

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

(Scottish Charity No: SC011079)



*Sheep and lambs at Auchensheen*

*St Ninian's Review*

*Issue No 42*

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# **Services for Holy Week and Easter 2012**

## **Saturday 31 March**

12 noon Chrism Eucharist  
followed by lunch in the Hall

## **Sun 1 April - Palm Sunday**

8.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Sung Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms

## **2 April - Monday in Holy Week**

10.15am Holy Communion  
8.30pm Compline

## **3 April - Tuesday in Holy Week**

10.15am Holy Communion  
8.30pm Compline

## **4 April - Wednesday in Holy Week**

10.15am Holy Communion  
8.30pm Compline

## **5 April - Maundy Thursday**

10.15am Matins  
7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper  
and the Watch Until Midnight

## **6 April - Good Friday**

10.15am Matins and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament  
2.00pm Prayers at the Foot of the Cross  
7.00pm Evening Prayer in Crossmichael Church Hall

## **Sunday 8 April - Easter Day**

8.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Festival Eucharist

## **Sunday 15 April - Low Sunday**

8.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Family Eucharist  
7.00pm Easter-tide Songs of Praise

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

3.11.11	Norman Fairburn
16.12.11	Dorothy Stafford

### Memorial Service

9.03.12	Margaret Fellows
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*Dear Friends,*

Last summer, at a moving and powerful service held here in St Ninian's, our Diocese set off on a journey in mission. Bishop Gregor's vision is to keep us moving "Godward, outward and forward" (in the words of one of his predecessors) so that the Episcopal Church in Glasgow and Galloway may grow in God's grace — deepening the faith of present members and attracting others. That's a vision I share wholeheartedly; it's exactly what we have been aiming at here for more than a decade. But, as the enterprise evolves, a crust is growing of seminars and facilitators, mission strands and action plans, reports and audits, and I hear an echo of Cardinal Newman's observation that "every great human enterprise begins with a prophet and ends with a policeman." Or, in modern parlance: great ideas are smothered when the box-tickers take over.

That's exactly what Jesus was reacting against in the religious dispensation of his time: he was trying to get people to understand that they should be impelled to keep the law because of their love of God, when the prevailing wisdom was that the keeping of the law of itself put them in a right relationship with God. In other words, the box-tickers had taken over.

If these words seem harsh on those who are structuring the mission process, I don't mean them to be: we do need tools for the job and measures of progress. But we must never assume that doing such exercises is in itself mission or, worse, that not doing them is not to be involved in mission. Rather, we must use the available material to help us identify how we might further our own mission in and around

Castle Douglas, which we long-ago characterised as “sharing the love of Jesus Christ in Church and community.” The Vestry is about to engage anew with these matters, and will need both your prayers and your support.

As a former businessman, I’m conscious that structure and process and measured outcomes have their place but, as a Priest, I’m equally aware that it is impossible to define or measure *mystery*. And, in the end, it is not our efforts but the mystery of divinity itself that draws people in: the inexplicable allure of the loving and faithful God who, down the ages, calls us to himself; love so great that he shared the divine nature with us in Jesus Christ, to live and die and be raised from death *for us*. “Tis mystery all; the immortal dies,” says the hymn, but the great mystery of Easter is not the “how” of the Crucifixion and Resurrection but the “why” of the Incarnation that lifts us out of mere existence into eternal life. “Tis mercy all, immense and free.”

Happy Easter to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bayne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

## **COFFEE MORNING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2011 FOR USPG (UNITED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL)**

Canon Main has received this letter from USPG:

“On behalf of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission, I would like to thank St Ninian’s Episcopal Church, Castle Douglas for your donation of £627.85 in response to our ‘Come Dine with USPG’ campaign.

“USPG is committed to supporting churches across the Anglican Communion as they reach out to poor and marginalised people in practical and life-changing ways. Supporting community transformation in ways that are sustainable and culturally appropriate is at the heart of modern mission. In practice this means that you are helping churches run a variety of vital projects, such as:

- providing primary healthcare facilities in Malawi and Myanmar;

- giving marginalised children on tea plantations in Sri Lanka an education, enabling them to live a healthier and more fulfilling life, opening up better employment opportunities;
- providing technical assistance for micro-finance initiatives in the Philippines so that people are able to live sustainably;
- training new priests to cope with the spiritual and administrative demands of their posts in Madagascar and Myanmar;
- training community nurses in Bangladesh, where access to healthcare is scarce.

