

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW & GALLOWAY

CHRIST CHURCH, DALBEATTIE



Snowdrops are known as Candlemas Bells

ISSUE N° 20

FEBRUARY 2017

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
	Vacancy	
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



*As many of you already know, **Bishop Gregor** suffered a stroke at the beginning of January. We received this update of the Bishop's recovery from the Dean on the 27th January.*

Bishop Gregor has made excellent progress this week in hospital and he is much improved. He is preparing to be discharged home early next week. Thank you for the many messages of prayer and support.

Complete rest and physiotherapy will continue and although the prospects for a return to his duties are very good it is unlikely that this will happen within the next three months.

Bishop Gregor is content for the College of Bishops to discuss the appointment of a Commissary offering episcopal oversight to our Diocese. The Dean is, of course, available to offer advice and assistance in the usual way and will liaise with an appointed Commissary.

Bishop Gregor is looking forward to welcoming visitors to his home but to help these arrangements please contact Christine Hughes at the Diocesan Office, 5 Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DH

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral	30 th November, 2016	Joyce McDougal	(d. 21 st Nov 2016)
Memorial Service	20 th January, 2017	Kathleen (Kay) Gasser	(d. 4 th Jan 2017)
Memorial Service	27 th January, 2017	Alice Taylor	(d. 12 th Jan 2017)
Funeral	31 st January, 2017	Christopher Charlton	(d. 16 th Jan 2017)

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

A prayer from the Scottish Prayer Book for those who have died:

O Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY already!

2nd is Candlemas, a day which marks a definite change in daylight hours as sunrise gets obviously earlier, a time of looking forward with hope to the approaching spring. For Christians it's the day when we remember the young Jesus being presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph and the response of two older people, Simeon and Anna, who recognised the fulfilment of scriptures in the child before them and saw the dawning of hope for the world.

As we begin to sense the approach of summer and our spirits are lifted by longer days, warmer sun, and emerging plants we are aware of the fresh start which comes each year through the cycle of the seasons. Let us be thankful to God, who set the world in motion and gave it life – abundant life in all its forms. As we thank God for what He has given us we respond in how we live our own lives.

We need His grace and His Spirit to stir our hearts to live in His way and reflect His love for the world shown in Jesus. This is the true worship He desires from His people.

6th is Accession Day – the anniversary of the Queen taking the throne on the death of her father. Since that day she has faced many ups and downs as a wife, mum, grandmother and great-grandmother to one of the most publicised families on the planet. She has also been steadfast through the national and international crises which have threatened to overwhelm us. At the heart of her sense of duty is the belief that God has called her to the position she is in and that she serves Him by serving others. A fine example for us all.

On the **12th** we will be including part of the **Methodist Covenant Service** in our worship and welcoming Rev. Joy Margerison* (retired Methodist Minister) to preach. The Covenant Service is used by Methodists every year to re-commit themselves to God and His service. We will use it to re-focus on Jesus and His example of service and love, welcome Him into our lives and promise to live by His teachings and (in His words) love our neighbours as ourselves.

Shrove Tuesday (28th) is the final day of excess before the sober thoughtfulness of Lent. Enjoy your pancakes and whatever else adorns them - just be careful not to stick them to the ceiling whilst flipping! Apart from the usual chocolates, booze and hang-gliding, is there anything YOU need to be freed from in order for God's light to fill your life?

May God Bless you

NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH

INCLUSIVE CHURCH

It had been suggested by Anthony Duncalf that Christ Church should become affiliated to the organisation **Inclusive Church**. At the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation, held on Sunday, 6th November 2016, opinions were expressed both in favour and against the suggestion and it was agreed to put the matter to a secret ballot at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Congregation. This meeting was held on Sunday, 4th December, 2016. The ballot was conducted by our Rector, Canon David Bayne, the result was 10 against and 8 for the proposal.

ADVENT

Our **Advent Quiet Day**, held on Saturday, 4th December at St Ninian's, CD. was led by **Bishop Gregor**. **Advent: an end and a beginning**. As always the Bishop guided us thorough what was a peaceful and inspiring day.

