

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



*Daffodils at Threave*

*St Ninian's Review*

*Issue No 60*

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# **SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

## **Sunday 25 March - Palm Sunday**

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 11.00am Liturgy of the Palms and Sung Eucharist
- 7.00pm Taizé Service (in the Hall)

## **Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 26, 27 & 28 March**

- 10.15 am Holy Communion
- 8.00pm Compline

## **Thursday 29 March**

- No** 10.15am *Holy Communion*
- 7.00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar and the Watch

## **Friday 30 March**

- No** 10.15am *Holy Communion*
- 2.00pm Prayers at the Foot of the Cross

## **Sunday 1 April - Easter Sunday**

- No** 8.30am *Holy Communion*
- 11.00am Festival Eucharist

## **Wednesday 4 April**

- 10.15 am Holy Communion

## **Sunday 8 April - Low Sunday**

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 11.00am Family Eucharist
- 6.00pm Evensong

### **DURING THE VACANCY OUR INTERIM PRIEST, THE REVD STEPHEN HAZLETT**

is responsible for arranging any weddings, baptisms and funerals,  
as well as for hospital visits and any emergencies

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## EASTER REFLECTION

People are saying Easter is early this year. Sometimes they say, “Easter is late this year.” I’ve never heard anyone say it is bang on time! One year in the beginning of my ministry it was so early that the famous Easter Parade I attended in Dublin was that cold it snowed, and children in their Easter bonnets and light clothing had to receive medical attention. Over a year living in Galloway has taught me nothing is impossible weather-wise!

“Early” however is a good word to be associated with the Day of Resurrection. The women followers of Our Lord were *early at the grave*. When I was Rector of Bushmills, County Antrim, the churches held a moving ecumenical service at sunrise on the dramatic Atlantic shores of the Giants Causeway. The cold was offset by a hearty Ulster fry served up in the Presbyterian church hall before we all went off to sing *Thine be the Glory*.

We do not need a creatively beautiful setting - although it helps - such as we are privileged to live in to feel close to the force of God’s life-giving love which we associate with Easter. The Easter story is told to our hearts and experienced in our lives. Meanwhile in later ministry in urban-decayed Sunderland an enterprising young Vicar on the Minster Team held a 5am service in the church grounds around a live fire-lit brazier when the words of the maid, the Apostle Peter’s denial etc. were read and came to life with amazing poignancy.

For the Christian Easter is both personal faith and the most joyous collective worship any church can experience. Bishop Katharine Schori, former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church of the US has written, *“Easter celebrates the victory of light and life over darkness and death. God recreates and redeems all life from dead, dry and destroyed bones. We are released from the bonds of self-obsession – and whatever would steal away the radical freedom of God-with-us. We join in baptismal rebirth in the midst of Jesus’ own passing-over”*.

We have many services over Holy Week and Easter in both St Ninian’s and Christ Church (and if you have not enough I can add a few more from Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet!) and you are warmly and inclusively welcomed to church. The details are listed in this magazine and the website.

***Stephen D Hazlett, Interim Priest***





***While sorting through the late Canon David Main's books, Stephanie came across a couple of old, small sheets of notepaper on which was written the following, presumably notes for a sermon which he was planning to give. Alan Rumble used the material while taking the midweek Service of Holy Communion at St Ninian's for a very small group on a snowy 28 February, and it seemed a shame not to share it with more people.***

### **ST DAVID**

Today, 1<sup>st</sup> March, is St David's Day and I shall just say a few words about him. As with many Celtic saints, there is much legend but little fact. But I shall be selective with the legend and recount only the more probable bits of it.

Dewi, which is his name in Welsh, is said to have been the son of a Welsh prince called Sant— and so he is often referred to as Dewi Sant (which doesn't mean St David). His mother is said to have been called Non or Nonnita, and he is thought to have been born at Henfynw on the Cardigan coast, sometime in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. He was roughly a contemporary of St Columba.

There is a legend that he went to be educated at Candida Casa (Whithorn) but there is no evidence to support this. However, educated by the church he certainly was for he undoubtedly seems to have ended up as an Abbott-Bishop of the Celtic kind – that is, not running a diocese but presiding over a community. He is credited with founding a dozen monasteries in South Wales, but his principal monastery was at Mynyw (or Menevia), now known as St David's, where the present Cathedral is reputed to be on the same site as David's monastery.

The fact that he was known as Dewi Ddyfrwr – David the water-drinker – implies that he ran an ascetic regime, a more severe one than that of most other Celtic monasteries of the period.

One of the few established historical facts of David's life is that, in about 560, he attended the Synod of Brefi (a place now known as Llandewi Brefi). There are also records of several churches claiming foundation by David in south west Wales, Gwent, Herefordshire, Cornwall, Devon and Brittany, but there is no record of any ancient foundation further north honouring David. David would thus seem to have carried out his missionary activities in the south of Wales and over the Bristol Channel to the SW of England and (possibly) over the English Channel to Brittany. At no time does it seem that he evangelised N Wales – the initial credit for that, incidentally, is given to our

own St Kentigern (or Mungo). Nevertheless, David came to be honoured as the patron saint of Wales – the only one of the four British patron saints who was native born. (Patrick evangelised Ireland but came from mainland Britain). David's symbol is the dove and not a leek – and he shares that symbol of the dove with his contemporary, Columba.

