

Christ Church, Dalbeattie & St. Ninian's Castle, Douglas
SC010918 & SC011079

31st Newsletter 22nd August 21

PAX

Dear friends in Christ

Our Vestries are currently meeting and there may be some changes regarding our services and attending church. We are still keeping our 2 metre distancing but there will be no need to book into St. Ninian's church next week.

Yours prayerfully in Christ

Christopher

Please Pray for:

For Earle, Anne and Marion Gardner, Gill Piper, Francis Turnbull, Clem' & Ann Gault, Katherine Hatfield and Jenny Wright, Dr. Ann Wilson, Billy and Llyn Glendinning, Ian Mather, Inez, Alison Coolican, Alan Rumble and all their families. Remember especially those who are struggling particularly at this time.

Support at St.Ninian's, Castle Douglas & Christ Church, Dalbeattie



If anyone is in need of help, conversation or prayer please do not hesitate to contact Christopher 01556 505894, Helen Evans 01556 504007 or Christine Collier 01556 670275. We are all available to talk or help in any way. It is important that we keep in touch as much as possible.

Church Services

Sunday 22nd August at 11:00am

Trinity 12. Service of Family Eucharist at Christ Church, Dalbeattie

Please book your seat in church in advance of your attendance with Sue tel. 01556 612863 or emails suethomas21@btinternet.com

Wednesday 25th August Eucharist Bothwell House

Sunday 29th August at 11:00am

Trinity 13. Family Eucharist at St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas

Prayer Themes for Trinity 12

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| Sunday: | Pray for those affected by climate change especially those living around the Mediterranean contending with the terrible fires. For the mission of our church and our church family. For Refugees and Asylum Seekers as they make their journeys to safety. We pray they may be welcomed and cared for. |
| Monday: | For continued Peace in the world. For tolerance and understanding among the nations. May they have a love for the poor and vulnerable. For those in danger of losing their jobs and those sectors of industry and hospitality which are not allowed to open. For those in financial difficulties. |
| Tuesday: | For University students & staff. For all school teachers and pupils as they begin the return to school. |
| Wednesday | We pray for our care homes and especially their residents at Bothwell House, Hanover House, Carlingwark Care Home, Barlochan House Care Home, Munchies Park House, and Alma McFadyen Care Centre. For those at home who are dependent on carers and those who look after them. |
| Thursday: | For our politicians, Governments, Councils and all in authority. |
| Friday | For the people of Afghanistan, Myanmar and Hong Kong. For those awaiting execution on death row. |
| Saturday | For the people of India, Brazil and all nations struggling with the Covid pandemic. For the people of war-torn Syria, and Yemen. All who suffer the effects of 'Global Warming'. For the NHS, our local surgeries, and all at DGRI. For those affected by the Coronavirus throughout the world. For all who are experiencing 'Lockdown', and for our own communities. |

Gospel Readings for Trinity 12

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| Sunday | Trinity 12 | John 6: 56-69 |
| Monday | feria | Matt 23: 13-22 |
| Tuesday | St.Bartholomew | John 1: 45-51 |
| Wednesday | Ebba of Coldingham | Matt 23: 27-32 |
| Thursday | feria | Matt 24: 42-51 |
| Friday | St. Monica | Matt 25: 1-13 |
| Saturday | St.Augustine of Hippo | Matt 25: 14-30 |

The day Kabul was taken 15 August 2021



I write this after 5 o'clock in the evening of this Sunday. It would appear that now the city will not be taken by storm, but this morning in Church it wasn't apparent that this would be the outcome.

As I sat there, in St Ninian's it came to me that Anglicans in Kabul, as well as other denominations, would be likewise sitting in Church, and what would that be like, I wondered, as I sat comfortably, taking everything for granted. As the enormity of the whole situation, seeped in with ever greater realisation just what it might be like - fear, the last Eucharist, massive persecution, escape, holding on, martyrdom - the tears began to roll, not only for Afghanistan, but also for us, that we take for granted so much, expect so much. Why do we/I go to church? Is it for the social activity - coffee after service as someone mentioned and the service as the add on - or is it really to worship God, to seek His grace, live the life He offers us, of love, reconciliation towards each other, forgiving each other, even in our own congregations.

Kabul was where my school friend spent four years while her husband was ophthalmic surgeon in the Christian hospital during the Russian period, and my cousin had friends who also worked there and were murdered while up-country with medical care.

We will be seeing a lot of Afghanistan in the media in this next period. Please do forget the Christians and the temptations, anxieties, fears, persecution and even martyrdom that they face every day from now on.

My uncle, wife and daughter, came out of Teheran at the time of the fall of the Shah, with a suitcase each. His anguish was at leaving his fellow Christians, his congregation, and the wider clergy in the Diocese. There will be a huge guilt, although relief, for those who come out, for those they leave behind.

Edith Thorp

PostNote: Wednesday 18 August 2021

Subsequent to writing the above, I discovered that there is only one church in Afghanistan, in the Italian Embassy!

