

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

(Scottish Charity No: SC011079)



Carstramon Bluebells

St Ninian's Review

Issue No 39

Spring 2011

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, 17 April
Holy Communion, 8.30am
Sung Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms, 11.00am
Compline, 8.00pm

Mon 18, Tue 19, Wed 20 April
Holy Communion, 10.15am
Compline, 8.00pm

Maundy Thursday, 21 April
Matins, 10.15am
Eucharist of the Last Supper, 8.00pm
Watch until Midnight

Good Friday, 22 April
Matins and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament,
10.15am
Prayers at the Foot of the Cross, 2.00pm
Evening Worship at Kirkpatrick Durham Church, 7.00pm

Easter Day, 24 April
Holy Communion, 8.30am
Festival Eucharist and Baptism, 11.00am

Thursday 28 April
Holy Communion, 10.15am

Low Sunday, 1 May
Holy Communion, 8.30am
Matins, 11.00am
Holy Communion, 12.00 noon
Eastertide Songs of Praise, 7.00pm

Dear Friends,

The election of a Scottish Bishop is a rigorous and protracted process, made the more difficult by the early stages being deathly secret and the later horribly public. From the issuing of the election mandate to the consecration of a new Bishop takes around nine months and an analogy with pregnancy would not be entirely inappropriate. Certainly, having been nominated for the vacant See of Brechin, I am experiencing a curious mixture of excitement, anticipation, anxiety, nausea (though, mercifully, not yet a craving for coal or kipper sandwiches!) that may resonate with many women. And, now that the secret is out, there is a certain sense of relief but also of fear: will it be worse to be elected or not to be elected?

Meanwhile, Lent draws on and Easter approaches. The relentlessness of the Passion narrative seems especially piquant this year as I submit myself to a process that I could have chosen to avoid and that must now rush to its climax. My tumult of emotions is as nothing in comparison with our Lord's agonies in Gethsemane as he wrestled with destiny but I am certainly feeling the full impact of those words of absolute acceptance, "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done." Please pray for me, that I too may be given grace to embrace the outcome.

The Passion is always overtaken by the Resurrection, the gloom of Good Friday gives way to the joy of Easter. It is that understanding of the ultimate triumph of good over evil, of hope over experience, of life over death, that characterises our faith and is its gift to the world. We know, in the words of the old prayer, that, "things that have been cast down are being raised up, and things that have grown old are being made new, and all things are returning to perfection, through him from whom they took their origin, Jesus Christ our Lord." May that Resurrection joy and hope be yours this Easter.

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, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

26.11.10	Elizabeth Bardsley
24.01.11	Lewis Hall (stillborn)
08.02.11	Daphne Colman
22.02.11	John Elvidge

HOME GROUP/FELLOWSHIP GROUP

With David's permission (which I have), I would like to start a Home Group. The intention is to meet weekly and time would be spent in fellowship with elements of worship, prayer and study. The subjects for study would include specific bible studies and relating what the bible tells us to events and life as we live it today. I would hope that the group would grow in fellowship and be a great encouragement and support to each other in our growth as Christians.

Anyone who is interested, please speak to me or put your name and contact number on the list on the notice board. I will then fix a date, time and place for an initial meeting, with a meal, when we can decide what time of day/day of the week suits most people and look at options for study.

Transport for those without can be arranged.

Looking forward in anticipation!

Jenny Wright
(01556 502184)



15th to 21st MAY 2011

Yes it has come around again! There will be an Opening Service at Kirkpatrick Durham Church Sunday 15th May at 7.00 pm and the usual set-up in the Parish Church Halls from Thursday to Saturday, for morning coffee, soup and roll etc, with the Saturday especially for children and families.

This is an ecumenical effort and the usual churches in the area are all working together; no one day belongs to a particular church.

As always your help is needed to help out on any or all of the days. The cakes, bric-a-brac, and plants stalls all do well from your contributions, so you know what to do. The halls will be open on Wednesday 18th from 2.00pm to receive items. Food items on the day please. Watch the Church notice boards for more information.



Fátima Ismael is the director of Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka), a collective of small coffee farming co-operatives in Jinotega, Nicaragua. Her vision for the future of the communities she works with is a bright one. Fatima says: 'We're not just about bread for today, but also tomorrow. But we don't just want bread. We want bread and honey and milk.'



Audilio Echavarría Acuña is one of the 650 small coffee farmers supported by Soppexcca.

The organisation works with 18 co-operatives in the Jinotega region, supporting them to transform their own lives.