Canon David Bayne gave four Advent talks about '**The Supporting Cast of Advent**'. **Angels and Archangels** - Gabriel and Friends; **The Mighty** - Augustus Caesar and Herod the Great; **The Humble** - Mary and Joseph and **The Herald** - John the Baptist. And, David, as always gave us food for thought.

CHRISTMAS

A report on our Facebook page reads: "The Carol Service on Christmas Eve was a great start to the festive weekend - lovely to see the Church so full, with well over 40 people attending. Some rousing singing of familiar carols, plus a couple of less familiar offerings from the Singing Group, and an inspiring sermon from Revd Mark Smith - in beautifully decorated surroundings. Thanks to all involved!"

On Christmas Day, Christ Church's Festival Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. was well-attended with many family members joining are usual Congregation.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



Thanks to Ron Newton for this beautiful photograph of the Wise Men in the stable. For those readers who are not familiar with Christ Church it should be noted that the stable is under the Altar; so when going to the Altar Rail for Communion you can imagine yourself kneeling in front of the new-born Babe.

MAIN POINTS FROM VESTRY MEETING, 27TH JANUARY 2017

Our Honorary Secretary, Sue Thomas, reports:

- An **Away Day** for the congregation has been arranged for Friday 10th March, 10 - 4 pm. Proposed venue Education Room, Threave Gardens, Castle Douglas (tbc). There is a sign up list at the back of church for those wishing to attend. The aim is to look ahead to the future of Christ Church. The moderator will be the Revd Canon Drew Sheridan
- **Bishop's Visit** It was hoped that Bishop Gregor would be visiting Christ Church in February. Owing to his recent ill-health this is now in abeyance. His recovery will take at least 3 - 6 months.
- **The work on the tower** is progressing well, although a finish date is not currently known. There are plans to celebrate completion of the work, probably Easter 2017.
- **Ann McWilliam**, our MAP facilitator, is currently receiving treatment for breast cancer.
- **Forthcoming church sales**—see page 18
- The **World Day of Prayer** will be hosted this year in **Christ Church** at 7 pm on Friday 3rd March. Julie Dennison is coordinating the event.
- The Balliol Consort **are to perform in Christ Church on 25th April at 7 pm.**



1 Scaffolding going up!

2 Tower coming done!

Have you any building photographs you could share with us?



NEWS FROM THE REGION



 **Poppy Scotland**

Janet Gillespie (a member of St Ninian's, Castle Douglas and St Ninian's Mother's Union) has received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for her charitable service, after having spent more than 60 years volunteering for **Poppy Scotland**. Janet first began selling poppies in 1952 and retired last year. She was the Appeal Area Organiser for Crossmichael and Parton. In addition to ensuring her local area always had poppies and tins each November, Janet also opened her garden to the public to show off a mass of snowdrops, raising even more for Poppy Scotland in the process.

She was awarded the Poppy Scotland President's Award in November 2015. Despite turning 94 earlier this year she continues to help her successor raise vital funds for the Armed Forces community in Scotland.

Poppy Scotland's Head of Fundraising Gordon Michie said: "This is richly deserved recognition for one of our longest serving and most remarkable volunteers. The Scottish Poppy Appeal simply couldn't happen without the dedicated support of our army of volunteer collectors and Area Organisers. Janet is an example to us all having dedicated much of her adult life to ensure those left disadvantaged by their Service receive the life-changing support they urgently need

Although a new Area Organiser has taken on the role in Crossmichael and Parton, there are many other areas of Scotland where we desperately need new volunteers to come forward. We hope Janet's incredible story will inspire others to get involved so we can continue to provide the vital support many in our Armed Forces community need."

For more information on volunteering with Poppy Scotland visit
www.poppyscotland.org.uk/volunteer

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

This article about political engagement in churches has been copied from the winter edition of *Inspires*.

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church recently met with Deputy First Minister John Swinney as part of the project *Meet your MSP* set up recently by the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO).

