

*Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
St Ninian's, Castle Douglas*



Snowdrops at Danevale - 3 March 2013

St Ninian's Review

Issue No 45

Spring 2013

Services for Holy Week and Easter, 2013

Sun 24 March - Palm Sunday

Holy Communion, 8.30am

Sung Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms, 11.00am

Stations of the Cross at St Peter's Church, Dalbeattie, 3.00pm

Mon 25

Holy Communion, 10.15am

Compline, 8.30pm

Tue 26

Holy Communion, 10.15am

Compline, 8.30pm

Wed 27

Holy Communion, 10.15am

Compline, 8.30pm

Thu 28 - Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion, 10.15am

Compline and the Watch Until Midnight, 8.30pm

Fri 29 - Good Friday

**Matins and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament,
10.15am**

Prayers at the Foot of the Cross, 2.00pm

Evening Worship at Kirkpatrick Durham Church, 7.00pm

Sun 31 - Easter Day

Holy Communion, 8.30am

Festival Eucharist, 11.00am

Easter-tide Songs of Praise, 7.00pm

Dear Friends,

Even for those of us who do not acknowledge his authority, the election of a Pope is a moment of excitement and anticipation, as the world's longest-surviving institution — the Bishopric of Rome — announces its new spiritual leader. It's a moment of poignancy, too, as the historic divisions in the Church and the current ecumenical wilderness are painfully highlighted, and the rest of us search for any sign that the new pontiff will offer more than the conventional platitudes of his predecessors regarding reform and reconciliation. So far (on the evidence of three days!) the signs are encouraging: Pope Francis' simplicity of lifestyle, his gently-humorous greeting to the Roman crowd, his evident ability to connect with people and, perhaps above all, his choice of title, promise change. We must all pray that this 76-year-old is granted the strength to follow God's call to his illustrious namesake, "Francis, rebuild my Church."

That's a call we must all heed—and it is certainly at the core of the Diocesan Growth Strategy upon which our Congregation is now embarking. I recognise that we have been working on a similar strategy here for over 15 years, beginning with Joan Lennox's Mission Audit in 1997 and reviewed as recently as 2009 with Dr Anne Tomlinson. Ideally, our next review would not be for 2-3 years, but Bishop Gregor has asked every Congregation in the Diocese to take stock of itself and implement a plan for growth, and it's incumbent on us to participate. We need to approach this in a spirit, not so much of "Oh, no. Not again!" as of, "What more can we do for the Kingdom?" At a meeting with our facilitator, Sandra Walsh, the Vestry agreed that we shall work towards a congregational meeting on Trinity Sunday at which we shall hope to assess where we are, celebrate what we have achieved, and (above all) find a fresh sense of purpose in our ministry – for, in the words of the first mission facilitator, the Prophet Isaiah: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Meanwhile, we once again approach Holy Week and Easter, when we mark the passion of our Lord and celebrate his resurrection. The Collect for Lent 3, describing how “God’s dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,” reminds us how Jesus, in that first Holy Week plunged from the giddy exaltation of Palm Sunday to betrayal, abandonment, mockery and death — and then rose to life eternal. And that experience is a kind of distillate of the human experience: occasionally we soar to the heights; betimes we plunge to the depths (Kipling’s “two imposters, triumph and disaster”). For Christians, though, whatever life’s trials, we are encouraged by the resurrection promise of “life in the Lord” that is in every Easter celebration. May it be so for you this Easter.

David Bayne

MU REPORT

We started off the New Year with a delightful "Journey Through the Seasons" by Jenny Armstrong, just what we all needed after the hurly-burly of Christmas and the New Year. The slides were beautiful and varied and reflected Jenny's interest in and keen eye for nature. The background music by Mozart added to the effects and was much enjoyed by everyone.



