

*Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
St Ninian's, Castle Douglas
(Scottish Charity No: SC011079)*



St Ninian's Review

Issue No 56

Advent 2016

SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS-TIDE 2016

Sun 11 Dec - Advent 3

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Eucharist and Nativity Play

6.00pm Evensong

Wed 14 Dec

10.15 am Holy Communion

Sun 18 Dec - Advent 4

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Eucharist

Wed 21 Dec - St Thomas, Apostle

10.15 am Holy Communion

7.00pm Christmas Carol Service

Sat 24 Dec - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Sun 25 Dec - Christmas Day

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Service followed by

11.45am Holy Communion (Said Service)

No Sunday Evening Alternative Service

Mon 26 Dec - St Stephen

10.15 am Holy Communion

Tue 27 Dec - St John the Evangelist

8.30am Holy Communion

Wed 28 Dec - Holy Innocents

10.15 am Holy Communion

BISHOP GREGOR'S CHRISTMAS 2016 MESSAGE



As I write, the clocks have gone back and things are getting darker. People now talk of light deprivation as a medical condition and it does seem that some of us are susceptible to all of that.

But, at this time of the year, there's a lot of extra light around. Crowds of people out shopping and enjoying themselves among the brightly lit streets. Christmas lights and Christmas attractions. And, here in Glasgow, down at the St Enoch Centre, the wooden booths of the Christmas market, glühwein, bratwurst and those wonderful German Christmas robins, like the one I bought a couple of years ago, on sale once more. Wet, grey, dark there of course too, but surrounded by light, colour, life, fun.

It's easy enough, it's fatally easy enough, for Christian people like us, to dismiss all of this as so much tinselly trivia, utterly unrelated to what we like to call the "true meaning of Christmas." Well, if you have thoughts like that, let me try to persuade you this Christmastide to give them up, once and for all. People like us who will gather at the Christmas Eucharist to welcome the true light who lightens everyone coming into the world, have no business being sniffy about people's desire at a dark time of the year to enjoy light and warmth and being together in that light and warmth. We should have the imagination to sense that, however vaguely, this is a very natural, very human, and so ultimately God-given reaching out for something better that lies beyond the often dark and grim realities of the world we live in – and, God knows, they are dark enough.

So, for us, far from being nowhere near the true meaning of Christmas, the Christmas lights in streets, on countless trees, the reindeers and snowmen plastered all over houses or wherever, should point us towards another light. And here's the difference - sometime in January all the Christmas and seasonal lights and all the Christmas and seasonal attractions will disappear, put away for another year. Like many people I hate taking all my own lights and cards and tree down – the house looks so bare – but I ought to remember that the light we have been celebrating in the twelve days of Christmas shines all the year round and can never be taken away or extinguished.

One of the simplest and yet most powerful testimonies I ever heard to this great hope of ours was offered by one of my curates when I was Rector

of St Ninian's in Pollokshields on the south side of Glasgow. He was taking some children round that wonderful church and they noticed the white light burning above the altar of the side chapel, where the sacrament of consecrated bread and wine was kept. Why was that light burning away there? Well, he said, it is there to remind us that Jesus the light of the world is always with us so that, even if we came into this big church in the dark we needn't be afraid because Jesus is here, Jesus is with us, the light still burns.

So, this coming Christmastide let's allow ourselves to be pointed once again towards that single, world-changing, all-important truth, the Light of the World. He came into the world all those years ago looking for us and He comes into our midst this Christmas on the same quest, to embrace us with joy and wonder so that we may do the very same to Him.