“Thank you once again for your gift and for your support. If you would like more information about any aspect of USPG’s work with the world church, please contact us on 020 7921 2200 or email [enquiries@uspg.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@uspg.org.uk) If you are a UK taxpayer and have completed your Gift Aid declaration, you are adding 25p to every £1 you have given and we are most grateful.

Yours sincerely

Priscilla Mountford, Donor Care Manager, USPG, Harling House,  
47-51 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0BS.”

Many thanks to all who supported the Coffee Morning.

**David Main**

### **A.S.A.P.**

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

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There’s work to do, deadlines to meet; you’ve got no time to spare but, as you hurry and scurry - A.S.A.P. – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

In the midst of family chaos, “quality time” is rare. Do your best; let God do the rest - A.S.A.P. – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear. Slow down and take a breather - A.S.A.P. – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

God knows how stressful life is; He wants to ease our cares, and he’ll respond to all your needs - A.S.A.P. – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

**From Zoë Stewart**



## **Christian Aid Week 13-19<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

### **The power of standing together**

Christian Aid Week tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals all year round, whereas before it was one. They are growing well; they don't cry around me because of hunger. They are happy to go to school because something is in their stomach.'

The benefits of regular food speak for themselves. But the effects of the food production group have been more wide-ranging than this. Tenneh speaks of the huge difference working in a group has made to her. Acting together, the farmers can share their skills and work more efficiently. As she tells us, the bottom line is that 'the group work provides more food'.

Tenneh speaks of the support and the encouragement that the farmers give to each other, and how much can be achieved when the community comes together. 'What inspires me in life is unity,' she says. 'To me, unity means coming together to decide on one thing and take that forward.'

Now that they are no longer limited by hunger, the people of Gbap (pronounced Bap) have come together and successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre for the community. The people of Gbap have taken their future into their own hands.

During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise house-to-house collections and events to raise funds to enable organisations like MCSL to carry out their work transforming communities such as Gbap. Christian Aid currently works with 507

partners in 47 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, helping people to make change happen. Our donations will be multiplied many times over as many small actions come together to make a huge change. But the giving that takes place during Christian Aid Week is not one-way.

Unity is something that our churches are not always good at, and the value of community that has inspired Tenneh is something that we can learn from and be changed by. Christian Aid Week is about raising funds. But it is also a call to unity – an invitation for churches to come together and celebrate the possibility of hope and life in parts of the world where mere survival can be a struggle.

This is a challenge, because division and inequality and injustice will always be easier than unity. But Tenneh's insistence that remarkable things can happen when we come together is not new. We see it in the actions and ministry of Jesus, who pushed against all that leads to violence and separation and called his disciples to model a new way of community.

Can we use this Christian Aid Week to allow ourselves to be changed? If we can work together, with each other, with our churches and with our neighbours both at home and as far away as Gbap, then we may start to see huge change happen.

Tenneh says that 'when you are a group and work with focus and total commitment, you work at a faster rate; the stronger ones can help with work that weaker ones cannot do by themselves'. As we engage in Christian Aid Week, we can rejoice as we stand together in solidarity. Although we might ask who is the strong and who is the weak – and who is actually giving to whom.

**Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people like Tenneh the tools to make big change happen.**

**£6.50** could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer living in the town of Gbap.

**£50** could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.

**£123** could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.

**Christian Aid Week 13-19<sup>th</sup> May 2012** involves street collections, door-to-door collections and the Café from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Castle Douglas Parish Church where soup lunches/scones will be served as a main fundraising event, together with Book Sales, a Home Baking Table, Plants Stall and Bric-a-Brac. Help is needed in all these areas and in the spirit of unity, the more the merrier!

