

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

(Scottish Charity No: SC011079)



Little Lambs

St Ninian's Review

Issue No 48

Spring 2014

Services for Holy Week and Easter 2014

The Church is open daily for private prayer

Sat 12 April

11.00am Chrism Eucharist and Renewal of Ordination Vows

Sun 13 April - Palm Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms

6.00pm Evensong

Mon 14, Tue 15 & Wed 16 April

10.15am Holy Communion

8.30pm Reflections and Compline

Thu 17 April - Maundy Thursday

10.15am Holy Communion

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

Watch until Midnight

Fri 18 April - Good Friday

10.15am Matins and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

2.00pm Prayers at the Foot of the Cross

Evening Worship in Crossmichael Church Hall, 7.00pm

Sun 20 April - Easter Day

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Festival Eucharist,

Thu 24 April - St Mark

10.15am Holy Communion

Sun 27 April - Low Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Matins followed by said Service of Holy Communion

7.00pm Eastertide Songs of Praise

Dear Friends

As Scotland approaches the referendum on independence this coming September, each of us is having to consider which way we shall vote. It would be beyond impertinent for me to suggest that anyone might vote in a particular way but, such is the importance of this issue, not only for us but for generations to come, that I solemnly urge everyone to consider the issues at stake and cast their vote. At the special request of the Diocesan Council, Bishop Gregor's charge to Synod last month offered a helpful theological background, and it can be read on the diocesan website (www.glasgow.anglican.org). My concern here is, firstly, to encourage engagement with the process and, secondly, to begin to prepare the ground for what comes after the votes are counted.

When the sun comes up on 19 September, the winners and losers will have to face each other and we shall all have to face the rest of the UK when, whatever the result, the relationships between us will have changed for ever. Nevertheless, we shall all have to continue to occupy the same small island and we shall have to find a new *modus vivendi*.



The Mace of the Scottish Parliament

To that end, Action of Churches Together in Scotland has been running a Lent Course, based on the four virtues inscribed on the mace of the Scottish Parliament: justice, wisdom, compassion and integrity - the premise being that these traditional virtues will need to be nurtured in the new political settlement. Two ecumenical study groups have been using this material as an aid to how we address the issues.

Recently, though, I had a conversation with Michael Lloyd, the local silversmith who made the mace, and he now wishes he had inscribed a fifth virtue on it: courage. For, surely, courage will be needed by us all to face a future in which many of the existing political and social certainties will have given way to.....well, who knows what?

And to the list of virtues I would add a sixth: grace - not to be assumed, but to be prayed for. Grace to embrace those who oppose our own view, who are suspicious of our motives, who feel excluded, who fear for the future. Only by the grace of God, that free gift personified in Jesus Christ our Lord, can we hope to find the wisdom, justice, compassion, integrity and courage that will be required to build our country's future.

Yours in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Bayne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the name.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

2 Mar 14 Charlotte Rose Hall

Funerals

6 Jan 14	Susan Fortune
6 Jan 14	James Milligan
17 Feb 14	John Bradbury
19 Feb 14	Arthur Hopkins
9 Mar 14	David Wright
17 Mar 14	Yvonne McKinnell

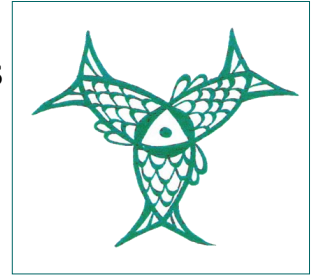
MORE ABOUT THE FRONT COVER PHOTO

These are literally 'Little' lambs - the first to be born this year on the smallholding of Susanne, Patrick, Peter and Michael Little. Susanne says, "They are Shetlands, and were just one day old when the photos were taken."



LITTLE FISHES

On Tuesday 25th March, Little Fishes met at Threave Gardens for a Welly Walk. The aim: to raise money for Sport Relief while making a connection with our local community beyond the church hall.



