

**ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH
STIRLING**



**PARISHIONER
JUNE, JULY and AUGUST 2018**

MINISTER

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Deadline for September, October and November Parishioner – Sunday, 19th August 2018

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

On the 12th of May, I celebrated the Silver Jubilee of my Ordination. An occasion such as a special anniversary causes one to look back and reflect and I have certainly been doing that in recent days!

I was Ordained in the High Kirk of Rothesay and I recall shortly before leaving the Manse to go to the Church, looking out over Rothesay Bay. On the ferry that was arriving at the pier, I saw the coach with people from Upper Tweeddale in the Borders where I had been the Assistant Minister. Then, as I looked to the north of the island and the Ardbeg area, I saw the coach with people from Campbeltown coming for the service. And I thought 'Help, this really is happening!'

I was very happy to begin my ministry on Bute where I spent five and a half years before coming to St Ninians Old almost twenty years ago. As I look back and reflect, I have called to mind many things, but it is the people I have known who are foremost in my thoughts.

It has been an enormous privilege to meet and minister to an amazing number of people and though many have gone to 'greener pastures', I readily give thanks to God for them and their kindness to a young minister finding his feet and making a few mistakes in the process!

But my Silver Jubilee has also caused me to think about the future as well. Ministry today is, in many respects, different from when I started out on this wonderful journey twenty five years ago. In the early years there was much more time to visit people – something I greatly enjoy – but now there seems to be an ever increasing amount of administration and meetings with the result there is less time to do things I want to do. The decline in the number of Ministers has also meant that many ministers today are not only looking after their own congregation but one that is currently without a minister and the number of such congregations will increase in the coming years.

All that being said, my own view is and always has been that ministry is about people, getting alongside them in times of joy and sorrow, sharing part of life's journey with them and encouraging them with words 'from above'.

As we read the Gospels, time and time again there are instances where Jesus is with people and we are told he comforted them, he spoke a word that encouraged them, he spent time with the troubled and those low in spirit. He also fed the hungry and challenged injustice wherever he saw it. I believe Jesus provides us with a pattern to follow and as I said recently, to do what Jesus asks of us does not require us to wear a white collar!

We live in an age where many are lonely, a recent report informed us that a staggering number of young people have contemplated committing suicide and an increasing number of people are experiencing mental health problems. The daily pressure under which many are living also means countless numbers within our communities are suffering from stress and feel overwhelmed by the circumstances in which they find themselves.

As Christian people, let us remember our true calling. Let us be active in reaching out to those who are finding life a struggle and let us endeavour to make the Kingdom real not only in the future but now and in these challenging times.

With my thanks to you for your support and prayers

Every blessing

Your friend and minister,

Gary J. McIntyre

Gary J McIntyre

SERVICES IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Sunday 3rd June

10.30a.m. Morning Service, Crèche and Sunday Club

Sunday 10th June

10.30a.m. Morning Service, Crèche and Sunday Club
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

6.30p.m. Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 17th June

10.30a.m. Family Service with Sunday Club presentation of books
Followed by Fellowship in the Parish Halls

Sunday 24th June

10.30a.m. Morning Service

1.15p.m. Eccles Court and 2p.m. Westerlands Care Home

JULY

Services in July will begin at 10.30a.m. and will be conducted by Mr McIntyre.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated following the Service on the 8th.

There will be a Fellowship Tea following the Service on the 15th.

Sunday 5th August

10.00a.m. Morning Service

12 Noon Annual open air Service at Kirk O' Muir

Sunday 12th August

10.30a.m. Morning Service
The Rev Agnes Moore

Sunday 19th August

10.30a.m. Morning Service
The Rev Jim Landels
Followed by Fellowship in the Parish Halls

Sunday 26th August

10.30a.m. Morning Service with Crèche and Sunday Club
The Rev Jim Landels

MEETINGS IN JUNE

The Business Committee will meet at the Church on Tuesday, 12th June at 10.00a.m.

