



# The Parishioner



Autumn Issue 2018



St Ninians Old Parish Church

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Since the Annual congregational meeting back in March, the Kirk Session and the Business Committee have been actively addressing ways to reduce the £10,000 shortfall in funds that is expected this year.

One of the proposals, which has been adopted, is to reduce the frequency of the Parishioner to quarterly. Further savings were identified by changing the way that the magazine is printed. This is the first issue where litho printing has been used with the advantage of greater use of colour at no extra cost.

As the Parishioner is your congregational magazine its continued success depends on the submission of both articles and photos (non digital photos will be returned). Articles for future issues can be sent at any time to the email address below or left in the box in the Church vestibule.

Your suggestions, in writing or email, for features or improvements to enhance the magazine or if you would like to join the team you will be very welcome. We thank you for your support.

Publicity Committee

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## From the Manse

Dear Friends,

As we embark on a new session in the life of the Church, I have been thinking about the Church and its characteristics.

Firstly, I believe the Church should be a place where people **learn**. In the book of Acts we read that *'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching'*. The early Church met regularly to learn from the apostles and to discuss what the apostles shared with them about Jesus and his teaching. Indeed, one gets the impression that the members of the Church were eager to learn all that they could. In the church today we have the opportunity to learn together as we read and think about God's Word. This we do on a Sunday but there is also the Bible Study Group, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month. This session we are going to be looking at Paul's letter to the Colossians. This format allows us to discuss what we read and to share our thoughts. Why not come along? You will be very welcome. We also have some devotional books in our Church library, which is situated in the middle room of the hall. Have a look at what is there. Reading is a great way to learn more about God and our faith!



Secondly, I believe the Church should be a place where people **care**. In Galatians we read that the first fruit of the Spirit is love. It therefore follows that love should be evident in our dealings with one another and in all that we say and do. Generosity has always been a characteristic of the people of God. However, our generosity is not only for one another within the fellowship. It is to be evident in our outreach and concern for others, particularly the poor and those in need. Throughout the year, we, as a congregation, support many good causes. Start Up Stirling, Blythswood Care, Stirling Street Pastors, Christian Aid, Erskine and other charities benefit from our generosity. Thank you for your ongoing support. It is testimony to the love in our hearts. *God is generous and his Church must be generous too.*

Thirdly, I believe an essential characteristic of the Church is its **worship**. The early Christians devoted themselves *'to the breaking of the bread and to prayers'*. It would seem that the worship of the early Church was both formal and informal. In Acts we read *'they continued to meet together in the temple courts'* and *'they broke bread in their homes'*. Today there are people who prefer a formal style of worship while others like a style that is less formal. I believe it is good to experience each other's preferences for both have their place today as they did two thousand years ago! Another fruit of the Spirit is joy. Joy should therefore be evident in our worship, be it formal or otherwise. Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher once said: *'The longer I live, the more convinced I am that Christianity is one long shout of joy!'*

Finally, I believe that as a Church we are called to **reach out** to the world. We read that *'The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved'*. This tells us that within the early Church outreach was not an occasional activity but one that was ongoing like their worship. Today we have activities like Messy Church and Holiday Clubs where we endeavour to reach younger people who do not join us on a Sunday morning. However, we can reach out in also other ways. By supporting good causes, by raising awareness of certain issues, by volunteering and helping charities. A Saint from an earlier age is reported to have said *'Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary use words'*. The thought behind this is that our lives should be a witness to the Gospel and that Christ should be evident within us and in all that we say and do.

The hymn puts it well;

'Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be in all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me,  
Christ ever be'.

Every Blessing,  
Your Friend and Minister,  
*Gary J McIntyre*



Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

Jesus

## From John Gow

I'm sure it's just a coincidence that the summer I've spent at St Ninians Old Parish Church has been one of the sunniest and warmest for years. Coincidence it may be, but there's no doubt the weather has been more than matched by the welcome I received from you all – it's been sunny and warm all round!

In the next few weeks I'll be returning to University for my final year and while I'm enjoying studying theology, the most valuable learning takes place while spending time with a real, live congregation rather than with dusty old books. I'm glad it won't be too long before I get a taste of that again, with my next placement at Larbert East Church on the horizon. I'll spend longer there than at St Ninians, around six months, and I'm looking forward to it very much.

My time with you may have been short but I'm going to take plenty of memories away with me. The church itself, I won't forget in a hurry. They say that what makes a church isn't the building, it's the people, and that's true, but it helps when you have a beautiful place to worship in and you certainly have that. I have to admit to being a little in awe of it at first - having come from a placement at Dunipace Parish Church, which is much smaller, the wide open space felt intimidating at first, but I very quickly felt at home.

Having an opportunity to host an evening service was definitely a highlight, as were the two opportunities I had of preaching on God's Word. Again, that high pulpit was a little daunting, but I really enjoyed being there – even if I maybe didn't look like it! I'll remember Gary's sermons too, even the one where he gave away the little secret that his student was actually older than him. But maybe now is a good time to let you know more than one person said afterwards, 'You could have fooled me...'

Another highlight came on my very last day with you, with the outdoor service at Kirk o'Muir. This is a tradition I didn't know of before, and it's one that is very precious. Long may it continue.

As many of you will know though, this summer has also been a difficult one for me and I so appreciated all the kind words and support you gave to me after the loss of my parents. It's at times like these when church people really come into their own, and at St Ninians there are many, many good church people.

Hopefully, through the pages of The Parishioner, I'll be able to keep you updated with my progress towards ministry, but for now I'd just like to offer my thanks to you all; to those of you I met and spoke with and to those I intended to catch up with but never quite got around to! I will see you again, I just know I will.

John

## When Jesus Went on Holiday

It is the end of August. Most people will have had their summer holidays and some will still have holidays to look forward to. Holidays gives us a chance to relax and get away from it all, get away from the pressures of everyday life.

It will surprise many people that this is exactly what Jesus once did. This event is related in St Mark's Gospel Chapter 7, verses 24 to 30 and St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 15, verses 21 to 28. Matthew would take most of the story from Mark whose gospel was the first of the four to be recorded and from whom both Matthew and Luke, drew on as their main source of information.

It is what happened during this holiday break which is most interesting, and a real eye opener. As our Minister said to us in a recent sermon, Jesus and his disciples had made several attempts to get away from the crowds in Galilee by crossing the lake to different ports but it was in vain as there were always crowds there awaiting them.

Eventually Jesus and his disciples escaped the pressures of the crowd and the questioning of the scribes and Pharisees by going north to the area of Tyre and Sidon, twin ports on the Lebanese coast where the inhabitants were not Jews but Phoenicians (Canaanites), ie Gentiles to the Jews. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know about it, but could not keep his presence secret for long. Here is Matthew's account of the story:-

Jesus withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out saying, "have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon - possessed". But He did not answer a word and His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "send her away, because she keeps shouting at us". But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!". And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs". But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their master's table". Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish". And her daughter was healed at once.

