in this beautiful part of Scotland and to rediscover God’s presence in the lives of the people here, both at St Saviour & St Modoc’s and in the wider community.

As we prepare for this big move, we would greatly appreciate your prayers. We’re eagerly looking forward to meeting all of you in just a few months’ time!”



## Let’s Get Together

John and Vanessa Berridge write;

We had our first “get together” of the autumn 🍂 11th October at John and Vanessa’s home. We enjoyed hearing what our friends and neighbours had been getting up to through the summer and generally tried to update each other with what’s on the cards in the next few weeks, both in church and in our neighbourhood.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 6th November at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to join us for tea/ coffee ☕ and biscuits 🍪 a good blether and please feel free to invite a friend / partner to come as well.

If it’s your first visit please ring me, Vanessa, on 07740178689 to get our address and details. We have accessible access at the back of the house if needed. We would love to have your company. ♿

See you soon.

## Vestry News

Alastair Duncan writes;

The Vestry is delighted that the Rev Aaron Moffat-Jackman has accepted the invitation to become Rector of the linked charges of St Saviour’s and St Modoc’s, Doune. His institution will take place in both churches in the week beginning Monday 15 January on a day still to be fixed. He and his family have been invited to take up residence in the rectory whenever it suits them in the New Year. By then it is hoped (and expected) that the major works in the refurbishment of the rectory will have been completed. This will include double-glazing throughout. A successful application has been made to the Diocese for a grant of over £20,000, leaving an equivalent amount to be shared between the two churches.

Since September the Very Rev. Michael Faragher and his wife Rhonda, visiting Stirling from Queensland, have become active members of the congregation, of the choir and the walking group. We are very pleased that Michael has agreed to conduct a service or two during their stay. We have also been blessed this autumn by the arrival of a number of Nigerian students. Partly due to their presence, the Young Adults Group has prospered and now has sixteen members on its books.

The new rector and his wife will be attending the Christmas lunch at Stirling Court Hotel on 5 December. Fifty-three members and friends of St Saviour’s will also be there, and an as yet unknown number of our friends from St Modoc’s. The Vestry is very grateful to Anne Williamson for all the work that goes into organising the lunch.

As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Vestry is launching an appeal to members of the congregation to reconsider their financial support for the church. We are very anxious to present our new rector with a healthy financial situation. It will be an important practical sign of our warm welcome. Please do what you can.

## Treasurer’s Report

Bill Logie writes;

In the rectory it is almost as if it was springtime! But only so far as spring cleaning goes! In preparation for the new rector and his family a lot of work has gone into the building, for which we must be most grateful to Malcolm Cordwell-Smith of St Modoc’s. He has masterminded the work that has been done and which is still to be done. The former includes painting inside and out and insulating areas of rooms that have outside walls. There is a lot that still has to be done, and this will be supported by a grant from the Scottish Episcopal Church’s Building Fund, with St Saviour’s and St Modoc’s sharing the balance. The work includes a new boiler (compatible with hydrogen gas burning) and revised plumbing. To conserve energy secondary glazing is to be fitted. The en-suite and bathroom will be upgraded; a fire wall installed in the attic, and extra insulation in the loft space. This should all be completed by the end of the year, and before the family arrive.

The church’s financial year has just ended and the accounts are being prepared. It seems likely that a surplus of £30,000 can be expected. During this period we have suffered from the lack of a full time rector, but benefitted from not having to pay a stipend and other related costs. I do not think members need reminding that the congregation has to raise all the costs of running the church as well as paying the rector’s stipend, and pension. And contributing to diocesan costs. As shortly we will have the benefit of a new rector, these costs will face us again, on top of all the other costs which are subject to inflation.

The main source of funding for St Saviour’s is the generous regular giving from members. This, however, has been declining year on year and more significantly in “real” terms (to use economist’s terminology!). Consequently we will be asking members to reconsider their giving, to sacrifice, perhaps, that cup of coffee or other indulgence, so that the new rector will be able to start, comfortable that the finances are in good order and that there are resources for new projects to take St Saviour’s forward.

