

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

CHRIST CHURCH, DALBEATTIE



ISSUE N° 12 APRIL/MAY 2016

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN DALBEATTIE AND CASTLE DOUGLAS

HOLY WEEK

Monday }	10.15a.m.	Holy Communion	St Ninian's, CD
*Tuesday }	7.00 p.m.	Compline	Christ Church
Wednesday }	8.30 p.m.	Reflections and Compline	St Ninian's, CD
Maundy Thursday	10.15 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Ninian's
	7.00 p.m.	The Last Supper	Christ Church
	7.30 p.m.	Eucharist of the Last Supper}	
		Watch until Midnight}	St Ninian's. CD

GOOD FRIDAY

10.15 a.m.	Matins and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	St Ninian's, CD
12 noon	The Cross at the Cross	Dalbeattie Town Centre
2.00 p.m.	An Hour at The Cross	Christ Church
2.00 p.m.	Prayers at the Foot of the Cross	St Ninian's, CD

EASTER DAY

	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St Ninian's, CD
March 27th	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Christ Church
	11.00 a.m.	Festival Eucharist	St Ninian's, CD
*Tuesday, 22nd	12 noon	Chrism Eucharist	St Ninian's, CD

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Friday the 19th February, 2016 was a joyous occasion for Billy & Llyn Glendinning when they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Both Billy and Llyn have had many medical challenges to face and overcome during the last couple of years. Many thanks to Billy & Llyn for sharing this delightful family photograph.



A message from Canon Bayne

Dear Friends

The increasingly-turbulent nature of the western world - with mass population movements out of the Middle East and parts of Africa, with the rise of nationalist parties throughout Europe, and with the ugly xenophobia exemplified in the US presidential election race - is raising profound issues of identity and belonging. We are no longer sure what it means to be British, or European, or American. Compounded with a growing sense of alienation from the political processes and classes that govern us, this loss of identity is, I believe, at the root of the inchoate anger and frustration that so baffles and vexes our conventional politicians and feeds the new breed of would-be demagogues. There is a sense in which we are all exiles—no longer at home in the place or society in which we live.

I write these words on the eve of St Patrick's Day, reflecting on the irony that this quintessentially-Irish icon was himself born into a Romano-British family in modern-day Cumbria. Similarly, St Columba, Patrick's counterpart in Scotland, was an Irishman - a princeling of the O'Neill clan who only journeyed to Iona because he had been banished for causing a riot. (It's a long story!) Neither of these remarkable men would today be eligible for citizenship of the countries they are thought to epitomise.

It might be helpful for us to recognise that neither Patrick nor Columba would have understood the concept of the modern state. Nor would they have acknowledged the Roman super-state that had so recently collapsed. As ambassadors for Christ, their focus was on calling their fellow human beings out of exile, not from a place or people, but from God. To acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, and to follow his Way, is to become (as St Paul put it) citizens not of earth but of heaven. All our human constructs of kindred and clan, of nation and state, of empire and commonwealth, are doomed substitutes for our true relationship, which is as fellow human beings at one with our God. St Augustine summed us up in the famous opening paragraph of his "Confessions" when he declared, "You, O God, have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

That truth, and the need to proclaim it, is as evident and urgent as it ever was. Our disillusionment with modern "Godless Pelagianism" - the idea that humanity can work out its own salvation - is well-nigh complete, and the calling of modern Christians is, like Patrick and Columba, to model the example of Jesus in being at home in God - and to invite others out of their exile to our home

David Bayne

A message from the Revd Mark RS Smith

There has been some talk of moving Easter from the Sunday after the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox, as dictated by a table of Golden Numbers set up hundreds of years ago to maintain the link between Easter and the Jewish Passover, to the first Sunday in April.

“That’s easy for you to say!” I hear you cry.

As with any large complex organisation, any discussion of moving the date of Easter will take a long time as each denomination has its say. “Like a mighty tortoise moves the church of God,” as one wise man wrote many years ago.

To most of us today the idea of such a major feast day moving around seems strange.

To most of us today the church seems strange.

To most of us today God seems strange.

The whole story of Jesus seems strange.

He gave up being infinite and eternal to become just as human as you and I remember Christmas!

He healed the sick, challenged the religious, encouraged the downtrodden – **read the gospels.**

He was arrested, falsely accused and wrongly sentenced to death and crucified – **Good Friday.**

He was buried in a borrowed tomb guarded by soldiers and His followers hid – **Easter Eve.**

He was raised from the dead, the guards fled and His followers celebrated – **Easter Day.**

He ascended up into the clouds in front of His Disciples to live on with the Father – **Ascension Day.**

After the Lenten de-tox we celebrate together. Not just with the joy of returning to our usual diet or hobby, not just because the church’s calendar says we should, but with thankful remembrance for what God has done for us through Jesus and ongoing determination to continue walking with Jesus.

As the flowers open and trees blossom, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us with the new life God has for us so that we can be signs of that life to all around us.

Remember – Jesus is not just for Christmas ... or Easter ... He’s for life in all its fullness.

May God Bless you.

NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Bullet Points from the Meeting of Christ Church Vestry held on the 4th March, 2016

- **Bishop Gregor** has asked that a canonical agreement be drawn up between ourselves and St Ninian's in order that Canon Bayne can be licensed.
- **The Tower:** the paperwork for the tendering process will be sent out soon, and invitations to tender for the work will be sent out by the Diocesan Architect.
- **The Rectory** tenancy with our current tenants is to continue but with an increase in rent as previously agreed and an inspection is to be made.
- **Income & Expenditure** we have £35,997.88 in the bank on deposit. The weekly giving is going down.
- **A Congregation Away Day** is being planned; this will be part of our Mission Action Plan for MAP Year 3. More details to follow.