The Canaanite woman found Jesus because she had a problem. Her daughter was demon- possessed. We can only imagine what suffering she had endured and how hopeless her situation seemed. We do not know what she had heard about Jesus. But she knew exactly who He was and addressed Him by His proper title. Notice what she said; she asked for mercy, she called him "Son of David". The woman had her facts straight. Jesus' lack of response seems almost cruel. He refused even to acknowledge her.

The disciples then got into the picture. How embarrassing! What a nuisance. This Gentile, and a woman to boot, was causing a scene! They implored the Lord to send her away. We don't know how long this went on but it is reasonable to assume several minutes. Finally, because of her persistence, Jesus told her he was sent only to the Jews. The woman would not be turned aside. She was desperate. She got into His way. She bowed down before him and begged Him to help her. Matthew's language is that she was continually prostrating herself before the Lord. Again Jesus rebuffed her. He told her it was not "good", that is, right or proper, to take the children's (Jews) bread and throw it to the dogs- little dogs- (Gentiles) such as she.

The woman was remarkable. No doubt distraught, she kept her presence of mind; she agreed with Him. She replied that even "little dogs" got crumbs from the master's table. The woman did everything right. She recognised Jesus for who He was. She agreed with Him about everything He had said. But

she used His own words to keep her hope alive. What must have the Lord thought of her? This was a woman to be reckoned with! Her faith was beyond compare. Jesus replied, "Oh woman! Great is your faith! your wish is granted". And we read her daughter was healed immediately. During Jesus' ministry on earth the Canaanite woman's daughter was only one of two Gentiles healed by him, the other was the Roman centurion's servant.

What are we to make of the above story of the Canaanite woman's daughter being healed by Jesus on his holiday in Lebanon? When on a biblical course in Glasgow a young minister in our sub group suggested it was the only time someone had got the better of Jesus. I disagreed emphatically. I take several things from the story (although some may disagree!).

- 1) The disciples had no time for Gentiles. It was only after Paul's conversion to become Apostle to the Gentiles that Jesus became accepted as the Messiah for non - Jews and Jews alike.
- 2) My opinion is that here we saw, for part of the story, Jesus the human being enjoying a bit of banter with this woman partly to please his disciples. You see it in everyday life, "You expect me, a high heid yin, to discuss affairs with the likes of you?" Or words to that effect.
- 3) Jesus, in his own words, was the Jewish Messiah who had been trying to persuade Jews back home in Galilee, not all that successfully, that he was just that. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel". And here was a Canaanite woman from Lebanon recognising him as Lord, Son of David. Jesus must have been astounded.
- 4) The turning point was the woman's amazing faith, which is an example to us all.

Having faith in our Lord is so important and conquers all. God always answers our prayers in the way that he knows is best for us. But we must have faith in Jesus, our Saviour and Lord just as the Canaanite woman had.

I quote the famous passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4 verses 6 and 7:  
"The Lord is near, do not be anxious, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus".

Perhaps the next time on holiday we might be able to help a stranger as Jesus did but not so dramatically of course. After all, Jesus is The Son of God.

Arthur Walls

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." –2 Corinthians 4:16-18





## Prayer

Lord of all

As we thank you for our harvest  
We remember those who do not celebrate –  
Those whose harvest is poor or non-existent  
Those with insufficient resources to tend their land,  
Those denied a just reward for their labours,  
Those whose harvest has been destroyed  
In the chaos of war or by natural disaster  
Lord you have blessed us richly.  
Teach us to remember others.

Help us, as we celebrate our plenty  
To remember those who have so much less  
The poor and needy of our world,  
Driven by famine, disaster or civil war  
To the brink of starvation.  
Help us to respond with love and concern  
Offering whatever help we can.  
Lord you have blessed us richly  
Teach us to remember others.

Lord of all

Speak to us at this harvest time  
So that our hearts may be stirred  
And our consciences quickened  
Teach us to share our bounty with those who have nothing  
So that the time may one day come  
When all have enough and none too much  
Lord you have blessed us richly  
Teach us to remember others  
In your name.  
Amen

Lorna Waddell  
Prayer Promoter

## Services in September, October and November

The morning service begins at 10:30am

There is a Creche and Sunday Club which meets each Sunday in the Church before going to the Parish Halls for a programme of activities.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 10:30am. There will be a **Thanksgiving service** on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be administered during the service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

The **Harvest Thanksgiving** service will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Children are invited to bring fruit or flowers to the Church. Members and friends are encouraged to mark Harvest Thanksgiving by supporting **WaterAid**. Envelopes have been distributed with this edition of The Parishioner. Those who pay tax are invited to take an envelope from either vestibule of the Church and to sign the Gift Aid Declaration. This will boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate through Gift Aid.

There will be a **Communion service** on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm.

**Remembrance Sunday** falls on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. There will be a retiral collection for Erskine.

There will be services in **Eccles Court** at 1pm and in **Westerlands Care Home** at 2pm on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be in St Columba's Church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 3:30-6pm. More information will be given in the weekly order of service.



### Kirk Session

The Business committee will meet on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. The Kirk Session will meet on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm.

### The Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meets at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Church. This session we will be studying Colossians 'Against the tide'. Meetings are informal and there is normally wide ranging discussion blended with good humour. You will be most welcome. (12<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November)

### Students for the Ministry

It was a great joy to have John Gow spend the summer with us. He is about to enter his final year of academic study after which he will begin his probationary period prior to being Ordained. John has the makings of a fine parish minister and we wish him well.

Mhairi Gilchrist will join us at the beginning of October and will be with us until just after Easter. Mhairi is also a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and is about to begin her second year at Glasgow University. We look forward to welcoming Mhairi to St Ninians Old.

### Joint Church Friendship Lunches

These take place in St Columba's Church Hall on the second Monday of the month at 12 noon. A warm invitation is extended to everyone. (10<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> November).

### Good and Faithful Service

On Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, Mr McIntyre presented three of our elders with certificates to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordination. Peter Miller, Gordon Murphy and Thomas Simpson (Rab) were ordained on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1988.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland signed each certificate. We thank Peter, Gordon and Rab for discharging their duties and responsibilities so well and wish them continued joy in Christ's service.

### Recording of Services

As you probably aware our services are now being recorded. Each week CDs are distribute to those members of the congregation who are unable to attend worship. If you particularly enjoyed a service and would like a recording please let us know and it can be made available. The Bible readings and Sermons are available to download from iTunes at no cost so you can listen again; the last ten are also available on the website.