# Harvest Thanksgiving

Sandra Rutt writes;

When we go to friends or family, we often take a gift to say "Thank you". Our thanks are expressed for their goodness in inviting us, for their welcome, for that cup of coffee, glass of wine or meal and for showing their care for us. Every year, at the traditional time of the food harvest in the fields, church folk may still use some of the traditional words at 'Harvest Thanksgiving' but the message is as fresh and relevant today. At our service on Sunday 1st October, led by Revd Val Nellist, our choir and congregation thanked the Lord for all good gifts around us and for all God's love.

Here at St. Saviour's, we bring our gifts of the Harvest loaf and mice – and seasonal greenery, flowers, fruits and veg appear all through the church to show nature's beauty and abundance. We also offer gifts headed for Start Up. This year Jean Kelly thanked everyone for a bumper crop of 64kg of foods and toiletries sent from St. Saviour's' congregation.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and especially to those who offered their time and talents!



Harvest loaf and mice!



Jean and Gillian



Terry



Ven. Michael and Rhonda brought a jar of Vegemite all the way from Brisbane and encouraged Sylvia and Alison as they arranged their flowers.



Sylvia and Alison arranged beautiful flowers at the pulpit and the chancel steps.



Terry's pedestal arrangement and Angèle and Robert's altar display. The little scarecrow was on the right (see next photo) Every field needs a little scarecrow.



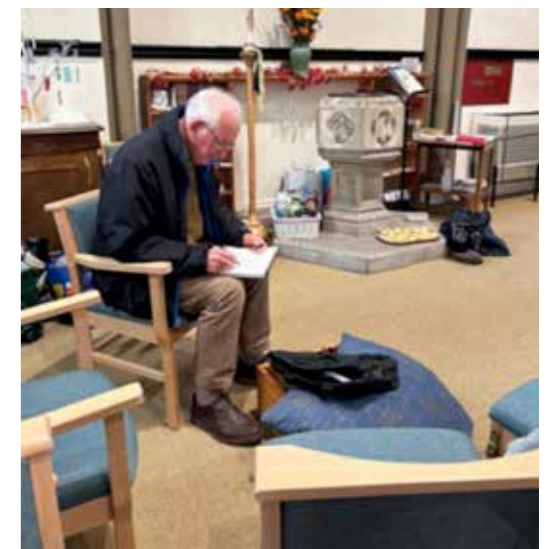
Anne & Alastair's fabulous colours above the font welcomed everyone.



Stirling University student Leonie, from East Java, Indonesia, arranged the flowers on our 'Welcome Table'.



Sue Power arranged harvest gold roses in the porch and Gillian and Rhonda displayed foods etc. for Start Up along the window ledges.



Our resident artist, Bill, was at work too!

## Greetings from Rhonda and Michael Faragher



Rhonda and I will be living in Bridge of Allan from September through to December this year while Rhonda undertakes a British Academy research fellowship with a colleague at the University of Stirling. We have been privileged to attend and be part of the church community at St Saviour's during this time, and I have been invited to write something about our life, work and family for you.

Rhonda and I live in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, Australia. Rhonda is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of Queensland. Her particular teaching and research interest is in the education of people with disabilities, and among other offices and positions she holds, Rhonda is the Vice President of Down Syndrome International, the peak international group for research and advocacy for people with Down Syndrome. She is also a Fellow of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD), a worldwide group dedicated to the scientific study of intellectual disability. Rhonda's current project which she is pursuing in Stirling is the investigation of ageing and dementia in people with Down Syndrome, and the enabling of the best possible quality of life for anyone so

affected. Earlier this year (2023) we were very proud when Rhonda was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (equivalent to a UK CBE) for her services to the Down Syndrome community at home and abroad. (Perhaps we might be able to organise her to give a talk about her work while we're in Scotland).



I have recently retired as a full-time priest and Archdeacon in the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane. I am still engaged when available as a locum priest in various vacant parishes (so I can empathise with St Saviour's recent trials and tribulations!) Before I prepared for and took Holy Orders, I was a professional musician and music educator, having spent some 12 years in the Australian Army Band Corps, as well as performing in many different musical settings; jazz, commercial, liturgical etc., in addition to teaching music at number of secondary schools and University departments.

We have three children, Luke (33), Paul (29) and Ruth (27). Luke, who has a degree in aviation, and



worked for Virgin Airlines before that industry was severely disrupted by COVID; he is now retraining to be a secondary Mathematics and Physics teacher, and also enjoys his volunteer work as a scout leader. Paul is a funeral director with a Brisbane firm and is also a keen and talented artist. He and Luke share a house in Jindalee, a riverside suburb of Brisbane with two retired and rescued greyhounds, and are also minding our cattle dog Barry, so theirs is a very lively household for the next few months!

