

ST. NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

PARISHIONER

SPRING 2024



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From the Manse

Dear Friends,

The days are lengthening and, as I look from my study window, I can see the snowdrops dancing merrily in the morning light.

Though March can be a month of inclement weather it brings with it signs that spring is just around the corner. Golden daffodils are about to burst into bloom and soon lambs will appear in the fields as the temperature begins to rise.

It is a special time of year and for Christians, this time is particularly special because it is the time when we focus on Jesus's last weeks on earth, and the events leading to the cross and empty tomb.

To journey with Jesus in these days can be very enriching as we recall his temptation in the wilderness, his overturning of the tables in the temple, his betrayal by one of his followers, his suffering at Calvary, and his victory over death.

In this season of lent – a word derived from an old English word meaning 'spring' - many people give something up as a sign of sacrifice and to test their self-discipline. There is much to be said for that, but for me, lent also affords us the opportunity to draw closer to God and to make him the focal point of our lives.

How might we do this?

Can I suggest that firstly, we set aside time to pray.

For Jesus, prayer was key to his relationship with God. Time and time again, he would withdraw from the crowds to speak to God, and to be renewed for the work he had been sent to do.

Prayer is a wonderful privilege but how often do we pray? When we pray, do we spend time focussing on who God is, and what he has done for us in and through Jesus Christ?

The temptation when we pray is to give God a list of requests and while he is pleased to receive them, there is merit in immersing ourselves in his love, in being still before



him, and in marvelling that we should be counted among his children. That should result in an outpouring of praise from us!

Secondly, can I suggest that we take time to reflect on our own lives. Life can be hectic and the demands, real or imaginary, can take their toll. It is easy to get so caught up in the 'rush' of every day that we can lose sight of what is really important.

As we read the gospels, the love Jesus had for people and his concern for them is abundantly evident. Think of the time a great number of people followed him, and he had compassion on them, for it was late, and he knew they would be hungry and in need of food?

Isn't it true that on occasion we can take our eye off the ball? We get bogged down in matters that are ultimately of little significance and we become blind to the needs of those around us, a family member who would benefit from a listening ear, a friend who could do with a visit, or the 'stranger' we encounter in the street and for whom even a smile would be enough to lift their spirits and make them feel valued.



It is the case that sometimes acts of kindness do not happen because our focus is elsewhere, and we fail to see what is taking place around us.

One of the most touching stories in the gospel is when Jesus visits the home of Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary. Martha busied herself in the kitchen preparing a meal and while she is to be commended for that, Mary did what Jesus needed most at that time. He was on his way to the cross and knowing what was to come, his heart must have been heavy. Mary sensed this and realising her time with Jesus was limited, she sat at his feet and devoted herself to him.

Finally, in this season of lent, as well as seeking to draw closer to God, and taking time to reflect on our lives, might it be that we could devote ourselves to supporting a particular charity or engaging with those in positions of authority about issues of concern?

Start Up Stirling and Stirling Street Pastors are always in need of support but what about working with others to identify and deal with the issues that give rise to

poverty, homelessness, and inequality, not only in the world, but in the communities in which we live?

The teaching of Jesus is very challenging and that is particularly true in the passage recorded by St Matthew:

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

All around us there is need. What are we doing, as followers of Jesus, to help those who, due to their circumstances, are unable to help themselves? What would Jesus have us do?

Lent – a season in which to give things up? Yes, but it is also a season in which we can do more, and when we do, we will find that not only are we enriched as a result, but we will know within that we are doing the will of God whose love was revealed to the full on the cross and in the empty tomb.

Easter blessings,
Your Friend and Minister,

Gary J McIntyre

Lent Bible Studies

A series of Lent Bible studies commenced on the 15th of February and will be held every Thursday evening at 7pm in St Ninians Old Parish Church. The final study will be the Thursday prior to Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. This is a joint venture with our friends in Holy Rude Viewfield Church and Park Church.

Services

Sunday 3rd March – Third in Lent
10:30am Morning service

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday
10:30am Morning service with Holy Communion

Sunday 17th March – Fifth in Lent
10:30am Morning service – Rev Gordon Mathew

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday
10:30am Morning service

Eccles Court, Westerlands Care Home and Roselea Court Care Home

There will be services in Eccles Court at 2pm and in Westerlands Care Home at 3pm on Wednesday 27th March, Wednesday 24th April and Wednesday 29th May.

The residents in Roselea Court Care Home join us in worship every Sunday via the live stream from the Church.

