

***SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH***

***DIOCESE OF GLASGOW & GALLOWAY***

**CHRIST CHURCH, DALBEATTIE**



***ISSUE N° 18 NOVEMBER 2016***

## Who's Who 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
Lay Representative/ Munches Park Coordinator	Mrs. Edith Thorp	01556 610816
Alternate Lay Representative	Mr Alfred Thorp	01556 610816
Honorary Musical Director & Organist	Mrs Maggie Kelt	
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Sue Thomas	01556 612863
Treasurer	Mr Mark Parry	
Gift Aid/Free Offering Recorder (envelopes)	Mr Alfred Thorp	01556 610816
Rector's Warden & Health & Safety Coordinator	Dr Keith Dennison	01556 630413
People's Warden	Mr. George Sims	01556 612069
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627
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	
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 Coordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413
Gardening Coordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413
Hard of Hearing Clinic Coordinator	Mrs Jenny Edkins	01556 611740
Magazine Team	Mrs Miranda Brignall	01556 610409
	Mrs Muriel Palmer	01556 630314
	Mr Ron Newton	01556 611567
Mission to Seafarers Contact	Mrs Muriel Palmer	01556 630314
Reader Coordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413

## *A message from the Revd Mark Smith*

### **NOVEMBER – Remember, remember ...**

We face a succession of **Days of Remembrance** in November – a chance to Thank God for those who have gone before us on the road of Faith, Life, Freedom and Peace.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints' Day** when we give thanks for the Saints who have gone before us, those who have inspired us on our journey of Faith. We re-commit ourselves to follow their example in following the example of Christ in our lives, seeking to serve the Lord and share His Love with those around us.

**On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 7.30pm, we are hosting an **All Souls' Vigil** – a mix of Silence, Music, Words and Images guiding us in Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those who have died and Devotion and Prayer for Peace in the World. Do join us if there is anyone you wish to remember or if you are concerned for the state of the World at the moment. It will give us a chance to bring our innermost concerns to the Lord and re-commit ourselves to the cause of Peace.

On **Bonfire Night** we celebrate the failure of an attempt to disrupt Parliamentary Democracy in this country. It is a dramatic reminder of the freedoms and privileges we have as individuals and as a nation.

**Remembrance Day** is on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** and at 11am we are encouraged to take two minutes out of our busy lives to stand in silence and Thankful Remembrance. Our service on **Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** will include an Acts of Remembrance **and** at **12 noon** the whole town gathers at the **War Memorial in Colliston Park** where we Thank God for the sacrifice of so many to ensure the Freedom of those who remain and Commit ourselves to seek Peace in the World today.

**True Remembrance** is more than not forgetting. It is more than wearing a poppy. It is about honouring those who have gone before by maintaining the Freedoms won at such a high cost and actively seeking Peace in the World so others do not have to make that sacrifice again.

As Christians every time we take Communion we remember what Jesus has done for us through His Death and Resurrection. But it doesn't stop there! At every service we pray that we would be more like Him and re-commit ourselves to serve Him and all humankind in lives of sacrificial love.

At the end of the month we move into Advent, the season when we remember Jesus, who came as a human being, still comes into our lives today and will come again at the end of time. We use it to get ready ... for Christmas, for daily life, for the Glory to come!

Are YOU ready?

May God Bless you

# All Souls' Vigil



**for Remembrance & Peace**

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*through*  
*SILENCE, MUSIC, WORDS, IMAGES,*  
THANKSGIVING & REMEMBRANCE  
for those who have died  
DEVOTION & PRAYER  
for Peace in the World

7.30pm, Wednesday 2nd November, 2016  
Christ Church, Blair St, Dalbeattie

## **NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016** Sunday 6 November. Report will be in the next magazine.

Please turn to pages 10-11 for an edited copy of the Hard of Hearing Drop-In Report.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016 AT CHRIST CHURCH, DBT and ST NINIAN'S, CD**