+Gregor

DIOCESAN ADVENT QUIET DAY

AT ST NINIAN'S, CASTLE DOUGLAS

3rd December 2016 : 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

"ADVENT: AN END AND A BEGINNING"

led by

Bishop Gregor Duncan

***Participants are asked to bring their own sandwiches -
soup, tea and coffee will be provided***

FROM THE REGISTERS

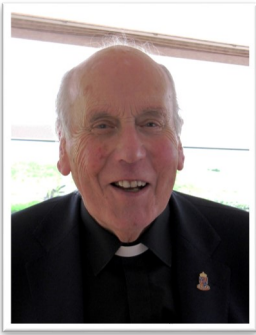
Wedding: 17th September 2016 Lauren Carson and Liam Little

Funerals: 7th September 2016 Donald Sommerville

8th September 2016 Maureen Moore

17th November 2016 Harry Piper

22nd November 2016 Brenda Shapeero



OBITUARY: THE REVD CANON DAVID MAIN

As we went to press the death was announced, on 19th November, of the Reverend Canon David Murray Main. David's family hailed from Caithness but, because of his father's business interests, he was born, in 1928, in the Wirral, and spent much of his childhood in London. He read physics at University College Oxford, graduating BA (Hons) in 1952, and thereafter spent twenty happy years as a master, and then house-master, at Shrewsbury School. As Major Main, he also ran the school Army Cadet Force for many years.

In 1972, the call to Ordination became too strong to ignore and, after a period of study at St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, he was ordained to a Curacy at St Margaret's, Newlands. From 1975-79, he was Rector of All Saints, Challoch and St Andrew's, Newton Stewart; then, from 1979-93, he was Rector of Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock. Bishop Derek Rawcliffe made him a Canon of St Mary's Cathedral in 1985 and, on his retirement in 1993, he became an honorary Canon. His intellect and his enthusiasm for teaching enlightened the theological education of the time, and his sturdy practicality was a steadying influence on the Standing Committee at a difficult time for the Diocese.

Retired to Galloway - which, given the area's tendency to collect retired clergy, he described as "the elephants' graveyard," David became a kenspeckle figure in Castle Douglas, first on his bike and latterly on his mobility scooter. His contribution to the life of the Episcopal Church and the support of the clergy has been enormous and there is no Church in the region in which he has not ministered, in a vacancy, clerical illness, or holiday cover. His love of music led him to be a patron of the Solway Sinfonia, and his love of Scotland's history to be a member of the National Trust for Scotland Galloway Members' Centre and of the Galloway Preservation Society.

There is much more to be said but, for now, let me also record my own debt of gratitude to David for his loyal support, counsel and friendship, both when I was at Dumfries and here in Castle Douglas. His whinstone integrity, wisdom, deep understanding of the human condition, his faith and his faithfulness lead me always when thinking of him to Jesus' assessment of Nathanael: "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no guile."

Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Revd Joy Margerison writes:

“A MAN CALLED WESLEY PASSED THIS WAY”

- METHODISM AND THE METHODIST PEOPLE

This article is written in response to questions from some members of our congregation.



John Wesley

The Methodist Church is a non-conformist denomination and part of the world-wide Christian Church. Beyond our own shores it is strong today in America, the Caribbean and parts of Africa.

So, to explain briefly

We recite the same Creed as the Church here – especially the Apostles’ Creed but also, on occasion, the Nicene Creed. We regularly celebrate Holy Communion/Eucharist, sometimes called The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. We have our ordained clergy, of which I am one. Likewise, we believe in and practise infant baptism, and most of our buildings are registered for the conducting of marriage services.

We place great emphasis on pastoral care as each member has the support of a lay pastoral leader as well as that of the Minister. There is emphasis too on the “social Gospel” which has led and still leads Methodists to be involved in community work and the so-called “caring professions.” In the past this also meant that they were part of the socialist cause, becoming involved in the formation of the Trade Union movement and in politics. As a matter of interest, both my grandfathers were committed to local politics – “doing their bit,” they would say, to change things for the better. The Methodist people are known for their love of hymn singing, which plays an important part in our worship tradition.