The Bible Study Group will have its final meeting of this session at the Church on Wednesday, 13th June at 7.30p.m.

The Kirk Session will meet at the Parish Halls on Tuesday, 19th June at 7.30p.m.

JOINT CHURCH LUNCHESES

Monday 11th June, Monday 9th July and Monday 13th August. 12 – 1.30pm in St Columba's Church Hall, Park Terrace, Stirling.

SUMMER PLACEMENT

We are delighted that John Gow is to spend time with us over the summer. This is a 'piece' written by John.

There's a good chance that as you're reading this, I may still be something of a mystery to you, although we're going to be seeing quite a bit of each other over the coming weeks. By way of introduction, though, I'd like to tell you a little about who I am, how I came to be where I am, and a little about where I'm going. I'm not going to describe my route to ministry – hopefully, and with God's grace, as there's a long way to go yet – as a journey, though. Instead, I see it as an expedition. Expeditions are really about discovery and, to be honest, although the point of this one is for me to make it all the way to becoming a parish minister, I don't think this one will ever really end.

It's strange to think that just a couple of years ago I was still involved in the nine-to-five life of newspapers, concerning myself with columns and inches, sales targets and circulation figures. I worked for the Scotsman for many years, and latterly the Falkirk Herald, so I like to think I've moved from selling the bad news to telling the good news...

So far, my new expedition has involved two years with Highland Theological College (HTC) studying Theology. HTC is based in Dingwall, north of Inverness, and classes are streamed live on the internet so most of my studying takes place at home, in front of my computer. The wonders of technology.... As far as the church is concerned, I am a member of Polmont Old Parish and my expedition into ministry training began with three months of what the Church of Scotland call 'discernment' at Laurieston and Redding/Westquarter churches. That Laurieston was actually the first church I attended as a child added a little poignancy to my time there – although to hear a couple of members say I hadn't changed a bit since then sounded pretty unlikely to me! And I've just recently completed a placement at Dunipace Parish Church, which I started in October of last year – it was a great learning experience. In fact, the past two years has been a time of constant learning and that's set to continue for quite some time yet.

Now I'm looking forward to spending the summer with you all at St Ninians and then another six-month placement at Larbert East lies in wait for me. By the time that's over, with a lot of hard work and maybe a smidge or two of luck, I will have completed by studies at HTC. Then it will be on to full-time probation for about a year and a half. So there's a long way to go, but according to other people who've made it through the time won't be slow in passing – it certainly hasn't been so far.

That's the thing about journeys and expeditions. No matter how long they are, or how difficult, when you look back on them the time seems to have passed much quicker than you'd like. This is all the more reason to savour the journey, to enjoy it, to make the most of it. And that's exactly what I'm doing.

With every blessing

John

START UP STIRLING – UPDATE for ST NINIANS PARISH CHURCH – MAY 2018

Milky May

We need 140 litres of long life milk a week. We provide 1 litre to single people and 2 litres to couples and families. We normally sit with less than one week worth of milk in stock. This May we are asking for donations of milk – 3 weeks into the month and our stock has gone up to 210 litres which is great but is also just enough for 1-5 weeks. International Milk Day is 1st June and so in the lead up to this we are promoting Milky May. If you are able to donate some milk or purchase milk for us, we would be so appreciative,

We are recruiting!

We are currently looking to hire a part-time Volunteer and Trainer Co-ordinator. Should anyone be interested or know anyone who might be interested, please refer to our website – www.startupstirling.org.uk

Tonne of Money

We are still collecting coins to raise a tonne weight of money. If you have any loose change or tubs/jars/bags of coins that you can donate, we would love to receive them. As always, huge thanks for your support - Laura

SOCIAL and FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Craft Classes

There will be two Craft Classes in June on Tuesdays 12th and 26th at 7.00p.m. The class is held fortnightly in the middle room of the church hall. There will be no classes in July. We have knitted hats, scarfs and mitts for children and matinee sets for babies for the Blythswood Boxes. Some ladies are also knitting other items.