An astounding £155 was raised in total - £135 went to Sport Relief and £20 to the National Trust for Scotland for giving us access to the beautiful gardens and play area. It was a successful event. During the weeks preceding the event at Little Fishes we sang songs and rhymes with a garden and mini beast theme. We made play dough bugs and beasties, coloured in pictures, finger painted hyacinths and snowdrops as well as promoting 'Clive the Caterpillar'.



Each family attending Little Fishes was given a paper plate and a sheet of ten wellies to cut out and decorate. The wellies could be sold to family and friends for as little as 10p each or up to £1 enabling everyone to participate, asking whatever they felt was appropriate. On Tuesday the paper plates were collected in and arranged into a caterpillar and displayed in the Education room at Threave. 'Clive' can currently be seen on the windows in the Gordon Memorial hall. The rain on the day did not dampen anyone's spirits; we visited the glass house. We then *Marched in our Wellingtons Round and Round the Walled Garden*. The children enjoyed splashing in puddles and pointing at the flowers. We walked up to the daffodil bank but were a little too early to see the daffodils in all their glory. We then gathered in the education rooms to sing some of our songs. Everyone shouted their own name during our Welcome song as, with over thirty babies and toddlers, we would never get to our cup of tea if we did our usual individual introductions! After a couple more songs, with and without finger puppets, we broke ranks to do our own thing. Many families headed off to explore the gardens some more, others took full advantage of the



fabulous play area while a few of us crept up to the tea rooms to indulge in a lovely hot drink and possibly a tray bake. Everyone had a great time and I know that many will be returning to Threave for further fun and exploration. Before heading for home every family received a book from Little Fishes as an Easter present.

Over the last seven years or so the families attending Little Fishes have supported many good causes including Mary's Meals, Operation Christmas Child, Comic Relief, Sport Relief and Christian Aid. When I first spoke with the Rector about starting a toddler group in the church hall, I had not considered the wider impact and the far-reaching positive consequences of such a group. Perhaps the overwhelming love we feel for our own children helps us to empathise with the needs of others? The group itself has an important part to play for those who choose to come along. In a caring, nurturing environment the children, parents and carers can laugh, play and learn together. Friendships are made between families and bonds strengthened within them. There is a Facebook page enabling contact and communication between sessions, keeping people informed of the current theme. This year I have included an 'out and about' section whereby once a month I suggest places to visit, describing buggy-accessible walks or local activities to support.



The group is extremely well attended: to give you an idea, each session since August 2013 has had a minimum of twenty adults each bringing at least one child/baby along. The snack time continues to run smoothly with Mothers' Union at the helm. Please see Jenny Spence if you wish to help with that as I know she is always on the lookout for new volunteers.

So, next Little Fishes is 22nd April and the theme Houses and Homes – watch out for the Christian Aid fund raising activity.

Roz Stevens

Saved from "The Field" magazine of 17th December 1980 ...

AN OLD WOMAN'S LAMENT

They've brought you up to date, Lord, down at St Cecilia's.
They've pensioned off the organ, and they're praising with guitars.
They've done it for the young ones, we want to draw them in;
But I do wish they could worship without making such a din.
For I'm growing rather deaf, Lord, and when there's all that noise,
It gets so very hard, Lord, to hear your loving voice.
They've written brand new hymns, Lord, with tunes that I don't know,
So I hardly ever sing now, though I did love singing so.
They're very go-ahead, Lord, they're doing 'Series Three',
But the words are not as beautiful as the others used to be.
They've modernised the Bible and the Lord's Prayer and the Creed,
When the old ones were so perfect that they filled my every need.
My mind's not quite as agile as it was some years ago
And I miss the age-old beauty of the words I used to know.
It's very clear to me, Lord, I've overstayed my time;
I don't take to change as kindly as I did when in my prime.
But it can't be very long now before I'm called above
And I know I'll find you there, Lord, and glory in your love.
So till then I'll stick it out here, though it's not the same for me,
But while others call you "You", Lord, do you mind if I say "Thee"?

from Edna Taylor

PRAYER CYCLES FOR INTERCESSIONS

You may have noticed that in our Sunday morning prayers there is generally mention of two prayer cycles: one for the Diocese and another for the wider Anglican community. You may also have heard mention of a third cycle called the Porvoo Link. We insert these into our intercessions for the whole world, the church and in particular our own denomination of Anglicans, as a way of reminding ourselves that the church exists beyond our walls and frequently, desperately needs our prayers to hold them up in this crisis filled world.