**Ann Gault adds: “What is Your Prayer This Christian Aid Week?”**

That is on the information that came out from Christian Aid. Yes, we must pray but we have to work also, so please put **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May** in your diary. I will be after you! If you cannot make the Saturday, please offer your help on one of the other days. There will be the usual stalls (see above) so please let me know if you can help there, or offer to bake. We will also be looking for collectors for door to door and street collections. **Contact Ann on 01556 502583.**

## **LIFE AND NEWS FROM CROWBOROUGH**

Under just a wee bit of pressure from Stephanie, for a few words from us in the deep south since our flight from St Ninian's, I can say that all is well. Moving is one great hassle and ours was no exception albeit Kenneth Hayton and his team from Dumfries were excellent and, if anyone else is thinking of undertaking such an event look no further. (Note to Rector: I am *not* preaching wholesale immigration south). It also helped to have our son and his family willing to give us a roof over our heads for a couple of weeks while walls were demolished in our bungalow and all our stuff - too much as it turns out - was in store.



Most of you knew that Theo and I didn't want to leave and it was with a heavy heart that the decision was taken. Mind you we came to a point when Theo said "OK then, you move south and I will stay here". However after 56 years of married life we talked again later in the day and she said, "Alright then, you win." I am not too sure if that amounted to a compromise or not!

So here we are in a wee bungalow which the family found for us and only ten minutes' walk from their house (a good 15 minutes plus for me), which means that if and when we do need some help etc ..... It was a bit neglected, which we knew, and bid accordingly, with one decent living room, three other rooms and the usual offices with a second loo in the hall - most necessary! We now have a brand new kitchen and bathroom, and the interior painting has just been completed. Next job is to add a conservatory and sort out the exterior and the very small garden.

We live just five minutes' walk away from the shops, which includes a Waitrose, Morrisons and Tesco; the doctor's surgery is around the corner and it is very quiet with pleasant neighbours. Crowborough is very hilly so it keeps you fit. If you imagine walking twice the length of King Street with the same gradient then you will have a good idea. The Ashdown Forest is on our doorstep, and buses go from the top of our close to Brighton and Tunbridge Wells. The train, just a mile away, gets you into London in just over the hour. So all in all life is good, but we do miss CD, St Ninian's, the Rector's sermons, and indeed you all.

All Saints Church is but five minutes away. It is a thriving congregation with masses going on, but I am taking my time before putting my head above the parapet! I am also having to get used to 'modern English' and I sympathise with the reluctance of the Rector at the last ACM to introduce the concept at (I still say) our Church.

Theo and I send our love and warm wishes to you all. Do visit us if you are down this way.

***David Steward***

**Note - From David's latest email:** "The Vicar announced a couple of Sundays ago that, after a very long PCC meeting which finished at 11 pm, the decision had been taken to build a new Church in another part of Crowborough! No doubt we will be in for massive fund raising .....

## **PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS**

St Ninian's is fortunate in having so many members of its congregation who are ready to give their time and energy to church related activities - the Sanctuary Guild, the Traidcraft Shop, Abbas Rest, the Sunday School to name but a few. Some of these activities involve vulnerable groups: children and young people, the elderly and housebound. Unfortunately we live in a society where it is not safe to assume that every willing volunteer is a man (or a woman) of good will and so it has been necessary to set up safety procedures to protect vulnerable people, young and old, from potential abusers.

Volunteers and those in paid employment who work with vulnerable people are required to provide proof of their identity and are then checked against police records. Only after they have successfully completed this disclosure process can they take up their employment.

The original system was found to be clumsy with people having to be checked for every position they held. A full-time teacher who also taught in a Sunday School and coached a neighbourhood netball team one evening a week would have to go through the process three times! More seriously if an individual moved from one police authority to another the previous disclosure record might be left behind and a new one could take its place. Such a failure of communication between authorities is believed to have contributed to the situation in Soham, where a caretaker with a criminal record was appointed to a primary school, with tragic consequences.

Applying the lessons of Soham, attempts are being made to improve the disclosure system. One body, Disclosure Scotland, has responsibility for all Scottish disclosures. The good news is that from now on only one disclosure will be necessary no matter how many jobs are undertaken by an individual; the bad news is that, in order to lock into the new system, everyone who has already successfully completed the process will have to repeat the exercise.