If anyone has any other project that they would like us to help with, please let us know. Also, anyone who wishes to do sewing or other knitting, please come along and join us. It is very informal and we usually have tea, coffee and biscuits.

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

Amy, Lauren and Megan would like to thank everyone who supported their soup and sandwich lunch on Saturday 2nd June. Also, many thanks to the committee who donated all the food and helped at the lunch.

They leave for the Dominican Republic on 30th June and will donate the proceeds from this lunch to the La Romana Hospital in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and the Orphanage affiliated to the hospital.

They would like to thank the Rev Gary McIntyre for allowing them to hold the lunch in the Church Hall.

There will be the usual lunches held on the following Saturdays – 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December 2018.

Film Shows

There will be a film show for children on Saturday 9th June at 2p.m. in the Church Hall. This will be in conjunction with St Columba's Church. The film to be shown is Jungle Book.

We also hope to have a film show for adults in February 2019. The exact date and film to be decided later.

Barbecue

The annual barbecue will be held in the Church Manse on Saturday, 7th July at 3.00p.m. Tickets will be on sale during the month of June.

St Ninians Autumn Show

We hope to hold a show which is open to the entire community in the Church Hall on Saturday, 15th September at 2.00p.m.

We would like to have entries for the following categories

- Flowers
- Vegetables
- Preserves (Jam, Marmalade, and Chutney etc.)
- Baking (Fruit Loaf, Victoria Sponge etc.)
- Knitted Garments
- Sewing
- Photography

There will be an independent judge to decide the winner of each category. There will also be a plant sale. Tea, coffee etc. will be served.

If anyone has any other suggestions that they would like the Social and Fund Raising Committee to consider or would like to help please contact one of the committee.

The following are members of the Committee:

Christine Fernie, Mary Jenkins, Alison Newman, Margaret Sibbald, Freda Smart and Dorothy Walker.

SHARING A CUPPA WITH FRIENDS



It's a treat that many of us enjoy – the chance to go out and have a cup of tea or coffee (maybe also a slice of cake) with a friend or two, Just like meeting old – and new – friends at church, before or after morning service.

The annual accounts for St Ninians Old were presented to the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation at the end of March. Although we still have adequate money in the bank, it is steadily reducing because our expenditure is more than our income. This is partly due to the effects of inflation, which (though comparatively low) has slowly led to us having an annual deficit of almost £10,000, despite our efforts to cut costs.

This seems a lot of money – but if every member of the congregation were to contribute just a little more in their offerings, this loss would be easily turned into a surplus. And that would help secure the future of St Ninians Old.

So how much more are we talking about? Well, if everybody who could afford it gave the equivalent of the cost of a cup of tea or coffee each week to the Church, it would make all the difference to our finances. (Even better if cake is included!)

That way, we can make sure that in the future, we can still enjoy a wee catch up with our friends at Church (and get our monthly friendship tea or coffee in the halls too!)



Counting our Blessings

This prayer is based on **Philippians 4:11-13**

Living God

We thank you for the countless blessings we have received

The innumerable good things

That surrounds us every moment of each day.

So much beauty, variety and interest

To inspire and instruct us

Loving God, for all you have given

Receive our praise

We thank you for everything you have given to us

Through Jesus Christ

For everything we see of you through him –

Your great love constantly reaching out to us

Your care and compassion that never ceases

Your mercy that is never exhausted

Your eternal purpose which slowly but surely is coming to fulfilment

Loving God for all you have given

Receive our praise

Loving God

Forgive us that we are so rarely content,

That we fail to appreciate how fortunate we are

That we lose sight of what we have

Through dwelling on what we might have had

Loving God for all you have given

Receive our praise

Teach us to count our blessings

To recognise all that is good around us

To be truly content in all circumstances

To realise that your love will never fail us,

And your grace will be sufficient for all our needs

Loving God for all you have given

Receive our praise

Amen

Lorna Waddell, Prayer Promoter

Stirling Members' Centre
Supporting the National Trust for Scotland

INTRODUCING THE STIRLING MEMBERS' CENTRE – NTS

Members' Centres are local groups of NTS members which offer additional related activities such as talks, visits and tours. One of their principal functions is to give diverse voluntary and financial support to the main Trust functions. They also bring members together in pleasant sociable activity.

