

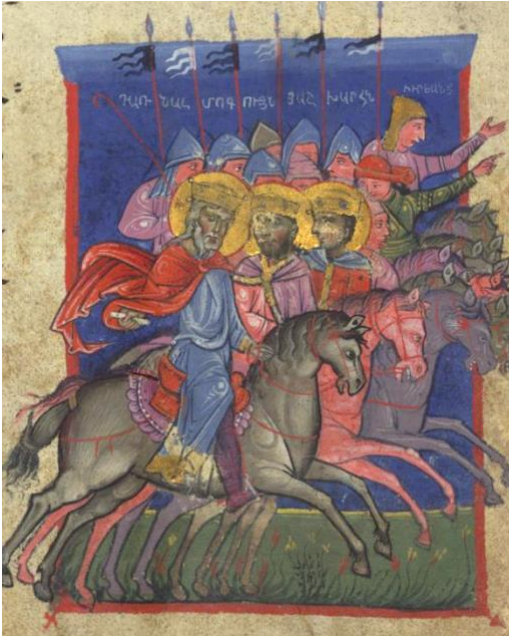
Christ Church, Dalbeattie & St. Ninian's Castle, Douglas

SC010918 & SC011079

Epiphany 3 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

PAX

Dear friends in Christ,



*“...no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.”*

So ends the penultimate sentence of T. S. Eliot's 'Journey of the Magi'. (The picture is taken from an Armenian manuscript dated 1262AD, called *The T'oros Roslin*, held in The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore.) Life is hard at present. T.S.Eliot found life tough too. It could be said of him, in 'The Journey of the Magi', that he realised his personal recognition of the child Christ meant a personal death for him. A displacement of himself, a prising away of his attachments to so much that he valued before

his conversion to Anglicanism. Some held that his Faith was just a comfort to him. Consequently, he wrote in a letter *“Most critics appear to think that my Catholicism is merely an escape, an evasion... it [is] rather trying to have supposed to have settled oneself in an easy chair, when one has just begun a long journey by foot.”*<sup>1</sup> It was important to Eliot that Christian's stood within a tradition that united every age in belonging together, in the Liturgy of the Church, whether Catholic or Orthodox, because the Liturgy was the voice of the whole body of Christ. He wrote that *“He knew the Peace of God”* was an extraordinary painful blessing.<sup>2</sup> Could this be how we view the new reality of the world we now live in?

Our Faith, brings meaning and purpose to our lives. Yet, our Faith is so disconcerting to others, for we can be seen as repressive hypocrites, concerned only with buildings, status, and finance. Where is the Love that we hear about in the Gospels? The Forgiveness? Was not Jesus, God's Son, a breaker of convention? Why is the Church unwilling to move on or practice what it preaches? Could it be that it doesn't want to move on from the old 'middle class' respectability of old? Our God given Vocation to follow God can lead us to be ridiculed and we may feel isolated with a God that appears silent.

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<sup>1</sup> Ricks and McCue , Poems, vol 1, p. 765

<sup>2</sup> Valerie Eliot and John Haffenden (eds), The Letters of T. S .Eliot vol 5

Yet, Eliot would write “*to be damned for the Glory of God is sense, not paradox.*”<sup>3</sup>

We have moved over the cusp into a ‘new age’. Many of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century foundations have been removed. We have been forced back into ourselves by the pandemic and denied the material supports that we have taken for granted for so long. The process has cost the world and society dearly – some considerably more than others! Where does this leave the Church, and you and I, with our Christian Vocation? Our priorities may appear dubious as we struggle to keep our buildings open. Our Liturgies, however, reveal to us the ‘Living God’: the God of radical Love, Hope and most importantly Forgiveness! What is the way ahead? Do we even care?

Vocation you could say is what is left when all the games and distractions have been left behind. It is the elusive residue of our Vocations that is left that we must help each other discover. We will need to pray, study and listen in order to divine the road ahead for our churches and the communities we live in. It would be good for us to pray and explore together our future path. It will mean Sharing and Listening, and probably appearing irrelevant to the world, but in our apparent irrelevance we will rediscover our God given Vocations and Way.

The Silent road of God lies before us: May we rejoice in this new journey together.

*“To be Silent does not mean to be inactive: rather it means to breathe in the will of God, to listen attentively and be ready to obey.”*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



Early morning light on Carlingwark Loch

Yours in Christ,

*Christopher*

Rector

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<sup>3</sup> ibid

To contact the Rector: Christopher Tel: 01556 505894  
Email: [cg.ketley@zen.co.uk](mailto:cg.ketley@zen.co.uk) Web: <https://dcdchurches.org.uk>

### **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.

Please continue to pray for: Judi Rumble, Francis Turnbull and Barbara, Audrey Pointon, Brenda Morland, Katherine Hatfield and Jenny Wright, Jill Russell, Clem & Ann Gault and their family, and Janet Gillespie and her family.

RIP Clifford Peckham. Please pray for his wife Janet and their family.

### **Church Service Times**

St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas:

Family Eucharist 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 11am.

Christ Church, Dalbeattie:

Family Eucharist 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11am.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Family Eucharist alternates between churches

### **Gospel Readings for wc 23<sup>th</sup> January**

Sunday	Epiphany 3	Luke 4: 14-21
Monday	St. Frances de Sales	John 15: 9-17
Tuesday	Conversion of St. Paul	Mark 16: 15-18
Wednesday	Ss. Timothy & Titus	Luke 10: 1-9
Thursday	St. John Chrysostom	John 5: 30-47
Friday	St. Thomas Aquinas	Matt 23: 8-12
Saturday	feria	Mark 4: 35-41

### **Prayers for Epiphanytide<sup>4</sup>**

Christ manifested in the flesh, make us holy through prayer and the word of God.

Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, anoint us with the Spirit which makes us priests, prophets, and servants in your Church.

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<sup>4</sup> From Benedictine Daily Prayer: A Short Breviary

Christ, seen by angels, share with us now their heavenly joy and exultation.

Christ, preached among the Gentiles, open the hearts of all peoples to your Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christ, received in faith by many nations, renew the faith of believers and give the nations peace.

### **Dates for your diary**

**2022**

#### **January**

22<sup>nd</sup> 2–3:30pm Adventures in Faith, via Zoom  
23<sup>rd</sup> 11am Family Eucharist at Christ Church, Dalbeattie  
24<sup>th</sup> 11am Funeral of the late Clifford Peckham, at Colvend Church  
27<sup>th</sup> 5pm St. Ninian's Vestry  
30<sup>th</sup> 11am Family Eucharist at Christ Church, Dalbeattie (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

#### **February**

2<sup>nd</sup> 10am Candlemass, Eucharist at St. Ninian's  
2pm Christ Church Vestry  
6<sup>th</sup> 11am Family Eucharist at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas  
9<sup>th</sup> 7pm Zoom Bible Study on 'Candlemass'  
15<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm Mother's Union in the Gordon Hall

### **Booking for Church Services:**

- Christ Church bookings: Sue Thomas [suethomas21@btinternet.com](mailto:suethomas21@btinternet.com) t.612863
- St. Ninian's bookings: Christine Collier [cacollier.h@gmail.com](mailto:cacollier.h@gmail.com) t 670275.
- The Province Advisory Group have advised that you take a Lateral Flow test before attending a service.

### **Fancy A Walk?**



As I write this and sit looking out on this glorious morning - I fancy a walk! Any takers?

A winter walk starting around 10.30 and finishing around 1400 is what I had in mind, with a suitable stop-off for a bring your own lunch. Not too far away, and not far distance.

My usual walks would be, Castle Point from the carpark; Kippford - Rockcliffe and back with refreshments to hand at the end;



possible walk to Rough Island, tide permitting; and that's about it! But you may have other ideas, and that would be great, so I look forward to hearing from you and let's go from here.

Distance isn't the importance, it's companionship, sharing a common interest, and 'being' in God's creation come rain or shine.

Edith Thorp  
01556 610816 or 07375784144  
[edith.thorp@icloud.com](mailto:edith.thorp@icloud.com)



### **Charge Retreat at Alnmouth Friary: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

Alnmouth Friary is open for Retreats this year. We have an opportunity to spend time with God in this beautiful friary overlooking the sea. Come and seek God in the Silence of this friary. There are seven places available. Approximate cost £180.00 for 4 nights full board. We will share the travel costs.

To book your place contact:

Edith Thorp  
01556 610816 or 07375784144  
[edith.thorp@icloud.com](mailto:edith.thorp@icloud.com)

### **Safeguarding Training by Zoom**

The following was sent by the diocese this week. Anyone who is interested should book a place via Eventbrite following the links given below:  
We have developed two training sessions each lasting approximately 1.5 hours for presentation by Zoom. Each session will be repeated six times: Session 1 in the week of 24 January and Session 2 in the week of 31 January. You are welcome to attend either or both sessions.

**Session 1** (various times 25-27 January)

An introduction to the SEC Safeguarding Policy Principles and Commitments  
Please read the policy document as preparation for attending session 1. It is available on the SEC website at:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Safeguarding-Policy-Principles-and-Commitments-plus-Definitions-2020.pdf>

**Session 2** (various times 1-3 February)

Safe recruitment and the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme

This will be of particular relevance to PVG co-ordinators and for others (including clergy with charge and vestry members) with responsibility for recruiting volunteers and staff to work with vulnerable groups in the SEC. This session will include information about changes to the PVG Scheme.

**How to book your place**

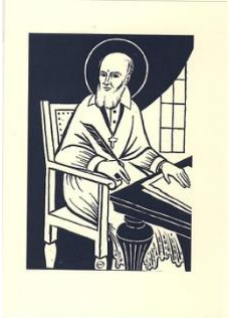
Booking is by Eventbrite.

Each session will last up to 1.5 hours and be repeated six times over the course of three days. Please click on the link (times) to the event you wish to attend to book your ticket (please only book one Session 1 and one Session 2).

Session 1 (week 1)	Times (link)
Tuesday 25 January	<a href="#">11:00 - 12:30</a>
	<a href="#">14:00 - 15:30</a>
Wednesday 26 January	<a href="#">10:00 - 11:30</a>
	<a href="#">17:00 - 18:30</a>
Thursday 27 January	<a href="#">12:00 - 13:30</a>
	<a href="#">18:00 - 19:30</a>
Session 2 (week 2)	
Tuesday 1 February	<a href="#">11:00 - 12:30</a>
	<a href="#">14:00 - 15:30</a>
Wednesday 2 February	<a href="#">10:00 - 11:30</a>
	<a href="#">17:00 - 18:30</a>
Thursday 3 February	<a href="#">12:00 - 13:30</a>
	<a href="#">18:00 - 19:30</a>

**Volunteers needed**

As you will be aware, we are currently putting the communion wafers into individual plastic bags. Hopefully, at some point we will be able to stop doing this but at the moment it is the safest way for us to be able to continue taking the sacrament. It would be helpful if someone from each church would take on the bagging duty, it only takes a few minutes to bag sufficient for a service. It could be done at the end of one service ready for the next one. Please speak to Christopher or Helen Evans if you would be prepared to do this.



### Famous Quotations of St. Frances de Sales

“The measure of love is to love without measure.”

“Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly.”

“It is a fact that people are always well aware of what is due them. Unfortunately, they remain oblivious of what they owe to others.”

“Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections.”