Ruth our daughter is house-sitting with a friend at our place in Ferny Grove, a north-western bush suburb of Brisbane, and hopefully keeping our garden watered and our swimming pool tended during the sub-tropical summer. Ruth is also very busy helping to prepare for the World Down Syndrome Congress to be held in Brisbane next year; she is a member of the organising committee and has a great many meetings to attend and report to us about.

While we have been attending St Saviour's, Rhonda and I are very grateful to have been welcomed into the Choir, and the warm circle of friendship and community that seems to characterise the particularly Anglican expression of the Body of Christ that we have been blessed to experience in many different places all around the world. We look forward to getting to know you better and counting you all among our friends and fellow pilgrims.



## Fundraising Team

*Alison Logie writes;*

The Fundraising Team consists of Terry Gourlay, Vanessa Berridge and Alison Logie. The purpose of the team is to raise funds for the Church and other good causes such as Strathcarron Hospice and to raise the profile of St Saviour's in the village and elsewhere. Within the last year there have been the following events.:

A Winter Sale, a Beetle Drive, a Bingo night, an Abba night, a Jazz Night, a popup shop held by an outside retailer where a raffle raised money for St Saviour's, and lately St Saviour's took a slot at a local car boot sale and made £350. All of these events allowed the general public to be aware of St Saviour's presence and in some cases, familiar with the inside of the Church itself.

Future events include a Barbershop Singers Concert and a reading of the Christmas Carol. Both of these events will be held within the Church itself. It is hoped to raise some money at both these events and also to allow non church people to become familiar with the inside of St Saviour's building.

## Young Church Rota

*August - December 2023*

24/09/2023	Sarah and Beth		
1/10/2023	All Age Service	Harvest	
08/10/2023	Sarah and Beth	Safeguarding Refresher after coffee	
15/10/2023	Jean and Jacquie		
22/10/2023	Jean and Jacquie		
29/10/2023	Sarah and Beth	Coffee - decorating cakes Hallowe'en	
05/11/2023	Sarah and Beth	Fireworks or All Saints	
12/11/2023	Gillian and James	Remembrance Day	
19/11/2023	Gillian and James		
26/11/2023	Sarah and Beth	Christ the King, Advent Calendars	
03/12/2023	Everyone available	Christmas crafts	
10/12/2023	Everyone available	Christmas crafts Christmas Party! After coffee - 2.00pm.	
17/12/2023	Everyone available	Christmas crafts	
24/12/2023	All Age Service	Nativity?	

Next YC organisation meeting: 14/11/2023, 7pm, Jean's.

## The Walking Group.

Anne Williamson writes;

Before the autumn walks began in September, we enjoyed a group trip with 16 walkers and friends visiting flower decked Harrogate. A guided tour of the Georgian and Victorian sights of the Spa town, Baths and expansive parkland and formal gardens redolent of more splendid past times preceded our first fine dinner in the Yorkshire hotel.

Our full day in the area was framed around a visit to Harlow Carr Gardens, a dazzling array of formal bedding, landscaping, glasshouse and reference library for horticulturalists, plus shop and of course the famed Betty's Tea Rooms. A very helpful volunteer guide took us round some of the sights of this wonderful garden.

The evening was rounded off with a meal in the award winning 'Fat Badger' pub.

LNER got us home safely.

Our first walk of the autumn term was the now traditional University campus circuit, always a good opportunity to admire the finely maintained grounds and walk the Labyrinth. We have been delighted to welcome Michael Farragher, Yuchen, Leonie and more recently Maggie Moss on our walks, which have included Abbey Craig, Bannockburn, Kings Park and Ochloch Park.

See you on our walks next month.



## Church garden

Maggie Moss writes;

Members of the gardening team will meet at 10.30am on Saturday October 28th for the annual church garden autumn clean up. We shall also probably do some planting of wallflowers, sweet william, winter pansies, bulbs etc, adding to what was planted in September. Do please remember that you are all welcome to donate bulbs or any plants you would like to see in the garden. It is a garden shared by us all.

As usual next year we shall meet at 10.30am on the third Saturday of each month from March to September inclusive.

