

ST. NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

PARISHIONER

SPRING 2023



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From the Manse

Dear Friends,

We are now well through the season of Lent. As I said when we began our Lenten journey, Lent can be a 'heavy' season. We are asked to reflect on our walk with God, to consider what changes we need to make in order to be the people God calls us to be, and to recommit ourselves to God and His service.

Many people give something up in Lent as a form of personal discipline and I believe that has much to commend it. Personally, I endeavour throughout Lent to set aside time each day for quiet reflection and to consider what God might be saying to me and to the Church in these days.



At the beginning of Lent, we reflected in Church on Jesus's time in the wilderness. It was a time of real testing and of preparation for all that was to come. That time set Jesus up for his ministry and would, I believe, have been a time he reflected on as he faced betrayal, denial, and death itself.

How easy it would have been for Jesus to take a different path, to give in to the tempter and avoid the journey to the cross, but that he could not do. He came to reveal God's love and mercy, and he did so in the most amazing way possible. He gave of himself and for you, me and the world, he endured the agony of the cross before being gloriously raised again to life.

In this time of challenge and change for the Church of Scotland and for congregations throughout the land, I believe we can be inspired by Jesus's example and steadfast commitment to obeying his Father's will. He would not be deflected and kept to the path that led to the fulfilment of his mission, which was to save us from sin and death, and through believing in him, to have life in all its fullness, life that does not end when we die but continues in God's nearer presence.

As we continue our journey in Lent and celebrate at Easter, let us in thanksgiving for all that God has done for us and given to us in Jesus, rededicate ourselves to Him and keep to the path that has been set before us, confident that amidst the challenges and changes of these days, we will be given the strength to endure for we do not journey alone. We have the promise of Jesus that he will be with us always even until the end of time itself.

May you know the joy and peace of the risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Your friend and Minister,

Gary J McIntyre



Services

Services are held at 10:30am on a Sunday morning.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday of March, June, and September and the first Sunday in December.

There is a further opportunity for fellowship in the Parish Halls on the third Sunday of the month when tea, coffee and biscuits are served.

Mr McIntyre conducts a service in Eccles Court at 2:30pm and in Westerlands Care Home at 3:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. There are occasional services in Roselea Court Care Home where the residents join our Sunday services via the livestream.

St Ninians Old hosted the Stirling and District Battalion of the Boys' Brigade's annual service on Sunday 26th March at 3pm.

Easter

St Ninians Primary School's Easter Service will be held in St Ninians Old on Friday 31st March at 10am.

There will be services each evening in **Holy Week** (3rd – 7th April) at 7pm. The services will be followed by a further time of fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Join together with Churches across Stirling for a series of Holy Week Services

Mon 3rd April	St Ninians	Scott McInnes
Tue 4th April	St Mark's	Alan Miller
Wed 5th April	Park Church	Barry Hughes
Thurs 6th April	Viewfield	Attie van Wyk
Fri 7th April	Stirling North	Gary McIntyre

Services 7pm each evening - All Welcome

- Monday – St Ninians Old – The Rev Scott McInnes
- Tuesday – St Marks's – The Rev Alan F Miller
- Wednesday – Park Church – The Rev Barry Hughes
- Maundy Thursday – Viewfield Erskine – The Rev Attie van Wyk
- Good Friday – The North Church – The Rev Gary J McIntyre

There will be a joint service with friends from other Churches in Kings Park on **Easter morning** at 7:30am

The service on **Easter Day** at 10:30am will be a Family Service when we hope all who are able to join us will do so as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Easter Holiday Club

St Ninians Old in conjunction with Park Church will be having an Easter Holiday Club for primary school age children on the 11th, 12th and 13th of April in Park Church.

In 2022 a successful Holiday Club called Streetwise 2 was held in the Parish Halls. This year the Holiday Club is called Showstoppers.

The club will run from 10am – 12:30pm and it is hoped that many children will come along to find out about God and have a good time.

Volunteers to help will be welcome. Speak to the Minister if you would like to get involved or to find out more.

Self-Denial Envelopes

THE KIRK SESSION

You should have received a self-denial envelope with this copy of *The Parishioner*.

