

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Christ Church, Dalbeattie



Issue No. 6 April/May 2015

Services at Christ Church

March

29th PALM SUNDAY 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Holy Week Services see page 9

April

5 th	EASTER DAY	8.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
		7.00 p.m.	Joint Songs of Praise at Christ Church
12 th	Second Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
19 th	Third Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
26 th	Fourth Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

May

3 rd	Fifth Sunday of Easter	8.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
10 th	Sixth Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
14 th	ASCENSION DAY	5.15 p.m. for 6.00 p.m.	
Regional Ascension Day Service at Christ Church, Dalbeattie			
17 th	Seventh Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
24 th	PENTECOST	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
31 st	TRINITY SUNDAY	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

June

7 th	First Sunday after Trinity	8.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

There is a service of Holy Communion every Thursday at 10.00 a.m. at Christ Church.

There is a service of Holy Communion at 8.30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month at Christ Church and a service every Sunday at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas.

Munches Park Care Home, Dalbeattie
Third Sunday in the month

Ecumenical Service 2.00 p.m.
All Welcome

From the Registers

Funeral	3rd March, 2015	Mary Parker
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Mary Parker, formerly of The Meadows, Dalbeattie died in Barlochan Residential Care Home on Tuesday, 24th February 2015. Mary was an active member of the congregation for many years; she worked on the envelope scheme with John Gasser. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Dear Friends

It has become fashionable among so-called humanists to declare that humanity is now so civilised and sophisticated that we have no need of a God whose precepts offer us a “moral compass” in life; that the Way of Jesus is an irrelevant anachronism in a post-modern world in which we are our own arbiters of social behaviour. I beg to suggest that this smug world-view is flatly contradicted by the evidence all around - and I don't have to go as far as the Middle East to demonstrate that the veneer of civilisation is both wafer-thin and crumbling.

Just one example, that makes my hair stand on end: last week, in Telford, Shropshire, a young man became so despairing that he climbed onto the roof of a multi-storey car park and, sadly, threw himself to his death. As he stood on the brink, a group of around twenty young men gathered below him, not to dissuade or comfort, or to keep him talking while help was sought, but rather, to taunt him, goad him into jumping, and record his distress on their camera-phones.

For me, there is no qualitative difference between this gleeful barbarity and the atrocities of ISIL or Al-Quaeda: they each demonstrate the same degraded humanity that embraces and glories in wickedness. And they are but extreme examples of the condition from which Christians believe Jesus came to redeem us. Human nature is changed, not by being civilised, but by being *re-born*: as St Paul would have it, “raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness.” And that truth needs to be discovered afresh in every generation.

As we once again remember how a crowd taunted and goaded another young man towards his death, we need to hear again on Maundy Thursday the New Commandment, “Love one another, as I have loved you,” we need to see again the symbolic redemption through the horror of Calvary, and to live again the triumph of life over death on Easter morning. *And then we need to share it with the world* - in Jesus' own words from St. John's Gospel, “that the world, through him, might be saved.” Is that an irrelevant anachronism? I think not.

May you each and all have a blessed and joyful Easter.

Yours in Christ's service,

David Bayne

Anthony Duncalf, Honorary Secretary, has provided this summary of the Meeting of Christ Church Vestry held on 18th March 2015.

- ♦ The proposals for a **Curate** to serve at Christ Church have been approved by the Bishop and are now with the College of Bishops to see if a suitable candidate can be identified.
- ♦ Alongside the programmed services for **Holy Week** (led by Bishop Gregor) it is hoped to arrange an informal opportunity to meet the Bishop over coffee, probably on Thursday morning.
- ♦ Some urgent repairs have recently been carried out to the **Church windows** to prevent water ingress. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of further polycarbonate sheeting to protect the windows with the Diocesan architect.
- ♦ Proposals have been received from the Diocesan Architect for a long-term solution to the problems with the **Church tower**. The Vestry accepted her recommendations that the tower be lowered and a single-storey porch with pitched roof be constructed. Hopefully a disabled access ramp could be included alongside these works. The Secretary will write to the Architects to instruct them to progress along these lines (initially consulting with the planning authority). As these works will involve considerable disruption to the Church gardens, it was proposed to prepare a scheme of remodeling the borders which might include the opportunity for members of the congregation to 'sponsor' a plant.
- ♦ The **Plant Sale** will be held on the 16th May in the Lower Town Hall. Unfortunately it will not be possible to have a Cake Stall this year, but a limited number of cakes will be sold alongside the refreshments.
- ♦ There have been some problems with the water pressure in the **Church heating** system in recent weeks, following the removal of some radiators during work on the tower etc. Keith Dennison has been trying to bleed radiators as necessary, but the plumber has now been out to attend to the issues, and hopefully this will resolve the problems.

Regional Council Report 3 February 2015

The Council had a very interesting and informative presentation from the Revd Dr Ewan Kelly, Lead for Spiritual Care in Dumfries and Galloway - How Churches can contribute to Health and Social Care in Dumfries and Galloway. I can give a full minute of the presentation if anyone would like to ask me for it. The main thrust was to raise awareness, to encourage participation and recruitment for this development in the care of NHS patients.

Canon David Bayne reported from Diocesan Council held on the 31 January 2015 that the Auditors had reported that the Diocesan finances were in good order. Protection of Vulnerable Groups - a template for congregations to complete for their annual report had been created. The Scottish Parliament would be consulting on qualifying requirements for the solemnising marriages and civil partnerships (to be discussed at General Synod/change of Canon Law). A motion to be submitted Diocesan Synod. Ageing property stock was an on-going and growing problem.

A draft agenda for Diocesan Synod to be held at Paisley on 7 March 2015 was discussed. Canon Missioner post advertised; two applications received. Church and the Academy meeting 10 March 2015; David Preston to speak about **All Change** - exploring the major issue of change in relation to the Church, the Christian Faith and ourselves. (See report on page 17.)

Verbal reports were made by the charges and notices were given of various events that are to take place in the Region.

Edith Thorp, Lay Representative

Diocesan Synod Report 2015 - 7th March 2015

Edith Thorp, Lay Representative and Stephen Gaukroger, Alternate Lay Representative

Edith reports: It was a very wet morning when four of us (Edith, Stephen, Beryl Scott and Muriel Palmer) travelled to the Synod at Holy Trinity & St Barnabas Church, Paisley. Paisley and the one way system, yes we didn't actually get lost, but took time to get there. Time to settle, but some of us did not manage to get a coffee.

We sat, as previously, in randomly selected tables, which for this particular Synod was a bit unnecessary as we had no opportunity to talk to each other! The Synod was very much a business meeting, with reports; the finances were sound and somewhat clearer in presentation than on other occasions; a motion on gay 'marriage' engendered some discussion, and went forward to General Synod to join the discussion on the topic there; the ageing church/Rectory stock was causing huge amounts to be spent - better to deal with little faults rather than wait until they are huge issues.

The best part of the whole Synod, I thought, was the presentation by the various MAP Action Groups, when the convenors of the Groups gave amusing, interesting, informative or encouraging descriptions of what they were about, what they had been about, and where they hoped to be about in the Diocese.

A good day, with sadly little time to chat to fellow members, excellent lunch, and a very careful driver - Stephen Gaukroger - there and back.

Stephen reports: As Alternate Lay Rep (with responsibility for transport!), it seemed a good idea to see what a Diocesan Synod does. On registration I was offered a canvas bag to dip my hand in. Sweeties perhaps, or is it the draw for the Rugby League Challenge Cup? Nope, just a table number which thankfully had one face I recognized. I am grateful to Canon David Bayne for explaining some finer points of the proceedings.