So, how did it all begin? Many books have been written about this subject, so here’s just a glimpse of it. The Revd John Wesley (born 1703) was a very traditional Anglican clergyman from Lincolnshire and educated at Oxford until, one evening in 1738 in London, he attended a Christian gathering at the end of which he was fired by a greater enthusiasm for the Gospel, was renewed in Spirit and felt empowered to bring new life to the Anglican Church. “I felt my heart strangely warmed,” he later wrote, “and that I, even I, was saved through faith in Jesus Christ.” His brother Charles, the writer of hundreds of hymns, many of which we still sing, had a similar experience some time later. At that time the Anglican Church was felt by the

ordinary people to be exclusive – part of the “establishment,” in which they had no place or voice. Wesley set out to change all that and to “spread Scriptural holiness throughout the land.” The powers-that-be in the Anglican Church were not in sympathy with Wesley’s ideal and so, after preaching a final sermon in Christ Church, Oxford, John Wesley began his outdoor mission, which continued until his death in 1791 – his final words being, “The best of all is, God is with us.”

So it was that the Revd John Wesley rode 100,000 miles on horseback, criss-crossing the land with his message that, “*All need to be saved and all can be saved.*” The ordinary people, often living in poverty – both rural and industrial – rediscovered the Gospel which meant something to them. As Wesley preached it, this Gospel was all-inclusive as the Lord Jesus meant it to be. They knew and believed that the love of God is for all and for each so that, regardless of wealth or social status, all are of equal value in the eyes of God. Through Wesley’s preaching and that of his growing number of preachers – including his brother Charles, also an ordained Anglican clergyman – ordinary folk were given a sense of value, the assurance of God’s love for them, so that lives were transformed and communities changed – both morally and spiritually.

John Wesley, as a committed Anglican, never intended this evangelical revival to become a separate denomination. For him it was to be a revivalist movement within the Anglican Church. But, once on the move, it took on its own momentum. He encouraged people to attend Church in the morning and a fellowship group in the afternoon. The name “Methodist” was not chosen by Wesley, but thrust upon them (as he said) due to the commitment and discipline of those who became part of this wave of revival.

It has been said that the Methodist revival saved the nation from a revolution such as that seen in France at the same time, as value and hope were offered, not through conflict and national breakdown but through the assurance of God’s love in Jesus, experienced by the poor and voiceless, who formed the majority of people across the land. Equally, John Wesley has been described as the “single most influential Protestant leader of the English-speaking world since the Reformation.”

All this is really the tip of the iceberg, but more will have to be left for another time. Needless to say, Methodism is in my DNA and Methodist people have much to offer to the wider Church. Over the twenty five years of my ordained ministry, I have worked in several ecumenical situations in

which ministry is shared with the Anglican Church and others, too, in a creative way.

“Don’t go to those who need you,” Wesley encouraged his ministers and people, but, “Go to those who need you *most*,” – a powerful call to us today as we seek to serve the Church and the world in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revd Joy Margerison

LITTLE FISHES IS TEN YEARS OLD!

Roz Stevens



To mark the occasion we had a celebration with photos, fish-themed activities and, of course, a variety of lovely sweet treats made and donated by our very generous congregation. The group continues to be extremely well-attended, providing a safe, nurturing and happy place for parents



and carers as well as for the youngsters. A huge thank you to everyone who supports all that goes on fortnightly with refreshments and all that makes the group an important part of the church’s outreach into the wider community.



FROM A MEMBER OF LITTLE FISHES

I have been a childminder for over six years and regularly attend different groups with the children in my care, and I have to say that Little Fishes is definitely a favourite with myself and the children. It is a very warm and welcoming group, especially for the parent/carer as it can be quite daunting going to a new group to begin with.

The children I care for all love Little Fishes - even my now school-age children talk about it fondly. I take them along as it has advantages to both myself and the children. It gives them a chance to mix socially with other children in a different environment, and song time with Roz is fab. For me personally it's a great introduction for my wee charges that sometimes we have to sit on our bottoms!! It also helps that they love the songs, that have become so familiar to them.

As a lone worker, it's lovely to be able to go to Little Fishes and have some adult company in my day and know that my little ones are having fun. Little Fishes is an important part of our community and let's hope that lots of little people continue to enjoy it into the future.

