ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH
STIRLING

PARISHIONER

DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018

MINISTER

Rev. Gary J McIntyre, B.D., Dip.Min.
7 Randolph Road, Stirling, FK8 2AJ
Tel: 01786 474421
Email address: GMcIntyre@churchofscotland.org.uk

SESSION CLERK

Mrs Margaret E P Sibbald
6 Brentham Crescent,Stirling
FK8 2AZ
Tel: 01786 474204
Email address: mepsibbald@yahoo.co.uk

DEPUTE SESSION CLERK

Mr David W Farquhar
16 Melfort Drive, Stirling FK7 0BD
Tel: 01786 473933
Email address: davidwfarquhar@talktalk.net

CHURCH OFFICER

Mr David Walker
12 Quarry Knowe
Bannockburn, FK7 8NY
Tel: 01786 814813
Email address: walkerdisr@icloud.com

CHURCH ORGANIST

Mr Tony Baldwin
19 West Burnside
Dollar
Tel: 01259 742254
Email address: antonyjbaldwin@hotmail.co.uk

Deadline for February/March Parishioner – Sunday, 21st January 2018

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

In John's Gospel we read *'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth'*.

The literal meaning of *'made his dwelling among us'* is *'he pitched his tent among us'*. This news was a revelation to say the least! John was proclaiming that God had become a human person, that in Jesus he had entered into this human life that we live, that, and here I quote Professor William Barclay, *'eternity could appear in time'*.

This is the message at the heart of Christmas but sadly for many it is not a message that is heard. The true and wonderful message of Christmas has for many been lost amidst the commercialisation and materialism of the age and I ask at what cost?

There are people who think that we worship a God who is far removed from life as we know it but nothing could be further from the truth. We have a God who decided to become human, a person just like us, a person who ate and drank and slept, who got tired and hungry, who experienced joy and sorrow. Our God knows only too well what life is like and because of that he can identify with us and all our earthly experiences.

We can be so familiar with the Christmas message that we overlook this wonderful miracle. God has made a commitment to us; God has shown us the extent of his love by pitching his tent

among us and in Jesus, his beloved Son, he has identified with us. But there is more! In Jesus, God shows us a new and better way in which to live. In Jesus, God assures us that our sins will be forgiven. In Jesus, God offers us life in all its fullness and that not only now but for all eternity!

One of the names Jesus was given was 'Immanuel'. This name means *'God with us'*. As we celebrate again the birth of our Lord let us remember the true message of Christmas and let us carry it with us into the New Year. Then we shall find the strength to face all that the days shall bring for we will know we are not alone and that God, who pitched his tent among us, is with us still and always will be!

Christmas blessings and every good wish for the year to come.

Your Friend and Minister,

Gary J. McIntyre

Gary J McIntyre

****

SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Sunday, 3rd December – First in Advent
10.30am Morning Service with Holy Communion
10.30am Crèche and Sunday Club will meet at the Hall
6.30pm Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 10th December – Second in Advent
10.30am Morning Service with Crèche and Sunday Club

Sunday, 17 December – Third in Advent
10.30am Morning Service including Children's Gift Service
1.15pm Service in Eccles Court
2.00pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

Friday, 22nd December
10.00am St Ninians Primary School Christmas Service

Sunday, 24th December – Fourth in Advent
10.30am Christmas Family Service with Nativity followed by Fellowship in the Parish Halls
11.30pm Christmas Watchnight Service – Collection for the Food Train

Sunday, 31st December – New Year's Eve
10.30am Morning Service

Sunday 7th January
10.30am Morning Service

Sunday, 14th January
10.30am Morning Service
Crèche and Sunday Club
Holy Communion at the close of the Service

Sunday, 21st January
10.30am Morning Service
Crèche and Sunday Club
Followed by Fellowship Tea in the Parish Halls

Sunday, 28th January
10.30am Morning Service
Crèche and Sunday Club
1.15pm Service in Eccles Court
2.00pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

CHRISTMAS LEAFLET

A leaflet conveying our Christmas greetings and an invitation to our services will be distributed throughout the parish early in December. This is a good way of keeping in touch with parishioners and letting them know a warm welcome awaits them should they decide to come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION

The Kirk Session has agreed that this year's Christmas Eve collection should go to Stirling Food Train. This is a registered charity, voluntary organisation and social enterprise providing vital support services to enable older people to live independently at home for as long as possible.