#### **Christmas Eve**

##### **4.00 p.m.**

Christingle                      St Ninian's

##### **7.00 p.m.**

Carol Service                      Christ Church

##### **11.30 p.m.**

First Eucharist of Christmas  
St Ninian's

#### **Christmas Day**

##### **8.30 a.m.**

Holy Communion                      St Ninian's

##### **10.30 a.m.**

Sung Eucharist                      Christ Church

##### **11.00 a.m.**

Family Service                      St Ninian's

##### **12 noon**

Holy Communion                      St Ninian's

## **NEWS FROM DALBEATTIE & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER**

### **Wednesday, November. 2nd**

**7.30 p.m. All Souls' Vigil for Remembrance & Peace**

***Dalbeattie & District Churches Together*** are to hold a Vigil at ***Christ Church***. It will offer the chance to reflect in words, images, music and silence on loved ones lost, victims of violence and terror, and to pray for peace and reconciliation.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday, December 3rd                      10 for 10.30 a.m. –3.00 p.m.

Advent Quiet Day at St Ninian's, CD.

The day will be led by Bishop Gregor. ***Advent: an end and a beginning.***

## NEWS FROM THE REGION

### **Institution of the Revd Stephen Hazlett - Jenni Gray reports:**

On Thursday, 29th September, Jim and I were fortunate enough to be invited to the



**Revd Ben Humphries with  
Revd Stephen Hazlett**

Institution of The Reverend Stephen D Hazlett (B.Th., Dip. Hist.) as Rector of Greyfriars, Kirkcudbright and St Mary's, Gatehouse of Fleet by The Right Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway.

It was a beautiful service starting off at 10 a.m. at Greyfriars, where the much loved hymn, *Ye Holy Angels Bright* was sung and an address was given by Revd Canon David Bayne. David spoke about the Archangel Michael, a healing angel, a protector and leader of the army of God against the forces of evil and how he knew that Stephen would lead the people of Gatehouse and

Kirkcudbright and give them healing and love.

The Revd Hazlett was then presented with the **Symbols of Ministry**, a **Bible** to proclaim the word of God and to teach the Faith; a copy of **Daily Prayer** to pray for his congregation and a **stole** to be a servant of God's people in the church. Then he was greeted by an Ecumenical Representative and given the **key to the Church** that it's doors would be always open to all people.

The Intercessions were led by the Revd Ben Humphries, *Mission to Seafarers* Chaplain to the Port of Dunkirk, he had come especially to enjoy this day with the Revd Hazlett. The hymn *Be thou my Vision* was sung before it was time to get back into our cars and travel over to Gatehouse for the second part of the service. A piper was playing as we left the church and the sun was shining and although there was a nip in the air it couldn't have been a better day.

Another warm welcome awaited us at St Mary's and the second part of the service started there with the hymn *Holy Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*. The **symbols** of the **oil of healing**, to heal and reconcile, the **Bread and Wine** that he would break bread and bless the wine, a **stole** and the **key to the church** were presented here before the peace was shared, the offertory hymn *Let all mortal keep silence* sung and the Sacrament of Holy Communion shared.

The post Communion hymn *Christ is the Heavenly Food* was sung and after the closing hymn *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* followed by the Dismissal given by the Bishop it was off to the Community Centre for the most delicious buffet lunch where the savories had

been prepared by the congregation of Greyfriars and the puddings by the ladies of Gatehouse of Fleet.

The appointment of Revd Hazlett is particularly exciting for me as he was for the past five years the *Mission to Seafarers* chaplain to the Port of Rotterdam. The congregations of Gatehouse and Kirkcudbright are already great supporters of the work of the Mission and I look forward to working with Revd Hazlett to promote the needs of seafarers and bring greater understanding of the difficulties they face to all the peoples of the Stewartry.