## Save the Date!

Trish Jones writes;

St. Saviour's presents the return of the Keir Street players in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Friday 15 December at 7.30pm and Saturday 16 December at 3.00pm in St. Saviour's Church Bridge of Allan.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jean Kelly writes;

As the nights draw in and the garden tools get cleaned and put away for another year, it's time to get those knitting needles "clacking" again. Once you get knitting, please let me know what stage you are at and if you need any help with the fringing. My number is 0771 588 5582.

An opportunity to meet up with fellow knitters and bring your shawls, will be at the "Winter Drop-in Centre" in St. Saviour's Hall which is starting up again in November on Tuesdays and Fridays. I hope to do Arts and Crafts or knitting at the Friday sessions.

Prayer Shawl  
Ministry



# The Book Group

Maggie Moss writes;

We shall meet one more time this calendar year, namely on November 9th, to discuss “Playing under the Piano” by Hugh Bonneville. At this November meeting members will bring suggestions of books and poets to be read during 2024. From these suggestions two poets and four books will be selected. Anyone is welcome to come to this meeting, and indeed to any other single meeting that may be of interest. There is no obligation to “sign up” for every meeting. The chosen poets, books and dates will be published in the next newsletter and in the appropriate pew slips.

# Book Group July Poetry Meeting

Sylvia Broomfield writes;

Traditionally the July meeting has been to discuss the work of a poet, varying from well-known traditional poets to more modern, perhaps unfamiliar, ones. This year Maggie proposed STEWART CONN and unfortunately none of us had heard of him or knew his work. This is in spite of the fact that he has been called ‘one of Scotland’s most skilled and wide-ranging poets’.

STEWART CONN was born in Glasgow in 1936, and grew up in Kilmarnock. Although his father was a minister, one branch of the family were farmers, and much of his early poetry is distinctive for its Ayrshire farm settings, animals and people - almost mythic figures seen through a boy’s eyes—and its depiction of a way of life since virtually vanished. He subsequently lived in Glasgow’s West End, a stone’s throw from the Botanic and the University. During these years much of his poetry probed familial, often parental relationships, against a changing city background; or responded to a sense of place, in this country and abroad.

His work, with its distinctive rhythmic and lyrical qualities, has been widely published, anthologised and translated. Among its settings are the Ayrshire of his boyhood; Glasgow and Edinburgh where he has spent the bulk of his family and working life. 1977 saw his transfer, as BBC Scotland’s head of radio drama, to Edinburgh where he and his wife Judy, with their two young sons, moved the following year and have lived since. From 2002 to 2005 he was Edinburgh’s inaugural Makar. He has also published a number of plays and been involved with collecting together poems for several anthologies.

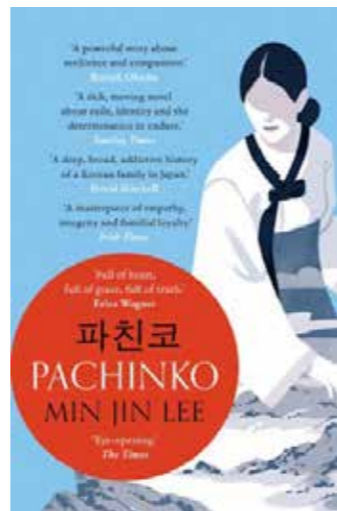
The poems chosen were: Carpe Diem, Seize the Day, Lothian Burn, Visitation and Off the Leash. Copies of these are available from members of the Group if anyone is interested.

All of these were very much enjoyed by the Group. Some are atmospheric, perhaps with advice to appreciate the moment with comments about life’s transience; there are also in some cases hints of regret, and he seems to have a wonderful understanding of the generations and their interactions with one another. There are other poems which are perceptive descriptions of the world around him painting beautiful pictures of the dog or the burn for example. None of the poems are long and we recommend taking a look.