David Steward

THE REVD JANE SHAW REFLECTS ON HER FIVE-YEAR ASSIGNMENT IN THE DIOCESE OF RAWALPIND

A lot of the news we hear about Pakistan is highly negative: they say ‘Pakistan is about to implode, it’s a failed state, the situation is catastrophic’ – but this isn’t the case. Pakistan still works and the people are incredibly resilient and resourceful. They rightly don’t expect much help from government, and they do not have the same social safety nets that we do. So they help each other and get on with life.



During my time in Pakistan I learned how religion defines personal and national identity. I developed a great respect for Islam and met some extremely devout and saintly Muslims. But the religion gets distorted and misused (as can happen with Christianity); any religion that imposes its teaching with violence is on the wrong road.

Pakistan, like many countries, is ruled by an elite driven by self-interest. When he became President of Pakistan in 1978, General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq took the country much further towards an Islamic state. He introduced Blasphemy Laws, which are often misused, leading to unfounded accusations and attacks on people from minority faiths.

Another difficulty is the rigid nature of the education system, with a highly pressurised style of rote-learning and too few places in higher education. On top of this, people face rising food prices, power cuts, water shortages, chaotic traffic, and sudden unaffordable expenses, such as medical bills or family weddings. So it is not surprising that the incidence of heart attacks, strokes, diabetes and depression continue to rise.

Living in Pakistan has certainly taught me patience, the grace to accept others’ help, and the wisdom not to judge because I never know the whole story. Have I made a difference? I hope I have given encouragement to other women to consider whether they have a call to ordained ministry. I’ve helped people to develop their gifts to serve God in different ways, supported young people in their Christian journey, and comforted people in times of distress and grief. And I worked with some lovely people and made many good friends.

Whatever I have been able to achieve, I commit it all to God and now look forward to serving him in a new place, here at home in the UK. And I continue to pray for my dear friends in Pakistan.

MOTHERS' UNION REVIEW (photos on p.10)

Summer flew past and suddenly, it seemed, September arrived and we were all ready to go once more! Our first two talks of the new session were, 'My Life with Otters' by Rosemary Green and 'The Loch Arthur Community' by Liz Cutler.



The Christmas party for our members brought a welcome escape from the freezing conditions outside. Most of us were wary of venturing forth over icy roads and lethal pavements, but we did manage to turn out for the usual annual Christmas celebrations and we were not disappointed. There was plenty of fun to be had! As usual, our members gave willingly of their talents and provided us with a variety of entertainment.

In January, Dave Wright gave a very vivid account of his life as an evacuee from London at the beginning of the 1939 war. Seen through the eyes of a young city lad, his introduction to rural life was hilarious but also distressing at times.

Jenny Armstrong stepped into the breach when one of our scheduled speakers had had to cancel. The illustrated talk on her trans-Atlantic cruise on the Queen Mary gave us a glimpse of a luxurious life-style and was enjoyed by all.

'Shells of the Solway Coast' by Jim Logan was another delight, so much so that Mr Logan has been invited to come again next year.

On 22nd March, we celebrated 'Lady Day' in the Hall. We are rather 'out on a limb' down in the Stewartry, which means that it is well-nigh impossible to attend Mothers' Union functions in the central belt owing to poor transport communications. However, Alison persuaded the powers that be to celebrate 'Lady Day' in Castle Douglas this year. Some members, including Ann Glenesk, our Scottish President, and others from Kirkcudbright and Dumfries did come as our guests. Many representatives of our local organisations and churches attended and it turned out to be a truly 'Blessing Day'! ... Such a friendly, relaxed gathering! A lovely Church service at which Peter Douglas assisted set the tone and a 'Soup and

Sweet' lunch followed, all provided by our members. Many of our members had brought books and 'bits and bobs' for the Sales Table. Dave Wright supplied some lovely wooden bowls that he had turned – they all went quickly. From a personal point of view, I have never witnessed a more relaxed and convivial company. I know that most of us went home with a real 'feel-good' factor.

Our usual projects continue and we do welcome the input of the congregation to these. We take this opportunity to thank them for their support and also to thank David and Alison for the tremendous work they do for our branch.

Jessie Lockhart

ABBAS REST UPDATE



To all supporters of the ARO project, I would like to express my thanks for your generous support at the recent Coffee Morning, which raised £420, gratefully received by ARO; also for your continuing support, cheques and donations, including the percentage from the sales of Jenny Armstrong's wonderful cards, notelets and poem books, towards the sponsorship of Dorine, Humfury and Kevin.



Since Christmas, it has been possible to send an extra £50 towards the feeding programme – a great help as maize is very expensive at the moment. It's good to know that a few more children will benefit and be fed once a day at least. Thanks once again from my little green container!