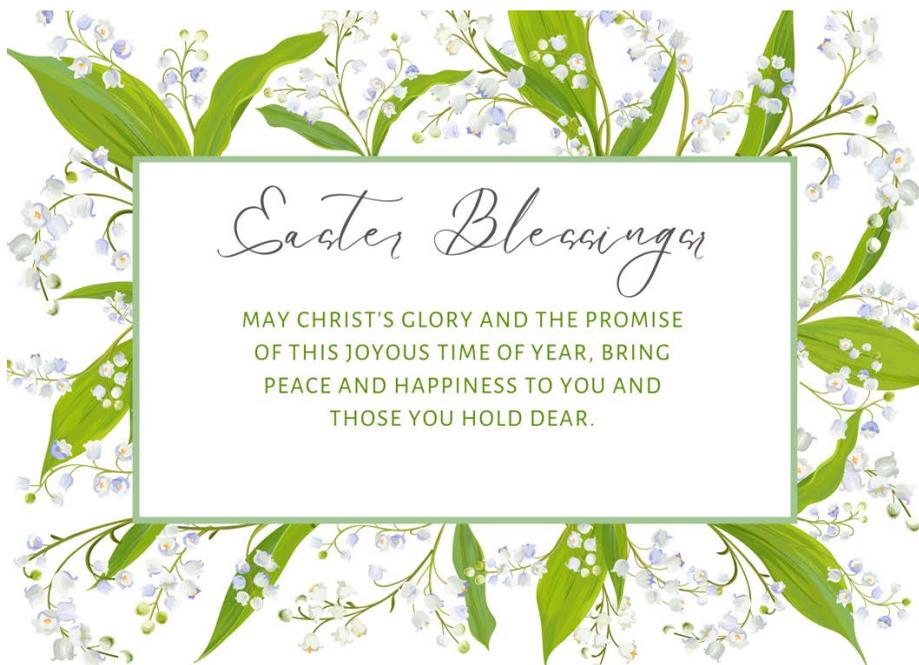
If you wish to give a financial donation to prosper the work of the Church, you can put it in the envelope and return it any Sunday in April. Alternatively, you can hand it to your elder.

If you are a taxpayer, you are invited to sign and date the envelope and to tick the Gift Aid box. This will increase the value of your contribution to the Church.

As always, we are grateful to the congregation for your generous support throughout the year.

Lent Studies

A six-week series of studies commenced on the 23rd of February. They were well attended and offered an opportunity to study passages from the Bible in a relaxed and informal environment.



The Kirk Session

The Kirk Session will meet in the Parish Halls on Tuesday 21st March and Tuesday 20th June. Both meetings will begin at 7:30pm.

The Presbytery of Perth

At its meeting on Saturday 4th March, the Presbytery appointed the Rev Gary J McIntyre Interim Moderator of Bannockburn Allan linked with Cowie and Plean.



The General Assembly

The General Assembly will convene in Edinburgh on Saturday 20th May. The Rev Sally Foster-Fulton will be installed as the Moderator. The General Assembly will close on the afternoon of Thursday 25 May. It will again be a hybrid event, and will be live streamed to allow those who are not Commissioners to view the proceedings.

Mrs Foster-Fulton, who has led Christian Aid in Scotland since 2016, said she is looking forward to meeting and encouraging people involved in Church work at local, national and international levels at a time of unprecedented challenge and opportunity.

Christian Aid works with local partners in 29 countries across the world to fight extreme poverty by providing immediate humanitarian aid, developing long-term sustainable development projects, and advocating for long-lasting change.



Four Passages from the Holy Bible – Important and Inspirational

ARTHUR S WALLS – Elder St.Ninians Old Parish Church

Two of the passages are from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament. In each case I explain why I think they are so important and in one case I paraphrase it a bit to give it a new slant and understanding, but not in any way deprecating The Word of God. They are all well-known passages, and on occasion each has been the reading from The Scriptures during the service.

The first one is from The Old Testament, The Book of the Prophet Micah, Chapter 6 verse 8. It is in fact the motto of my old school, Kilmarnock Academy.

When asked what the Lord requires of us Micah replies,

“To do justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

However, I tend to paraphrase this verse to give it more meaning. The word ‘mercy’ also means helpfulness, kindness, encouragement of others. So it can now read, in response to what God requires of us is, “To do justly, love mercy, and kindness, and helpfulness and encouragement to others and to walk humbly with your God.”

I once heard a minister saying from the pulpit that we can’t all be ministers, bishops, preachers etc, but we can all follow the path of holiness in our lives. I feel that by following the altered version of Micah Chapter 8, verse 8 we are indeed following the path of holiness in our lives.