Angela Glover,
Childminder

Let your
light
shine

St Ninian's Sunday School is supporting
Mary's Meals this Christmas

They would like to send some back packs off to Africa and are asking for any donations of pens, paper, rubbers, sharpeners, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, flannels and small toys, or any financial donations to enable them to buy more back packs.

This year, instead of making Christmas cards they are looking for old jam jars that they could decorate and make into lanterns which they will sell. Mary's Meals message this year is "Let your light shine" so they thought lanterns would be a nice thing to make.

www.marysmeals.org.uk/

THE EDINBURGH FRINGE *by Ellie Stevens*

Participating in the Edinburgh Fringe this year was an unforgettable experience and one I will treasure forever. On 1st August, I and three others (Helen Fox, Codge Crawford and Stephen Carruthers) embarked on a journey up to Edinburgh to participate in the Edinburgh Fringe as the “Fox and Hound Theatre Company.” We had spent a lot of time prior to this involved in fund-raising, building the sets and organising everything, and we were all keen to get started! We took two plays with us, “27 Wagons Full of Cotton” – a classic Tennessee Williams play, and “I’m Missing You” – which was written by our own Helen Fox. I was acting in the latter, which made me more nervous as we weren’t sure how audiences would react to it.



“I’m Missing You” is about a man (Sam) whose teenage son had gone missing and who spent 30 years in an underground station looking for him. The play focuses on the people Sam met in his time down there and the majority of these people were ‘missing’ in their own way – a girl with AIDS who was missing from society; a woman with dementia who was missing from her own mind etc. I played a station worker, and the social worker who was trying to find the woman with dementia, as she kept running off. As the play spanned three decades, we changed the posters in the station, the language that we used, and the music to indicate the year, and doing the research for this was great fun.

Being the sound technician for the other play gave me the opportunity to work with people both on and off stage and further expanded my knowledge of the world of theatre.

We were up in Edinburgh for the entire month of August and we performed each play 21 times. We did extremely well and really couldn't have asked for better. "I'm Missing You" was nominated for a Scottish Arts Award and came within the top eight of the 100 that were nominated. We had several 4-star and 5-star reviews; also we were all mentioned by name in our review from the Scotsman about our high standard of acting. We are now a "Sell Out Company." I found the entire experience both exhilarating and illuminating.

Being immersed in the excitement of live shows as an actor, stage crew and audience member for a month gave me a thirst for more. I loved meeting and speaking with actors and playwrights, and simply being surrounded by people who are as passionate about theatre as I am. I learned a great deal about myself and the process of theatre production, though there is always so much more to learn. I am looking forward to returning next year. Fox And Hound Theatre Company and I are making arrangements for our second year performing at the Edinburgh Fringe and have been invited down to Brighton Fringe this year too, to perform "27 Wagons." We are also looking at touring dates for before we head up to Edinburgh again.

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported me; it's always comforting to see friendly faces in the audience!

Ellie Stevens

A REVIEW FROM THE EDINBURGH FRINGE by Judi Duck

"I'm Missing You," a play by Helen Fox, was performed by the Fox and Hound Company in a stuffy, dark, curtained room up several flights of stairs – a typical Fringe venue at Edinburgh's 2016 International Arts Festival.

I saw the final performance of an impressive 21-day run, and I was mesmerised throughout by terrific acting, and an unfolding story of family tragedy and modern day problems.

With a simple set and clever sound effects, the audience was drawn into the lives of many varied characters, played by just four actors, having our attitudes challenged, our sympathies drawn, with scenes and moments of humour, of pathos, of excitement.

The deeply moving denouement left no eyes dry – it was for me the best show of the Fringe this year. The play made a tremendous evening's entertainment from a multi-talented cast – the outstanding star of which was Ellie Stevens; her confident, well-paced and assured acting surely promises a bright future. I was thrilled to greet her after the show, and get her autograph on my programme!