A general impression is that the mix of clergy and laity are both equally driven to embrace the MAP ideals as Edith has said. The presentation by St Mary's, Hamilton of their 'St Mary's For All' initiative gave me hope that church buildings can provide a resource for outreach and care to the benefit of both Church and community. However it cannot be done on the cheap, they are looking at over £800,000 for the work involved but there are grants forthcoming which make the fundraising a realistic prospect. We cannot for the moment hope to emulate what St Mary's are doing, but the MAP can start us on the road. What works for inner city churches may not be what is needed in rural areas, but some problems are universal and some are unique.

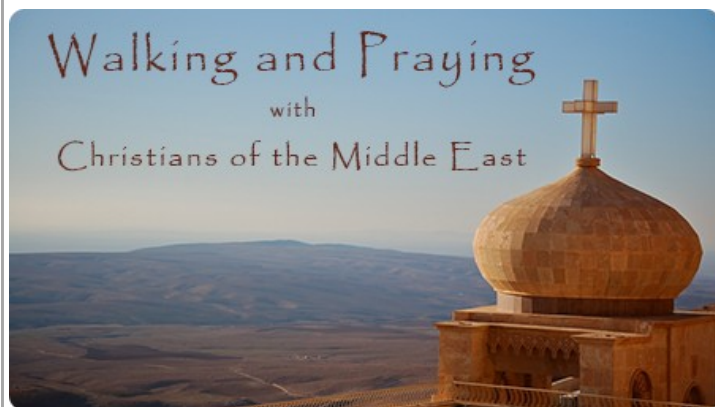
Take a look online at St Mary's website for a better idea of their vision using this link:

<http://www.stmarysepiscopalhamilton.co.uk/st-marys-for-all.html>

The statistics for church attendance in our diocese show a diminishing number of regular worshippers, down from 9622 in 2005 to 6729 in 2014 with corresponding reductions in baptisms, marriages etc.

Discouraging or motivating? It's your choice. Please pray for a clear vision for our own wee church in the Valley of the Silver Birch. (Dalbeattie is a Gaelic term meaning 'valley of the silver birch'.)

LENT TALKS 2015



Each meeting was held three times; on Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m. in Castle Douglas and at 7.00 p.m. at Crossmichael; and on Thursdays at 10.45 a.m. in Dalbeattie.

The first talk about **Syria** held on the 25th and 26th of February led by Canon David Bayne (Episcopal Rector of St Ninian's, Castle Douglas and Interim Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Dalbeattie); was based on the theme of ***into the Wilderness.***

The second talk about **Israel** held on the 4th and 5th of March led by Revd Sally Russell (Church of Scotland Minister of Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham; and the linked church of Crossmichael and Parton); was based on the theme of ***Covenant with Abraham, Sarah and us.***

The third talk about **Egypt** held on the 11th and 12th of March led by Father William McFadden, VG (Roman Catholic priest of the four Catholic Churches in the Stewartry); was based on the theme of ***The Law revives us.***

The fourth talk about **Lebanon** held on the 18th and 19th of March led by the Revd Oonagh Dee (Church of Scotland Minister); was based on the theme of ***We wish to see Jesus.***

The fifth talk about **Palestine** held on the 25th and 26th of March was led by Revd Stephen Ashley-Emery (Church of Scotland minister of Castle Douglas with the Bengairn Parish); was based on the theme of ***Entering Jerusalem.***

For more information about this Lent Course visit www.ctbi.org.uk

Prayer for Lent

LORD JESUS CHRIST, send your holy Spirit upon your people this Lenten season that we might faithfully take up your cross each day and follow you. Help us to die to all that is false in our lives, all that is worthless, all that is sinful. Confident in your abundant mercy, may we face the truth about ourselves without fear. Freed from all that keeps us from joyfully living our baptismal promises, may we join with all Christians in the Easter celebrations of your resurrection. Amen



Knitting for the Mission to Seafarers

Especial thanks are due to Alice Taylor for knitting 12 hats for the Mission. Well done Alice, I have only managed one to date! Jenni Gray is delighted. MP

LENT LUNCHES 2015

The total monies raised at Christ Church for Lent 2015 will not be known until after Easter. The monies raised from the Lent Boxes, Lent Lunches and the Soup Booklets (sold by the end of March*) will be notified as one total. We have been well-supported by people from outwith the Congregation and so the final total is looking good. *Alfred Thorp*

A series of Lent Lunches were held in Christ Church Hall to raise money for Bishop Gregor's Lent appeal (see next page for information about the appeal).

Many thanks to the 'soup lunch' hosts and hostesses; a wonderful variety of soups have been enjoyed. Grateful thanks to everybody who came to the lunches, without your support it would have been a pointless exercise. Sadly, we have no photographs of the first, fourth and fifth lunches; here are two taken at the third lunch. (Thanks to Nicholas Palmer for these.)



What a lot of happy eaters!!! Seconds anybody? Yes please.

A second booklet of **Soup Recipes** has been compiled, all the proceeds from the sale of this booklet are to be donated to the Bishop's Lent Appeal. * The booklets will be available for purchase throughout the summer. Copies may be ordered from Muriel Palmer; the cost per copy is £1.00 plus £1.00 for p&p.

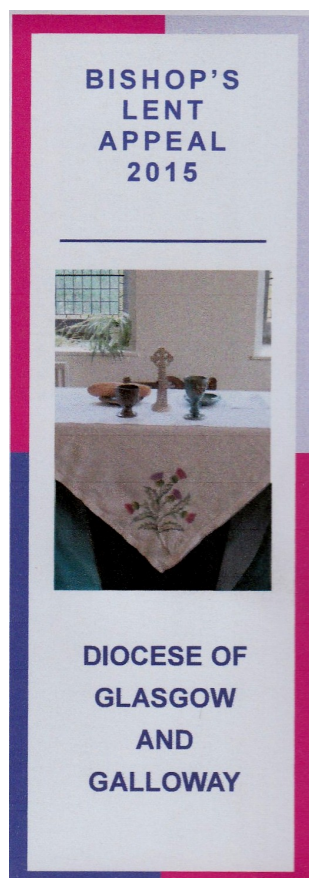
Contact details: e-mail muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com; telephone 01556 630314; address 3 Barcloy Mill, Rockcliffe, Dalbeattie, DG5 4QL.

The Rt Revd Dr Robert Gillies, Bishop of the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney has said that during Lent we should:

give something up; give something away and take something on

I think we can say we have done all of these at Christ Church and St Ninian's this Lent. MP

Bishop Gregor's Lent Appeal 2015



The Scottish Episcopal Institute is the training agency for the Scottish Episcopal Church and forms people for service as competent and confident public ministers, whether as Lay Readers, Deacons or Priests. Currently there are 24 students in its midst, drawn from all seven dioceses. SEI is poised to launch new courses and fresh ways of formation to fit the changing Scottish context. To find out more about its ethos and courses, please go to www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/

Bishop Gregor writes: *"This year, all seven diocesan bishops have agreed that, in their Lent Appeals, they wish to support the training and formation of those entering the ordained ministry or licensed lay ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church. In commending my 2015 Lent Appeal to you, I do so alongside each of my fellow bishops in their respective dioceses.*

2014 was a year of significant change in the Scottish Episcopal Church. It saw the creation of the new Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), which replaces the former Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC). The ethos of SEI has a very intentional emphasis on formation – the shaping of a person for ministerial functions and ensuring that the person has sufficient maturity in Christ to carry those functions. The Rev Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson was appointed Principal of SEI in August and Dr Mike Hull joined as Director of Studies early this year. The role of the Rev Canon Dr Alison Peden, the Provincial Director of Ordinands, has also been expanded from one day per week to a two thirds role which will enable candidates to be accompanied from the early stages of the recruitment and selection process throughout the entire period of their initial ministerial education.

