

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

CHRIST CHURCH, DALBEATTIE



ISSUE N° 19 DEC 16/JAN 17

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

To All Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries and Treasurers

We have now been able to send the final cheque for the Bishop's Lent Appeal to the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation. It amounted to the wonderful total of **£14,123.55**.

So, once again, all over the Diocese, you have been hugely generous in your response. I am deeply grateful to and very proud of our Diocese. I thank you all as warmly as I possibly can!

All blessings,
+Gregor

All Souls Vigil - Wednesday 2 November

Marion Patricia Gardner



This was an event I will never forget. On arrival in the evening the Church was lit by candles and the peaceful ambience was supported by quiet music and a single image of a candle of peace being held - holding the Light. Throughout the stillness Reverend Mark and Anthony reminded and guided us to reflect on the

aspects of human loss during the year, including those in France, Syria, through natural disaster, Jo Cox, using many visual images, as well as close family members, friends and colleagues. There were times of silence for us all to connect with our own memories and truth. We also held vigil for Hope that all the good things being done to support humanity will continue to bring Joy and Peace. Attendees were invited to light a small candle which remained burning throughout the evening. Everyday I light a candle here in my home to hold the Light for any soul who is returning Home and for those in difficult times. Personally I would like to acknowledge and thank Anthony for choreographing the Vigil and producing a very special evening.

It is with sadness that we advise of the death of Joyce McDougal on the 21st November, 2016 Joyce was a long time member of Christ Church.

May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Bishop Gregor's Christmas 2016 Message

This is the Bishop's amended message which unfortunately I did not open until after the printing of the magazine, MP



As I write, the clocks have gone back and things are getting darker. People now talk of light deprivation as a medical condition and it does seem that some of us are susceptible to all of that.

But, at this time of the year, there's a lot of extra light around. Crowds of people out shopping and enjoying themselves among the brightly lit streets. Christmas lights and Christmas attractions. And, here in Glasgow, down at the St Enoch Centre, the wooden booths of the Christmas market, gluwie, bratwurst and those wonderful German Christmas robins, like the one I bought a couple of years ago, on sale once more. Wet, grey, dark there of course too, but surrounded by light, colour, life, fun.

It's easy enough, it's fatally easy enough, for Christian people like us, to dismiss all of this as so much tinselly trivia, utterly unrelated to what we like to call the "true meaning of Christmas". Well, if you have thoughts like that, let me try to persuade you this Christmastide to give them up, once and for all.

People like us who will gather at the Christmas eucharist to welcome the true light who lightens everyone coming into the world, have no business being sniffy about people's desire at a dark time of the year to enjoy light and warmth and being together in that light and warmth. We should have the imagination to sense that, however vaguely, this is a very natural, very human, and so ultimately God-given reaching out for something better that lies beyond the often dark and grim realities of the world we live in – and, God knows, they are dark enough.

So, for us, far from being nowhere near the true meaning of Christmas, the Christmas lights in streets, on countless trees, the reindeers and snowmen plastered all over houses or wherever, should point us towards another light. And here's the difference - sometime in January all the Christmas and seasonal lights and all the Christmas and seasonal attractions will disappear, put away for another year. Like many people I hate taking all my own lights and cards and tree down – the house looks so bare – but I ought to remember that the light we have been celebrating in the twelve days of Christmas shines all the year round and can never be taken away or extinguished.

One of the simplest and yet most powerful testimonies I ever heard to this great hope of ours was offered by one of my curates when I was Rector of St Ninian's in Pollokshields on the south side of Glasgow. He was taking some children round that wonderful church and they noticed the white light burning above the altar of the side chapel, where the sacrament of consecrated bread and wine was kept. Why was that light burning away there? Well, he said, it is there to remind us that Jesus the light of the world is always with us so that, even if we came into this big church in the dark we needn't be afraid because Jesus is here, Jesus is with us, the light still burns.

So, this coming Christmastide let's allow ourselves to be pointed once again towards that single, world-changing, all-important truth, the Light of the World. He came into the world all those years ago looking for us and He comes into our midst this Christmas on the same quest, to embrace us with joy and wonder so that we may do the very same to Him.

+Gregor

A message from the Revd Mark Smith

Happy Advent to all our readers!

This is a time to focus on **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love**.

HOPE for what is to come - expectation of Jesus' return.

PEACE in the midst of chaos - seeking God's Peace in our hearts today.

JOY in the gloom – knowing the Good News.

LIGHT in the darkness – God with us, Emmanuel.

We will be remembering these as we light our Advent Ring, and celebrating the Good News that God is with us in Jesus.

Emmanuel, who came to die for us all, was born in a stable at Christmas.

How will you celebrate?

Eating? Drinking? Being merry?

More importantly - WHAT will you celebrate?

Why not join us at one of our Christmas Services and put Jesus back at the heart of your celebrations. He is the reason for the season!