The Food Train provides a range of services, delivered by volunteers, to older people in Stirling including grocery shopping home deliveries, household support services and befriending services.

More information about this charity can be found at www.thefoodtrain.co.uk

MESSY CHURCH

The first Messy Church of 2018 will be held in the Parish Halls 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. This is a joint Church venture with our friends in St Columba's Church. We are looking for volunteers to help with craft work, games and the preparation and serving of food. If you are willing to help please speak to Mr McIntyre. Registration forms will be available in the McMichael Chapel in January.

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

This session we are reading 'Mere Christianity' by CS Lewis. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Church. We have interesting discussions on a range of issues and there is a good degree of humour. New members are welcome to join us. (10th January and 14th February). The group will meet at the Manse for their Christmas night on Wednesday 13th December at 7:30pm.

STIRLING PRESBYTERY/ST NINIANS OLD – FACEBOOK PAGE

Stirling Presbytery has a Facebook page. Find it on Facebook and you will read of events being held within the bounds of the Presbytery. St Ninians Old also has a Facebook page to let you and others know about some of the many events that take place within our congregation.

FELLOWSHIP TEAS

The St Ninians Old Fellowship Teas once again have had a successful year offering the congregation a chance for a blether over a cuppa at the end of the service where all are welcome to enjoy an extended time of fellowship.

Heather and Janette would like to offer sincere thanks to all who have helped out throughout the year and for all the kind contributions of biscuits received and enjoyed.

If there are any members who would like to help out with the teas on a Sunday, we would be delighted to add your names to the rota. Anyone interested in helping please contact Heather on 01786 814957 or Janette on 01786 814657.

Heather Scougall, Janette Peterson and Jane Aitken

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL

The Church and Community Committee are very grateful to all who supported the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal. 90 shoe boxes were handed over by St Ninians Old Parish and these will be added to the rest of the boxes gathered by the charity to enable it to distribute boxes to people in Albania, Kosovo, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Serbia, Hungary, Pakistan and Ukraine. It is hoped that the boxes will bring some happiness this Christmastime to the people in those countries who are living in extreme poverty and reassure them that they are not forgotten by those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to take for granted the simple items in the boxes that are seen by them as luxuries.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

Three members of our group and another member of our congregation attended a talk on dementia which was held in Dunblane Cathedral on 1st November,

The talk was given by Sally Magnusson the writer and broadcaster. Sally founded "Playlist for Life" in 2013 after witnessing the effect of music on her late mother's dementia. "My mother was always singing. We realised that her connection to songs was as strong as ever. After singing, she was more alert. It was taking her back to a place of familiarity and belonging. Music, more than anything else, was keeping my mother with us". Sally has written a book "Where memories go" which was available at the end of the evening. Over £1000 was raised through donations and sales of her book.

Stirling Presbytery of the Church of Scotland have appointed Bonnie McDowell as dementia co-ordinator to work with our congregations in the area of dementia awareness. Bonnie has been able to engage with many of our communities on behalf of the Church of Scotland, helping people to understand the challenges faced by those living with dementia and how, as congregations and individual church members, we can best offer appropriate support and pastoral care. Some copies of the leaflet "Playlist for Life" are available in the Church Vestibule.

Grace McIntosh, Pastoral Care Convener.

LOVING GOD

We thank you for the season of Christmas

For all it has meant to us over the year

And all it continues to mean to us,

And all it will mean in generations to come

We thank you for carols old and new

For familiar and much-loved words of Scripture

For all that speaks of your coming among us in Christ

We thank you for reunions with family and friends,

For the spirit of giving and receiving,

For the mood of goodwill and celebration

We thank you for all the good things we enjoy –

Good food

Good company

Good fun

You have given us so much.

Amen

Lorna Waddell (Prayer Promoter)

STIRLING KIRKS TOGETHER

On behalf of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme, we write to thank Stirling Kirks Together Friendship Lunches for the kind donation of £500.

HIV and AIDS may not make the news so much these days, but there are still challenges for the many around the world who are infected or affected by HIV. Currently we are helping to fund 17 projects run by our partner churches in Africa and Asia, as well as a few here in Scotland. These projects focus on education and awareness raising, care and support and empowerment.

If you would like to know even more about the work we are helping to fund, please visit the HIV Programme pages on the Church of Scotland website. You can also contact us at hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk for more information.