Changes in provincial structures, to create a new body called the Institute Council, to act as the governing body of SEI, received initial approval at General Synod 2014 and will come for final approval later this year. Once that process has been completed, SEI will be formally launched."

Already, we are encouraged by the numbers of potential younger candidates exploring vocation and, funds permitting, we hope to be able to offer full-time training as a possible pathway for some in the future.

General Synod 2014 received the proposals regarding SEI with enthusiasm and the Bishops also indicated then that we would act in concert with our Lent Appeals in 2015. Members of Synod gave practical voice to their enthusiasm by offering personal financial contributions there and then. In acting together in the 2015 Lent Appeals, all the bishops hope that the Scottish Episcopal Church as a whole will similarly be willing to support this important work.

+ Gregor

Almighty God, giver of all good things,
you showed your love for us
by giving us your only Son:
help us to show
our love to you.

Grant us this Lent
the vision to see where you
are at work in the world,
the courage to join in that
mission
and the desire to give
in support of those seeking
to train within the Scottish
Episcopal Institute.

In the power of the Spirit
we make our prayer
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

STOP PRESS: A Service to launch the **Scottish Episcopal Institute** will take place in **St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth** on **Sunday, 4th October at 3pm**. The preacher will be the **Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane** and **Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church**. Further details to follow.

HOLY WEEK The Rt Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, will be here for all of Holy week and, together with the Canon Bayne, will be involved in Services at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas (CD) and at Christ Church, Dalbeattie (DBT).

Sunday 29 March –Palm Sunday

8.30 a.m. **Holy Communion** (CD)
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist** (DBT)
11.00 a.m. **The Liturgy of the Palms and Family Eucharist** (CD)
7.00 p.m. **Iona Service** (in the Hall at CD)

Monday 30 March

10.15 a.m. **Holy Communion** (CD)
7.00 p.m. **Compline** (DBT)
8.30 p.m. **Compline** (CD)

Tuesday 31 March

10.15am **Holy Communion**
12 noon **Chrism Eucharist for Galloway Region ***
7.00 p.m. **Compline** (DBT)
8.30pm **Compline** (CD)

Wednesday 1 April

10.15 a.m. **Holy Communion** (CD)
7.00 a.m. **Compline** (DBT)
8.30 p.m. **Compline** (CD)

Thursday 2 April – Maundy Thursday

10.00 a.m. **Holy Communion** (DBT)
10.15 a.m. **Holy Communion** (CD)
7.00 p.m. **Compline and Stripping of the Altar** (DBT)
8.30 p.m. **Eucharist of the Last Supper and the Watch until Midnight** (CD)

Friday 3 April – Good Friday

10.15 a.m. **Holy Communion**
12 noon **The Cross at the Cross** (DBT)
2.00 p.m. **Prayers at the Foot of the Cross** (CD and DBT)

*** Chrism Eucharist**

At this liturgy the ordained reaffirm their ordination vows and the sacred oils which are used in sacramental ministry are blessed for use. The oils are then taken to all the churches in the diocese.

The Church has always consecrated three oils. They are the *oil of catechumens* which can be used with those preparing for baptism (a liturgy is now available for this), *the oil of the sick* for anointing those who seek healing and wholeness and at the time of death, and *the oil of chrism* for post-baptismal anointing, confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and the consecration of churches and altars. The three oils are basically olive oil, but to the chrism is added balsam or oil of flowers which fills the air with the scent of sweet perfume. One early church writer described the perfume of chrism as “*the Easter aroma, God's grace incarnate through the sense of smell!*”

Through the liturgy of the Church, Christ acts to strengthen and protect, to heal and restore, and to set apart and seal for ministry. The Chrism Mass serves to open up these realities to the community of faith.

MEDITATION GROUP A Christian Meditation Group meets in the Chancel in St Ninian's, usually on the first Friday of the month – but check current notices – at 11.00am for an hour of blessed silence. If you feel that silent, meditative prayer might speak to your spirituality, please do come. From the website of St Ninian's, Castle Douglas.; stnianians.castledouglasorg.uk

Churches Together in Dalbeattie and District

Colvend, Southwick and Kirkbean Group of Churches have now joined the Churches Together in Dalbeattie & District. The other Churches are Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon Parish Church linked with Urr Parish Church; St Peter's RC Church; Galloway Christian Centre and Christ Church.



Colvend Church is on the Rockcliffe road off the A710 from Dalbeattie to Colvend. Sunday services are at 11.30 a.m. followed by tea and coffee.

www.colvendchurch.com



Southwick Church is on the B793 from Dalbeattie to Caulkerbush. Sunday services are at 10.00 a.m. followed by tea and coffee in the church hall. Parking is next to the church gates. The hall is situated behind the church.



Kirkbean Church was closed for public services in November 2010. It has now been sold and developed into a private dwelling house.

This group of Churches are a Church of Scotland congregation; the parish is situated along the banks of the Solway in an area of outstanding scenic beauty. They are a small rural congregation that seek to be followers of the Lord Jesus. Disciples together. The Minister is the Revd James Gatherer; he lives at the Manse at Colvend. They have House Groups that are small group meetings of 8-10 who meet in a home during the week; or meet in the name of the Lord Jesus to share his teachings.

The Groups are open to anyone who wishes to be an active part of one. They provide a place of welcome, sharing and encouragement; a time for worship, a learning and fellowship and a place of belonging.

Update from Churches Together Dalbeattie & District

A **Songs of Praise** style service will be held in Colliston Park on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd August as part of the annual **Civic Week** celebrations. There will be the opportunity for each member Church to vote on their favourite hymns for inclusion in the service. Further details to follow. *Anthony Duncalf*

Healing Blankets; these blankets continue to be very popular. We get occasional feedback telling us of how much comfort they have given to the recipients. Thanks are due to St Ninian's, Castle Douglas for donating some of their blankets - they had a good supply and at Christ Church we couldn't make them fast enough!! Donations of wool and ribbon are always welcome; many thanks to those who have already donated these items. There is a box at the back of the church for donations and knitted or crocheted squares. Grateful thanks to those who provide the squares and especial thanks to those who sew the squares together and crochet the edges.

Jane Greenwood

GROWING WITH GOD'S GRACE IN GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY

Our Year 2 MAP was signed-off on Sunday, 8th March 2015, during our morning Eucharist. Because of the major work that was or has still to be carried out on the tower, the Year 1 MAP Goals had not been completed. It has been decided to carry them forward as part of the Year 2 Goals.

The Goals for this year are the upgrading of the Church lighting as the **Welcome, Integration and Numerical Growth** strand and a new external Noticeboard as the **Imaginative Outreach into the Community** strand.

Anne McWilliam, Facilitator, Canon David Bayne, Interim Priest-in-Charge and Anthony Duncalf, Honorary Secretary to the Christ Church Vestry signed-off the document, which was placed on the altar as an offering of our intention. We work towards the Bishop's review of Year 2 Mission Action Plan this time next year. (Our Year 2 MAP and photographs have been forwarded to the Diocese for uploading to the Diocesan website.)