My second choice is again from The Old Testament, a truly inspirational passage which can be of great help to anyone struggling or feeling the pressures of life. It is from The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 40 verses 28 to 31. I am going to use the passage from The King James Version as the message comes over more powerfully than the modern translations.

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

I know from personal experience of someone close to me, under great pressure and worry, who gained renewed strength from this passage from Isaiah.

My third choice is also inspirational and helpful to those struggling under life's pressures. It is from the New Testament, from Paul's Letter to the Christians in Philippi.

I am a great believer in the power of prayer and this passage from Philippians, Chapter 4, verses 5 to 9, sums things up really well:

“The Lord is near; do not be anxious, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

And now, my friends, all that is true, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and attractive, whatever is excellent and admirable-fill your thoughts with these things.”

The same person close to me who gained strength from the passage from Isaiah found this passage from Philippians equally helpful.

Indeed, I have often read the last two passages myself when under pressure from the ups and downs of life.

My final passage from The Scriptures sums up succinctly what The Bible is all about.

St. John Chapter 3 Verse 16. The most famous verse in the whole of The Bible.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Boys' Brigade



It has been a busy session so far for the boys of the 8th Stirling Boys' Brigade. Alongside our fun filled regular meeting nights we have had lots of adventures with the Stirling & District Battalion.

Our Anchor boys had a brilliant time at the soft play, and along with our Junior Section, had a super time building lots of models at the Battalion Lego day. The Anchor boys even received a special visit from our local Fire Service.

Our Company Section have been just as busy, so far this session they returned to the very popular Glasgow Clan Ice Hockey at the Braehead Arena. Since then, the boys have also enjoyed evenings at the bowling, filled with fun and fellowship. With our boys Hugh and Stuart winning the Battalion titles!

Plans are also well underway for the Company Section to attend their first BB camp since returning to full swing following the COVID-19 Pandemic, where we plan to visit the very popular 1st Glasgow campgrounds near Tighnabruach. We are really looking forward to it, and we are sure it will be a great success!



Keep an eye out for the details of our Closing Display, these will be shared in due course.

The 8th Stirling meet in St Ninians Old Parish Church halls each week on Wednesday's (Anchor Boys' P1-3, 18:15-19:30) and Friday's (Juniors P4-6, 19:00-20:00 and Company/Seniors P7-S6 20:15-22:00).

Sunday Club

In our last update from the Sunday Club in the Winter edition of *The Parishioner* we were looking forward to making Christmas crafts over December. We can now report that we did indeed have lots of fun creating lots of Christmas crafts.

We made Advent Wreaths, Christmas Angels and Nativity Scene Pictures. On our first Sunday back of the New Year we spoke about Epiphany and made Wise Men. We loved making the Wise Men and using our imaginations to have them dressed splendidly. We made some from lollipop sticks and some from cardboard tubes.

We have been learning about Christian values from the stories of "The Good Samaritan" and "The Lost Sheep."



Early in February we made bird feeders to help care for the birds through that cold winter month. This is an activity that we enjoy annually at St.Ninians Old Sunday Club, it's a really messy job and is great fun.



In the coming weeks we will be making Mother's Day cards and we are looking forward to creating some Easter crafts too.

We also look forward to welcoming our Sunday Club families to the Family Service on Easter Sunday.

Sunday Club is for children from Nursery School through to Primary 7, younger children can attend our crèche. We would love new families to join our Sunday Club family.

Tuesday Group

MIRANDA MILLER



The recent Burns Supper was very well attended, and all agreed it was a most enjoyable evening. As usual, Michael More supplied the haggis and Ken Christie as master of ceremonies lead the programme of songs, poems, and speeches.

On 28th February, the Rev. Gary McIntyre was the guest speaker. Once again, there was a very good attendance of both men and

women. Gary kept us well entertained with a mixture of stories, some hilarious, and historical facts about our best loved hymns. Tea, coffee and home baking was served at the end and a lovely afternoon was had by all. We are grateful to Gary for his presence and for the effort he puts in as he has an incredibly busy schedule.

The AGM will be held in the King Robert Hotel on Tuesday 28th March at 12 noon. We are looking forward to enjoying a two-course lunch served with tea and coffee while we elect out Office Bearers for the new session and spend time together in fellowship.

Since September, these monthly meetings have been very well attended and the new afternoon time has been well received. This has been the first session since its formation that the Tuesday Group has been open to men. So, a bit of history in the making for St.Ninians Old Parish Church. We are now an inclusive group and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 26th September at 14.00.