### **Prayer for the Mission to Seafarers**

Lord Jesus, friend of seafarers, bless The Mission to Seafarers and its work throughout the world. Inspire staff, volunteers and supporters to give freely of your gifts of wisdom, compassion and understanding to all who need them. May seafarers find a warm welcome, a keen will to help and serve, and in everything a love that honours your holy name. Amen

Bishop John Harrower OAM, FAICD

### **Knitting for Seafarers**

This seems an appropriate space to ask if our readers could help knit for the Mission. The work-box (at the back of the Church) for this project has been refilled with wool, patterns and needles. Donations of wool and needles (sizes 8, 9 & 10) will be gratefully received. If you prefer you can use a favourite knitting pattern.

Visit the Mission's website to learn more about the sterling work they do.  
[www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

Muriel Palmer will ensure knitting for the Mission is passed to Jenni Gray, Trustee & Director, Mission to Seafarers, Scotland.

**Atheist:** Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

**Preacher:** "I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven, I'll ask him."

**Atheist:** "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

**Preacher:** "Then you ask him."

## **‘Singing is Good For You!’**

You may have heard this said before. Reactions to the statement may be different. Some people don't like singing and others can't sing, or not in tune anyway – though this does not necessarily matter! However, singing may not be for everyone.

There are many kinds of singing that people are involved in. Some sing in church - maybe in the choir or in the congregation. Singing in choirs or other groups as part of an amateur stage musical or concert are popular activities. Singing as a social activity involves meeting people and making new friends. Singing on your own in the shower may help to lift your mood. Singing is an exercise involving the lungs and vocal chords and is therefore a healthy activity. At higher levels it is usually necessary to be able to read music but many who can't do this can still enjoy singing and can benefit from it in the ways mentioned, and also in others (see '*singing is good for you*' under Google on the internet if you can).

For the relatively few that sing or have sung at professional level and have achieved stardom in the world of pop, and to a lesser extent in classical music, there have been, and continues to be, huge financial rewards available. So one can truly say: 'singing is good for many people in many ways'.

When I came to Dalbeattie six years ago I wanted to get involved in something positive so I tried organising singalongs in residential homes using old popular songs and tunes on disk and tape with the words provided in booklets passed around amongst the residents.

These sessions proved popular. It has been well documented that people in the early stages of dementia benefit from singing. (Once again please refer to the internet if you'd like to know more). Unfortunately the number of people with dementia in residential homes is increasing, and if by singing, the advance of this horrible disease can be slowed it is surely worthwhile to encourage the activity. In the time that I was involved at the three Dalbeattie residential homes and others in Kirkcudbright and Dumfries I thought the results were positive though a lot depended on the enthusiasm of the care staff.

As we know technology moves on, sometimes at an alarming rate! It is now possible to 'stream' music and pictures from the internet to be seen and heard on a TV set in your home, but for this to happen it is necessary to have a good Broadband connection. Some residential homes have good connections and I have arranged a few singalongs where it has been possible for the residents not only to hear the old songs they loved but see them being sung by the actual stars of the past. In some cases the lyrics can be read on the screen making song sheets unnecessary.



So far I have received a positive reaction amongst the residents at Barlochan Care Home and so I hope to extend the activity. I recently joined the Stewartry branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) which has many special interest groups. I have started one called Music and Memories for those who like to sing along to the old songs. We held our first meeting at my house last week. There were 8 of us so my small living room was filled not only with bodies, but also I'm glad to say with the sound of song!

*Ron Newton*

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## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

<b>Red poppies bloom on barren land</b>	<b>These gallant soldiers, went through hell.</b>
<b>Where soldiers once fought hand-to-hand.</b>	<b>So many lost the fight and fell.</b>
<b>Beneath these fields of Flanders lie</b>	<b>For them no torment, no more toil,</b>
<b>Dark secrets from a time gone by.</b>	<b>They lay at peace 'neath Flanders soil.</b>
<b>Men tramped through trenches - young and old</b>	<b>Their comrades mark past events</b>
<b>Battled against the damp and cold,</b>	<b>Each year with two minutes silence,</b>
<b>Finding the best ways to survive</b>	<b>Wearing, with pride, a poppy red,</b>
<b>Whilst dodging gunfire to stay alive.</b>	<b>Remem'bring friends, both maimed and dead.</b>
<b>They struggled on beneath great strain,</b>	<b>Those brave men fought and paid the price.</b>
<b>Pounded by mortars, drenched by rain.</b>	<b>Our freedom was their sacrifice.</b>
<b>Many were shell-shocked by this strife,</b>	<b>If only conflicts now would cease</b>
<b>Others were wounded - maimed for life.</b>	<b>So humankind may live in peace.</b>