**This Year's Advent Studies, led by the Rector,
will be held on
Wednesdays at 2.00pm in the Gordon Memorial Hall**
(Repeated at Christ Church, Dalbeattie on Thursdays at 11.00am)

“The Supporting Cast of Advent”

Wed 30th November - Angels and Archangels :
Gabriel and Friends

Wed 7th December - The Mighty :
Augustus Caesar and Herod the Great

Wed 14th December - The Humble :
Mary and Joseph

Wed 21st December - The Herald :
John the Baptist





NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Theo and I have now got used to our wee bungalow, having hated it at first, missing the glorious views we enjoyed at Clarebrand. With Theo's dementia progressing slowly our move was inevitable and it is certainly very good to be close to family.

As a 24/7 carer it is necessary to get the occasional break, and this year I have achieved two. The first was in early July with a visit for a week to Lyme Regis, well known of course amongst many other things as the setting for the film "The French Lieutenant's Woman" and that famous shot of Meryl Streep on the Cobb.

After a very enjoyable week I came home along the south coast and called to see Alan and Zoë at Emsworth. Alan is still very spritely while Zoë is struggling with her memory, albeit she is very good at jigsaws.

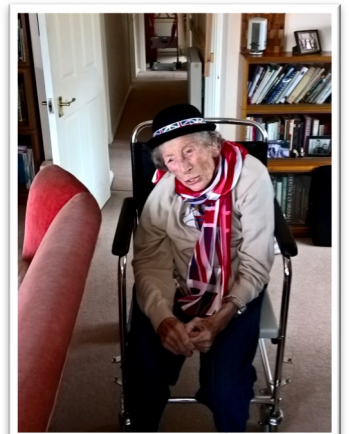


My second trip was in early October heading up to North Yorkshire and going on what I called my "widow" tour. We have four long-standing friends, all of whom have lost their husbands so, as I was fairly close to Northallerton, I popped into see Janet Morris. She has recently moved into a bungalow in a nice Close, with a garden, and was very involved sorting out the latter. It was good to see her and to know she is reasonably close to her godchildren.

Just before my trips we celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday on 12th June and, as it so happened, our own 62nd wedding anniversary. You can see Theo dressed up ready for the street party.

My regards to you all

David Steward





THE HARVEST SUPPER - SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

by Katie Eddyshaw, Junior Reporter

The Harvest Supper was a happy fun place. The drinks, food and entertainment were brilliant! Here's how it went ...



We started the evening by having a drink and chatting to the people there. We could buy raffle tickets and there were lots of prizes. Then we sat down at the tables and were given a choice of food. Chicken casserole, shepherd's pie and a vegetarian dish. It was very yummy! To drink there was coke, wine, apple juice

or orange juice. Then after that, [I know, this is a royal banquet], there was dessert. There were L-O-A-D-S of desserts, including crumble, custard and fruit salad and meringues and cream. They were extremely delicious!

After the food, there was the raffle. Lucy got a raffle number and she walked over quickly, and without hesitation, got one of the gardening prizes. Soon after that, my number was called [surprise surprise]. There were two choices left, a bottle of wine and a gift bag. David said, 'Don't choose the other bottle of wine,' and guess what I did.....

I went and chose the bottle of wine! Everyone was laughing, it was really, really, really funny.

Then there was the quiz. We were separated into groups. The groups were named Sweetcorn, Pumpkin, Broccoli and Cauliflower. The winners were the Sweetcorn group with 21 and a half out of 25. (By the way, my



Daddy was in the winning group!) It was the best quiz ever. What is amazing is that the Harvest Supper made over £400 for the Food Bank!

Thank you so much to the MacQuarrie and Little families for organising the evening. The harvest supper was great fun and I hope we do it again next year.



MY FIRST YEAR AT GLASGOW UNIVERSITY by Katie MacQuarrie

My first year at Glasgow University has definitely been a whole new experience. Moving away from home and into a flat of 11 strangers was daunting but, luckily, not half as terrifying as I first thought it would be. Life in Glasgow became normality very quickly, despite how different it was from being in Dumfries and Galloway, and I quickly settled into my flat and became accustomed to student life.



