

The Parishioner

Spring Issue 2019



St Ninians Old Parish Church

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From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I spent a few days in late January visiting Dumfries and Galloway. Though there was some snow it did not prevent me or my friends from exploring the area and I have to say I was very taken with all that I saw.



We based ourselves in Newton Stewart and while there it was good to catch up with our former probationer, Edward Lyons who is the local minister. Edward showed us round his Church and told us about all the good things that are happening within the congregation.

Having visited the Mull of Galloway on the Tuesday, I looked forward to going to the Isle of Whithorn on the Wednesday. Since becoming your minister I have long thought of visiting this lovely spot where St Ninians Chapel stands. The Chapel dates from about 1300 and replaced an earlier one which stood on the same site.

Ninian is a Christian saint who is first mentioned in the 8th Century as being an early missionary among the Pictish peoples of what is now Scotland. He is also known as Ringan, a name that our own community of St Ninians is sometimes given by older residents who refer to it as St Ringans. In case you didn't know it, in Scotland St Ninian's Day is the 16th of September!

Thinking about Ninian, I have found myself encouraged as I reflect on the roots of the Christian faith in Scotland. They are deeply embedded in our history and are still, to a degree, evident in our culture. Times, of course, have changed and the Church has, in many respects changed with them, but our core message and values remain the same and we must not allow either to be eradicated by modern day attempts to be 'with it' or 'in fashion'.

The good news of the Gospel is forever relevant and our calling is to bear witness to God's changeless love in the 21st Century.

The words of the hymn put it well;

*'To our shores remote, benighted,
Barrier of the western waves,
Tidings in your love you sent us,
Tidings of the cross that saves.
Saints and heroes strove and suffered
Here your gospel to proclaim;
We, the heirs of their endeavour,
Tell the honour of their name.'*

I am proud that our Church is named after one of Scotland's Saints. Let us go forward in faith and with vision, and let us show the same courage, conviction and commitment that Ninian and his followers displayed.

I send you all my warmest good wishes,

Gary J McIntyre



St Ninians Chapel, Isle of Whithorn

Gary J McIntyre

Services in March, April and May

March

- 3rd 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
10th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
6:30pm Thanksgiving Service
17th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
Fellowship Tea
12:30pm Lunch for the elderly and less able
1pm Holy Communion in the Parish Halls
24th 10:30am Morning Worship with Baptism, Creche and Sunday Club
1pm Service in Eccles Court
1:30pm. Service in Westerlands Care Home
3pm Stirling and District Battalion of the Boys' Brigade service in
St Ninians Old
31st 10:30am Morning Worship

April

- 7th 10:30am Morning Worship
14th 10:30am Morning Worship for Palm Sunday
21st Easter Day Sunrise Service on Stirling Castle Esplanade (Time to be confirmed)
10:30am Easter Day Family Service
Fellowship Tea
28th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
1pm. Service in Eccles Court
1:30pm Service in Westerlands Care Home

May

- 5th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
12th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
6:30pm Evening Communion Service
19th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club
Fellowship Tea
26th 10:30am Morning Worship, Creche and Sunday Club

HOLY WEEK 2019

There will be services each evening in Holy Week at 7pm. The venue for each service will be intimated in the Church and the Stirling Observer.

Bible Study Group

The group will meet in the Upper room of the Church at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of March (13th), April (10th), and May (8th). This session we are studying Colossians 'Against the Tide'. You are warmly invited to join us.



The Kirk Session

The Hall Management Committee will meet on Tuesday 5th March at 12:30pm.

The Business Committee will meet on Tuesday 12th March at 10am.

The Kirk Session will meet in the Parish Halls on Thursday 21st March at 7:30pm.

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following the morning service on Sunday 24th March.

Pastoral Care Group

The next meeting of the group will take place in the Upper room of the Church on Tuesday 26th March at 7pm.

Joint Church Friendship Lunches

These will be held from 12 noon till 1:30pm on the second Monday of March (11th), April (8th) and May (13th). The venue is St Columba's Church Hall, Park Terrace, Stirling. A warm welcome awaits you!

Lunch and Communion for the Elderly and Less Able

Lunch will be served in the Parish Halls at 12:30pm on Sunday 17th March and will be followed by a short celebration of Holy Communion at 1pm. If you would like to come please let your elder or the minister know. Transport can be provided.

Other St Ninians News

Golden Wedding Celebration

Our warmest congratulations to our Church Officer, David and his wife, Dorothy on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. David and Dorothy are stalwarts of St Ninians Old. We wish them many more happy years ahead!



Loyal Service

A social evening was held at the Manse in January to thank Mrs Myra Alexander for her dedicated service as Fellowship Tea Convener and in connection with the publication of The Parishioner. Myra devoted many hours to this particular task over more than twenty years and we are most grateful to her. Myra is pictured with Gary and Margaret after receiving a beautiful arrangement of flowers and sweets.



Treasurer

Mr Mike Adam will stand down as Treasurer at the end of March. Mike has served in this capacity for over fifteen years and he has, throughout this time, discharged his duties diligently. Being Treasurer involves a great deal of time and we are truly thankful to Mike for the time he has devoted to this important task.