As PVG Coordinator I shall shortly be contacting everyone involved with the Sunday School, Little Fishes, the Summer Crèche and Holiday Play Scheme and with pastoral visiting. At the moment car drivers are exempt.

If you think that you should go through the disclosure process please have a word with me. After all we have until 2015 to complete the exercise!

***Sheila MacKenzie***

## ABBAS REST UPDATE

I am pleased to report that everything is settling down again after the sad loss of Kirsi Poole. Peter is keeping busy and is continuing the good work at ARO.



Donations from the congregation during two weeks in February amounted to £51.50, which is appreciated, as this allows me to continue the sponsorship of Dorine, Humfury and Kevin.

As always many, many thanks to *everyone* who contributes towards the £18 monthly subscription, plus small gifts, postage and letters etc - long may we continue this support.

***Jenny Spence***

## NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION

It is hard to realise that we are already more than half way through our programme!

In November we were treated to talk by the Revd Andrew MacKenzie with a lovely slide show of scenes from Kenya where he had spent some of his ministry.



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The Christmas party was a great success as usual with plenty of talent on show. There were stories, poems, songs and of course the two 'Christmas Fairies' were one of the highlights as ever.

In January, Mr Tommy Henderson, curator of the Dalbeattie Museum, provided us with a most amusing talk on 'Postcards.' His vast collection ranged from the serious to the romantic; cards from soldiers in the First World War to their families and sweethearts, a reminder of the terrible loss and deprivation that happened every day in that war. In contrast, there were the seaside cards, a bit naughty by the standards of that time, but quite hilarious.

We very much enjoyed Mr Brian Corr's talk on "Threave" in February, and in March we shall have a talk by our Rector, on "Judas", an emotive subject. In April we have a talk on "Ospreys and Geese" by Brian Morrell and finally, the last talk on our programme is on "The Probation Service". So, we have managed to provide a wide range of interests for our members.

It is unfortunate that two of our group have had spells in hospital and they are much missed. May Fraser has made a miraculous recovery from pneumonia and is now home, making good progress, helped by a team of nurses. Christine Elvidge is now at Fleet Valley Nursing Home, following a spell in Kirkcudbright Hospital. We are remembering both of them in our prayers.

Once again, we take this opportunity of thanking all those in the MU and congregation for their generous support in the provision of "Healing Blankets" for those in need, and toiletries for the Women's Refuges in Stranraer and Newton Stewart. This help is very much appreciated.

***Jessie Lockhart***

### **SURPRISE! SURPRISE!**

We all love to get a surprise, and I would like to share with you one that I had a few weeks ago.

One Monday morning a letter arrived for me signed by 'Peter' and posted in Madagascar. I was more than curious! All was revealed as I read it through, only to discover that Peter Metcalf had been one of my pupils in Class 2A when I taught in a Boys Preparatory School in 1952. He recalled the announcement of the death of George VI and the Queen's accession. As he had only known me as Miss Seager, he ended by saying he found me on Google!! My one-time pupil is now 71.

***Zoë Stewart***

## LITTLE FISHES

The Little Fishes pre-school play-group is going from strength to strength, as can be seen in these photos.



However Roz would like to make a plea for some more volunteers to help with refreshments etc as some of those who used to help when the group met on a Thursday are unable to make the same commitment since the group began to meet on Tuesday. Please contact Roz on 01556 503589 if you would like to be involved.

## THE MONTHLY FAIR TRADE STALL

The total value of sales from the monthly Fair Trade stall in recent years has been:

Year ending:	August 2008	£1931.88
Year ending:	August 2009	£1891.86
Year ending:	August 2010	£1685.94
Year ending:	August 2011	£1668.65

- thus showing a tendency to decrease over the years. Perhaps, you might think, nothing too significant, but it should be borne in mind that

the prices of the items sold will have inexorably risen over the period, as they have everywhere. One or two faithful customers have moved away in this period and I thought that to stimulate sales it might be worthwhile to set out how the stall operates and what it helps to achieve.