Jenny with some of her photos and camera equipment

February brought a visit of two of the carers from the Refuge for Women and Families in need of support in Stranraer and Newton Stewart. Their work covers lots of situations, dealing as they do with everything that can go wrong when people have to face the problems that accrue when families separate, or where there is an abusive relationship, so this



Frances and Elaine from the Refuge

support is crucial for them. We continue to send toiletries to eke out their supplies and members of the congregation have been very generous with this project by leaving items in the basket provided under the font in Church. The two ladies expressed their appreciation for all the gifts received.

Thanks need to be expressed to Marjorie Wright, who has so faithfully collected and delivered these items to the Refuge for about five years. This entails a lot of work and the gifts don't get there by themselves! On this note it should also be recorded that the session has been very successfully run under the joint leadership of Elizabeth and Jenny, but not forgetting the smooth way in which the catering and dishwashing has been supervised by Alison. At last the dishwasher is coming into its own as we learn how to use it!

At the AGM it was announced that there would be a Regional Meeting at the Rectory on the 7th March to which everyone was invited.

On 19th March, the Lenten meeting will be addressed by the Revd Canon Stephen, then on 16th April Mary Wilson will entertain us with "Songs and Stories". "Gardening for Wildlife" is the subject that Pam Pumphrey has chosen for her talk on 21st May, which I am sure will have wide appeal.

This will bring us to the end of another session apart from the final meeting on 18th June, which will combine a Service of Enrolment of new members with a very pleasant day at the Rectory, hopefully in bright sunshine. We look forward to next session ever hopeful that we may have some new members to welcome.

Jessie Lockhart

AUCKLAND CHURCHES REVISITED

Three years ago Kirsty and I travelled to Auckland to help our daughter after the birth of our granddaughter. During our stay we visited some intriguing churches which I wrote about. This time we were more reserved. We did visit a rather way-out place, but as my computer is uncooperative at present, I will leave that for another time. We did find a rather lovely Anglican church where we became such regular visitors that we were asked if we wanted to become members!

We visited the first time after the regular Sunday worship had finished. We were welcomed by a lady who showed us round the church and explained the windows to us – some rather lovely stained glass telling some of the story of the church. It is an old church by New Zealand standards having been built in 1905. It is a wooden construction and our wee place could fit in three times. There is a wonderful sense of space with the light illuminating the interior in a soft and comforting manner.



The side chapel altar with the Iona cross

There is a small side chapel which had an item that took us right back home. On the altar stood an Iona cross on its base of Iona marble. Kirsty and I have links with Iona having visited shortly before we were engaged. And the link in this church was because it was dedicated to St Aidan. Our guide told us that he was from Lindisfarne, but of course he was first an Abbott of Iona. So after a period of quiet in this lovely building we said we would be back next Sunday.

One problem with New Zealand churches is that the Sunday service starts at 9.30! Barely time to get out of bed and have breakfast. But we made it, and after the service came the usual cup of tea and time for a chat. We met several members that way, including one whose Mum and Dad live in Sutherland. He is a retired vicar from the Lake District which seems an unusual move! There is a first service at 8am as we have here and at 5pm an informal contemporary service. That sounded interesting but we never made it. Another similarity with St Ninian's is the holding of a Taizé service on the second Sunday of the month.

The main 9.30 service was Holy Communion taken from the New Zealand order of service. They use a screen for projected words and hymns but I tried to follow the book to get an idea of the structure of the service. That was not an easy task and there were more variations than even we seem capable of in the Episcopal church at large. Generally the order was similar to ours with odd variations, such as no Agnus Dei. It was holiday time when we were there which meant a reduced congregation. So we began with a shake hands and chat to get over the information gap as people returned from holiday. New Zealanders take the summer holiday very seriously! Then, rather to our surprise the first time, we shook hands again in the peace. That was rather lovely as we moved around touching hands with various people in other pews. That might have been why people thought we were new members. It was a good stir up like ours.