As classes started I quickly realised not only how beautiful the university was, but also that it wouldn't be quite as easy as I hoped it would be, and that somehow I had to balance socialising with studying. The year flew past, and so did deadlines ... It was *not* a stress-free experience! Despite not getting the work/party balance quite right, I luckily passed every one of my essays and exams throughout each term and so successfully passed first year.

Like I said earlier, moving to university was definitely a big change: experiencing the freedom that living in the city offered; beginning a course about which I had no idea what I was getting myself into; having to take on adult responsibilities (especially managing money which I can't say I'm very good at!); and of course making an entirely new circle of friends - but it was a change I liked. It was an amazing year that brought a huge number of new experiences, friends and great memories, and I am excited to see what second year will bring.



A POSSIBLE BOOK GROUP?

I find the reading of spiritual and faith-related books a bit of a discipline – so many novels and newspapers and non-fiction require less effort! But I know that the rewards of persevering with serious, encouraging, challenging books are great – I just need encouragement and incentive ...

Would anyone like to join me in reading a chosen book, perhaps in the new year, then agreeing to meet for an evening to talk about it and share thoughts, maybe over a simple meal or glass of something?

Perhaps we might start with a book by John Pritchard: “God – Lost and Found,” which comes highly recommended and is not too high-brow!

Do please get in touch with any ideas or suggestions.

Judi Duck

Tel: 01556 502797; email: judiduck@hotmail.com

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS – A LAST BEATITUDE

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota;
The gentle souls who come to “do the flowers,”
The quiet ones who organise the fête,
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven’s gate.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year’s mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

FREEWILL OFFERINGS
A plea from our Treasurer

You may recall that in my annual report I mentioned the possibility of more people giving to the church by means of direct debit rather than in cash by envelope. I hope that this transition can take place: administratively it is significantly more convenient as it reduces the amount of cash which has to be counted and banked every week. If members are worried at being seen to “pass the bag” at collection time during the church service I would suggest that they simply put a token amount such as 50p in the bag and if necessary deduct that from the regular weekly amount which they are prepared to give. However no one should feel self-conscious at simply passing the bag.

I shall leave some direct debit forms at the rear of the church and if any members are prepared to make this change would they please uplift one and after completion take it to their bank. It would be helpful if when doing this they could also confirm to me by email (wgcoul@sky.com) that they have changed their method of giving, or speak to me.

Fred Coulthard
Treasurer

A Secretary for the Galloway Regional Council (GRC) of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway is urgently needed. I have retired after eight years and someone is sought to enable the GRC to keep going. Without a new secretary this may not be possible. Please think about whether you can contribute to the churches of the region in this way. I would be happy to provide further details and help anyone over the transition period.

The Council is the main forum for the Episcopal churches of Dumfries and Galloway to keep in touch with each other and also to represent the region within the Diocese, an important function making sure our voice is heard and we are not forgotten by the other, larger part of the Diocese.

It meets four times a year, often here in St Ninian's, but also in other Episcopal churches of the region. As well as the business there is usually an interesting speaker - and excellent refreshments! I have found the gatherings a lovely way of getting to know people from the other churches and have enjoyed visiting the other churches in the region.

Stephanie Dewhurst

(Tel: 502736 / email: johnsteph@mkcote.wanadoo.co.uk)

THE PORVOO LINK - VISITORS FROM OUR COMPANION DIOCESE OF GOTHENBURG

The link with Gothenburg is now coming to an end. Three ordained Clergy and the Diocesan Secretary from the Lutheran Church in Gothenburg, Sweden, were visiting our Diocese for a few days and they were brought to Castle Douglas for the day by Bishop Gregor and Canon Sandy Montgomerie so that they could see the contrast between urban Glasgow and our situation here in rural Galloway. The Rector planned a small tour to show the visitors something of our lovely countryside on what proved to be a fine day and invited Joy Margerison and me as additional hosts.

After coffee, we set off in two cars along the coast road to Dundrennan Abbey, pausing at the viewpoint near Auchencairn for views across the Solway to Cumbria. As luck would have it, the Abbey gates were locked, but after admiring the ruins from a distance, we continued to Kirkcudbright, where the visitors explored for half an hour and the Bishop disappeared into an antique shop!

