
ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH STIRLING



PARISHIONER
OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2017

MINISTER

Rev. Gary J McIntyre, B.D., Dip.Min.

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CHURCH ORGANIST

Mr Tony Baldwin

19 West Burnside

Dollar

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Deadline for December 17/January 18 Parishioner—Sunday, 19th November 2017

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

During my holiday in August I spent a few days on the island of Arran. I have visited the island on many occasions and I never fail to marvel at its beauty and the friendliness of the people.

On this particular visit, I crossed over to Holy Island which is a short sail from Lamlash. The sun shone, the sky was blue and the sense of peace and calm was amazing. As I walked on the island I spent some time thinking, some time reflecting and a lot of time praying! It was a great day and one I will remember for a long time.

Recently a number of ministers and elders within the Presbytery of Stirling met together to think about the challenges facing the Church of Scotland in these days. Some statistics were shared with us, which I, in turn share with you:

In 1995 the membership of the Church of Scotland was 700,000. By 2015 it had dropped to 363,000 and in the same period the number of ministers declined by 34%.

Today 76% of ministers are over the age of 60 and 50% of ministers are due to retire in the next five years.

Within the Presbytery of Stirling there has in the period 2000-2016 been a 38% reduction in the number of members.

The number of vacant charges is increasing and vacancies are lasting longer, some up to five years and more.

These statistics are in some sense alarming and a very real cause for concern. Inevitably, changes will have to come but before they do it is my firm opinion that we should not rush and come up with a short term solution to what are fundamental and long term challenges. Instead, we should listen to what proposals come to us from the Presbytery and the General

Assembly and then we should take time to think, reflect and pray, and I believe, as we do so, we will find that within both ourselves and our congregation, we will know a sense of peace and calm, and in that circumstance, we will be better able to make the right decisions.

In May, the General Assembly issued a call to the Church to pray, specifically for God to renew us and to pray about the future of the Church. We will be offering prayers Sunday by Sunday but I encourage you at home to also pray for the Church and to pray for me and the Kirk Session that we may be faithful and be able to discern the leading of God's Holy Spirit in these times.

Every blessing,

Your friend and minister,

Gary J. McIntyre

—
Gary J McIntyre

ORGANIST

The Kirk Session is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Tony Baldwin as Organist of St Ninians Old Parish Church. Tony has played for us on a number of occasions this year and gave a memorable organ recital in June. We welcome Tony (and Lynne) to our Church family and we assure him of our support and prayers in this new and exciting chapter in the life of our Congregation.

FROM OUR ORGANIST

Well how about this? Occasional visits to Scotland to see my partner, Lynne, have turned into almost permanent residence! Thus I find myself appointed permanent organist of St Ninians Old, one of the organists at Falkirk Crematorium, and the recipient of much freelancing in the Hillfoots. When I first came, it was not for work; I assumed you had your own organists across the central belt and were well served – but I'm pleased to be useful.

I started as a deputy, but in time found that Gary's kindness and encouragement, the friendliness of the choir and congregation and the stellar quality of your lovely organ, which I love – were sufficient inducement for me to apply for the post. I hope to contribute positively to the worship here for a long time.

Technically, I stay in London, where I keep a flat, but that won't prevent me fulfilling my duties at St Ninians or anywhere else. I look forward to good things coming out of the music at St Ninians – an essential part of worship, and one of the chief ways of accessing the spiritual, in a world beset by the secular.

Thank you so much for appointing me.

Yours organist,

Tony Baldwin

WORSHIP IS A VERB COURSE

This course is designed to help people in congregations to be involved in worship, both as participants, and as leaders with the support of their Parish Minister. The Rev Andy Campbell is running it again over the 4 Sunday's in November, 2-30 – 4.00p.m. Venue – Gargunnock Parish Church.

REFORMATION 500

PRESBYTERY OF STIRLING LECTURE SERIES
COMMEMORATING THE REFORMATION

Friday, 6th October

7p.m.

Church of the Holy Rude

Rev Professor David Ferguson

University of Edinburgh

'The Reformation and Theology today'

Thursday, 19th October

7p.m.

The North Church

Elaine Duncan

Scottish Bible Society

'The Reformation and the Bible'

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE

Learning event about effective ways to support people living with dementia

Wednesday, 1st November

7.30 – 9p.m.