We must remember that David was not a lone saint, but one of many working in the same area. In commemorating him today as patron saint of Wales, we are really commemorating a whole group of Celtic saints of whom he was one of the leading ones. We are in effect commemorating the founders of the Welsh Church – that Church which in its present varied denominations, still preserves something of that original Celtic spirituality in the poetry and music of its hymns.

*David Main*

### **GLENALMOND SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH YOUTH WEEK**

#### **WE ARE NOT WHAT YOU THINK WE ARE: OLIVIA SMITH ON YOUNG PEOPLE**

“Seek us out and let us in. Involving young people is important because we can affect your present as well as your future. We can help you prove to the world that church isn't a thing of the past, you're still present and growing today.”

This is what one articulate young woman told the autumn Synod of the Diocese of Edinburgh. Olivia Smith is a delegate at the Provincial Youth Week at Glenalmond, and one of the Diocese's under-18 Diocesan representatives on the Provincial Youth Committee. She worships at St Columba's-by-the-Castle. The Diocesan Youth and Children Officer invited her to address Synod, and we were inspired by her maiden speech. Here is the text of Olivia's address in full:



“What do you think of when you think of teenagers? For many people the thought of teens conjures the illusion of a horde of hooligans with their hoods up, smoking suspicious substances, and yelling abuse at innocent passers-by. Loud, obnoxious, definitely not the sort to take part in organised religion. However as a member of said age group I can tell you that's simply not true.

Being a young Christian and meeting other young Christians has revealed to me an extraordinary, diverse, unique, and yet united group of people. Although

there is a significant lack of teens in church there are still a lot out there who are passionate about their religion and eager to explore it. And where can one find this mythical teenager with interests and passions? Glenalmond!

The only way I can really convey to you how brilliant Glen really is, is by describing my first experience. I was, to put it mildly, highly reluctant to go. I thought that Christianity and religion in general was a mess of racist, misogynistic, homophobic rubbish (no offence, God!); I hardly ever set foot in church and the last thing I wanted was for a cult of conservative God freaks to drag me kicking and screaming back. And was that what I found? Nope. Otherwise I wouldn't be here. The first real surprise was in house group when I was sitting awkwardly among complete strangers waiting for them to get down on their hands and knees and start singing Hail Marys. Instead what happened was when we got to talking we had a laugh, got to know each other and I was put completely at ease within five minutes of arrival. I thought it would be different when I confessed my doubts about the presence of prejudice within the church and its place in modern society. But instead of them holding up crucifixes and throwing holy water at me, they acknowledged the validity of my point and weren't afraid to discuss it. And from there it just got better. We talked about the issues of Christianity, we were allowed to organise our own worship, and we opened ourselves up to each other, creating a bond as strong as Dwayne Johnson's rippling biceps...but I'm getting off topic.

And that in a nutshell is the brilliance of Glen. That's what I find every year when I return. That's what all the other newcomers discover. This year I met a boy who told me "I didn't expect much when I came. But Glen's helped me at a really difficult point in my life, and I'm happier than I've ever been before." And part of what makes it so brilliant are the people. If you want to know what the Glen folk are like, think of every teenage stereotype ever – they're the exact opposite of that. Badly behaved? – they're kind and friendly. Lazy? – they're creative and active. Moody? – they're the most persistently, almost annoyingly happy people I've ever met, in all age groups. But it's not the delegates who make it brilliant. The leaders have a way of getting down with us without patronising us. Equal parts responsible and childlike, always ready to provide support and always up for a laugh. The crowning glory on this is the freedom we're given to discuss Christianity. We're allowed to debate different issues and express our opinions, we're even allowed to express our beliefs in our own worship. I think this shows a level of trust and respect quite unique to any other youth camp I've been to.

This is the sort of thing we ought to do in our churches. It's the sort of

thing that could attract more youth. First of all, don't just read the Bible to us and expect us to take it as it is. Let us discuss the messages in it and apply them to today's situation. Let us talk about social and political issues so we can have debates and express our opinions. Secondly, let us organise worship. Okay I can see a couple of expressions going, "What, really?" Well don't be so sceptical. You could get lots of creative and thoughtful ideas and a fun break from the same form of service every week. It also shows a lot of trust which we really appreciate. When I first approached my minister about the idea of the young people organising a worship I was delighted with how receptive he was to the idea. And the reaction I got from the congregation who enjoyed having something different was amazing.