The Kirk Session is delighted to announce that Mr Edward Morton will succeed Mike as Treasurer. Edward is the grandson of Provost McMichael, after whom our Memorial Chapel is named. We assure Edward of our good wishes as he takes on this responsible position

The Rev Edward D Lyons

Edward did his probationary period with us in St Ninians Old in 2006-2007. He has been minister of Penninghame Parish Church in Newton Stewart since his Ordination and Induction there in February 2007. He sends his good wishes to the congregation of St Ninians Old.



Listening For God

"Forth, Tyne, Dogger, Fisher, German Bite, Humber, Thames South West wind veering West or North West, 4 or 5, occasionally 6 at first, patchy rain, moderate or good, occasionally poor at first."

The above is an example of part of the Shipping Forecast broadcast every day by BBC Radio to shipping in the waters surrounding the British Isles. It is not easy to understand, in fact it sounds like a load of old gobbledegook! However, the radio operators and the officers on the ships out at sea know what the broadcast is all about! They have got to know! Not only have they powerful radios tuned in to receive the broadcasts, their minds are also 'tuned in' to the jargon contained in the broadcasts.

Likewise, when listening for God speaking to us we must be 'tuned in' to God, and be in a listening mode. The big questions are how and when do you listen for God, and how do you know it is God speaking to you. Sometimes God may be speaking to you for some time before you realise it is him. It is not always easy to know it is God.

Take for example two passages from the Bible, one from the Old Testament and one from the New. In the Old Testament the young Samuel didn't know it was God speaking to him. Even the old experienced priest Eli did not realise it was God until Samuel went to ask him for the third time who was speaking to him. Similarly, in the New Testament in St Luke's Gospel two apostles on the road to Emmaus did not realise it was the risen Christ who was conversing with them until he broke the bread after they had reached Emmaus.

God can speak to US in a number of ways.

The story goes of a group of children playing among some haystacks, having great fun, when one young lad realised he had lost his brand new watch amidst the hay. He was very upset but then his friend said, "Everyone be quiet and listen for the ticking!" Sure enough the tick tock of the watch could be heard, and the watch was found.

Similarly with us that place of quiet contemplation when we can listen for God could be anywhere, for example on the hills, walking along the water's edge at the seashore, on the banks of a river or simply at home.

- 1) In quiet contemplation we can listen for God speaking to us, when we turn off the noise in our lives.
- 2) God can speak to us as we read the Bible, speaking to us from his Holy Book.
- 3) God can speak to us as we pray.
- 4) God can speak to us during worship in our church in a number of ways, while singing one of the many magnificent hymns such as the often requested "Make me a channel of

your peace”, during the minister’s sermon, during the choir singing an anthem, during the readings from the Bible introduced by the words, “Listen to the Word of God”.

5) God can speak to us through other people.

During one of our midweek open days in my old church in Kilmarnock a man came in and sat down in one of the pews. He was clearly upset, and in tears. One of our lady elders on duty, Netta, went over to him and asked if she could help. He opened his heart to her, he had done something wrong and was on his way to court. He broke down, God must think he was a really bad person although he was sorry for what had done. Netta told him God would think no such thing, the very fact he had come into church that day was enough for God to forgive him. She talked to him for a short while more and he left the church a much happier man reassured by Netta’s words of comfort and encouragement.

This is a lovely example of God speaking through another person to this man. I would just quote from a line from verse 2 of the above much loved hymn, “Make me a channel of your peace, Where there’s despair in life let me bring hope.” Netta that day was indeed God’s channel.

Now the Big question:- HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN GOD IS SPEAKING TO US?

During a talk I attended by Mrs Chris King, a deaconess from South Ayrshire, she put forward two tests:-

IF THINGS ARE of GOD then:- What you have heard will lead to good things such as towards spiritual growth, to caring for people, to creativity, to a genuine fullness of life, to love, drawing us to a fuller love of God, of others and of ourselves.

IF THINGS ARE NOT of GOD then:- What you have heard will lead to bad things such as a tendency to draw you away from God and things to do with God, lead to being self centred, closed in, unconcerned about God and other people, negative feelings of failure, guilt, self hatred, to division and conflict.

ABOVE ALL YOU WILL HAVE PEACE IN YOUR HEART, if you have listened to God.

I will finish off by going back to the shipping forecast. I can well remember, in days gone by, the forecast ended with the cultured tones of the BBC announcer saying, “Good sailing gentlemen”. He would not dare to say that now of course, it would be “Good sailing ladies and gentlemen”, or “Good sailing everyone”.

But I feel, that when we have genuinely listened to God, that is what he says to us, “Good sailing everyone, through the storms and calms of life, you know my Son Jesus Christ is with you all the way”.

An Easter Prayer

Mighty God,
We praise you for the great surprise of Easter –
Your transformation of what had seemed the end
Into a new beginning;
Your turning of what had seemed the triumph of evil
Into the victory of love,
God of the unexpected,
Hear our prayer.



We praise you for the way you have changed the lives
Of Jesus' followers –
Turning sorrow into celebration,
doubt to faith
Questions to answers
Confusion to confidence,
Darkness to light,
God of the Unexpected,
Hear our prayer.