Dunblane Cathedral

To book a place contact Bonnie McDowell on 07704601983

or Email BMcDowell@churchofscotland.org.uk

SERVICES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Sunday, 8th October

10.30am Morning Worship
Sunday Club on Holiday
6.30pm Communion Service

Sunday, 15th October

10.30am Morning Worhsip
Sunday Club on Holiday
Fellowship Tea

Sunday, 22nd October

10.30am Morning Worship
Crèche and Sunday Club
Prayers for Healing at the close of the Service
1.15pm Eccles Court and 2pm Westerlands Care Home

Sunday, 29th October

10.30am Morning Worship
Crèche and Sunday Club

Sunday, 5th November

10.30am Morning Worship
Crèche and Sunday Club
The Rev Jim Landels

Sunday 12th November

10.30am A Service of Remembrance
Crèche and Sunday Club
The Boys' Brigade will be with us
Retiral collection for Erskine

Sunday, 19th November

10.30am Morning Worship
Crèche and Sunday Club
Fellowship Tea

Sunday, 26th November

10.30am Morning Worship

Crèche and Sunday Club

Sacrament of Baptism

1.15pm Eccles Court and 2pm Westerlands Care Home

Sunday, 3rd December – First Sunday in Advent

10.30am Morning Worship

Crèche and Sunday Club

Holy Communion

6.30pm Thanksgiving Service

JOINT CHURCH FRIENDSHIP LUNCHES

Monday 9th October and Monday 13th November

12 – 1.30pm

St Columba's Church Hall

Park Terrace, Stirling

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The group will meet in the Upper Room at the Church on Wednesday, 11th October and Wednesday, 8th November at 7.30pm We are currently exploring 'More Christianity' by C S Lewis. You are warmly invited to join us.

THE KIRK SESSION

The Business Committee will meet on Tuesday, 14th November at 10am

The Kirk Session will meet on Tuesday, 21st November at 7.30pm

MESSY CHURCH

The first Messy Church of 2018 will be held in the Parish Halls, Kirk Wynd on Sunday, 28th January from 3.30 – 6pm. Messy Church is for children of Primary School age and is a fun packed programme which allows children to learn about Jesus in a relaxed and informal setting. We are looking for volunteers to help with craft work, games and the preparation and serving of food. If you would like to help please speak to Mr McIntyre. Registration forms will be available in the McMichael Chapel in January.

LIFE AND WORK – THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Orders for 2018 for The Church of Scotland's award-winning magazine Life and Work will be sent off this month.

If you already subscribe, your order will continue. If you wish to cancel your subscription or if you would like to be added to the list of subscribers, please contact Mrs Marion Jackson at the address or telephone number on the back page of the Parishioner by the end of October.

Payment of £27 for the 12 issues would be appreciated by the end of November 2017. Standing Order Forms are available if you would prefer to pay by this method. A standing order can be cancelled by you at any time.

TUESDAY GROUP

Once again ladies, it is time to wrap up warmly and make your way to the Parish Hall, every second Tuesday, as the cleverly named Tuesday Group starts its new session on **Tuesday, 3rd October.**

We kick off with an interesting and amusing talk by Craig Mair about **'Hamish the Highland Coo'** who resided in the gardens behind the Smith Museum.

Next up, on the **17th October**, is a demonstration of flower arranging by **Pink Thistle Flowers.** Very apt, as we embark upon a Flower Festival in the Church this December.

On **31st October**, there is an open night, when non-members are welcome to join us. We will be entertained by a **Ukulele Band** and the cost is £6.

14th November sees another talk, this time by the Smith's David Smith reminding us of **Bygone Days.**

There is more musical entertainment on the **28th November**, as we approach St Andrew's Night, with Scots songs and others being performed by the Falkirk Bohemians. This, again, is an open night and the cost will once more be £6.

Last event before Christmas will be the ever-popular **Christmas Dinner**, which this year will be held at the Hollybank, on the **12th December.** Cost will be £18.

The committee looks forward to seeing you (and friends) for, what promises to be, a most enjoyable time of fun and fellowship, over the next few months.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Our Juniors in the 8th Stirling Boys' Brigade have been celebrating 100 years of the Junior Section in the Boys' Brigade. Up until 1917 The Boys' Brigade had only catered for boys aged 12 and over. However, in September 1917, Brigade Council (the governing body of The Boys' Brigade) set up the Boy Reserves to cater for boys 9 to 12 years of age.

For several years prior to this a number of Companies had started to take in recruits under twelve. The Boy Scouts had done so too from 1916 as Wolf Cubs, and for this reason there were calls to lower the age limit within the Brigade.