Anne, Canon Bayne, Alison Bayne and several members of the congregation had lunch together at the Laurie Arms.

The photographs below are from left-to-right Anthony Duncalf and Anne McWilliam signing the document (five copies have to be signed!); Canon David Bayne signing the document and the 'Group' photograph.

Edith Thorp, MAP Co-ordinator



Joseph of Arimathaea's Easter

'He's gone,' says Joseph, and, with Pilate's leave
Eases the nails and lowers him from the Tree,
Wraps him in reverent and tender thoughts
And lays him in the cave called Memory.

That cave is deeply hewn in Joseph's heart:
All that's within will always be his own:
In memory's cave the treasure of the past
Is safe forever, walled and sealed by stone.

He's safe', says Joseph, 'safe in this cool place
And no one can take my Lord away.
In years to come I'll still see his dear face
As clearly as I've seen it on this day.'

'He's gone!' cries Joseph at the empty tomb:
But Mary says, 'He's left a word for you:
He cannot rest content to be your past,
So he has risen to be your future too.'

© Canon WH Vanstone 1923-1999

This poem is at the end of Canon Vanstone's last book *Fare Well in Christ*. His Hymn *Morning glory, starlit sky*, is much better known and is from the first book he wrote *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*. His second book *The Stature of Waiting* is a book much read and studied during Lent. MP

The Revd Yvonne Glass - one of our visiting clergy - has given me permission to include the following article in the Magazine; which she had written for the magazine of St Mary's Gatehouse of Fleet. MP

Life as a hospital chaplain

I have often been asked what my work as a hospital chaplain entailed. One stereotype suggests that the chaplain is one step ahead of the undertaker – but there is much more to chaplaincy than that.



Nottingham City Hospital



The Chapel at Nottingham City Hospital

A chaplain is a resource for both staff and patients which meant at the Nottingham City Hospital that we were there to try and meet the needs of around 5,000 staff, 2,000 in-patients and many day care patients as the chaplain is there for people of all faiths and of none. I found that a great deal of my time was taken up with being 'a listening ear', something that many of us need in times of crises. A chaplain's response is very much led by the staff/patient need rather than any previously fixed agenda.

In times of need and crises spiritual needs become heightened. The sort of questions I often found myself hearing were things like '**Why is this happening to me?**'. '**Where is God in all this?**'. '**Is this my fault?**'. '**Is God punishing me for some past misdemeanour?**'. And, '**What will happen when I die?**'. Some questions just need to be asked it isn't that an answer is necessarily expected and the very last thing a suffering person wants to hear is religious platitudes.

I have been asked to perform an exorcism twice which certainly caused me some consternation and I had the very happy situation of being around for a forty year old man who had a dramatic conversion experience. I must add that this was nothing to do with the Chaplaincy, he was in the bathroom when it happened, but he came to us after the experience as the only help

he was offered was the psychiatrist! That man was a great joy. He came to the chapel on the day he was leaving the hospital after a nine-month stay. There were flower arrangers in the Chapel at the time and I asked if he would like me to arrange for some privacy, he answered that he didn't need privacy, he just wanted to thank God for all that he had done for him in the hospital, and he didn't mind who heard him. He had come into the hospital as a confirmed atheist and he was leaving as a Christian and nobody was more surprised than he was. He went on to join a church when he got home and all the family were baptised.

Sadly, happy occasions such as this were not the norm and most of the time I found myself dealing with the sadness of broken hearts and dreams, disappointment and despair. I think the saddest occasions for me were the baby deaths. A chaplain was involved in every baby death even if there was no religious/spiritual input as we also acted as bereavement officers, helping would-be parents with what happens next. We took most of the baby funerals for the parents we were involved with as often we were one of the few people who had actually seen and held their baby and it created a bond between us. I was privileged to be part of some very moving services where parents had written much of the material themselves. One particularly lovely and very moving moment was where a trained singer wrote and recorded a song for her baby girl which was played at the funeral service. The song asked God to do for her baby all that she had wanted to do and to please make sure she knew that she was loved.

One of the things I enjoyed most about hospital chaplaincy was the lack of any pretence or need to impress that I found in people. When the chips are down or the end is near there is often a need to speak openly and honestly about how we really feel and some of those conversations will stay with me forever. I learned never to assume anything, no matter who you are speaking to, and always to take every request with the seriousness it deserved. I suspect that I will look back on the eleven years I spent at the hospital as being some of the best of my life.

Healing Blankets

these blankets continue to be very popular. We get occasional feedback telling us of how much comfort they have given to the recipients. Thanks are due to St Ninian's, Castle Douglas for donating some of their blankets—they had a good supply and at Christ Church we couldn't make them fast enough. Donations of wool and ribbon are always welcome. Many, many thanks to the makers of the blankets.

The blankets are blessed in Church and a prayer is wrapped within the blanket.

May this blanket be a token of our love and prayers for your healing. It has been made by members of Christ Church, Dalbeattie, and blessed during our public worship, asking our Father God that it might bring you comfort,

Jane Greenwood

If you want to knit a square here is a pattern for a **Knitted Diamond Square** (size finished square 6 inches); **alternatively** cast on 71 stitches and knit sufficient rows to create a 6 inch square. 36 squares are needed for each blanket.

Size 10 knitting needles; adjust needle size if you are a normal or loose knitter to a smaller size.

Double Knitting wool

Cast on **71** stitches

Rows 1 & 2: knit 34 stitches, slip 1 stitch, k1 stitch, pass slip stitch over, knit to end of row.

Rows 3 & 4: knit 33 stitches, slip1 stitch, k1 stitch, pass slip stitch over, knit to end of row.

Continue in this 2 row decreasing pattern until 3 stitches remain.

Last 2 rows, slip 1st stitch over middle stitch, then break off wool and pass through remaining stitch to fasten off.

Jane Greenwood has written an article about her and her husband's time at a girl's school in Bradford.

Geoff, my husband, worked as an art teacher in a girls' school in Bradford for more than twenty years where I also worked as a classroom assistant. We would like to share some of our experiences with "our girls".

Because of the location of the school, most of our students and some of the staff were of Pakistani origin. Fortunately for us, most of the girls liked being at school as it gave them the freedom to see their friends. The usual teacher enquiry "What did you do in your holidays?" was often met with "nothing", or "we went to my cousins in Manchester".

We tried to encourage the girls to explore the countryside by helping to organise a Duke of Edinburgh group in school with three other colleagues. This needed quite a bit of preparation, from introducing walking boots, waterproofs etc as well as map-work and navigation. One of the things that the girls liked was the fact that other walkers invariably said hello to us. The only thing was they had to say it to everyone in a group of twelve or more! Quite often they would say to staff how nice it was to see a group of Pakistani girls in the Yorkshire Dales. After practice expeditions, the real thing was eagerly anticipated. Staff would be at strategic checkpoints to make sure the girls were not lost and to keep morale up



1

Some of the girls at Malham Cove

2

Some of the girls at the Harewood Estate

3

Jane with the Group at Otley

until the campsite was reached.

On one memorable occasion (at Gordale Scar) the girls trudged wearily into the campsite and put up their tents with some encouragement from us. The next job was to make the evening meal on a Primus stove, so we all thought this was going to be a struggle. After visiting the primitive facilities the girls emerged resplendent in colourful shalwar kameez - party clothes - and sat on the grass to make a curry with chappatis that could have come straight from any Indian restaurant. Now we understood why their rucksacks were so heavy!