Forgive us for doubting your love,
For losing sight of your purpose
For questioning your power
Forgive us for ignoring your greatness,
For forgetting that your ways are not our ways
Nor your thought our thoughts
God of the unexpected
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all those unable to make sense,
Of the situation they find themselves in,
Their hopes shattered by their experience of life –
Those who anxious, fearful, disillusioned, depressed.
Or having lost their homes, their employment,
Their livelihoods, their loved ones;
Afflicted by disease, disability, disaster,
Or exploited, oppressed,
Deprived of their basic human dignity.
God of the unexpected
Hear our prayer

May the surprise of Easter burst afresh

Into their and our own,
Revealing new possibilities to life
And new meaning to each day and every moment,
Bringing new strength and opportunities,
Offering new hope for the future
And renewed purpose in the present
May this day we celebrate teach us to expect the unexpected
God of the unexpected
Hear this our prayer
In the name of the risen and victorious Christ

Amen

Lorna Waddell

Casting the net on the Sea of Galilee 1994



“And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men’”.
Luke 5:10

Marion Jackson

Sanctuary First Online Church Conference

Re-Imagining the Church

Recently, Marion Jackson and I attended this conference funded by Sanctuary First which is an online church with 25,000 followers and 3,800 “friends” on Facebook. The site is used mainly by people who are not inspired by Church services but attend and also go online or those disconnected from Church. Belief in the importance of the local congregation and its place in nurturing the people of God has led many people to ask , is the Holy Spirit inviting us to re-imagine what it is to be part of Christ’s body in the world today? The presentations covered all aspects of the transition required within the Church of Scotland if our communities are to be encouraged to follow and worship Jesus Christ. It was underlined that no one scenario would fit every local situation but that we needed to keep our minds open to new ideas especially those with children at their centre. Marion and I were able to meet with other Christians to discuss the themes of the conference and to find out which models of transition had been successful and those which needed to go back to the drawing board. We were also able to worship together and pray that we will be able to continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by every means at our disposal.

Margaret Sibbald and Marion Jackson January 2019

The Benefits of a Cuppa!

At the beginning of 2018, we were a bit concerned about our longer term financial position. This was looking less secure than it had for some years, due mainly to a reduction in the number of Gift Aid donors. In addition, we had also lost two important pre-school playgroups, which had rented the halls every weekday morning for many years. Also, inflation had gradually reduced the value of regular donations, so overall it looked like we would be facing a loss of almost £10,000 during the year. We thought about what difference it would make if we could all increase our donations, by for example the cost of a Cuppa (maybe even with a slice of cake!).

There has been a fine response to this, and our income from offerings has increased by over 10%. On top of this, the Hall management team have done an excellent job in attracting new users to the Parish Halls, making up for most of our lost income from the playgroups. And through careful management, we have reduced our expenditure on repairs and maintenance of the buildings.

Consequently, our financial position has improved considerably. Even taking into account some delayed redecoration work in the Church will have to be tackled this year, we have increased, rather than reduced, our bank balance by around £10,000 in 2018. This is a great result, which makes our financial position look much more secure. So well done, everyone!

Messy Church - Church in a different form

Report-Sunday 27th January 19



Our latest session of Messy Church was held in St Ninians Old Parish Church Halls with the theme 'Where do I belong' Luke 2:41-52 looking at the story of Jesus staying behind in the temple in Jerusalem 'dealing with the things of his father.'

This theme was investigated in our usual different crafts and activities-What would Jesus have looked like as a 12 year old and how different of the same would he have been like us? Making Family Coats of Arms to investigate how it feels to belong within your family and how you identify together. Making scrolls like those used by the leaders in the temple studying the Torah. The older children worked as a team to construct a magnificent model of the Temple in Jerusalem which was so important to the Jews and their sense of belonging.

Thanks to everyone who helped in all the different ways -sorting out tables, cooking, baking, working out the craft, donations of money, talking to folk, inspiring our older children, leading songs, clearing up the Messy activities. Special thanks to Callum and Lucas-our Bible Class boys- who again give up their afternoon to support the session.

On the day we had 23 families experiencing Church in a different form with 37 children and their accompanying adults. The youngest was just 10 weeks while I didn't like to investigate who was the oldest!

As ever the hospitality from St Ninians was very welcoming and everyone pitched in to make sure all who came experienced a warm welcome and went home having had their tea!

Inevitably, such large numbers bring challenges.

How do we get our theme across with such a wide range of ages?

How do we make best use of our resources of people, materials and money?

How do we handle catering for such an unknown number of people turning up on the day?

Please feel free to feed back to me any suggestions, comments etc going forward.

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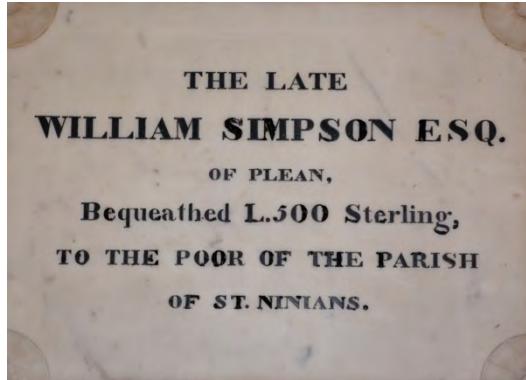
William Simpson and St Ninian

Our William Simpson was the son of Francis Simpson of Plean (1760-1831) and his first wife Jean Sophia Cadell (1785-1806), daughter of William Cadell of Banton, a managing partner in Carron Iron Works. He died at Malta in 1827 aged just 22 years. There are two memorials to him at St Ninians. First, on the inner east wall of the church beside the door, a marble plaque records:

Secondly, the small grassed area enclosed by walls and railings and adjoining the old cemetery has been known as the William Simpson's Asylum Burial Ground at St Ninians Glebe.