The boys celebrated by having a fun night of games and challenges in the hall, along with a Birthday Cake for the Junior Section! Other activities are planned for the boys to celebrate, including a fun trip to the Megazone Lazer Tag in Falkirk.

CAMPHILL - Blairdrummond

This is a home-from-home environment providing residential care and meaningful daily activities for people with learning disabilities. The use of various craft workshops is encouraged and in this connection they are looking for materials which you might have at home and no longer have any use for. If you have any of the undernoted, which you are finished with, please contact Marion Jackson (details on Parishioner back page) and these will be passed on to Andrea at Camphill, who will be delighted to receive them. Thank You!

**COTTON T Shirts WOOLLEN BLANKETS BUTTONS and BEADS
SHEETS or DUVET COVERS.**

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL

Once again St Ninians Old Parish Church has decided to support the Shoe Box Appeal.

Last year Blythswood Care delivered more than 120,000 boxes to people in great need in Eastern Europe and Pakistan. Some of these boxes were also distributed to migrants who had gone to Serbia in search of a better life only to discover that many of the inhabitants of Serbia were themselves experiencing great poverty.

In Pakistan where life for many Christian families is a struggle the gift of a shoe box shows that Christians elsewhere are thinking of them.

Receiving a shoe box filled with simple items that we take for granted can make Christmas really special for someone who is living in dire poverty.

Over the next few Sundays in both vestibules of the Church, there will be leaflets which include a checklist and covered boxes for those who would like to fill a box but not have to cover it. There will also be a large box where single items will be very welcome. These items will then be used to fill shoe boxes. The last date when boxes or items can be donated is Sunday, 12th November.

St Ninians Old has been very generous in its response to this appeal over the years and it is hoped this year's appeal will be met with the same support so that once again we can show the true spirit of Christmas by enabling some of those living in the poorest countries whose need is so great to experience some of the joy of Christmas.

William Simpson and St Ninians

Our William Simpson was the son of Francis Simpson of Plean (1760-1831) and his first wife Jean Sophia Cadell (1785-1806), daughter of William Cadell of Banton, a managing partner in Carron Iron Works. He died at Malta in 1827 aged just 22 years. There are two memorials to him at St Ninians. First, on the inner east wall of the church beside the door, a marble plaque records:

The late
William Simpson Esq.
of Plean
Bequeathed L. 500 Sterling
To the poor of the Parish
of St Ninians

Secondly, the small grassed area enclosed by walls and railings and adjoining the old cemetery has been known as the William Simpson's Asylum Burial Ground at St Ninians Glebe.

In 1829 Francis Simpson informed the four parishes of St Ninians, Falkirk, Larbert and Dunipace that they would each receive £500 in memory of his son. No part of the money could be spent, but it was to be invested and the income applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish. A further condition was that each bequest was to be recorded on a marble slab erected in the church, all four are still extant. I have traced the operations of these bequests through to the early 1900s. In the case of St Ninians, the money (along with other funds) was generally lent out to individuals in the form of bonds for varying amounts on the security of property. There was usually about £20 annually from the Simpson bequest for disbursement at St Ninians: elders received cash to be used in their districts; payments were made to individuals for clothing, coal, rent, food, education and such things. Also, in the 1840s, soup kitchens were supported at St Ninians and Cambusbarron – the 'hungry forties' were not just an Irish problem.

Francis Simpson left money, property and detailed instructions for the establishment at Plean of William Simpson's Asylum, which opened in June 1836. Its inmates were to be men of advanced years and reduced circumstances, preference being given to those who had served in the Navy or Army. Simpson stipulated that, when vacancies arose among his original Trustees, one of these positions should be taken up by the minister of St Ninians and his successors. The Asylum (later, Home) operated much as Francis Simpson had intended until the mid 1990s, by which time it had taken on a more general role in social services.

The Trustees also took on the responsibility to bury deceased inmates. Initially, this was done in Plean Churchyard – indeed the Trustees had been largely responsible for the establishment of Plean Church, which opened in March 1839. By 1927 ground at Plean was exhausted. Several lairs were then purchased at Bannockburn, but in 1932 a little less than half an acre of St Ninians Glebe was purchased by the Trustees from Stirling Presbytery; part of this was used for a burial ground. The Trustees did not provide gravestones – there is however one plaque on the south wall commemorating Benjamin Henry Silk (1875-1961). Nevertheless, thanks to a plan of the ground and burial records, we do know who is buried in this ground and where. There were some 74 burials in 20 lairs along the west and south walls between 1934 and 1974. Burials then reverted to Bannockburn.