Holy Week

There will be a service each evening in Holy week, Monday 25th to Friday 29th March at 7pm.



These will be joint services with our friends in neighbouring churches.

Monday – Park Church

Tuesday – Holy Rude Viewfield

Wednesday – Stirling North

Maundy Thursday – St Mark's Church

Good Friday – St Ninians Old Parish Church

Each service will be followed by a further time of fellowship with tea, coffee and biscuits.

Easter Sunday

There will be a joint service in King's Park at 7:30am.

A Family service will be held in St Ninians Old at 10:30am.

Services in April and May will be held at 10:30am.

Church Officer

The Kirk Session and congregation thank most sincerely Mr David Walker for his dedicated service as Church Officer over a number of years. David willingly gave of his time to the Church and was always on hand to help in any way that he could. We are very grateful to him and send him our best wishes.

David's service to the Church will be recognised in due course.

The Kirk Session is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Aaron Colthart as Church Officer. Ernie, as he is better known, has been depute Church Officer for some time, and carried out the duties of Church Officer following David's stroke last summer.

Ernie is ideally suited to the task, and we wish him well in this important role.

First Communicants

If you would like to become a communicant member of the Church or explore what membership involves, please come along to the Church on Tuesday 9th April at 2pm. Alternatively, you can contact Mr McIntyre in order to register your interest.

Gift Aid Declaration Form

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed from the government by charities from the tax you pay for the relevant tax year. St Ninians Old can reclaim Gift Aid on your offerings if you pay sufficient income tax and you provide a signed Gift Aid Declaration (*See enclosed form*). If you pay tax but have not signed up for Gift Aid, please complete the form and hand it in at the Church or give it to your elder. The name of the Church and our charity number has been inserted for you.

Presbytery of Perth

Mr Ed Morton, Treasurer of St Ninians Old, has been appointed Depute Clerk of the Presbytery of Perth. We congratulate Ed on his appointment and wish him well in his duties within the Presbytery.



Interim Moderator

Mr McIntyre continues to serve as Interim Moderator of the linked charge of Bannockburn Allan Church and Cowie and Plean Church. As well as charring meetings of the two Kirk Sessions and Congregational Boards, he conducts the Communion services in both places of worship, and is called upon from time to time, to officiate at funerals.



The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

The General Assembly will meet in Edinburgh from 18th - 23rd May. It is a significant annual event when commissioners examine the work and laws of the Church and make decisions that affect its future.

The Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson, who has served as the minister of Strathaven Parish Church since 1991, will take up the role of Moderator of the General Assembly on Saturday 18th May.

The Rev Gary J McIntyre, and Mr Leslie W Asher, Session Clerk, have been appointed commissioners to the General Assembly by the Presbytery of Perth.

Questionnaire

The Kirk Session would like to thank everyone who completed and returned the questionnaire that was circulated last summer. At its meeting in November, and again in January, the Kirk Session devoted time to consider some of the responses, particularly those deemed to be helpful in stimulating discussion and debate as we go forward as a congregation.

The Kirk Session recognises the absolute necessity of making sure that everyone who attends services in the Church or events in the Parish Halls should feel welcome. In this, every member has a part to play! A kindly word and friendly smile can help people feel at home and welcome within our fellowship.

The Kirk Session discussed the time of the Sunday service as several people had indicated they would like it to be at a different time. It was agreed services should continue to be held at 10:30am.

Some people had indicated a desire for a midweek service. This was discussed and it was agreed this should be remitted to the grouping of Holy Rude Viewfield, Park Church and St Ninians Old for consideration.

A number of people indicated they would like there to be a choir which could help with leading the praise and introducing new hymns. It was decided that, as a first step, we would explore the possibility of forming a choir to lead the praise at Easter.

As a result of submissions made, it was agreed it would be good to have a 'Songs of Praise' style service from time to time, though it was recognised this would require people to be willing to take part in the service, and to say something about a hymn that means something to them.

Mr McIntyre informed the Kirk Session that he would welcome greater participation in services with people not only reading the lessons but giving a talk and leading a prayer. Anyone interested should speak to him.

The Kirk Session was informed a supplement to *CH4*, the *Church Hymnary*, was in the making and would be launched at the General Assembly in May.

Some people indicated they would like there to be more Bible studies. The Moderator, Mr McIntyre, explained that due to his heavy workload he could not personally commit to more than the advent and lent studies that are presently

held, but he said he would be happy to encourage more Bible study or the formation of house groups if elders and members could take a lead in this.

