

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



*Farewell to David and Alison*

*St Ninian's Review*

*Issue No 58*

*Summer 2017*

# OUR PATTERN OF WORSHIP

During the vacancy it is the hope of the Vestry to maintain the normal pattern of Services but please check the weekly notices or the website for any variations:

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

## SUNDAYS

**8.30am Holy Communion: 1929 Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy**

**11.00am      Family Eucharist: 1982 Scottish Liturgy**  
(except usually 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month)

<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Matins: Scottish Prayer Book }</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion: using        }</b>	<b>only</b>
	<b>shorter 1970 Scottish Liturgy</b>	

**6.00pm      Evensong (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday only)**

**7.00pm      The Sunday Evening Alternative (Last Sunday of month)**  
A themed Evening Service held in the Hall,  
using material from Taizé or the Iona Community

## WEDNESDAYS

**10.15am      Holy Communion: 1970 Scottish Liturgy**

**Services for Saints' Days and other Occasions are detailed in the weekly  
pew sheet, on the Church notice boards and on the website**

***The Church is normally open during the day for private prayer.  
We apologise if occasionally during the vacancy you find it locked.***

## FROM OUR INTERIM PRIEST

A warm hello to everyone in St. Ninian's Castle Douglas and Christ Church Dalbeattie. Bishop Gregor has appointed me as your Interim Priest during the vacancy, so this is by way of a brief introduction.



Along with everyone else, we too will miss David and Alison as they move to County Wexford and retirement. Although if I know anything about the Church of Ireland David will be called upon to do something clerical! I am a friendly big Irishman who has been over thirty years in ministry, and moved to be Rector of Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet last October, having previously served as Anglican Vicar and Port Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers in Rotterdam. I am speaking about this to your Mothers' Union meeting on 28 November. Canon Bayne had been our Interim Priest – so maybe this is pay-back time!

As I already look after two busy congregations, I am privileged that both your churches are well blessed with excellent Vestries and local clergy, including active retired ministers, who will be especially appreciated as they undertake the church services. Although I may be the first point of contact for weddings, funerals, hospital visits, and other pastoral emergencies (please do not hesitate to contact me) I will also have a number of clerical colleagues perfectly able to assist as required.

These will not be easy days for either church as you contemplate the future so I will leave you with the words of the Revd Adoniram Judson (what a great name!), a former missionary-partner in Burma, *the future is as bright as the promises of God.*

**Stephen D. Hazlett**  
**Interim Priest**

*Tel: 01557 620132, Mob: 07900 231360*  
*Email: [stephen.hazlett@greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk](mailto:stephen.hazlett@greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk)*

## **LIFE AFTER DAVID**

### ***Patrick Little, Vestry Secretary***

As you all know, Canon David Bayne retired on 30 June, after 18 years as our Rector. After a stunned pause, a new team has taken over running the Church, and I hope we won't let you down. Here are some details of the arrangements during the vacancy, and of a couple of events in the autumn to look forward to!

### **THE VACANCY**

Basically, life at St Ninian's will continue pretty much as normal, but with different people in charge. The Bishop has appointed our Interim Priest, the Revd Stephen Hazlett, Rector of Gatehouse and Kirkcudbright, to look after the pastoral side of things and keep an eye on what happens in the Church itself. (See his letter on the previous page.)

Meanwhile, the Vestry continues to coordinate everything else to do with St Ninian's: the finances, the Hall and its bookings, social events, the upkeep of the fabric, etc. The Vestry membership remains the same, but Fred Coulthard has taken over from David Bayne as Chair.

The Vestry is also responsible for recruiting a new Rector, working in conjunction with the Vestry of Christ Church, Dalbeattie. This process will be overseen by the Dean, and the appointment will, ultimately, be made by the Bishop. The timescale is very uncertain, and it may take a year before we find another Rector, so please be patient. Needless to say, the Vestry is very keen to get exactly the right person! If you have any questions or comments, please grab a Vestry member and ask.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

#### **Harvest Supper**



After the success of last year's supper, the MacQuarries and Littles are having another go! The date is yet to be confirmed, but it will probably be Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. As with last year, we are aiming to provide a variety of courses and options drawn as far as possible from what is grown and raised in the gardens and fields of the congregation.

Please let Rosie, Ian, Susanne or Patrick know if you have vegetables or fruit to spare.

Raffle and quiz prizes also welcome. Proceeds to the Castle Douglas Food Bank.