As a special treat, I am giving a dispensation to everyone who joins us on Christmas Day – you are allowed to open a present before the Service to bring along with you and share the joy of gifts.

On New Year's Day we will be re-committing ourselves to Christ and His Way of Hope, Peace, Joy and Light for 2017 – the best possible start to a New Year!

Oh, by the way ... Happy Christmas (when it comes)

May God Bless you.

(Christ Church, Dalbeattie and St Ninian's, Castle Douglas Christmas Services are printed on the back cover. MP)

Care & Share & Prayer at Christ Church

One of the priorities identified as part of our MAP process this year is Communication.

This covers much of what we do in terms of website, pew-sheet, publicity and so on, but also affects our ability to react as a body to needs which arise within the congregation (and beyond).

If a person is in need, we would like to be able to respond quickly through Prayer and practical demonstrations of Christ's Love. This is best done as a whole Body, increasing the Prayer potential and releasing the gifts that we have between us. It is, however, easy for some news or concern to be missed by one or other member – even in what seems a small fellowship.

We have now set up the **Care & Share & Prayer** network to ensure clear communication pathways. This sounds very grand and business-like but is, actually, very straightforward. It will use the telephone as most of us have telephones and most use answer-machines so that we know the messages will get through.

If someone has a need or concern, or becomes aware of a need or concern for someone else, they should simply telephone a central number. These folk will then disseminate the information around the fellowship for Prayer through the network of home-groups and directly to others. This will enable us as a congregation to harness the power of Prayer, ensure that we are all aware of the needs of those around us and free us to Share Christ's Love in whatever ways we can. It should also be used to pass on Good News as an encouragement for the congregation. It will feed into our intercessions on Sunday, our prayer in the home-groups and our personal concerns for those around us.

This is not intended as a gossip-spreader for nosey neighbours, but a means of putting our Love into action to build up our Faith in action by meeting real needs and addressing real concerns.

We do not need detailed information or even the names of people to be able to Pray effectively. God knows the need and the people and can hear our Prayers however vague they may feel to us.

We hope this network will enable us to build a more Caring community and see the power of Prayer at work as we seek to Share Christ's Love with those around us.

Care & Share & Prayer network contacts:

Rev. Beryl Scott – (01556) 610283

Miranda Brignall – (01556) 610409

FOOD BANK

Seasonal goods for Christmas Boxes, including toiletries and small gifts for children has been requested. Christmas donations can be made until Sunday, 11th December.

NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 Sunday 6 November.

- ♦ The office holders remain the same. There is a vacancy for a Vestry Member.
- ♦ Inclusive Church; this matter has been deferred and will become the subject of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Congregation (please turn to pages 17/18)
- ♦ Frequency of the magazine will remain 11 copies per year for the foreseeable future.

NEWS FROM DALBEATTIE & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

On **Friday, 2nd December at 4.30 p.m.** the **Tree of Heaven** at Dalbeattie Parish Church will be lit; carols are to be sung around the tree. Then it is off to the High Street for the **Christmas Lights Switch-On**, and, to join in the festivities from 5-7 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

The AGM of the Galloway Regional Council was held on Wednesday, 9th November 2016.

The meeting started with the Eucharist, the theme of the service was hope, the celebrant was Canon David Bayne. The preacher was Canon Missioner, the Revd Audrey Stewart her theme was the line ***Seven whole days, not one in seven I will praise thee***; from George Herbert's hymn **King of glory, King of peace**

After the service, we enjoyed a delicious buffet meal kindly provided by the St Ninian's congregation.

The meeting started with an address from the Revd Audrey Stewart; the subject of her address was **Mission in Glasgow & Galloway**. Her talk was inspiring and gave much food for thought; her enthusiasm and energy is motivating. She told us we need to work together to identify and engage strategies for spreading God's love.

She also told us that she was analysing all our Mission Action Plans and will address the outcome at the Diocesan Synod to be held on Saturday, 4th March 2017 at the Barony, Dumfries.

One of the strap lines that jumped off the screen was ***Building the church of tomorrow to reach the seekers of today.***

On the 14th November a message was received from Bishop Gregor about our Canon Missioner:



I am pleased to share with the diocese the news that our Canon Missioner and her husband, Chris, are expecting their first child, due in May. As Audrey has been out and about in the diocese some have guessed this news but as it was not yet public Audrey has been, understandably, quiet about it. I share this with you now with a reassurance that the Canon Missioner will continue working in all areas of her remit while also developing plans with myself and the Dean for maternity leave, which will ensure the good progress continues without interruption. I invite your prayers for Audrey and Chris and their baby during this happy time.

The Vestry & Congregation of Christ Church, Dalbeattie pray for Audrey, Chris and their baby.

St Ninian's Sunday School is supporting Mary's Meals this Christmas.