A number of people indicated they would like there to be a fellowship tea every Sunday. The Kirk Session discussed this and, given the relatively low number of people who attend the monthly fellowship tea, it was agreed to continue with one a month but to alter the seating arrangements in the hall and for people to be served at tables. More volunteers to help at the fellowship teas would be welcome and an intimation has been made to this effect.

As a result of a number of submissions, the Kirk Session agreed that there should be an 'Open Day' on Saturday 21st September. People will be invited to visit the Church and Parish Halls, see round both buildings and learn not only about the Sunday services but the groups within the congregation. The opportunity will also be taken to share information with those who come about the charities we support and the wider work of the Church. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the Parish Halls. Volunteers to help with the planning of this event and publicity will be welcome!

The Kirk Session resolved to have 'The way forward' as a standing item on the agenda for meetings and will give further time and attention to the above as well as to other comments and suggestions made.

Soup and Sandwich lunches

The Parishioner managed to get a quick photo of some of our Soup & Sandwich ladies at the February lunch.

A very big thank you to all who help with the Soup & Sandwich lunches and make them such a happy event to attend.



The Discernment

It is a real pleasure to introduce myself to you, the members, and friends of St Ninians Old Parish Church.



My name is David Barr, I am an Elder in Fallin Parish Church, not so far away from you. Over the last couple of years, I have felt a call to serve God in Ministry within his Church. At this time the Church of Scotland has appointed your minister, Gary, to be my mentor as I seek to discern my calling.

My journey to faith has been different from many others. I attended Church as a youngster. Facing Prelim Exams in High School at the age of 14, life was hard at the time and studying was overwhelming.

I sensed a deep desire to worship God and I found my sanctuary at the time in Blantyre Congregational Church. When I moved to Fallin with my wife and three kids I found a new home in Fallin Parish Church.

At the end of this process of discernment I need to be able to give a clear explanation of my call to serve God to the satisfaction of all involved in the procedure. This is no easy task. There are so many different views from ministers and elders, most of whom have years of experience in ministry. I have yet to come across someone who has had a similar experience of being 'called' as I do.

If I talk to non-Church friends, who are of a similar age to me, they usually cannot even understand what I'm talking about. A calling, what is that?

I see now that's the point of the discerning process, to evaluate my calling and to understand more fully what is involved in being in full time ministry today. I believe that although I will have a much greater understanding of what will be demanded of me, I think that my answer to the question, 'where do you feel God is calling you to serve,' will remain essentially the same as when I was first interviewed by the Church of Scotland.

I am called to serve Christ and to follow whatever path he leads me down and I feel Him leading me to build his Church always under the guidance of the one who guides us all.

I am enjoying my time in St Ninians Old and I am looking forward to continuing to learn from and working with all of you for the remainder of my time with you. I value the guidance and wisdom of my mentor, Gary.

Thank you for accepting me into the life of your Church, in meetings and in worship. We are all called in some way to build God's kingdom and serve Christ to the best of our abilities in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please keep me and my family in your prayers as I seek to clarify God's call on my life.

Your brother in Christ,
David

The Seafarer's version of the 23rd Psalm

THE SEAFARER'S VERSION OF THE 23RD PSALM

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
He guides me across the dark waters.
He steers me in deep channels.
He keeps my log.
He pilots me by the star of holiness
for His name's sake.
Yea, though I sail 'mid the fender and
tempests of life I shall dread no
danger for He is near me.
His love and care shelter me.
He prepares a harbour before me in
the homeland of eternity.
He anoints the waves with oil, my ship
rides calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight shall
favour me on my voyages and I will
rest in the port of our Lord forever.

The 8th Stirling (St.Ninians) Company of the Boys' Brigade

DAVID ROSS

It continues to be a very busy period for the 8th Stirling Boys' Brigade where over 50 boys are now coming along each week, enjoying fun and fellowship. With lots of activities on both as a company and with the Battalion our boys continue to get 'stuck in' to all on offer.



9 of our Anchor boys enjoyed a super evening at Kidzworld Soft Play where fun was had by all.

13 of our Junior Section attended the Battalion 10 Pin Bowling competition where Jack, Leighton & Ben were 3rd, 4th and 5th. Well done boys!

Our Annual 8th Stirling Quiz night was a success once again, with a total of £570 raised for company funds. Thank you to all the friends, parents, members of the church and boys who came along and made the night such a success. We had record numbers of over 70 people taking part!