## Major Gordon Commemoration, Sunday 26 November



It is 60 years this November since the death of Major Alan Gordon of Threave, a great supporter of our Church and a generous benefactor, not only to us but also to the National Trust for Scotland and his old regiment, the Irish Guards. To celebrate and commemorate Major Gordon, St Ninian's is getting together with the NTS and the Guards Division to hold a day of events on the Sunday nearest the anniversary, including a talk on the history of Threave Garden by its creator, Bill Hean, presentations on the different aspects of the major's life, and Choral Evensong followed by a wine reception. Please keep the date free in your diaries as this will be a very special day to give thanks for a very special man.

***Patrick Little***  
***Vestry Secretary***

## SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2017 - David's final Service at St Ninian's

was attended by a full church and no fewer than three Bishops:

Bishop Gregor Duncan and David, below left, share a smile about something.

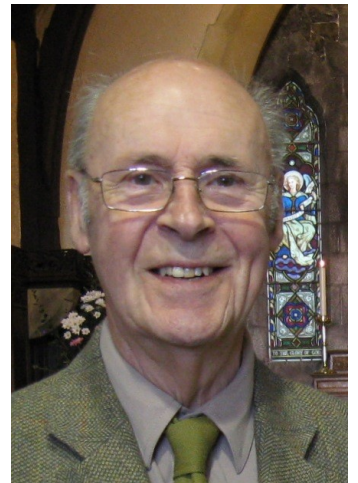


*Photo credit: Euan MacQuarrie*

Bishop John Taylor, below right,

a previous Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, and before that Rector at St John's, Dumfries, had plenty to say about

David when he was a 'green' curate - prompting David to comment that he was still green!



Bishop Gordon Mursell, seated among the congregation, kept a low profile!



For the service itself, David had selected readings of his own choice rather than those set for the day (and challenged Bishop Gregor to sack him!)

Micah 6.6-8, Psalm 139.1-11, 22-23, Philippians 4.4-9 and John 15.9-12. His sermon knitted them together beautifully and was as eloquent as ever.

The hymns he had chosen were: Angel voices, ever singing; 'God of love and truth and beauty;' 'I come with joy to meet my Lord;' 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord;' and, 'Lord for the years.'



*Photo credits: Euan MacQuarrie*

At the end of the service, Bishop John reminisced about David and all the years he had known him and Alison, mentioning how much they had done for St Ninian's both individually and together, and then Fred Coulthard presented them with gifts: an inscribed glass rose bowl, and a Book of Memories, together with a cheque to which the congregation had handsomely contributed.

The children of the Sunday School had made a large card which they presented to David (and earlier, young Katie and Lucy Eddyshaw had given him a bag of marbles, saying that they were "in case you lose your own." As you might expect, David took it in good part!)



***THE PRESENTATION TO DAVID AND ALISON WAS MADE BY  
FRED COULTHARD, CHAIR OF THE VESTRY***



Dear All

Thank you so much for the beautiful gifts you have given us, gifts to treasure forever. We already know where they will all go – the rose bowl will take pride of place on our circular hall table, the book of memories will live on our coffee table for everyone to read, and the most generous cheque will enable us to have a garden designed and filled with trees and shrubs. A wonderful beginning to our retirement!

Thank you once again, and for all the love and support you have given us over these eighteen years. We will never forget you.

God bless you all.

With love,

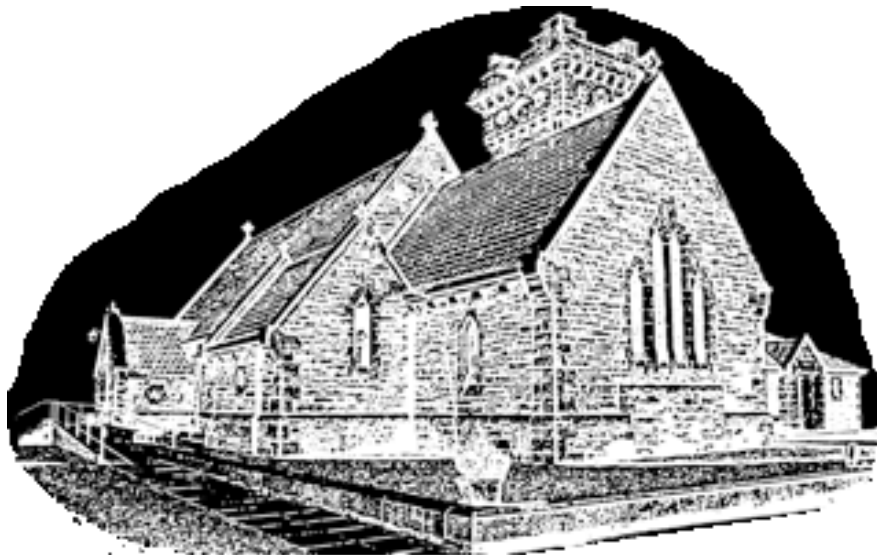
David and Alison



## *THE ENGRAVED ROSE BOWL*

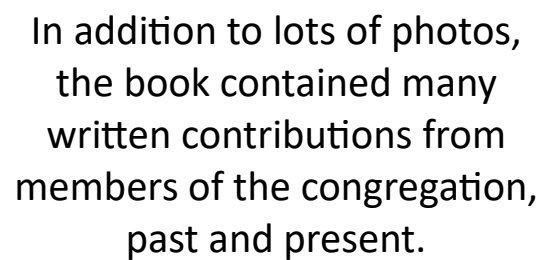


Presented to  
David and Alison  
With grateful thanks for your ministry to us through  
St Ninian's  
1999 – 2017