They would like to send some back packs off to Africa and are asking for any donations of pens, paper, rubbers, sharpeners, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, flannels and small toys, or any financial donations to enable them to buy more back packs. There is a basket in front of the font for donations; please ensure donations are labelled Mary's Meals.

This year, instead of making Christmas cards they are looking for old jam jars that they could decorate and make into lanterns which they will sell. Mary's Meals message this year is "Let your light shine" so they thought lanterns would be a nice thing to make.

(See website: www.marysmeals.org.uk/)

Since The Backpack Project began in 2005, more than 450,000 filled backpacks have sent from supporters across the UK and Ireland to children receiving Mary's Meals.



Revd Canon David Main, Honorary Assistant, St Ninian's, Castle Douglas died on the 19th November 2016, his funeral service will be held at St Ninian's on the 1st December at 11.30 a.m.; followed by internment in Challoch Churchyard, Newton Stewart at 2.30 p.m.

May he rest in peace and rise in Glory.

SAINT of the MONTH

Saint Ethernan: 2nd December

Ethernan, or Adrian as he is sometimes known, was probably Pictish in origin, born of noble parents. He was sent to study in Ireland and returned to Scotland in about 650, bringing with him a band of monks with whom he spread the faith of the gospels around the east coast of Scotland, especially Fife. He sought a heavenly reward in return for living a life of abstinence, the subjugation of carnal lusts and by removing the temptations of the world. He moved to the Isle of May, where he founded a primitive chapel, where a small religious community survived on what they could grow and on the milk from a few cows which they kept. They offered sanctuary to seamen who were wrecked on the island. He died in about 669. In later times the successors of the community burnt a light to warn seafarers of the dangers around the island; this became known as the light of St Ethernan.

Saint Ernan: 1st January

Ernan was an uncle of Columba and was one of the twelve who travelled to Iona with him. He was made abbot of Hinba, an island about which there has been much discussion; it could be Canna, or Jura, or Eilach an Naoimh, between Scarba and Mull, or none of these. He was only abbot for a few days. He had been told by Columba that, when he was leaving to go to Hinba, he did not expect to see him again in this life; several days later Ernan became sick and went back to Iona to see his nephew. When Columba was told his uncle had returned, he happily went to see him in the harbour; however, when they were only 50 yards apart, Columba's prophecy was fulfilled and Ernan fell down dead.

There are three other saints of this name, one of whom was a nephew of Columba, so stories are bound to become unclear.

A book for Advent? Muriel Palmer can recommend **Praying Advent** by Joan Mueller

(ISBN 978-1-56548-358-3)

Praying Advent can help busy souls prepare for the true Christmas season. The book is divided into four weeks, with a reading, reflection, and spiritual practice for each day. This month-long journey can beautify souls and awaken hearts to the presence of Emmanuel - God with us. © Joan Mueller

NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION

Meeting 15th November: Regional Rally

It was St Ninian's turn to host the annual Regional Rally this year; there were 28 members in total from St Ninian's and St John's, Dumfries. Sadly these are the only two groups still operating in the region. Canon David Bayne led a Eucharist service; the singing of the hymns was enhanced by the presence at the organ of Mr Maurice Till, the organist at St Ninian's. The service was followed by a lunch of soup (6 to choose from) and pudding, rounded off with tea/coffee. Entertainment of readings, poems, music and singing was led by the members of St Ninian's. The meeting concluded with the Grace.

Next month's meeting will be our **Christmas party** on **20th December**. The first meeting of 2017 will be on **17th January**, when the speaker will be the **Revd Joy Margerison**, who will deliver a talk entitled "**Of No Fixed Abode**".

Miranda Brignall

DALBEATTIE & KIRKGUNZEON WITH URR GUILD

I accepted the invitation put out by the Guild to the ladies of Christ Church to attend their meeting on 9th November. It was well worth it. There were about 30 ladies in attendance. We started by singing a hymn, then we listened to the speaker, Mhairi Hastings, who gave a very informative talk about the Savings Bank Museum at Ruthwell. Following this we took a collection and had tea.

The Church of Scotland Guild invites and encourages members to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in Worship, Prayer and Action. You do not have to be a worshipper at the Church of Scotland to be a member.

Meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m. (from October-March) at the Parish Church Centre in Dalbeattie.

MARY SMITH 1917-2016

For many years Mary was a member of Christ Church.

THE MISSING BEDROOM in remembrance of Mary Smith

One of the happiest times I spent with Mary Smith occurred in 2005. Gill Sinclair had the great idea for the three of us to spend a 'painting' week in Donegal, Ireland. She booked a self catering single storied old thatched cottage.

In the brochure it sounded ideal for our needs and it looked idyllic. It was dusk when we arrived. The cottage certainly looked picturesque. We found the key under a stone by the front door as arranged. So trusting!! The wee cottage had been described as having THREE bedrooms but we could only find TWO with a single bed in each. Where was the third? It was a worrying situation to be in and we were in a quandary what to do about it.

