

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

(Scottish Charity No: SC011079)



Wood Sorrel at Mossdale
Spring Emerges from Winter's Debris

St Ninian's Review

Issue No 51

Spring 2015

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The Rt Revd Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, will be here for the entire week and, together with the Rector, will be involved in Services here at St Ninian's and at Christ Church, Dalbeattie.

Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am The Liturgy of the Palms and Family Eucharist

7.00pm An Iona Service (in the Hall)

Monday 30 March

10.15am Holy Communion

8.30pm Compline

Tuesday 31 March

10.15am Holy Communion

12 noon Chrism Eucharist for Galloway Region

8.30pm Compline

Wednesday 1 April

10.15am Holy Communion

8.30pm Compline

Thursday 2 April – Maundy Thursday

10.15am Holy Communion

8.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper
and the Watch until Midnight

Friday 3 April – Good Friday

10.15am Holy Communion

2.00pm Prayers at the Foot of the Cross

7.00pm Evening Worship at Kirkpatrick Durham Church

Sunday 5 April – Easter Day

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Confirmation and Festival Eucharist

7.00pm Easter Songs of Praise

(This will be a joint Service at Christ Church, Dalbeattie)

The Church is open daily for private prayer

Dear Friends,

It has become fashionable among so-called humanists to declare that humanity is now so civilised and sophisticated that we have no need of a God whose precepts offer us a “moral compass” in life; that the Way of Jesus is an irrelevant anachronism in a post-modern world in which we are our own arbiters of social behaviour. I beg to suggest that this smug world-view is flatly contradicted by the evidence all around—and I don’t have to go as far as the Middle East to demonstrate that the veneer of civilisation is both wafer-thin and crumbling.

Just one example, that makes my hair stand on end: Last week, in Telford, Shropshire, a young man became so despairing that he climbed onto the roof of a multi-story car park and, sadly, threw himself to his death. As he stood on the brink, a group of around twenty young men gathered below him, not to dissuade or comfort, or to keep him talking while help was sought, but rather, to taunt him, goad him into jumping, and record his distress on their camera-phones.

For me, there is no qualitative difference between this gleeful barbarity and the atrocities of ISIL or Al-Quaeda: they each demonstrate the same degraded humanity that embraces and glories in wickedness. And they are but extreme examples of the condition from which Christians believe Jesus came to redeem us. Human nature is changed, not by being civilised, but by being *re-born*: as St Paul would have it, “raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness.” And that truth needs to be discovered afresh in every generation.

As we once again remember how a crowd taunted and goaded another young man towards his death, we need to hear again on Maundy Thursday the New Commandment, “Love one another, as I have loved you,” we need to see again the symbolic redemption through the horror of Calvary, and to live again the triumph of life over death on Easter morning. *And then we need to share it with the world*—in Jesus’ own words from St. John’s Gospel, “that the world, through him, might be saved.” Is that an irrelevant anachronism? I think not.

May you each and all have a blessed and joyful Easter.

Yours in Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bayne", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

LITTLE FISHES continues to provide a happy place for parents and carers to meet regularly with their little ones. There are few weeks when the numbers are below twenty five. Over the last eight years Little Fishes has gone from strength to strength. There are several families who are now bringing along their second or third child to the group.



I have always endeavoured to keep the group from becoming a clique, ensuring that everyone is made welcome and introduced to everyone else. Child minders attend with a variety of little ones coming through the doors and welcomed into our beautifully warm, inviting hall. I love organising the rhymes and craft activities.

Early childhood development depends on children feeling safe, secure and loved. Our early brains are wired to respond to the stimulus around us. It is vital that children are talked to, sung to and interacted with. I enjoy talking to the parents and carers and I hope I am able to share my experience and knowledge in a friendly and empathetic way. It is my belief that parents are under tremendous pressure to be all kinds of amazing all the time. With the rise of social media everyone is playing out their perfect life in the public gaze.

Government is putting pressure on parents to get back to work, to be contributing to society and in my opinion overlooking the incredibly important job of building a strong bond and sense of belonging in a child. Families come in all shapes and sizes, with all sorts of issues but I hope that at the heart of every family is the desire to do what is best for the children. After all it is the children who will be our carers and policy makers as we grow older and bow out. I would like to see greater support for families to parent their children. I would like to see a society where people are more important than the acquisition of “stuff”.