Edith Thorp, Lay Representative, reports on the Regional Council Meeting held at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas on Thursday, 28 January 2016

At a lunchtime meeting on a very blustery, wet day, the guest speaker was **Elspeth Strachan**. Her talk was about her three-month placement with the **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme** in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), a Christian charity founded by the World Council of Churches. Her focus for the talk was from her experience of the work of EAPPI with the children in and around Bethlehem. She spoke movingly of the injustices and hardships that children have to go through as they walk to and from school; of the illegal settlements that have been built in the West Bank that divide child from school; the need for permits that aren't granted by the Israeli authorities to do anything; the psychological damage done to Arab children. She spoke of the work that voluntary organisations are doing with the young teenage boys who throw stones, who can be taken from their beds in the middle of the night and put into solitary confinement and subsequent prison. A collection was taken and £110 was sent to the work of EAPPI.

The next Regional Council Meeting will follow the **Regional Ascension Day Eucharist** on Thursday, 5 May at 5 pm at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas.

News from Dalbeattie & District Churches Together Anthony Duncalf reports:

At the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Steering Group members met to pray and share supper together at a member's home. We were also joined by Revd Fiona Wilson (Dalbeattie Parish Church) and Revd James Gatherer (Colvend, Southwick & Kirkbean Church). Revd Mark Smith started the meeting with some thoughts from Scripture to focus our prayers. We then had a brief discussion about upcoming events, out of which emerged the idea of putting together a joint Easter Card, outlining all the services in our various churches for Holy Week and Easter, which would then be distributed house to house around the town. Galloway Christian Centre kindly offered to pay for these to be professionally produced. Sadly a couple of us had to leave at this point, while the

remaining folk shared a time of fellowship over apple pie and coffee.

It is hoped that a similar gathering will happen on the last Monday of each month, to which any other interested folk would be welcome.

A reader when she read in Issue 11 of our magazine that our Hospital Bag project had been ended wrote: *"As I write to you I am reading Jenny Edkins' note about Hospital Bags. This is really sad news. Some time ago my Dad was admitted as an emergency to DGRI and deeply touched to be offered supplies from the community. It was nice to know someone cared, indeed they still do but in a different way!"*

(Donations of toiletries can be made to the Food Bank we support. St Ninian's, CD Mothers' Union are always grateful to receive toiletries for the Wigtownshire Women's Refuge Project that they support.)

News from the Diocese

In February Bishop Gregor was delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Audrey O'Brien Stewart as Canon Missioner for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Audrey comes from the US based Episcopal Church and is currently the Interim Priest for St Dunstan's Church in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Speaking about the announcement, Bishop Gregor said, *"I'm looking forward to Audrey's ministry amongst us. She brings new skills and new experiences into the diocese and we are delighted that she has accepted this role"*. As Canon Missioner, Audrey will also have a role at St Mary's Cathedral.

Responding to the announcement, the Provost, Kelvin Holdsworth said, *"I'm delighted that this appointment has been made and hope that it will lead to increasingly rich connections between the cathedral and the churches of the diocese."*

Audrey will be moving to Glasgow in the early summer and is expected to be taking up her post in August. She attended the Diocesan Synod when she introduced herself to Synod.



Please turn to page 14 for a report on the **Pilgrimage Days** to the Cathedral; and to page 10 for a report about our **Diocesan Synod 2016**.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of **Jean Graham**, Office Manager of the Diocesan Centre, Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway on Friday **12 February 2016** at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow. A Diocesan Memorial Service is to be held at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral on Saturday, **12th April at 12 noon**; Bishop Idris will preach. Light refreshments will be served after the Service.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

HARD OF HEARING VOLUNTEERS' THANK YOU LUNCH Nicholas Palmer reports:

"On the 28th January about 30 people from all over Dumfries and Galloway attended the lunch, from as far as Stranraer and Langholm. We had a lovely meal, served by pleasant staff. There was a range of food to choose from, from steak and ale pie to fish and chips to ham salad. Any special requirements were made on the day.

I had only a limited chance to talk to some of the people there, it was interesting to find what conditions some of the volunteers had to work in. Some of them had only a small room to work in, only enough for two people, while others have quite a big space.

Not all the clinics have enough room to serve hot drinks while the clients wait, and are jealous that at Dalbeattie we have enough room. It makes the time for the clients go quicker if they can have a chat and drink while they wait.

Quite a few of the volunteers have hearing aids themselves so understand the problems clients have. After lunch there was a collection for Julie, our -coordinator, who has moved to Edinburgh with her husband, both of them have new jobs there."

Earlier this year Jenny Edkins reported:

"The Coordinator for Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group, **Julie Turner**, resigned on Friday 8th January, 2016. It was a difficult decision for her as she really enjoyed her job in Dumfries and Galloway; she has been an excellent coordinator and administrator. She built the group from very small beginnings into the award winning D&G Charity that it is today. The Group will be advertising for a new coordinator, but it will obviously be some time before he/she will be appointed.

The reason Julie has resigned is because her husband, Barry, who works for the NHS was successful in acquiring a post in Edinburgh. Julie herself now has a new post with **Poppy Scotland** as their Grants Coordinator. **Dalbeattie Hard of Hearing Drop-In** wishes Julie and Barry all the best for the future and we thank Julie for all her kindness, good advice and support to us all at our own Dalbeattie Drop In."