For the Company Section, a busy Spring awaits. 3 of our Seniors boys will be attending the Building your Skills course in Polmont with boys from right across the Mid-Scottish area. This day of team building, and problem solving is an important part of the Presidents badge, the second highest award in the Boys' Brigade.



A return to BB camp is also on the horizon for the Company Section, where a weekend of fun and adventure awaits as we head back to Tighnabruaich in May. We had great success last year and we can't wait to do it all again!

The 8th Stirling meet in the Church Halls on:

Anchors: Wednesday: 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Juniors: Friday: 6:45pm to 8pm

Company Section: Friday 8pm to 10pm

Tuesday Group

MIRANDA MILLER

Many thanks to all who attended the recent Christmas lunch at Stirling Golf Club. There was a very good turnout and the club provided an excellent seasonal two course meal which was enjoyed by all.

The recent Burns Supper was very well supported. The Rev Gary McIntyre was MC for the evening and various members and elders from our own church participated in the event. The committee would like to thank them most sincerely for their input. Shaun More provided an excellent Burns Supper, so many thanks to him and his catering team who served the meal.

It's hard to believe the session is nearly over. The AGM will be held in the King Robert Hotel on Tuesday 26th March. The business meeting will begin at 12 noon followed by a two-course lunch at 12.30 pm. Cost of lunch is £15.00.

Many thanks to all who have attended the meetings over the last session. There would be no Tuesday Group without you.

A very big Thank you to all the committee and other volunteers who have helped over the past months.

The new session will resume in September, with dates still to be confirmed.

Stirling Kirks Together

Thank you for your continued support of the Stirling Kirk's Together events, particularly the monthly Friendship lunches.

Due to the marvellous support these events receive Stirling Kirk's Together were able to donate recently £250 each to:

- CHAS
- PDSA
- The Salvation Army
- Médecins Sans Frontières

Thank you.

Pastoral Care Group

GRACE McINTOSH

If you know of anyone who would benefit from telephone contact or a visit from a Pastoral Care Group member, please let me or the Minister know.

Social and Fundraising Committee

ALISON NEWMAN

The last Soup and Sandwich lunch for this session will be held on Saturday 2 March from 12 noon until 1.30pm.

The committee look forward to seeing you all when we resume in October.

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported the lunches over the last 6 months.

Sunday Club

We have had a busy and varied start to the new year at Sunday Club. We started the session back by talking about Epiphany and we made our own Three Kings.



In preparation for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch we made bird feeders. That was lots of messy fun.

We also planted cress seeds and talked about the *Parable of the Sower* and we learned about the story of Adam and Eve.

In the coming weeks we will be talking about Lent and we are looking forward to our Easter crafting.

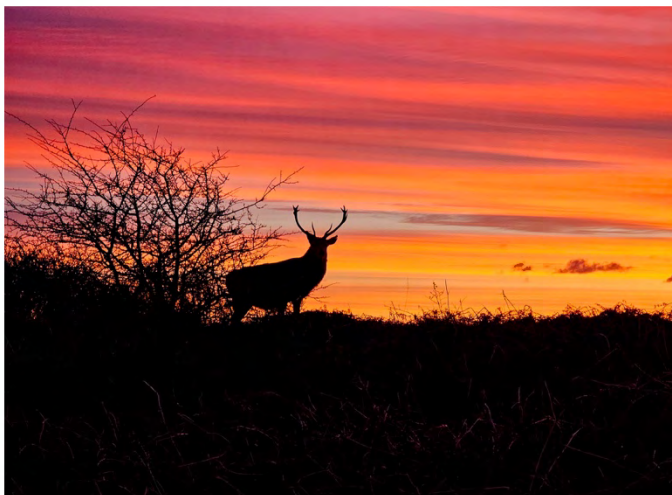
Sunday Club is for children from Nursery to Primary 7. We would love to welcome new families to our Sunday Club family.

Photo Gallery

NIALL COLTHART

Stag at dawn.

Niall's Dad Ernie submitted this photo that Niall snapped near his home on Islay.



Tuesday Group Burns Supper

The Tuesday group hosted a fabulous evening celebrating the Bard at their annual Burns Supper on Tuesday 23rd January.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was our Minister Rev Gary J McIntyre who also delivered the Immortal Memory.

Callum Wynd piped in the haggis that was carried by our very own "Poosie Nancy" Elaine Mackay.

The haggis was addressed by Tom Pollock who also recited a poem.