Supplies for the stall are obtained from Mary van Zwanenberg. I am sure many of you will know Mary but, for those who don't, she lives near Auchencairn and is a member of the congregation of St Andrew and St Cuthbert RC Church in Kirkcudbright. Mary effectively acts as wholesaler, supplying fair trade goods to three other local churches as well as her own and St Ninian's. She also sells fair trade goods herself at many local events such as the Stewartry Show and during Christian Aid Week.

Mary obtains most of her fair trade goods from Traidcraft, with a limited number of items coming from Just Trading Scotland. Traidcraft was set up on Tyneside more than 25 years ago by a group of Christians as a practical response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A verse from 1 John 3.18 was one of their inspirations: *My children, our love is not just to be words or mere talk, but something real and active.*

Traidcraft has grown to become one of the leading players in the fair trade movement with an international reputation for delivering practical help to small businesses across the developing world. Traidcraft provides an entry into the UK market for these businesses. They seek to pay fair prices that cover the full cost of production and ensure that workers receive a living wage. They encourage the fair treatment of workers and strive for long term relationships rather than looking for short term commercial advantage. The payment of a fair price to producers may well enable them to send their children to school or contribute to a clean water supply in their village. The biannual Traidcraft catalogue contains a wide range of goods: fashion items, jewellery, furnishings, ornaments, stationery etc plus food items. It is mainly from the range of food items that we stock the monthly stall but please note that you are always welcome to borrow a catalogue. Any item that you may wish to order from it can be obtained via Mary.

The selling prices which we use are decided by Traidcraft and set out in their catalogue. There is no point in denying that the prices of goods on the stall are greater than those of equivalent goods in the supermarkets. The relative scale of Traidcraft's operation means that they could not possibly compete with the likes of Tesco. Also, the fact that Traidcraft always ensure that the producers are paid fairly for their goods acts

against a low selling price. The price which Mary pays to Traidcraft is less than the selling price. If Mary were in business as a retailer, this would enable her to make a profit. Each year Mary calculates the total price she has paid for goods, adds any expenses incurred, and deducts the total from the grand total of sales from all her outlets. This establishes her “profit”. Mary then sends the greater part of this “profit” to Traidcraft Exchange, which is Traidcraft’s registered charity.

Traidcraft Exchange was set up to broaden Traidcraft’s impact on a much larger number of producers. This is achieved through a range of trade-related development programmes across Africa and Asia, helping poor producers to improve their businesses and access new markets for their products. From the 2010 “profit” £1250 was sent to a project helping to establish bee-keeping as a means of generating income in poor villages in Kenya. In 2011, £1000 was sent to another Kenyan project, which is helping tea farmers to diversify and carry out



**Henry Mugao, and his son, Udoya, are among the beekeepers in Tanzania, Kenya, Guatemala and Chile, benefiting from Traidcraft’s work.**

*Photo: Traidcraft/Richard Els*

other types of farming alongside their tea cultivation. This makes the farmers less dependent on tea during periods of uncertain rainfall.

Thus, by purchasing from the Fair Trade Stall, we are ensuring that producers in developing countries receive a fair price for their goods, and also we are contributing to specific and worthwhile development projects.

Here ends my exposition of the economics of the Fair Trade Stall!

Also you might like to visit the Traidcraft website for further information at: <http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/>

***John Dewhurst***

## THE WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS PRAYER GROUP

At every service we hear passages from the Bible read to us. We hear, we understand the words, their meaning helps to build up our spiritual life. But there are many people in the world who are trying to live a Christian life yet, if they do hear the Bible read, it is in another language, not in their mother-tongue, so the true meaning never reaches their souls. Realising this, many men and women feel called to try to translate the words of scripture into the 'heart-language' of the area, having to live closely with a group, learning a merely spoken language which has never been written down.

Some of you may remember Mr and Mrs Shutte who came to tell us of the Wycliffe Bible translators a few years ago. They have now moved to Fife where they are continuing to speak about Bible translation. A small group was formed in Castle Douglas to support prayerfully the work of the missionaries who have given up comfortable lifestyles to settle in remote and often dangerous locations, to devote themselves to the work of language learning, translation and literacy, which hopefully will end in the production of the New Testament – and even to the whole Bible – taking many years of painstaking study to complete.