To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to seek him in his temple. Ps 27:4



A black leather-bound book is shown open, lying flat on a wooden surface. The left side is a solid red cover with white text. The right side is a black page featuring a vertical, arched stained glass window illustration with colorful geometric patterns. The text on the red cover reads: "David & Alison", "This ~~is~~ was Your Life", "a series of 16", "At", "St Ninian's", and "from your friends and fellow worshippers".



## GOING, GOING, GONE!

### From Tower to Porch - the building work at Christ Church, Dalbeattie

For years the tower has leaked and has caused much work and anxiety. It had been thought that the problem was solved after work approved by the Diocesan Architect had been carried out. Christ Church received grants from the Diocese, St Ninian's, Castle Douglas and the Dunderdale Trust to help with the cost of the work.

Unfortunately, the Tower still leaked so it was back to square one. The task of solving the problem was contracted to the Diocesan Architect who then had the task of getting tenders and applying for the necessary building permissions. Christ Church has been fortunate in having Canon Bayne's expertise in Scottish Episcopal Church Property matters and in knowing to which organisations applications for funding could be made.



*Thanks are due to Ron Newton for photos 2-4. Photo 3 is of David & Alison at the buffet lunch after the Service.*



The decision was made that the tower be removed and replaced with a porch and that a disabled ramp be built. Needless to say, many problems arose BUT at last the work was completed, just in time for Canon David Bayne's last service at Christ Church on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June. This service included a Dedication of the Building Works; David can be seen blessing the work in photograph 2. A framed copy of photograph 4 was given to David as a memento of his time at Christ Church. (This photograph was taken before the new hand rails had been fitted.)

***Muriel Palmer***

### **ST NINIAN'S MOTHERS' UNION**

**On Tue 6 June, the Rector celebrated at a Eucharist Service in St Ninian's attended by the MU Diocesan President, Jill Cameron, and her husband.**



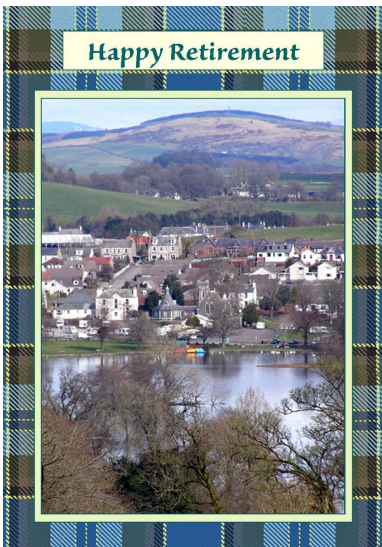
The Service was followed by a wonderful afternoon tea in the Hall, which was organised by Judi Duck, at which thanks were given to both Alison and David for all their support for the MU over the years that they had been at St Ninian's.



Alison had started the Mothers' Union group at St Ninian's very soon after moving here some eighteen years ago, initially with just a handful of people meeting in the Rectory – there was no Gordon Memorial Hall in those days – and the group has continued to thrive.