We plan to support Munches Care Home; this will provide a key link in the process and we will be involved from the start with regular visits to ensure that the hearing aids are maintained. The service will include delivering deaf awareness and care and maintenance training to staff at the care homes, with the view to staff being able to clean the hearing aids, change the batteries, and have a greater understanding of how they can support their residents.

In 2014 the Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group:

- Ran 377 drop-ins, an increase of 19% on 2013
- Opened new drop-ins in Dalbeattie, Moffat and New Galloway
- Recruited a further 13 volunteers
- Had 3983 visits to our drop-ins, a 16% increase on 2013
- Maintained 5688 hearing aids, a 29% increase on 2013
- Made 192 home visits, a 19% increase on 2013
- Continued to support residents in three care homes
- Trained eight members of care home staff

LENT 2016

As every year Lent is a busy time at Christ Church, when as well as giving things up for Lent, we do something extra

LENT BOXES collection boxes are made available to the Congregation. The details of the money raised from the boxes and the Lent Lunches will be in the next magazine.

LENT TALKS As in the last two years, five of our local clergy have presented one of five talks. The talks are held on Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m. in the Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's, Castle Douglas and on Thursdays in the Maxwell Room, St Peter's RC Church, Dalbeattie at 10.45 a.m.

The talks this year have been adapted from the Lent course drawn up by the Diocese of Chichester. The course encourages active discipleship amongst the whole people of God. The forty days of Lent 2016 fall within the 'Year of Mercy' (8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016) declared by Pope Francis.

The themes of sessions were:

Session 1: 17/18 Feb	Opening doors of mercy	Canon David Bayne
Session 2: 24/25 Feb	Opening doors of prayer	Revd Sally Russell
Session 3: 2/3 Mar	Opening doors of witness	Father William
Session 4: 9/10 Mar	Opening doors of service	Revd Ashley-Emery
Session 5: 16/17 Mar	Opening doors to the future	Revd Donagh Dee)

Pope Francis' proposal for a 'Year of Mercy' begins, 'Jesus Christ is the Face of the Father's mercy' and its motto is 'Merciful like the Father'. It is rooted in Trinitarian theology and biblical exegesis, with the scriptural texts discussed including Isaiah 61.1-11 ('the year of the Lord's favour'), three parables of mercy in Luke 15.1-32 (the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son), Matthew 18.22-35 (on forgiveness), Matthew 5.7 ('Blessed are the merciful') and many more.

Worshipping God and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ is integral to being a Christian, the Archbishop of Canterbury had said, speaking at an event in Lambeth Palace to promote sports ministry within the C of E. Archbishop Justin Welby said that everything else the church does is "decoration".

LENT QUIET DAY On Saturday a small group met at the Maxwell Hall at St Peter's, Dalbeattie to attend a quiet day arranged by Sadie and Edith. It was a special time-out from our very busy lives.

LENT LUNCHES

Donations received are to be given to Bishop Gregor's Lent Appeal for 2016. The Bishop writes:

"Dear All

Below are details of my Lent Appeal for 2016.

The Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR) began life in 1960 in an old house in Bethlehem. It was originally a Leonard Cheshire home and provided care for a few

physically disabled children. After it was handed over to the Bethlehem Arab Society in 1975, the work grew and, in 1990, the Society's dream came true when land on nearby Beit Jala hill became available and the present hospital building was constructed.

Today, BASR is a non-profit non-government organization that is nationally recognized for the comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services it gives to beneficiaries from all over Palestine. The hospital is open to all, regardless of gender, age, religion or social class and is committed to enhancing the overall quality of a patient's life. The hospital has a holistic approach to treatment with specialist departments in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and also surgery. Integration into community life is a key objective.

Pilgrims from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway visited the hospital in 2013 and 2015 and were highly impressed by the quality of care and the financial needs it has. Generous donations will indeed change lives.

For more information visit <http://www.basr.org/en/> There will be a presentation at Diocesan Synod and I commend it warmly to the generosity of the diocese.

Yours

+Gregor

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, 2016

A pilgrimage will be led by the Revd Canon Chris Samuel from **Tuesday 10 to Thursday 19 May 2016**. The tour will take in places of spiritual significance, including Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee. As well as seeing the territories that Jesus walked, the pilgrims will also worship alongside local Christians.

Chris Samuels, a former Rector of St Mary's Church, Handbridge, Chester, and a canon of Chester Cathedral, is an experienced leader of pilgrimages. He has recently moved to Dumfries & Galloway and has been authorised to officiate in the Region. He takes services at All Saints' Challoch, St Mary's Gatehouse of Fleet and St Ninian's, Castle Douglas.

The inclusive cost of the pilgrimage is £1,760, and covers all flight, coach travel, meals and good quality accommodation. To book, or to get further information please phone Chris on 07929 420423 or e-mail cwjsamuels@gmail.com

Chris is hoping to add an additional side trip to the itinerary by visiting the BASR complex.

The United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Diocesan Synod was held at the Church of St John & St Barnabas, Paisley, on Saturday, 5th March, 2016. Our Lay Representative, Edith Thorp, reports:

Eight of us travelled in the Dalbeattie Community minibus to Paisley. Good journeys both ways under the able driving of Canon Bayne.