Yet another great thing about Glen is that it carries on being useful to the delegates even when they're not at an event. It's not easy having a religion when you're a teen. When many of our peers think of churchgoers they think of the Westboro Baptist Church and gaggles of priests throwing holy water at gay people and stealing stem cells from hospitals. Having Glen is a reminder that we're not all like that and it provides an opportunity to talk to other young churchgoers, exchange views without being judged. That for me has been very important in keeping my faith.

The spirit of Glen should be kept up, not just in church services, but in the way you approach teenagers. Whenever someone asks me, "How do you talk to young people?" I just say, "How do you talk to anyone?" If you want to get on with us then ask us questions, start discussions, treat us with the same respect you would anyone else. Don't try to be down wid dem kidz. We don't want you to be cool or relatable. We don't care if you don't know the latest dank memes, we don't care if you don't know what dank memes are. We just want you to talk to us with the same respect and consideration you would to another adult.

You shouldn't be afraid to approach teenagers, we don't bite! It's important to cross the divide between youth and adults because we have at least one thing in common: the desire to live in a better world. So start talking to us about whatever issues you want: refugees, poverty, war, whatever. This way we won't have youth issues and adult issues. We'll just have issues that we can all address.

In conclusion, what I'm trying to say to you is, in the words of Mika (a singer): "We are not what you think we are." We shouldn't be made to sit by silently until we turn 18 then we can finally speak up for ourselves. We're not

a bunch of moody, boorish Neanderthals grunting at the evolved mature adults. We're here, we're ready to participate, we want to speak to you, and we want to speak for ourselves. Please don't deny us that. Keep supporting Glenalmond, be open to young people participating in church, and talk to us about what we can do to contribute. And when I say that I don't just mean "hands up who wants to..." No. Seek us out and let us in. Involving young people is important because we can affect your present as well as your future. We can help you prove to the world that church isn't a thing of the past, you're still present and growing today. It'll also create a future generation of people who are passionate about their religion and will continue to share and explore it for generations to come."

**Olivia Smith**

**Glenalmond Youth Week: 22-28 July 2018 is open to anyone in secondary education** ( <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/glen18-form-1.pdf> )

### **THY KINGDOM COME**

*On January 24<sup>th</sup> the Archbishops of Canterbury and York launched the third annual global, ecumenical prayer movement – Thy Kingdom Come.*

*Thy Kingdom Come is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith.*

*Now in its third year, participation has grown every year.*

In 2016 – 100,000 Christians pledged to pray. By 2017 – more than half a million had pledged to pray from more than 85 countries including Ghana, Netherlands, Malaysia, Cuba, South Africa, Australia, Korea, Japan and the Philippines to name a few. In the UK in 2017 every diocese in the Church of England was involved. Many cathedrals took part, hosting 'beacon' events designed to focus prayers in towns and cities nationwide. The campaign's broad ecumenical appeal led to more than 50 denominations and traditions being involved last year; including the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

The positive impact of **Thy Kingdom Come 2017** continues to unfold as numerous stories of personal and communal transformation pour in from churches, families and whole communities alike. Among the stories arising from the initiative – many of them deeply moving – is one from a couple who had not seen their son for 22 years. 'We pray every day obviously for him but during Thy Kingdom Come he was one of the people we prayed for as a group,'



they say. 'We put his name on the altar before God and ... yesterday he came home.'

This year also sees some digital developments including a brand-new website and a **Thy Kingdom Come** devotional app created by leading Christian publishers SPCK. Both products will be translated into several languages including Spanish, Korean, and Swahili and will be launched in time for Easter.

**The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby** said: *"The business of being witnesses to Jesus Christ and of praying to be witnesses compels us to look into the world around us. It compels us to seek, to experience the compassion of God for a world caught up in lostness, in sin, but also in suffering and pain, in oppression of the poor, in cruelty, in abuse, in outrageous inequality, in all the things that go against the Kingdom of God. There is no limit to what the Kingdom of God does, and so the moment we start praying Thy Kingdom Come we look outwards. The Kingdom of God when we pray for the Kingdom to come, the Kingdom will transform individuals, the Kingdom transforms society, the Kingdom transforms the globe and the Kingdom transforms the cosmos."*

**The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu** said: *"It gladdens and warms my heart to know that many Christians throughout the world are committing themselves, from today to Pentecost, to pray for the Coming of Our Father in Heaven's Kingdom – a Kingdom of Justice, Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit. And with a passion for people from every nation, tribe and language to encounter Jesus Christ – the Light of the world. Please join me in praying the "Our Father who art in Heaven..." on the Hour every Hour when you are able."*

**Emma Buchan, Project Manager of Thy Kingdom Come** and the Archbishops' Evangelism Task Group Project Leader, said: *"It is such a blessing to be involved with Thy Kingdom Come and what God is calling us to. I pray and hope that in some small way we can encourage individuals, families and churches to pray for people to come to know Jesus Christ. We were amazed by the level of engagement last year – from Australia to Cuba, from Japan to the Falklands and across denominations. We have received a number of powerful testimonies – including stories of answered prayer as well as many people and churches committing, even more so, to pray for loved ones to come to know Christ. We are so excited to see what happens next."*