Bishop David said: “I was grateful for the opportunity of meeting Deputy First Minister John Swinney in Perth. Clergy and public representatives have different roles and functions – but they share a deep involvement with people of all kinds and with their hopes, concerns and aspirations. Our meeting allowed time for discussion of some immediate concerns. I was able to share something of the positive journey of the Scottish Episcopal Church in responding to the Scottish Government’s Same Sex Marriage provisions. John Swinney was very sensitive to the way in which faith communities are challenged in their internal unity by such matters. We also talked about the way in which faith communities respond to issues such as Scottish independence. Faith and identity often meet together within churches and other faith communities. Questions about Scottish independence have a significant impact on peoples’ understanding of who they are at the deepest level.”

Chloe Clemmons, SCPO Parliamentary Officer, said: “MSPs have the power to impact our lives in very significant ways and getting to know them early in their term in office is a great way to start a relationship that will hopefully be beneficial to both churches and MSPs for years to come.”

The SCPO project aims to reach all 129 MSPs and connect them with churches in their area.

What I kept, I lost. What I spent, I had. What I gave, I have.

Persian Proverb

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Saint Finan: 17th February

Finan finds his way onto our list because, although he was Irish by birth, he was trained on Iona. In 651 he became Aidan’s successor as Bishop of Lindisfarne. While there he built a cathedral using hewn oak, with a thatched roof, dedicated to St Peter. He is specially noticed by Bede as having played an important part in converting the northern Saxons. In the breviary of Aberdeen he is described as “a man of venerable life, a bishop of great sanctity, an eloquent teacher, remarkable for his training in virtue and his liberal education, surpassing all his equals in every manner of knowledge as well as in circumspection and prudence, but chiefly devoting himself to good works and presenting, in his life, a most apt example of virtue”.

His chief foundation was the abbey at Whitby. He died in 661 at Lindisfarne, where he was buried.

Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

Mark Twain

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Dear All at Christ Church,

On behalf of the Mission to Seafarers Scotland I would like to send a huge thank you to you for all of the knitted items I have recently received from Muriel and to say how much your thoughtfulness is appreciated when I know you would have all been busy with your Christmas preparations.

I hope, that like Jim and I you all had a really enjoyable, restful time with friends and family. I certainly needed a rest after lots of Christmas meals with various groups throughout December and with all the Christmas services I needed to prepare for, my favourite, our service at Mochrum of Nine Lessons and Carols complete with a silver band.

But, as we got nearer to that special day we thought too of the seafarers for whom the festive season was spent far away from the comforts of home, family and friends. They continued to work bringing food for our tables, toys for the children and grit for our roads. Yet few will have spared a thought for, or even realized the loneliness that would have haunted them on Christmas Day. The opportunities that our Mission Centres provide for uninterrupted phone calls and internet communication with family are so precious to them and it is your support which makes this possible.

I encourage you all to keep the knitting needles clicking whenever you are able and I take this opportunity to wish you and those whom you love, a peaceful, prosperous and healthy New Year. Thank you for ensuring that seafarers have received these warm knitted items when they are needed the most.

You all remain very much in our prayers.

Jennifer K Gray, Trustee/Director, MtoS Scotland

Visit their website for more information about the Mission

www.missiontoseafarers.org



There is a box in Church with wool, needles and patterns for this project (and for the squares for the Healing Blankets).

Alice Taylor who died earlier this month knitted 12 hats for the Mission—our best knitter for the Mission to date. MP



The following article has been copied, with permission from the Winter 2016 edition of St Ninian's Review. The Revd Joy Margerison is a Methodist Associate at St Ninian's and she wrote this article in response to questions from some members of their congregation.

"A MAN CALLED WESLEY PASSED THIS WAY" METHODISM AND THE METHODIST PEOPLE

The Methodist Church is a non-conformist denomination and part of the world-wide Christian Church. Beyond our own shores it is strong today in America, the Caribbean and parts of Africa. So, to explain briefly

We recite the same Creed as the Church here – especially the Apostles Creed but also, on occasion, the Nicene Creed. We regularly celebrate Holy Communion/Eucharist, sometimes called The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We have our ordained clergy, of which I am one. Likewise, we believe in and practise infant baptism, and most of our buildings are registered for the conducting of marriage services.