St Paul, in 2 Corinthians 11.26, tells of his tribulations "In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, ..."; and "in weariness and painfulness". Today's missionaries may have computers but they, too, experience the apostle's hardships. Two young girls whom we pray for, Tessa Wilson and Beata Wozna, are giving years of their lives to writing down the Seimat language, spoken by the people of the Ninigo Islands near Papua, New Guinea. Beata nearly died of dengue fever, having to be flown, unconscious, to Ukarumpa on the mainland by a brave little Mission Aviation Fellowship plane, and both girls have suffered severely from malaria. They have had equipment stolen, food eaten by rats, and faced death when, crossing to one of the islands, their outboard motor failed – oars had been left behind – and the boat drifted out to the open sea. Quite amazingly, the current carried them – and their two cats – onto another island where, like St Paul, they offered up prayers of thanksgiving for their survival.

Sadly, our little prayer group has become much smaller due to the ill health of several members. We would welcome any of you who feel called to join us, about once every two months, for only 1½ hours, at the home of Mrs Margaret Rice at 38 St Georges, Castle Douglas, tel. 01556 502644.

**Sylvia Elliott**

## **MOTHERING SUNDAY 2012**

Roz has provided the following transcript of the Sunday School's presentation, for anyone who missed it, though there are likely to be some slight variations - planned or otherwise!

**In Sunday school we have been thinking about journeys. We have learned about all sorts of different journeys.**

**Sam** will lead the singing:

We're on a journey (*echo*) Let's go together (*echo*)

Times may be hard, we must be strong (*echo*)

But we will all sing along.

When you are on holiday you can go on a journey.

**Jack:** You need to take with you: swimming stuff, T shirt, shorts, more swimming stuff, secret stash of sweets, sun cream, lilo, fake moustache, rubber ring.

**William:** I am going on a journey to France. I am excited about this. We are going to drive to the ferry. When we get off in France we will drive to our caravan park.

For my journey I will need: passport, swimming stuff/goggles/inflatables, sun cream/sunhat food and sweets and drinks.

As we grow up we journey through life.

**Little Katie:** I am going to be starting school. This is a big step. I am looking forward to writing and reading. I will be a big girl. I am looking forward to painting and singing.

**Sam:** After the summer holidays Euan and I are going on a journey. We are going to be moving up to the High School. We are leaving P7 to start our new life as High School students.

**Euan:** I am nervous about starting on this journey because the High School is much bigger and very different to Primary School. On my journey I will take calculator, PE Kit, Young Scot card, water bottle.

**Sam:** I am excited about going on this journey because I don't have far to travel and I will meet lots of new people and learn new subjects. I will need a tie, a pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener and pencil case (School back pack).

**Ellie:** Mothers in other countries journey far and wide to find clean water, medical care and food. They can travel many miles on foot to try to find what they need to keep their family alive. Projects like Water Aid can help families like this by providing clean safe water in the village.

**Katie:** Fairtrade asked us all to take steps to change our buying habits. In the last ten years, thanks to the voice of people who care more and more, fair trade products have become available. We can all do our bit by buying fair trade whenever we can. It is amazing the range of things that you can buy and the shops that are now stocking them. We can buy fair trade flowers, chocolate and wine as gifts that make more than the person receiving the present smile.

Jesus travelled around sharing his Good News. Ellie and Katie will share a map of some of the places that Jesus visited.

### FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,

other times there was one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,

I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,

“You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always.

But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life

there has only been one set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?”

The Lord replied,

“The times when you have seen only one set of footprints is when I carried you.”

*(Mary Stevenson)*

We painted our feet and made footprints on paper. Every journey begins with a single step. The poem by Mary Stevenson reminds us that all through our lives every step of the way the Lord is with us and just like our mums who pick us up when we're in trouble or need a hug, so the Lord is with us.

### **All sing:**

One more step along the world I go,

One more step along the world I go.

From the old things to the new

Keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;*

*Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,

More and more about the world I learn.