A Memory Stirred

MARGARET SIBBALD

Recently at the Tuesday Group's meeting, the Minister gave us a line from some hymns and asked us to identify the hymns. It was trickier than you might think even though we have been singing them for years but still, a few eluded us.

This exercise stirred a fond memory I have of holidays cycling on Greater Cumbrae. My Dad taught me to ride a bike there as it was safer on the relatively quiet roads. As my wee legs got stronger, he encouraged me to join him in cycling round the island, about 11 miles. To keep me going, he and I would sing hymns, one of which was *Yield Not To Temptation* (CH3 no.482). On one occasion, while singing the hymn, we came across Duncan Macrae, a Scottish actor famous for reciting "A Wee Cock Sparrow". He had been listening to us as our voices came closer and it seemed to have made his day!

The chorus of the hymn is as follows:

*Ask the Saviour to help you,
Comfort, strengthen and keep you,
He is willing to aid you,
He will carry you through.*

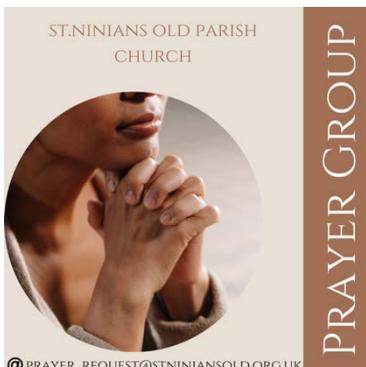
Pastoral Care Group

GRACE MCINTOSH – Pastoral Care Group Convener

If you know of anyone who would benefit from telephone contact or a visit from a Pastoral Care Group member, please let myself, Grace McIntosh or the Minister know.

We will be very pleased to visit anyone in our congregation who would appreciate a visit over and above those received from the Minister and the district Elders.

Prayer Group



When we face a crisis in our lives or the lives of those dear to us, knowing that people are praying for us can be a great source of comfort and strength.

If you would like yourself, someone else or a world situation to be held in prayer, we have a small group of people prepared to do this.

You may send your prayer requests in a comment on the Prayer Group post on our Facebook page or if your prayer request is of a confidential nature you may place a written request in the Prayer Group box in the vestibule, send an email to prayer_request@stniniansold.org.uk or a private message to the St.Ninians Old Parish Church Facebook page.

We assure you that the information you send will be treated with enormous care and will remain confidential.

Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!



If you happen to be on medication or supplements of any kind which are in BLISTER PACKS these packs can be recycled at Superdrug in The Thistle Centre thereby saving on waste.

The box is positioned at the Pharmacy counter.



Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Appeal

THELMA JAMIESON

A sincere thank you to everyone who supported the Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Appeal Coffee afternoon on Tuesday 21st February in the Parish Halls. The sum of £1,240 was raised. This is a wonderful sum of money and will help those who have suffered and lost so much as a result of the recent earthquake. Thanks to those who donated baking and to all who gave so generously.



Soup and Sandwich Lunches

ALISON NEWMAN

ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHES



The fund-raising committee would like to thank all those who have supported the Soup and Sandwich Lunches over the past six months.

The lunches will recommence on the first Saturday in October and we are looking forward to meeting up for fellowship and food.

Thank you all.

A heart-warming tale

ROD MCNEIL

A young Pastor was given as his first charge a rundown Church in a burgh of New York. Anxious to please and with Christmas approaching he set up a works team to spruce up the church. They did a great job with the Pastor pleased with the result.

However, a few days later he was horrified to find a large part of the plaster of one wall had fallen off. He prayed to God to help him overcome this problem and as if his prayer was answered he was walking through a local market when he saw on one of the stalls a large cloth which was big enough to cover the hole in the plaster.

Getting help from one of his congregation, an immigrant Pole, who noticed that the cloth had embroidered lettering in one corner. He was astonished when he read the lettering and recognised the cloth as the tablecloth his wife had embroidered when they were married so many years ago. The Second World War had just started and one night the young couple answered the dreaded knock on the door to find, on their doorstep, the Gestapo who arrested Jan. He was incarcerated in Auschwitz concentration camp and that was the last time the newly marrieds were to see each other.

He survived the war and emigrated to New York. Not before extensively searching all over Poland for his wife. He did learn that she was also arrested and thrown into a concentration camp and thereafter her history was non-existent.