**Visit [www.thykingdomcome/global](http://www.thykingdomcome/global)**

***Sent in by Muriel Palmer***

## **EVERY PURCHASE MAKES A DIFFERENCE - FAIRTRADE**

The aim of Fairtrade is to support small-scale farmers and producers in developing countries by paying them a fair price for their goods. This enables them to make their own decisions, control their futures and lead the dignified life everyone deserves. It may for example make it possible for their children to have a good education. The monthly stall at St Ninian's supports this aim in two ways:

Firstly all the goods we sell are purchased from Traidcraft plc, one of the leading dedicated Fairtrade companies in the UK. The purchasing from Traidcraft is done by Mary van Zwanenburg, a member of the Catholic congregation in Kirkcudbright. Mary supplies other churches as well as St Ninian's and also takes stalls at coffee mornings and craft fairs etc. Before making up our monthly order Mary prices the goods using the prices shown in Traidcraft's retail catalogue. The aim of paying a fair price to the producers, and the fact that Traidcraft operates on a much smaller scale than the likes of Tesco, means that the cost of goods on the stall is relatively high. Please think of the difference in price as part of your charitable giving.

The second way in which we contribute to the aims of Fairtrade is a payment made annually by Mary to one of Traidcraft's special appeals. Mary takes the total value of annual sales from all her outlets and subtracts from it the total paid to Traidcraft for goods purchased in the same period. This gives her the "profit" for the year. In recent years this has enabled her to donate £1000 each year to a good Traidcraft cause. In respect of 2017, she has just given £1000 to Traidcraft's "Hidden Entrepreneur" appeal. The UK Government has agreed to match fund donations to the appeal and the money raised will be used to educate and train farmers in some of the poorest regions of the world.

Finally the quality of the goods we sell on the stall is good or very good so do remember that "every purchase makes a difference."

***John Dewhurst***

### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

#### **Funerals:**

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> January   | Charles Muntz |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> February | Nan Gibson    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March     | Judi Duck     |

**REFUGEES by Brian Bilston**

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at in another way  
**(NOW READ AGAIN FROM BOTTOM TO TOP!)**

***Sent in by Roz Stevens***

**ST NINIAN'S REVIEW - SUMMER 2018**

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of "The Review" it would be most welcome. Please give or send articles and photos to Stephanie by mid-June.

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

Email: [s.dewhurst23@gmail.com](mailto:s.dewhurst23@gmail.com) or phone: 01556 502736.

Current and recent editions of the Review can also be read on the St Ninian's website: [stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/st-ninians-review/](http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/st-ninians-review/)

If for any reason you are unable to get to a Service at St Ninian's, the current notices are also published on the News page of the website.

**ST NINIAN'S WEBSITE can be found at: [stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/](http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/)**

## ABBAS REST ORPHANS COFFEE MORNING - SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**Jenny Spence says:** 'May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped and supported the coffee morning for ARO; for the delicious cakes, traybakes, biscuits and preserves that were donated to make the morning so successful; to Jenny Armstrong for her card stall.

A grand total of £511.33 was collected and sent to Madge, a trustee of the organisation, who travelled down from Ayr to be with us, bringing several cushions and bags she had made for the stall. Madge sent us a card saying, "What a wonderful total! A really great effort Jenny. Our thanks to all concerned. We hugely enjoyed the lovely cake we bought and it was such a pleasure to meet you all." It was a morning made easy for me with all the willing helpers. Thank you again.'



**Sandra, Val and Sue**



**Joy serves coffee to Debbie and Mark**



**Margot and Janet examine the produce stall, in the charge of Susanne and Christine**



## MOTHERING SUNDAY - 11 MARCH 2018

Revd Mark Smith celebrated at the Mothering Sunday Service at which the Sunday School read the lessons and gave out posies of daffodils to all the ladies who were present. Afterwards there was a lunch in the hall, organised by Patrick Little and attended by 39 people of all ages. Donations at the bar raised £53 for Wigtownshire Women's Aid.



Sheena Cartner provided an excellent meal which was enjoyed in good company.

*Thanks to Jenny Wright for the photos of some hungry people before the meal was served!*





## CAROLINE AND JEFF CLAYTON'S NORWEGIAN VOYAGE



It's the first day of spring and, as I look out of my window, a wintery landscape of drifting snow covered hills and fields greets me. The loch is grey and geese are circling overhead. The Arctic weather we had enjoyed (and endured) over the past weeks had followed us back to Loch Ken. So much for spring!

In late January we set off from Bergen to go north of the Arctic Circle on the Norwegian-built ferry, MS Kong Harald, one of several of Hurtigruten's fleet. Back in 1891 the idea was to have an express service between Trondheim and Hammerfest despite the hazards of navigating in winter, by night and in stormy weather, when there were only 28 lighthouses north of Trondheim and a mere two maritime maps for the region. Nevertheless in 1893 the steamship Vesteraalen left Trondheim for Hammerfest. Hitherto a letter from Trondheim would take five months to reach Hammerfest; now it would take just several days.