The Toast to the Lassies was delivered by Arthur Walls and Julie Russel gave the Toast to the Laddies.

The company were entertained by Rob and Pam.

All enjoyed a lovely meal supplied by Shaun More.

And Thelma Jamieson did the vote of thanks.

A big thanks goes to the Tuesday Group committee and all the helpers for organising and all the work done on the day setting up the Parish Halls.





The Gospels

ARTHUR S WALLS

St. Luke's Gospel

The Four Gospels in The New Testament all have their own uniqueness. For the Spring Edition of *The Parishioner* I have chosen to outline the Gospel of St Luke, and then I will discuss the other three Gospels, Mark, Matthew and John in the ensuing 2024 editions.

St Luke's Gospel is the only one of the four whose writer is not a Jew but a Gentile. It is unique in other respects as well but the fact that Luke was a Gentile is of great importance. He was a medical man, a doctor by profession.

Luke, of all the Gospels, gives us the fullest life story of Jesus. It is also the only one to have a sequel. The Gospel is part one of a two-part history of Christian beginnings: Luke and The Acts of The Apostles.

Both parts are dedicated to the same man, the Roman Theophilus and both are written for the same reason, to show God working out His purpose in the life and work of Jesus and his followers. Theophilus is called, 'most excellent Theophilus', and the title given him was the normal title for a high official in the Roman government.

First and foremost, Luke's Gospel is an exceedingly careful bit of work. His Greek is notably good. The first four verses are well-nigh the best Greek in the New Testament. In them he claims that his work is the product of the most careful research. His opportunities were ample, and his sources must have been good.

As the trusted companion of Paul, he must have known all the great figures of the Church, we may be sure that he had them tell their stories to him. For two years he was Paul's companion in imprisonment in Caesarea. In these long days he had every opportunity for study and research, and he must have used them well.

But the outstanding characteristic of Luke is that it is The Universal Gospel. All the barriers are down; Jesus Christ is for all people without distinction.

Examples of this are the very special place Luke gives to women and Samaritans. In Palestine in those days the place of women was low. In the Jewish morning prayer, a man thanks God that he has not made him 'a Gentile, a slave or a woman.'

There are many examples the place Luke gives to women. The birth narrative is told from Mary's point of view, we read of the woman who anointed Jesus's feet in the house of Simon the Pharisee. Also, Luke makes vivid the pictures of Martha and Mary and of Mary Magdalene.

It is very likely that Luke was a native of Macedonia where women held a more emancipated position-than anywhere else; and that may have had something to do with it.

The outstanding characteristic of Luke is that it is the universal gospel. Jesus is for all people without distinction. Another example of this is Luke's attitude to Samaritans. The kingdom of heaven is not shut to the Samaritans. Luke alone tells the parable of the Good Samaritan and the one grateful leper who is also a Samaritan.

All the barriers are down; Jesus Christ is for all people without distinction.

Because of this Luke is the easiest of all the gospels to read. He was writing for people very much like us.

Poem – *There Was No* - Stewart Henderson

Submitted by MARGARET SIBBALD

There was no grave grave enough
to ground me
to mound me
I broke the balm then slit the shroud
wound round me
that bound me

There was no death dead enough
to dull me
to cull me
I snapped the snake and waned his war
to lull me
to null me

There was no cross cross enough
to nil me
to still me
I hung as gold that bled, and bloomed
A rose that rose and prised the tomb
away from Satan's willful doom
There was no cross, death, grave
or room
to hold me.



Scottish Bible Society – Bibles for Bairns

GIFT A BIBLE TO A BABY IN SCOTLAND



Bibles for Bairns brings the Bible into the lives of children in Scotland through birthday gifts from age 1-5.

Reading to babies and young children helps them to learn and grow. What if the stories read to babies and young children at these crucial moments were stories from the Bible; stories that told children they were safe and loved by a God who made them and will always be with them as they learn and grow.

- Once a child has been registered, they will receive the **Share a Story Bible** on their first birthday.
- On their 2nd, 3rd & 4th birthdays The Scottish Bible Society will send **birthday cards and fun** resources to encourage the whole family to keep engaging with the Bible.
- On their fifth birthday, they'll be given a **children's Bible** to start to read themselves and to explore with the adults in their family.


Registration for babies born in 2023 will remain open until March 2024. Registration for babies born in 2024 will be launched in April this year. PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER A CHILD WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE PARENTS.

How you can help

1 Share

Word of mouth is a great way to spread the news.