My introduction to all this came when the church in Micronesia appeared on the Anglican Cycle. "Where might that be?" was the first question that came to mind. I had a guess at somewhere in the Pacific Ocean but it was a new designation to me. A little computer research explained that it is a series of small islands dotted over a vast sea. So far so good. Then I found that there had been a rather nasty little civil war which ended with the mediation help of the Anglican Church. The bishop and clergy were able to bring people together to sort out differences. That gave a good basis for a prayer about Micronesia on that Sunday.

This began a fascination I have had since about where I may end up in prayer when my turn comes to lead. Central Africa comes up frequently and that is certainly an area worthy of our prayers. The Cycle just gives us outline information – the diocese, maybe the bishop or some important feature. It is then possible to add in any news of events from the secular world. Nigeria often features with Christian/Moslem conflict in the north and kidnapping in the south centred on the oil wells and distribution system. Plenty to get your mind engaged. There is also an almost everlasting war centred on Uganda, the Congo and Rwanda spreading into neighbouring countries. Our church has a presence there but there are also complications arising from differing attitudes to such matters as homosexuality. Much to bring to the throne of grace.

I have also led when New Zealand came up in the Cycle – try saying "Aotearoa" out loud! I have a connection with the country having family in Auckland. As I wrote last year Kirsty and I made friends with the Rector of St Aidan's church there. There is an interesting Iona link as they have a Celtic cross on an Iona marble base on a side altar, similar to ours; Aidan of course being an Iona man even though his base became Lindisfarne. Another connection joins our Bishop Gregor with the Bishop of Auckland, Ross Bay. Both men were Deans previously and were consecrated within months of each other. So a formal prayer takes on a more personal face as I have spoken with both.

This can be the case back with our own Diocese. It adds a little something to pray for a church I know and people I have met. The ultimate is of course when our St Ninian's comes up and I find my name on the list – along with David Bayne, David Main and Jenny Wright.

The point of this little essay is to encourage others to consider noting the various intimations of the two, or three, Cycles and maybe join in. Not up front necessarily, though we could use a few more prepared to lead in prayer. At the back of the church are a couple of booklets listing the details for both the Diocesan and Anglican cycles. The Anglican cycle takes a year, the Diocese a month. Before a service why not pick up a book and check where we are that day? Your prayers can then add to the leader's. For the really enthusiastic and technically savvy, there is the web site www.glasgow@anglican.org. Follow the link from "about" to "prayer cycle". The Anglican cycle can be followed from here as can the Porvoo Link.

These Prayer Cycles remind us week by week of the tremendous reach of our faith throughout the world. Jesus told his disciples to spread the Word everywhere they went. A look at the Anglican Cycle shows how much of that goal has been achieved. We are an interconnected people. The words of the evening hymn "The day that thou gavest..." speak of this. The church is unsleeping – and that means not just us but all Christians. Dawn leads to a new day in one land as evening comes to another. Yet,

"The voice of prayer is never silent!"

Amen to that.

Douglas Allison

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11-17 MAY 2014

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/>



Give people a future without fear
War tears lives apart
You can help put them back together

Soup Lunches and Stalls in Castle Douglas Parish
Church Hall on Fri 16th and Sat 17th May 2014

If you would like to help, please contact Lorna MacDonald

ELLIE AND KATIE'S TRIP TO GERMANY

You may remember that Ellie and Katie held a fund-raising evening in the hall at the end of November before setting off on their trip to Germany with the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Youth Choir. Here is Katie's account of the trip, illustrated with Ellie's photos.



On 15th December 2013, Ellie and I set off on a lo-o-o-ong journey to Germany with around 30 other members of Dumfries and Galloway Regional Youth Choir. After a day's travelling by bus, we arrived at the ferry in Hull where we were met by a massive five course meal. It seemed a good idea at the time but the overnight ferry journey was not a smooth one! After another long day's travelling, we finally arrived at the Anne Frank Haus youth hostel in Oldau. We were introduced to the German youth choir and shortly after had the first of many rehearsals.