Then glancing upwards we spotted a covered hatch in the ceiling with a hook attached and in a corner a pole with another hook on the end. Hopefully the mystery of the missing bedroom was about to be solved. Pulling on the hook brought down a steep wooden ladder. Climbing up revealed, under very low eaves, a chair and another single bed. Praise the lord we now had a bed each to sleep in. The three of us were into our eighties but as Mary was the elder by nine years and Gill was recovering from a broken leg, I volunteered to be the one to climb up to bed then pull up the ladder after me. Fortunately my bladder was still in good nick.

The cottage consisted of one main living room in which to cook, dine and relax. Hanging from the ceiling was a lone electric bulb with a shortish string attached. We searched high and low for a switch to turn this light on and off, but to no avail. Consequently, standing on a chair then clambering onto a table to pull the string became the norm. Unfortunately we were all three rather short in stature. We returned home fitter!!

Everything that could go wrong in that cottage DID. Electrics, plumbing and cooker were unpredictable. It also poured with rain practically all week. But undeterred we set off each day (plus picnic) to paint. Wearing waterproofs, carrying collapsible seats, pads, paints and easels, we sat under dripping umbrellas hoping to produce a masterpiece. We then finished them off in the evening sat around the table under that single bulb.

The whole set up for a painting holiday for three old biddies couldn't have been a worse choice. But instead of moaning about it we embraced it and had a whale of a time. I have never laughed so much on a holiday in my whole life. It was a week of the greatest fun and one of the most unforgettable. The more things went wrong the more we giggled like schoolgirls. Mary, bless her, had a cheerful disposition, Gill was her usual serene unflappable self, whilst I had been brought up to muck in whatever the circumstances. Noth-

ing got us down or dampened our high spirits. Maybe we found roughing it at our time of life was an unexpected challenge for us to conquer and enjoy to the full, which we certainly did with gusto!

After returning home we did not make any complaints about the misrepresentation of the cottage. Its Irish eccentricities transformed our holiday into a quirky exciting adventure that we would not have changed one iota. We even managed to bring back some paintings of a magical Donegal, alas no masterpieces.

Thank you Gill and our late dear friend Mary for this unique experience.

Beryl Dowgill

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Ring and Candles are symbols of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Christ brings into the world. The Ring reminds us of the unbroken Love of God.. The greenery reminds us of the New Life of Christ. The Candles proclaim the Light of Christ coming into the world

The Christ Church wreath has five candles; three purple, one rose and one white.

One candle is lit on each Sunday during Advent at the beginning of the Eucharist Service. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle represents **Hope** or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle represents **Peace**.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink candle is lit. This candle represents **Joy**.

The fourth and last purple candle represents **Love** and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is lit. This candle represents the Light of Christ that has come into the world.

CHRIST CHURCH BAZAAR - 29TH OCTOBER 2016

Jane Greenwood, Convenor would like to thank everyone for making our Bazaar such a success. We had approximately 130 people through the door who enjoyed our stalls and delicious refreshments. I think we all did our little church proud as did the people of Dalbeattie and our visitors from Castle Douglas. We even had help from as far away as Port William. The total we made alters as more donations keep coming in, at the moment it's just over **£1,300**, which I think is a tremendous amount of money and thank you everybody for your generosity. The whole event took a tremendous amount of effort and work which I greatly appreciate. Luckily we have a good few months to recover before our next fundraising event.

Muriel Palmer on behalf of the congregation of Christ Church would like to thank Jane for all her hard work in making this Bazaar such a success. Thanks to Ron Newton for the photographs.



CHRIST CHURCH SALES 2017

PLANT SALE

Saturday, 20th May

Dalbeattie Town Hall

SUMMER SALE date to be confirmed

Colvend Public Hall

WINTER BAZAAR

Saturday, 19th November

Dalbeattie Town Hall



The doors open - let the fun begin



Sue manning the Vintage Stall



Grant & Revd Mark Smith looking serious ... as are Canon David Bayne & Edith



**Decisions,
Decisions
What shall we
have?**



Llyn with one of the raffle prizes

HOME ALONE!

Nicholas was left home alone earlier this month when I travelled south for a much needed R&R break. Nicholas really enjoys the first three days alone but then he starts to rattle round the house like a pea in a drum. My trip was book-ended by visits to two remarkable churches.



On arrival at Keswick the first place I visited on the Wednesday was the church of Keswick St John. I knew it was open all day and I also knew that it was possible to light a candle for loved ones. Their mid-week service is held on Thursdays so the following morning I went to Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel. The Votive Candle Stand is in the Chapel so I lit two candles and was able to watch them burning during the service. I was made most welcome and joined them for refreshments.

In between this church visit and the visit to the church of St Michael and All Angels, Arthuret near Longtown there was quite a bit of retail therapy - new clothes, things for the house and Christmas. Lots of time to read and time to recharge my batteries.