However, there are Christians in Afghanistan and I quote from a Barnabas fund (working with persecuted Christians) article:



The success of the Taliban will therefore be seen widely as a defeat for the West and a further blow to the very idea of a rules-based international order. But Patrick's immediate priorities are the Christian community in the country. They feel abandoned by missionaries who have fled from the invading forces and they have no visible support or spokespeople in the international community to stand up for them.

Barnabas Fund is working in great secrecy and danger to support Christian brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. But for the most part

all we can do is pray.

The full article can be found on:

<https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/does-the-defeat-in-afghanistan-spell-the-end-of-the-west/>

See also for further information on Christians converting from Islam:

<https://www.breakpoint.org/the-current-state-of-christians-in-afghanistan/>

Edith Thorp

'Opening the letter that has not been read' - a Jewish description – of what?

There is an everyday experience that has fascinated human beings from the beginning of time. It has been referenced in the oldest tales and scriptures ever known, from the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, written 2000 years before Christ's birth, to the works of Plato and Aristotle, in ancient Judaic texts, and especially in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, in which it is mentioned no fewer than 130 times.



What is this experience? Is it work, marriage, love, property, children, or what? Surprisingly, it is none of these. The answer is **dreams** and **dreaming**. If we add the category of visionary narratives of all kinds, the number of references in the Bible increases to 230.

Throughout the Bible dreams are described as important sources of guidance, prophecy, encouragement, and comfort. There has been wariness and puzzlement, too, about their origins and meanings. Dreams and their interpretation have figured in the stories of Pharaoh and Joseph (Genesis.41), and King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel (Daniel 2-4). In the New Testament, they are sometimes cautionary and instructive, as when Joseph is told to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20), and the Magi and the holy family are instructed on how to avoid Herod (Matthew 2: 12-14). The apostles Paul and Peter both have extraordinary dreams and visions which guide their subsequent actions. (Acts 9:12, 16:9, 23:11, and 27:22)

It is curious that within the context of scripture, most of us take these stories for granted as ways in which God has guided his people, but we never relate them to ourselves, or our spiritual lives, in the 21st century. It would seem that dreams are today regarded as inconsequential, absurd, and ephemeral, although many of us have had particular dreams that we do remember, or that recur. Our supremely rational education for the last 200 years has meant that we have come to regard experiences that seem illogical and irrational as meaningless or pathological. (Not so in other cultures, but that's a topic for another time ...)

In my opinion this is a great shame, as I believe that our present knowledge of the unconscious mind, coupled with our faith, could lead us into a rich exploration of the ways that God is present in all parts of our experience, whether waking or dreaming. On a personal note, for the past 40 years I have been fascinated by the spirituality of dreams, and wrote my Theology Master's Degree dissertation on the subject, before my ordination. My 30 years' experience of working as a mental health chaplain, teacher, and leader of

'dream groups' has been for me and others, both fascinating and rewarding. If anybody would be interested, I would be delighted to explain in more detail the relevance of dreamwork to spiritual growth and self-awareness, and perhaps to do a 'sample' exploratory session. Please ask me any questions via my email revdrowley@outlook.com. It's not 'hippy' or 'wacky', - it's creative, respectful, and above all, illuminating, spiritual, and fun!

Your friend in Christ, Revd Annie Rowley.

Stewartry Food Banks

If you cannot attend tel: 07730 788 335 or email projects@castledouglas.info and they will deliver to your door.

Castle Douglas Food Bank (Stepping Stones), 198 King Street, Castle Douglas

steppingstones@castledouglas.info

Manager Emma Haigh Open 10-12pm Monday to Friday. Dels M,W, F only.

Dalbeattie Food Bank, 24 High Street, Dalbeattie. Telephone 07730 788 335 between 9am & 5pm. Enquiries donnamck.dci@gmail.com The shop is open between 6 & 8pm.

Useful Contacts

National COVID-19 Helpline 0800 111 4000

For people who don't have family or existing community support and can't get online and who are over 70, disabled, require the support of mental health services, are pregnant or receive a flu jab for health reasons, will be directed to our dedicated local team who can offer essential assistance.

NHS24 111 www.nhsinform.scot

Emergency 999

Doctor Out of Hours 111

Dumfries and Galloway Council 030 33 33 3000

www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

Business Support Helpline 01387 260280 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 030 33 33 3001

Social Work Out of Hours 01387 273660

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway 0300 303 8558

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service 0300 303 4321

www.dagcas.org

Samaritans 116 123

SHOUT Text SHOUT to 85258 for free

Scotland's Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234

Age Scotland 0800 12 44 222 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Shelter Scotland 0808 800 444 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
LGBT Helpline Scotland 0300 123 2523
Childline 0800 1111

Food Train tel: 01556 288427 email: everything@thefoodtrain.co.uk
(for food deliveries from local supermarkets)

Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

[SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Community Bulletin](http://supportdg.gov.uk)
[\(\[dumgal.gov.uk\]\(http://dumgal.gov.uk\)\)](http://dumgal.gov.uk)