In 1829 Francis Simpson informed the four parishes of St Ninians, Falkirk, Larbert, and Dunipace that they would each receive £500 in memory

of his son. No part of the money could be spent, but it was to be invested and the income applied for the benefit of the poor of the parish.



A further condition was that each bequest was to be recorded on a marble slab erected in the church; all four are still extant. I have traced the operations of these bequests through to the early 1900s. In the case of St Ninians, the money (along with other funds) was generally lent out to individuals in the form of bonds for varying amounts on the security of property. There was usually about £20 annually from the Simpson bequest for disbursement at St Ninians: elders received cash to be used in their districts; payments were made to individuals for clothing, coal, rent, food, education and such things. Also, in the 1840s, soup kitchens were supported at St Ninians and Cambusbarron the 'hungry forties' were not just an Irish problem.

Francis Simpson left money, property and detailed instructions for the establishment at Plean of William Simpson's Asylum, which opened in June 1836. Its inmates were to be men of advanced years and reduced circumstances, preference being given to those who had served in the Navy or Army. Simpson stipulated that, when vacancies arose among his original Trustees, one of these positions should be taken up by the minister of St Ninians and his successors. The Asylum (later, Home) operated much as Francis Simpson had intended until the mid 1990s, by which time it had taken on a more general role in social services.

The Trustees also took on the responsibility to bury deceased inmates. Initially, this was done in Plean Churchyard indeed the Trustees had been largely responsible for the

establishment of Plean Church, which opened in March 1839. By 1927 ground at Plean was exhausted. Several lairs were then purchased at Bannockburn, but in 1932 a little less than half an acre of St Ninians Glebe was purchased by the Trustees from Stirling Presbytery; part of this was used for a burial ground. The Trustees did not provide gravestones there is however one plaque on the south wall commemorating Benjamin Henry Silk (1875-1961). Nevertheless, thanks to a plan of the ground and burial records, we do know who is buried in this ground and where. There were some 74 burials in 20 lairs along the west and south walls between 1934 and 1974. Burials then reverted to Bannockburn.

Ian Tweddle

The Green Lochan



In October while on holiday we decided to go for a walk to An Lochan Uaine (Green Lochan). We left the Reindeer Centre, Aviemore and followed the Blue Loop to the lochan. We could not believe how green it was. We returned by the Goat Path, a steady climb high up the side of the valley with many rough steps but spectacular scenery and eventually returned to the Reindeer Centre. We all enjoyed our walk.

Megan Lawson with Archie Lawson and Cara Walker

TROUBLE AT ST NINIANS

Born in the manse at St Ninians, John Gibson, minister of St Ninians, was effectively headhunted by staff of George III to the post of chaplain at Stirling Castle in 1765. He then translated to St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh in 1766. This then left St Ninians without a minister and as was the custom of patronage in Scotland at that time the landowner, Sir John Stewart, presented his choice of minister to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1766 and David Thomson's appointment from Gargunnock Church was approved. In those days, landowners had the right to choose the parish Minister without consultation with either the Kirk Session or parishioners, and were legally entitled to appoint a Minister *against* the wishes of the Session and Church members.

However, there was mounting criticism to David Thomson by the Kirk Session at St Ninians and they fought against this induction for many years. It was said that David Thomson was "old and infirm". It was not till eight years later that, after having achieved numerous legal trials and delays, the final order of the General Assembly of 1773 the Presbytery of Stirling were "to induct Mr. Thomson into the living of St. Ninians *without fail*", came as a rallying call to the parish to make a final effort to stop him.



The induction was set to take place on the evening of June 29th 1773 and the interim moderator Rev David Findlay was to take the service. The events were recorded in the Scots Magazine of the day and seem incredible. It was estimated that there was a crowd of 1,000, Kirk Wynd was now alive with people, completely filling the roadway, totally surrounding the manse, spilling into surrounding fields, and many clambering on all that remained of the old Kirk.

The events of that night were recorded in "The history of Scotland, from the union to the abolition of the heritable" by John Struthers:-

A presentation by Sir J. Stuart of Allanbank, for Mr. David Thomson, minister of Gargunnock, to be minister of St. Ninians, was sustained by the General Assembly in 1767, and the presbytery of Stirling ordered to proceed with his settlement, according to the rules of the church. Mr. Thomson was an old man, very infirm, and the whole parish of St. Ninians, not excepting heritors and elders, were violently opposed to him; some

episcopalian and a few non-residing heritors, under the influence of the patron, being all that could be prevailed upon to concur in his call.