The communion itself was interesting. Whereas we have one cup and one set of wafers, in St Aidan's there was the cup, or small glasses, wine or fruit juice, and gluten-free wafers by request. We were served by a group of at least six people and the choice system worked smoothly. (Please don't try that here!) A further aspect was the use of the side chapel for anyone wishing some prayer. One of the team was on duty to give communion and listen and offer prayer. It was a different person each week and the offer was mostly taken up. A nice touch. As sacristan in St Ninian's I watched the procedures with interest. All is fairly standard up to the communion distribution. But afterwards all the wine and wafers are taken through to the vestry. A cup may get finished at the

altar but all the cleaning was done out of the way. As there was a lot of silverware this allowed the service to continue. Not a problem with us.

It was interesting to spend time in a big city church and to see what their aims were. The church slogan is "Worship Caring Mission". Worship includes music where a skilled organist leads a choir and of course the congregation, who really do sing. Home groups meet for study, fellowship and fun (it says here). Caring involves fellowship groups as well as keeping the church clean and tidy. There are various outreach groups where the church premises are used by the community, rather like us but on a bigger scale as befits a larger church. As a clue, there some 150 people normally attend the Sunday 9.30 service with a further 40 or so at 8am. The church is led by the Vicar, Di Woods, a very down to earth person with a past air force background. She was previously a vicar in Hawkes Bay further south. She has a team which includes an



A view down the church to the east window

Associate, (curate to us) and staff for seniors and children, and a supportive Vestry. The form of the service is also quite radical. Most of it is led by a lay member. There are some half dozen who fulfil this role and seem to be likely volunteers from the congregation. Di takes the significant parts and others read the various lessons, including the gospel. The service is said, not sung, with the exception of the Lord's Prayer which was sung to a rather awkward tune. There is a degree of informality but also a sense of the significance of what we were there for. On one occasion

Di asked for important dates in the past week, and I was forced by my wife to raise my hand and admit to a birthday. I got a sweetie as a reward! But overall the experience was very rewarding and St Aidan's will be in our prayers. I would love to be able to form some link with ourselves, but have not thought that through yet - nor spoken to David.

I had a long chat one Sunday about the wider Anglican situation. Much the same story as elsewhere. The usual hot topics are being aired and entrenched positions taken. On the matter of gay marriage the Auckland diocese is gently in favour, but Christchurch is strongly against. There is a drop in numbers and also something of a race tension with Maori and European and yet newer immigrants from Samoa and further afield. A quick glance at New Zealand society shows a young(ish) population intent on the good life and totally uninterested in any religious experience. I could not fathom just how to express the faith in that community. The only Christian expansion seems to be in these big evangelical churches who minister to thousands. It feels like an adjunct of show business rather than faith, and intense 20/30/even 40 minute sermons can be severely constipating. But Di and her team and congregation seem prepared to keep going forward listening to what the Spirit is saying to their church. If you have a mind to, I'm sure they would appreciate prayer from far away Scotland, home of St Aidan all those centuries ago.

Douglas Allison

Here is an article from the March edition of Diocesan News, relating to an appeal from Revd Kenny Macaulay which St Ninian's supported:

CRISIS APPEAL SAVES STRICKEN SCHOOL

Revd Kenny Macaulay came back from Africa in January with bad news. The school in the Gambia which his Dumbarton congregation runs from Scotland was within weeks of collapse. Saving the building would cost £5,500 – but how to find that huge sum in time? Father Kenny takes up the story...

I HAD been made aware there were problems with Dumbarton London Corner School before my annual trip to Serrekunda, but what I found shocked me to the core. The building was literally cracking up and falling down into the old soakaway, and the implications for the children's health and safety became paramount. There were three options:

- Buy land and build an entirely new school which would cost £40,000;
- Repair the immediate damage for £5,500 with lots more on the agenda that needed done;
- Just close the school.