Ian Tweddle

PRAYER FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Loving God

We come this day to praise you
To celebrate your goodness
We come with thanksgiving, joy and wonder
Reminding ourselves of the richness of your creation
And acknowledging your faithfulness
In providing for all our needs and far beyond!
You have blessed us beyond our deserving
Gladly we rejoice,

Living God

For the beauty of the seasons,
The constant cycle of day and night
And the vital gifts of rain and sunshine
We praise you
You have blessed us beyond our deserving
Gladly we rejoice
For the miracle of growth,
The wonder of life,
And the incredible variety of harvest
We bring our thanksgiving
You have blessed us beyond our deserving
Gladly we rejoice
Receive then our worship,
Accept our offerings, bless our celebration
And fill us with thankfulness for all you have given
You have blessed us beyond our deserving
Gladly we rejoice
In the name of Christ
Amen

Lorna Waddell
Prayer Promoter

SOCIAL and FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Soup and Sandwich Lunches will be held on the following Saturdays, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December. We will have some craft stalls in November at the lunch and if anyone would like to help at this or donate some crafts please contact one of the committee.

We also intend to have some informal craft evenings in the church hall at 7pm on the following dates:

Thursday 5th October, Tuesday 10th October, Thursday 19th October and Thursday 26th October.

Christmas Flower Festival 9th & 10th December 2017

Church will be open Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday 12.00pm – 4.00pm

Hall will be open as follows

Saturday: Breakfast 10.00am – 11.30am, Lunch 12.00pm – 1.30pm
Afternoon Tea 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Sunday: Afternoon Tea 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Volunteers are required for the following:

Hosts to meet and greet visitors to the Church on both days.

We require help in the hall on both days to serve and clear tables.

Please advise dates and times that you would be available to assist and a rota will be drawn up.

For further information please contact

Dorothy Walker on 01786 814813 Email walkerdisr@icloud.com
Bill Anderson on 01786 472756 Email bill.andersonon1@virgin.net

START UP

Reminder of list of donations welcomed

Tinned meat/fish/veg/beans/soup/fruit

Dried foods

Ready Meals

Cooking Sauces

Breakfast Cereals

UHT Milk

Tea/Coffee/Sugar

Snacks

Toiletries

Cleaning Products

Household goods – crockery, cutlery, towels, pots and pans

(Second hand household goods acceptable if in good condition)

What is NOT ACCEPTABLE are as follows:

Homemade baking or jam, dairy products – butter, margarine & cheese, electrical goods, clothes and curtains.

BABY REQUIREMENTS included for the first time

Jars of baby food, powdered milk (but with a long-term used by date), baby shampoo, baby lotion.

NOT required at present - nappies and baby wipes as Start-Up have a large stock of these items.

TALK TO SUNDAY CLUB re START-UP STIRLING on September 17th
I gave this presentation on request and was more than ably assisted by Avril Robertson. Amazingly, it resulted in two very interesting topics.

1. A question was asked about baby food and milk by an adult from the baptismal party who was looking after a small child. This has resulted in my including the above list of Baby Requirements for the first time. Many thanks to the gentleman concerned! It has been an important omission although Start-Up had not requested it as a priority. On raising the subject with them they were more than happy for me to include the above baby items.
2. One of the children came up with a most interesting point indeed. After my initial talk, Avril held up various items one by one and asked the children to shout out yes or no whether they would be acceptable to Start-Up. When a tin of corn beef was held up one lad vigorously shouted out NO. Why not he was asked. His reply was most interesting, 'Because I'm a vegetarian,' he replied. Thanks to this most relevant point raised by the youngster leads me on to the subject below which I would never have included but for the 'Corn Beef Question!'

SPECIAL NEEDS, Dietary Requirements and Allergies

When any person or family apply to use a food bank with Start-Up Stirling they fill in a form which covers special needs such as allergies, vegetarian diet, vegan diet, gluten free etc.

As a result their food packages are tailor-made to suit the requirements which are then met in full.

It just goes to show how talking to people about a subject, even to Sunday School children, can bring some new points of interest.