The week was amazing but very busy, with trips to the Science Museum, the Autostadt car factory and to Christmas markets where we even got the chance to sing. Of course, any chance we got, whether it be very early morning, midday or very late at night, we had long and tiring rehearsals but they seemed to pay off as we successfully performed two concerts to the family and friends of the German Choir. It was great fun! Sadly, after only three full days, it was once again time to set off on the long journey home, through wind and rain and yet again another very rough boat journey!



On Saturday 21st December, we arrived at St John's Church in Dumfries where, that afternoon, we performed our final concert to our families and friends. Despite the lack of sleep and voice, and the feeling that we were still swaying from the boat, the choir performed a very lovely and Christmassy concert and we were all glad to see our families once again.



Both of us had an amazing week with lots of opportunities and new friends but we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us to give us the chance to go on such a memorable trip. We have been told of plans for the German Choir to come over to

Scotland in around September and we are very excited about this. We will also be taking part in a summer concert along with young musicians from across Dumfries and Galloway. This will be held on Wednesday 1st July in Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries and we invite you to come along and hear us for yourselves! Thank you all again for the support and we hope that sometime we will have the chance to show some of our performances from the Christmas Concert.

Katie and Ellie



A scene from the recent Ceilidh for the Sunday School children and their parents, taken by the Rector

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT



The autumn session began with a Service of Dedication and the enrolment of Pat Mackenzie. We invited Andrew Lowe to the October meeting and he gave us a detailed account on “Brands” and illustrated how much work and discussion the managers had to do if they wanted to change the names and packaging of well-known items and meet the demand for ready-made meals etc. As an example, he dared us to taste a tub of Pot Noodles: it was *not* given an A+ recommendation from us!

In November we all looked forward to an illustrated talk by Judi Duck: “Just back from Africa”. You may have read about her and Jim’s trip in the last edition of The Review. We are pleased to report that the work on the roof of the church has been completed - see photos below.



On 21st November, several accepted an invitation to attend the Regional Rally at St John’s, Dumfries. We are always made to feel so welcome and enjoyed meeting our MU friends again. After a short service and lunch, we were entertained by the Lochthorn Ladies Harp Group.

Our Christmas party in December was enjoyed by everyone as usual. There was plenty to eat and drink, followed by light entertainment including carols, poems, music and stories, and our thanks to Alison and members who participated.

Unfortunately, Jenny Armstrong, our speaker on “A Journey through Dumfries and Galloway” for January, had to be postponed due to illness but we look forward to her visit again next year. Luckily, our co-leader, Elizabeth Woodburn, filled the gap and gave us some very interesting views on “Fellowship”. She related several experiences she had encountered when she was working – a

little kindness and help can make such a difference in people's lives. She's a wonderful speaker, with plenty of humour; a big thank you from all of us.

Our next meeting was on 18th February when our speaker was Donald Cowell on the subject of "Old Kirkcudbright Prison, 1780-1860". He began by showing us some photographs of Kirkcudbright and the whereabouts of the old prison, with views from the top of the tower of the surrounding countryside. He was a wonderful narrator and talked about life in the prisons and how punishments fitted the crimes committed by the offenders. They were given an outfit of clothing, mostly oatmeal to eat and a safe house, so many re-offended to stay there again ... same as today! Others were paraded around the town, made to stand at the front of the kirk or put in the stocks.

Our AGM was on 25th February and was a satisfactory meeting with new ideas brought forward. Several new changes are needed to the officers who have served their two-three years' term on the committee. Hopefully volunteers will come forward before May.

In March the Rector gave us a Lent talk on the life of St Paul, illustrated by a map showing Paul's journeys, photos of places he had visited and of some of the great artists' portraits of Paul and his life.

The spring Regional Meeting was held at St John's Meeting Room, Dumfries on 20th March to discuss plans for the 65th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in Dumfries and Galloway and for the Festival Service on 10th May.