The Synod Eucharist was just about to start as we arrived. The singing was full bodied, the Bishop's Charge followed on and expanded from the theme of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Cathedral on the two previous Saturdays - *Who on earth are we?* to *Who in heaven are we?*

Every Synod is business!! Appointments have to be made to enable the Diocese and the Province to function. The Diocesan Treasurer reported that the Funds were in a healthy condition, and we had to vote on a certain change to four Canon laws (Canons 52, 57, 60 and 63). These all relate to the reduction in age from 18 to 16 to enable young people to be able to vote and to be able to be elected to Vestries. All four Canon changes were quickly ratified by the Synod.

And then there was the interesting 'stuff'. The Provost of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral got us to move into our Regional groups, and we were asked to discuss the various future options for the Regional Councils as part of the ongoing consultation to update the Diocesan Constitution. There was uproar from Galloway when the North East/ North West Glasgow regions reported that they were not willing to travel the 11 or so miles to the neighbouring region for meetings. Galloway members can travel up to around 100 miles round trip to meetings, and do so willingly!

A short video was shown about the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation charity - the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The charity has had to expand into general surgical provision because travelling anywhere for Arabs is so restricted and difficult that people may die before getting to a Jerusalem hospital. The Lent money will go towards buying equipment to check for heart conditions. (Copy of letter is on page 9.)

After a delicious lunch outreach reports were presented by:

- ♦ St Mary's (Hamilton) *St Mary's For All* development progress;
- ♦ St Mary's (Port Glasgow) and their monthly, expanding lunchtime initiative for ex-shipbuilding workers;
- ♦ St John's (Dumfries) *A Place of Welcome*;

St Oswald's (Kings Park) as a new incumbent, how the Rector had got a feel for the area by asking the passers by: a) where the church was - few knew! and b) whether a person felt cherished - few did!.

- ♦ Five minute slots were given to five different people covering different topics.
- ♦ Synod had been LONG as it was bogged down by an issue of procedure in the morning. We were at least half an hour over time, and by the time we returned to Dalbeattie it was around 7 o'clock. A good day and we all appreciated travelling together in the mini bus.

LENT LUNCHES 2016

PHOTO GALLERY



24 February Hosts of the Day Beryl Dowgill, Jenny Edkins, Jane & Geoff Greenwood



**The Revd Mark Smith
meeting
Canon Chris Samuels**

**29 February
Hosts of the Day
Miranda & Graham
Brignall, Muriel & Nicholas
Palmer and Elizabeth
Woodburn**



**16 March Hosts of the Day Robin Charlton, Julie & Keith Dennison and Sue Thomas
It was a delight to have so many friends from Dalbeattie & District join us for lunch.**

THE VISIT OF BISHOP GREGOR ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAP REVIEW FOR 2015

The day started with an Eucharist Service celebrated by Bishop Gregor at 11.00 a.m.; this was followed by coffee whilst we waited for the Hard of Hearing Drop in Clinic to finish. Bishop Gregor took the opportunity to 'drop-in' to see the clinic in action.



The Dalbeattie Drop-In Clinic Team

L-R: Nicholas; Jenny; Elaine and Alfred

On the 4th of June the DGHHG were awarded the Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway Award for supporting older and vulnerable people.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!!

A **take and share lunch** was enjoyed before the meeting started at 1.15 p.m. with a short introduction by the Bishop stating the aims and what he hoped would be achieved.

Review of the past year 2015

Keith Dennison first welcomed the Bishop and then presented a review giving highlights of what had been undertaken and achieved during the year. Sue Thomas made a slide presentation illustrating events of the past year. This was combined with a light hearted quiz in which members were invited to answer questions, in multiple choice format, relating to some of the achievements of the past year.



Thanks to Ron for this photograph of us watching and listening to Sue's presentation.

The Bishop's comments

The Bishop expressed his gratitude for the presentations which he had found encouraging.

He asked a question concerning the audit which had not appeared on the agenda. Sue stated that there had not been time to tackle this in addition to other work and the Bishop agreed that it would have been a formidable task and perhaps it should be taken off the agenda in future. This was agreed.

The Bishop mentioned that grant help was available from the diocese for projects and that the Vestry should consider how this might be used.

He asked what the congregation had found the most encouraging and the most discouraging events of the past year. Answers to the first included the visiting clergy in particular Bishop Gordon Mursell and the work taken on by the Revd Mark Smith. The most discouraging event had been the discovery of dry rot in the tower.

David Bayne said he had noticed an increase in positive attitude shown by the congregation.

Sue Thomas mentioned that church music had been a great joy and paid tribute to Maggie for work done with the music group.

Sue also mentioned that an Away Day was being planned and the Bishop suggested that an application for funding to help with the costs of this should be considered.

There was discussion regarding a link charge, a curate and David's retirement.

Finally Bishop Gregor asked: ***'What have you learned about yourselves, the congregation and God?'*** The answer to this was somewhat inconclusive, it was thought that the **'church community had changed for the better'**. *Ron Newton*



Left: Bishop Gregor and Canon Bayne cutting the Map Year 2 Cake

Right: The Cake with 2 candles!

Thanks to Sue for the photographs.



STOP PRESS plans are underway to arrange a meeting, with our facilitator, Anne McWilliam, to discuss our plans for **MAP Year 3**. The meeting will be held after our Sunday Service on a date in April. More details to follow.

Pilgrimage Days at St Mary's Cathedral; Sue Thomas reports:

(There was not room in the hard-copy magazine for the full article, neither is their room on this page. Please turn to an additional page, 25, to read her full account.)