Once the Bishop had been tracked down, we continued to Cairnholy, to see the Neolithic burial monuments and enjoy the view across to the Isle of Man, clearly visible. The return journey was via Gatehouse and the hill road to Lauriston.



At Cairnholy



L-R: Revd Joy Margerison, Canon Sandy Montgomerie, Revd Suzanne, Revd Maria, another Revd Maria, Bishop Gregor, the Rector and Holger (Diocesan Secretary, Gothenburg)

After a late lunch provided by Alison at the Rectory, we went along to St Ninian's for the visitors to see the Church and the hall. David then gave us all a brief but informative slideshow in the hall.

Stephanie Dewhurst

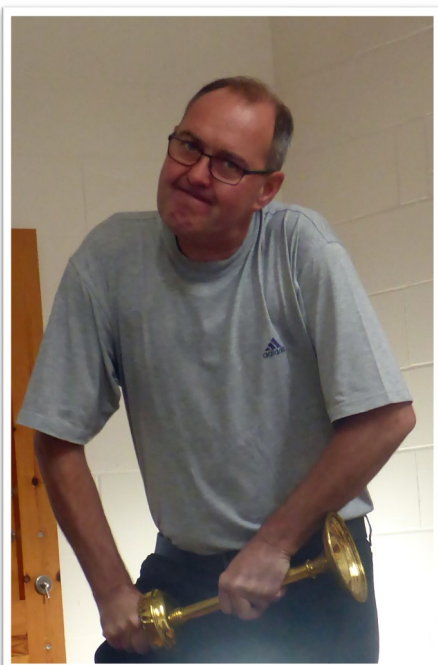
REPAIRS AT ST NINIAN'S

What began as repairs to an infiltration of water near the East Window led to the discovery of small amounts of asbestos as a binding agent in a plaster sample in the Sanctuary. In September, work commenced to remedy this, meaning that all our services had to be held in the Hall. At the same time, internal redecoration was taking place but, when the painter reached the Chancel arch, he discovered that most of the plaster in its upper section was loose, so that all had to be hacked off and redone. (The Rector was a bit worried that it might fall on him while he was preaching!) It all took longer than at first expected, but using the Hall for services worked well and we certainly appreciated being back in the newly-decorated Church once it was finished.

The photos below show the Church at the point when it couldn't get any worse, and the Hall ready for our Sunday 11.00am Family Eucharist.



***Then followed a concerted effort to clean the Church and its contents ...
before it was fit for use once again.***



“LIVE YOUR LIFE” BY CHIEF TECUMSEH OF THE SHAWNEE NATION

(1768-1813)

*(Copied from the Church Newsletter of St Michael's Episcopal Church, Elie,
and St John's Episcopal Church, Pittenweem, September 2016)*

So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart.

Trouble no one about their religion;

respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours.

Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.

Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.

Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide.

Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend,
even a stranger, when in a lonely place.

Show respect to all people and grovel to none.

When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life,
for your strength. Give thanks for the food and for the joy of living.

If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself.

Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools
and robs the spirit of its vision.

When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled
with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep
and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way.
Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.

Kirsty Allison gave me this short anonymous poem for the Review

THE POWER OF WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;

a cruel word may wreck a life.

A bitter word may hate instil;

a brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way;

a joyous word may light the day.

A timely word may lessen stress;

a loving word may heal and bless.





JOSEPH'S STORY *by Sheila MacKenzie*

A weary trudge from Nazareth to Bethlehem
And then the crowded, starlit street
Where everywhere I knocked
Was answered with the cry
"No room!"
Until a bustling housewife,
Catching a glimpse of Mary's pallid face,
Remembered the shippen where her beasts were stalled.
"It's not the best," she said, "but it is warm,
With straw a-plenty for a bed."
She opened a creaking door and we went in
To find some starlit comfort in the starlit byre.
She brought us milk and fresh baked bread
And stayed when Mary's pains began.
"I'm used to this," she said, "I've had five of my own!"
With expert hands she wrapped the babe in swaddling bands
And handed him to Mary who cradled him
Close to her breast.
The straw was soft, the stable warm,
And I an old man, longing for sleep,
Looked with wonder at the miracle of birth
On a starlit night in a crowded town.