The presbytery felt it to be a hard case, and they found means to put it off for seven long years, in the course of which various schemes were proposed for reconciling the parish, all of which, through the imbecility, the duplicity, and the obstinacy of the patron and his presentee, came to nothing, and, in the year 1773, the presbytery were enjoined by the General Assembly, on a certain day, to induct Mr. Thomson into the living of St. Ninians without fail, and every member of presbytery to attend, or to answer for his absence at the bar of the next General Assembly. The presbytery of Stirling was now in a very great dilemma. There was really no call by the parish for Mr. Thomson, and in the negotiations that had been carried on during so many years, for reconciling the parish to his ministry, he had, by his selfish conduct, very much disgusted all the brethren of the presbytery, and not one of them was willing to preach and preside on the occasion. In this situation of the presbytery, Mr. Robert Findlay of Dollar, their moderator, undertook to introduce him at the presbytery table, which seems to have been heartily agreed to, every one being desirous of having the burden shifted from his own shoulders.

Accordingly, when the presbytery arrived at St. Ninians, where an immense crowd waited to receive them, they attempted to take possession of the manse, but found it shut against them, and they were, along with the multitude, almost carried perforce into the church. Mr. Findlay, probably happy to find the multitude in a condition to listen, ascended the pulpit, and gave out a psalm, which was sung with all due decorum, after which he prayed, but in his prayer took no notice whatever of the purpose for which they were assembled. He then, instead of preaching as was expected, and as was usual on such occasions, called upon Mr. Thomson by name, who stood up in his place, and to whom he made the following singular address:-

"Sir, we are met here this day by a former appointment of presbytery in obedience to the same sentence of the General Assembly to admit you minister of St. Ninians, a sentence pronounced by the highest horn of ecclesiastical authority or power, that assembly having assumed to themselves higher power than the parliament-by some profanely styled omnipotent-that wise, that august body, never enacting any laws without consent of the people.

There has been a formidable opposition made against you by six hundred heads of families, sixty heritors, and all the elders of the parish, I believe, except one. This opposition has continued for seven years by your own obstinacy, and if you should this day be admitted you can have no pastoral relation to the souls of this parish, you will never be regarded as the shepherd to go before the sheep, they know you not, and they will never follow you, and, let me assure you, dear Sir, if you still persist in your obstinacy, you will do more harm in this parish than you could have done good in Gargunnock though you had been to live there for a hundred years - and you will draw misery and contempt upon yourself - you will be despised - you will be hated - you will be insulted and

maltreated. One of the most eloquent and learned ministers of this church told me lately that he would go twenty miles to see you deposed, and I do assure you, Sir, that I and twenty thousand more friends to our church would do the same.

I must observe to you, that in the course of this opposition, your conduct and behaviour has been altogether unworthy and unbecoming a minister of the gospel. In that memorable letter of yours to the presbytery of Stirling intimating your acceptance of the call notwithstanding the numerous body of the people opposing - I wish it was in my power to forget it - you have those impious and blasphemous expressions. That you accepted of it in the fear of God; and at a meeting of the presbytery when you were exhorted and earnestly entreated to give up the presentation, you said that you had engaged your honour to that honourable and worthy gentleman the patron, and that you would not give it up for ten thousand pounds. What can one of your sensibility of temper and feeling propose in this mad attempt in thus rushing to foreseen misery?

You were always esteemed an orthodox and evangelical preacher, and no man can lay anything to your charge as to that. You maintained a good character and reputation till your unhappy and obstinate adherence to this presentation. Now bending under the weight of years and infirmities of old age, what happiness can you propose to yourself in this mad, this desperate, attempt of yours without the concurrence of the people, and without the least prospect of usefulness in this parish. Your admission into it can therefore only be regarded as a sinecure, and you yourself as "stipend – lifter" of St. Ninians. for you can have no farther relation to this parish.

Now, Sir, I conjure you by the mercies of God, give up this presentation; I conjure you for the sake of the great number of souls of St. Ninians, who are like sheep going astray without a shepherd to lead them, and who will never hear you, will never submit to you, give it up; and I conjure you by that peace of mind which you would wish in a dying hour, and that awful and impartial account which in a little you must give to God of your own soul, and of the souls of this parish at the tribunal of our Lord Jesus Christ, give it up".

This, all the circumstances of the case considered, is unquestionably one of the most extraordinary speeches that has ever been uttered, though it certainly had truth for its basis, and against some of its appeals one would suppose that no conscience illuminated by a single ray of the Bible could have been proof, and Mr. Findlay most probably was secretly presuming that, having performed the painful duty of reproof and admonition so very freely, he would be saved the still more painful one, of admitting the object thereof under the name of pastor to be "stipend-lifter" of St. Ninians.

If so, with what astonishment must he have listened to the laconic reply of the orthodox and evangelical Mr. Thomson, "I forgive you, Sir, for what you have now said, may God forgive you, proceed to obey the orders of your superiors".

Mr. Findlay, feeling, no doubt, that to put the questions in the formula to such a candidate would be only adding to the farce, and though he was requested to do so by some of the members, proceeded to say, "I, as moderator of the presbytery of Stirling, admit you, Mr. David Thomson, to be minister of the parish of St. Ninians, in the true sense and spirit of the late sentence of the General Assembly, and you are hereby admitted accordingly". He then prayed, but in doing so neither noticed patron, presentee, nor presbytery, and, after singing a few lines of a psalm, dismissed the congregation!