"On Saturday 27th February, twelve of us from Christ Church and St Ninian's set off bright and early to St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow in the Dalbeattie Community Bus, ably driven by Canon Bayne, to take part in Bishops Gregor's pilgrimage day **"Who on Earth are You?"**. The theme of the day was to explore what it is to be a Scottish Episcopalian in these modern times.

I estimated a gathering of almost 100 pilgrims were there to meet each other and to hear from Bishop Gregor, Provost Kelvin Holdsworth, Synod Clerk Shelley Marsh and Vice Provost Cedric Blakey. We celebrated both Morning Prayer and an afternoon Eucharist, were lucky enough to hear the Cathedral organist Fridrik Walker and to undertake a quiz about the building.

The Diocese was broadly represented and I met several very interesting people. I learnt that the SEC is a diverse church and we should capitalise on our diversity rather than feel outcast or separate. And finally it is no bad thing to have a Grand Idea; by asking others to join us in its development we are likely to achieve far more than by struggling on alone. I'm glad I went and I hope the ideas I heard that day will come into practice in my own life."



The multiple etched glass windows at the West door are beautiful each representing a church in the Diocese. (It was not possible to take a usable photograph of the Christ Church window designed by Gill Sinclair and featuring our lovely Belties.)



**The Three Fishes
of St Ninian**



**Missionary boat bringing
St Ninian to our shores**

Regular readers of our magazine who know me will not be surprised to learn that I lit a Votive Candle. I should have taken the photograph when many more candles had been lit.

Muriel Palmer



DALBEATTIE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Have you ever been into the Visitor Information Point (VIP) on the High Street? It is worth dropping in just to see the wide variety of locally-produced crafts for sale. Anyone who lives locally can offer crafts for sale (currently there are about 30 crafters), with the VIP taking a commission. It is run by volunteers (except for the manager) and it also offers local tourist information and is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday. If you would like more information about volunteering or selling crafts pop in any time it is open.

If you have never found Preloved Charity shop on the High Street you have missed the opportunity to purchase some wonderful bargains. There is an eclectic range of items for sale at very reasonable prices. The shop is run entirely by volunteers, who do one 3-hour shift per week; tasks are very simple and include sorting out those items which members of the public are kind enough to donate; those which cannot be sold in the shop are often sold on elsewhere for recycling. New volunteers are always welcome; please contact John Winter on 610654 if you are interested. The shop is open from 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Friday and from 10am to 1pm on Saturday.

The VIP and Preloved are the flagship organisations within Dalbeattie Community Initiative, which is based at the Initiative office in the High Street. Its purpose is to set up and support local organisations and projects and provide financial help to local groups, especially those run for young people. Students can receive grants to help with the cost of settling in to university and many groups are given grants to help purchase equipment. A good proportion of funds are raised by the Preloved shop. Apart from a paid administrator everyone who works for the Initiative is a volunteer. Please drop in to the office any time it is open for more information or to offer your services.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (DGFHS)

Nicholas and I been members of this Group since moving to Scotland. We have not attended as many meetings as we would have wished to. The meetings are now held in a meeting place familiar to most of us - the Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's, CD.

Visit their website www.dgfhs.org.uk for more information about the many services they provide or contact The Secretary, Family History Centre, 9 Glasgow Street, Dumfries DG12 9AF; Telephone 01387 248093S

Their next meeting will be held on Saturday 16th April; the Speaker Ken Nisbet will talk about **Researching Your Military Relatives** covering the 18th Century to WW2. No prizes for guessing that the date is in my diary! MP (See page 18 for an update about my WW1 project.)

FRIENDS are angels that lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

At the meeting held on the **16th February** the speaker was **Alison Bayne**; her talk was entitled **"My Painting"**.

After our usual service, led this time by Elizabeth Woodburn, we sat down to a soup lunch followed by tea/coffee and then Alison, who is our joint branch leader, gave a fascinating talk about her painting at which, over the ears, she has become very successful. She told us many stories, including her efforts at abstract art, which included wild slapping on of paint, not all of which landed on the canvas! MB

At the meeting held on the **15th March** the speaker was **Canon Bayne**; his Lent Talk was entitled **"A Celtic Reflection"**.

There was a change to our usual format; we started with an update from Anne Gault about the MU and our outreach projects, then we had lunch.

Our prayers were incorporated into Canon Bayne's talk which he based on the words of St Patrick's Breastplate. His talk was beautifully illustrated with images and photographs. There was time for Q&As. Part of what he said is included in his message on page 3. I, for one, learnt so much that I did not know about our Celtic ancestors - thank you David. MP

Colvend 100 Years Ago - old photographs of Colvend, Southwick and Kirkbean

On Monday 25 January there was a fund raising effort to help Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Iraq and Lebanon at Colvend Village Hall. The money raised is to be sent to CHRISTIAN AID who have close working links with local Christian charities.

The Presentation attracted 120 visitors and was a great success raising £1,236.00 for Christian Aid - after tax is recovered from Gift Aid the total will exceed £1,500.00.

Because many were not able to attend on the day they plan to repeat the Presentation in the summer in an evening. Details will be posted in the spring.

Thanks were given to the Colvend Rural and the Colvend Public Hall staff for their support and to all who helped make it an enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon.

Visit their website www.colvendchurch.com to see more images. These images are copyright of Colvend Church.



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SAINT of the MONTH

Saint Donan 17th April

Virtually all details of Donan's life have disappeared, though he is known to have been a contemporary of Columba. He was probably Irish and early in adult life came to Galloway. Thereafter he is known only by a chain of Kildonans along the coast of West Scotland. This leads to speculation of a missionary route, during which he crossed to Iona to meet Columba who, for reasons not clear, declined to act as his confessor.