The story doesn't end there...A few days later when the Minister was again checking up on his Church, he noticed standing at a bus stop, outside the Church, an old lady. Now the weather at the time was atrocious and the Minister spoke to the old lady and offered shelter from the storm within the Church and he would take her home shortly. Whilst in the Church which was not her usual place of worship she noticed the cloth covering the hole in the plaster and although her eyesight was no longer sharp she asked the minister if he could tell her what the embroidery read and he said J.P/A.P.

She told the minister that her name was Anna Pavloski and the other letters represented her late husband Jan Pavloski who she believed died in a concentration camp in Poland. The Minister took the old lady home and made

sure she was going to be at home the following day as he may have a surprise for her.

Imagine the delight and amazement in both the old lady's face and no less in the face of Jan Pavloski when they were reunited after so many years and the Lord's blessing in reuniting them and the tablecloth; miracles do happen...it was Christmas Day.

This purports to be a true story if it's not it is still a heart-warming tale of God's love for his people.

Photo Gallery

Sunset over Rothesay Bay
Ernie Colthart



Start Up Stirling

Start Up Stirling was set up in 1994 to assist local homeless people by providing packs of basic household items, cleaning items and non-perishable food as they started off a tenancy. We were originally founded by a group of local churches, where volunteers collected items and provided them to homeless people.

Start Up Stirling has adapted its services to meet the ever-changing needs of the people within Stirling Council.

We now have 3 key areas of focus:

- Start Up Foodbanks
- Start Up Helper Packs
- Start Up Support



Funders

We are funded through the support of the generous public in the Stirling Council area, local companies and a number of Trusts and Funders, including:



The Joy of Remote Worship

MARGARET AND JIM MACLEOD

Because of our jobs, my husband Jim and I moved from Scotland to Milton Keynes in July 1988. Having bought a house and settled into new workplaces, the next step was to find a church. Obviously, there was no Church of Scotland in the local area, so we asked our minister in East Lothian for advice. He suggested a United Reform church might be most suitable. Over the next few weeks and months, we visited UR, Church of England and other churches, finally settling happily into our local Methodist church in Bletchley. We were welcomed warmly, and because there were many young families attending, we adapted quickly to life as Methodists. Our two children were baptised there, then attended Sunday school and youth group there.

Over 30 years later came COVID-19 and lockdown. Our church, like every other one in the country, was closed for worship. What to do? We are both from Stirlingshire, and so knew of, and had attended St. Ninians Old when visiting family. Jim's parents, Robert and Dorothy Macleod were established members there. We had met Gary on a few occasions, so when we discovered that he was broadcasting from the manse on YouTube, we were delighted. As the weeks passed, we came to look forward to our Sunday morning 'visits' to the manse. When the time came for Gary to preach from the church itself, that was even better. We soon came to realise that, although we felt part of the Methodist community, our hearts lay with the Church of Scotland we grew up with. Thanks to Gary's kind permission, we were able to transfer our membership in December 2021.

Since then, we have not looked back. Even though we are 360 miles away we feel part of the congregation each Sunday. It is so good to hear the familiar hymns and take part in the familiar practices that we have missed so much in our years down south.

As yet we have not been back in Stirling at the weekend, so we are yet to join you in person; nevertheless, we really feel a sense of fellowship and community with you all. Thank you, Gary for allowing us to become part of your very special congregation. It has become a significant part of our lives.



RECIPES

Chicken Chow Mein – Serves 2 People

GRACE MCINTOSH

INGREDIENTS

100 g medium egg noodles cooked
1 large chicken breast cut into thin strips
1 inch cube fresh ginger finely chopped
2 cloves garlic finely chopped
1 med. carrot cut into matchstick pieces
1 red pepper cut into thin strips
4 spring onions finely chopped.
Set aside green ends for garnish

MARINADE FOR CHICKEN STRIPS

Half tsp toasted sesame oil
One tsp light soy sauce
One tsp of dry sherry
Salt and pepper

LIQUID ADDED WHEN COOKING

One tsp toasted sesame oil
Two tsp dark soy sauce
Two tsp light soy sauce
Two tsp dry sherry

METHOD

Put the chopped chicken pieces into marinade for 1 hour or until required. Cover in fridge until needed.

Heat a tsp of oil in a wok or pan. Once hot add the marinated chicken strips. Cook for 1-2 minutes until browned, but not cooked through. Remove chicken from pan and set aside.