We place great emphasis on pastoral care as each member has the support of a lay pastoral leader as well as that of the Minister. There is emphasis too on the "social Gospel" which has led and still leads Methodists to be involved in community work and the so-called "caring professions." In the past this also meant that they were part of the socialist cause, becoming involved in the formation of the Trade Union movement and in politics. As a matter of interest, both my grandfathers were committed to local politics – "doing their bit," they would say, to change things for the better. The Methodist people are known for their love of hymn singing, which plays an important part in our worship tradition.

So, how did it all begin? Many books have been written about this subject, so here's just a glimpse of it. The Revd John Wesley (born 1703) was a very traditional Anglican clergyman from Lincolnshire and educated at Oxford until, one evening in 1738 in London, he attended a Christian gathering at the end of which he was fired by a greater enthusiasm for the Gospel, was renewed in Spirit and felt empowered to bring new life to the Anglican Church. "I felt my heart strangely warmed," he later wrote, "and that I, even I, was saved through faith in Jesus Christ." His brother Charles, the writer of hundreds of hymns, many of which we still sing, had a similar experience some time later. At that time the Anglican Church was felt by the ordinary people to be exclusive – part of the "establishment," in which they had no place or voice. Wesley set out to change all that and to "spread Scriptural holiness throughout the land." The powers-that-be in the Anglican Church were not in sympathy with Wesley's ideal and so, after preaching a final

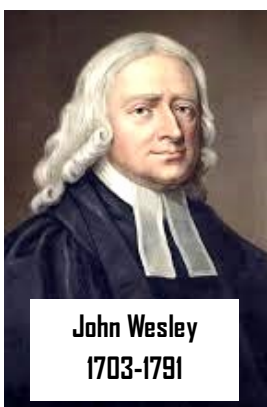
sermon in Christ Church, Oxford, John Wesley began his outdoor mission, which continued until his death in 1791 – his final words being, “The best of all is, God is with us.”

So it was that the Revd John Wesley rode 100,000 miles on horseback, criss-crossing the land with his message that, “ALL NEED to be saved and all CAN be saved.” The ordinary people, often living in poverty – both rural and industrial – rediscovered the Gospel which meant something to them. As Wesley preached it, this Gospel was all-inclusive as the Lord Jesus meant it to be. They knew and believed that the love of God is for all and for each so that, regardless of wealth or social status, all are of equal value in the eyes of God. Through Wesley’s preaching and that of his growing number of preachers – including his brother Charles, also an ordained Anglican clergyman – ordinary folk were given a sense of value, the assurance of God’s love for them, so that lives were transformed and communities changed – both morally and spiritually.

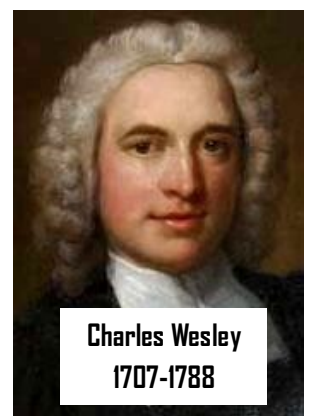
John Wesley, as a committed Anglican, never intended this evangelical revival to become a separate denomination. For him it was to be a revivalist movement within the Anglican Church. But, once on the move, it took on its own momentum. He encouraged people to attend Church in the morning and a fellowship group in the afternoon. The name “Methodist” was not chosen by Wesley, but thrust upon them (as he said) due to the commitment and discipline of those who became part of this wave of revival.

It has been said that the Methodist revival saved the nation from a revolution such as that seen in France at the same time, as value and hope were offered, not through conflict and national breakdown but through the assurance of God’s love in Jesus, experienced by the poor and voiceless, who formed the majority of people across the land. Equally, John Wesley has been described as the “single most influential Protestant leader of the English-speaking world since the Reformation.”

All this is really the tip of the iceberg, but more will have to be left for another time. Needless to say, Methodism is in my DNA and Methodist people have much to offer to the wider Church. Over the twenty five years of my ordained ministry, I have worked in several ecumenical situations in which ministry is shared with the Anglican Church and others, too, in a creative way.



“Don’t go to those who need you,” Wesley encouraged his ministers and people, but, “Go to those who need you most;” – a powerful call to us today as we seek to serve the Church and the world in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



MOTHER'S UNION

Our **Christmas Party** was held on the **21st December**, we dined well on soup and puds - delicious. We celebrated with Christmas Crackers and entertainment from many of our talented members. We ended the party by singing Carols.