This poem has been copied from **IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND** a collection of prayers, poems and reflections by Members of the Mothers' Union, Glasgow and Galloway Diocese

*"See I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of my hand,"*      **Isaiah 49:16**

## Dalbeattie Hard of Hearing Drop-In Clinic

Jenny Edkins reports:

Dalbeattie Hard of Hearing Drop In Clinic continues to flourish steadily. We meet in the Church Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Volunteers are Jenny Edkins, Eileen Garrett, Alfred Thorp and Nicholas Palmer. On the occasions that I am away on holiday, Margo from Dumfries, has filled in which is very much appreciated. She likes coming to Dalbeattie for a change from her own clinic.

The numbers continue at an average of about 14 attending each month. We are expecting quite a busy time in the run up to Christmas if last year is anything to go by. Tea and coffee is not taken up by as many now, but it is enjoyed by those who do and the socialising and chat make such a big difference to a visit to our Drop-In.

The focus at the moment with the feedback to the co-ordinator, Janette Waddell, and the group as a whole is now concentrating on advice and feedback to those attending the clinic. Janette now has an assistant Paula Hinds; both Janette and Paula are now mainly based at The Hub, Friars Vennel, Dumfries.

There are quite a few referrals to *Audiology* but very few to *Sensory Support* requesting help and information regarding aids and adaptations for use around the home such as TV aid, Telephones, Doorbell and Telephone Alerts, Alarms, Baby Monitors (I had one of those when my grandchildren were very small and used to stay), and Personal Loop Systems. I have half wondered if the feedback on that is low because of the Social Services connection. I have made some suggestions to our co-ordinator and her assistant and it is possible we will have more relevant paperwork or referral forms as a short circuit to what is available from Dumfries and Galloway Sensory Support Department. We are also making a note of any advice we may give as opposed to how many units we give out.

I am pleased to report that we now provide a 4 monthly service to both ***Munches*** and ***Alma House*** residents. I visited in June and again in September, this time with the help of Eileen. It is an ongoing educational experience for residents, staff and ourselves. The 4 monthly service should work well as I will just renew wires and domes (even if a bit earlier than required) and re-tube and maintain other aids. The aim is that we establish a 4 monthly visit to ***Dalbeattie Day Centre***.

We now have yet another type of hearing aid provided by Audiology. I am in receipt of yet another box of parts! That makes 4 boxes of parts altogether now!

Most maintenance is routine. We will sometimes come across problems especially with the glass moulds. If the standard tubing is difficult/hard to pull through the mould, then these particular moulds have to be returned to Audiology who are able to sort out the problem. Other than that it is all mostly I hope straight forward.

All the clinics report problems with obtaining batteries; we have to tell our clients to obtain them from their GP Surgery. This is a constant source of complaint by clinics, volunteers and clients alike. The co-ordinator has queried this, but Audiology do not have enough battery stock to send out large amounts to each GP Surgery and Clinics, so we get what we are given. We give out one pack of batteries and if a client is very elderly and frail most likely 2 packs. We do our best.

I hope we will continue as a group to flourish in the town.

*Jenny Edkins*

### **News from the Mothers' Union**

The speaker at the October meeting was Jeff Clayton, he talked about the Dumfries & Galloway Befriending project. The Regional Rally will be held at 12 noon on Tuesday, November 15th at St Ninian's, CD.