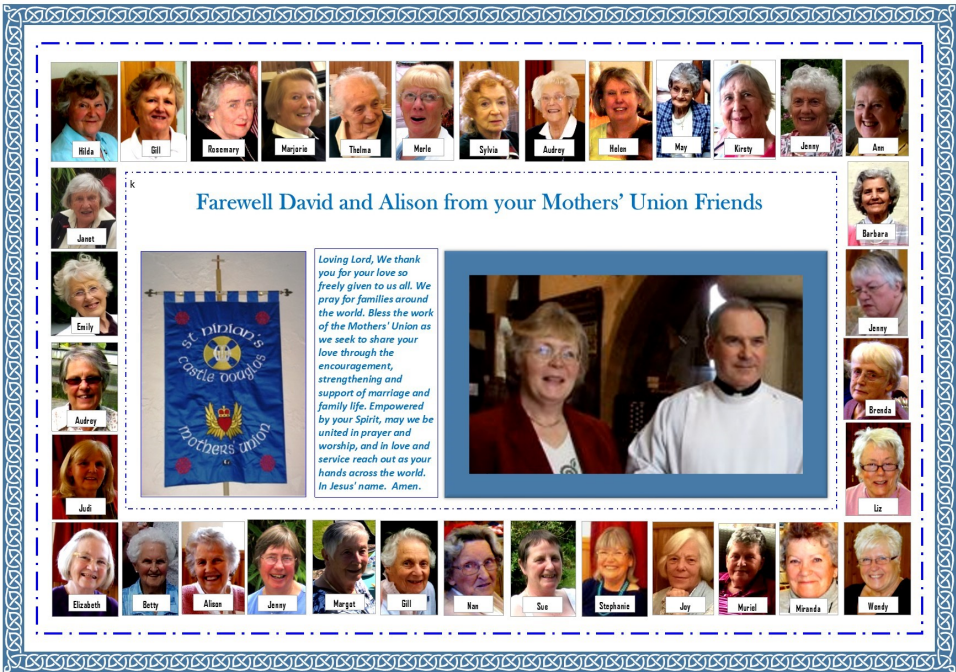
*Muriel Palmer baked a delicious cake for the occasion, decorated by Judi*



*The card designed and printed by Jenny Armstrong*

Alison was presented with a cheque to buy plants for their new garden, enclosed within a card designed and printed by member Jenny Armstrong, depicting a photo of the church and hall from across Carlingwark Loch on a background of the Mothers' Union tartan.

Muriel Palmer had collated, printed and framed a montage of photos of members past and present.





## *So, after all the Farewells ...*



© 2014 Dennis Fletcher.

**"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."**

### **FINDING A NEW RECTOR, 1940S STYLE**

I have been looking at what remains of the St Ninian's archives, gathering information on Major Gordon for a talk later in the year, and came across material from the Vestry Minute Books which sheds light on another matter altogether. Here is a potted version, with some sections quoted in full, for your amusement...

[Note: Colonel W.D.Y. Herries of Spottes was the chairman of the Vestry during the vacancy, the Hon. Secretary was Mr C. Perry, and other members included Major Alan Gordon of Threave and Mr W.E. Gordon.]

27 October 1946: 'Colonel Herries stated that the Rector [Rev. E.A. Beresford-Cooke] had suddenly gone to London on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1946 due, apparently, to a "mental lapse."' The Colonel, obviously concerned, had contacted Mr Beresford-Cooke's son, and asked for 'a narrative of what had happened and a medical certificate, for the information of the Vestry.'

9 Nov. 1946: The Secretary reported having received a letter from the Rector on 31<sup>st</sup> October, tendering his resignation, and a letter from the Bishop, desiring a meeting with the Vestry on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

18 Dec. 1946: The Vestry interviewed Canon Edmond, who 'expressed willingness to come to St Ninian's,' but asked for a few days to consider. The Vestry withdrew to consider the matter, and then told the Canon that 'they had another man in view with whom they were arranging an interview,' and he promised to send a reply within ten days.

2 Jan. 1947: The Vestry interviewed another clergyman, one Mr Teague. After initial questions, 'Mr W.E. Gordon then asked Mr Teague if he considered himself "High" or "Low" Church. Mr Teague said he did not care for the wording "High" or "Low" but that his leaning was towards "High" Church.' The Vestry then withdrew, and the Secretary's account of their discussion makes interesting reading. 'The question of "High" Church aroused considerable discussion, and it was made known that certain members of the Congregation were very much opposed to having Mr Teague as their Rector. Colonel Herries requested that the said members' names should be openly mentioned, but this was not agreed to.' Having wrong-footed his opponents, the Colonel then insisted that a letter should be sent to the Bishop asking if Mr Teague would be willing to come if the post were offered to him.

23 Jan. 1947: This time, Colonel Herries did not get his own way. When he proposed that the Vestry offer Mr Teague the living, 'the motion had no seconder, and there the matter ended.' The Secretary then wrote to the Bishop for a fresh list of candidates.

8 Feb. 1947: Annual General Meeting. Colonel Herries outlined the situation, explaining that both clergymen interviewed had subsequently declined the position. He also expressed the congregation's 'deepest sympathy' to Mr Beresford-Cooke and his family, and moved that they should send 'a message of affection to him, and expressing how glad they were that his health was improving.'

24 Feb. 1947: The Vestry interviewed Rev. C.P.M. Sharpe, and 'without exception were very favourably impressed with Mr Sharpe' and 'unanimously agreed' they would accept him as the new Rector.

6 Mar. 1947: The Bishop sent a letter indicating that he had offered the living to Mr Sharpe. The Vestry passed a resolution giving their consent.