The speaker at our meeting on the **17th January** was the **Revd Joy Margerison**, a member of St Ninian's and the MU. She gave a most interesting snapshot of her time as a Methodist minister.

Joy started her talk by saying that she does not do 'PowerPoint' but she does do 'visual display'. The photograph shows the one she set up for her talk, in front of the MU table

A few words here cannot do justice to her talk which all members agreed went far too fast.

See centre pages for an article written by Joy about Methodism.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 21st February** when our speaker will be Bishop Gordon Mursell.

In the last magazine I wrote about my visit to the **Church of St Michael and All Angels**. The site is known to have had a church since the 6th Century AD I was fascinated to learn of the connection to Kentigern who was to become a Bishop of Glasgow.

The current church dates from 1609 and was built under instruction and through national subscription on the order of King James VI (Scotland) and I (England). The building is certainly not reflective of other village churches of the same age in the region. It is indeed a statement and would have been and still is, an imposing landmark. There is a large churchyard with an old section on the South side and a relatively new area on the North side. Steep steps at the west of the church, lead down to St. Michael's Well which was used for baptisms until the 1970s.

The area is steeped in Arthurian legend and a plaque explaining the history of Arthuret Church lays a strong claim to this being the place of King Arthur burial.

Nearby at **Solway Moss** is the site of the Battle, fought between the English and the Scots on 24th November, 1542. this devastating battle resulted in English victory over the Scots.

Have you a church whose history you could share with our readers?

Muriel Palmer

In December I went to a talk from the organisation **Christians Against Poverty** (CAP) held at Colvend Church Hall. CAP help over 29,000 people a year through their free debt help, job clubs, release groups and CAP Money Courses.



CAP Money Course: in an earlier magazine we were advised that **Galloway Christian Centre**, Dalbeattie offer this course. It is a free course that teaches budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that works. In just a few weeks, people will get to grips with their finances so they can budget, save and prevent debt.

Debt Help is available at the **New Life Community Church**, Castle Douglas. For those feeling weighed down by debt, there is always help. Their friendly team will provide a listening ear in the privacy of a person's home and provide a real solution to their debts.

A **CAP Job Club** is held at the **River of life Church**, Dumfries. Job Clubs are friendly places where practical help is given when looking for employment. They provide a relaxed environment with the chance to meet other jobseekers, get support and gain the tools needed to find work. Twenty-five per-cent of job club attendees find work.

For more information visit their website - www.capuk.org or telephone 01274 760720

Muriel Palmer

Candlemas: the date of February 2nd places the Candelaria celebration forty days after Christmas and continues the religious cycle that leads up to Easter Sunday. It is the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. This is the basis for various ancient European celebrations that commemorate the annual beginnings of the agricultural season.

For the Church, however, Candelaria remains a day of **hope** and **light**. It is a time to honour the Lord as the **Light of the World** and to remind us that we too have that light within us. Candles that are lit during Candlemas symbolize Jesus as the "light of the world". According to Christian belief it celebrates the presentation of the child Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple; and the Virgin Mary's purification.

Some Christians observe the practice of leaving Christmas decorations up until Candlemas. Snowdrops are known as Candlemas Bells because they often bloom early in the year, even before Candlemas. The superstitious used to believe that these flowers should not be brought into the house prior to Candlemas, however, it is also believed that snowdrops purify a home.

THE ABERLOUR ORPHANAGE



Charles Jupp was born in Sussex in 1830. As a young man he took part in school and parochial work and, following the advice of several friends, he took Holy Orders. His first appointment was as a curate in Clay Cross (Derbyshire), where his pastoral work won him many friends. He then moved to Newcastle for 18 months; on the death of the incumbent he was begged to assume the position, but he decided, instead, to move to Houghton-le-Spring, where he stayed for 3 years before poor health caused him to move somewhere with more bracing air. At this point he was asked by Miss Macpherson-Grant, of Aberlour, who was a complete stranger to him, to become her private chaplain; this was refused, but following a renewal of the offer, he accepted, on condition that a church, parsonage and school should be erected as soon as possible. Thus, in June 1874, Rev Jupp began his work in Aberlour. St Margaret's Church was built on land gifted by Miss Macpherson-Grant and dedicated in February 1877. At about this time Charles Jupp began the project he had long had in mind --- the provision of a home for poor and friendless children. A start was made with 4 children.