#### **A Recipe for Autumn**

#### **Roasted Pumpkin Soup**

1.5kg pumpkin, halved, seeds removed  
Rape seed oil  
1 teaspoon dried chilli  
1 tablespoon coriander seeds  
1 large onion, chopped

3 cloves garlic, grated  
1 carrot, chopped  
1 stick of celery.  
chopped  
1 litre hot vegetable stock



- 1 Preheat the oven to 170°C/340°F.
- 2 Chop the pumpkin into wedges and put onto two large baking trays and drizzle over a little rape seed oil.
- 3 In a pestle and mortar, grind the chilli and coriander seeds with a pinch of salt until finely ground. Sprinkle the spices over the pumpkin with some black pepper.
- 4 Roast the pumpkin for 1 hour, or until soft and slightly caramelised at the edges.
- 5 Meanwhile heat a tablespoon of rape seed oil over a medium heat in a large heavy-based saucepan; add the vegetables and cook for 15 minutes, or until soft and sweet but not coloured.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

## **HARVEST**

According to the Oxford English Dictionary the word harvest comes from the Old English *haerfest*, which is to do with Autumn, the season in which ripened grain and other produce is gathered.

In Biblical times the economy of the Israelites was strictly agricultural, so harvest time was a very significant event. There were 3 each year:

Barley-reaping (April/May)     *Ruth 1:22*

Wheat harvest (June/July)     *Genesis 30:14*

Ingathering of fruits of the tree and vine (September/October)

Grain crops were reaped with sickles and the cut stalks were laid in bunches that were carried to the threshing floor. Some laws governed these simple harvest operations. The corners of the fields were not to be reaped and the scatterings of the cut grain were not to be picked up. The part of the crop thus left was for the poor people to use. *Leviticus 23:22*

The owner was required each year to present the first fruits of the crop as an offering to God before he could take any of it for his own use. *Leviticus 23: 9-10*,

Stalks of grain which grew up without having been sown were not to be harvested. *Leviticus 25:5*

With a new orchard or vineyard the fruit was not to be gathered for 3 years and the fourth year's crop had to be given entirely to the Lord, so the owner had to wait until the fifth year to get any fruit for himself. *Leviticus 19: 23-25*

The Lord fitted the 3 main religious feasts that he prescribed for the people into this agricultural economy. Passover came in the season of the barley harvest, Pentecost during the wheat harvest and Tabernacles during the fruit harvest.

In the New Testament, most of the time, the word harvest is used figuratively for the gathering in of the redeemed saints at the end of the age.

**Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.**

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

## **MONEY MATTERS**

Following on from Anthony Duncalf's feature in the last magazine about a new organisation offering budgeting advice to those who may benefit from it, please remember that ***Citizens' Advice*** also offers budgeting advice and, further, it has specially-trained debt advisors who can offer solutions when money matters have got out of control. The service is free and impartial. The office in Castle Douglas is open from 9am till 5pm Monday to Friday and a clinic runs in the Day Centre in Dalbeattie from 10am till noon on Tuesdays. No appointment is necessary.

### **SAINT of the MONTH**

#### **Saint Margaret: 16<sup>th</sup> November**



Margaret was an English princess, the sister of Edgar Atheling, the uncrowned and short-reigning Anglo-Saxon King of England. Born in exile in Hungary in c1045, to where her family had been forced to seek protection, she returned to England in 1057, but was then forced to flee again, this time to Scotland, in 1066. In c1070 she married King Malcolm III.

She was a pious lady, who founded a ferry across the Firth of Forth to allow pilgrims to visit Dunfermline Abbey. Three of her sons became Kings of Scotland and a daughter became Queen Consort in England. A few days after hearing that her husband had been killed in battle, she died in Edinburgh Castle in 1093.

Margaret was canonised in 1250 and her remains were reinterred at Dunfermline Abbey; her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation and subsequently lost.