Although most of our students were Muslim they loved Christmas and all the cards, presents and decorations. All staff received a mountain of Christmas cards. Only slightly more popular was the celebration of Eid, the end of the Ramadan fast. Maryam, who I supported full-time for 3 years, always insisted we exchanged Easter eggs except I never received a full one, she always ate them and I got the packaging !!

We organised a trip to the pantomime at the Bradford Alhambra theatre. Our excuse was that it was an experience of British culture. Among our group were some Libyan girls who were intrigued by the behaviour of the audience, mainly schoolchildren, as this was a matinee performance. One nervously whispered to me *"Miss, can we shout?"* When I said it was expected there was no stopping them, yelling *"Behind you!"* in unison with the audience. Most of the girls fell in love with Prince Charming with his tight leggings!

From time to time we would receive a wedding invitation from a former pupil. The tradition in Pakistani families was to invite the whole neighbourhood, so the event had to be well organised. Usually the sexes were segregated but on one occasion we teachers all sat together to eat the wedding meal. After the dessert I noticed the helpers rolling up the paper table-cloth fairly briskly to include paper plates, plastic cutlery, leftovers ,etc. There was a gathering crowd for the second sitting waiting to sit down. Liz, one of our group, had to warn her mother (a slow-eater) to get up before she was absorbed in the rapidly approaching ball of paper! The bride would sit on show in the women's group in all her finery, not really taking part. We once brought a fruit bowl as a small wedding present and were slightly embarrassed to see the mountain of banknotes presented to the married couple, and the mother in law who wrote down who gave what!

I still keep in contact with former pupils and their families and I would like to say that we had only good experiences with the Muslim community in Bradford.

Update from the Chat & Craft Group

The Group has been busy making things not only for the Christ Church Sales but to sell throughout the year. Easter Cards and other Easter Goodies are available at the back of the Church.

Miranda gave us a demonstration on how to do decoupage and we have been busy practising on plant pots etc. Thanks to everyone for their contributions to the group it is much appreciated. If anyone has an old tin tray or jug they don't need it would be great to decoupage the items for the summer sale.

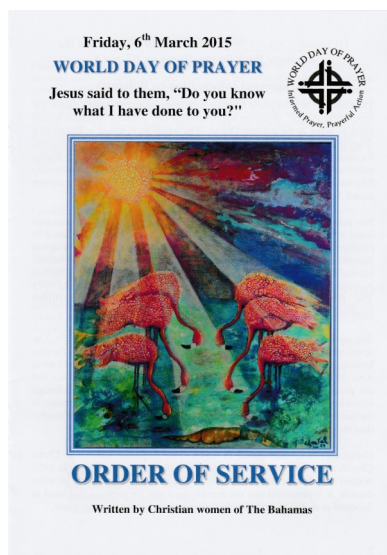
Jane Greenwood

The **February meeting** was held on Tuesday, 17th February; the speaker was the Revd Douglas Irving, Minister of Kirkcudbright Parish Church. He gave a most interesting talk about the first part of his visit to China last year; illustrated by many photographs. He had been granted Study leave by the church to visit China.

The **March meeting** was held on the 17th March; Kirsty Allison talked about the Women of the Bible. She had asked us all to do bring the story of a woman who had meaning in our lives. It was a most interesting and thought-provoking session.

The next meeting will be held the **21st April**; Margo Currie will talk about **Work with the Deaf**. At the meeting to be held on the **19th May** there will be a speaker who will talk about **Women's Aid**.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday, 6th March, 2015



The collection is to be used to support the World Day of Prayer and is to be donated to Christian Societies which have projects in the Bahamas.

Many thanks are due to the congregation of St Peter's for hosting the service and for the welcome refreshments after the service.

This year the service was held at St Peter's RC Church, Dalbeattie. Four people from each of the four churches in Dalbeattie took part in the readings and drama ***"Do you know what I have done?"*** This was based on the Bible Reading: John 13:1-17 (NRSV). Several had their feet washed. Over 30 people joined in the service.

In the Order of Service the Convenor Christian Williams writes:

Jesus showed his disciples his own servant spirit by demonstrating 'the order of the towel' and washing their feet. Washing dirty feet was a menial task usually designated to slaves or women. In the upper room Jesus took the opportunity to show his disciples that they should learn to be servants. 'I have given you an example to follow, do as I have done to you.'

Jesus had called these men, with all their differences, to come together to form a new community—one of love and respect. The call has not changed. Here, in the Bahamas, around the world, we must be prepared to support one another in our Christian faith and service.

How we deliver this service can take many forms but if we live the way Jesus showed and taught us how to do his father's work in the world, we will live in a spirit of forgiveness and understanding. God sets himself against the proud, but he shows favour to the humble and in his own good time they will be honoured. We are to follow the example of Jesus. It's not easy to join 'the order of the towel' but those who follow in the Master's footsteps can do no less to his kingdom here on earth.

Thanks are due again to the **Revd Beryl Scott** for her report about the Theological Reflection Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th March at the Maxwell Hall, St Peter's RC Church, Dalbeattie. Over 40 people attended David Preston's fascinating and thought-provoking talk about change.

All Change

David's introduction explained that we were going to look at change, with special reference to Church History. This would include looking at change as reported in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, and with reference to the early church based on articles from a book by Kenneth Parker.

The word change is rarely used in the Old Testament, but this altered in the New Testament, the coming of the Holy Spirit leading to great changes. Is change necessary? It's interesting to know that theologians have studied texts and some of the words translated earlier have been incorrect, stemming from words that have several different meanings. God has been understood as having human traits. Discovery over the years of old manuscript have enriched the meaning of the text.

We discussed whether God was changeless using passages from the Bible. At early Church Councils dogmas were pronounced that must be adhered to, and this has continued throughout the centuries. We looked at changes at various times starting with the early Catholic Church which for many years was against change, both in behaviour and organisation. This led to Protestantism, and since then the Roman Catholic Church has undergone limited changes, Cardinal Newman and more recently others being involved. Vatican 2 introduced many changes. Change has been influenced by history and decline in church membership, and also by the many changes in scientific discoveries.

Father William thanked the speaker and also referred to our next meeting which will be on the **9th June**, the subject '**Pope Francis**' with Argentina as the background. The speaker will be **Father Joe Boland**, parish priest of St Bride's, West Kilbride, Ayrshire.

The Perfect Church

If you should ever find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that church
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground
You'd be a misfit there.

Of course it's not the perfect church,
that's simple to discern.
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by, lest joining it
You spoil the master piece.

But since no perfect church exists,
Made of perfect men.
Let's cease on looking for that church,
And love the church we're in.

What fools we are to flee the past
In that unfruitful search
To find, at last, where problems loom
God proudly builds his church.

I found this poem on the Church Notice Board which I 'borrowed' to be able to share it with you. Thanks to whoever put it there. MP

Graham Brignall has written an account of the time when he took a group of students to WW1 Battlefields

A SCHOOL TRIP to the WW1 BATTLEFIELDS

In 1998, when I was teaching in Norfolk, a colleague and I took a small group of 12/13-year-olds (including my own son) for a 3-day trip to **Ypres**, which I had visited many times in the past and where I had made some good friends. I was unsure about the children's reaction and totally unprepared for their honesty. Obviously visiting the reconstructed trenches was fun, but the reality of what had happened really hit home when we arrived at **Tyne Cot Cemetery**; they were almost speechless. One of the girls said to me, standing among the rows of graves with flowers in full bloom everywhere, ***"I'm not sure whether or not I'm allowed to say this, but it is so beautiful."*** ***"That is how it is meant to be,"*** I replied.