Add another tsp of vegetable oil to the wok. Once heated, cook the chopped garlic and ginger for 30 seconds. Add the cooked noodles, carrots, peppers, spring onions and the prepared liquid. Cook for 2 minutes.

Season with salt and pepper.

Add the partly cooked chicken strips to the wok and cook for further 3-4 minutes until chicken is cooked. Do not overcook the chicken or it will be dry.

Mix through a tsp of toasted sesame oil. Serve immediately, sprinkled with green ends of spring onions.

Mixed Roll

ALISON NEWMAN

This is a very easy and delightful recipe given to me many years ago when I tasted it at a cousin's showing of wedding presents! A special friend of mine absolutely loves this!!

INGREDIENTS

10 cherries

15 marshmallows

15 digestive biscuits

1 oz margarine

1 small tin condensed milk

Desiccated coconut to cover

METHOD

Crush biscuits and quarter cherries and mallows.

Put all dry ingredients in a bowl, melt margarine and put this and the milk in the bowl and mix well.

Roll into a Swiss roll shape then roll in the coconut to cover.

Wrap in tinfoil and place in fridge to set.

This does not need to be kept in the fridge once set.

Photo Gallery

The Church with the
Full Moon
Eleanor Richards



Shortbread

THELMA JAMIESON

INGREDIENTS

1/2 lb good butter
1 cup of icing sugar
1 cup cornflour
2 cup of plain flour

METHOD

Cream the butter and icing sugar until soft. Add the plain flour, a little at a time, then the cornflour.

Mix well with a hand mixer, it will look like breadcrumbs.

Line a Swiss roll tin with greaseproof paper.

Press out and lightly mark shortbread with a knife.

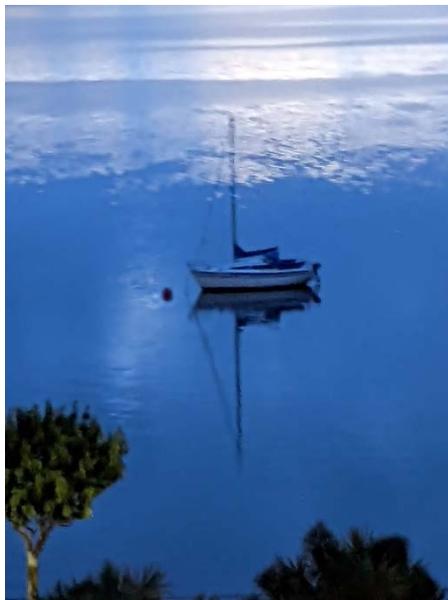
Bake for 40 minutes, gas mark 4 or 180°C.

When ready cut into fingers and sprinkle with caster sugar.

Good luck!

Photo Gallery

Anchored in Rothesay Bay
Ernie Colthart



All Age Friendship Lunches

These are a joint Church initiative and are held in Park Church on the second Wednesday of the month from 12 noon to 1:30pm. There is homemade soup, filled rolls and baking.

You are warmly invited to join us for a happy time of fellowship.

Coronation Afternoon Tea

There will be an afternoon tea on Saturday 13 May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in the Parish Halls from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 16 April price £2.50.



Christian Aid Week 14th-20th May

ELAINE WALKER

In 1957 Janet Lacey the then director of the charity decided to hold a “Christian Aid Week” to encourage public awareness. This first event mobilised residents in 200 towns and villages across Britain, collecting £26, 000 for overseas development work.

This year will be no different. People around Britain will be donating to this wonderful charity.

Envelopes will be available in the Church as “Christian Aid Week” approaches.

There will also be another opportunity to support Christian Aid in October when Stirling Kirks Together hold a coffee morning. There will be more about that in the Autumn Parishioner.

Thank you for your support.

Thomas Nelson – Publisher of Christian content

IAN CAIRNS

In 1780 a farmer from Throsk, William Nelson and his wife Liliass nee Gibson, brought their baby for christening. The family came from covenanting stock and young Thomas grew up in the strict atmosphere of that movement. He found difficulty in settling down in Stirlingshire and, as a teenager, went to London to seek his fortune. Jobs were hard to come by but having just given his last penny to a beggar Thomas discovered a job with a printer. From there he moved forward having found his path in life.

Thomas returned to Edinburgh and aged 18 set up a second-hand bookshop in the West Bow. This is the characterful street which reaches from the High Street to the Grassmarket. It is said that J K Rowling based Diagon Alley on this street. The alley was the hidden street where the wizards in the Harry Potter novels went to buy their wands and other magical accoutrements.