She instigated religious reform, striving to make the wordings and practices of the Church in Scotland conform to those of Rome. She attended to charitable works, serving orphans and the poor every day before she ate, and washing the feet of the poor. She invited the Benedictines to establish an abbey at Dunfermline in 1072 and she helped to restore the monastery at Iona. She spent much of her time in prayer, devotional reading and ecclesiastical embroidery.

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil.

One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad".

## THE RETURNED

## Finding repatriated WW1 grave markers



We have been asked by, Victoria Stock, Communications Administrator, The Scottish Episcopal Church to support the request received from **Scott Galloway** to bring his project, **The Returned**, to the notice of our Congregation.

***“May I make an appeal through you to your congregations to let us know of any repatriated WW1 grave markers that they know of either in their own locality or elsewhere so that we can survey them?”***

Scott can be contacted by email at [scott@noble-scotland.co.uk](mailto:scott@noble-scotland.co.uk) or you can write to him at 6A St Andrew Street, Alyth, Perthshire, PH11 8AT.

**Wooden Battlefield Crosses** and grave markers exist all across Great Britain and indeed across the world. They can be found in churches, memorial halls, chapels, museums and private dwellings. Although various lists exist there is no definitive study of them; the available information is often buried in collections of other memorials. These are deeply personal connections with the people involved in the conflict and form a direct link to the families, loved ones and communities who were left behind.

The aim of this project is to try and provide an online resource which creates a great comfort to families who lost a loved one. Almost 100 years later these markers still survive. *The Returned* is a project that a number of amateur historians are undertaking to record for posterity these surviving markers. Results of their work can be found on the internet at <http://thereturned.co.uk>.

During The Great War the fallen had their graves marked with simple inscribed wooden crosses. In the early 1920's the then Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) after a programme of concentration, when outlying graves, allied graves in German battlefield cemeteries and the like were reinterred in IWGC cemeteries, set about replacing these markers with the now familiar Portland headstones.

In a number of instances the original wood markers were returned to families in the UK,

some families went on pilgrimages to the Western Front (and other places) to retrieve them. The majority were placed in local churches, or church halls and some in private collections. Given that remains were not returned to the UK but buried where they fell, having something tangible close by must have given great comfort. These have deeply personal connection with the people involved in the conflict and form a direct link to the families, loved ones and communities who were left behind

The intention is to list every single battlefield cross or wooden grave marker returned from the lines in Europe to Great Britain after the war ended. The website will hopefully provide a resource that will give everyone access to information on as many of the locations and as much detail as possible about the stories surrounding the people whose graves they marked in France and their symbolic return to the people they left behind.

**They need our help** information about wooden crosses and battlefield markers, whether it be our own photos, photos you have permission to use from a local archive, details of the building and how the marker has become part of the story of it. They also need our research on the soldiers, their life and service, their families, the incidents surrounding their death and the eventual return of the grave marker to Britain and back to the community where the person came from.

There is an easy guide on how to survey, photograph and research the sites. There is a growing list of locations which will be built on as more information comes to light. There is also an on-line guide advising how to research the stories of the men these crosses are named for; and how you might be able to look into the story behind them to build an online collection which everyone can use to explore these fascinating memorials.

St Ninian's, Castle Douglas has five Grave Markers which have been well documented. Visit the St Ninian's website to access a copy of the booklet written by Leslie Scarborough ([www.stnianscastledouglas.org.uk](http://www.stnianscastledouglas.org.uk)) click on the History icon. The listing for St Ninian's is the only listing in Dumfries & Galloway.

People who know me will not be surprised that this is a project after my own heart.

*Muriel Palmer*

### **Update from Muriel Palmer about WW1 memories.**

You will be forgiven for thinking that this project has been forgotten but it hasn't. The estimated publication date having slipped and slipped I have decided that a publication date of 2018 is both achievable and would cover 1914-1918.

In February 2017 I will start to contact the 'story-tellers' and try and find more. The cut-off date for memories will be the end February, 2018 with an estimated publication date of July 2018.