Our voyage was to take us northwards along the coast of Norway, crossing the Arctic Circle and round the northern top of Norway to Kirkenes, where the ferry then turns back south. A working ship and indeed the lifeblood of local communities, the ferry stops frequently throughout the day and night at small villages. Our first stop was at Ålesund, a pretty town which was entirely rebuilt in Art Nouveau style, after its wooden houses and buildings were totally destroyed by fire in 1904. A beautifully preserved former pharmacy in the centre of the town now houses the Art Nouveau Museum with a fine collection of furniture, ceramics, books and paintings.

The following day we arrived at Trondheim, where Jeff and I set off to visit Nidaros Cathedral. In 1030, King Olaf, the Viking king who replaced the Nordic pagan religion with Christianity, was martyred in battle at Stiklestad and subsequently canonised. Nidaros became a centre for pilgrims from all over Europe, its bishopric embracing Norway, Orkney, the Isle of Man, the Faroes, Iceland and Greenland. The altar sits over the grave of St Olaf. From there we wandered through snowy streets to the Museum of Decorative Arts, then to the 17<sup>th</sup> century wooden Old Town Bridge, from where we looked across to the Bryggen, a colourful area of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouses lining the river Nidlev.

Early next morning we crossed the Arctic Circle. A ceremony was held on the upper deck where King Neptune welcomed us and baptised some brave souls with icy water down the back of their necks. Not us! In between on-shore excursions, we were treated to a programme of lectures about the culture and history of Norway. Ranging from Vikings, boat building, hunting and trapping, the art and music of the country to the Sami people, Pomor trade, the Fram expeditions, environmental challenges, the Northern Lights and myths and trolls – we were kept well informed and entertained. And there was time to simply watch and in my case, sketch, the most stunning landscape unfold with snowy mountains and fjords, sunrises and sunsets, an eclipse of the moon as well as a full moon which, as we sailed north, lit up the ethereal landscape with cold clarity.



At Tromsø, we were 400 kms north of the polar circle. This was the departure base for many polar expeditions for Nansen and Amundsen and others. In 1928 Amundsen left from here to help find his missing colleague, Umberto Nobile, who had been attempting to reach the North Pole by airship but had been lost. Amundsen never returned, his plane having gone down in the Barent Sea. Ironically Nobile returned safely after rescue.

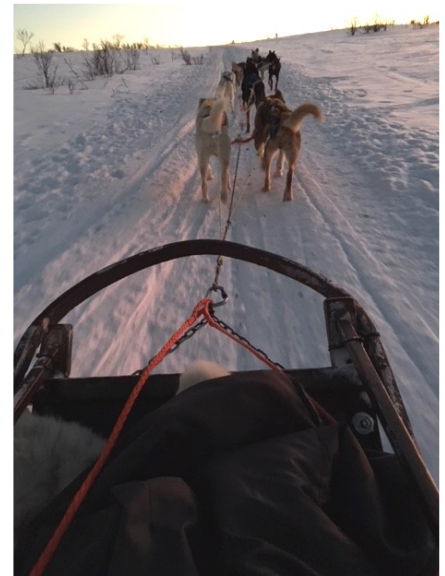
For us, Tromsø was where we were to have our first encounter with husky sledding. Pulled by eight keen Alaskan huskies, we were towed through snowy plains as the sun set behind the mountains. The stars and the moon emerged, the snow turned from orange to pink to





white; the silence was broken only by the soft swish of sledges. I could have gone on for ever! Then a hot drink and cake by the fire in a Sami tent, and a talk about their way of life with huskies.

Later that night, to complete the enchantment, the Aurora Borealis made its



first appearance – a quick summons to the upper deck brought out everyone to watch and marvel at this strange phenomenon.

Next day we arrived at Honningsvag where we had opted for a mountain climb. We set off with a sea eagle soaring overhead, a full sun in a cloudless sky, colder and snowier, but glorious. As we ascended so too did a full moon, turning snow and sky to a dusky pink; a further climb to another summit and then, as we began our descent, so too did the sun transforming the sea and islands into a golden glow. Those were moments to treasure.

Our final destination on the route north was Kirkenes. Seals stretched out on the floating ice. We saw gatherings of black cormorants, eider ducks floating by and more sea eagles. Someone saw a sea otter and the captain earlier had pointed out an elk on the mountainside. At Kirkenes we were taken to visit a snow hotel. En route, we passed frozen lakes and frosted, snow-laden trees. Fifteen kms from the Russian border, we passed the road to Murmansk. The hotel itself was carved entirely from ice; the temperature kept at minus 4C. If you were to stay there you were given a sleeping bag similar to those used by the Norwegian army, so fit for purpose. Bedrooms and beds carved and decorated out of ice; the bar carved with an ice replica of St Basil's Cathedral (from Moscow) and lit by coloured lights; it was impressive. The hotel is rebuilt every year and carvings are created by local art students.