Your recommendation could help to begin a child's journey with God as they receive their Share a Story Bible.



2 Volunteer

We need help wrapping the gifts.

If you'd like to bless children and their families by wrapping their gifts, register on our website.



3 Give

Your contribution has the potential to make a real difference.

Bibles for Bairns encourages parents, carers and their children to bond through reading the Bible together, developing a foundation for faith in Jesus.



For more information visit

<https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/bibles-for-bairns>



Photo Gallery

LORRAINE REID
McMichael Chapel
Windows



Poem – *These are the hands* - Michael Rosen

Submitted by DOT GAIRNS

Michael is an author. He wrote a book called “Getting Better” after recovering from COVID. During his illness he was in a coma for 40 days.

These are the hands Michael Rosen

These are the hands
That touch us first
Feel your head
Find the pulse
And make your bed.

These are the hands
That tap your back
Test the skin
Hold your arm
Wheel the bin
Change the bulb
Fix the drip
Pour the jug
Replace your hip.

These are the hands
That fill the bath
Mop the floor
Flick the switch
Soothe the sore
Burn the swabs
Give us a jab
Throw out sharps
Design the lab.

And these are the hands
That stop the leaks
Empty the pan
Wipe the pipes
Carry the can
Clamp the veins
Make the cast
Log the dose
And touch us last.

Israel/Gaza Conflict

At the meeting of Perth Presbytery on Saturday 3rd February the Rev Muriel Pearson addressed the Presbytery. Ever since the Hamas attack in October 2023 and the response from Israel, the situation has deteriorated with widespread destruction of buildings in the Gaza strip involving the displacement of the entire population, as well as a very high toll of deaths. Her ministry sought to meet to pray, to heal divisions and to channel rage into positive outcomes.

Rev Pearson indicated the Presbytery of Perth could assist the ministry in Palestine in the following ways:

Stay informed - Sign up for Mission Partner Letters and blogs, with the Balfour Project, or Embrace the Middle East, both of whom also provided good commentary on the situation.



Financial support - Raise money to make small grants through Christian Aid or the Church of Scotland to support the Christian community and/or local NGOs working to promote peace with justice. Support Palestinian craft producers by inviting Hadeel to run a stall at church events.

Advocate and lobby - Write to MP's asking them to raise with the UK Government the hope that International Humanitarian Law would be upheld; that the State of Palestine would be recognised; and that they would work with all parties to ensure a political solution to the conflict with human rights guaranteed for all.

Pray - Join Christian Aid, the Church of Scotland and others on the 24th of each month to hear from partners and to pray in an informed way. Sign up for Sabeel's weekly prayer letter which gave good background as to what was happening 'on the ground'.

Church of Scotland Learning

New courses aimed at encouraging people to explore their faith as well as supporting local church office holders in their roles have been added to the Church of Scotland Learning platform.

The latest modules to be added to the site will explore becoming an elder, becoming a session clerk, growing as a leader, exploring your calling and spiritual gifts, and funeral ministry.

As well as the new courses, the original study options which range from conversations in discipleship to equality, diversity and inclusion, will remain available to users.

It is hoped that the training will also help people to make a real impact in the communities they serve, as well as to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

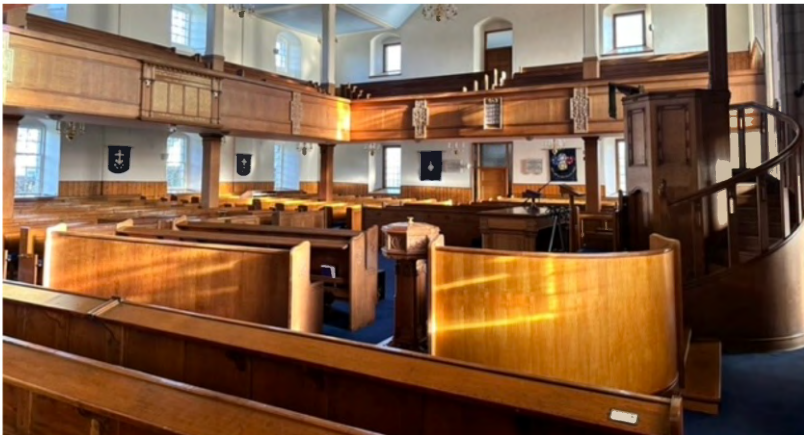


Visit, <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/church-of-scotland-learning> or scan the QR code. If you have any specific questions, you can contact the Church of Scotland Learning team by emailing Learning@churchofscotland.org.uk



Photo Gallery

REV GARY J MCINTYRE



Sunlight in
The
Sanctuary.

