

The Parishioner

Winter Issue 2018-2019



St Ninians Old Parish Church

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FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

For many people, December is one of the busiest months of the year. Expectations run high with the hope that this year the seasonal celebration will be the best ever! Sometimes the hope is fulfilled and sometimes it gives way to disappointment. Isn't it a pity that so much of the



expectation is focussed on what **we** will do and what **we** can give when in fact Christmas is about what **God** has done and what **God** has already given.

I would like to think that this year we can roll back our expectation measure and take a fresh look at Christmas and Advent that leads us to it.

The truth at the heart of Christmas is that over 2,000 years ago God entered our common place World and that he came to us in the person of his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who is the 'image of the unseen God' (Colossians 1:15).

This is not only the heart of the Christmas message; it is what lies at the heart of our faith. We have a God who is not far off, who does not watch us from a distance but is ever present with us and who can transform our lives in such a way that no matter what we experience, we will know that he is there and that his strength will help us, come what may.

Immanuel, God with us, might not be what our secular society wants. It would prefer the trimmings of Christmas, presents, trees with bright lights and parties and while there is much to be said for such things, when Christmas is past for another year, these things pass too. However, the real meaning of Christmas remains and it is what our secular society needs, even if it doesn't know it!

Christmas reminds us of a truth so profound and awesome that many are afraid to unwrap it and explore it. God came to us in Jesus, born and raised among simple, common folk and he went on to know the strain of poverty, the pain of rejection, the anguish of death's separation. And throughout it all he proclaimed one message loud

and clear, God is love and God loves you. This Christmas, let us prepare our hearts and homes to welcome the Christ child, and let us celebrate the eternal truth that the one whose birth was announced to humble shepherds on a hillside overlooking Bethlehem is with us always. This is good news for us all!

I send you my warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Your Friend and Minister,

Gary J McIntyre



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you seems inadequate but it expresses my deep gratitude to you for marking the 20th anniversary of my Induction to the Church and Parish of St Ninians Old.

It seems only like yesterday when my Induction took place. I was joined by my family, friends, colleagues, people from Bute where I began my ministry, and many from other parts of the country.



The Moderator of the Presbytery at the time was the Rev Colin C McIntosh of Dunblane Cathedral.

A great deal has happened since that winter's night on the 19th of November 1998. When I came to St Ninians Old I didn't have a computer, I wasn't quite sure what an email was and the thought of people contacting me by means other than by telephone or letter didn't enter my head. How things have changed and I suppose, with the passing of the years, I have changed as well. I'm older, have less hair and wear glasses for a start!



Many of those who signed the Call inviting me to come to this historic charge are no longer with us but I will forever be grateful to them and to those of you who were here all those years ago for the warmth of your welcome. I thank you also for your continuing love and support and for accepting me as I am with my weaknesses as well as my strengths!



Little did I think that in the course of my ministry there would be such a drastic reduction in the number of ministers and steep decline in the number of members in the Church of Scotland. With this in mind, I am grateful that the congregation of St Ninians Old has remained strong and I truly feel blessed to have a generous and hard-working congregation whose loyalty and commitment is

second to none.

It is with sincere humility that I give thanks to God for allowing me to serve as your minister for so long a time. He is faithful and I truly feel privileged to have been able to meet so many fine people and to be involved in the life of our congregation, parish and the wider community.

Thank you for the generous cheque that was presented to me during the service on Sunday 18th November and for the wonderful afternoon in the Parish Halls when so many came to enjoy fellowship and a wonderful afternoon tea, beautifully prepared and kindly served by members of the congregation.



God bless you and the Church and Parish of St Ninians Old.

Gary

The Rev Gary J McIntyre
The Manse of St Ninians,
19th November 2018.