Leaving Penrith on Saturday morning I decided it would be more pleasant to travel to Gretna via the A6 rather than the M6 until Junction 42. It was a good decision, as I had set off early and the road was quiet. Seeing a sign for the Garden of Eden I just had to visit; and at the Fig Tree Café I had to have a cup of coffee, and as it was before 12 noon a free scone! The scone was fresh from the oven - yum.



On Sunday I went the church of St Michael and All Angels, Arthuret. Again, I was made most welcome and joined them for coffee after the service. I was given a copy of their Church magazine and I gave them a copy of our magazine. An invitation has been extended from their Church Warden, Jennifer Whyberd, to our Church to make a visit. The early church has connections with St Kentigern. Christ Church would fit into St Michael's several times over, it seemed a long way to the Altar rail. As their Vicar was on a three-month sabbatical the service was taken by a Lay Reader, Melvyn Rodgers, from Gretna.

There will be more about this wonderful church will in the next magazine.

Muriel Palmer

The Friends of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

For many years now I have attended the Friends of the Cathedral AGM weekend, always the last weekend in October. I wondered if the journey of four buses and a ferry would be too much for me this year. However, at the end of our wonderful Retreat in June I registered to come and am very pleased to have attended.

The AGM reports on all the activities that have happened during the last year, but especially the state of the Cathedral financially. For most of the existence of the College it has run at a loss, but three years ago started to make a slight profit. All Retreat Houses find difficulties with funding, and over the years many have closed. To keep the College 3 star status, as we are also a hotel, it was necessary this year to refurbish the rooms, new carpets and redecorating. This has cost many thousands of pounds and sadly has put us well and truly in debt. However, we trust that money will be found to enable this wonderful retreat house to continue. The Friends from all over the world help a little by paying just £15 for membership, there are about 200 of us, and we would like to increase this number. There are some leaflets at the back of our church for any of you who have not yet become a Friend, explaining the advantages and what is involved.

As well as helping to raise money an important part of the weekend is meeting up with friends from as far apart as South Uist, Wales and the South of England. We enjoy interesting talks, time to chat and renew friendships. Also, some of us enjoy walking along the wonderful coast and hills of the island. As always the food is delicious.

The Cathedral has a wonderful record for very good music, led by the Chaplain and Organist, Alistair. He taught music for many years and still does. This enables him to attract his pupils, many well known, to share their music with us. This year the **Glasgow Chamber Choir** came over, led by Frikki Walker, the Glasgow Cathedral organist and music leader. They, along with Alistair, provided a wonderful Service of Music and Words for All Souls Tide. In the 40 years I have visited Cumbrae, this is the first time that the weather has been perfect, no gales or rain. The morning I set off for home, I sat as dawn was breaking by the sea with a glorious sky, the pink clouds reflected in the calm sea, I am glad I came.

Rev'd Beryl Scott

ANOTHER HOLIDAY GEM



St Margaret's Church, Aberlour

During our recent stay in Moray we were intrigued, while visiting Charlestown of Aberlour (population about 1,000), to see a sign for the local Episcopal Church soon after entering the town. We drove up the 100-yard long tree-lined driveway to find a wonderful 1875 church which was far bigger than any other Episcopal church we have come across. Fortunately we stumbled across a churchyard working group, which meant we were able to enter the church, which would normally have been closed. We were made to feel very

welcome by two ladies of the congregation, who told us that the church was built as a place of worship for the children and staff of Aberlour Orphanage, which closed in 1967 and the buildings demolished.

The church is in the diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness and holds weekly Sunday services, sometimes led by the bishop, who is the rector. The building is grade A listed. We were given coffee and a brief history of the church and orphanage. They allowed us to take photographs and also gave us a copy of a booklet about the history of the orphanage, which we shall share with you in the next couple of magazines.

Just to give you a taste of what life was like for the orphans, here are some memories of some of them:

“If you were very bad you were told to clean all the brass in the church.”

“If you sang a wrong note you were sent behind the organ to pump air into it.”

“One real complaint of mine was the church and all the prayers. You had them at breakfast, dinner, tea, supper and bedtime. You had to learn a verse of a psalm and if you could not say it off by heart you got the belt.”

“The services were often conducted by Wolfie (Canon Wolfe, the Warden of the Orphanage for over 30 years). He had two black labrador dogs called Spey and Lour. They attended every service and, on arrival, headed for the altar, where they lay for the duration of the service.”

Graham and Miranda Brignall

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Hope is a gift of the Holy Spirit which, with faith and love, is an essential characteristic of a Christian when prophecies, tongues and knowledge pass away.