Following on from our fund-raising "Music for a Summer Evening" concert last year which raised £443, John McDougall from the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme is coming to talk to us in April, along with Jan and David Wishart from Kirkpatrick Durham, who host children from the Scheme in their own home every year.

Do come and join Mothers' Union. You will be made very welcome.

Jenny Spence and Elizabeth Woodburn
Joint Leaders

If you are interested in coming along to sample one or more meetings, you can do - speak to Jenny Spence.

Jenny Wright found the following cutting from a newspaper recently ... but please don't get any ideas, Maurice!

**BEWARE THE WRATH OF THE CHURCH ORGANIST –
MUSICAL REVENGE IS SWEET**

by John Bingham, Religious Affairs Editor in The Telegraph

They are the stalwart pillars of the community whose week-in, week-out dedication has kept the country's choral traditions alive for generations. But, if new research is to be believed, behind the quiet exterior the humble church organist is not someone to be crossed. While charged with providing spiritually uplifting music to worshippers, it seems many also seize the opportunity to extract subtle revenge on clerics who have displeased them or simply play pranks on congregations.

A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist straying from the path of musical orthodoxy at some point – slipping snippets of heavy metal classics, advertising jingles and even nursery rhymes into hymns and anthems. In some cases it can be a means of waging musical war with clerics while in others it is simply an effort by bored organists to make the choir laugh.

Christian Research, a polling and research group asked its 2,000 strong “Resonate” panel of churchgoers for their views on church music and organists. Of those who responded, half said they had noticed an organist slipping unexpected tunes into services. Among examples cited was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders in the Kirk but got his own back by inserting a thinly disguised rendition of “Send in the Clowns” as they processed in for a Sunday service.

Elsewhere, a vicar sacked an organist after he played “Roll out the Barrel” at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink. In one decidedly high church congregation, an organist punctured the mood of reverence as an elaborately dressed clergyman processed back after the gospel reading – by playing the theme tune to The Simpsons. Another congregation found themselves passing around the collection plate to the strains of “Money, Money, Money” by Abba. The survey uncovered examples of Eucharist celebrations livened up with renditions of Bon Jovi's “Livin' on a Prayer”; the theme tunes from the Magic Roundabout, Blackadder and Harry Potter and even “I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts”.

Sung Evensong – widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of English choral music – has been spiced up such unexpected offerings as “I’m a Barbie Girl” and “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles”.

One organist who responded confessed to playing hits by Oasis, Billy Bragg and even Kylie Minogue in services but added: “Nobody notices – I do it all the time.” But when an organist played a slowed-down version of Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious from Mary Poppins, even the most tone deaf members of the congregation eventually recognized it, sending them into gales of laughter. An older bridegroom took it in good humour when the organist played “No one loves a fairy when she’s 40” at his wedding while candidates at a confirmation service were left perplexed to hear the strains of “I’m a Little Teapot” from the organ loft.

Stephen Goddard, of Christian Research, said: “It's an oft-repeated adage in church circles – ‘What's the difference between an organist and a terrorist? - You can negotiate with a terrorist.’”

“Hidden from view, your local church organist may appear unassuming and self-deprecating, but like any true artist, he or she can be eccentric, mischievous and very opinionated. “Mess with him at your peril – he will pull out all the stops to get his own back.”

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

Current notices can be viewed on the website at the top of the News page. A list of the current month’s services is displayed on the notice board in the porch and also on the one as you come into the hall from outside.

THE NEXT EDITION OF ‘ST NINIAN’S REVIEW’ will be published in the summer. If you would like to write an article or submit anything it would be most welcome. The deadline is mid-July 2014.

Email: johnsteph@mkcott.wanadoo.co.uk , or via the ‘Webmaster’ link from the Hall Bookings page of 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/>

ST NINIAN'S MEN'S GROUP

On Monday 17 February, St Ninian's Men's Group met for a lovely meal provided by Haining Catering which was enjoyed by all. After supper our speaker MP Russell Brown spoke on his time so far in Parliament: how he became interested in politics, and about some of the overseas charities he has been involved in over the years. He said that it had opened his eyes to how much poverty there is in the world; also how many kids are into drugs and have no sense of purpose in life.