I know that parenting matters. If we were to engage with people who find themselves on the fringes of society in their adult life we may begin to have an insight into how we could bridge the gaps. Low self-esteem, a feeling of disconnection, not knowing our place, our strengths or our part to play can cause many people to become disaffected. In my opinion, we need to make sure we are providing nurturing environments, and a loving family home is the ideal place to start; so then we can develop a strong culture of caring for one another. Love and understanding are always part of the answer, whatever the question.

And lastly, my grateful thanks to St Ninian’s and the Mothers’ Union for their continuing help and support.

Roz Stevens

ST NINIAN'S MEN'S GROUP

On Monday 16th February, we had a respectable turnout of 26 members including some new faces from Dalbeattie. As usual we had a three-course meal provided by Brian and Shirley Haining from the Scottish Pantry.

Our speaker at the supper was Mr Alasdair Gair, whose talk was entitled: "From Lochmaben to Dragon's Mouth - My Experience Racing Yachts." Alasdair began his talk by informing us that his mother was the one who instigated it all by telling him he had to get out more and get a hobby! This was when Alasdair started to get involved in yachting and then going into competitive racing. From then on, wherever Alasdair went he ended up on some yacht racing team. Also, on one occasion, when he was yachting in Trinidad and Tobago, he rescued a damsel in distress - and that lady became his wife!



Throughout the talk Alasdair gave us some real "Boy's Own" adventure stories and all the members had an enjoyable evening. Also a lot of interesting questions were asked.

Our next supper will be on Monday 1st June, when our speaker will be Mr Peter Westwood, local author of *"A Pictorial History and Reminiscences of Castle Douglas from 1792"*.

Anyone who is interested in joining the group should contact
Ian Mather or Steven Dill:

Tel: 01556 505910; email ian.mather6@sky.com

DAVID MAIN HAS MOVED ...



His new address is:

7 Bothwell House, 72 St Andrew Street,
Castle Douglas, DG7 1EN

Tel: 01556 504669 (unchanged)

There are no set visiting hours.

SKI TRIP

At the end of January I was lucky enough to be going skiing with Castle Douglas High School. We didn't go alone - there were pupils and staff from other high schools there too. We flew in the early hours of the morning from Edinburgh arriving by bus in Alpe d'Huez around 2pm. It was a long journey and I had never flown before. We arrived at the resort and were shown to our rooms.

Later that afternoon we went to get our skis fitted. I had never skied before either so it was all new to me. On the first day of skiing we didn't feel like we did very much. The resort was lovely and the weather reasonable for us new to the slopes. Over the next few days with a few falls under my belt I gained in confidence. It was great fun. We went down some red and some blue runs. We had to stay behind our instructor Tom and follow in his path. That is easier said than done!

On the last day we were doing slalom runs. On my turn I started well but about half way down my ski caught in the snow and I fell forward, putting out my hand to stop my fall. I sprained my thumb, but fortunately that was all and it was my last run.

I really enjoyed my chance to have a go at skiing and adventure away from home with my friends. It was an exciting and enjoyable trip full of firsts for me.

Sam Stevens



ST NINIAN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Our three meetings since Christmas have all been very interesting, with Jenny Armstrong's beautiful photos of Dumfries and Galloway in January and, the following month, Revd Douglas Irving's photos from, and descriptions of, his visit to China. In March, in a change to the advertised programme, Kirsty Allison led a lively session on 'Women in the Bible' at which we were all encouraged to talk about women from either the Old or New Testament who particularly appealed to us - it was a very informative and entertaining hour!

On Tuesday 21st April at 12.30pm, Margo Currie will be talking about 'Work with the Deaf'. Do come along if you are interested - you'll be very welcome!

LIFE IN ST ANDREWS



Lowena (L) and friends

I have been studying Medicine at the University of St Andrews since September and I am thoroughly enjoying living and studying in such a beautiful part of the country. I am living in Halls of Residence with five other girls, about twenty minutes walk from town and ten minutes walk from the Medical School, which is really modern and well-equipped, with by far the nicest lecture theatre out of all the university buildings. I have been very lucky and met lots of lovely people and made some very good friends, which makes St Andrews feel even more like home.

St Andrews is an incredibly vibrant place considering its size. I have been to several balls, theatre productions and most recently, the Scottish National 'A Capella' Championships which was brilliant. It is however small



enough to have a nice community feel, and the family feel is reinforced by the tradition of academic families. I have a lovely academic Mum who is in second year, and three academic Aunties as well as countless sisters and cousins.