20 June 1947: Mr Sharpe was instituted as Rector by the Bishop.

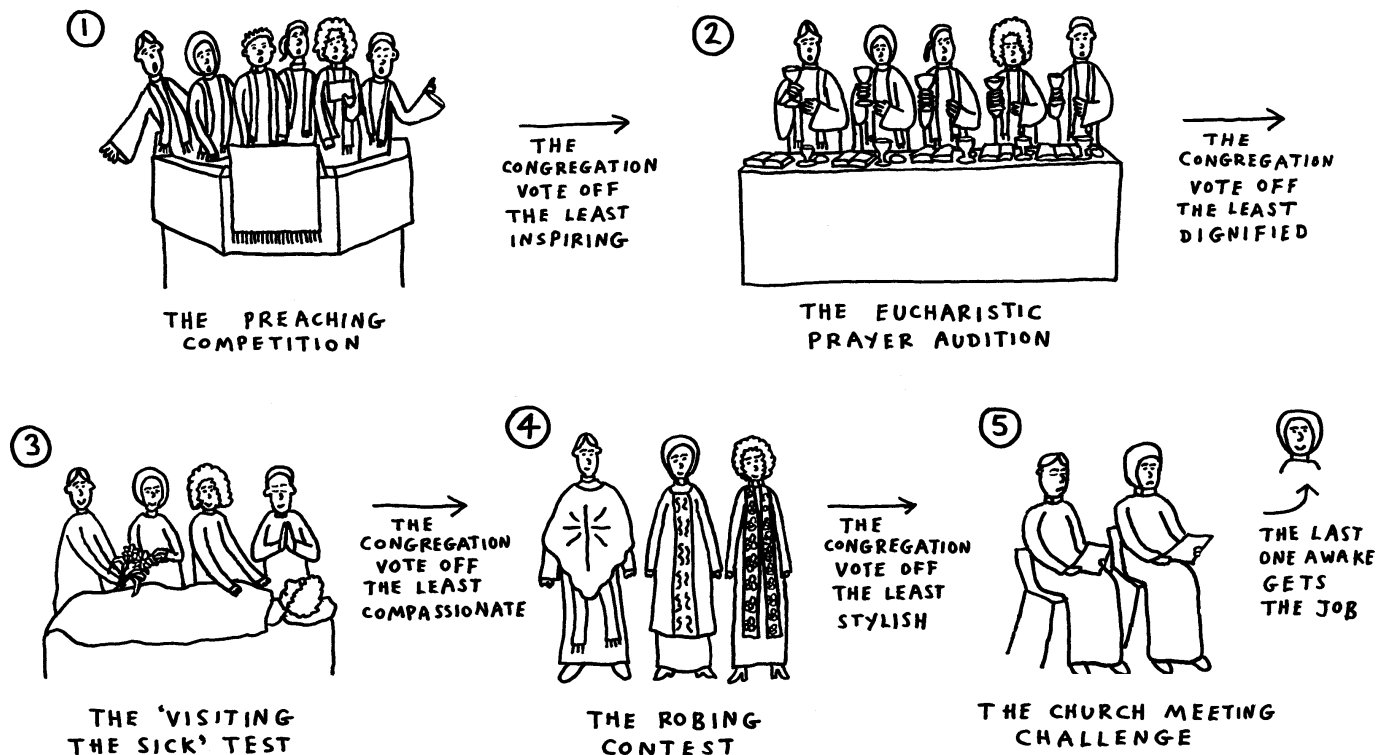
This was not quite the end of the story. Less than a year later, on 13 June 1948, Mr Sharpe suddenly resigned as Rector 'on account of his health.' So the Vestry was back to Square One!

Why was the Charge so difficult to fill? One reason was money. In the days before Major Gordon's amazingly generous bequest to the Endowment Fund, the church's finances were not in a good state, and the stipend available for a new Rector was only £340 – a sum described as 'quite inadequate.' In addition, the rectory was at the far end of Abercromby Road, and there were concerns about 'the Rector being so far from the church.' Neither factor made the living attractive to a potential incumbent. The tale has a happy ending, however. In October 1948 the Rev. M.J. Walker was appointed, and he was to serve St Ninian's faithfully for nineteen years until his retirement in 1967.

*Patrick Little*

## APPOINTING A NEW VICAR

THE PROCESS IS LONG AND COMPLEX



© CartoonChurch.com

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Baptism:

4<sup>th</sup> June 2017      Jack Wilson

#### Funeral:

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017      James McConchie

## **THE WAY AMONG: WELCOME**

When I read the following extract from “*People of the Way*” I was reminded of what the Revd Canon Drew Sheridan said about the difference between **Welcome** and **Intentional Welcome** at the recent Christ Church Away Day (*also when he and Revd Liz O’Ryan came to St Ninian’s in March*).