I can be contacted by e-mail [muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com](mailto:muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com) or phone 01556 630314 or by mail 5 Hestan Court, Rockcliffe, Dalbeattie DG5 4QL.

Thanks to Helen Stephens for this poem - ***A Crabbit Old Woman.***

The poem was found when a nurse was sorting through the possessions of an old woman who had recently died at Ashludie House in Dundee. The poem was engraved on a silver plaque and displayed in the Sister's Ward Office to provide a timely reminder to us all to look closer

What do you see, nurse, what do you see?  
What are you thinking, when you look at me -  
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,  
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply  
When you say in a loud voice - I do wish you'd try.  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,  
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.,  
Who, unresisting or not; lets you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding ,the long day to fill.  
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse, you're not looking at  
me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,  
As I rise at your bidding, as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters, who loved one another.  
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet,  
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet:  
A bride soon at twenty - my heart gives a leap,  
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep:  
At twenty-five now I have young of my own,  
Who need me to build a secure happy home;

A woman of thirty, my young now grow fast,  
Bound to each other with ties that should last;  
At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,  
But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn;  
At fifty once more babies play around my knee,  
Again we know children, my loved one and me.  
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,  
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,  
For my young are all rearing young ones of their  
own.  
And I think of the years and the love that I've  
known;

I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel -  
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.  
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,  
There is now a stone where I once had a heart:  
But inside this old carcase, a young girl still dwells,  
And now and again my battered heart swells,  
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,  
And I'm loving and living life over again.  
I think of the years all too few- gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, nurses, open and see,  
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer-see ME!



## What are Kelpies?



**The Kelpies at Kirkcudbright**

I wonder how many of you are as fascinated by the kelpies as I am. After seeing two magnificent models as part of a Flower Festival in July and the marquettes displayed at Kirkcudbright in August. I have only seen the originals from the car. They are 30 metres high and weigh over 300 tonnes each.

***But what is a Kelpie?*** If you are fortunate enough to visit Falkirk you can actually go inside the structures and be told the full story.

I had to look them up to discover that Kelpie is the Scots name given to a shape-shifting water spirit, usually described as appearing as a horse, inhabiting the lochs and pools of Scotland. Apparently almost every sizeable body of water in Scotland has an associated kelpie story and my computer tells me that the most extensively reported on is that of Loch Ness.

So from that I gather that the Loch Ness monster, who must by now be very old as he has been reported on since I was young, was indeed a kelpie. It seems a bit unfair to continuously refer to them as monsters, as although there are many gruesome stories about these mythical creatures on Wikipedia, my computer also says that they served a practical purpose in keeping children away from dangerous stretches of water and warning young women to be wary of handsome strangers!

Whatever folklore has made of them the models were certainly something not to be missed and were, I thought, truly beautiful.

*Jenni Gray*

## Feral Choir Midwinter Turning Concerts 2016

Every Christmas the Choir performs at three local venues with a special concert to celebrate the turn of the year, Christmas and all.

<b>Saturday 17th December</b>	<b>4.00 p.m. Colvend Public Hall</b>
<b>Sunday 18th December</b>	<b>2.00 p.m. Moffat Town Hall</b>
	<b>6.30 p.m. Threave Visitor Centre</b>

Sue Thomas advises that the concert at **Colvend Public Hall** has been carefully timed to miss the final of Strictly!. Sue will be singing on her home patch which she says will be very lovely. Tickets for this performance will be available at the Colvend Shop and at other outlets - full details will be in the next magazine.



Dalbeattie  
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Allotments Association.



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Telephone - 01556 612080  
or



Give your details to one of our members at the allotments.

Visitors are always welcome at our allotments. Come and have a chat and a seat in one of our community gardens.

## From the Editorial Team

There is now a team of workers supporting the Publishing Editor, Muriel Palmer. There are plans for there to be Joint Publishing Editors – Ron Newton is going to help; fortunately, he has Publisher software. Miranda & Graham Brignall suggest and collect material for the magazine.