All the new things that I see

You'll be looking at along

with me.

*Chorus*

As I travel through the bad and good  
Keep me travelling the way I should.  
Where I see no way to go  
You'll be telling me the way, I know.  
*Chorus*

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
Keep me loving though the world is tough.  
Leap and sing in all I do,  
Keep me travelling along with you.  
*Chorus*

You are older than the world can be,  
You are younger than the life in me.  
Ever old and ever new,  
Keep me travelling along with you.  
*Chorus*

## INTERCESSIONS

**The response to – “As we journey” is: “journey with us Lord”**

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. We pray for our congregation, for David, Maurice and the Lay Readers. We pray for all members of the church who are sick or in pain at this time. We remember those whose journey has already reached an end in this life, Aidan Colman, Margaret Gault, Kenneth Erskine, Edith Erskine and Mary Steward. **As we journey : journey with us Lord.**

We thank you for all the people who construct and maintain our beautiful countryside: its walks, cycle tracks, the 7 Stanes. We pray for the emergency services, the lifeboats, mountain rescue, air ambulance, police, ambulances, fire brigade - all who help make our journey safer.

**As we journey: journey with us Lord.**

We thank you for all our food that comes from many countries. We thank you for the mummies who gather and prepare the food, who also sometimes have to travel long distances to collect clean water for their children to drink and bathe in. **As we journey: journey with us Lord.**

We pray for charitable organisations. We remember all the children who have nothing; for boys and girls who live in poverty. We pray for farmers who toil on the land to provide food for us. We pray for the supermarkets and shops who transport and distribute our food. We pray that those who grow our food get treated fairly. **As we journey: journey with us Lord.**

We pray for our mother, grandmothers and godmothers; for carers who look after those left without a mum. We thank them for all that they have done and do for us throughout life's journey; for the birthday parties and Christmas gifts; for the happy memories of holidays and days out or spent with friends. **As we journey: journey with us Lord.**

As we journey through the bad and good, keep us journeying the way we should. **As we journey: journey with us Lord. Amen.**



**Some photos from a certain 'special' birthday celebration for David, held in the Hall on Sunday 22 January**



**Alison and David**



**Roz Stevens serves some of the delicious food provided for the occasion**



**Revd Andrew MacKenzie, the guest preacher, and Lizanne, his wife**



It was a memorable and happy occasion, enjoyed by all who were present - many thanks to Alison, her team of helpers and the caterers who provided the buffet.

## REVIEW – “LIFE OF PI” BY YANN MARTEL

I am very fortunate in that I regularly receive books and pass on books to friends. These books tend to pile up until I cannot remember who gave them to me. Now, I never give up on a book no matter how little I enjoy it but I came very near to giving up on “The Life of Pi”. It is not the kind of book that I would normally have chosen and I cannot honestly say that I enjoyed it. Much of the time the graphic descriptions of animal savagery disgusted me, but I found it compulsive reading nevertheless.

Having said that, there is no denying that it is an impressive achievement - it is an impassioned defence of zoos and a hilarious fantasy of a death-defying trans-Pacific sea adventure. The author, Yann Martel, displays tremendous storytelling skills, a great understanding of animal psychology and behaviour and a deep spirituality.

The story is about a young boy who grew up in Pondicherry where his father was owner of a zoo. He was brought up as a Hindu but when he was 16, he was introduced to Christianity and Islam and he felt that he could easily follow all three religions as he simply “wanted to love God”.

When he reached the age of 16, his father decided to sell the animals and emigrate to Canada. Some of the animals were destined for the new world and so they were to travel on the same boat as “Pi” , a Japanese trawler, but there was a terrific storm and Pi found himself the sole

human survivor, on a lifeboat. The only snag was that some of the travelling animals also fell into the lifeboat. First it was a zebra which had broken its leg in its fall from the ship, then there was a spotted hyena, an orang-utan and a Royal Bengal tiger called Richard Parker. The rest of the story is about Pi's survival. He is eventually the sole survivor with the tiger so he has to work feverishly to catch enough fish so that the tiger will refrain from attacking him. He also wants to keep the tiger alive to avoid total solitude on the ocean. He has developed a love-hate relationship with Richard Parker and uses many tricks learned at the zoo to make the tiger think that he, Pi, was the alpha male, the dominant one worthy of respect.