We made a point of stopping at **Langemarck German Military Cemetery**, laid out so differently from the Commonwealth ones, no white marble headstones, but just a few black stone crosses; most of the 22 000 bodies contained therein were laid in a communal grave the size of a tennis court, which has now become a rose garden.



© CWGC - Tyne Cot Cemetery



© CWGC - Langemarck German Military Cemetery



© BBC Schools website - World War One



© www.1914-1918.net

On our last evening we went to the Last Post ceremony at the **Menin Gate** in Ypres; the children found it hard to comprehend that nearly Sixty-thousand men are commemorated on the memorial, names of men who are known to have gone and fought in the conflict, but who never reported back for duty and whose fate is unknown. I shall always remember the sight of a group of 12/13-year-olds (boys and girls) fighting back tears as the Last Post was played. My concerns about the effect of the trip were answered.



© CWGC - Menin Gate Memorial



© Mirror.co.uk - Last Post at the Menin Gate

War dead 1914-1918	
France - 1.4 million	
Germany - 1.8 million	
Russia - 1.7 million	
Britain - 902,000	←
The United States - 116,000	



**Tower of
London Poppy**



Update re WW1 book

I am planning to arrange a meeting in the Church Hall at Dalbeattie, for story-tellers and potential story-tellers, sometime after Easter so that I can kick-start the story-collection back into action. Members of both congregations are invited. If it would be easier for the members of St Ninian's I could hold a meeting in Castle Douglas some time in late May.

To date I have one story in draft and promises of several others from St Ninian's. As I started this project earlier and as I live in Dalbeattie I have many more stories from Christ Church.

As the project has been expanded to cover both churches the estimated target date for publication has changed. My plans are to be able to have the publication ready for printing by the beginning of June 2016 so that it will be available for the Centenary date of the Battle of the Somme - 1st July 1916 - when so many of our local men lost their lives.

Muriel Palmer

Vanessa Martin, wife of the Revd John Martin, (Interim Priest-in-Charge, Greyfriars, Kirkcudbright and St Mary's, Gatehouse of Fleet) has written an account of her long and varied nursing career. In this magazine we learn about her time at **The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street; the Hammersmith Hospital and Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton**. In the next magazine we will learn about her time at **The Royal Brompton Heart and Chest Hospital, the North Cambridgeshire Hospital** and at **the Nottingham University Hospitals** and her next **27 years** service in the **NHS**.

I began my nursing career at **The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street** in 1962. In those days, you were expected to dedicate your life to nursing, so all the Ward Sisters and the Matron were spinsters. We students lived in the nurses home along with the matron, who occupied the whole mezzanine floor. No men were allowed past the front entrance and the outside doors were firmly locked at 9pm. Our working hours were long; we worked a 56-hour week with one day off on day-duty. On nights we worked 8 continuous nights of 12-hour shifts with 4 nights off.

Ward Sisters ran the hospital with the Matron at the head, and these Sisters were very knowledgeable about all the conditions on their ward. They taught nurses and all the junior doctors and could tell you the results of every child's blood tests, investigations and X-rays from memory. There were a couple of battle axes, but most were highly respected.

As students, we had "blocks" of tuition within the school of nursing and between each block were allocated a ward or department on which we worked. We had a Sister Tutor who would work regularly with us teaching us procedures and testing us on our knowledge. Occasionally the Matron would take a student on a "round", making sure she knew all her patients (including blood results). This was especially frequent and nerve racking on night duty! All the routine work was performed by students and you worked your way up to performing more difficult procedures the more senior you became. Each year one added something to ones uniform to depict your year, a stripe on your cap in the second year and a special cap in the third year. Ultimately we all wanted to be a Ward Sister.

My training was more than 4 years as I did a combined course of paediatric and adult nursing, my adult practical all being at **The Hammersmith Hospital**, which I chose as it was nearer to home. Nursing then was different. Patients stayed in hospital longer, and were less likely to survive than today. Technology was far less advanced. We had large Engström Ventilators which took up a quarter of a side room. There were no intensive care units and these ventilators were taken to the ward with a nurse allocated to "special" the child. Great Ormond Street was an exciting place to train at with far more pioneering work than in most hospitals and children flown in from all around the world.

Later, when I became a Staff Nurse in the hospital, I "specialled" Siamese twins following their separation. They had shared a liver, which was divided, and were both bleeding profusely. I with another staff nurse were syringing blood into the twins all night to try to maintain their blood pressure. We had no break in our 12 hour shift, were constantly being fed chocolate milk shakes through straws and were exhausted by the end of it. As I left the hospital, a passer by asked me if I knew anything about the Siamese twins and I had to deny all knowledge of them. We were sworn to secrecy over any patients, especially high profile ones. We often watched reporters sneaking up the hospital drive, when there was something interesting going on, trying to get a picture or accost some poor nurse leaving the hospital.

The **Hammersmith Hospital** was a large busy hospital and did a lot of pioneering work in rheumatology but was mostly in the news because it was next door to Wormwood Scrubs Prison. It was common to have prisoners in a ward handcuffed to a prison warden, to have the dining room search by sniffer dogs or our flat mate's car stopped and searched. One prisoner managed to escaped down a drainpipe from a loo on the third floor. The nurses home had a large notice behind the wardrobe door saying "Do not undress without closing the curtains". One evening I undid my collar as I walked into my room and saw lights flashing from the windows of the long term prisoners block!

Night duty was very busy. I was in charge of a surgical ward on nights overseen by a night sister. We were given a lot of responsibility and respect, as we came from Great Ormond Street. My ward had patients following major surgery including brain and heart surgery. I remember having to measure blood loss and give the same amount of blood intravenously in the case of heart patients. We even had a ventilated patient in a side ward for a few nights, not "specialled" as he was an adult! It was a huge responsibility and I worked on my adrenaline. I remember getting an elderly man whose heart had stopped on to the floor on my own, wondering afterwards how I managed it. Sitting down on that ward was never an option, partly because one didn't want to see the cockroaches that ran around at night. Crunching them underfoot was bad enough!

Working as a Staff Nurse then a Sister

My first Staff Nurse post was at **Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton London**. I worked on the children's burns and plastics unit. The burns patients were the most heart breaking to nurse, but my most vivid memory is writing up the evening reports in the office on the plastics ward when an untrained nurse brought me a baby who had collapsed. She had tried to push the child to eat its cereal; it had inhaled the food and was a dark grey colour. In those days we had no piped oxygen and suction, so she and a student ran to get the oxygen cylinder and suction machine from a cupboard. We also had no emergency medical team so they had to 'phone the switch board to tell them a child had collapsed. Meanwhile I had to resuscitate the child on my own with limited equipment. Eventually an anaesthetist was found by the switch board on a neighbouring ward but the child had come round and was breathing by then. We set up an oxygen tent and the child was "specialled" all night. Luckily he made a full recovery. In those days there was no "bleep" system where you could fast bleep a team to attend an emergency. (Great Ormond Street had had a clock system where the clock on the wards would flash numbers to call medical staff). I was commended by the hospital, as this child was fit and well and only in for a palate operation, but it made me grateful for piped oxygen and suction when later it was fitted to every bed.