Closing the school would mean an end of the free education, the feeding programme and medical care for our 90 pupils, and an end of nearly 11 years of hard work. Buying and building afresh was totally beyond us, and so the second option was the only real possibility.

I came back to Scotland with one thought in mind, and that was raising the money to save the school. It was fortuitous that the Diocesan Clergy Conference was held during the next week, and I was able to alert fellow clergy to our predicament. The response from congregations and individuals within the diocese has been amazing. The congregation of Castle Douglas sent us a bumper cheque for the £5,500 we desperately needed. My Facebook friends and church magazine subscribers were generous too. Donations tumbled in from strangers and unexpected





sources. The local community gave abundantly too. Before we knew it, God had more than *DOUBLED* the Castle Douglas money! This means that a myriad of other vital jobs can now be completed early: a replacement for the school's badly leaking corrugated roof; resurfacing the playground which also was affected by subsidence; a desperately needed upgrade for the children's toilets; and a new staff toilet. Some play equipment can now be bought too, together with badly needed new text books. The whole place can be painted and the school kitchen can get a facelift. And we'll still be able to squirrel away some cash for a ring-fenced building fund, in case we come across any more disasters!

I don't know how to express my gratitude adequately. The school and the children there mean so much to me and a great number of other people too, who give every month by standing order or through Paypal. It is no secret that we have stopped young children dying thanks to the daily protein they are given and the antibiotics and anti-malaria treatments they get when necessary. A lot of people from all over contribute a small monthly amount to ensure that all this, with free education, continues in this, the poorest part of Serrekunda. Many of the children in the area can still be seen naked in the streets or simply wearing bin bags. Housing conditions are dreadful, and food is sometimes in short supply. While the Gambian education department

recently closed down over 40 schools in the area because of poor educational standards, our little school was rated A+. One inspector said it was the best school in Serrekunda. This was no great surprise to us as we ensure that our teachers are of the highest standard. We pay for them to go to Gambia College if they don't already have the highest of qualifications, and one of our teachers was top of his class this year. Our curriculum comes with UN accreditation. We use stuff like Jolly Phonics although providing the required textbooks and tapes etc can be a huge drain on our resources.

It all costs about £1,200 per month, but we just seem to get by on an annual basis! God is good, and so are our regular sponsors! Our teacher-in-charge, Sulayman Saidy, has so much enthusiasm and talent and he brings out the best in everyone.

So, a massive load of gratitude to all who have helped save our school! Ninety hungry mouths and minds will echo that. We go on in confidence that we'll soon have a building that matches the dreams and aspirations of a committed staff and a rather special administrator!

You can read more about the school at:

<http://www.staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk/ministry/gambian-school/>

ABBAS REST REPORT



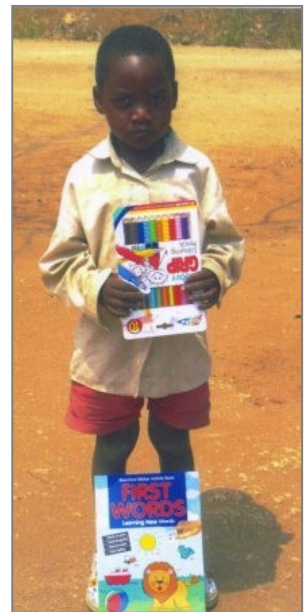
In the beginning ...

Abbas Rest Orphans, PO Box 26330, Ayr, KA7 9BG
12th February 2013

Dear Jenny

Thank you so much for your letter, so full of care and concern. Also thank you for your cheque of £50 (*donations received from the congregation last month, plus sponsor money*). Your support has been of such encouragement to us, enabling much love to be lavished towards the orphans. We are so sorry you are limited because of your husband's health. May you sincerely find some respite. We will definitely continue to keep in touch, especially by the newsletter.

With all kindest thoughts
Jim (Finance Manager)



And from Jenny ...