# The Book Group: Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Alison Logie writes;

Pachinko is a novel about four generations of one family living firstly in Korea and then in Japan. The story begins in Korea with Hoonie, a kind honest man who is hampered by his cleft palate and twisted foot. A marriage is arranged for him and he and his wife, Yangsin set up a boarding house to help pay the bills. After some disappointments they eventually have a daughter, Sunja, who helps run the boarding house. At 17 she is rescued from some ruffians at the market by Hansu, who is a sophisticated, well dressed, wealthy fish trader. He seduces her; she falls in love and gets pregnant. She finds out he has a wife and children. She refuses to become his mistress but this leaves her open to the scorn of the locals- an unmarried mother. She is rescued by a tubercular Christian minister Isak Baek who is staying in the boarding house and whom they nurse back to health when he takes ill. He agrees to marry her and takes her to Japan where he joins his brother, Yoseb. Isak is a very kind man of great integrity. He is imprisoned after he refused to worship the Emperor. He dies soon after he is released. In 1910



Japan had invaded Korea and had made Koreans second class citizens, making them take Japanese names and speak Japanese. Koreans struggled to get employment and were restricted to poor ghettos. Sunja and Isak move in with his brother, Yoseb and his wife Kyunghee who made them very welcome. Kyunghee and Sunja become good friends. Sunja bears two sons Noa and Mosazu. The book then follows the stories of this family through many difficulties and WW2 when the Japanese empire becomes more oppressive. In the background Hansu is there supporting Sunja and Kyunghee with finding work for them and taking the family (including the mother Yangsin) to a farm during the bombardment of Osaka. To make any money as a Korean one successful way was to set up a Pachinko parlour. Both Noa and Mozazu did this. Hence the name of the book. The story follows the fate of the sons.

The Book Group enjoyed the book though some found it on the long side but nonetheless absorbing. We were particularly interested in the history and culture of that part of the world not knowing much about it. The way the Koreans were treated like second class citizens, bullied and marginalised was enlightening. Discussions arose about different dictatorships and their need to control the population as in Nazi Germany, China, and Russia. Because the Koreans were not allowed into the professions they turned to business so that’s why they are so successful in this line now. We were all glad we had read the book as it had broadened our knowledge of a different culture and a different part of the world.

# St Saviour’s Groups and Organisers

<b>Ministry and Pastoral Team:</b>	Rev Nerys Brown (Interim Pastor)		
	Prof Nick Price (Lay Reader) - Sue white (Lay Reader)		
<b>Vestry Members:</b>	Alastair Duncan, James Gardner, Jean Kelly, Alison Logie, Bill Logie, Vicky McDowell, Terry Moran, Sue Power & Margaret Price		
<b>Secretary</b>	Alastair Duncan	<b>Fun and Fundraising:</b>	Terry Moran
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bill Logie		Alison Logie
<b>Child Protection &amp; PVG:</b>	Jean Kelly		Vanessa Berridge
<b>Young Church:</b>	Sue White	<b>Drop in/Warm space</b>	Elaine Cameron
	Gillian Burr	<b>Prayer Shawl Group:</b>	Jean Kelly
	Jean Kelly	<b>Flower Group:</b>	Sandra Rutt
<b>Communications:</b>	Andrew McDowell	<b>Environmental Co-ordinator:</b>	Elaine Cameron
<b>Magazine:</b>	Andrew McDowell	<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Christine Caldwell
	Jacquie Macpherson	<b>Church Garden:</b>	Maggie Moss
<b>Pew Slip:</b>	Sandra Rutt	<b>Rectory Garden:</b>	Terry Moran
<b>Music:</b>	Sue Horne (Choral)	<b>Readers:</b>	Graham Barratt
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	Sylvia Broomfield	<b>Welcomers:</b>	Margaret Price
<b>Fabric Team:</b>	Brian Bridgewater	<b>Intercessions:</b>	Alastair Williamson
	Alex Glover	<b>Bin Czar:</b>	Liz Coleman
	Mel White	<b>Property Letting:</b>	Terry Moran
<b>Walking Group:</b>	Anne and Alastair Williamson		Elaine Cameron
<b>Craft and Knitting Groups:</b>	Sue Horne		Margaret Price
			Sylvia Broomfield



St.Saviour’s Secretary e-mail address: [secretary@saint-saviour.org](mailto:secretary@saint-saviour.org)

If you need a priest, please contact Rev Nerys Brown at St.Mary’s Church Dunblane Tel. 01786 824225

# THE PERTSHIRE BARBERSHOP SINGERS



**ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH  
FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AT 2.00PM  
UNTIL 3.00PM**

**TICKETS: ADULT £7 - CHILD FREE**

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE SERVED AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

PROCEEDS TO **ST. SAVIOURS** AND **STRATHCARRON HOSPICE**