***Muriel Palmer***

**“AND IF YOU GREET ONLY YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHAT MORE ARE YOU DOING THAN OTHERS? DO NOT EVEN THE GENTILES DO THE SAME?”**

***Matthew 5:47***

## **MEDITATION**

I receive ‘Good morning’ and a smile, as a book and a neatly folded sheet of paper are thrust into my hands, before she turns to continue the conversation with someone she knows.

***Where do I go? Where can I sit?***

I usher myself inside and find a seat that looks safe, away from the eyes of inquisitive stares.

***Will I know when to stand and sit, ... or kneel and what to say and sing ... and when?***

And afterwards the awkwardness of conversation as one by one they greet me with the same questions then shuffle off, relieved to have done their duty and made their escape. Outside, the same sign still hangs in pride of place –

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

***And, I wonder ... as I wander homewards.***

## **MORNING PRAYER**

Gracious God, help us to realise that welcome is more than a word: that it runs deeper than a cup of tea and lasts longer than a smile. Help us to see that welcome is a way of being and not a task to be done.

Help us to rejoice in the presence of fellow guests in Your house;

to see them as companions and not strangers;

to hear their stories and see to their needs.

Help us to welcome others as You welcome us.

Amen.

***©People of the Way***



***Many congratulations to Lowena Lindsay, a Server here for seven years,  
from all at St Ninian's!***



**FROM PROUD PARENTS, SUE AND BOB LINDSAY**

**Lowena Lindsay** achieved First Class BSc Honours in Medicine at St Andrew's University and graduated on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. It goes without saying that we are absolutely delighted and are so proud of her for her determination and dedication to her studies.

Lowena now moves on to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, to complete a further three years of medical training and graduate with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB/MBBS).

She has managed to secure a flat in Glasgow with three of her fellow medical students from St Andrews who have also moved on to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Glasgow's new hospital was renamed the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital after the monarch officially opened it to patients in April 2015.

The 1,677 bed acute hospital facility built on the site of Southern General is one of the largest acute hospitals in the UK.

The new campus, which has been dubbed a "super-hospital", replaces the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill, the Southern General Hospital, the Western and Victoria infirmaries and the Mansionhouse Unit.

## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES by Carola Cliff



*Carola (and Richard, her husband) will be familiar faces to anyone who attends the 8.30am Sunday Service but may be less well-known to others – although you may have visited their beautiful garden at Stockarton, near Kirkcudbright.*

During the 1950s, when I was a child, my family were living in Libya, North Africa, near a town called Sabratha, not far from Tripoli. This was not long after the Second World War and the narrow coastal land strip of Libya was then farmed by the Italians, who were instrumental in teaching the Arabs how to farm their land and make it more productive. I can remember seeing rough wooden ploughs being used to till the hard sandy ground, pulled by a mule or a donkey, with a newly-born foal running behind, scrambling over the furrows to keep up with its mother.

Governesses were organised by several families to come out from England to teach us children. They came by sea and the voyage would take three weeks, so we had spells when we were without a teacher, although sometimes a parent would try to fill in. These very young teachers would take us for walks, where we were encouraged to pick flowers to bring back to the classroom to paint. To this day, I still love to paint flowers. On more than one occasion we saw a clay handle protruding from the sand among the flowers. Pulling it out, we would find a complete Roman oil lamp – I still have two of them.

I remember very violent seasonal sand storms known as “Ghibli”. You could see the sky turning dark a long way off and we would rush into the house and shut everything tight. My mother would tape up the doors and windows with sticky tape while outside the sky went a dark chestnut colour and was thick with sand. The sand always found a way in and below a keyhole there would be a neat little mountain of sand on the floor.

Hailstorms were quite frequent in winter. Once the hailstones were the size of a golf ball and all the cars were dented.

The locust plagues were quite devastating. You could see this black cloud coming, which in fact was locusts flying tightly together. We would pray that

they would not land. If they did, they would devour everything green before flying on and the sight of the country, completely bare of greenery, was very dismal.

Living in Libya was a wonderful and happy experience and has left me with clear memories which I treasure to this day.