Iona Abbey



Photo: Marion Jackson

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" —**Billy Graham**

## The Wind of Change



For some time Mr McIntyre has been informing the congregation about the current position of the Church of Scotland in that with falling membership there are too many buildings which are a financial burden to dwindling congregations and a decline in the number of ministers.

Stirling Presbytery, at a recent meeting, presented statistics on the current state of Churches with their area. Over the last few years (2000-20017) membership has fallen from 20,367 to 12,717 (38%) over the 45 congregations. The Scottish Church census for all denominations reported a fall in Church attendance from 2002-2016 of 46% within the Stirling and Clackmannanshire areas.

In the Presbytery area there are 33 charges in the 45 congregations and 11 of these congregations have 2-3 linkages. Currently there are 9 vacancies of up to 3 years and several ministers on sick leave. Also reported was the fact that 12 of the 33 charges are not financially self supporting. Of the 45 congregations, 65% of the members are over 65 years of age and half the ministers are over 55 years.

The Rev Albert Bogle writing recently in Life and Work wrote that we've just had another General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. So many words spoken, plans and programmes reported upon, questions asked, motions debated and instructions given and received. If you didn't know better you'd think, judging by our organisational ability, that we were a thriving church.

For many who are immersed in the church committee structures, life is busy and the work they are involved with is making progress. New conveners and committees have been appointed and for a short period of time the Church has been mentioned daily in the national press. Yet it is not from Acts of the General Assembly or the important work of 121 committees that change and renewal of the church will come.

Something more profound has to happen. George Bernard Shaw once wrote: "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place..." The truth is that much of our deliberations at the Assembly Falls on deaf ears.

We require a change of mindset in a great many Kirk Sessions and congregations. This may sound a tall order but unless local leadership calls out the mavericks, as he suggested in his last article, to change

the way we do church, the days of the Church of Scotland as we know it and want it, to be effective nationally, are numbered.

Many ministers and church leaders are struggling under the strain to do the things that traditionally have been expected of them. The fall in ministerial staff means that the burden of pastoral care across the parish system is increasing. In addition, with the renewed interest in charitable governance, the pressure on local congregations to conform to regulations means that time and energy is being taken up trying to adhere to legislation.

The reality is we have a church membership that is made up of mainly elderly people, many of whom have a great heart but have a reluctance to give permission to the minister to change the style and pattern of ministry, because in reality they have become weary of change, often experienced during working life. At this point they are not sure if they can face the discomfort that further change may bring to their church life.

Before long, the drag of the day-to-day pressure of pursuing a form of ministry that stifles creativity and missional initiatives means that the local church never grows numerically and spiritually and the seed that has been planted by the Spirit of God is stolen away.

The writer is persuaded we will require to express nationally a holy unease about the way we are living out church. Perhaps we, who long for change, need a protest. We need to waken up and hear the voice of the risen Christ speaking in the book of Revelation warning the church to “strengthen what still remains before it too is lost.”

The current generation that is attending formal worship on a Sunday has a great deal more permission giving to do if we are to experience a renewal of our denomination throughout Scotland. Could it be that it is time to think again, to become one of those mavericks, to begin to agitate for change and encourage others to join that group of people in the congregation to become the permission givers?

**The greatest gift any congregation can give their minister is the gift of encouragement.** It's time to think about radical change. We actually know what to do, it's been laid out and passed by the Assembly in the 2001 Church Without Walls Report.

Let's dust it down and start the local revolutions.

To keep up to date with what's happening in the Church of Scotland, why not subscribe to Life and Work, available in both printed and digital formats. Further details are available from Marion Jackson.

Peter Kale

## Quote

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.

Mother Teresa

## Kirk o' Muir

The Kirk on the Muir in the Carron valley is 7.5 miles south-west of St Ninians Old Parish Church has an interesting history both as a site of a chapel probably connected with John de Grahams Castle and its cemetery which is dominated by a large iron cage known as a Mort safe erected to prevent grave robbers removing the bodies of the wealthy buried there. Due to the remoteness of the area led to the tradition of the site being used for conventicles -these were secret or unlawful religious meetings held outdoors. For over 100 years an annual service is held at Kirk o Muir to commemorate the Covenanters this is held on the first Sunday of August at 12 noon.



The Covenanters were individuals of varied backgrounds supporting the National Covenant to prevent the imposition of an episcopal church on the people of Scotland by James VI, Charles I and Charles II against the will of the Scottish people. The Covenanters aim was to continue their form of worship, led by their own ministers who had been outed from the parishes they served. They served God not the King. There are no historical records supporting the presence of Covenanters in this area however recent excavation at the Kirk of Muir has revealed the remains of a small school which operated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and rubble which could have come from the late medieval chapel. Identification of two gravestones indicates the graveyard would have been in operation during the period of the Covenanters. Covenanters made an important contribution and sacrifice to establish the present-day Church of Scotland as well as enabling individuals living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to worship in freedom.

The chapel at Kirk o Muir existed from early in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary around the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Century. This chapel is said to have been one of the earliest churches in Scotland where the Sacrament of the Lord's supper was dispensed by the reformers in Scotland. The chapel was eventually replaced in 1736 by a chapel at Buckieburn some 4 miles to the east. The chapel at Buckieburn had been pulled down in 1697 and the people of the muirlands contested whether their place of worship should be erected at Buckieburn



or Kirk o' Muir, during this time the Minister and assistant preached in the open air, eventually Buckieburn was chosen. Records from the 1850's describe Buckieburn as a chapel of ease for the western district of the Parish of St Ninians, "re-seated" in 1830 to 200 sittings, the Minister attending once a month and was "a small plain building in bad repair".

In 1954 records show the building to be completely plain and barn like measuring 50ft from East to West

by 28ft, there was a small “outshot” to the east containing the Session room, Vestry and lobby which provided entrance to the church. Four square windows on the southside and two on the north, the pulpit was on a raised platform to the west reached by a double set of steps backed by panelling with a pediment on top. There was no communion table, the seats were of pine and a stove in the middle of the north side provided the heating. The church also contained two murals painted in 1940 by William Crosbie RSA one depicting Adam and Eve in a walled garden and the other being a central figure of Christ. Buckieburn church is now no longer a place of worship having been converted to a dwelling house in 2004.

Maire Blackhall

## 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 Tuesday Group starts its new session on **Tuesday 2nd October**.

We kick off with our very own ‘**Two Sweet Ladies**’, Miranda and Thelma, who will do amazing things with fairy cakes.

Next up, on the **16<sup>th</sup> October**, Bill Adair is going to show us some of his ‘**Postcards from India**’. The Indian subcontinent has always been a land of colour and passion so I am sure we are in for an exciting evening.

On **30<sup>st</sup> October**, there is an evening of **Magic and Myths**, in the company of Bill Simpson. Be prepared to expect the unexpected that night.