SERVICES IN DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

December 2018

2nd First Sunday in Advent

10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

6:30pm Thanksgiving Service

9th Second Sunday in Advent

10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

16th Third Sunday in Advent

10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club Children's Gift Service

1:30pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

6:30pm A Service of Lessons and Carols followed by Mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies in the Parish Halls

Wednesday 19th December

2:30pm Christmas service in Eccles Court

23rd Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30am Family service with Nativity followed by tea, coffee and mince pies in the Parish Halls

24th Christmas Eve

11:30pm Watchnight service. Collection for Stirling Young Carers

30th 10:30am Morning Worship

January 2019

6th 10:30am Morning Worship

13th Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

Holy Communion at the close of the Service

20th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered

Tea, coffee and biscuits in the Parish Halls

27th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

1pm Service in Eccles Court

1:30pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

3:30-6pm Messy Church in the Parish Halls

February

3rd 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

10th 10:30am Morning Worship

17th 10:30am Morning Worship
Tea, coffee and biscuits in the Parish Halls

24th 10:30am
Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
1pm Service in Eccles Court
1:30pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The group will meet at the Manse on Wednesday 12th December at 7:30pm

The next meet meeting will be in the Upper room of the Church on Wednesday 16th January (a week later than normal) and then on Wednesday 13th February when we will continue our study of Colossians 'Against the Tide'.



MESSY CHURCH

The next Messy Church will be in the Parish Halls on Sunday 27th 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 venture with our friends in St Columba's Church. We are looking for volunteers to help with craftwork, games and the preparation and serving of food. If you can help please speak to Mr McIntyre. Registration forms will be available in due course.

THE KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session and congregation records with sadness the passing of two elders, John McFarlane and Rab Simpson. John and Rab were loyal members of our Church family and each, in his own way, contributed greatly to the life of our congregation. We give thanks for their steadfast commitment to Christ and his Church and we remember their loved ones in our prayers.

The Kirk Session will meet in the Parish Halls on Thursday 24th January at 7:30pm and on Thursday 21st March at 7:30pm.

The Business Committee will meet on Tuesday 15th January at 10am and on Tuesday 12th March at 10am.

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the morning service on Sunday 24th March.

INTERIM MODERATOR

The Presbytery of Stirling has appointed the Rev Gary J McIntyre Interim Moderator of St Columba's Church in Stirling. We remember the congregation of St Columba's in our prayers and trust it will not be long until decisions are made concerning the Churches in the city centre.

CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION

The above collection will go to Stirling Young Carers. This service supports carers aged between 16 and 25 and helps them obtain information in areas such as financial advice and opportunities to combine education, training, volunteering or employment with caring for a loved one.

FROM THE TREASURER

Over £1800 was raised for WaterAid at harvest thanksgiving, including £225 in tax relief through Gift Aid, a tremendous result overall.

PARISH REGISTER

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL

The generosity of the members of the congregation who donated filled shoe boxes and those who donated individual items which were used to fill even more boxes is much appreciated. The Craft Group helped greatly by knitting hats and scarves. We are also indebted to our Church Officer who put the 112 boxes we contributed to the Appeal into sacks and transported them to the pick-up point.

This year the shoe boxes will be distributed to those in greatest need in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and the Ukraine. It is our hope that the boxes will bring some happiness to those people at Christmas and some comfort in the knowledge that they are not forgotten by those of us who are fortunate enough not to experience such extreme poverty.

The Tuesday Group

As Christmas approaches fast, the Tuesday Group will take a break, but not before we have the opportunity for fun and friendship, (not to mention that seasonal tradition of expanding our waistlines), with our annual Christmas dinner at the King Robert Hotel on Tuesday 11th December. If you have not added your name to the list of participants, see Dorothy soon. Cost £21.

We restart on 8th January when our very own Reverend Gary McIntyre will claim his usual slot in our programme to help us banish the winter blues. A finger buffet follows.

Our next event is the unmissable Burns Supper on 22nd January, with great food and entertainment. Tickets are £10 each and you are advised to get yours at the earliest opportunity, as this event is usually a sell-out.

On 5th February, we welcome Marianne Pattison to tell us about her Trip down the Grand Canyon. For a short while, we can forget that we are in the middle of a Scottish winter.

We look forward being entertained on February 19th by a local group of singers called the Torbrex Choir. The choir has only been together for a few years but they have built an impressive reputation in a short time. This is an open night and the cost of a ticket is £6.

The committee wishes all our members a very joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For further details contact

Miranda tel: 465836 email: mirandamiller@live.co.uk

Thelma tel: 442046 or

Dorothy tel: 814813 email: walkerdisr@icloud.com

THE PSALMS

The Psalms express the whole range of human feeling and experience, from dark depression to exuberant joy. Our Lord Jesus quotes from them, even on The Cross when, according to Mark's Gospel, He dies with the cry of abandonment, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.' This is the first line of Psalm 22 which was for King David in his darkest hour.