Of course there are many other surreal adventures until Pi reaches land after 227 days adrift and, at the end, I somehow felt that I had been conned into reading this story, but I am glad that I persevered.

It is by no means a new book as it won several prizes, including the Man Booker Prize in 2002 and the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature in 2004. If anyone has read it, I should be delighted to hear their appraisal of this very strange work of fiction. I rather think that those who have never read it will hardly want to do so now after this report!

(Note: The nickname "Pi" is shortened from Piscine, the boy's name.)

**Jessie Lockhart**



**From Marjorie Wright**

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect – your family must be really pleased.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

**From Dave Wright**

## Our Pattern of Worship

### Sundays

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

<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Family Eucharist:</b> <b>1982 Scottish Liturgy</b> (except 4th Sunday of month)
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11.00am	Matins:		
	Scottish Prayer Book	}	4th Sunday
12.00	Holy Communion	}	only
	Shorter Prayer Book Liturgy		

**6.00pm Evensong** (2nd Sunday only)

<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>The Sunday Evening Alternative</b> (Last Sunday of month) A themed Evening Service, using a wide variety of material from Taizé, the Iona Community, etc. held in the Hall
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## 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 website.*

***The Church is open daily for private prayer***

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

**The current week's notices can now be viewed on the website  
at the top of the News page**

**THE NEXT EDITION OF 'ST NINIAN'S REVIEW'** will be published in July 2012. If you would like to write an article or submit anything it would be most welcome. The deadline is mid-June 2012.

Email: [johnsteph@mkcott.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:johnsteph@mkcott.wanadoo.co.uk) , or via the 'Contact the Webmaster' link from the website / Tel: 01556 502736

Current and recent editions of St Ninian's Review can also be read on the website:

<http://stninianscastledouglas.org.uk/st-ninians-review/>

## Who's Who

<b>Rector</b>	:	The Revd Canon David Bayne	01556-503818
<b>Hon Assistant</b>	:	The Revd Canon David Main	504669
<b>Lay Readers</b>	:	Mr Alan Stewart	660215
		Mr Douglas Allison	504279
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	:	Mrs Jenny Wright	502184
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	:	Mr Fred Coulthard	502965
<b>Property Convenor/Lay Rep</b>	:	Mr Clem Gault	502583
<b>Alternate Lay Rep/Freewill Offerings Convenor</b>	:	Mr Ian Mather	505910
<b>Third Lay Rep</b>	:	Mrs Ann Gault	502583
<b>Vestry Members</b>	:	The Rector (Chairman), Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer Property Convenor;	
<b>Elected</b>	:	Mr Ian MacQuarrie	01557-820122
		Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
		Mr Ian Mather	505910
		Mrs Sue Beddows	670286
		Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
		Mrs Brenda Shapeero	670666
<b>Organist</b>	:	Mr Maurice Till	620619
<b>Sanctuary Guild</b>	:	{Mrs Audrey Pointon	670494
		{Mrs Audrey Slee	01644-420466
<b>Co-ordinator for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups</b>	:	Miss Sheila MacKenzie	01644-420623
<b>M U Branch Leaders</b>	:	{Mrs Jenny Spence	01557 330010
		{Mrs Elizabeth Woodburn	610519
<b>Thursday Club</b>	:	Mrs Ann Gault	502583
<b>Men's Group Chairman</b>	:	Mr Ian Mather	505910
<b>Hall Bookings/Admin Asst/ Magazine Editor/Webmaster</b>	:	Mrs Stephanie Dewhurst	502736
<b>Magazine Distributor/ Traidcraft</b>	:	Mr John Dewhurst	502736
<b>Sunday School: Leaders</b>	:	{Mrs Rosie MacQuarrie	01557-820122
		{Mrs Ann Gault	502583
		{Mrs Roz Stevens	503589
	<b>Assistant</b>	Beth MacQuarrie	
<b>Little Fishes</b>	:	Mrs Roz Stevens	503589