Now southbound and a night ride on Icelandic ponies on the Lofoten Islands. Seen in the dark under the light of a full moon, we travelled through a mountainous landscape to reach our ponies. Then off to an icy beach covered in snow, but with every confidence in these delightful surefooted ponies. The sea shone silver and finally as we turned home a dancing display of northern lights above us was almost too perfect to be true.

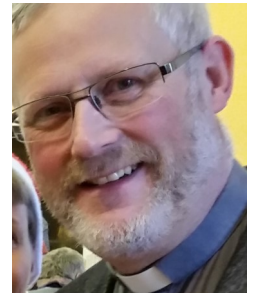


A midnight concert of haunting Norwegian music in the Arctic Cathedral, and a final dance on deck, learning traditional Norwegian folk dances, in freezing temperatures but full of bonhomie, wound up a lovely trip.

***Caroline Clayton***

### **A MESSAGE FROM REVD MARK SMITH**

April 1<sup>st</sup> is widely known as All Fools' Day – a time for playing tricks on friends and neighbours. The serious newspapers carry spurious articles, children booby-trap doors, prank telephone calls confuse the unwary – all in the name of fun! We are on the lookout for silliness on April 1<sup>st</sup> and most of us try to avoid getting caught out.



However, this year Christians are celebrating the most unbelievable thing – something more unlikely than spaghetti trees or cheese from the moon – an empty tomb!

Jesus was dead and buried. Executed in the most efficient and brutal way then dumped in a borrowed tomb without ceremony. Guards were set at the stone-sealed tomb. His followers hid in fear, shame and frustration – their hopes dashed.

Friday became Saturday. Saturday became Sunday.

On the Sunday morning some of the women who had followed Jesus took courage and went to the tomb to complete the rites for burial. The guards had deserted their posts, the sealed stone had been removed, the tomb was empty! The other disciples must have thought the women were pulling their legs but went to see for themselves ... it was TRUE!

In many ways what God has done for us through Jesus' death and resurrection sounds unlikely and foolish. Yet ... it is what opens the door for us to be God's friends again and, through faith in Jesus, receive the eternal life He wants to share with us.

An unlikely tale? Or the key to a new life? It is this 'foolish' message which unites Christians across the world in the Easter Celebration. The death which gives life is remembered every Sunday as we worship God together. The free gift of grace is for everyone who receives it. Why not come along and see for yourself?

May God Bless You this Easter-tide.

## CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

At the Theological Reflection Meeting held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the speaker was Catriona Thomson, the CAP Debt Help Centre Manager, Castle Douglas (CD). She gave an overview on how CAP came into being and how it has developed over the past twenty years. CAP HQ is in Bradford and all new enquiries are received there and then sent to a client's nearest centre. She advised as to the services available nationwide and what is available in Dumfries and Galloway. The centre at the New Life Church in CD covers DG5, DG6 and DG7 postcode areas. The Job Club run by the River of Life Church in Dumfries covers postcode areas DG1 and DG2. The Galloway Christian Centre holds Money Courses.

Quotes from the CAP website include Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury: *"CAP are serious, highly professional, deeply committed and, above all, they will treat you as a human being of infinite value."* Also Martin Lewis, money saving expert: *"CAP are unsurpassed when it comes to the debt help they give people across the country. There's nothing better to start you on the path to having more money in your pocket."*

The following is an extract from a letter sent to donors from John Kirby, the Founder and International Director of CAP: "In 2017, your Life Changer gifts helped more people than in any other year of CAP's history! ... a breath-taking 2,828 families and individuals have stepped into 2018 free from the heavy millstone of debt. 130 new communities now have a CAP service on their doorstep, shining the light of hope into the darkness of poverty. Thank you for being a living example of God's Word in Micah 6:8. ***'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'***"

Catriona described in some detail the work the CD Centre carries out to help people get out and stay out of debt. Access to the service is through the HQ in Bradford – telephone calls are free. When she receives a referral, an initial visit is made when she asks for details of income and expenditure. A plan is drawn up to enable the client to get out of debt. All contact with creditors is made by CAP. Her contact details are telephone 07745 277655 and email: [catrionathomsom@capuk.org](mailto:catrionathomsom@capuk.org)

The Centre receives money from Bradford HQ but donations from churches and individuals in our area would be gratefully received. It was pointed out that it needed to be made clear that any donation was for the CD centre. For more information visit CAP's website: [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

***Muriel Palmer***





## **ELLIE STEVENS WRITES ABOUT HER FIRST YEAR AT QUEEN MARGARET'S UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH**

I can say with absolute certainty that I am loving being at university. The sheer variety of opportunities that present themselves and the fact that every day is different, makes the experience so exciting.