Messrs. Randal, Duncan, and Nimmo did not attend, and a heavy complaint was sent up to the next assembly against Mr. Findlay for the strange manner in which he had obeyed the appointment of the former assembly. Messrs. Randal and Duncan were rebuked for their non-attendance. Mr. Nimmo was excused on account of sickness. A committee was appointed to inquire into the conduct of Mr. Findlay, to which he gave in an apology, and, by the General Assembly, 1775, was sharply rebuked.

The fallout from this resulted in twenty-one elders of the parish leaving St Ninians; only one elder remained loyal to the old Church. They, along with the majority of the people joined what was known as the Relief Church formed in 1761.

David Thomson continued as minister till his death in 1788 at 56 years of age and is buried in St Ninians churchyard.



Sunday Club & Crèche

The Sunday Club had a very busy few weeks in the run up to Christmas with rehearsals, costume fitting and narrator practice in preparation for our retelling of The Nativity in the Church on Sunday 23rd December. The children thoroughly enjoy presenting The Nativity in the Church and enjoy the party food and visit from Santa, after in the Parish Halls.

In between costume fittings the children were kept busy in December with Christmas Crafts. They had the opportunity to make several very different, very easy and yet very impressive Christmas decorations; wee bobble hat tree decorations, sparkly Christmas wreaths made from curtain rings, pine cone reindeer and tea-light holders were just some of the craft opportunities on offer.



The programme up to the Summer holidays has now been agreed by Sunday Club Leaders. As well as celebrating Easter there will be a Children's Communion, they will also look at the Ten Commandments and considering some Superhero's of the Bible, specifically David, Daniel & Elijah.

They will also be taking a closer look at the Church building and the different areas and carvings in our lovely building. The Sunday Club play an active part in our efforts to be an Eco congregation and we will be planting various vegetables and flowers in our planters. During Christian Aid week we will be looking at the work done by this charity.

All children from birth to Primary 7 are Welcome to join us at Sunday Club and Creche each Sunday during school term times. Children leave the Church following the Children's Talk with Sunday Club Leaders who accompany them to The Parish Halls, where Sunday Club and Creche is held.

Come and join us!



Lorraine Reid

PARISH REGISTER

Mr Dennis Dick, son of the Rev and Mrs David Dick (Minister of St Ninians Old 1940-1968) passed away at home in Edinburgh on Sunday 3rd February, aged 84. We remember Dennis's widow Mary, brother Dugald and sister Doreen in our prayers.



View from St Ninians Chapel, Isle of Whithorn

Gary J McIntyre

Social and Fund - Raising Committee

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the lunches over the last 6 months. They have been well attended. There will be the usual lunches held later in the year starting in October.

Table Top Boot Sale

We are having a table top boot sale in the Parish Halls on Saturday 11 May at 10.30am. Tables to hire will cost £7 and all remaining items left on table to be taken home by owners. There will be an entry fee of £1 which will include tea, coffee etc.

Film Show

We intend to have a film show for adults on Friday 24 May in the Parish Halls. The film to be shown is "The Greatest Showman". Tea and Coffee will be served. Tickets will be available at a later date.

Craft Classes

The Craft Classes are every two weeks on Tuesdays at 7.00pm in the middle room of the Parish Halls. We have several ongoing projects at this time. If anyone has any other project that they would like us to help with, please let us know. Also anyone who wishes to do sewing or other knitting please come along and join us. It is very informal and we usually have tea, coffee and biscuits.

St Ninians Old Parish Church Autumn Show

There will be an autumn show in the Parish Halls in September, date to be confirmed. We have been offered help from Anne Muirhead, who was our judge last year with making the categories more specific and design of the entry form.

Craft Fayre

We hope to have another Craft Fayre in November as usual, this has been a very successful event. If anyone has any other suggestions that they would like the Social and Fund-Raising Committee to consider or would like to help please contact one of the committee who are: Mary Donald, Christine Fernie, Thelma Jamieson, Mary Jenkins, Alison Newman, Helen Paterson, Jannette Peterson, Heather Scougall, Margaret Sibbald, Freda Smart, Helen Thomson, Maralyn Unsworth and Dorothy Walker.

RUNWAY THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS A FUNDRAISING CONCERT

FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH, 7:30PM

ST. NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

KIRK WYND, STIRLING FK7 9AY

WITH SONGS FROM THE WEST END AND BROADWAY,
POPULAR STANDARDS AND SOME SCOTTISH FAVOURITES

FEATURING

KEN CHRISTIE, ANNE FRASER, ROBERT FYFE,
AILEEN JOHNSTON, J.CAMPBELL KERR, LEWIS KERR, ROSS NICOL,
SUSAN B. RUSSELL, TOM RUSSELL & HOLLY STEEL

TICKETS

£10.00 AVAILABLE FROM

KEN CHRISTIE - 01786 472 756 & MARY JENKINS - 01786 462 228





The Church of Scotland

Heart & Soul 2019

Celebrating the life of the Church

Sunday 19th May 2019, 1-6pm, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh

FOLLOW ME...

STEPPING INTO DISCIPLESHIP

**Worship. Congregational Stories.
Exhibitors. Activities. Inspiration.**

Back for 2019 ... the 'in conversation' tent with already confirmed guests Kezia Dugdale MSP and the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE hosting a conversation on Remembering Srebrenica.