**Theatre at Sabratha**

**Note:** *Sabratha has been designated an UNESCO World Heritage Site. A Phoenician trading-post that served as an outlet for the products of the African hinterland, Sabratha was part of the short-lived Numidian Kingdom of Massinissa before being Romanized and rebuilt in the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D.*

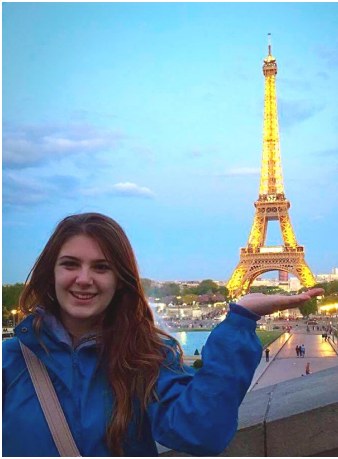
### **KNEELING by R. S. Thomas**

Moments of great calm  
Kneeling before an altar  
Of wood in a stone church  
In summer, waiting for the God  
To speak; the air a staircase  
For silence; the sun's light  
Ringing me, as though I acted  
A great role. And the audiences  
Still; all that close throng  
Of spirits waiting, as I,  
For the message.  
Prompt me, God;  
But not yet. When I speak  
Though it be you who speak  
Through me, something is lost.  
The meaning is in the waiting.

*R. S. Thomas (1913-2000) was a Welsh poet and Anglican priest who was noted for his nationalism and his spirituality.*



## ELLIE STEVENS DESCRIBES HER GAP YEAR



I am nearing the end of my gap year and what a busy year it's been! I ran an after-school drama group at Kirkcudbright Primary School for several months and entered them into the SCDA One Act Play Festival. They did extremely well and came first in the first round (that took place at the Fullarton Theatre) and also won awards for the best stage presentation and Audience Choice. We then went up to Greenock and they came second. I am still extraordinarily proud of them all!

I bought an Interrailing ticket and travelled round Europe for four weeks in the spring. I started off in Paris, carried on to Nice, Pisa, Rome, Budapest, Prague, Berlin and finally Amsterdam. I had so much fun staying in Youth Hostels, making friends from around the world, and seeing the local sights, which included going on walking tours of the cities - and trying out the local beer! I have come away with a real sense of adventure to explore even more!



Once again I'm excited to be going to the Edinburgh Fringe with Fox and Hound Theatre Company. We will be performing a double bill of Tennessee Williams plays: "Ivan's Widow" and "Talk to me like the rain and let me listen." And also a play written by Helen Fox (a member and founder of the company) called "1in2 Chance." The plays will be on from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> August at Greenside, Infirmary Street. Having performed the Tennessee Williams double bill at the Brighton Fringe this year, and all three plays in Skye, Nairn and Moffat as part of our Scottish tour, we have received positive feedback from audience members and reviewers alike.

I am now very much looking forward to taking up my place this September at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, to study Drama and Performance. I would also like to apologise for my absence in church this year. In order to fund my adventures I've been working in a cafe and babysitting at every opportunity!

***Ellie Stevens***



## BISHOP OF MORAY, ROSS AND CAITHNESS ELECTED PRIMUS



On Tuesday 27 June the Episcopal Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church elected the Rt Revd Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness as Primus. Bishop Mark says, "I am humbled by the confidence shown in me by my colleagues and I will seek to serve the church as Primus with love and strength. "I am deeply privileged to be the Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness and am very aware that it has been 82 years since a Bishop of Moray became Primus. I pray that I may be worthy of this trust. I will continue to serve in my beloved highlands while I also step out into new and exciting journeys of faith in both Scotland and the wider international church."

Bishop Mark (56), who will now be referred to as The Most Revd Mark Strange, is the youngest member of the College of Bishops and was consecrated Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness in 2007. Bishop Mark succeeds the Most Rev David Chillingworth.

Brought up in Aberdeen, where he was both a choirboy and server at St Andrew's Cathedral, Bishop Mark studied Divinity at the University of Aberdeen, attended Theological College in Lincoln and has served in both the Diocese of Worcester and in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. For a number of years Bishop Mark was also Convener of the church's Youth Committee and ran the annual summer youth camps at Glenalmond.

Bishop Mark takes up this role as a Primate within the Anglican Communion at a point where the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church has voted to permit same sex marriage, a decision which is expected to be on the agenda of the forthcoming Primates Meeting in Canterbury, a meeting which Bishop Mark will attend.

*The Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, now becomes Senior Bishop in the College of Bishops.*

## **“GOD FOR ALL”**

*Report by Muriel Palmer, who has recently joined St Ninian’s*



On Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, the Revd Sarah Moore, President of the **Cumbria Area United Reformed Church**, came to the Maxwell Rooms at St Peter’s RC Church, Dalbeattie, to talk to the Theological Reflection Group about **God For All**. She gave a most interesting insight into how the project developed and how, despite so many hurdles to overcome, they persisted.