Having never been a particularly sporty person, I found myself during Freshers' Week befriending the Vice-Captain of the women's rugby team and being persuaded to go along to their first training session. I have to admit I was absolutely terrified, but I had decided that I wanted to learn something totally different during my first year, so this seemed like the perfect thing. I have really enjoyed my progress and development although it is, at times, tough. Rugby has now become a sport that I am really very passionate about. We train every Monday night, with matches held most Wednesdays. Meeting other teams and of course closely bonding with my own, has also been a lot of fun, giving me a chance to meet a whole variety of new people.



The friends I have made here at QMU have become a big part of my life. As we all live away from home it is important that we are all there to look out for each other. I really feel like I have an amazing support network here. Not only the rugby girls, but the people on my course, my flat mates, and a whole host of others have been making sure that I look after myself, am well fed and of course go on the occasional night out!

But don't worry, I have been doing a lot of studying as well! I am finding studying Drama and Performance amazing. Recently we have been analysing classic texts (a lot of Shakespeare in particular) and learning how to look at the texts from the perspective of a director. This is something that I am finding

particularly useful. We have also been split into groups and been given different plays to perform. My group is looking at Antigone. I have been given the task of translating this Ancient Greek text into modern Scots so that it can be set in inner city Glasgow; something that I have thoroughly enjoyed as it has just been so funny! A few of my flat mates are studying Film and Media so in my spare time I am often acting in their projects. Although being in front of a camera is not what I want to do with my life, I have really enjoyed the experience and learned a great deal.

I am all set for a busy summer as Katie MacQuarrie and I are undertaking the challenge of the MoonWalk on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, an emotional journey for us both, raising money for Breast Cancer. Also I have been asked to direct “The Two-Character Play” by Tennessee Williams for Fox and Hound Theatre. We will be touring with it; an opportunity I am absolutely thrilled to partake in.

This first year of university has gone so quickly. I cannot believe that in a few weeks it will be over! I have had such an amazing time and I’m so glad I made the decision to follow my heart and come here.

*Ellie Stevens*

#### DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY HARD OF HEARING GROUP



This is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation which provides advice and support in the local community regarding hearing-aid maintenance and managing hearing loss.

The service is complementary to the services provided by the NHS and Social Work and is accessible across Dumfries and Galloway. Fully trained local volunteers give help and support with tubing, minor repairs, ear-mould cleaning, and battery replacement; advice on how to clean hearing-aids and how to get the most out of them, together with information and signposting to other services and an introduction to useful equipment.

Since 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 the **Castle Douglas** drop-in clinics (second and fourth Thursdays) have been meeting at the **Gordon Memorial Hall** on Whitepark Road **from 10am until 12 noon**. Another group meets at **Christ Church Hall** in Dalbeattie every second Tuesday of the month, 10.00am -12 noon.

For more information visit: [www.dghhg.org.uk](http://www.dghhg.org.uk)

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

In October, Castle Douglas Scouts will once again be heading off to Kenya. Paul Hodson, the Scout Leader, and his wife Gilli are over there now (March) to establish what projects will be of most benefit to both the students and the scouts. It was such a fulfilling experience last time that, this year, ten Scouts, two Scout Leaders and four other adults will be undertaking the adventure and cultural exchange. The projects were very grateful to the St Ninian's family, who were hugely supportive of the Scouts' endeavours last time and we hope you will again support this fantastic opportunity for everyone involved. Thank you.

***Roz and David Stevens***

### **EARLY SERVICES AT ST NINIAN'S**

**(Services for Holy Week and Easter are listed on the inside front cover | of this magazine.)**

There will be 8.30am services on Sunday mornings on ***only*** the following dates:

**8 / 22 April**

**13 / 27 May**

**10 / 24 June**

Details of all services at St Ninian's will be given in the weekly pew sheets and on the website: **<http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/service-times/>**

### ***BISHOP GREGOR SAYS:***

I am pleased to let you know I have appointed a Digital Missioner. We welcome Petko Marinov who is a member of St Oswald, Maybole. Part of Petko's remit is to look at the online presence of charges within the Diocese i.e. websites, social media etc and how those relate to mission and growth. He will talk more about his role at the spring meeting of the Diocesan Synod, (postponed due to the bad weather in early March).

If you wish to make contact with Petko, his e-mail address is:

**[digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org)**

Please pray for Petko as he begins this new role.



## WORLD WAR ONE - 1914-1918: **BLOOD SWEEPED LANDS AND SEAS OF RED**



*Tower of London © English Heritage*



*Carlisle Castle © English Heritage*

Many of you will remember that in 2014 there was a Poppy Installation at the Tower of London - ***“Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red”***. Many of the ceramic poppies were sold and my sister bought one for me. Since then the remaining poppies have been ‘touring’ the country and from 23 May-8 July 2018 the iconic weeping window sculpture by designer Tom Piper and artist Paul Cummins will be installed at Carlisle Castle.

Having been the headquarters of the Border Regiment throughout the First World War, the castle makes a fitting location to host the Weeping Window as part of the final year. When better to experience this poppy sculpture than during the centenary of the end of the First World War?