Join our new Massed Choir to play a part in closing worship. Rehearsals will be held remotely throughout Scotland, so why not get your choir involved? To register interest visit <https://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/choir>

Do you have a musical act within your church that could play a part in Heart and Soul? If so then please supply a link to a video of a performance at <https://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/signup/stage> to be considered to play on the Main Stage.

Keep in touch with announcements at www.heartandsoul.org.uk

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Stirling Street Pastors

Caring, Listening and Helping
Scottish Charity No SC042163



Stirling Street Pastors' 10th Anniversary

Friday 22nd March 2019, 7pm

Allan Park South Church, Dumbarton Rd, Stirling, FK8 2LQ

**You are warmly invited to attend a service of thanksgiving
and celebration followed by light refreshments.**

RSVP: stirling@streetpastors.org.uk by 15th March 2019

Update February/March 2019

On 27th March 2009, the first group of Street Pastors were commissioned in Stirling and went out onto the streets of our City Centre. We are looking forward to our Tenth Anniversary service of Thanksgiving and Celebration on Friday March 22nd.

Among those taking part will be Rev Les Isaac, who pioneered the work of Street Pastors in the UK, and Rev Stuart Davidson, who was one of the first group of Volunteers in Stirling and the first Chair of our Management Committee. (Stuart now Volunteers with Paisley SPs.) We hope to be joined by many who have shared with us in this exciting journey and others who may be interested in joining us for the next chapter. While the evening will recognise the contribution of those who have Volunteered, or prayed for our work, or supported us financially or in other ways, we hope that the main focus will be on praising God for all that He has done for us and through us over the past ten years. Please join us if you can. Les Isaac will also be speaking at a Prayer Breakfast for church leaders on Sat 23rd March.

We have three folk on our current Training Programme whom we hope will be commissioned at our Anniversary Service. Some of you will remember that a few years ago we were praying for more male Volunteers. As this year's group are all men it looks like we now need to be praying for more female volunteers. We're still not quite at our target of 32 Volunteers.

While we see signs that spring is around the corner, winter isn't over yet and our teams need extra stamina and enthusiasm as they head out on cold nights. It's such an encouragement to know folk are praying for us. 'Going Deeper' is a theme Street Pastors throughout the country are being encouraged to consider. While much of what we do (picking up bottles, giving out flip flops, helping folk to taxis) is very practical, we want to be alert to God-given opportunities to take conversations to a deeper level, to speak about Jesus or to offer to pray with folk.

This is a particularly busy time for Morag, our Coordinator, organising the Training Course, our Annual Dinner and the Anniversary Weekend. Maintaining the rota for patrols is always a priority and this can be challenging with folk needing time off because of family concerns or the nasty bugs that can put us out of action.

Finally, the Trustees and Morag will have our Annual Day Away on Friday 8th Feb when we will take time to review the past and look forward to how our organisation could develop in the future. We are confident that our Heavenly Father who has blessed us through our first ten years will continue to lead and inspire in the years ahead.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

Fairtrade Fortnight this year runs from 25th February until 10th March. This is an annual event and highlights the difference Fairtrade can make to lives and communities. This year the focus is on cocoa. The Cote d'Ivoire is the biggest producer of cocoa in the world and only 6% of their production is sold on Fairtrade terms. Farmers have seen their income fall by 30 to 40% from year to year. A petition is being launched during Fairtrade Fortnight calling on the Government to take greater action to make fairer trade possible. When buying your cocoa or chocolate, look for the Fairtrade label!

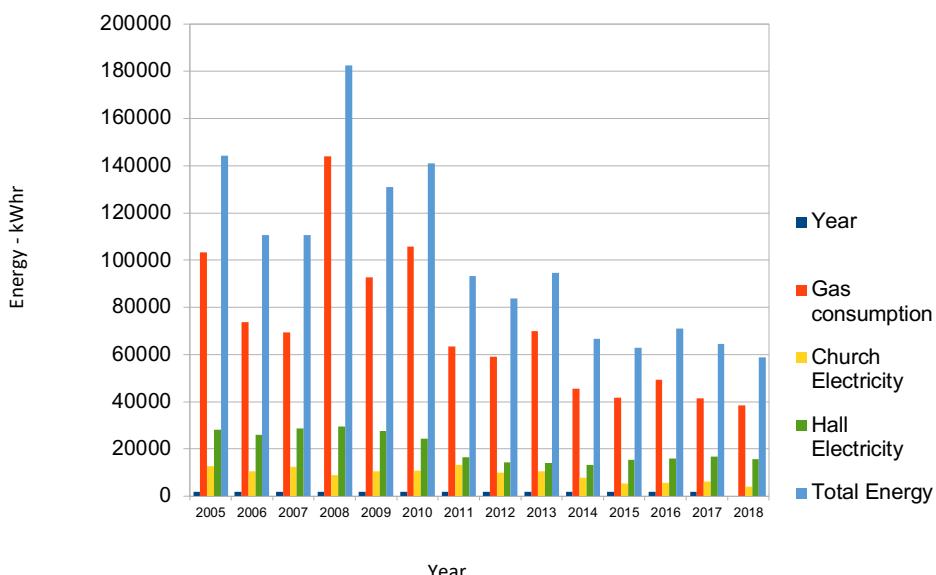


Energy Matters

Around ten years ago, our energy use in the Church and Parish Halls had reached its highest level. At the same time, there was growing awareness of the effects of Climate Change through excessive energy use worldwide. So we became an Eco-Congregation, and undertook major work to insulate both the Church and the Parish Halls, and to make their heating and lighting systems much more efficient. We were able to get substantial grants from the Scottish Government and other sources to help with this, in particular in refurbishing the halls.