2nd Year at Great Ormond Street



3rd Year at Hammersmith Hospital



Staff nurse at Queen Mary's



Aig Fois is situated in a private home and garden, with a small prayer room, in the Galloway town of Kirkcudbright on the Solway Firth coast. The Gaelic expression 'aig fois' (pronounced "ache fawsh") can be translated as 'in tranquillity'. Aig Fois in Kirkcudbright provides space for people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, to reflect on their experience and understanding of God and how they might like to respond. [www.aigfois.co.uk ; info@aigfois.co.uk]

What is a 'Retreat in Daily Life'?

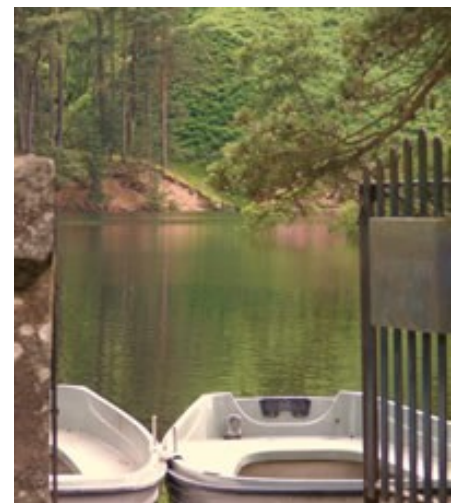
Traditionally a 'retreat' has meant an extended time of silent prayer and reflection, away from home, in a monastery or retreat house. But not everyone can spend the time or money on a residential retreat. A Retreat in Daily Life is an alternative opportunity to support prayer and reflection in the midst of ordinary life with the assistance of a one-to-one prayer guide. There are three elements to a Retreat in Daily Life. Everyone meets together at the start and at the end of the retreat. Each retreatant has weekly one-to-one meetings with their guide and, in between, takes time on their own to pray and reflect.

Who is it for?

A Retreat in Daily Life is open to all. No particular familiarity with prayer or faith is needed or expected. Each person begins from where they are, no matter what their experience of life or prayer. If you are new to taking personal quiet time you are very welcome to join us; if you have experienced a retreat before you are also most welcome. Those who are hurting, angry or anxious may desire healing and peace; those who have been praying for many years may be *looking for encouragement and renewal. All are welcome!*

Rachel Inglis writes about '***The Gift of Listening:***

"I wonder if you can recall a time when you weren't listened to? Maybe you were trying to tell a parent about something that had happened at school that day and they seemed distracted. Or you opened your heart to a friend and they didn't really hear what you were saying. How did that feel? Now can you recall a time when you were listened to well? You were aware that the person gave their full attention to you, heard what you were saying, entered into the feelings you were expressing. Maybe the way they listened gave you permission to say things you'd never said out loud before, or enabled you to discover something new about who you are. How did that feel? Being listened to attentively is at the heart of a Retreat in Daily Life. There are many benefits of making an RDL, such as finding a new way of being, or exploring what God means to you or trying out different, creative ways of praying. Many people receive these and other benefits. But really, nothing compares to the affirming experience of being listened to deeply. An Easter to Pentecost Retreat in Daily Life will be offered again this year by Aig Fois. We start with an Opening Gathering for everyone on Saturday 11 April in Dalbeattie, when retreatants and guides meet together and helpful guidelines are given. Then each retreatant meets their guide once a week for the next five weeks. We finish with a Closing Celebration on Saturday, 23 May in Castle Douglas when we have a chance to reflect on what has emerged for us on retreat. This is what someone wrote after last year's RDL: [I will take away with me] a feeling of having been listened to, a knowledge that my life has been reflected back to me and I have been able to change the course of my life. ... My silent God spoke again – thanks. Leaflets with booking forms are available in the church. It would be lovely to see you there".



WELCOME TO PATRICK LEWIS DAVID CAMPBELL

When my daughter Rachel told me last year that she and her partner John were expecting a baby it was an enormous surprise! This was not the sort of news that any of us expected to hear because she had always been told by her doctors that she was very unlikely ever to become pregnant. Wow, a miracle baby! Luckily pregnancy is nicely designed to allow time for adjustment so that by Saturday March 7th, when he made his arrival, we were all up and running - quilts quilted, shawls, blankets and teddies knitted (thank you to Ruby and Muriel), nursery painted and prospective parents full of happy anticipation. Patrick weighed in at 5lbs 11½ozs and it is agreed that, even though all his family are hopelessly biased, he is a very beautiful baby.

George and I, who are surely far too young to be grandparents, duly visited our new family in Edinburgh the next day. Whilst there I was able to take time out and go to Evensong at St Vincent's Episcopal Church in Stockbridge where I gave thanks for his safe arrival and lit a candle for him. He is already a much loved little boy who will, I'm sure, bring his mum and dad joy and happiness, with a bit of healthy exasperation thrown in for good measure as he grows up. Looking to the more immediate future, we are a family of few boys so George and I are looking forward to the world of slugs, snails, puppy dog's tails, train sets, bikes, penknives, conkers, dens.

Sue and George Thomas



The proud parents



Patrick Lewis David Campbell - 36 hours old



The even prouder grandparents

Mothering Sunday in Wigtownshire

On Mothering Sunday we went to the 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Service at All Saint's Challoch as it was the year's end for my father, and Nicholas' grandfather - Philip Vaughan - I was able to light votive candles for him and the rest of my family living and departed. We then went to join our friends Jim & Jenni Gray at Mochrum Parish Church for their service to mark Mothering Sunday. It was a delightful service; the men and the children were 'press-ganged' into taking flowers to all the ladies. The flowers had been prepared by children at the Messy Church the day before. Then it was off to lunch at the *Maxwell Arms* with our friends and several members of the Mochrum congregation.

Muriel & Nicholas Palmer

P.S. On Tuesday at the Mother's Union meeting at Castle Douglas we were all given a heart-shaped-magnet made by the members of St Ninian's Sunday School. Thank you.



RON'S VISIT TO SWAZILAND



Presenting magnet board and pictures to the school committee at a primary school in Swaziland.



Nabiia Mauchio demonstrates the life cycle of a butterfly



Ron Newton

I reported on my visit to East and Southern Africa early last year in the Christ Church Magazine soon after I arrived home on 20th March 2014. Those responsible for the Christ Church website had kindly put my emails and pictures from Africa on it so those with internet access could see them. They are still there by the way! (Click on the Icon for 'What's On'.)

As I said at the time I was pleased with how things went during the visit and grateful for the financial help I received from members of Christ Church. I was also hopeful that SWAKI, the organisation in Swaziland who provided the money for the magnet boards and pictures, would be able to do so again so that the project could be extended this year. Unfortunately the 8 schools involved in the pilot project did not report on their progress in time which was a condition for further funding. The SWAKI budget for this year was missed which meant that there would be no materials provided and no point in me going.

I am keeping in touch with those schools and the Ministry of Education officials in Swaziland and I hope to be in a position soon to write a further report in this magazine, hopefully with pictures.

I have seen how much the teachers and children appreciated the boards and I really hope they have been able to benefit from them. On this depends whether SWAKI will provide more money next year to extend the project. For this to happen the Ministry inspectors will have to submit positive reports on the schools and convince SWAKI that further funding would be worthwhile. A lot of bureaucracy is involved which takes time and that is one reason why it couldn't happen this year.

Ron Newton

OPEN HOUSE AT RON'S, 168 HIGH STREET, DALBEATTIE

Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April 2015 between 2pm and 6pm

You are welcome to pop in, if you can, for up to an hour between these times for a cuppa and a hot cross bun.