Donan set up a community on the island of Eigg, where sheep were kept; this appears to have upset a local woman of importance who, when the local people refused to take action, bribed a group of pirates to attack the island. After Mass Donan led his monks to the refectory, where they were all massacred. This was the most dreadful case of martyrdom in the history of the Celtic church. Of course, actual details of the massacre cannot be verified, but the outcome was recorded and there is no reason to believe that it did not happen.

St David I of Scotland 24th May

King of Scots 1124 – 1153, David was the youngest son of Malcolm Canmore and Queen Margaret. During his reign he restored the bishopric of Glasgow and forced the semi-monastic bishoprics of Brechin, Dunkeld, Aberdeen and Dunblane to become fully episcopal and integrated into a national diocesan system. He had to deal with an ecclesiastical dispute with England arising from the archiepiscopal status of St Andrew's; this had not been cleared by the Pope, resulting in the archbishop of York claiming overlordship of the whole Scottish church. Eventually, with the support of King Henry of England, David secured a twelve-month postponement of this claim though, in fact, York's claims over all bishops north of the Forth were abandoned for the rest of David's reign.

He was a great monastic patron, founding Selkirk Abbey in 1113, and more than a dozen new monasteries, including Holyrood, Jedburgh, Melrose, Kelso and Dundrennan. These became centres of foreign influence and provided sources of literate men and introduced new agricultural practices, transforming southern Scotland into one of northern Europe's most important sources of sheep wool.

He also founded around fifteen burghs, settlements with defined boundaries and guaranteed trading rights, beginning with Roxburgh and Berwick.

His religious devotion and generosity to the poor were legendary.

"I work out religiously - Christmas and Easter." Matthew Wohlfarth on Exercise

Q: What do they call pastors in Germany? **A:** German Shepherds

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH IN APRIL AND MAY

April

Sunday, 3rd	Second Sunday of Easter	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 10th	Third Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 17th	Fourth Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 24th	Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

May

Sunday, 1st	Sixth Sunday of Easter	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 8th	Seventh Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 15th	PENTECOST	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 22nd	TRINITY SUNDAY	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 29th	First Sunday after Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

There is a service of Holy Communion at 8.30 a.m. every Sunday at St Ninian's. There is a midweek service at St Ninian's at 10.15 a.m. every Wednesday and at Christ Church at 10.00 a.m. every Thursday.

Vestry Members	Rector's Warden (Lay Chair)	01556 630413
	Lay Representative	01556 610816
	Alternate Lay Representative	01556 610816
	People's Warden	01556 612069
Constituent Vestry Members	Mrs Robin Charlton	01556 630265
	Mr Anthony Duncalf	01556 612322
	Mrs Llyn Glendinning	01556 610676
	Mr Ron Newton	01556 611567
	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627
	Mrs Sue Thomas	01556 612863
Property Working Group	Canon David Bayne, Dr Keith Dennison, Mrs Sue Thomas and Mr Alfred Thorp	

Update from **Muriel Palmer** about her **WW1 project** of collecting family stories. Thanks to 'story-tellers' who met in the Church Hall last month. I have brought the publication date forward as I want to have it completed before Canon Bayne retires next year. The new date is end of May 2017; a challenge but not unachievable. To achieve this I will need final drafts of contributions by the end of February 2017. Story Tellers I will be contacting you after Easter.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

To most people angels mean feathered wings as large as those of eagles; dazzling golden haloes; harps, swords and white robes. This is mostly as the result of the images portrayed by Renaissance painters.

As far as the Bible is concerned its teachings are definite: angels are unique spiritual beings who act as messengers and comforters to mankind. In Biblical times they were often reported to have been sent by God to give direction or help in times of difficulty. They appeared mysteriously, either singly or in groups; they were seen and sometimes spoke or sang. Their appearance was awesome and often frightening at first. After their missions were fulfilled they disappeared just as mysteriously.

The Bible refers to angelic beings in 34 of its 66 books. The most frequent mention is of angels, but there are also references to cherubim; archangels appear twice and there is only one detailed description of seraphim. There are nearly 300 references to angels, but only 1 angel (Gabriel) and 1 archangel (Michael) are actually referred to by name.

The following bible passages give very descriptive accounts of angelic visitations:

DANIEL 6: 19-23	DANIEL in the LIONS' DEN
1 KINGS 19: 3-8	ELIJAH FLEES to HOREB
MARK 1:12-13	JESUS in the WILDERNESS
Acts 27: 21-26	PAUL and the STORM
DANIEL 9: 21-23	DANIEL is VISITED by an ANGEL
LUKE 1: 11-20	ZECHARIAH is VISITED by GABRIEL
Luke 1: 26-38	MARY is VISITED by GABRIEL
Genesis 3: 23-24	ADAM is BANISHED from the GARDEN of EDEN
Isaiah 6: 1-8	ISAIAH'S COMMISSION

September 29th, of course, is the feast of St Michael and All Angels, and the Collect for the day reads: *Eternal Lord God, who ordained and contributed the service of angels and men in a wonderful order: grant that as Your holy angels always serve You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN*

Overall the church's view of angels is derived from the Bible's teaching of their closeness to God and their value in helping us. Their faithful service is based on their love for God, so their ministry to us is a response to God's wishes.