1 Corinthians 13: 8-13

The Greek noun *elpis*, with its related verb *elpizo*, usually rendered as hope, occur 54 and 31 times respectively in the New Testament. The biblical concept of hope is not mere expectation and desire, but includes:

Confidence	Romans 15: 13
Christ as our hope	Colossians 1: 24-27 and 1 Timothy 1:1-2
Hopes for redemption	Romans 8: 22-25
Blessed hope	Titus 1: 1-3; 2: 11-14
Hope and purity	1 John 3: 1-3
Hope and faith	Hebrews 11: 1-3 and 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19

Hope is not spoken of in the Gospels, while Jesus was on Earth, or in Revelation.

Paul was animated by hope. Acts 26: 4-8; 28 : 17-20

New Testament hope has its roots deep in the Old Testament; in the King James version hope translates a variety of Hebrew words meaning, for example, confidence, trust and safety.

Some Old Testament references to hope:

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1; Ruth 1: 8-13; Job 8: 11-13; Job 27: 7-10

Psalms 39: 7-9; Psalms 119: 114-117; Psalms 146: 5-6

Proverbs 13:12; Proverbs 26: 12

Ecclesiastes 9: 1-4 and Jeremiah 31: 16-17

Feral Choir Midwinter Turning Concerts 2016

Saturday 17th December, 4.00 p.m., Colvend Public Hall.

Tickets £8 available from Colvend Shop

Sunday 18th December, 2.00 p.m. Moffatt Town Hall.

Tickets £5 available from the Moffat Tourist Information Office

& **6.30 p.m., Threave Visitor Centre.** Tickets £8 available from Jenny Wren Toy Shop, Castle Douglas.

Statement of Belief for Inclusive Church

"We believe in an Inclusive Church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

At the AGM held on the 6th November, the idea of affiliating Christ Church with the organisation 'Inclusive Church' (IC) was discussed, but a decision postponed until the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in December, to allow people more time to look at what is involved.

The organisation is basically a loose affiliation of congregations and individuals who are in agreement with the above Statement of Belief, and who are concerned to develop ways of ministry which break down the barriers which can keep particular groups of people from joining the church. Originating within the Church of England in 2003 the organisation now includes various denominations, and is keen to develop its network within Scotland. They provide training materials and support for congregations to understand some of the issues which may exclude or alienate particular groups of people, so we can create the most welcoming and supportive atmosphere possible. As a congregation, Christ Church works hard at being welcoming to all – this is part of our Mission Action Plan – so being a part of this wider grouping might be a useful way of building on what we are already aiming to do. Joining IC costs us nothing and would not only give us access to their various resources, but place us on their register of Inclusive Churches (a useful resource for folk who have had negative experiences in the past) and provide us with a plaque to display as a sign of our commitment to all manner of people.

There are leaflets outlining the work of IC at the back of the church, and you can read all about them at www.inclusive-church.org

At the AGM, some questions were raised which I felt it worth addressing here.

1. There are many worthy groups – we can't join them all!

Most groups are closely allied to one particular cause – e.g. children's welfare, poverty relief etc. - but Inclusive Church seems to embody the very crux of the Gospel; that all people everywhere are welcome within the kingdom and that we need to guard against erecting barriers which would prevent folk who differ from ourselves from becoming fully integrated into the Body of Christ. We are not a 'holy huddle' standing aloof from those outside, but a fellowship of imperfect human beings reaching out to share the hope set before us with all who need it.

2. Why do we need a plaque to say we welcome everyone?

Sadly, the Church does not tend to have the image of being particularly open and inclusive towards many in society. Many people are used to being labelled and marginalised by 'the establishment', and associate the church with those kind of attitudes. Historically, churches have been seen as the preserve of white, middle class people who look down on those who do not fit their standards – an impression which, in some cases, has (and can still be)

been justified by what people see and hear. I am sure many of us have invited someone to church who has replied “I wouldn't fit in – they wouldn't want someone like me there” and others who have stories of being let down or rejected by churches in the past. However, the Gospels demonstrate that the Church is designed to offer hope to precisely such marginalised individuals. If we, as a congregation, are serious in our resolve to reflect this message by doing our utmost to ensure all comers can find a safe and nurturing place among us, then we need to take every opportunity to make that known.

3. Joining I.C. may cause offence to some.

If as a congregation we truly believe in welcoming and affirming all manner of people, then anyone joining us who does not share those values will eventually become angered, frustrated or upset by our acceptance of some individual or group that they do not believe belong within the church. To be up front about what we believe and why will mean people are aware from the outset of what we stand for, and can choose whether or not to join us on that basis, rather than assuming we see things as they do and then being offended when they realise otherwise. If we believe something is right, then we should not be afraid to say so, even at the risk of upsetting someone else's sensibilities – perhaps our speaking up may even help them re-evaluate things. We might ask how Jesus would react in a similar situation.

When I go to St Ninian's, Castle Douglas I like to sit at the back, on the right-hand side so that I can read the inscription on the stained glass window. MP

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

Christ Church, Dalbeattie Mothers' Union Concert c1980. Thanks are due to Sam Kelly for sharing this photograph on our Facebook page and to the families of the ladies for identifying them.