One tradition I'm a little less excited about is the annual May Dip in the North Sea: no matter how sunny St Andrews gets, I don't think it will ever be warm enough for that to be enjoyable!

I occasionally attend the Sunday service at St Salvator's Chapel, which is followed by a walk along the pier at East Sands which is very scenic but a little scary if it's windy!



West Sands, St Andrew's

I am really enjoying my course. It is a lot of hard work but it is very interesting and my lecturers and tutors are all very engaging; I'm particularly enjoying the anatomy and pharmacology part of the course. The information is presented really well through a mixture of lectures, practical classes, dissections and clinical reasoning sessions, which keeps it varied and means I don't have to sit in a darkened lecture theatre all day!

I can't believe that my first year of university is almost over and I'm excited to experience everything else that St Andrews has to offer over the next two years.

Lowena Lindsay

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

11.01.15 Samuel Alexander Wilson

Funerals

11.11.14 Alfred Close

31.12.14 Leslie Scarborough (in Suffolk)

6.02.15 Thomas Stafford

16.02.15 May Fraser

RAIDING THE RECTOR'S LIBRARY

As part of the “Learning and Discipleship” strand of our Mission Action Plan, it was suggested that I might recommend some books on spirituality, prayer, theology and Church history. In this first of the series, I offer ten books that have spoken to me in the area of spirituality, and to which I return time and again for insight, refreshment, support—and plenty of challenges too. They appear in the order my eye lit upon them on the shelves.

- Anything by **Henri Nouwen** is worth reading. “**The Return of the Prodigal Son**” reflects on Jesus’ parable through study of a painting by Rembrandt.
- **Esther de Waal’s “Lost in Wonder”** explores the idea of God in daily life.
- Part-autobiography, part reflection, “**Love’s Endeavour, Love’s Expense**” by **W.H.Vanstone** is the distilled experience of a much-loved parish Priest.
- “**This Sunrise of Wonder**” takes the form of letters from **Michael Mayne** (sometime Dean of Westminster) to his grandchildren. [BTW, Who has my copy?!! I’ve just noticed the gap.]
- In “**The Shadow of the Galilean,**” **Gerd Theissen** looks at the influence Jesus had on his time, without ever encountering him directly. Intriguing but, be warned, some people love it, others dislike it intensely.
- Two spiritual classics. “**The Imitation of Christ,**” by **Thomas à Kempis**, written in 1441, consists of daily readings on his thesis that “to meditate on the Life of Jesus should be our chief study.” **Mother Julian of Norwich’s “Revelations of Divine Love”** (14th Century) offers her unique and timeless combination of mysticism and pithy common sense.
- The name of **John V. Taylor**, former Bishop of Winchester, like some others, will recur in these lists. “**The Easter God and His Easter People**” is a particular favourite. [This is a glorious exception to my rule that sermons should be burned immediately after being preached!]
- “**From the Fathers to the Churches**” is one of many collections of excerpts from the faith and wisdom of the Church’s greatest writers. It follows the themes of the daily lectionary. The editor is **Brother Kenneth CGA**.
- Though now two generations out of date, the works of **C.S.Lewis** never seem to become dated. Here I’d suggest “**Christian Reflections,**” a series of short essays covering everything from ethics to elephants.....

These books are old friends, not the latest publications—that's for another time. They may, indeed, be old friends of yours but, should you decide to explore any of them, I hope you find them as rewarding as I have over many years.

David Bayne

By coincidence, Muriel Palmer from Dalbeattie has included the following in Christ Church's current magazine. She says, "This poem is at the end of Canon Vanstone's last book *Fare Well in Christ*. His second book *The Stature of Waiting* is a book much read and studied during Lent."

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA'S EASTER

'He's gone,' says Joseph, and, with Pilate's leave
Eases the nails and lowers him from the Tree,
Wraps him in reverent and tender thoughts
And lays him in the cave called Memory.

That cave is deeply hewn in Joseph's heart:
All that's within will always be his own:
In memory's cave the treasure of the past
Is safe forever, walled and sealed by stone.

He's safe', says Joseph, 'safe in this cool place
And no one can take my Lord away.
In years to come I'll still see his dear face
As clearly as I've seen it on this day.'