Jenny Spence

TEACHING IN AUSTRALIA

In 1975, the Queensland Teaching Service was recruiting British teachers to enable their own teachers to go on secondment. I volunteered and December 1975 saw a very hot Scot landing at Brisbane airport.

The prospective teachers were housed in a Youth Hostel and then were allocated to schools throughout Queensland. I was lucky enough to be placed in a high school 80 miles west of Brisbane and near Toowoomba which has recently been devastated by floods.

The students were aged 12-18 and mostly Greek or Italian. I was engaged to teach English, French, History and P.E. The English course was unfortunately Australian literature (an oxymoron!) and I was rather mystified when told to teach Australian history - I didn't know there was any! My first lesson was P.E. teaching handball, which again I had never heard of, but luckily my students knew what to do. On our way to the playing field, we were instructed to put books on top of our heads to avoid being

The janitor had a forked stick to catch the highly venomous brown snakes which invaded the school from time to time. One rustled all the way along the top of my cupboards before it was very helpfully pointed out to me by one of my students. I was caught out too, by a dinner plate sized spider which I thought was plastic and had been placed on my desk by a mischievous child, until it lifted a leg and glared at me malevolently. I stood not upon the order of my going . . .

The students all wore uniform and had to buy their own books and notebooks. Every morning at assembly, they sang the National Anthem before notices were read out. Discipline was strict: the Depute could often be found hiding under an open classroom window ready to leap out on a recalcitrant student.

On Parents' Evening I was astonished to find a long line of parents waiting to see me, not to discuss the progress of their children, but to see the Scots girl and hear her accent!

After a year in the sun I missed my own country, so returned by boat - 31 days of 'mal-de mer!' On my return I was beguiled by the thought of teaching English in Dalbeattie High School and remained there for thirty four years. But that is another story . . .

Sheila Dobbie



**PHOTOS FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION
ON LADY DAY
AND FROM THE
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

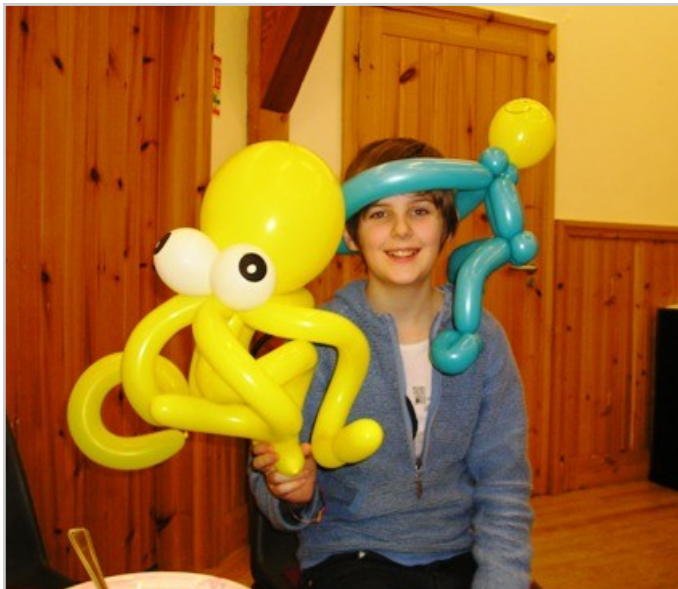
(Photos: Jessie Lockhart)



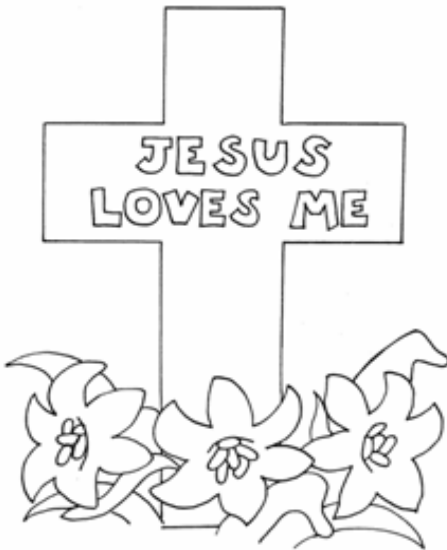


Ian's Birthday Party
(Photos: Jenny Wright)

Below: Party for children and their parents with Magic Monty and Little Fishes 'Gruffalo Party' held on Red Nose Day
(Photos: Roz & David Stevens)



CHILDREN'S EASTER PAGE



Colour me in!



Here is a version of the Easter story.
Fill in the gaps using the words on the right.