Poem – *Close Enemies* – David D Ogston

There were three men in that country
Who walked and slept in fear.
Each saw his own sweet fantasies
In front of him appear.

For Caesar, Pilate held the rule
And beat a martial drum.
Each loyal Jew was ready for
The day of wrath to come.

In purple and in jewels bright
Sat Herod on his throne
He was the landlord poor and weak
Of all the might of Rome.

And Caiaphas the Temple Mouse
Who prayed with open eyes
And Caiaphas with cunning says
'Find me a man that dies'.

There were three men in that country
Three lonely men of power
Close enemies and distant friends
Who waited for their hour.

There was one man in that country
One daring, dreaming man
Their flags and thrones and prayers too
Could not destroy the plan.

The Parish Register

Baptism *"Let the children come to me".*

10th December 2023

Daisy Carol McEwan, daughter of David and Lynn

Allan Henderson, son of Allan and Alana

Marriage *"The greatest is love".*

28th December 2023

Scott Williamson and Fiona Harrison

17th January 2024

John Graham and Lyn Graham

Deaths *"I am the resurrection and the life".*

1st December 2023

Mr Jack Brown

27 Carrick Court

Braehead

18th December 2023

Mr George Smith

2 Livilands Gate

Stirling (District 19)

17th January 2024

Mrs Margaret Haldane

10 McLaren Terrace

St Ninians

22nd January 2024

Mrs Alison Crozier

1B Burnside Street

Stirling

22nd January 2024

Mrs Violet McNee

Randolph Hill Care Home

Dunblane

27th January 2024
Mr Dougal Hall
Wallace View Care Home
Stirling (District 41)

29th January 2024
Mrs Margaret Watkins
Annfield House Care Home
Stirling (District 41)

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost a loved one.

Photo Gallery

ARTHUR S WALLS

Daffodils the harbingers of Spring.



RECIPES



Swiss Roll

THELMA JAMIESON

INGREDIENTS

3 eggs

3oz castor sugar

3oz self-raising flour

1 tablespoon hot water

Jam



METHOD

Beat eggs and sugar until the mixture is thick and creamy. Sieve flour and fold in gently using a metal spoon. Lastly fold in the water.

Pour into a swiss roll tin that is lined with greaseproof paper. Bake at 220°C (425°F; gas mark 1) near the top of the oven for approximately 7-10 minutes.

Turn out on to sugar greaseproof paper. Spread with jam. Trim edges and roll up firmly. Good Luck 😊

Recipes Remembered

AVRIL SCOTLAND

In the long, dark days of winter, as one year slips almost imperceptibly into the next, I find myself reflecting on days gone by. Wallowing in the rosy glow of nostalgia it's easy to conclude that times were better, simpler— but it's not long before balance is restored as I recall aspects that I'm glad are past and gone.

In my own case I think on the many years it took me to conquer the irresistible urge to remove every scrap of perceived dirt or suspected dust from the house on December 31st. But succeed I did. No shame whatsoever is now felt! Overcoming the urge to produce a mini mountain of food on that day is an

altogether more difficult matter. Panic sets in — I ‘ve not made a sultana cake, should I do more shortbread?

Baking is in my blood, it’s part of my DNA and, for me, baking is inextricably linked to New Year. The whole family gathered at my Granny’s on January 1st for the three-course lunch. Hardly was that cleared away when extended family members would appear and the steak pie tea was produced accompanied by copious baked goods. That one tiny woman could single handedly assemble such an array is a thing of wonder— but in a family of bakers Granny reigned supreme.

There followed in January visits to all the Aunties when each would bring forth their specialities— to be commented on (and judged!) and to hopefully win Granny’s smile of approval. Many of these items I make to this day, and, indeed, I think it’s a fine way to remember those long gone— in the food they produced with such pride and love. For many years, however, one thing did continue to elude me. My Auntie Grace’s Swiss Buns.

These apple filled delights were loved by all, but Auntie Grace never divulged the recipe— even to her own daughters. Over the years I tried various pastry tweaks with notable lack of success and then, much to my delight, in an old book, I found this recipe and I will share it for it deserves to be remembered. Although called Swiss Buns, it is in fact Scottish in origin.