The partnership was formed five years ago, when leaders from the churches joined together to sign a **Declaration of Intent**, signalling moves to work more closely together in mission. On Sunday, 27 November 2016, at Carlisle Cathedral a service of Hope and Expectation and to affirm Cumbria’s designation as England’s first ecumenical county was held. During the service, the **partner churches** (Methodist, United Reformed, Anglican and Salvation Army) signed a new Declaration of Covenant Partnership and the **companion churches** (The Church of Scotland, The Religious Society of Friends in Cumbria, The Roman Catholics and The North Western Baptist Association) signed a letter of companionship.

Each signatory of the Declaration committed themselves and their churches to:

- seek out every possible opportunity for joint initiatives especially for **God for All**, at local and county level in mission to all the people of Cumbria.
- work together to equip both lay and ordained ministry whenever possible, and to share that ministry wherever appropriate.
- continue the work of developing strategies whereby we optimise the use of our church buildings for the benefit of communities throughout the county.

Leaders from the Religious Society of Friends in Cumbria, the Roman Catholics, the North Western Baptist Association and the Church of Scotland signed a letter of companionship, affirming their commitment to pray for those churches who signed the Declaration and to work in mission with the denominations at a local and county level where possible.

To drive the project forward a **Reach Strategy** has been developed and can be broken down into four areas:

- **Me Reach** – the encouragement of individual Christians in their witness;

- **In Reach** – helping churches make their life and programme attractive and accessible;
- **Out Reach** – fresh expressions, community engagement, going out from church;
- **Big Reach** – Cumbria-wide initiatives to intrigue people about the possibility of God;

For more information about this exciting mission visit their website:  
[www.godforall.gov.uk](http://www.godforall.gov.uk)

During a question and answer session I was surprised to learn that there are two Church of Scotland Churches in Carlisle. So, when on the day after the meeting I received a copy of the Mochrum Parish & Community Magazine from my friend Jenni, the coincidence of reading the article about their Guild meeting held in February when the speaker was Mr Ronnie Clarke, from Creetown, who gave a talk about **The Church of Scotland across the Border** could not be ignored. With their permission, I include the following excerpt:

“He shared with us the how the Church of Scotland first opened in Carlisle and how over the years it had had its challenges, to the point where it nearly closed. But, due to the vision and dedication of a certain Minister, quite a number of years ago, also the commitment and hard work of many people, and a lot of alterations to the original building, it is once again a thriving church. The premises are not only used for Church services, but for many other events by the community. God really does work in mysterious ways.”

We finished our time together by saying together the God For All Prayer which for this occasion included our Region. I was left thinking that it would be wonderful if Dumfries and Galloway could become the first Scottish Ecumenical Region!

**God for all, you reached out to the world in your Son Jesus Christ.  
 Help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to all.  
 God for all, you send your Holy Spirit to empower and gift your Church.  
 By your Spirit help us grow in unity, grow as followers of Jesus Christ,  
 and grow your kingdom in Cumbria, (Dumfries and Galloway)  
 and in this world. Amen.**

## WHO'S WHO

<b>Interim Priest</b>	: The Revd Stephen Hazlett	01557 620132
<b>Lay Readers</b>	: Mr Douglas Allison	504279
	: Mr Alan Rumble	01644 420250
<b>Lay Worship Leader / Pastoral Assistant</b>	: Mrs Jenny Wright	01557 339081
<b>Methodist Associate</b>	: Revd Joy Margerison	505476
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	: Mr Patrick Little	690507
<b>Hon Treasurer / Freewill Offerings Convenor</b>	: Mr Fred Coulthard	502965
<b>Property Convenor</b>	: Mr Clem Gault	502253
<b>Lay Representative</b>	: Mr Ian MacQuarrie	01557-820530
<b>Alternate Lay Representative</b>	: Mr Ian Mather	505910
<b>Third Lay Representative</b>	: Mrs Ann Gault	502253
<b>Vestry Members</b>	: Hon Treasurer (Chair) : Hon Secretary : Property Convenor : Lay Representative	
<b>Elected Vestry Members</b>	: Mrs Sue Beddows	670286
	: Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
	: Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
	: Mr David Stevens	503589
	Mrs Jenny Wright	01557 339081
<b>Organist</b>	: Mr Maurice Till FRCO LTCL ARCM	620619
<b>Sanctuary Guild Convenor</b>	: Mrs Val Davies	502750
<b>Co-ordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups</b>	: Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
<b>MU Branch Leader</b>	: Mrs Sue Beddows	670286
<b>Administrator / Hall Bookings / Magazine &amp; Website Editor</b>	: Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
<b>Magazine Distribution / Traidcraft</b>	: Mr John Dewhurst	502736
<b>Sunday School Leaders</b>	: {Mrs Rosie MacQuarrie : {Mrs Ann Gault	01557-820530 502253
<b>Little Fishes</b>	: Mrs Roz Stevens	503589