Soon afterwards a dramatic development occurred, with the death of Miss Macpherson-Grant; fortunately a Mr Grant (no relation) left £8000 for church purposes, some of which was able to be used for the orphanage. The first part built provided accommodation for 25 children, but the original design was for a composite block to provide accommodation for 200 to 300 children and attendants, divided into 5 sections. The burden of raising funds was overwhelming. However, this did not deter Charles Jupp, who set about touring Scotland begging for donations. He offered to take Sunday duty for any rector willing to allow him to plead the cause of the orphan, on condition of receiving the collection. He then spent the next few days visiting all the members of the congregation and others in the neighbourhood, with a view to enlisting their generosity. After about 20 years the main block included a mortuary chapel, nurseries, kitchen, laundry, dining-hall, storeroom and bedrooms.

In June 1890 Rev Jupp suffered a serious illness, which almost took his life; fortunately he was spared and he returned to his work, not going off to recuperate until 8 months later. The orphanage was kept going in his absence, despite a debt of £5000 on the new buildings. When he returned to his duties it was resolved to wipe off the debt and the sum was soon raised. Further funds enabled 35 acres of land to be purchased, on which he built a steading, and he was finally persuaded to take on an assistant in running the

orphanage.

In 1904 further accommodation was required, as the orphanage had become so well-known. As a result of generous supporters enough money was forthcoming to build a hospital, and a large bequest was made to yield sufficient income to support the annual maintenance of 100 children.

Canon Jupp died in 1911; he believed firmly that every child has the ability to grow up and flourish in society, no matter what the origins of their birth. In the lifetime of the orphanage over 4000 children passed through its doors. In Autumn 1967 the doors were closed for the final time; the buildings were in urgent need of modernisation and the isolated situation made staffing more and more difficult.

Today the Aberlour Child Care Trust provides 44 services across Scotland, including services for families affected by drug and alcohol misuse, family centres providing support to parents of young children, residential and respite care for severely disabled children and a range of programmes of support for young people experiencing difficulties at school, in their families and in the community. It is the largest children's support organisation of its kind in Scotland.

Graham & Miranda Brignall

World War One

I have been constantly apologising for the slippage of the publication of my book about WW1. However, it is now back on track. The estimated publication date having slipped and slipped I have decided that a publication date of 2018 is both achievable and would cover the period of 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.

Have you a story you can share about a family member or friend? Have you been to the Battlefields?

I can be contacted by e-mail muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com or phone 01556 630314 or by mail 5 Hestan Court, Rockcliffe, Dalbeattie DG5 4QL. *Muriel Palmer*

Muriel Palmer wrote about the **Preston Pals** memorial at Preston Station in the October 2016 Magazine. After watching an episode of **Great British Railway Journeys** she was fascinated to learn about the Manchester railwaymen who died fighting in the First World War who were honoured with a new memorial at **Piccadilly Railway Station**, Manchester.

In May 2016 their families, transport officials and army veterans gathered to see the unveiling of the new tribute by rail buff and former Conservative deputy leader Michael Portillo.

In a reflective moment, they also laid wreaths before the memorial, which bears the names of 87 men who died. The men, aged between 18 and 45, all worked for the London and North Western Railway at the station's Goods Depot.

The memorial replaces a bronze plaque which disappeared 50 years ago during a station renovation - to the 'great shame' of the industry.

This new commemoration has come about thanks to a tireless campaign by train managers Andy Partington and Wayne McDonald. Aided by the Railway Heritage Trust, the Virgin Trains colleagues spent five years searching war archives, travelling to the Western Front and contacting relatives.