MP Russell Brown (centre), Canon David Main (left), Tony Davis (right); also in background Andrew Low

On 30th March, the usual Mothering Sunday Lunch was held at the Kings Arms, Castle Douglas



Our next Men's Group Supper will be held in the Gordon Memorial Hall on Monday 16th June, 6.30 for 7.00pm, when Dr Jim Duck will be giving a talk entitled "African Adventure". Further details from Mr Ian Mather (Tel 01556 505910; email: ian.mather6@sky.com)

MOTHERING SUNDAY AT ST NINIAN'S



The morning service was a specially adapted Service of the Word, prepared and led by Jenny Wright, with members of the Sunday School reading the lessons, leading intercessions and doing a presentation before handing out sunflower seedlings to the congregation.



During the service Alison, the Rector's wife, gave out specially selected books

BIBLE READING NOTES

As part of St Ninian's Mission Action Plan, we have chosen 'Learning and Discipleship' as one of the strands to concentrate on in the next year, the other being 'Children and Young People'. As part of 'Learning and Discipleship', the Vestry would like to encourage those who like to study on their own by offering to order notes supplied by the Bible Reading Fellowship.

There are five series on offer, each containing notes for four months per issue.

- **New Daylight** is their most popular series. The full bible text is included. The passage is explained by one of their experienced writers, who will help readers understand the Bible passage and how it is relevant to their own spiritual journey. The series is particularly appropriate for people who want readings that link to the Church festivals of the year.
- **The Upper Room** contains meditations that show real people living faithfully in real-life situations, with the Bible as a touchstone for and measure of faithful living. The meditations are provided by *The Upper Room* readers themselves from around the world. Ideal for new Christians.
- **Day by Day with God** provides a woman's eyes' view of the Bible. Written by women for women with evangelical emphasis, taking account of the things that matter most to women.
- **Guidelines** is for people who are hungry for deeper study; who are ready to hear what current biblical scholarship has to say, what differing theological viewpoints may exist, and want to make up their own mind on how the passage becomes relevant for them.
- **Quiet Spaces** is for people who enjoy exploring the Bible using their innate spirituality and creativity. Each edition contains nine themes exploring twelve different ways. These include biblical reflections, views on the theme from a wide sweep of Christian tradition and history, prayers and meditations and creativity to take the reader deeper into the theme.

I have sample copies of all of these to help you choose which would suit you.

The cost is £4.25 per issue (4 months) apart from *The Upper Room* which is £3.95.

The sample copies will be available at the back of the Church and there is a sign-up sheet on the notice board. Otherwise please contact me directly (01556 502184) if you have any questions.

The next issues start at the beginning of May and are already available.

It would be helpful to have orders by Sunday 13th April please.

Jenny Wright



“MARY’S MEALS” UPDATE

Before Christmas, the Sunday School collected for and sent away 20 filled back packs and a sack of extra stuff that could be used to "bulk out" other backpacks. Rosie received a letter from Mary's Meals to say that our back packs reached Malawi on 31st January and they were planning to distribute them shortly after.

Rosie adds, “Not only do the children get to attend school with their back packs but they all receive a free meal every day. A truly wonderful charity to support.

“Many thanks again to everyone who supported our appeal.”

THE BISHOP’S LENT APPEAL

The Bishop has chosen **Yorkhill Children’s Charity** to benefit from the diocesan Lent Appeal this year. Every year over 160,000 children attend the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, from all areas of Scotland as well as some from England and Ireland.

The work of the charity is to make the experience as pleasant and comfortable as it can be for patients and their families.

Recent projects include:

- emergency travel grants to families in need;
- a specialised wheelchair for children with cerebral palsy;
- a paediatric special-care ambulance; ‘
- clowndoctors’;
- wall mounted DVD players to distract patients from their treatments;
- funding bereavement support for families;
- and maintaining onsite primary and secondary classrooms
- and teaching resources

There is a collecting plate on the table by the Font for donations during Sunday services.