Many thanks again to the congregation, MU members and friends who have supported the ARO project with me since 2004. I am eternally grateful for all your help with sponsorship of Dorine, Humfury and Kevin (above), which was paid monthly by direct debit to the above address. They are well cared for with this support. Thanks also for your generosity at my coffee mornings and for donations received from many other people. All the money was sent to Malawi ARO to help provide mosquito nets, chickens, goats and any other requirements. It seems a long time

since we were sewing, knitting, collecting toys, sewing and knitting machines, and I sat at my table collecting everything up and taking boxes out to Peter and Kirsi Poole when they lived Carsphairn. Such a lot has happened since then, and Kirsi is sadly missed. I loved talking to her and about the work they hoped to achieve.

I will continue my support for ARO and send gifts and letters to the children and, if anyone wishes to make a donation at any time, I will save it in the little green box and send a collective cheque when I total £50.

Time marches on and you do what you can; a kindness, however small, can bring such joy to those in need. God bless them all.

Jenny Spence

THE VINE TRUST

The Vine Trust (www.vinetrust.org) is an Edinburgh-based inter-denominational charity, working in Peru and in Tanzania to improve the lives of vulnerable and homeless children and orphans. As well as running two ships on the Amazon (and soon another on Lake Victoria) which take medical services to remote communities, they support building projects.

In September, Jim and I, with half a dozen others from Castle Douglas, have the exciting opportunity to join a work party to Tanzania. There, we will be part of a team of volunteers working with local helpers and craftspeople to build a home, near Mount Kilimanjaro, which will house up to 32 children. (There are up to 2.5 million orphans in Tanzania). In two weeks we could take it from foundations to rafters!

Once built, these homes are run by the Lutheran Church of Tanzania. All volunteers pay for their own flights, accommodation and keep. Our fundraising, therefore, is largely for the construction materials which the locals cannot afford, and also contributes to the running of the homes and education for the children.

On Saturday 4th May at lunchtime I will start my own fundraising with a simple African meal in the Gordon Memorial Hall. Watch out for further details! We would value your prayers and interest.

Judi Duck

ST NINIAN'S MEN'S GROUP



The Mothering Sunday Lunch at the Kings Arms

ADVANCE NOTICE

**Our next Men's Group Supper will be held in the Gordon Memorial Hall
on**

Monday 27th May, 6.30 for 7pm

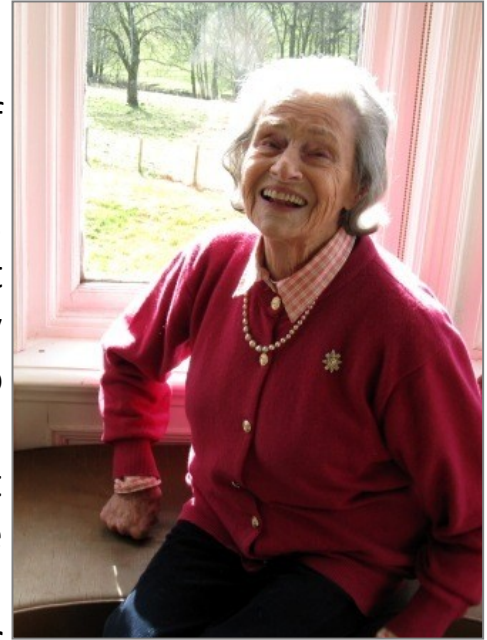
when our speaker will be ex-RNLI member Robert Thompson
from Kirkcudbright.

If you know someone who would like to come to our group they will be
most welcome to join us.

Contact Ian Mather: 01556 505910

SUE FORTUNE

Having heard that Sue Fortune (née Mackie) had worked for Lord Louis Mountbatten during WWII, I thought her story might be of interest to others, so I asked her if she would be willing to be interviewed for our Review. She was a little taken aback but agreed that I could go to see her. So, one cold, sunny morning in mid-March, I made my way to Bengairn House sitting high on the hill overlooking Auchencairn Bay with a distant view of the Cumbrian coast near St Bees. We settled down to coffee in front of the log fire, accompanied by her two faithful friends - her King Charles spaniels.