During the year the magazine became a monthly edition for a trial period. The question has been asked ***'Do you want to continue with a monthly edition?'*** (The December/January magazine will be a two-month copy.) Answers are awaited.

A monthly edition is much easier to manage and it provides timely information about what is planned and timely reporting on what has happened.

Members of the Congregation can help by:

- ♦ sending in copy in good time;
- ♦ whenever possible sending in copy by e-mail attachment and not in the body of an e-mail;
- ♦ remembering that articles in the magazine are uploaded to the Christ Church website so it is important we ensure that the articles are understandable to people who are not familiar with the Episcopal Church;
- ♦ sending in details of events in good time so they can be added to 'What's On';
- ♦ volunteering to help find advertisers for the magazine.

Christ Church, Blair Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire

Scottish Charity Number SC010918

[www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk](http://www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk)

Christ Church has a Facebook page

## What's On in November at Christ Church and District

<b>Tuesday, 1st</b>	<b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b> <b>11.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion at Barlochan Care Home
<b>Wednesday, 2nd</b>	<b>ALL SOULS DAY</b> <b>10.15 a.m.</b> <b>Requiem Mass for All Souls' Day</b> at St Ninian's, CD <b>2-4 p.m.</b> Musical Minds at Dalbeattie Parish Church Centre. For more details contact Norman Kennedy 01556 610655 <b>7.30 p.m.</b> <b>All Soul's Vigil for Remembrance &amp; Peace</b> Dalbeattie & District Churches Together are to hold a Vigil at Christ Church. It will offer the chance to reflect in words, music and silence on loved ones lost, victims of violence and terror, and to pray for peace and reconciliation.
<b>Thursday, 3rd</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> at Christ Church
<b>Sunday, 6th</b>	<b>8.30 a.m.</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>10.30 a.m.</b> <b>Sung Eucharist</b> to be followed by the <b>AGM of the Congregation</b> <b>6.00p.m.</b> <b>Choral Evensong for All Souls' Day</b> at St John's, Dumfries
<b>Monday, 7th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Study Group at Islecroft House
<b>Tuesday, 8th</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.-12 noon</b> Hard of Hearing Drop-In Clinic in the Church Hall <b>1.45 p.m.</b> TAG Study Group at 3 Blair Street
<b>Wednesday, 9th</b>	<b>AGM Galloway Regional Council</b> at St Ninian's, CD <b>5.00 p.m.</b> Eucharist in Church; preacher Revd Audrey Stewart <b>5.45 p.m.</b> refreshments served <b>6.30 p.m.</b> AGM; speaker Revd Audrey Stewart, Canon Missioner
<b>Thursday, 10th</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> at Christ Church
<b>Saturday, 12th</b>	<b>10.00-11.30 a.m.</b> Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning in Dalbeattie Parish Church Centre <b>7.30 p.m.</b> Concert at St John's, Dumfries by the Dumfries Choral Society
<b>Sunday, 13th</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> <b>10.30 a.m.</b> Sung Eucharist <b>10.45 a.m.</b> <b>Service of Remembrance</b> at the War Memorial, CD <b>11.30 a.m.</b> Shortened Eucharist at St Ninian's, CD <b>12 noon</b> <b>Service of Remembrance</b> at The War Memorial, Colliston Park, Dalbeattie <b>6.00 p.m.</b> Evensong at St Ninian's, CD
<b>Tuesday, 15th</b>	<b>tbc</b> Mothers' Union Regional Rally
<b>Thursday, 17th</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday, 20th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> <b>Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>Monday, 21st</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Study Group at Islecroft House
<b>Thursday, 24th</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Friday, 25th</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b> Ordinary Meeting of the Christ Church Vestry in the Church Hall
<b>Sunday, 27th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Sung Eucharist <b>7.00 p.m.</b> Taize service in the Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's, CD
<b>Tuesday, 29th</b>	<b>2.30 p.m.</b> Julian Meeting at Savat