Throughout WWI, Carlisle Castle was the headquarters for the Border Regiment, one of the oldest regiments in the British Army. The castle also provided headquarters for the Volunteer Training Corps and accommodation for the Labour Corps during the war. Much of the castle's outer ward was used for training the soldiers. Gravel was even laid on top of the grassed areas to expand the training space. A total of 23,000 recruits passed through the castle during the First World War, with the war claiming 7,000 lives from the Border Regiment. The soldiers of the Regiment were brave and bold in spite of these tragedies, winning many battle honours, including five Victoria Crosses. Visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) for more information.

The website [www.wherearethepoppiesnow.org.uk](http://www.wherearethepoppiesnow.org.uk) is asking: **“Do you own a Tower poppy?”** Help us to reunite digitally the 888,246 ceramic poppies from 2014 installation, *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* originally staged by Historic Royal Palaces at HM Tower of London in 2014. Tell us where your poppy is now and share with others why you bought it and what it means to you.”

***Muriel Palmer***

## THE MOOSIE'S PRAYER (SENT IN BY MARJORIE WRIGHT)

A puir wee kirk moose a' forlorn  
Its furry coat fair sairly worn  
Sank doon upon its bony knees  
and prayed - for just a wee bit cheese.



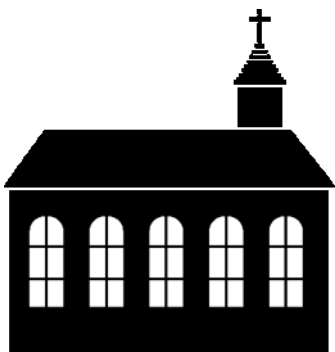
The tears ran doon its wee thin cheeks  
But nane could hear the saddest squeaks  
That drifted oan the cauld nicht air  
Till whiles it couldnae pray nae mair.

Syne daylight cam, the kirk bells rang  
The doors swung open wi' a bang  
Communion day had come oan by  
Wi' wine and plates o' breid held high.



The wee moose lay as still as daith  
And watched it a' wi bated braith  
Then thocht - if I keep awfu' quate  
A bit nicht jist fa' aff a plate.

And so it gazed as roond they went  
Then jist as tho twas heaven sent  
Whit landed richt upon its heid  
Bit twa lumps o' communion breid.



The staff o' life lay oan the flair -  
Then, bounteous answer to his prayer  
Jist as he thocht, 'It looks fell dry'.  
Ae body couped some wine forbye.

Wee moosie stoated up the aisle  
Wearin' sic a boozy smile  
The folk stopped singin', fair aghast  
Tae see a drunken moose walk past.

### *Meaning of unusual words:*

sairly = severely

whiles = sometimes

Syne = soon

daith = death

quate = quiet

fell = exceedingly

Ae body couped = somebody spilt

forbye = as well

stoated = stagger, totter

The organist fell aff his chair,  
The meenister could only stare  
Tae see this drunken, sinfu' moose  
Cavortin' in this sacred hoose.

At last it staggered up the nave  
Then turned and gied a happy wave  
"I ken noo when its time to pray  
I'll dae it each communion day!"



## 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 /<br/>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 /<br/>Freewill Offerings Convenor</b>                   | : Mr Fred Coulthard        | 502965       |
| <b>Property Convenor</b>   | : Mr Ian MacQuarrie        | 01557-820530 |
| <b>Lay Representative</b>  | : Mrs Jenny Wright         | 01557-339081 |
| <b>Alternate Lay Representative</b>                                      | : Mrs Ann Gault            | 502253       |
| <b>Vestry Members</b>  | : Hon Treasurer (Chair)    |              |
|  | : Hon Secretary            |              |
|  | : Property Convenor        |              |
|  | : Lay Representative       |              |
|  | : Alt Lay Representative   |              |
| <b>Elected Vestry Members</b>  | : Mrs Sue Beddows          | 670286       |
|  | : Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst   | 502736       |
|  | : Miss Sheila MacKenzie    | 01644-420623 |
|  | : Revd Joy Margerison      | 505476       |
|  | : Mr David Stevens         | 503589       |
| <b>Organ Scholar</b>   | : Michael Little           |              |
| <b>Sanctuary Guild Convenor</b>  | : Mrs Val Davies           | 502750       |
| <b>Co-ordinator for the<br/>Protection of Vulnerable Groups</b>          | : Miss Sheila MacKenzie    | 01644-420623 |
| <b>MU Branch Leader</b>  | : Mrs Sue Beddows          | 670286       |
| <b>Administrator / Hall Bookings /<br/>Magazine &amp; Website Editor</b> | : Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst   | 502736       |
| <b>Magazine Distribution /<br/>Traidcraft</b>                            | : Mr John Dewhurst         | 502736       |
| <b>Sunday School Leaders</b>   | : {Mrs Rosie MacQuarrie    | 01557-820530 |
|  | : {Mrs Ann Gault           | 502253       |
| <b>Little Fishes</b>   | : Mrs Roz Stevens          | 503589       |