The Bible does not try to prove the existence of angels, it just takes them for granted. Their purpose is to do perfectly what we on earth do so imperfectly, i.e. to worship God. Belief in angels can help to preserve us from the dangers of superstition, the occult and communicating with spirits.

What's on April/May 2016

April

- Tuesday, 12th 12.30pm **MU** at St Ninian's, CD, **Speaker - David Wishart**
'Nigerian Neighbours' (Note date has been changed from 19th April.)
- Wednesday, 13th 10-11.00am **Dalbeattie Probus Club**; Fire Station, Dalbeattie
- Tuesday, 16th 12.30pm **Church and the Academy**, Maxwell Room, St Peter's, Dalbeattie. **Speaker - the Rt Revd William Nolan**, Bishop of Galloway. He has recently visited China on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland and will be sharing his impressions of Christianity and the Church there.
- Wednesday, 27th 10-11.00am **Dalbeattie Probus Club**; Fire Station, Dalbeattie

May

- Thursday, 5th 5.00 p.m. Regional Ascension Day Eucharist at St Ninian's, CD; followed by a meeting of the Council.
- Wednesday, 10th 10-11.00am **Dalbeattie Probus Club**; Fire Station, Dalbeattie
- Tuesday 17th 12.30pm **MU** at St Ninian's, CD, Speaker
- Wednesday, 18th 2.00.p.m. **Galloway Members Group, National Trust Scotland** meeting at Threave Visitors Centre, Castle Douglas
- Saturday, 21st 10– 12 noon **Christ Church PLANT SALE**, Lesser Hall, Dalbeattie Town Hall. All proceeds to be donated to Christ Church, Dalbeattie.
- Wednesday, 24th 10-11.00am **Dalbeattie Probus Club**; Fire Station, Dalbeattie

Dates for your Diary

- June, 22nd **Bishop Geger's visitation to St Ninian's and Christ Church** Details to follow.
- July tbc **Christ Church Summer Sale** at Colvend Village Hall
- August tbc **Colvend, Southwick and Kirkbean Annual Sale** at Colvend Village Hall

Colvend Produce and Makers Market takes place every **fourth Saturday** of the month from **March to November** from 10.00am to 2.00pm. A wide variety of local produce and crafts are on sale. Admission is free and refreshments are available. If you are a producer and want to know how to participate please telephone Annette Need 01556 630490 or email annetteneed@btinternet.com

The 372A Dalbeattie to Sandyhills Bus stops outside the Hall on request.

Colvend Village Hall a **Soup & Pud Lunch** is normally held here on the **third Thursday** of each month. There is the opportunity to enjoy a hearty soup and a homemade dessert plus tea or coffee, in a friendly and sociable atmosphere for only £4.95. A warm welcome is always extended to locals, or visitors to the area.

The 372A Dalbeattie to Sandyhills Bus stops outside the Hall on request.

Jesus' promise: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and never walk in darkness".

John 8:12

Groups and Activities

Chat and Craft Group

12 Park Terrace, Dbt 2.00 p.m. Monthly on Second Thursday

Contact person: Jane Greenwood 01556 611144

Hard of Hearing Group

Church Hall 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon

Contact person: Mrs Jenny Edkins 01556 611740

Dates for the Dalbeattie Drop-In Clinic in 2016

Tuesday January 12th	<u>Tuesday May 10th</u>	Tuesday September 13th
Tuesday February 9th	Tuesday June 14th	Tuesday October 11th
Tuesday March 8th	Tuesday July 12th	Tuesday November 8th
<u>Tuesday April 12th</u>	Tuesday August 9th	Tuesday December 13th

Tea, coffee, biscuits and chat provided.

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

Munches Park Care Home, Dalbeattie Ecumenical Service 2.00 p.m.

Third Sunday in the month All Welcome

Christ Church, Blair Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire

www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC010918

Christ Church has a Facebook page

From the Editorial Team

The Team held a meeting, last month, to discuss the best way forward for the magazine and how it could be improved. A couple of changes have been implemented in this Issue, mainly increasing the font size of the main articles and ensuring the colour pages are back to back. Copying the magazine at the Dalbeattie Parish Church means that we get charged for both sides of the sheet as colour, even if there is colour only one side.

It has been decided to have trial until Christmas of having a monthly magazine. The advantages are:

- ⇒ information about forthcoming events will be more timely;
- ⇒ we will be reporting on only one month's activities thus a smaller magazine can be compiled;
- ⇒ and, it is less work, honest. Mark is already writing a monthly message for the website.

Christ Church Archives Part 3 due to lack of space this has been carried forward to Issue 13.

Dalbeattie & District Churches Together; please send us information about items you would like to be included. If there are articles in our magazine you would like to include in your magazine - just ask.

At the MAP meeting, held on 8 March, a **Questionnaire** was distributed to assess the Congregation's views on the current format. A is copy below so that people who were not at the meeting can have their say. Copies are available at the back of Church. We would be delighted to hear from our on-line readers. We know we have readers from across the world as far as New Zealand, articles from these readers would be much appreciated.

1. Which articles do you always read?
2. Which articles do you never read?
3. Is there a topic you would like to be included?
4. Do you find the Church Service dates helpful? Yes/No
5. Do you find the What's On information useful? Yes/No
6. Do you find the information about What's On in Dalbeattie & District useful? Yes/No
7. Do you enjoy reading about what members of Christ church do in their spare time interesting? Yes/No
8. Do you enjoy reading about Churches Christ Church members visits when away from home? Yes/No
9. Do you find the Who's Who useful? Yes/No
10. Would you change anything about the Magazine? Yes/No

It has been agreed by the Vestry that in order to offset the cost of producing this magazine that we sell advertising space. We hope to have this up and running for the next magazine due out at the end of March.