This has paid off well, as we can see from the bar chart below. This shows that overall, in the past 10 years, the energy we used has fallen by more than 50%. Indeed it is now less than a third of our highest energy consumption in 2008, and we are still improving! So it means that we are still achieving the target reduction of 5%, year on year, set by the Church of Scotland – and more importantly, helping our environment for present and future generations.

Annual Energy Usage by St Ninians Old



Start Up Stirling 2018

Start Up Foodbank

116015 meals were provided via 1299 referrals at our Foodbanks.

This supported 2402 individuals over a third of these children.

Our Mobile Foodbanks expanded to provide 28371 meals to those who cannot access the Foodbanks due to ill health or rural location.

Start Up Helper Packs

145 Starter Packs given to help people get settled in new tenancies.

109 Welcome Packs to help those in temporary housing.

247 Emergency Food Packs & 329 Toiletry Packs distributed to help the temporary homeless.

Start Up Support

Our Support Service provides weekly sessions in urban and rural Stirlingshire along with home visits to people unable to access the sessions.

Supporting the Local Community

Thanks to the generosity of the community, the support of our partner organisations and the dedication of our volunteers we were able to support more people in Stirlingshire in 2018.

Please continue to support our efforts. Thank you.



Helping those in hardship

Providing support for those who are experiencing homelessness, housing difficulties and financial hardship in the Stirlingshire Area. Registered Charity No. SC035477
www.startupstirling.org.uk

The donations to Start Up Stirling from St Ninians Old Parish congregation during 2018 were as follows:- 1.1 tonnes of food and toiletries and just under £2000 in cash donations. The donations were most welcome.

For the food banks at present what is most needed are instant meals, UHT milk and jars of cooking sauce.

For further information about Start Up please contact either myself, Arthur Walls, or Helen Thomson Telephone numbers are :-

Arthur Walls 01786 446899

Helen Thomson 01786 465052

Fund Statement

Fund Statement - January to December 2018

Income	Expenditure
General (incl. General, Pastoral, Sunday Club, Flower & Choir funds)	
Offerings	26077
Gift Aid Donations	57540
Other Donations	1528
Income Tax Refund on Gift Aid	15980
Legacies	0
Congregational Organisations	0
Use of Premises	8366
Bank Interest	186
Wedding & funeral fees etc.	1930
Life & Work Subs 2018	835
Church Fund Raising	2949
Flower Fund	93
Pastoral Fund	350
Sunday Club Fund	105
(Charity Fund Raising	5759) (
	Donations to Charities
	5759)
Year to date:	115938
Balance b/f	41786
Sub-total:	157724
	Sub-total:
	96451
	Balance c/f
	61274
Fabric Fund	
Balance b/f	1807
Bank Interest	0
Sub-total:	1807
	Balance c/f
	1807
Development Fund	
Balance b/f	10954
Interest etc.	62
Sub-total:	11016
	Balance c/f
	11016
Historic Building Fund	
Balance b/f	1279
Donations	0
Sub-total:	1279
	Balance c/f
	1279
	Overall Balance of all funds :
	75376

Office Bearers Contact Numbers & Email Addresses

Treasurer treasurer1@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mr Michael Adam	01786 473506
Boys' Brigade	Mr Andrew MacDonald	07848 040955
Church and Community Committee Convener	Mrs Mary Donald	01786 474771
Communion Convener	Mr James Rintoul	01786 461812
Data Protection Officer dataprotectionofficer@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mrs Elaine Ronald	01786 818158
Eco Congregation Group	Mr Tom Pollock	01786 478710
Elders' District Review Committee Convener	Miss Maire Blackhall	01786 475141
Fellowship Teas Conveners	Mrs Heather Scougal Mrs Janette Peterson	01786 814957 01786 814657
Finance Committee Convener	Mr Jim MacDonald	01786 474191
Gift Aid Convener giftaidconvener@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mrs Christine Fernie	01786 474830
Hall Bookings Manager hallsbookingmanager@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mrs Dorothy Walker	01786 814813
Hall Management Committee Convener hallsconvener@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mr Bill Anderson	01786 472756
Health & Safety Officer hsofficer@stniniansomd.org.uk	Dr Wilson Evans	01786 871171
Life & Work, Church & Community Convener	Mrs Marion Jackson	01786 474878
Property and Grounds Convener propertyconvener@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mr Tom Pollock	01786 478710
Publicity Committee Convener	Mr Peter Kale	01786 586927
Roll Keeper & Freewill Offering Convener rollkeeper@stniniansomd.org.uk	Mrs Alison Newman	01786 814984
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Pamela Thomson	01786 479028
Social and Fundraising Convener	Mrs Dorothy Walker	01786 814813
Transport Co-ordinator	Mrs Elaine Mackay	01786 475596
Tuesday Group	Mrs Miranda Miller	01786 465836
Youth Committee Convener	Mrs Avril Robertson	01786 474634