The Psalms are rooted in particular circumstances, yet they are timeless, and so among the best loved, most read parts of the Bible. In our modern age we are stirred by the same emotions, puzzled over the same fundamental problems of life, cry out in need, or worship, to the same God as the psalmists of old. We find it easy to identify with them. And we find their sheer dogged faith and the depth of their love for God both a tonic and a rebuke.

There are one hundred and fifty psalms, the process of writing the psalms stretches around a 600 year period starting from the time of King David, then on to covering the time of the Jews exile in Babylon and then the period after their return, probably stretching to sometime around the 2nd century BC. Nearly half the book of Psalms, 73 of them, bear David's name, some dedicated to him, some collected by him and a good many his own composition. Other books in the Old Testament indicate that David was a gifted poet and musician and in the words of C.S. Lewis, "The psalms are poems and meant to be sung."

Like any hymn book, the great focus of The Psalms is on God and the relationship with his people: God's glorious power and might; his steadfast love and readiness to help; the trust his people can confidently place in him; his justice and his impartial judgement.

The Psalms have as much meaning for us today as they were for God's people over the six hundred years in which they were written. The following is an extract from William Barclay's commentary on St. Luke's gospel: "Jesus died with a prayer on his lips. 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' That is Psalm 31:5 with one word added-Father.

Some of us may have been taught when very young to say this little prayer before the threatening dark came down, 'This night I lay me down to sleep, If I die before I wake, Please the Lord my soul to take'. Jesus made this little prayer even more lovely for he began it with the word 'Father.' Even on a cross Jesus died like a child falling asleep in his father's arms."

Arthur Walls.

WHAT CHRISTMAS IS

It's a big red truck with Coca Cola on the side,
It's a John Lewis ad where we cried and we cried,
It's Santa and Sinterklaas, Wenceslas, Kris Kringle
And baubles and tinsel, turkey-flavoured Pringles.
It's Merry Christmas Everybody, Mistletoe and Wine,
Looped endlessly in shops, time after time.
It's Do They Know It's Christmas with a chiming bell,
And it's buy, buy, buy and it's sell, sell, sell.
It's Dr Who specials, a speech by the Queen,
It's Strictly, it's X-Factor, eyes glued to the screen.
It's nights out and parties, over-indulging,
And wining and dining, waistlines bulging.

And

It's buy now pay later, building up debt,
It's I got this and this, what did you get?
It's consumer madness, avarice, greed
On the high street, where they think they've got what we need.
It's the haunted expression in the eyes of the mums
Who don't want their wee ones outshone by their chums.
It's the queues and the traffic, tempers fraying,
And 'Oh no, no the in-laws', know what I'm saying?
It's people with nothing, living alone,
No-one to talk to, no-one to phone,
Enjoying their Christmas as best as they're able,
It's a single setting at the Christmas table.

But

It's O Come All Ye Faithful, sung by a choir,
It's Away in a Manger, hymns to inspire.
It's herald angels singing, it's O Holy Night,
And Joy to the World, a world full of light.
It's Mary and Joseph, shepherds and kings,
Gold, frankincense, myrrh, precious things.
It's a star in the east, shining clear,
A beacon from heaven, banishing fear.
It's recalling the night in a stable forlorn,
It's about the coming of the child that was born.
It's the birth of a Saviour, God's only son,
Who was born to save us, every last one.

John Gow

PRAYER

Loving God

We praise you for all we have to rejoice in at Christmas
This special reminder year by year of your coming to us
In Christ
Come to us now
And help us to keep you at the centre of our
celebrations
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer,



Come to our loved ones,
Our families,
Our friends,
All those we hold dear
And whom we shall share with or think of
Over the coming days
Help us as we celebrate and make merry
To think also of Christ
And through drawing closer to him
To grow closer together
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Come to those in special need –
The poor, the sick, the lonely and sad
The homeless, the helpless
The oppressed and persecuted,
All those for whom life is hard and the future some bleak.
Reach out to them in love,
And give them something to celebrate
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Lorna Waddell

60 YEARS AGO

60 years ago I had left school and had thoughts of starting a printing apprenticeship with Munro Press in Perth. The application letter was sent off and I awaited an interview. In the meantime, a friend of the family who was Gardener/Handyman at the local Hospital in Auchterarder asked if I would like to assist him over the summer. I was even getting paid!