'He's gone!' cries Joseph at the empty tomb:
But Mary says, 'He's left a word for you:
He cannot rest content to be your past,
So he has risen to be your future too.'

© Canon WH Vanstone

CASTLE DOUGLAS SCOUTS – EKALAKALA LATRINE PROJECT KENYA

Summer 2014 was by any measure an extraordinary summer for Castle Douglas Scouts. There was the Queen's Baton Relay, a dragon boat, a BBC Scotland camera crew and perhaps most extraordinary of all, a rickshaw of sorts carrying a pit latrine being cycled around the Stewartry by four scouts at a time.



We, the scouts, built our contraption ourselves out of several donated bikes and some other odd bits and pieces. We rose to the challenge and raised funds through our 66 mile cycle over a weekend. It rained, it was hard work but together we successfully raised sufficient funds to buy the materials needed to provide the students of the school in Ekalakala Kenya with new toilet facilities.

Paul Hodson, our Scout Skip, some 20 or so years ago, had helped to build the toilet facilities they are still using. As is often the way we then got to talking about all the other things that were different in our lives to the lives of the students out in Ekalakala. We discussed the problems that they face and the ways in which we could try to understand, raise awareness and help. And so phase two of our plan was hatched!

Eight scouts, myself included, three leaders, dad included, are now very

excited at the prospect of our visit to Ekalakala. We are going to help build the pit latrines that we raised the money for, learn about the culture by spending time in a village and forge links between our scout troop and their school. We fly to Amsterdam then on to Nairobi in July. We have had our Yellow Fever injections. It is sure to be the most amazing experience for all of us.

We have devised a whole range of different fundraising activities in order to put our plan into action. It would be very much appreciated if the congregation of St Ninian's would support us in this venture. We will put up-and-coming fundraising events in the pew sheet, for your information. I am running a weekly car wash service - if anyone is interested please contact me to book a slot. There will also be a coffee morning in the Parish Church Hall on Saturday 18th April. Thank you all in advance for your generosity.

I think the summer of 2015 is set to be another extraordinary summer for Castle Douglas Scouts.

Sam Stevens

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR ...

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

* * * * *

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Eventually she asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

DIOCESAN SYNOD - 7TH MARCH 2015



I attended my first Diocesan Synod as Lay Representative for St Ninian's on Saturday. It was an interesting if rather long experience. We arrived in Paisley just after 9am having left Castle Douglas at the unearthly hour of 7:15. I took a cup of tea into the fresher's meeting, which I did find useful, and my thanks to David for leaving half an hour early so that I could do so. The business meeting started at 11am, following the Eucharist at 10am. The sound of worship in a large church where the male voices dominated was quite something. Apart from an hour's break for lunch, where the food was delicious if a little slow in being served, we continued until almost 5pm arriving home around 7pm.

There were the usual **acceptance of minutes and financial reports** of which I have copies if anyone is interested. The **budget** was also presented and accepted.

There was a report on **congregational numbers** and it was noted that after a seeming halt in the fall of congregational numbers last year the decline would appear to have set in again. The College of Bishops is presently discussing ways of collecting data to give more useful figures.

A report from Mrs Anne Jones, the **Protection of Vulnerable Groups** officer, was concerned with the slow, or lack of, return of congregational returns which makes her report for Diocesan and General Synod difficult to produce.

Elections took place for various posts on General Synod and its boards. These were uncontested and rather dull. The interesting one for me, was that Revd Drew Sheridan, the convenor of the 'Welcome, Integration and Numerical Growth' team (WINGs) was elected Canon from a field of three in the only contested election of the day.

Two motions were proposed to go to General Synod. The first related to the **Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act**, asking that Canon Law be revised to ensure that no member of clergy should be obliged to act against their conscience in the matter of same sex marriage. This was the liveliest session of the day and, after a vote and two recounts the motion was passed with a reasonable majority in favour. The second motion was to ask that the **Charge of St Andrew's Milngavie be raised to Canonical Status of an Incumbency** with immediate effect. This was agreed.

The rest of the meeting consisted of reports.

There was a very good video presentation from the Dean on his own Charge, **St Mary's Hamilton** where a major project is under way to modernise the buildings, making better use of the site for the many services provided to the local community, while maintaining the best of the historical aspects of the Church.

The other presentation was from **the Cathedral**, where a Diocesan grant will fund a scoping exercise to determine what can be done to improve their facilities.