Fired by his religious zeal Thomas sold Bibles and other self-help books. The Reformation had ensured “a school in every parish” so Scotland was a literate nation and Thomas’s business grew. When his sons came along, they moved into printing. The rotary press had been developed in Germany. Typesetting was done on a cylinder which moved the paper to a serrated edge. Both sides of the paper could be used and the whole process was much quicker. Soon the business was producing reprints of the great English language novels, in monthly parts such as *Pilgrim’s Progress*. They also perfected a way of producing small books which fitted into a handbag or jacket pocket. This appealed to the public now travelling on the emerging railway network. However, underpinning the business was the continued commitment to Bibles, other Christian literature and self-help books. By the end of the 19th century the two sons were millionaires in their own right. They ran the largest printers and publishers in the world all from a factory in Edinburgh. Nearly 1000 people were employed, and the business printed in some thirty different languages with offices throughout the empire. An important new venture in the twentieth century was schoolbooks notably atlases and other geographic material. Many who were educated in Scotland in the 1960’s and 70’s will remember seeing the name of “Thomas Nelson and Sons” as printers and publishers of their textbooks.

From the start the Nelsons looked after their employees influenced by their essential Christian charity. Personal development was encouraged as were sports

and other social activities. Thomas Arthur Nelson, grandson of the founder and managing director before WW1 was very much in the forefront of encouraging and developing their employees. He was a very popular boss known to make and serve tea and sandwiches to the boys in the despatch room when they had a big order to get out.

The Nelsons joined the Free Kirk in 1843 at the Great Disruption. Their covenanting bedrock encouraged this. In due course, as the Kirk in Scotland came back together, they moved to the United Free Church. Certainly, the original religious zeal had dissipated through the generations, but the firm still had a huge commitment to the printing and publishing of bibles.

Nelsons came out of WW1 badly. Some 80 employees did not return including Thomas Arthur. Also, paper was in short supply and old markets had closed. However, the firm continued to develop. Thomas Arthur's younger brother, Ian, ran the firm till his death in 1958. During his time, they developed new textbooks for schools in their existing markets in the empire. However, the pressures required to sustain an international business grew and the firm was absorbed by the giant Canadian publishing firm Thomsons in 1962. They split the American business off in 1969 and sold it to Harper Collins Publishing which incorporated Nelson's long time Glasgow rival William Collins. This firm retains the name of Thomas Nelson and Sons for its religious business. Their website advertises the firm as "a world leading publisher of Christian content". The business's mission is to "inspire the world by producing books which promote biblical principles and honours Jesus Christ".

The boy from Throsk, inspired by his covenanting forebears, started what became a huge business but still selling much the same Christian material as he started out with in a small shop in the old town of Edinburgh.

Note:- I am a fan of John Buchan. He is famous for his novel The Thirty-Nine Steps but less well known is his authorship of some 100 fiction and non-fiction books and a stellar career in government culminating in being elevated to the peerage as Lord Tweedsmuir and being appointed Governor General in Canada. Buchan and Thomas Arthur Nelson met at Oxford and became firm friends. Buchan worked for Nelson as an editor and general advisor.

Photo Gallery



Sunset over Ben Ledi
Ernie Colthart

Clock Tower in the gloaming
Lorraine Reid





Stirling Street Pastors

Caring, Listening and Helping

Scottish Charity No SC042163

Isaiah 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

We continue to faithfully provide patrols on Friday and Saturday nights as well as the University Campus on a Friday lunchtime. We do this fulfilling our intentions to be on patrol; but at present there are some evenings where this has not been possible due to the lack of people to make a team. Obviously, we regret this and would rather it wasn't the case. However, we continue to pray for more volunteers and endeavour to cover as many weekends as we can despite a lack of trained Pastors.

We have people in training as Street Pastors and this should enable us to have more full weekends of patrols.

McDonald's new policy of no one under 16 allowed in after 5pm unless accompanied by an adult seems, at first a bit harsh. However, as we have seen in the past there has been some trouble for staff with young people.

Violence is a problem that seems to be escalating as door staff are having to eject more and more people from their premises. As Street Pastors, and as Christians, we are called to be joined in the battle against the principalities and powers of this world that are constantly attempting to disrupt society and bring chaos. Speaking with Street Pastors in other areas it is an ongoing struggle.