At Easter _____ remember that _____
died and rose again. Jesus was put to death by the
_____, on a _____. When he was dead,
some of his friends buried him in a cave with a big stone
over the door. Roman _____ guarded the
tomb. On the first day of the week, some _____
went to the tomb, including _____. They found
the _____ rolled away, and the cave empty. They
thought someone had _____ Jesus' body. Then
Jesus showed himself to them. He was _____!
Christians believe that when Jesus rose from the dead
he defeated _____ and _____.
_____ is a festival of happiness and hope. It
celebrates _____.

Mary
alive
sin
cross
soldiers
new life
Christians
Jesus
Romans
stolen
death
stone
Easter
women



A Summer Retreat in Daily Life: 12 – 18 June 2011

“Reassurance that God is close, bringing hope”

“Daily time out with God”

*“Discovery” * “Warming” * “Renewal”*

“Being able to share my faith journey with someone who will listen and enable me to see God working in my life”

“A gift from God, and from me to God”

These are just some of the comments from retreatants who joined our first Retreat in Daily Life last year.

“An unreflected life is a life half lived”

A Retreat in Daily Life, or RDL, offers the experience of a retreat without going away to a retreat house. It offers an opportunity to pause and reflect on life, to try new ways of praying and to draw closer to God. No previous experience is required and nothing is expected of you other than an openness and willingness to take time to pray and to meet with a prayer guide at a local venue.

An RDL is inter-denominational. The unifying factor for us all is God and our belief that God communicates with us through Scripture and the circumstances of our daily life. Each participant starts at the place where they are in their life. Prayer guides are drawn from different Christian traditions and all have had training in accompanying people in this way. And of course, God is the ultimate prayer guide for each.

The programme for the week will include an opening session for everyone, daily personal prayer, daily meeting with a guide and a closing session for everyone. We are also very willing to meet retreatants in their own home if mobility is a challenge.

How to get involved

Leaflets and a booking form will be available in the church from April. Return the completed form **by 4 June 2011**, then join us at the first plenary session at **7.00pm on Sunday, 12 June in Kirkcudbright Parish Church Hall**, when you will meet your prayer guide and arrange an appropriate time for your daily meetings.

We look forward to meeting you there.

Rachel Inglis

A POSITIVE ABC ...

A is Apple – keeps the doctor away;
B is for Bread (wholemeal) – the staff of life;
C is for Cholesterol – keep the figure low;
D is for Deep Breaths – good for the lungs;
E is for Exercise – as much as you can;
F is for Fruit – eat plenty of it;
G is for God – put Him first;
H is for Health – strive for it;
I is for Interest in what you eat – nutritionally;
J is for Just eat sensibly;
K is for Keep looking at the label;
L is for Low fat eating – be sensible;
M is for Moderation in all things;
N is for Nutrition – “You are what you eat”;
O is for Oatbran – good for the arteries;
P is for Prunes – good for you!
Q is for Queen – she’s an example to us all;
R is for Rest and Relaxation – we all need some;
S is for Sugar and Salt – eat LESS of these;
T is for Temple – the body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit;
U is for Unsaturated fat – better than saturated;
V is for Vegetables – eat plenty of them;
W is for Water – drink plenty;
X marks the date when you take nutrition seriously;
Y is for Yoghurt – contains “friendly” bacteria;
Z is for Zest for Life!

***From A Ninety-one Year Old
(No prizes for guessing who!!)***

DON'T FORGET:

**The new telephone number for Stewartry Good Neighbours
(for transport to hospital, the Health Centre etc)
is now 01683 221026.**

ST NINIAN'S MEN'S GROUP

We had a grand turn out of 33 at our dinner on Monday evening 17th January. Our guest speaker was the Rt Hon Alex Fergusson, our MSP and the Presiding Officer for the Scottish Parliament. As you would expect, he gave an excellent talk about his time in Parliament, from first being elected as a list MSP, which in effect meant he had actually lost the election locally, but yet finished up representing the South of Scotland, through the time of the following election when he had a majority of 99 – and the night before he had been looking down the situation vacant column in the paper with more than a keen interest! – to his current majority of well over 3000.



He then told us about his role as the Presiding Officer, which he viewed as four very interesting years and a time of great privilege. He then took a number of well directed questions, after which we let him get up to Edinburgh in time to “open up the shop” the next morning.

We had our usual Mothering Sunday Luncheon in the hall when we invite wives and partners to join us. One or two people were unable to attend due to sickness, so numbers were a little down on previous years, but nonetheless it was an enjoyable occasion, with Brian Haining and his family providing a sumptuous carvery followed by a delightful selection of sweets.