There were also reports from the **Development Team convenors**, each of relating to one of the six strands of the **Growth Strategy**, explaining their remit, what they have done in the way of workshops both for the diocese and for individual churches, what they are willing to do, and what resources they have to hand. They are pleased to receive any requests or suggestions from congregations.

We had a number of five minute slots at the end before the election results were announced.

- John Stuart, the Secretary General of our General Synod, spoke about last year's **World Council of Churches** meeting in Korea. Its Unity Statement is divided into four sections: the experience of hope/despair in the church ecumenically; a scriptural message; God's call to Unity; and our Commitment to Unity.
- There was also a postcard campaign spoken of for **climate change** to send to the First Minister with the slogan 'For the love of' organised by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.
- The Dean pointed us in the direction of the new **Guidelines for Property Convenors** of which we were provided with a copy. He mentioned a Faith in Maintenance calendar which gives appropriate maintenance tasks for each month of the year and a 'Good Maintenance Guide' provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- **Ministry Development Review** – Canon Jeanette Jenkins reported that this process is now well-established, providing valued support to the clergy. More facilitators are now needed, particularly in the south of the Diocese.
- The Representative from **Gothenburg** expressed gratitude for all that they received through the link with our diocese.
- Ann Glenesk reported from the **Mothers' Union** on the work it does in the diocese. She mentioned the link with the prison service, help with centres

for support of victims of domestic abuse, knitting angel pockets and breast feeding aids and the support they provided for the Commonwealth Games. That's a lot for 200 members and with 30 of those from Castle Douglas who support two of the mentioned projects, not bad going.

All in all an interesting and informative experience if a little long!

Jenny Wright
Lay Representative

UPDATE RE WW1 BOOK

from Muriel Palmer of Christ Church, Dalbeattie
(Tel: 01556 630314 Email: muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com)



Tower of London
Poppy

I am planning to arrange a meeting in the Church Hall at Dalbeattie, for story-tellers and potential story-tellers, sometime after Easter so that I can kick-start the story-collection back into action. Members of both congregations are invited. If it would be easier for the members of St Ninian's I could hold a meeting in Castle Douglas sometime in late May.

To date I have one story in draft and promises of several others from St Ninian's. As I started this project earlier and as I live in Dalbeattie I have many more stories from Christ Church.

As the project has been expanded to cover both churches, the estimated target date for publication has changed. My plans are to be able to have the publication ready for printing by the beginning of June 2016 so that it will be available for the Centenary date of the Battle of the Somme - 1st July 1916 - when so many of our local men lost their lives.

Muriel Palmer

A boy was watching his father, a vicar, write a sermon.
"How do you know what to say?" he asked.
"Why, God tells me."
"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



This year Castle Douglas and Area Christian Aid Group
will be having their usual Soup Lunches
in Castle Douglas Parish Church Hall on

Friday 15th May 10-2pm

Sat 16th May 10-3pm

Teas/Coffees/Scones will also be available

There will be table top sales of books,
plants, bric-a-brac and nearly new toys
and donations for these tables can be taken any time.

Volunteers for homebaking/soup making and with helping
hands will be gathered nearer the time!!!

If you can help in any way please contact

Lorna McDonald 01556 504711

lorna.e.mcdonald@gmail.com

Together we can make a difference!

A CHORISTER'S CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful conductor,
We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep;
We have followed too much the intonations and tempo of our own hearts;
We have offended against thy dynamic markings;
We have left unsung those notes we ought to have sung
And we have sung those notes we ought not to have sung,
And there is no support in us.
But thou, O Conductor, have mercy upon us miserable singers.
Succour the chorally challenged;
Restore thou them that need extra note bashing;
Spare thou them that are without pencil;
Pardon our mistakes and have faith that hereafter we
Will follow thy direction and sing together in perfect harmony.



SOME FUTURE EVENTS ...



Tuesday 31st March at 12 noon: The Chrism Eucharist for Galloway Region when Bishop Gregor consecrates Chrism oils for use in anointing, and the deacons, priests and bishops renew their ordination vows.
The Service is followed by a soup and sweet lunch in the hall.

Wednesday 1st April, 7.00pm in the Hall - the one-year Review of our Mission Action Plan with Bishop Gregor, postponed from 10th March.
Please do come if you can.