St Margaret's was a small but busy cottage hospital with surgeons from Perth Royal Infirmary having weekly theatre sessions, out patients and medical beds. It had extensive grounds with vegetable and flower gardens. I loved gardening and enjoyed meeting the kitchen staff and selecting vegetables for the patients' meals.

Not long after I started, Miss Lugton the matron asked if I would like to come into the wards and assist the trained nurses a few hours a day. It was there I met someone who made such an impression on me that it changed my whole direction in life and career.



Staff Nurse Jessie Strathee was one of the trained staff. I assisted her with patient care, cleaning duties and feeding patients. Jessie soon became a role model for me. I spoke to her about her training and how every day was different - challenging but rewarding. I had never thought of nursing as a career, but assisting her with post-operative patients, the very ill and the dying, the children having their tonsils removed and the rehabilitation requirements following a stroke left a lasting impression on me.



Jessie undertook her general training in Stirling Royal Infirmary and was indeed a Gold Medal winner. I remember going home one day and saying to my mum that printing apprenticeship was not for me. I want to be a nurse. Mum was shocked and I remember her saying nursing was not for men. The rest is history. I completed my general training in Stirling Royal Infirmary and like Jessie, a Gold Medal winner.

40 years later I joined St Ninians Old Parish Church and met Jessie Scobbie (Strathdee) once more - we still talk about our days in St Margaret's.

I don't think Jessie yet realises how that meeting all those years ago was the start of a career I had never thought of. I will be forever grateful to her for guiding me into nursing. I was determined a mere male in a very female dominated profession was going to change attitudes in nursing - I achieved my goal.

I might have retired in Perth following a boring job as a printer and not met the many many friends I have in Stirling and St Ninians Old.



Bill Anderson

CALLED TO BE BRIDGE BUILDERS



Social media, like it or not, has firmly established itself in today's society. How often do we see people (mainly the young) walking in the street, eyes transfixed to a small screen, oblivious to their surroundings and often their safety.

However social media does have its place and has entered into the way that many churches now use it, as an additional communication tool to keep their congregation up to date with what's happening, and it reflects the immediacy so often expected today.

The mission statement of our Church is that vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which inspires the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities. Social media can be an important tool in our outreach to the community of St Ninians.

The opportunities for using social media were described in the following article by the Very Rev Albert Bogle, published earlier last year and certainly is worth reading.

The Very Rev Albert Bogle explains why social media can play a key role in the mission of the Church.

THE Rev Dr Doug Gay, Principal of Trinity College, Glasgow, in his Chalmers Lectures of 2017 suggested that the role of congregations in church polity must be revised for a changing culture.

Quoting a line from G D Henderson's book *Presbyterianism*, he said: "It may be that Presbyterianism asked too much, (of the congregation), and gave too little." Gay confessed that he found himself somewhat haunted by Henderson's remarks.

I found myself thinking, could it be that kirk sessions, and presbyteries, have used congregations to fill outdated functions that have been time consuming and ineffective, rather than being about creating disciples?

If we are to grow a new generation it seems to me that the Church of Scotland must re-envision the place and voice of the congregation. We need to inspire the people of God to realise that worship must not only inform but refresh and empower our mission as God's people wherever we are called to serve. Perhaps we have not asked enough? Discipleship should be demanding.

Certainly many lapsed and even regular Sunday worshippers might agree. Too often our congregations could be described as nothing more than passive observers in a one way hymn prayer sandwich liturgy, which bears little relevance to the every day struggles of life in a broken and needy world. Our mission is to make followers into disciples of Jesus transforming communities worldwide.

It is only when we as the church understand we have been called by our Lord to think globally that we can truly call ourselves disciples. I am coming to believe that the rise of communication technology, bringing about a greater global awareness of injustice and poverty, might just be God at work holding before our generation a new way to participate in bringing about the Kingdom of God in our time.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg last month laid out a vision for his company to serve as a global bridge-building organisation. He was responding to those who are beginning to question the benefits of globalisation. It is easy to understand why extremists on the right and the left of politics promote policies of isolationism. However, it is not politics that drives globalisation. It is technology. The facts are clear, communication technologies are developing so fast that it is impossible to turn the clock back and live our lives in splendid isolation from each other.