The caption to this photo reads: A big hit with the audience, and his fellow artistes, was the Rev Ian Stockton, the rector of Christ Church, Dalbeattie, when he bravely donned the kilt for his part in the Mothers' Union concert in the Church Hall last Wednesday and Thursday nights. Accompanying him is fiddler Mr Larry Gibb.

Thanks to Sally Shaw for putting names to the faces; Ann Kennedy was the mother of Sally and her sister Elaine A White.

The standing ladies: Ann Kennedy; Rita Richardson; Mary Foster. Betsy McQuarrie, Cissy Obern & Mrs Swan

The kneeling ladies L-R: Lillian Penny, Vera Storey; Catherine Morris & Anne Dewar. (I hope I have got the names right.; any mistakes will be corrected. MP)

Jennifer Edkins, from Christ Church, writes "I remember Catherine Morris, Mary Foster and some of the other names familiar to me but cannot quite place the faces. What a lovely remembrance of Christ Church past. Be lovely to see more photos."

Thanks to Michelle Storey for sharing this photograph on our Facebook page and to Bernard Loughran for putting names to faces.



1 Wilma Philips; 2 Betty McGhie; 3 Leila McQuarrie; 4 Roy Foster; 5 Ann Marr; 6 ? McLurg; 7 Sandy Johnston; 8 ??; 9 Sylvia Marriot; 10 Lillias Marriot; 11 ??; 12 Edward McLurg; 13 Elizabeth Walsh; 14 Charlie Kean; 15 Rev McDougall; 16 ??; 17 ??; 18 Kenny ?; 19 Nina Foster; 20 Jimmy Johnston

Bernard writes that all these people were in the Choir the same time as me and as the photo seems to be cropped I suspect that my brother and I are on the wings.

I hope I have got the names right; any mistakes will be corrected. Can you fill in any of the blanks? If so we will be delighted to hear from you. Contact Miranda: Tel: 01556 610409; E-mail: g.brignall14@btinternet.com

Note: the underlined name has been identified since the printing of the magazine.

Have you a photograph that can be shared with our readers? I have only been a member of Christ Church since 2012 so it is wonderful to see life as it was back in the day, MP

Roucan Loch Woodland Burial Site

The inspirational *Roucan Loch Woodland Burial Site* allows coffin interment and a return to nature for those who wish to be laid to rest amongst wildflowers with the sound of animals and birdsong close by.

The serene site which is just over three miles from the centre of Dumfries, overlooks tranquil waters where abundant wildlife, calming birdsong and panoramic views of the rolling Dumfriesshire landscape offer a natural final resting place.

Roucan Loch Woodland Burial Site is unique. It is the first site in the country which has been pre-planted with native trees including rowan, birch and alder. Each tree becomes a living memorial in place of a traditional headstone and each plot allows loved ones to lie side by side in the peaceful woodland.

Through the changing seasons the beauty of nature is timeless; the golden daffodils and the blossoms of spring, the sun-dappled, leafy shade of summer, the stunning blaze of autumn glory and the frosted patterns on bare branches in winter.

Gradually, over the years the woodland will develop, with an abundance of wildlife making its home amongst the trees and carpet of wild flowers.

Roucan Loch Woodland Burial Site is in effect a nature reserve, providing peace of mind for the family as the site will remain a protected natural environment in perpetuity.



Visiting the site

Roucan Loch is open daily and you are invited to experience for yourself its beauty at weekends between 10am-4pm. No appointment is necessary. From Dumfries follow the A709 Dumfries to Lockerbie Road for approx. 1 mile until signposted Roucan Loch.

Pre-purchase

At Roucan Loch we offer the opportunity to personally select a tree and pre-purchase a site. For further details please contact: Roucan Loch Office, Three Crowns Court, Town Centre, Dumfries, DG1-1HU Tel: 01387 266 749 (8am-5pm Monday-Friday) www.roucanlochcrematorium.co.uk

What's On in December 2016 & January 2017

at Christ Church and District

DECEMBER 2016

<u>Thursday, 1st</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Saturday, 3rd</u>	10 for 10.30 a.m.	Advent Quiet Day (see back cover)
<u>Sunday, 4th</u>	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
<u>Monday, 5th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Study Group at Islecroft House
<u>Tuesday, 6th</u>	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Barlochan Care Home
	1.45 p.m.	TAG Study Group at 3 Blair Street
<u>Thursday, 8th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Sunday, 11th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong at St Ninian's, CD
<u>Tuesday, 13th</u>	10 a.m.-12 noon	Hard of Hearing Drop-in-Clinic In the Church Hall.
<u>Thursday, 15th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Sunday, 18th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	2.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Service at Munches Care Home.
	All welcome.	
<u>Monday, 19th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Study Group at Islecroft House
<u>Tuesday, 20th</u>	12.30 p.m.	Mothers' Union Christmas Party at St Ninian's, CD
<u>Thursday, 22nd</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>	see back cover	
<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>	see back cover	
<u>Monday, 26th</u>	tbc	St Stephen
<u>Tuesday, 27th</u>	tbc	Holy Innocents
<u>Wednesday, 28th</u>	tbc	St John
<u>Thursday, 29th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Jane Greenwood asks that when tidying our gardens and sheds that if we come across anything that is suitable for a garden recycling vintage stall can we please bring them to church.