Sue was one of six children, and was brought up in Aberdeen. After leaving school she spent two years at ballet school in London, before going to Switzerland for a year, and then she joined the WRNS. Commissioned in June 1942, she spent the first year at Sheerness as a 3rd officer before volunteering for overseas duty. August 1943 saw her as a Signal Officer with Combined Operations in London. She was summoned to HQ to be interviewed and was accepted for a posting to Mountbatten's new headquarters in New Delhi – Mountbatten was going to be Supreme Commander in South East Asia. Amazed that she had been accepted, she and several others opted to fly out to India – an adventure in itself, as she had never been on a plane before, visiting Gibraltar, Tunis, Cairo, Basra and Karachi en route, each stopover providing her with new experiences – in Gibraltar buying bananas (a real treat in wartime), visiting the Pyramids, watching a brilliant moon rising over the desert, the searing heat ...

Sue describes the first days in India as “all very chummy and a little chaotic” with nobody quite knowing what they were doing in the new set-up. The signal officers were responsible for the correct routing of signals and woe betide them if they got it wrong – occasionally they did! She was kept very busy, working some anti-social shifts including night

duty, but had an equally hectic social life. This was how she came to meet Bruce, her future husband, who was in the Black Watch, and was an ADC to the Viceroy, Lord Wavell.

In 2002, Sue wrote a book of her experiences in the WRNS (“Time to Remember”) which she has lent me to read: talk about a mad social whirl! Reading it, it is hard to realise, that there was a war going on and serious work to be done – she and her fellow officers were treated regally by their male colleagues with invitations to banquets and dances, to Lord Mountbatten’s private cinema on the roof of his house, as well as to cinema parties at Viceroy House, swimming in the pool set amidst the beautiful gardens there, and so on.

Some five months after Sue arrived in India, the whole headquarters was transferred to Kandy in Ceylon which meant Sue leaving Bruce behind in Delhi. Here, although the social life was still good, she found night duty exhausting, partly due to the heat and humidity there. In due course, her 1st Officer sent her off for some extra leave with Bruce telling her that, if they wanted to marry, Sue could be transferred to Delhi to replace the



***Sue and Bruce with Jeannie, their dachshund,
beside the pool at Viceroy House***

Wren in charge of Rear HQ Signal Office, who was about to go on maternity leave. A month later, Sue was being congratulated on her engagement by Lord Mountbatten, despite the fact that it had not yet been announced officially! A year after leaving England saw her settling into her new job, in which she worked varied hours but, thankfully, no night duty. On 8th May 1945 she recounts, “VE Day: It is difficult to

believe it is all over; how wonderful it is for all of you at home – how I wish I were there ...”

During a period of leave, Sue and Bruce went to Ranikhet, a hill station in the mountains, to stay with friends. She travelled from Ceylon to Delhi where she stepped off the plane into a temperature of 111F (43.8C)! Then she and Bruce continued by train and car, leaving behind the heat of the plain and the jungle through which they travelled, to reach their destination some 6,000 feet up among tall pine trees and snow-capped summits. The contrast with the heat and dust of Delhi can only be imagined. They visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, and went to Jaipur and Simla. Wavell and his entire staff, including Bruce, went to Simla for talks on the future of India. While there, Bruce met and shook hands with Gandhi and Jinnah. Sue was able to visit for five days and even glimpsed Gandhi over a garden wall.

Their wedding was arranged for October 1945 and beforehand Sue was received into the Anglican Church (the same as Bruce) in a lovely service prior to Holy Communion. They were married by the Bishop of Lahore and their reception was arranged for them at the Viceroy's House. The first part of their honeymoon was spent at Mussourie in one of the hunting lodges of the Maharajah of Rampur. They were invited out on a shoot but, crossing a shallow river, the party's shooting brake got stuck and they were unable to shift it. However, a passing elephant “with a couple of chaps atop was commandeered to pull them to the other side” – and then Sue even got a ride on the elephant!