Zuckerberg suggested that Facebook could move far beyond its roots as a communication network for friends and families, and could play a role in strengthening traditional institutions, to providing help during and after crises, and encouraging civic engagement.

For me, this is another door that is opening into our world to create opportunities where the gospel of hope and forgiveness and reconciliation can be shared. There is much that we can learn and adopt and adapt from the social media companies when it comes to making connections with others in search of meaning and hope. We too are called to be bridge-builders.

It is time for a simple mission strategy, to be agreed by all, one that has its roots in the New Testament and in fact is credited with growing the church. In the Acts of the

Apostles we are told that the early disciples gossiped the gospel. Perhaps more of our congregations need to begin to gossip the gospel among friends and family.

It is surely the honest witness of our daily actions that speaks with greater volume than any organised strategy for church growth, when others see what Christ has done in our lives. Like bees round the honey pot they will swarm.

Tweeting and Facebook posting are surely wonderful tools we can use as individuals and communities to gossip the gospel and begin to turn followers into disciples. When this happens, we discover that our mission experience begins to transform our worship into a living sacrifice which is our reasonable service.

The Very Rev Albert Bogle is a Pioneer Minister of Sanctuary First Church Online
www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk

This article was published in Life and Work April 2017. If you would like to subscribe please speak to Marion Jackson our Life and Work co-ordinator

Recycle your unwanted spectacles!

If you have old unwanted spectacles and you're not sure what to do with them, SpecSavers at 23-25 Murray Place, Stirling will be happy to have them. There is a collection box to the right as you enter their front door – just drop them in there. If you are unable to get into town, contact Marion Jackson (details on back page) who will be pleased to take them for you.



God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well.

Voltaire

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

St Ninians Old Parish Church Autumn Show

Our autumn show which was open to the entire community in the Parish Halls on Saturday 15 September was very successful. We would like to thank all who entered. We had exactly 100 exhibits. This was a wonderful amount for our first show. We would like to thank the children of the Sunday Club for entering their paintings, also everyone who donated baking, again you are all most generous. Over £550 was raised for the Church.



Hopefully we will be able to make this an annual event and have been offered help from Anne Muirhead, who was our judge this year with making the categories more specific and design of the entry form.

Craft Classes

The Craft Classes are every two weeks on Tuesdays at 7.00pm in the middle room of the Parish Halls. The ladies knitted over 40 sets of scarfs, hats and gloves to fit all ages for the Blythswood boxes. The next project was knitting for the Craft Fayre and again the ladies were very industrious and knitted many, snowmen, hedgehogs, rabbits, owls, chocolate orange covers and various other items.

Strathcarron Hospice has made an appeal for lap blankets, and we hope to knit these over the winter months.

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.

Craft Fayre



The Craft Fayre was held on Saturday 3 November and was very successful. It was lovely to see all the people who attended the coffee morning and also the lunch, some stayed for both and we are very grateful to you.

Thank you to all who donated items for sale. We had many crocheted, sewn and knitted goods for sale along with Christmas Cards and pictures of the Church. Also thank you to everyone who helped at the stalls, served the tables, donated baking and worked in the kitchen. It was a great effort and over £1300 has been raised to date. The Soup and Sandwich lunch also raised £255 for the Church.

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

There will be the usual lunches held on the following Saturdays, 1st December 2018, 5th January, 2nd February and 2nd March 2019.

Film Show

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

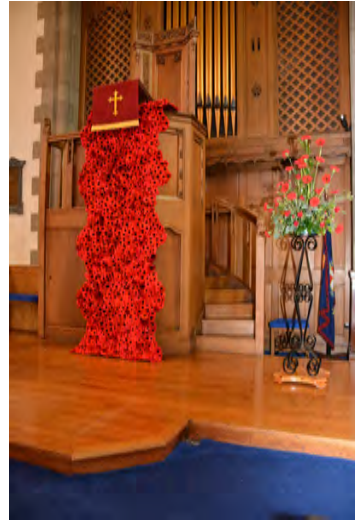
Poppies

We would like to thank all the ladies who knitted poppies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. Over 1200 poppies were knitted and we hope that you agree that the waterfall of poppies from the pulpit was wonderful as were the floral displays and the cross at the front vestibule.