Tuesday 5th May, 5.15 for 6.00pm at St John's Episcopal Church in Moffat:
Galloway Regional Council at which the speaker will be Sam Johnston discussing, "What roles (and examples thereof) could the churches play as part of the Third Sector response to the integration of health and social care in Dumfries and Galloway?"

Thursday 14th May, 5.15 for 6.00pm at Christ Church, Dalbeattie:
Galloway Regional Ascension Day Service

SERVICE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2015

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - MARCH 2015

WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET



Giovanni Agostino da Lodi (1500)

To bathe soiled feet was but a servant's lot,
eschewed by men
whose station lent them grace.

These did not stoop to take a lowly place,
nor pause to wonder if, one day, they ought.
Perhaps their privilege came to them unsought,
casting a veil of pride on every face,
miscasting tender service as disgrace.
No matter. Man sees darkly, through a glass.
'Tis only One whose light our vision clears.
In Him, each blinding question that we ask
leads to a truth that vanquishes our fears.
Christ bathed his servants' feet; a humble task,
then raised us all, washed clean in blood and
tears.

© 2011 Susan Noyes Anderson

*This poem is based on John 13.1-17,
the theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer
Committee in the Bahamas*



This ecumenical service was written by Christian women of the Bahamas on the theme of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Members of St Ninian's, of St John's RC congregation and Castle Douglas and Kelton Parish Churches took part in the service. The singing was accompanied by the Rector. Everyone there received a bookmark (see left) made by members of St Ninian's congregation. Afterwards there was time for refreshments and conversation.



BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

Help build the Church of the future by investing in the candidates of today, through the work of the Scottish Episcopal Institute.

For this year's Bishops' Lent Appeals, all seven diocesan bishops have agreed to support the training and formation of those entering ministerial training in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

2014 saw the creation of the new Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), which replaced the former Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC).

The ethos of the Scottish Episcopal Institute has a very intentional emphasis on formation – the shaping of a person for ministerial functions and ensuring that the person has sufficient maturity in Christ to carry those functions.

The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll & The Isles and Convener of the transitional Institute Council says "We recognise the importance of investing substantially in a candidate's training and formation, to equip them as best we can for the wide and varied tasks that they will encounter as they develop their ministry.

"We are already very encouraged by the numbers of potential younger candidates exploring vocation, and funds permitting, we hope to be able to offer full-time training as a possible pathway for some in the future.

"Please give what you can to the Bishops' Lent Appeal so that we can equip the Church for its future ministry."

* * *

There will be a collection plate on the table in front of the Font for your donations until Sunday 12th April.

LENT LUNCHESES AT DALBEATTIE - ATTENDED BY SEVERAL FROM ST NINIAN'S

Alfred Thorp reports that the total monies raised at Christ Church for Lent 2015 will not be known until after Easter. The monies raised from the Lent Boxes, Lent Lunches and the Soup Recipe Booklets will be notified as one total. We have been well-supported by people from outwith the Congregation and so the final total is looking good.

WHO'S WHO

Rector	: The Revd Canon David Bayne	01556-503818
Hon Assistant	: The Revd Canon David Main	504669
Lay Reader	: Mr Douglas Allison	504279
Lay Worship Leader / Pastoral Assistant / Lay Representative	: Mrs Jenny Wright	502184
Hon Secretary	: Mr Patrick Little	690507
Hon Treasurer	: Mr Fred Coulthard	502965
Property Convenor	: Mr Clem Gault	502583
Freewill Offerings Convenor / Alternate Lay Rep	: Mr Ian Mather	505910
Third Lay Rep	: 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
	Mr Ian MacQuarrie	01557-820530
	Mr Ian Mather	505910
Organist	: Mr Maurice Till FRCO LTCL ARCM	620619
Sanctuary Guild	: Mrs Alison Bayne	503818
Co-ordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups	: Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
MU Branch Leaders	: {Mrs Ann Gault	502583
	{Mrs Alison Bayne	503818
Thursday Club	: Mrs Ann Gault	502583
Men's Group Chairman	: Mr Ian Mather	505910
Administrator / Hall Bookings / Magazine & Website Editor	: Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
Magazine Distribution / Traidcraft	: Mr John Dewhurst	502736
Sunday School Leaders	: {Mrs Rosie MacQuarrie	01557-820530
	{Mrs Ann Gault	502583
	{Mrs Roz Stevens	503589
Little Fishes	: Mrs Roz Stevens	503589