ST NINIAN'S REVIEW - Spring 2017

If you have anything you would like to contribute to the next edition
of "The Review" it would be most welcome.

Please give or send it to Stephanie by the end of March.

The deadline will be published in the weekly notices nearer the time.

Email: johnsteph@mkcott.wanadoo.co.uk or phone: 01556 502736.

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AS BISHOP GREGOR HAD THE FIRST WORD, SO ALSO HE HAS THE LAST ...

From “The Times,” Saturday 19th November 2016

Trumpery: “deceit, fraud, imposture, trickery.” So says The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. In our recent experience of the referendum that will lead us to Brexit, and our observation of the US presidential election, many of us cannot escape the sense that we have heard and seen a great deal of trumpery and that the practice of it has led quite a few people to a prominence that might otherwise not have been theirs to enjoy.

Not that we cannot try to escape. After all, we all know that election and referendum campaign rhetoric is one thing — what is done while in power is another. We may guess that some of that rhetoric at least may have been designed to appeal to people who have been left behind, and may even have been aimed at giving them a voice to be heard and acted upon. We may be inclined to believe that you cannot deny the will of the people in a democracy, even if you do not much like it and the people choose to implement it. And so on and so forth. Escape routes are attractive — and these particular ones are doubtless drawing us towards some important truth to be ignored at our peril — but they are dangerously seductive, taking us away from an even greater truth.

Better not to escape then, better to admit that our public discourse on both sides of the pond has been seriously coarsened and degraded by recent events, and we with it. It seems that we care little for the personal integrity of those we vote into power, as long as we feel that they are somehow voicing our frustrations, even our fear and our rage. So deceit, fraud and imposture, trumperies of all kinds are set fair to become the order of the day. And if that day finally comes, what price then our democracy and our freedoms however imperfect and however unevenly spread their benefits?

The measure of integrity which we expect will be the measure we get.

***The Rt Revd Dr Gregor Duncan,
Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway***

WHO'S WHO

Rector	: The Revd Canon David Bayne	01556 503818
Lay Readers	: Mr Douglas Allison	504279
	: Mr Alan Rumble	01644 420250
Lay Worship Leader / Pastoral Assistant	: Mrs Jenny Wright	01557 339081
Methodist Associate	: Revd Joy Margerison	505476
Hon Secretary	: Mr Patrick Little	690507
Hon Treasurer / Freewill Offerings Convenor	: Mr Fred Coulthard	502965
Property Convenor	: Mr Clem Gault	502583
Lay Representative	: Mr Ian MacQuarrie	01557-820530
Alternate Lay Representative	: Mr Ian Mather	505910
Third Lay Representative	: Mrs Ann Gault	502583
Vestry Members	: The Rector (Chair)	
	: Hon Secretary	
	: Hon Treasurer	
	: Property Convenor	
	: Lay Representative	
Elected Vestry Members	: Mrs Sue Beddows	670286
	: Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
	: Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
	: Mrs Jenny Wright	01557 339081
	Vacancy	
Organist	: Mr Maurice Till FRCO LTCL ARCM	620619
Sanctuary Guild Convenor	: Mrs Alison Bayne	503818
Co-ordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups	: Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
MU Branch Leaders	: {Mrs Alison Bayne	503818
	: {Mrs Ann Gault	502583
Administrator / Hall Bookings / Magazine & Website Editor	: Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
Magazine Distribution / Traidcraft	: Mr John Dewhurst	502736
	: {Mrs Rosie MacQuarrie	01557-820530
Sunday School Leaders	: {Mrs Ann Gault	502583
	: {Mrs Roz Stevens	503589
Little Fishes	: Mrs Roz Stevens	503589