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:

Mary Donald, Christine Fernie, Mary Jenkins, Alison Newman, Helen Paterson, Margaret Sibbald, Freda Smart, Helen Thomson, Maralyn Unsworth and Dorothy Walker.



Book review

Title: JESUS, A Very Brief History

Author: Helen Bond (Professor of Christian Origins at the University of Edinburgh)

With over two billion followers today, Jesus of Nazareth is the most influential person to have walked the earth. But why has he had such an enormous impact?

Written by a world authority, this brief history begins by assessing Jesus the man-his Jewish heritage, his message, his friends and enemies, and his eventual execution. Helen Bond then considers Jesus' legacy, starting with the accounts of his life in the New Testament. She also looks at other early portrayals of Jesus, at the spread of Jesus - devotion during the Middle Ages, and at what Jesus means to people today - both in the Church and in secular culture.

'Helen Bond combines eloquence, mastery of the subject and concision.'

An excellent easy read both for Christians and non Christians alike.

Arthur Walls

COULD YOU BECOME A STRATHCARRON HOSPICE BEFRIENDER?

There are few more rewarding things in life than making a difference to the lives of others, particularly at a time of greatest need.



Strathcarron

Befrienders are volunteers who give their time freely to offer social and practical support to people who have an advancing illness or a condition which limits their ability to participate in things which are important to them, often making them feel isolated or lonely. They do not provide personal care, domestic duties or administer medication.

We have had a few patients referred to us who live in the Stirlingshire area but we cannot match them with a Befriender as we do not have any local volunteers on our books. A lot of our volunteers live in the Denny/Falkirk area.

We are looking to recruit new Befrienders. It is hoped that by highlighting the need to some of the congregations within the Stirling Presbytery it may generate a few people to get in touch with me for an informal, no obligation chat.

What we require is someone with a friendly ear, a caring disposition and a few hours to spare either weekly or fortnightly to visit a person in their local community. Training, support and expenses will be provided.

Volunteers make an enormous difference by giving up their valuable time and sharing skills to support patients and their families, both within the Hospice and in the community.

If you would like more information on becoming a Befriender please visit the website at strathcarronhospice.net or contact Mandy Ross, Community Development Outreach Worker, for an informal, no obligation chat on 01324 826222 or by email at mandy.ross2@nhs.net

Mandy Ross

MOVING ON UP



When I moved up to the Company section, a lot of things changed. Firstly, the uniforms changed. I was used to wearing a jumper and a T-shirt but now I have to wear a shirt, tie and belt. Also, I am required to wear shoes, and keep them polished (my dad does that – thanks dad). Last year I was awarded a prize as the best turned out boy at our awards night.

Secondly, the time changed. In junior section I used to go for an hour every Friday but now I go for two hours. Also, I now do a lot more sports and marching and I've learned to do a lot of new activities such as cooking, which I have really enjoyed.

I've taken part in lots of new outdoor activities like laser tag and bubble football which has been really enjoyable for me and everyone else. I have completed some new socializing activities e.g the “come dine with me” fundraiser and the Boys Brigade quiz nights. These are important as they bring in money, which is required to keep 8th St Ninians offering the activities they do.

Each year 8th St Ninians Company section marks Remembrance Day, which commemorates the end of WW1 and all the lives lost during this and other wars. Company section also competes in sport activities against other companies. In my second badminton competition I came 4th place out of 16 boys. The biggest difference, however, is that I am taking more responsibility to reach the standards expected of being in the Boys Brigade. This year I will have been a member of 8th St Ninians for 6 years.

Pte Andrew Newlands

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 Theresa

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE 2018

Four members of our Pastoral Care Group attended the Annual Pastoral Care Conference of the Church of Scotland in Dunfermline on Saturday 10 November. The theme of the conference was how to nurture and share Christian pastoral care together – as indicated in the newly launched Church of Scotland book “Learn: Pastoral Care”.

Around 540 delegates attended the conference and each delegate was allocated 3 of the 9 sessions on the programme. Our sessions covered “Fundamental Features of Pastoral Care”, “Caring for the terminally ill”, and “Relationships and Separation”.