**13<sup>th</sup> November** sees a welcome return of David Smith from the Smith Museum. This time he will bring us memories of ‘**Stirling during the 2nd World War**’.

As we approach St Andrew’s Night, there is ‘**Musical Entertainment**’ on the **27<sup>th</sup> November**, in the company of Craig Mair and friends from the Settle Inn Sessions. This is an open night and the cost will be £6.

Last event before Christmas will be the ever-popular **Christmas Dinner**, which this year will be held at the **King Robert Hotel**, on the **11<sup>th</sup> December**. Cost TBA.

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 Nepal Earthquake Disaster

Just before noon on Saturday 25 April, 2015, was when the first earthquake struck Nepal. Lasting just 45 seconds; causing devastation, changing lives forever. 45 seconds that caused over 8000 people to lose their lives and over 6 million families to lose their homes. The Church of Scotland supported the “Let us Build A House In Nepal Appeal”.

As reported in a previous issue of “Parishioner” St Ninians Old supported the United Mission to Nepal to raise at least £500 which is the cost to build a house which will be designed to withstand earthquakes. The proceeds from the autumn Soup and Sandwich lunches and donations supported this project.

At that time, Nepalese builders were undergoing training to learn the skills which were necessary.



### Marion Jackson reports on an update on the “Let Us Build A House” Project for NEPAL

Joel Hafvenstein, the Director of the organisation overseeing the reconstruction work in Nepal after the deadly earthquake, on a recent visit to Scotland has thanked Church of Scotland members for the £310,000 donated to help rebuild the communities, saying it has made a tremendous transformational difference in the Dhading region.

The “Let us Build a House” campaign is the biggest fundraiser by the World Mission Council in its 200 year history and St. Ninians Old willingly took part in it. Thank you again to those who contributed.



72 earthquake-resistant schools, Biogas plants, community water taps, toilet blocks, repairs to vital water irrigation systems and mini hydro plants as well as reinstatement of 33 miles of roads and paths and the supply to schools of computer suites have all been helpfully financed by the Church of Scotland.

It was interesting to hear at first hand from Joel, when he and his family visited Stirling, about the achievements and difficulties encountered during the ongoing work in Nepal. He asks that we remember them in our prayers.

### Quote

'Church is not an organisation you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you fine healing'.

Nicky Gumbel, an Anglican Priest



# Autumn

by John Gow



What's the point of autumn, and why do things grow old?  
Why can't summer last all year, why does it get so cold?  
Wouldn't it be better if the light nights last all year;  
And all the leaves stay green and flowers don't just disappear?  
Why do we need a season when everything withers and dies?  
Time passes with no stopping, no matter how hard we try.  
What once was growing decays, fading away to dust,  
Vibrant summer hues to brown, burnt orange and rust.  
Autumn is decline, a steady slowing down,  
Nights drawing in,  
Lamps lit,  
Lie low.

No.

Not so.

Harvest,  
A gathering in,  
Autumn thrives, the thankful time.  
The season that serves to remind us that dying isn't the end,  
That there's a life everlasting for those who are willing to tend  
Their crops and their fields and their thoughts and their soul,  
The chattels that matter, that make them whole.  
You sow and you reap, you receive your reward,  
The fruits of that labour hard won.  
The bounty of autumn is the bounty of life,  
So give thanks to the Father and Son.

## The History of our Church

How many of us who regularly attend Sunday Worship take a moment or two to reflect upon the beauty of the Church buildings and its interior?

I thought it would be interesting to take a guided tour around the Church and for the first part to delve into the history behind the two stained glass windows which are on either side of the pulpit and the organ screen.

During the early war years (1939-1945) a major renovation took place, to upgrade and enhance the Church buildings including the windows, under the direction of the late Mr A.M. McMichael who was also a member of the kirk session at that time.

The two large windows at the sides of the central arch are infilled with leaded glass of old Scottish reedy pattern in varying densities. The astragals are of heavy lead maintaining the small panes of glass, while they are enriched with foliage and angel figures. One window represents springtime of life or morning; the other autumn, or evening of life. The windows were designed by Douglas Hamilton of Glasgow in 1940.



Detail of left and hand windows showing the intricate leadwork of the figures and scrolls.

The pulpit with surrounding elders and choir stalls are in oak, enriched with carvings, while the rich organ screen in carved oak had been specially designed for the church. Only very few pipes were shown, the design being to provide a rich oak screen background to the pulpit. The pulpit, which stands immediately central on the archway, has a high back enriched with carvings of thistle motif.

Please take a moment when you are in the church again to admire.

Ken Christie



## Bishop David de Bernham

To commemorate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what is now St Ninians Old Parish Church Mr Alastair McMichael, an elder and the Rev David Dick, minister, published a book in 1941 detailing the history of the Church from the earliest records.

The Church was dedicated on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1241 by the then Bishop of St Andrews, David de Bernham and the dedication is recorded in the

"Ecclesia de Kirketun. Anno etc. xlj, xvij. Kal. Septemb. (Church of Kirkton, now St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, A.D. 1241, 16th August)".

This book is kept in the French National Library in Paris and describes the course of this Service of Dedication. Psalms 43, 84, 86, and 132 were made use of liturgically as a preliminary while the Clergy were robing for the occasion in a tent near the Church.

In a subsequent part of the elaborate service of dedication there was a *Lectio*, or reading, from the beautiful 21st Chapter of Revelation in these words: "I saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband"; and ending with the passage, "And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new".

In addition, the verses from St. Luke's Gospel, recording the conversion of Zacchaeus (Luke 19 vv. 1 to 10) were read. The Bishop also preached a sermon to the congregation assembled regarding the dedication of the Church and other matters; and with the benediction, etc., the service came to an end.

From records of the time much is known about the work of Bishop de Bernham but there is little known about the man himself. David de Bernham was born in Berwick-upon-Tweed (which was part of Scotland at that time) about 1200 and was educated in either Oxford or Paris.

David came from a family of Berwick burgesses, which included his brother, Robert, who was the first mayor of the commune of Berwick, and another brother, Roger. There were also two uncles, John and Thomas, a brother-in-law called Richard and either a sister or sister-in-law, Ema, whose son, W [William or Walter] of Bernham (fl.1248-1256), was David's nephew.

His church career started when he became a clerk to Bishop William Malvoisin about 1225 and subsequently became the Vicar of Haddington. He appears as precentor of Glasgow (1238/39-1240 and about 1239 he had become the Chamberlain of King Alexander II (1198-1249).

The election of David de Bernham as Bishop of St Andrews, following the death of Bishop Malvoisin, is said to have taken place at St Andrews on 3rd June 1239, over the Bishop of Dunkeld who was the preferred candidate by both clergy and laity. His appointment was approved by Papal Bull on the 1st October 1239, issued from Avignon by Gregory IX and the consecration took place on 22nd January 1240.