Our Outreach Officers are also very willing to come and speak to your congregation or church groups, and welcome any invitation to get out of the office and spread the good news about the work of the World Mission Council and the HIV Programme!
Mary McGinley
HIV Programme Administrator

CAMPHILL

Many thanks to all those who donated handcraft materials to Camphill. They were most grateful and will make good use of them.

PATCHES FOR PEACE

Rev. Dr. Janet Foggie, Pioneer Minister at the University of Stirling, is requesting any unwanted sewing materials or sewing machines which their owners are finished with and no longer have any use for. She runs, as part of her work at the University, a sewing group called Patches for Peace for the mixed nationality students, where they can chat and share their stories while sewing in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.
For further information contact Marion Jackson, details on back page of the Parishioner.

LIFE AND WORK
Thank you to those who subscribe to the Church of Scotland's magazine "Life and Work" for prompt payments for the 2018 issues. This is appreciated by the Treasurer.

COFFEE MORNING
Mary and Ann would sincerely like to thank everyone who willingly helped to raise the amazing sum of £1625 in the recent coffee morning held in the Parish Halls. The support from the church family was incredible – from everyone who bought tickets or donated prizes, to all the helpers and bakers and all the Boys' Brigade and Officers.
Mary Bruce & Ann McCann

START UP STIRLING
With this parishioner is a leaflet with details of START UP STIRLING'S Christmas campaign for cash or voucher donations. Apart from donating on line these donations can be put into the collection tin available in the church foyer or given to Arthur Walls or Helen Thomson.

Donations of non perishable items are of course still welcome and should go into the blue box in the foyer. Below is a reminder of these:

Tinned meat/fish/veg/beans/soup/fruit, Dried Foods, Cooking Sauces
Breakfast Cereals, UHT Milk, Tea/Coffee/Sugar, Snacks, Toiletries and Cleaning products.

Household goods, nearly new or in very good condition only e.g. cutlery, crockery and towels.
Baby requirements are as follows: Jars of baby food, powdered milk (with a long-term use by date), baby shampoo, baby lotion. NOT required – nappies and baby wipes.

At the moment there is a shortage of tinned fish, tinned ham and ready meals (pot noodles etc.)

Start Up has moved to new premises at 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling, FK7 7SP which is next to Magnet just up from Royal Mail depot.
Arthur Walls – Tel: 01786 446899 Helen Thomson Tel: 01786 465052

SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING

CRAFT FAYRE

The committee would like to thank everyone for making the Craft Fayre a wonderful success. We have some items left including Christmas Cards and they will be on sale at the Tuesday Group's Scots' Night and the next Soup and Sandwich Lunch.

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

The next lunch will be on Saturday, 2nd December from 12 noon until 1.30p.m. There will be a Christmas Cake which will be given to the lucky person who guesses the correct weight.

There will also be a lunch on Saturday, 6th January 2018.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Flower Festival will be held in the Church on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December. There will be various refreshments available in the Church Hall on both days.

SATURDAY	Breakfast from 10 – 11.30a.m. Lunch 12 noon - 1.30p.m. Afternoon Tea from 2.00 – 4.00p.m.
SUNDAY	Afternoon Tea from 2.00 – 4.00p.m.

Leaflets are available in both vestibules of the Church and in the Church Hall.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help in the Church and in the Hall. We are very grateful for the large number of volunteers who have offered their help.

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

Income			**Expenditure**	
General (incl. General, Pastoral, Sunday Club, Flower & Choir funds)				
Offerings		18918	Church of Scotland	52744
Gift Aid Donations		43219	Salaries	7660
Other Donations		2048	Manse Expenses/Pulpit Supply	1986
Income Tax Refund on Gift Aid		7432	Maintenance etc.	17714
Legacies		0	Heating & Lighting	2317
Congregational Organisations		314	Insurance & Manse Council Tax	5153
Use of Premises		8992	Office expenses, etc.	3738
Bank Interest		0	Local Costs	263
Wedding & funeral fees etc.		2508	Church Choir Fund	0
Life & Work Subs 2016		867	Sunday Club, Outreach etc.	392
Church Fund Raising		813	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		3662)	(Donations to Charities	3431
Year to date:		**85110**	Sub-total:	**92919**
Balance b/f		49100		
	Sub-total:	**134210**		
			Balance c/f	**41291**
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 :	**55276**

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