A short animated film *'The Crucifixion'* (25 minutes) will be shown and choral music from New College Choir, Oxford played.

Donations for Christ Church funds will be welcome.



Jenny Edkins has reminded us that the 'drop in' Clinics at Christ Church Hall, Dalbeattie are held on the second Tuesday of the month between 10 30am and 12 30 pm.

The dates for the rest of the year are: 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 11th August. 8th September, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December.

Tea and Coffee are provided. You are welcome also to just to drop in, have a drink and a biscuit and have a chat.

There is usually someone around after 10 15 am should you arrive before official opening time of 10 30 am.

For more information about the service in the County visit the website www.dghhg.org.uk

Jenny is also responsible for the **Hospital Emergency Bags** provided by the Congregation of Christ Church. The Church donates a 100 bags a year to the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. The bags include a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, face-cloth, comb and a packet of tissues; there is a box at the back of the Church for donations of these items. If you want to know more about this project you can contact Jenny on 01556 611740.

In November she received a letter of thanks from Dr Peter A R Armstrong, Consultant in Emergency Medicine. He stated that the bags are an invaluable stop-gap for patients who are unexpectedly admitted to Hospital. The bags are shared between the Emergency Department; the medical admission unit and the surgical admission unit.

In December Jenny received a card from a grateful recipient of one of the bags. The gentlemen wrote:

"I was unfortunate enough to be experiencing an over excited gall bladder while staying with my daughter. Thinking it was something simple I went to Dumfries Hospital and was completely unprepared to be admitted. One of the angels surprised with your bag of toiletries. A very welcome surprise. Thank you - it is an excellent thought."

(As we are unable to contact the gentleman about his card neither his name or where his daughter lives has been included.)

CHRIST CHURCH SALES 2015

PLANT SALE **Saturday, 16th May** **10.00 a.m.-noon** **Dalbeattie Town Hall**
 plants **raffle** **tombola** **refreshments**

SUMMER SALE **Wednesday, 22nd July** **10.00 a.m.-noon** **Colvend Village Hall**
 homemade cakes **crafts** **raffle** **tombola** **books** **refreshments**

WINTER SALE **Saturday, 7th November** **10.00 a.m.-noon** **Dalbeattie Town Hall**
 homemade cakes **Christmas crafts** **raffle** **tombola** **refreshments**



www.foodtrain.co.uk

The Food Train

Not too many people are aware of the Food Train services available in the Stewartry so here are a few facts.

The Shopping Service: the shopping delivery service is a simple process. Customers complete a blank shopping list which is collected by our volunteers; a blank shopping list is left with customer for next time. Shopping is completed and delivered by our volunteers at local shops on a nominated day. Shopping is delivered in a box which is unpacked by volunteers. Volunteers will also put things away if needed. Customer pays for shopping and the £3 delivery charge, cash or cheque is acceptable.

- ♦ **Customers must be 65 and over; this is due to the type of funding we receive and must be unable or have difficulty getting their grocery shopping.**
- ♦ **£1 for one year's membership – this is paid when beginning the service and provides access to Extra services as well.**
- ♦ **£3 per delivery – this is paid alongside the cost of the shopping at the point of delivery.**

Food Train EXTRA: You must be a member of the Food Train to use the EXTRA service. Our volunteers attend to odd jobs that customers are unable to do by themselves (if available through a local branch). An initial visit takes place which comprises of a home safety check with referral to Fire and Rescue and Handyman and other relevant local services. A general check of what help is needed around the house is then completed. No jobs are undertaken that would require a qualified tradesman.

EXTRA jobs cost £3 upwards depending on the size of the job and time required to complete it.

Stewartry Office

Carlingwark Cottage, The Buchan, Castle Douglas, DG7 1TH

Tel: 01556 **288427**

e-mail Stewartry@foodtrain.co.uk

or contact local co-ordinator Jif Hyde; e-mail jif@thefoodtrain.co.uk

Muriel Palmer

Groups and Activities

Chat and Craft Group

12 Park Terrace, Dalbeattie 2.00 p.m. Monthly on Second Thursday
Contact person: Jane Greenwood 01556 611144

Hard of Hearing Group

Church Hall, Dalbeattie 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Monthly on
Second Tuesday
Contact person: Mrs Jenny Edkins 01556 611740

House Groups (Ecumenical)

Islecroft House 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon Monday every
other week
Contact person: Revd Beryl Scott 01556 610283

Strontian 1.45 p.m. First Tuesday in the month
Contact person: Mr Brian Woodburn 01556 610519

Struanlea 12 noon - 2.00 p.m. First Thursday in the
month
Contact person: Mrs Edith Thorp 01556 610816

Julian Group (Ecumenical)

Savat 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Last Tuesday in
the month
Contact person: Mrs Sue Thomas 01556 612863

From the Editor Tel: 01556 630314 e-mail: muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com

The magazine is now available on-line via the Church Website. The dead-line for articles for the next magazine **June/July 2015** is the **15th May**; the magazine will be available on **Whit Sunday, 24th May 2015**.

Thank you so much to the many contributors to this issue; without these invaluable contributions the magazine would be dull-reading. This time I worked in A4 but when it came to reducing the size for the booklet not everything would fit; so there are two additional articles on the on-line copy.

⇒ Retreat in Daily Life 11th April - 23rd May 2015.

⇒ The Food Train shopping service

Please let me know if you are happy to receive an on-line version of the magazine instead of picking up a paper copy in Church. Are you happy to receive information via the Internet; if yes, an e-mail address will be needed.

Articles from the wider community in the Stewartry are most welcome and from friends in other parts of the UK.

Who's Who

Interim Priest-in-Charge	Revd Canon David Bayne	01556 503818
Assistant NSM	Revd Beryl Scott	01556 610283
Diocesan Reader Emeritus	Mr. Brian Woodburn	01556 610519
Lay representative/ Munches Park Co-ordinator	Mrs. Edith Thorp	01556 610816
Alternate Lay Representative	Mr Stephan Gaukroger	01556 610819
Honorary Musical Director/ Organist	Mrs Margaret Kelt	
Honorary Secretary	Mr Anthony Duncalf	01556 612322
Honorary Treasurer/ Free Offering Recorder	Mrs. Llyn Glendinning (envelopes)	01556 610676
Gift Aid	Mr Alfred Thorp	01556 610816
Rector's Warden/Health & Safety Co-ordinator	Dr. Keith Dennison	01556 630413
People's Warden	Mr. George Sims	01556 612069
Vestry Members	Rector's Warden (Lay Chair) Lay Representative Alternate Lay Representative People's Warden	
Elected Vestry Members	Mrs Robin Charlton	01556 630265
	Mr Anthony Duncalf	01556 612322
	Mrs Jenny Edkins	01556 611740
	Mrs Llyn Glendinning	01556 610676
	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627
	Mrs Sue Thomas	01556 612863
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627
Bible Reading Fellowship	Dr Keith Dennison	01556 630413
Brass & Vestry Cleaning Group	Mrs Robin Charlton	01556 630265
Chat & Craft Group	Mrs Jane Greenwood	01556 611144
Church Flowers	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413
Gardening Co-ordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413
Hospital Emergency Bags	Mrs Jenny Edkins	01556 611740
Link Visiting Co-ordinator	Revd Beryl Scott	01556 610283
Magazine Editor	Mrs Muriel Palmer	01556 630314
Reader Co-ordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413

Christ Church, Blair Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire Scottish Charity Number SC010918

www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk

Christ Church has a Facebook page.