De Bernham's work rate was prodigious, travelling the length and breadth of Scotland consecrating 140 churches during his time as Bishop of St Andrews.

On the 16th August 1241, he consecrated the Church of Kirkton, now St Ninians.

Also in the same year the following Churches:

St Cuthbert's Church, Mid-Calder, Midlothian, 14th March

St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh, under the Castle, 16th March

Holy Innocents Church, Channelkirk, Berwickshire, 23rd March.

Church of Kinnettles, Forfarshire, 11th November.

Church of Mertoun, Berwickshire, near to Dryburgh, no month or day mentioned.

St Cuthbert's Church, Tester, in Gifford, Haddingtonshire, no month or day mentioned.

St Baldred's Church, Linton, Haddingtonshire, no month or day mentioned.

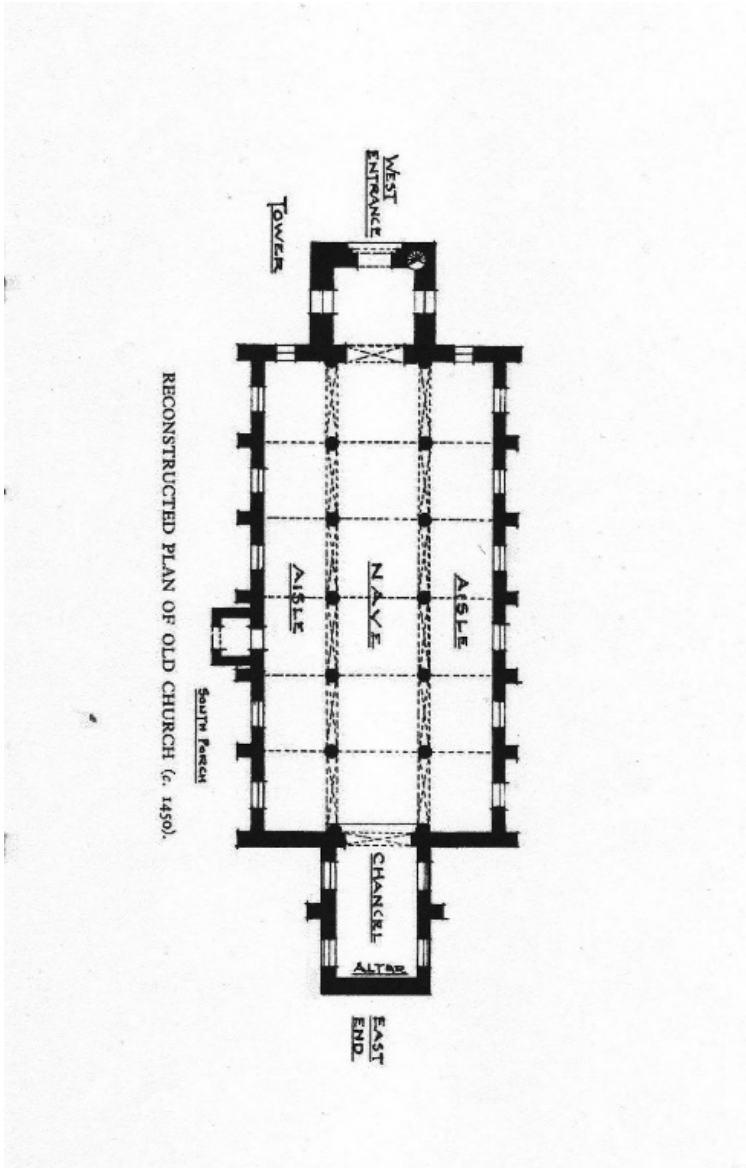
Church of Forteviot, Perthshire, no month or day mentioned.

In 1249 he crowned King Alexander III at Scone.

He died at Nenthorn Berwickshire on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1253 and was laid to rest within the precincts of Kelso Monastery.

Peter Kale

Plans of the old Church of St Ninians



## Dominican Adventure

On Friday night our long journey to the Dominican Republic started as we headed down towards Birmingham to catch our flight. The excitement and nerves were radiating from the three of us as we hastily boarded the plane wishing that we didn't have a 9 hour flight to endure. Finally after what seemed like forever we touched down in Punta Cana, quickly grabbed our cases and rushed outside anxiously waiting to meet some of our new housemates.



As soon as we knew it everyone had arrived and we were all excited for Monday morning to come around so we could start our hospital placements. While Megan and Lauren headed off to two of the public hospitals in the area, Amy's placement was in the private clinic meaning all three of us had completely different experiences during our first week. During the second week it was Megan's turn for the private clinic while Lauren and Amy were in the large public hospital covering different departments. Our time however was not only confined to the hospitals there was a multitude of different trips and activities we could do.

We spent a lot of our time at the beach, we also went snorkelling, banana boating, riding on ATV buggies and one Saturday we went on a daytrip to Saona Island which was a definite highlight of the trip. On Thursday evenings we also visited the local orphanages to spend time with the children. At the first orphanage we visited we bought 33 care packages for the children with the money we raised. These care packages contain essential items that the children need and were very grateful for and so the three of us would like to thank everyone who came to our Soup and Sandwich Lunch!



Megan:

My first placement was in the public hospital in the general surgery department. I was lucky here as it meant that I saw a huge range of different procedures. We were so busy every day as even when surgery was quiet our mentor would either teach us new skills such as taking blood pressure and suturing or would take us on ward rounds to see patients. I found this placement rather shocking as the hospital was very undeveloped and was working with very minimal resources, a lot being donated from the USA and UK.

During my second week my placement was general medicine in the private clinic. I spent a lot of time in the emergency department as it is always busy there and so there is always the opportunity to observe. I got the chance to watch more surgeries, see different procedures such as Ultrasounds, MRI's and CT scans and also got to spend some time with new-born babies. We also got to go into the laboratory and learn all about blood and blood transfusions, I even got the chance to have my blood taken and then test it myself to find out my blood type.

Amy:

For the first week, my placement was at a private hospital. This hospital was smaller in size than the public hospital I went to the second week and had around 150 beds- public having around 1500 beds. It had more equipment and machines than the public hospital so patients can be investigated more effectively. The public hospital was much less developed than the private hospital and was run on very minimal resources. The patient treatment room was in the same room as the waiting room and all that separated the areas was a curtain.

There were more severe cases seen in the public hospital than the private hospital even though they have less resources and doctors per patient. I really enjoyed these placements and I had an excellent mentor at the private clinic. Over the two weeks I learned how to take vital signs, suturing, C sections, X-rays, and many surgical operations. My time here was very valuable and I learned not only about a career in medicine, but about the healthcare in a less developed country.