The Stirling Members' Centre numbers about 220 people and membership is £5 per annum for individuals or £8 per annum for a complete household at one address. When joining you will enjoy membership rates immediately but there will be no membership charge until the start of the financial year in October and you only pay for the trips or talks. We run two programmes – Winter Talks and Summer Day Outings. These generally take place once a month and mid-week. Our remaining summer programme includes a day trip to Bowhill House in August and a visit to Pitlochry Theatre to see a matinee performance of "Chicago the Musical" in September. Both include lunch. The Bowhill House trip is unfortunately fully booked with a waiting list, but there are a small number of places left on the Pitlochry Theatre trip. Winter talks run from October to March and they are held in your own St Ninians Old Parish Church Hall from 2.30p.m. to 4.30p.m. usually on a Thursday afternoon. Previous talks we have had include "The Trials and Tribulations of a Police Surgeon" by local retired GP and Police Surgeon Dr John Rankin, and "Bridge of Allan – The History of a Spa" by local historian Craig Mair. It is proposed that the talks for winter 2018/2019 will include a talk by a representative of the new Victoria and Albert Museum in Dundee, which will be followed in the summer of 2019 by a visit to the Museum.

We welcome new members who are also members of the National Trust for Scotland, but anyone who is not a member of the NTS will be welcome to any of our trips or talks subject to places being available. The current rates for winter talks are £5pp for members or £6pp for non-members. The summer full day trips usually cost between £35-£45pp which includes bus, entrance cost and usually lunch. Please come along – we are a friendly bunch!

Contact details- Sandy & Margaret Moreland, Joint Secretaries, Tel: 01259 76100
Email: stirlingnts@gmail.com or website www.spanglefishcom/ntsstirling

ST NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, STIRLING
Fund Statement - January to April 2018

Income

Expenditure

General (incl. General, Pastoral, Sunday Club, Flower & Choir funds)

Offerings	8169	Church of Scotland	18115
Gift Aid Donations	19140	Salaries	2734
Other Donations	1052	Manse Expenses/Pulpit Supply	763
Income Tax Refund on Gift Aid	0	Maintenance etc.	3932
Legacies	0	Heating & Lighting	0
Congregational Organisations	0	Insurance & Manse Council Tax	1422
Use of Premises	1813	Office expenses, etc.	1339
Bank Interest	0	Local Costs	44
Wedding & funeral fees etc.	961	Church Choir Fund	0
Life & Work Subs 2016	835	Sunday Club, Outreach etc.	0
Church Fund Raising	39	Life & Work	874
Flower Fund	93	Flower Fund	0
Pastoral Fund	350	Pastoral Fund	92
Sunday Club Fund	105	Sunday Club Fund	15
(Charity Fund Raising	306)	(Donations to Charities	306)

Year to date: **32557** Sub-total: **29330**

Balance b/f 41786

Sub-total: **74343**

Balance c/f 45013

Fabric Fund

Balance b/f 1807

Bank Interest 0

Sub-total: **1807**

Balance c/f 1807

Development Fund

Balance b/f 10954

Interest etc. 0

Sub-total: **10954**

Balance c/f 10954

Historic Building Fund

Balance b/f 1279

Donations

Sub-total: **1279**

Balance c/f 1279

Overall Balance of all funds : 59053

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

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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

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Mrs Janette Peterson, 116 Bannockburn Road, Stirling 01786 814657

Church and Community Committee Convener

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Social and Fundraising Convener

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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 Convener

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