Jane will collect if needed; Tel: 01556 611144

JANUARY 2017

<u>Sunday, 1st</u>	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Thursday, 5th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Sunday, 8th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong at St Ninian's, CD
Tuesday, 10th	10 a.m.-12 noon	Hard of Hearing Drop-in-Clinic In the Church Hall.
	tbc	TAG Study Group at 3 Blair Street
<u>Thursday, 12th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	tbc	Chat & Craft
<u>Sunday, 15th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	2.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Service at Munches Care Home.
	All welcome.	
Monday, 16th	10.30 a.m.	Study Group at Islecroft House
Tuesday, 17th	12.30 p.m.	Mothers' Union at St Ninian's, CD.
	Speaker Revd Joy Margerison "Of No Fixed Abode"	
<u>Thursday, 19th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Sunday, 22nd</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
<u>Thursday, 26th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Sunday, 29th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	7.00 p.m.	Service in the Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's,
	Castle Douglas	
Tuesday, 31st	12.45 p.m.	Galloway Regional Council meeting in the
	Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's, CD.	
	Refreshments 1.00 p.m.; Meeting 1.30 p.m.	
	2.30 p.m.	Julian Meeting at Savat

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, February 7th **Theological Reflection Meeting**, at 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. in the Maxwell Hall, St Peter's Church, Dalbeattie. The talk will be about the **Columba Declaration**, speaker to be advised

Saturday, March 4th **Diocesan Synod 2017** at the Barony Campus, Dumfries. Details to follow.

Christ Church, Blair Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire

Scottish Charity Number SC010918

www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk

Christ Church has a Facebook page

From the Editorial Team:

To date we have received only one written return to our appeal for constructive feedback about the magazine. Without your input major changes are unlikely to be made; however perhaps you are happy with the way things are.

The Editorial Team does not have a monopoly on ideas and is happy to consider all serious suggestions.

Contact: Miranda T: 01556 610409; E: g.brignall14@btinternet.com

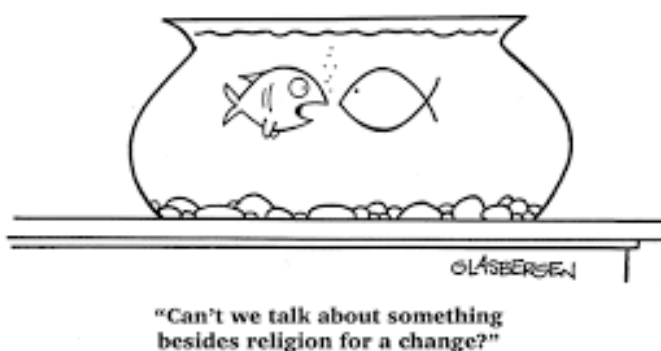
or Muriel T: 01556 630314; E: muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com

Cut off date for copy for the February 2017 magazine is **18th February, 2017.**

A country preacher decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs.

With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "O Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish - make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!"

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: *"Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive."*



Have you an image or a 'funny' you could share with our readers?

Friday-Sunday, 2-4th December

Christmas Tree Festival at St John's, Dumfries DG1 1LW. £3 per adult; children free. Refreshments available.

Friday & Saturday - 10am-9pm

Sunday - 2pm-4pm

All proceeds donated to Aberlour Childcare Trust

ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday, December 3rd

10 for 10.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Advent: an end and a beginning.

Advent Quiet Day at St Ninian's, CD. The day will be led by Bishop Gregor.

ADVENT TALKS 2016

Canon David Bayne will be giving a series of four Advent talks entitled "**The Supporting Cast of Advent,**" on Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m. in the Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's, CD. The talks will be repeated at 11.00 a.m. on Thursdays at Christ Church, Dalbeattie (except for the first one).

November 30th Angels and Archangels: Gabriel and Friends.

December 7th The Mighty : Augustus Caesar and Herod the Great

December 14th The Humble : Mary and Joseph

December 21st The Herald : John the Baptist

On **December 21st** at 4pm singers from Christ Church will be singing **Carols at the Cross**, High Street, Dalbeattie. If anyone is interested contact Anthony (01556 612322)

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

Christmas Eve

4.00 p.m. Christingle
St Ninian's, CD

7.00 p.m. Carol Service
Christ Church

11.30 p.m.

First Eucharist of Christmas

St Ninian's, CD

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

Followed by at 11.45 a.m.

Said Service of Holy Communion at St
Ninian's