Lauren:

The placements were eye opening and so insightful into the healthcare in less fortunate countries such as the Dominican Republic. It was interesting to see how the staff worked with the limited resources available to them. At the women's and children's public hospital we managed to observe surgeries such as C-sections, appendicectomies and hysterectomies. We learned how to take blood pressure, read patient charts and were shown ECGs to monitor the hearts of pregnant mothers.



Our mentors also showed the countries vaccination programmes for children and the administration of vaccines. In the other public hospital in La Romana the conditions were again shocking with air conditioning only in the 2 small surgery rooms and hygiene was poor. The mentors here showed us small procedures, infected wounds such as diabetic foot and surgeries like gall bladder removals and taking out cysts. We also learned here the different types of stitches used and were allowed to attempt these on pigs feet. The placements were an amazing opportunity to appreciate the difference in healthcare systems in the UK and developing countries.



## Coincidence!

When our cruise ship berthed in Nassau for the day Muriel and I went ashore to wander about the town. To our surprise we came across St Andrews Kirk. We had no idea at that time of its links to St Ninians Old.



In St Ninians Old to the right of the pulpit on the wall leading to the McMichael Chapel there is a small plaque on the wall to the memory of Rev Hugh MacFarlane who was connected to St Ninians Old. Rev MacFarlane was the first minister of St Andrews in Nassau.



The engraving reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
The Rev<sup>d</sup> HUGH MACFARLANE : A.M.M.D.  
First Presbyterian Minister of St Andrews Church : Nassau.  
Who departed this life 19<sup>th</sup> September : 1817  
In the island of New Providence : Bahamas.  
This stone is erected in the Church of his native Parish : St. Ninians.  
By his affectionate widow,  
Anne MacFarlane

I contacted St Andrews Kirk about the link to St Ninians Old and received a reply from Bryn MacPhail, Senior Pastor saying that inside their church they have plaques noting each minister and their term. You will see from the photo that the Rev Hugh MacFarlane was in fact the second minister. Mr MacPhail said that he always wondered why Rev. MacFarlane only remained for one year and that the memorial plaque in St Ninians Old answered that question!

Peter Kale



# THE BOYS' BRIGADE<sup>7</sup> in SCOTLAND

>the adventure begins here



## 8<sup>th</sup> Stirling (St Ninians) BB Company

Enrolment – Session 2018/2019 in St Ninians Old Parish Church Hall

Meeting times at St Ninians Old Parish Church Hall:-

Anchor Boys P1-3                      Wednesday 6.15pm – 7.30pm

Juniors P4-6                              Friday 7pm – 8pm

Company Section P7 – S6              Friday 8pm – 10pm

Please note that our first meeting nights are Wednesday 5th September and Friday 7th September.

New members welcome.

We look forward to another >successful session.

Andrew MacDonald, Captain  
07848 040955

*Chaplain: Rev Gary J McIntyre B D, Dip Min*

## God's word brings hope to conflict zones

A recent report from the United Bible Societies shows that God's Word is bringing comfort, hope, and healing to conflict zones around the world.

More people are displaced today than ever before – an unprecedented 65.6 million people have been forced from their homes across the globe. As crises unfold around the world, it has led to a huge demand for Scripture among people who long for God's comfort, hope, and healing.



Along with local churches, the Ukrainian Bible Society is equipping Ukrainian soldiers and military chaplains with special editions of Bibles and New Testaments. The Ukrainian Bible Society distributed more than 190,000 Scriptures, many of them to people impacted by the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. God's Word has been provided to refugees, soldiers, and hospital patients. A special edition waterproof New Testament was produced for the military. Read more about the global Bible distribution work and the transformational impact this has on communities. The Scottish Bible Society magazine is available in the vestibule of the Church





## **Social and Fund Raising Committee**

### **Craft Classes**

The Craft Classes are every two weeks from 12 September on Tuesdays at 7.00pm in the middle room of the church hall. We are still knitting hats, scarfs, mitts for children and matinee sets for babies, for the Blythswood Boxes. Some ladies are also knitting other items. We have also knitted poppies for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 1 and we would like to thank all the ladies who are helping in reaching our target of 500 poppies.

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.

### **St Ninians Old Parish Church Autumn Show**

We are having an autumn show which is open to the entire community in the church hall on Saturday 15 September at 2.00pm.

Please see below for the list of categories.

There will be an independent judge to decide the winner of each category. Tea, coffee baking will be served. Forms with the categories and additional information will be available in the Church or from Mrs Freda Smart 01786 447352 or e-mail [fredasmart@hotmail.com](mailto:fredasmart@hotmail.com) or committee members.

### **St Ninians Old Parish Church Autumn Show Categories**

Open to all the Community – 50p per entry

- ❖ Flowers
  - Vase of mixed flowers
  - Small table arrangement
  - Floral arrangement in a teapot
  - Single rose
- ❖ Preserves
  - Jams, Jellies, Marmalades and Chutneys
- ❖ Baking
  - Victoria Sponge
  - Plain Scones
  - Pancakes
- ❖ Crafts
  - Toy – crochet, sewing or knitting
  - Baby matinee jacket
  - Christmas item – crochet, sewing or knitting
- ❖ Fruit and Vegetables
  - Tomatoes
  - Apples
  - Dish of any other fruit or vegetable
- ❖ Childrens Competition
  - Drawing or painting
- ❖ Photography
- ❖

All entries to be in Church Hall on Friday 14 September between 6.00pm and 7.30pm. Baking will be accepted between 9.30 and 10.30am on Saturday 15 September.

Judge's decision will be final.

## **Soup and Sandwich Lunches**

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

At the lunch in November we will also be having a Craft Fayre where there will be Christmas Cards and various crafts on sale. If anyone would like to donate any items for sale we would be most grateful.

## **Film Show**

We hope to have a film show for adults in February 2019. The exact date and film to be decided later. 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, Helen Paterson, Margaret Sibbald, Freda Smart and Dorothy Walker.

## **Church Roll**

The Church Roll is now kept on an electronic database. To keep this up to date, it would be most helpful if when moving home, would either please inform your District Elder of your new address or email me with the information at [rollkeeper@stniniansold.org.uk](mailto:rollkeeper@stniniansold.org.uk).

Thank you

Alison Newman  
Roll Keeper

## **Quote**

One of the secrets of a long and fruitful life is to forgive everybody everything every night before you go to bed.

Bernard Baruch



## St Ninians Cemetery

Dr Murray Cook, Stirling Councils Archaeologist, will lead a tour through the cemetery on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. Murray has extensive knowledge of the history of the cemetery. You are warmly invited to come along. Suitable footwear is advised.

It is hoped that by the time you read this edition of The Parishioner work will have commenced on rebuilding the wall and archway leading into the cemetery. The specific stone required to do the work was not readily accessible and had to be quarried, hence the delay.