Bruce was soon offered an appointment as Military Secretary in HQ Batavia with the rank of major and a few months later, their tours of duty over, they were on board ship at Bombay and bound for England. Bruce continued in the army, initially in Germany as Company Commander. They then spent time in Scotland, at the War Office in London and finally in Belgium, Sue and their family travelling with him, until 1971 when he retired to run Bengairn until his death in 1995.

As a postscript, Sue was presented with her wartime medals by Sir Norman Arthur, then Lord Lieutenant of the Stewartry, in 2005 – the

records had been lost, hence the delay. She was awarded the Burma Star, the Defence Medal and the 1939-45 War Medal.

Stephanie Dewhurst

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12–18 MAY 2013 - BITE BACK AT HUNGER



'It's very rewarding to know that Christians of different traditions are working together for one common aim during Christian Aid Week.'
Christian Aid Week volunteer.

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight.



Kenya: Justin and Truphena stand proudly by their rich and varied crop, made possible through accurate planting - they receive advisory text messages on their mobile phone.

You can support Christian Aid Week by looking out for local events, and discover how you can be involved

by contacting your local Christian Aid Week representative, Lorna McDonald on 01556 504711 or email ilar@btinternet.com) or by visiting www.caweek.org/article . Help, in whatever form you can manage, is always needed for soup making, baking, helping with Soup Lunches, dishwashing and lots of other little jobs which, when shared out, make for another successful fundraising event. Help is especially needed in door-to-door collections.

The AGM will be held on Monday 8 April at 7.30pm in Castle Douglas Parish Church Hall - everyone is very welcome to attend.

There will be further information nearer the time in our notices on the pew sheets and on St Ninian's website.

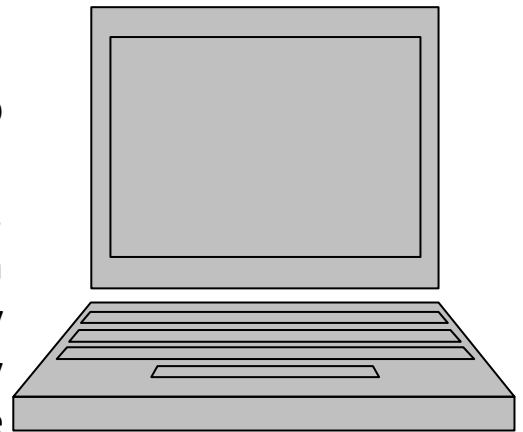
A VERSE FROM 'A LITTLE GIRL'S PRAYER', BY PERCY FRENCH

Dear Lord - Aunt Jane is good I know
But then her smiles are scanty
I do want to be good - but oh!
Not quite so good as Aunty;
I know that I am understood
So no more for the present,
P.S. - Make all bad people good
And all good people - pleasant.'

Sent in by Clem Gault

BEWARE THE MAN FROM MICROSOFT!!

I have had problems with my laptop computer for several weeks. First it crashed when invited into Internet Explorer. That resulted in a new hard drive. A man came, fitted and reinstalled the necessary software. Other problems arose and many hours have been spent on the phone to technicians who, fortunately, work in Glasgow. However, faults still occurred. Hair was torn (not much in the first place!) and naughty thoughts about computer companies chased through my head.



It gets worse.

On Friday 15 March, the man from Microsoft phoned. "I can solve your problems," he said and proceeded to show me how. Usually I invite such people to "go away" or some such words. This man caught me at a very vulnerable point and I let him into my computer. Even worse, I paid him for protection from viruses etc. I was well and truly had!