For an advert size of approximately one-eighth of this page (the size of a business card; the cost will be £10.00 for the year. There are six magazines a year; all of which are uploaded onto the Church's website. (There is to be a trial period of having 10 magazines a year.)

For more information contact Ron Newton 01556 611567
e-mail philipronaldnewton36@gmail.com

This space would cost £10 per annum.

Colour can be added

Logos can be added.

Monies due annually in advance of adverts
being printed

Costs per annum

The double-space below would cost £20

Half a page £40.00 per annum

No full page adverts accepted.

Please mention Christ Church when you
contact the advertisers.

*The shop that smells as good as
it looks!*

IDLEHOUR GIFTS

17 High Street, Dalbeattie

Yankee Candle official stockist
Handmade soaps and bath products
Ethically traded giftwares
ceramics & mirrors
Local Crafts, Greetings Cards
Handmade Chocolates
Gift Hampers made to order

**10% off with this advert when you spend
£20 or more**

www.idlehourgifts.co.uk

**Restore, energy & balance
in your life with**

Holistic Healing Touch – Jin Shin
(similar to Reiki/Acupressure)

Beneficial for stress, aches/pains,
coping with chronic situations,
feeling well and more.

01556 620388
Marion Gardner,
Wellbeing Practitioner

(Homeopathy, EFT,
Journey Work & Jin Shin)

www.OpenIntoLife.com

Christ Church concession of 10% with this ad at
your 1st session

ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, GLASGOW



St Mary's is located at 300 Great Western Road, Glasgow G4 9JB. Great Western Road is part of the A82 the church is located in the inner West End of Glasgow. It is between the St George's Cross and Kelvinbridge subway stations.

This beautiful photograph of the ceiling is the copyright of Sue Thomas.

Main Contact Details at Christ Church

Priest-in-Charge	Revd Canon David Bayne	01556 503818
Honorary Assistant Priest	Revd Mark RS Smith	01387 760263
NSM	Revd Beryl Scott	01556 610283
Diocesan Reader Emeritus	Mr. Brian Woodburn	01556 610519
Lay Representative/ Munches Park Coordinator	Mrs. Edith Thorp	01556 610816
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Sue Thomas	01556 612863
Treasurer	Mr Mark Parry	
People's Warden	Mr. George Sims	01556 612069
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627

Pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow, Saturday 27th February 2016

On Saturday 27th February, twelve of us from Christ Church and St Ninian's set off bright and early to St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow in the Dalbeattie Community Bus to take part in Bishop Gregor's pilgrimage day "Who on Earth are You?". The theme of the day was to explore what it is to be a Scottish Episcopalian in these modern times. There have been such days of pilgrimage in the past, but this was the first one I have attended and it was also my first visit to the Cathedral. When I lived in Newcastle I worshipped in the Anglican Cathedral there, and in Halifax I was similarly placed in Halifax Minster. I have a great fondness for high church and was looking forward to seeing our own SEC version for Glasgow and Galloway.

Of course the building did not disappoint. Designed by the renowned Victorian architect Gilbert Scott, St Mary's is both traditional in style and relatively youthful in church years. The stonework is still sand-coloured and there is a great feeling of light and space. However, what I enjoyed most were the contemporary murals and etched glass windows. Gwynneth Leech's beautiful murals, which were installed during a major restoration programme begun in 1989 in anticipation of Glasgow's year as European Cultural Capital in 1990, have made a significant contribution to the public art of the city. The three great pieces over the transept and crossing are very inspiring and her Kelvingrove triptych in St Anne's Chapel together with the two Magnificat panels to each side of that smaller altar are beautiful in their representation of the holy in the everyday. You can see photos of some of them on the Cathedral website, www.thecathedral.org.uk

Just as lovely are the multiple etched glass windows at the West door each representing a church in the Diocese. As well finding are our own Christ Church window, designed by Gill Sinclair and featuring our lovely Belties, it was fun to track down other local churches - the three fishes of St Ninians, Greyfriars missionary boat bringing St Ninian to our shores and St John's Devorgilla Bridge. This modern porch provides a wonderful welcome and is a celebration both of creativity and our 65 Diocesan congregations.

But what of the day itself? I estimated a gathering of almost 100 pilgrims were there to meet each other and to hear from Bishop Gregor, Provost Kelvin Holdsworth, Synod Clerk Shelley Marsh and Vice Provost Cedric Blakey. There was an interview between Cedric and Kelvin, plus an afternoon Q&A session with questions supplied by us, the pilgrims. We celebrated both Morning Prayer and an afternoon Eucharist, were lucky enough to hear the Cathedral organist Fridrik Walker and to undertake a quiz about the building. The Diocese was broadly represented and I met several very interesting people. I learnt that the SEC is a diverse church and we should capitalise on our diversity rather than feel outcast or separate. Where there is dissension we should look for common ground, allowing this to take us forward instead of feeling held back. Looking outwards is so much more productive than introspection. And finally it is no bad thing to have a Grand Idea. By asking others to join us in it's development we are likely to achieve far more than by struggling on alone. No problem there then! As usual, the simplest concepts provide the greatest insight and what should be straightforward to undertake is the most challenging. Which certainly doesn't mean we mustn't try. I'm glad I went and I hope the ideas I heard that day will come into practice in my own life.

Sue Thomas