Swiss Buns

INGREDIENTS

9 oz plain flour
1 tsp cream of tartar
half tsp bicarbonate of soda
pinch of salt
4oz. butter
4oz caster sugar
1 egg
1–2 tbsp water

METHOD

Combine these ingredients— I use a processor. The resulting dough is fairly soft and benefits from being rolled out, to approximately the thickness of a one-pound coin, on Bakewell paper. Line a greased bun tin with this pastry and fill

with cooled apple purée, sweetened to taste. Apply the pastry lids and seal. Do not make an air hole. Bake at 200°C till golden brown— about 15 minutes. It's better to cool slightly in the tin before removing the buns— they are very fragile when hot.

Being in thrall to baking, I loved the Great British Bake Off from its inception— but my enchantment has cooled of late. All emphasis seems to be on that which is new and innovative. Exploration of the new is all very well, but surely the traditional should also be celebrated. I seem to be one of the few who still regularly bake treacle scones— however, I always find they are welcomed. In an effort to ensure that this one-time mainstay of the Sunday Spread is not completely forgotten, I am sharing this recipe.

Treacle Scones

INGREDIENTS

8oz. Self-raising flour
1tsp baking powder
1 tbsp caster sugar
1 tbsp treacle
2oz butter or margarine
1 tsp mixed spice
1 tsp ginger
quarter pint of milk (approx.)



METHOD

Bring together all the dry ingredients together with the butter and treacle in the mixer then add milk and combine with a fork to achieve the scone consistency. Bake at 220°C for about 10 minutes.

Although I welcome the upsurge in baking that has resulted from the many television shows, I occasionally question whether they have been entirely beneficial. Who knew baking was such an exact science? My Granny baked by handfuls. My Mum used a certain tablespoon. I now feel the need to weigh things but mainly to pass on recipes to my elder granddaughter who is of a mathematical bent! However, I do not think I would bake at all were it not for the numerous appliances that adorn my kitchen — so progress is welcome!

One last dip into nostalgia. Is it not time for the comeback of the girdle scone? With the ready availability of buttermilk, they should surely retake their place in

the lexicon of Scottish bakery. They may not be elegant, no one could describe them as dainty, and I won't be making them for a Church afternoon tea — but they do taste good.

Now does anybody have a good Madeira cake recipe.

Photo Gallery

Marion Jackson

Curral das Freiras. Madeira.



The name Nuns Valley was apparently first used in 1565 when nuns from the Santa Clara convent in Funchal fled to this isolated location to escape from French privateer attacks on Funchal, when access to the valley was difficult. It is isolated in a deep cauldron-

shaped valley surrounded by high mountains and celebrates an annual chestnut festival, chestnuts being widely used in cooking, baking and the making of alcohol. The encircling steep hillsides are used for the growing of cherries and grapes used in the production of Madeira wine.

Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

In the Summer 23 edition of *The Parishioner* we had an article indicating that we would no longer be collecting stamps as The Leprosy Mission, to whom we used to send our stamps to, was discontinuing their collection.

We have learned that the British Heart Foundation, that have a shop at the foot of King Street in Stirling, take stamps. So if you continue to find yourself tearing stamps off post that arrives in your house (I know I do) and then realise you have no place for these stamps to go...you do now, the British Heart Foundation shop at the bottom of King Street. 😊



Holy Week Family Quiz

1. What did Jesus ride on coming into Jerusalem?
2. What did the people lay on the ground in front of Jesus?
3. What were the people doing inside the Temple that made him angry?
4. What did Jesus do?
5. What did the Temple rulers want to do with Jesus?
6. Who went secretly to the Chief Priests to tell them when it would be safe to arrest Jesus?
7. What did they give him?
8. Did Jesus say at The Last Supper that one of his disciples would betray him?
9. Jesus told the disciples to eat the bread. What does the bread represent?
10. What does the wine represent?
11. Who kissed Jesus on the cheek?
12. Who denied Jesus three times just like Jesus said someone would?
13. Judas was sorry that he had given Jesus to the Chief Priests. What did he do when he went to the Temple?
14. Then what did he do?
15. Who did the people choose to be set free?
16. Pontius Pilate asked the people "What shall I do with Jesus?" And what did the people say?
17. What was put on Jesus head?
18. What did Jesus have to carry?
19. What was Jesus nailed to?
20. Why were guard's placed at Jesus's tomb?

ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

PARISHIONER

SUMMER 2024



**The Summer Edition of the Parishioner
will be out in early June.**

Submission Date for Articles is:

Sunday 12th May

Thank you

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