## Church Library

One of the easiest means of enjoying some relaxation and “Me Time” is to relax in your favourite chair with a cup of tea or coffee and a good book to read.

The church library is here to assist you! It is situated in the middle room of the church hall.

We have an excellent selection of books.

- Religious
- Natural History/ Travel/ Geography
- Food / Cookery
- Children's Stories / Educational
- Biography / Autobiography e.g. Rickki Fulton, Terry Waite, Michael Parkinson and many more.
- Creative Hobbies / DIY/ Puzzles
- Gardening / Plant Information
- Crime Fiction e.g. James Patterson . Ian Rankin, Colin Dexter and many more
- Romance
- General Novels

A must read:- Memories of St Ninians / St Ringan's recipes

The Library will be open on Fellowship Tea Sundays, Soup and Sandwich Lunches and Tuesday Group meetings.

If it is a success we could open alternative Sunday's.

Please give us feedback. Any suggestions welcome.

Many thanks for all the donations of books. We have sufficient at present but in the future may request books for one of the above sections if found to be popular.

We would also like to thank the Tuesday Group in purchasing a further bookcase.

Freda Smart 01786 447352, Bill Anderson 01786 472756



Call 2 Pray

**Stirling Street Pastors**  
***Caring, Listening and Helping***  
***Scottish Charity No SC042163***

Over the summer months, with no students around, our City Centre has been quieter, but there have still been many opportunities to show God's love on the streets. We've had a lot of team swaps because of holidays, but that has given us the opportunity to get to know and work with different team mates.

Sadly we have seen some new, or new to Stirling, rough sleepers in recent weeks, and we know that some of our 'regulars' are currently in prison. Resources to help these folk are stretched but we long, and many of them tell us that they long, that they may be helped to turn their lives around.

Morag is making plans for our next recruitment drive and training course - more details next time. We are keen to have some students join us and are having a stand at the university during Freshers' Week to publicise our work to all students, and to encourage Christian students to consider joining us.

Several of us plan to attend the Scottish Street Pastors' Conference in Perth (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Sept). The subject is 'Going Deeper'. This is organised by our umbrella organisation, Ascension Trust Scotland (ATS). Sandy Scrimgeour (CEO) is still recovering from heart surgery so this means extra work for Pat, his wife and PA, and the Trustees at ATS.

The promotional film being produced by Dee, whose wife, Luna is one of our Volunteers, is now complete. There's been a lot of hard work and a lot of fun for many during its production. It will be shown to our Volunteers at our AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> October. After that it will be more widely available.

Sadly, at the AGM, Anne Baird plans to step down as our chair. We are delighted that Jill McLeod, our current secretary, has agreed to be chair for one year. This means we will need a new secretary. He/she does not necessarily need to be a Volunteer.

Thank you for your continuing prayers for our work on the streets of our city - they'll no doubt be much busier again next month when the students return.

### **Quote**

Many times, the decisions we make affect and hurt your closest friends and family the most. I have a lot of regrets in that regard. But God has forgiven me, which I am very thankful for. It has enabled me to forgive myself and move forward one day at a time.

Lex Luger



Mrs M Jackson  
Birkdale  
Torbex  
STIRLING  
FK7 9HD

14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Re: St Ninian's Old Parish Church Stirling**

Dear Marion,

I am very happy to confirm receipt and convey our thanks for the donation of **£445.10**, raised by **St Ninian's Old Parish Church, Stirling**, in favour of Christian Aid, for which we are also delighted to claim gift aid as indicated.

Thank-you for continuing to stand with us as we seek to expose the injustice of poverty and stand alongside people as they seek their own sustainable solutions to the problems they face. We do whatever is needed to support poor people and their communities, whether it is speaking out against the causes of poverty or funding vital work on the ground. The generosity of our supporters means we are currently able to support over 600 partner organisations around the world as they work towards ending the injustice of poverty.

Your donation will help someone like Vilía. Vilía lost her home and her mother when the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010. Bereaved, she had nowhere safe to stay with her seven children. Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire her situation was and reached out building her a new home. On the terrifying night when Hurricane Mathew hit, her neighbours fled to her house. Her new home was the only one in the community strong enough to survive the storm. She welcomed her neighbours in, sharing food and shelter as the storm raged. Fifty-four people found shelter with Vilía that night.

Because of your generosity many more people will be sheltered from the storm of poverty. Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities around the world. Together we are stronger.

Yours Sincerely

**Colin Dowse**  
**Regional Support Officer - Glasgow & West Scotland**  
[cdowse@christian-aid.org](mailto:cdowse@christian-aid.org)

Sycamore House, 290 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JR  
Telephone: 0141 221 7475  
Email: [glasgow@christian-aid.org](mailto:glasgow@christian-aid.org) • [christianaid.org.uk/scotland](http://christianaid.org.uk/scotland)

Christian Aid is a member of the  
**actalliance**





June 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to thank you most sincerely for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offerings. It is important that you should know what happens to this money and this letter intends to explain how your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution will be used to enable the work of the Church in 2018.

**231431 - St Ninian's Old**

**Total Contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2018**

**£58,460**



**Ministries (83.5%)**

**£48,814 of your total contribution** will go towards the costs of providing over 750 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training.

The 2018 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is **£42,362** (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions). If your contribution to Ministries is above this figure, then your church is meeting the full cost of your ministry and supporting other congregations. If it is less than £42,362, your congregation (or linked charge) is being supported by other congregations.



**Mission (16.5%)**

**£9,646 of your total contribution** will be used to support the Church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need; accompanying partners around the world on our shared Christian journey; contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

As you will see, the contribution from your congregation ensures a very diverse ministry is maintained, and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in many ways and in many places. Many churches have made additional Ministries and Mission contributions throughout the past year and these have also been gratefully received.

Should your church wish any support or resources from the Stewardship and Finance Department, please do not hesitate to contact me. The National Stewardship Programme has been running for several years and our team of consultants is willing to guide your church through a stewardship programme, or simply to provide you with some ideas and advice. Please remember that the consultants will work with your church free of charge – **there is no cost for their time.**

I do look forward to assisting you in any way I can.

Yours in Christ,

*Archie McDowall*

Archie McDowall  
Deputy Treasurer – Congregational Finance  
Email: [AMCDOWALL@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMCDOWALL@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Congregation Number: **231431**

## **Start Up Stirling**

Our minister Gary McIntyre visited the Start Up warehouse at the end of July accompanied by John Gow our seconded student. They were well received and given a detailed tour which they both found very interesting and enjoyable. Start Up staff were first class and explained everything in detail, answering all questions Gary put to them.

Update August 2018

THANK YOU! During the first 6 months of 2018, St Ninians Old Parish donated an extremely generous 328.59 kg of food and £1323.81. Thank you, thank you!! This makes a huge difference.