I have spent more hours on the phone cancelling credit cards; notifying my bank; closing a PayPal account. My computer is shortly off to the repair shop and I shall be bereft for nearly two weeks. Fortunately it is under warranty.

So be warned!! Do not let cold callers near your computer. Microsoft will never call you on spec saying your computer is faulty. Even if it is, choose a company you know or a person you trust. Better safe than sorry - and I am surely sorry.

Douglas Allison

HOW IT ALL BEGAN ...

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dorothy. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known.

He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."
And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."
"YAHOO," said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com. Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE). That is how it all began. And that's the truth ... !

Sent in by Jenny Wright

ST NINIAN'S WEBSITE: <http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/>

**The current week's notices can be viewed on the website
at the top of the News page**

THE NEXT EDITION OF 'ST NINIAN'S REVIEW' will be published in July 2013.
If you would like to write an article or submit anything it would be most welcome. The deadline is the end of June 2013.

Email: johnsteph@mkcott.wanadoo.co.uk , or via the 'Contact the Webmaster' link from the website / Tel: 01556 502736

Current and recent editions of St Ninian's Review are also posted on the website:

<http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/st-ninians-review/>

Our Pattern of Worship

Sundays

8.30am Holy Communion:

1929 Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy

11.00am Family Eucharist:

1982 Scottish Liturgy (except 4th Sunday of month)

11.00am Matins:

Scottish Prayer Book } 4th Sunday

12.00 Holy Communion } only

Shorter Prayer Book Liturgy

6.00pm Evensong (2nd Sunday only)

7.00pm The Sunday Evening Alternative (Last Sunday of month)

A themed Evening Service, using a wide variety of material from Taizé, the Iona Community, etc.

Thursdays

10.15am Holy Communion:

1970 Scottish Liturgy

Services for Saints' Days and other Occasions are detailed in the weekly pew sheet and on the Church website:

<http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/service-times>

The Church is open daily for private prayer

Who's Who

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Rector | : | The Revd Canon David Bayne | 01556-503818 |
| Hon Assistant | : | The Revd Canon David Main | 504669 |
| Lay Readers | : | Mr Alan Stewart Mr Douglas Allison | 660215 504279 |
| Lay Worship Leader / Pastoral Assistant / Hon Secretary | : | Mrs Jenny Wright | 502184 |
| Hon Treasurer | : | Mr Fred Coulthard | 502965 |
| Property Convenor / Lay Rep | : | Mr Clem Gault | 502583 |
| Alternate Lay Rep / Freewill | : | Mr Ian Mather | 505910 |
| Third Lay Rep | : | Mrs Ann Gault | 502583 |
| Vestry Members | : | The Rector (Chairman), Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer Property Convenor | |
| Elected | : | Mr Ian MacQuarrie Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst Mr Ian Mather Mrs Sue Beddows Miss Sheila MacKenzie Mrs Brenda Shapeero | 01557-820122 502736 505910 670286 01644-420623 670666 |
| Organist | : | Mr Maurice Till | 620619 |
| Sanctuary Guild | : | {Mrs Audrey Pointon {Mrs Audrey Slee | 670494 01644-420466 |
| Co-ordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups | : | Miss Sheila MacKenzie | 01644-420623 |
| M U Branch Leaders | : | {Mrs Jenny Spence {Mrs Elizabeth Woodburn | 01557 330010 610519 |
| Thursday Club | : | Mrs Ann Gault | 502583 |
| Men's Group Chairman | : | Mr Ian Mather | 505910 |
| Hall Bookings / Admin Assistant / Magazine Editor / Webmas- | : | Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst | 502736 |
| Magazine Distributor / Traidcraft | : | Mr John Dewhurst | 502736 |
| Sunday School Leaders | : | {Mrs Rosie MacQuarrie {Mrs Ann Gault {Mrs Roz Stevens | 01557-820122 502583 503589 |
| Little Fishes | : | Mrs Roz Stevens | 503589 |