The session leaders were excellent in the talks and all sessions were interactive which meant we really had to listen carefully to all the points made to ensure we participated and understood that pastoral care is not just about listening to one another but understanding something of ourselves and who we are as people. It is also not just about giving but about receiving (we know this from how much we get from our visits). We may have fears and anxieties about our delivery of pastoral care but should accept we don't have all the answers and should keep things simple. Often it is about helping people help themselves. God wants us to be human – not perfect. We discussed how there are many ways to care – e.g. Church worship is corporate pastoral care while loving pastoral care is a tool for mission and we are charged with putting God's word into action. “Love works because love matters”.

All in all it was an extremely worthwhile day and each of us came away resolving to put words into action!

Alison Stewart
Pastoral Care Group Member

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 (Matthew 6:34)

PHOTO CORNER



Autumn at Kings Knot

Arthur Walls



STIRLING KIRKS TOGETHER

Stirling Kirks Together donated £100 to Greyfriars Kirk for their 'Greyfriars 400' Celebration Communion Table appeal.



A donation of £500 was also made to the World Mission Council.

Plates and bowls have been purchased for Messy Church and Holiday Club.

The above could not be made without your continued support of our Stirling Kirks Together Friendship Lunches, and for this we thank you.

Freda Smart
SKT Admin.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



Christmas Appeal

Start Up Stirling is making an appeal to raise £45,000 in donations to help local homeless people and those in hardship. We are hoping that this will be our most successful Christmas since we began in 1994.

Around 300 people receive goods from our Foodbank every week around Stirlingshire and this continues to grow, particularly in the rural areas. Start Up Stirling also provides assistance to individuals and families commencing new tenancies after homelessness with our Starter Packs which provide basic household essentials along with food parcels.

Start Up Stirling is seeking to increase its support services over the coming year to increase assistance in areas such as financial advice, healthy eating and mental health assistance and support.

Why not purchase a donation voucher this year as an alternative to Christmas presents?

Over 100 families in Stirlingshire will have to decide between eating and heating this winter.

£50 can provide a family food pack and £100 donation can cover a families food for 4 weeks.

Donation vouchers are a great alternative to giving a Christmas present or card to your loved ones.

Donations can be made online at www.startupstirling.org.uk/donate or directly to our unit at 16B Whitehouse Road, Stirling.

Further information from Arthur Walls 01786 446899
or Helen Thomson 01786 472454

YOUR LEGACY

The diverse work of the Church of Scotland is greatly enhanced by the generosity of people who leave legacies. There are different ways to leave a legacy to the Church;

You can leave a specific amount of money.

You can leave a part of what is left after all your other bequests have been met.

You can leave a specific item.

Please think about leaving a gift in your Will to further God's work in Scotland and beyond, to St Ninians Old Parish Church or to the Church of Scotland.

Leaflets are available in both vestibules of the Church. Please uplift one.



FUND STATEMENT

January to October 2018

Income		Expenditure	
General (incl. General, Pastoral, Sunday Club, Flower & Choir funds)			
Offerings	20598	Church of Scotland	52380
Gift Aid Donations	47325	Salaries	8437
Other Donations	1356	Manse Expenses/Pulpit Supply	2177
Income Tax Refund on Gift Aid	8324	Maintenance etc.	8100
Legacies	0	Heating & Lighting	1822
Congregational Organisations	0	Insurance & Manse Council Tax	5238
Use of Premises	4434	Office expenses, etc.	3099
Bank Interest	83	Local Costs	88
Wedding & funeral fees etc.	1630	Church Choir Fund	0
Life & Work Subs 2018	835	Sunday Club, Outreach etc.	49
Church Fund Raising	814	Life & Work	874
Flower Fund	93	Flower Fund	46
Pastoral Fund	350	Pastoral Fund	92
Sunday Club Fund	105	Sunday Club Fund	15
(Charity Fund Raising	2504)	(Donations to Charities	1951)
Year to date:	85946	Sub-total:	82418
Balance b/f	41786		
Sub-total:	127732	Balance c/f	45314
Fabric Fund			
Balance b/f	1807		
Bank Interest	0		
Sub-total:	1807	Balance c/f	1807
Development Fund			
Balance b/f	10954		
Interest etc.	27		
Sub-total:	10981	Balance c/f	10981
Historic Building Fund			
Balance b/f	1279		
Donations			
Sub-total:	1279	Balance c/f	1279
		Overall Balance of all funds :	59381

Office Bearers Contact Numbers & Email Addresses

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