David Steward



SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF A VESTRY MEETING HELD IN THE RECTORY ON 18 MARCH 2011

Rector's report

- **Dean's visit** on 4th March: OK with minor requests.
- The Vestry approved initial drawings for **stained glass windows** either side of the sanctuary.
- We are now members of the **Royal School of Church Music** which among other things will help with choice of hymns.
- St Ninian's is to host the **Chrism Mass** for clergy when the oils will be blessed and the clergy will be invited to renew their ordination vows. This will take place on **Saturday 16th April at 12 noon followed by a light lunch. Members of the congregation are invited to attend.**
- **Bishop's visit** - The Bishop will visit on Thursday 2nd June. Since this is Ascension Day, the Galloway Regional Service will be held in St Ninian's at 7pm. The Bishop will preside.

The Treasurer reported on the balances and other matters carried out.

The Secretary reported that the **Vestry appointment of Sheila Mackenzie as Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer** had been communicated to Daphne Audsley.

The **Quinquennial Review** has been carried out satisfactorily.

Sheila MacKenzie is to attend a course on **new legislation with respect to child protection.**

Items were identified as needing attention during the **hall refurbishment** to take place between 9th July and 15th August.

Jenny Wright, Vestry Secretary

The next edition of 'St Ninian's Review' will be published in August. If you would like to write an article or submit anything it would be most welcome. The deadline for material will be mid-July.

Email: johnsteph@mkcott.wanadoo.co.uk
or via the 'Contact the Webmaster' link from the website.

Many thanks, Stephanie Dewhurst (01556 502736)

The Review can also be read on the St Ninian's website
as a PDF download - see:

<http://episcopalglasgow.co.uk/castledouglas/st-ninians-review>



***Kath Hutchinson gave me the following –
an 80 year-old gardener had it pinned up
on the door of his shed.***

THE GARDEN OF LIFE

Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind
Peas of heart
Peas and quiet

Plant five rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce love one another
Lettuce pray

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash selfishness
Squash prejudice

Plant four rows of thyme:

Thyme for family
Thyme for friends
Thyme for each other
Thyme for ourselves

Plant three rows of turnips:

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for appointments
Turnip to help a friend in need

When sown with care, watered with patience and cultivated with love,
your garden of life will reap great rewards.

And Penelope Bain gave me this piece for The Review some time ago ... it could be useful!

THE PERFECT PARISH PRIEST

A recent survey has compiled all the qualities that people expect from the perfect parish priest. These were fed into a computer and the results showed the following:

1. The perfect priest is about 30 years of age, tall, slim, athletic and handsome.
2. He preaches for exactly six minutes. He frequently condemns sin and social evils, but never upsets anyone.
3. He works tirelessly from 6.30am to 11.00pm and is also the church caretaker.
4. He earns £70 per week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car, and gives about £50 a week to charity.
5. He is a man of limitless patience, gentleness and kindness, but also a strong, vigorous and decisive leader.
6. He gives himself completely to others, but never gets too close to
7. anyone lest he be criticized.
8. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers, but devotes all his time to senior citizens.
9. He spends his entire day in parish visiting, in comforting the sick and bereaved, and in working in schools, but is always in when anyone phones or calls.
10. He is a man of deep spirituality and wide learning, but of down to
11. earth practicality, a capable administrator, a financial genius, a wise counsellor, an architect and a builder.

TRANSPORT TO AND FROM CHURCH

Matthew Wright has agreed to co-ordinate transport to and from church. To do this it would be helpful if he had a list of volunteers, their addresses and contact telephone numbers, and their type of vehicle so that he knows who is closest and whether their vehicle is suitable for those with very limited mobility. Please can people willing to provide transport fill in the list on the notice board or speak to him personally. **Anyone requiring a lift please ring him on 01556 502184.**



Our Pattern of Worship

Sundays

- 8.30am** **Holy Communion:**
 1929 Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy
- 11.00am** **Family Eucharist:**
 1982 Scottish Liturgy (except 4th Sunday of month)
- 11.00am** **Matins:**
 Scottish Prayer Book }
12.00 **Holy Communion** } 4th Sunday
 Shorter Prayer Book Liturgy } only
- 6.00pm** **Evensong** (2nd Sunday only)
- 7.00pm** **The Sunday Evening Alternative** (Last Sunday of month)
 A themed Evening Service, using a wide variety of material
 from Taizé, the Iona Community, etc.

Thursdays

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

Services for Saints' Days and other Occasions are detailed in the weekly pew sheet and on the Church notice-boards.

The Church is open daily for private prayer