Arthur Walls


Church Contacts - Arthur Walls Tel: 446899 Helen Thomson 465052

"Uplifting, powerful and exciting..." Maverick Magazine

Stirling North Parish Church

Thursday 26th October - Doors 7pm

Tickets £7.50 (£5 Cons)
office@northparishchurch.com
Phone: 07754 007423



THE
WILD
HORSES
TOUR

ROB HALLIGAN



HALLIGANMUSIC



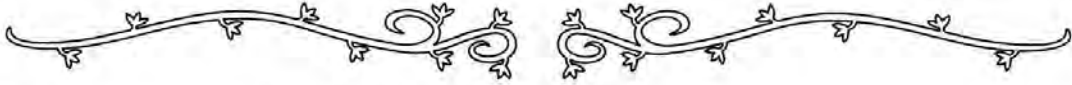
@RHALLIGAN

ROBHALLIGAN.CO.UK

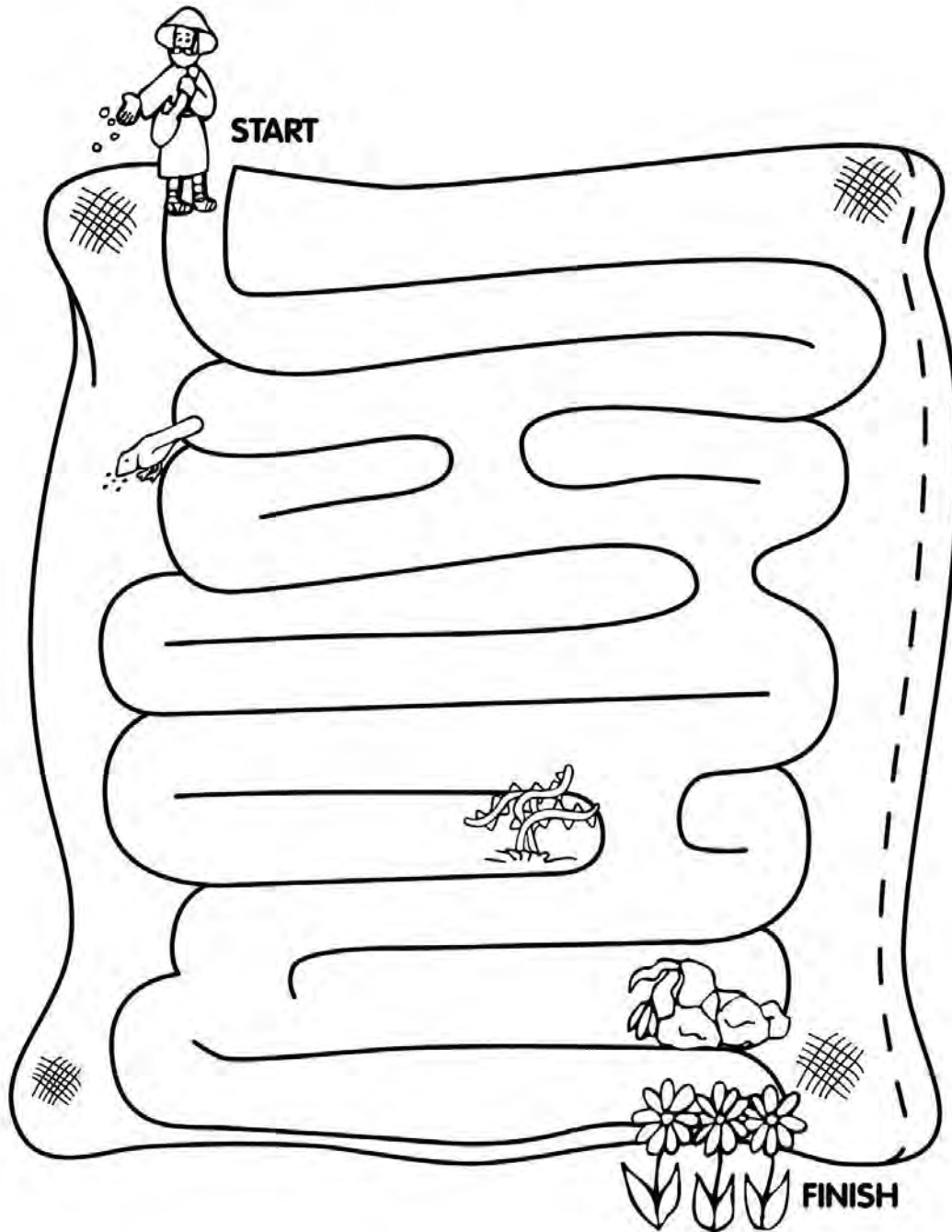
CHILDREN'S PAGE



**GOOD SOIL
PRODUCED GOOD CROPS.**



Find the path that leads to the good soil.



ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, STIRLING
Fund Statement - January to August 2017

Income		Expenditure	
General (incl. General, Pastoral, Sunday Club, Flower & Choir funds)			
Offerings	14590	Church of Scotland	41257
Gift Aid Donations	34862	Salaries	6227
Other Donations	2048	Manse Expenses/Pulpit Supply	1432
Income Tax Refund on Gift Aid	7432	Maintenance etc.	15642
Legacies	0	Heating & Lighting	2317
Congregational Organisations	0	Insurance & Manse Council Tax	3731
Use of Premises	7376	Office expenses, etc.	2966
Bank Interest	0	Local Costs	208
Wedding & funeral fees etc.	2298	Church Choir Fund	0
Life & Work Subs 2016	867	Sunday Club, Outreach etc.	184
Church Fund Raising	0	Life & Work	901
Flower Fund	0	Flower Fund	0
Pastoral Fund	0	Pastoral Fund	52
Sunday Club Fund	0	Sunday Club Fund	0
(Charity Fund Raising	1858)	(Donations to Charities	1419)
Year to date:	69472	Sub-total:	74917
Balance b/f	49100		
Sub-total:	118572	Balance c/f	43655
Fabric Fund			
Balance b/f	1807		
Bank Interest	0		
Sub-total:	1807	Balance c/f	1807
Development Fund			
Balance b/f	10899		
Interest etc.			
Sub-total:	10899	Balance c/f	10899
Historic Building Fund			
Balance b/f	1279		
Donations			
Sub-total:	1279	Balance c/f	1279
Overall Balance of all funds :			57640

**MISSION STATEMENT
FOR ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH**

We are a community of people who have found joy and peace through faith and fellowship in Jesus Christ. We are committed to sharing with others the Good News of God's love and care for all and to actively participate in the wider work of the Church

For further information on Services and Activities please have a look at our Website www.stniniansold.org.uk

Office Bearers & Other Contact Numbers

Treasurer

Mr Michael Adam, 8 Glebe Crescent, Stirling 01786 473506

Property and Grounds

Mr Tom Pollock, 109 Grampian Road, Stirling 01786 478710

Parishioner

Mrs Myra Alexander, 36 Barbour Avenue, Stirling 01786 812202

Gift Aid Convener

Mrs Christine Fernie, 7 Dundas Road, Stirling 01786 474830

Roll Keeper & Freewill Offering Convener

Mrs Alison Newman, 32 Wishart Drive, Stirling 01786 814984

Communion Convener

Mr James Rintoul, 3 Williamfield Avenue, Stirling 01786 461812

Eco Congregation Group

Mr Tom Pollock, 109 Grampian Road, Stirling 01786 478710

Elders' District Review Committee Convener

Maire Blackhall, 62 Home Farm Road, Cambusbarron 01786 475141

Life & Work & Church & Community Convener

Mrs Marion Jackson, Birkdale, Torbrex Village, Stirling 01786 474878

Tuesday Group

Mrs Miranda Miller, 74 Kenningknowes Road, Stirling 01786 465836

Boys' Brigade

Mr Andrew MacDonald, 10 Carron Place, Stirling 07848040955

Finance Committee Convener

Mr Jim MacDonald, 4 Randolph Terrace, Stirling 01786 474191

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Pamela Thomson, 55 Cruckburn Wynd, Stirling 01786 479028

Hall Management Committee Convener

Mr Bill Anderson, 5 Melfort Drive, Stirling 01786 472756

Hall Bookings Convener

Mrs Dorothy Walker, 12 Quarryknowe, Bannockburn 01786 814813

Fellowship Teas Conveners

Mrs Heather Scougall, 87 Polmaise Avenue, Stirling 01786 814957

Mrs Janette Peterson, 116 Bannockburn Road, Stirling 01786 814657

Church and Community Committee Convener

Mrs Mary Donald, 12 Dumyat Road, Stirling 01786 474771

Social and Fundraising Convener

Mrs Dorothy Walker, 12 Quarryknowe, Bannockburn 01786 814813

Transport Co-ordinator

Mrs Elaine Mackay, 31 Laburnum Grove, Stirling 01786 475596

Youth Committee Convener

Mrs Avril Robertson, 9 Melfort Drive, Stirling 01786 474634

Publicity Committee

Mr Peter Kale, 54 Cruckburn Wynd, Stirling 01786 586927