Call 2 Pray

Spring 2023

Giving Thanks and Items for Prayer

We give thanks for:

- All the Street Pastors and for their faithfulness.
- For Chris as Chair, Russell as Coordinator.
- For God's leading on the streets to be in the right place at the right time.
- For being kept safe over the years.
- For new recruits in training.
- For sponsors and supporters and our good financial position, at present.
- For prayer partners.
- For prayers, each time a patrol is out.
- For churches who pray for Street Pastors.
- For the police who are supportive of Street Pastors and are appreciative of their role.

Pray for:

- Chris as chair with all the responsibility that brings.
- Russell and the large amount of work involved as Coordinator, that is seen and often unseen.
- All Street Pastors week by week to be kept safe.
- The Police who are often under resourced due to lack of available Police.
- More financial support from grants and churches wanting to be a part of God's work on the streets of Stirling.
- More churches to be involved with us in prayer as well as financially.
- For opportunities of speaking engagements to rally support, either by way of prayer, volunteers or financially.
- More and more people are being affected by drugs and we need to bring this to the Lord.
- Pray for staff in the venues we monitor as many are, like McDonalds, experiencing greater hostility.
- Pray for a greater stability in our society as see at the weekends many people damaged by life and relationships.

The Parish Register

Baptism *'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'*

21st January 2023

Blaine Andrew Barbour, son of Paul and Nicola

5th March 2023

Carson Anthony McCabe, son of Calum and Sophie

Marriage *'God is Love'*

4th February 2023

Bill Flockhart and Alison Kelly

18 Peterswell Brae, Bannockburn

11th February 2023

David Ross and Louise Hynd

10 Pinkieknowe, St Ninians

Deaths *'I am the resurrection and the life'*

2nd December 2022

Mrs Ina Shaw

30 Newpark Road

St Ninians

5th December 2022

Mrs Mabel Allan

21 St Anne's Crescent

Bannockburn

9th December 2022

Mrs Buntly Turnbull

Carrondale Care Home

Falkirk

15th December 2022
Mrs Joan Beattie
75 Buntine Crescent
St Ninians

17th December 2022
Mrs Betty Neilson
Annfield Care Home
Stirling

21st December 2022
Mrs Jean Shaw
1 Morrison Drive
Bannockburn

2nd January 2023
Mr John McGown
30 Grampian Road
Stirling

2nd January 2023
Mr Robert W Inglis
Formerly of 12 Lennox Avenue
Stirling

4th January 2023
Mr Sammy Neilson
14 Polmaise Avenue
St Ninians

7th January 2023
Mr Andrew Henderson
24 Brock Place
St Ninians

10th January 2023
Mrs Nettie Cameron
Annfield House
Stirling

22nd January 2023
Mr Freddie France
20 Cultenhove Road
St Ninians

25th January 2023
Mr Robert Sinclair
Fairview Care Home
Bannockburn

28th January 2023
Mr Julian C Lindsay
21 Newhouse
Stirling

29th January 2023
Mr David S MacDonald
45 Newpark Road
St Ninians

Ross Wedding

DAVID ROSS



Louise & I were married at the Church on the 11th of February. I am the officer in charge of the 8th Stirling Company Section. It was wonderful to get married in the Church, by Gary who did an amazing job, and for whom we received many compliments about. Our guests also appreciated the beautiful Church.

We had a brilliant day, and it was so nice to share it with our friends and family.



Easter Word Scramble

All these words come from the Easter story. Can you unscramble them?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. EPTIAL | 2. OERB |
| 3. YNDASU | 4. RVLAAACY |
| 5. SUEJS | 6. IEICRCASF |
| 7. DOLOB | 8. ASSEPLTO |
| 9. MSRNOA | 10. OTBM |
| 11. OSRCS | 12. RIOASV |

Word Search

Find the unscrambled words from above

O J R W P A L M L A M B S C P
E G E N W K C S B D L G U R I
C H M S O Q B A A E K M N U L
H A W J U R L C F V S L D C A
I P L K G S O R J O I K A I T
G O F V K X O I T K M O Y F E
H S O R A L D F G L O E R I W
P T R R T R K I V R N P K X Q
R L G I E P Y C R O S S T I J
I E I S X Y W E Q B Y B H O U
E S V E L U A N G E L S T N D
S U E N T T H R E E D A Y S A
T F N R O M A N S W N A I L S
Z R T K M C B S O N O F G O D
R S I N B Q B P A S S O V E R

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