Quiz Night: We are holding a quiz night on Friday 28 September at Stirling Rugby Club to raise funds. Tables of up to 8 are £20. We would love to see you there!

Young People CAN! You may have seen that we are holding an attempt to beat a Guinness world record of the longest row of cans of food. The event is in October at Forth Valley College. We would be grateful for donations of cans of food for the event or if anyone would like to volunteer for and/or during the event.

Most needed items: We are currently most in need of tinned vegetables, cereal bars, tinned fish and tinned spaghetti.

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

## What a difference the price of a Cuppa can make!



Well done to everyone who responded to our request in the last Parishioner, of increasing their regular offering by (for example) the equivalent of the weekly cost of a cuppa. Although it is difficult to be precise during the summer period, it appears from the accounts that our offering income this year has increased by over £4000 from the same time last year. That is a fine initial effort and very encouraging sign!

It is also a good start to overcoming the loss of hall rental income, which resulted from the closure of both the St. Ninians Playgroup and the Baby & Toddler Group last year. As you may know from the Church's Stated Annual Meeting in March, these closures left a £10,000 hole in our budget for this year, at a time when we were already struggling to save more than we spend.

So, if you have not yet done so, but wish to increase your offerings, please remember – you don't need to notify anyone (except your bank, if you give by Banker's Order). Just put that little bit extra in your offering envelope, or direct into the plate if you don't use envelopes. It couldn't be much easier! If you are an income tax payer and wish to transfer to Gift Aid, please just get in touch in Mrs Christine Fernie or myself.

It's also worth remembering that if your spouse is the taxpayer and not you, you can donate using Gift Aid through his/her name instead and thus increase your givings to the Church by 25% at no additional cost to yourself .... just get in touch with Christine or myself to clarify the arrangements.

Just that wee bit extra makes all the difference – and helps us enjoy even more that special cuppa treat (maybe even with a slice of cake.....)

Michael Adam

Treasurer





## Money Matters

New Gift Aid Leaflets are available in both vestibules of the Church. If you pay tax but have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration why not do so now?

Here is how the Church can benefit;

While the basic rate of Income Tax is 20%, the congregation can recover tax at the rate of 25%.

£4 becomes £5

£20 becomes £25

£40 becomes £50

£100 becomes £125

£500 becomes £625

£1,000 becomes £1,250

Who can give through Gift Aid?

Anyone who pays Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax or Capital Gains Tax, which is annually at least equal to the tax which the congregation and other charities to which you make Gift Aid donations will reclaim on your gifts for that year.

What is required?

Sign a Gift Aid Declaration – This appears on the leaflets in the vestibules of the Church.

Give your offering using Offering Envelopes or by Bank Standing Order, or by Cheque – to provide the Church with the necessary record of your giving.

You do not need.....

To promise to give a particular amount.

To promise to give for a specified period of time.

You can cancel your Gift Aid Declaration at any time.

More money coming in to the Church means more sharing of the Gospel through the work of the Church.

If you would like more information please speak to your Elder or the Minister.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

# Fund Statement

January to July 2018

Income		Expenditure	
<b>General</b> (incl. General, Pastoral, Sunday Club, Flower & Choir funds)			
Offerings	14692	Church of Scotland	35247
Gift Aid Donations	34044	Salaries	5586
Other Donations	1114	Manse Expenses/Pulpit Supply	1318
Income Tax Refund on Gift Aid	4996	Maintenance etc.	7042
Legacies	0	Heating & Lighting	951
Congregational Organisations	0	Insurance & Manse Council Tax	3089
Use of Premises	3060	Office expenses, etc.	2455
Bank Interest	83	Local Costs	44
Wedding & funeral fees etc.	1630	Church Choir Fund	0
Life & Work Subs 2018	835	Sunday Club, Outreach etc.	0
Church Fund Raising	288	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	751 )	( Donations to Charities	751 )
Year to date:	<b>61289</b>	Sub-total:	<b>56714</b>
Balance b/f	41786		
Sub-total:	<b>103075</b>		
		<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>46361</b>
<b>Fabric Fund</b>			
Balance b/f	1807		
Bank Interest	0		
Sub-total:	<b>1807</b>	<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>1807</b>
<b>Development Fund</b>			
Balance b/f	10954		
Interest etc.	27		
Sub-total:	<b>10981</b>	<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>10981</b>
<b>Historic Building Fund</b>			
Balance b/f	1279		
Donations			
Sub-total:	<b>1279</b>	<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>1279</b>
		<b>Overall Balance of all funds :</b>	<b>60428</b>

## Office Bearers Contact Numbers & Email Addresses

<b>Treasurer</b> treasurer1@stniniansold.org.uk	Mr Michael Adam	01786 473506
<b>Boys' Brigade</b>	Mr Andrew MacDonald	07848 040955
<b>Church and Community Committee Convener</b>	Mrs Mary Donald	01786 474771
<b>Communion Convener</b>	Mr James Rintoul	01786 461812
<b>Data Protection Officer</b> dataprotectionofficer@stniniansold.org.uk	Mrs Elaine Ronald	01786 818158
<b>Eco Congregation Group</b>	Mr Tom Pollock	01786 478710
<b>Elders' District Review Committee Convener</b>	Miss Maire Blackhall	01786 475141
<b>Fellowship Teas Conveners</b>	Mrs Heather Scougall Mrs Janette Peterson	01786 814957 01786 814657
<b>Finance Committee Convener</b>	Mr Jim MacDonald	01786 474191
<b>Gift Aid Convener</b> giftaidconvener@stniniansold.org.uk	Mrs Christine Fernie	01786 474830
<b>Hall Bookings Manager</b> hallsbookingmanager@stniniansold.org.uk	Mrs Dorothy Walker	01786 814813
<b>Hall Management Committee Convener</b> hallsconvener@stniniansold.org.uk	Mr Bill Anderson	01786 472756
<b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b> hsofficer@stniniansold.org.uk	Dr Wilson Evans	01786 871171
<b>Life &amp; Work, Church &amp; Community Convener</b>	Mrs Marion Jackson	01786 474878
<b>Property and Grounds Convener</b> propertyconvener@stniniansold.org.uk	Mr Tom Pollock	01786 478710
<b>Publicity Committee Convener</b>	Mr Peter Kale	01786 586927
<b>Roll Keeper &amp; Freewill Offering Convener</b> rollkeeper@stniniansold.org.uk	Mrs Alison Newman	01786 814984
<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Pamela Thomson	01786 479028
<b>Social and Fundraising Convener</b>	Mrs Dorothy Walker	01786 814813
<b>Transport Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Elaine Mackay	01786 475596
<b>Tuesday Group</b>	Mrs Miranda Miller	01786 465836
<b>Youth Committee Convener</b>	Mrs Avril Robertson	01786 474634