Wayne, said: "We are both incredibly proud and humbled to have played our part in getting such a wonderful new memorial in place to honour those brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice. We owe them so much and it's a fitting location, one that will be seen now by so many. "

A total of 580 staff at the station - formally London Road - served in the First World War. But they were more likely to work in the goods department as train drivers and guards were classed as having reserved occupations. Wayne and Andy have tracked down 74 of the 87 to complete their histories - but for the rest all but their names remain a mystery. Some lie in unmarked graves, their identities undiscovered.

The memorial, made in Cardiff, features all of the names on three sides - with the front dedicated to 'the memory of Manchester Employees of the London and North Western Railway Company who sacrificed their lives in the service of their country during the Great War' as a grateful tribute to all those who served.

Andy Savage, Executive Director of the Railway Heritage Trust, added: "The loss of the London Road memorial in the 1960s has been a major shame of the industry for many years. The Trust has wanted to restore it for a long time, but did not have the resource to actually manage such a project. It is thanks to the efforts of the local Virgin Trains staff, Wayne McDonald and Andy Partington, this has become a reality, and the Trust, along with Virgin, has been proud to be associated with their efforts."



Photographs © Manchester Evening News (MEN). The article is based on information from the MEN website. Visit their website for more information about this project



SERVICES AT OUR SISTER CHURCH, ST NINIAN'S, CASTLE DOUGLAS

(PLEASE CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR VARIATIONS.)

Sundays

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion 1929 Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy

11.00 a.m. Family Eucharist 1982 Scottish Liturgy
(except last Sunday of month)

11.00am Matins: Scottish Prayer Book
(last Sunday of the month)

followed at 12 noon by a said Service of Holy Communion (Shorter Prayer Book Liturgy)

6.00 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday only)

7.00 p.m. Taize/Iona service (usually on last Sunday of the month)

This service is held 'in the round' in the Hall. Members of other denominations in the area are invited.

Wednesdays

10.15 a.m. Holy Communion 1970 Scottish Liturgy



If there were cellphones at the Red Sea

**Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.**

anonymous

Grant me, O Lord, a sunny mind

Emily Dickinson

CHRIST CHURCH SALES 2017

PLANT SALE

Saturday, 6th May

Dalbeattie Town Hall

(Please note the change of date for the Plant Sale.)

SUMMER SALE date to be confirmed

Colvend Public Hall

WINTER BAZAAR

Saturday, 19th November

Dalbeattie Town Hall

PLANT SALE 'GARDEN STALL'

As last year, there will be a Garden Stall. So, if you are clearing out your potting sheds, garages or summerhouses in preparation for the spring, please don't discard unwanted items - I would welcome your contributions of all things horticultural, from patio pots to picnic blankets. They can be left at the back of the Church or I will collect - Sue Thomas, 01556 612863

CHANGES, CHANGES

The Christ Church **Julian Group** is alive and well and meets monthly at Sue Thomas's home; Savat, Meikle Richorn, Dalbeattie. In the past we have been meeting on the last Tuesday each month at 2.15 for 2.30 pm. However, we have decided to have a change of day to the **last Friday of the month**. This will be a pilot for the next 3 - 6 months. Dates are 24th February, 31st March, 28th April. 26th May, 30th June & 28th July. You are welcome to join us for a time of quiet meditation, guided by the revelations of Julian of Norwich. For more information contact Sue on 01556 612863.

The **Chat & Craft Group** are now meeting on the **third Thursday** of the month at **1.00 p.m.**; they usually meet at 12 Park Terrace, Dalbeattie the home of Jane Greenwood. For more information contact Jane on 01556 611144.

What I kept, I lost. What I spent, I had. What I gave, I have.

Persian Proverb

From the Editorial Team:

At the Vestry meeting held in November the Vestry passed the responsibility for the format of the magazine to the Communications Team, headed by the Revd Mark Smith.

A Magazine Questionnaire has been drawn up by Ron Newton which is to be distributed sometime in February. When received you are asked to complete as fully as possible.

It is asked again that when submitting copy that if you have a computer that it is sent as an e-mail attachment (no matter how short) and not in the body of the email. What should be a 2 minute copy and paste task becomes a 10-15 minute task.

In the last magazine we printed a copy of the Christ Church Choir; choir member number 13 has been identified as Elizabeth Walsh.

Many English folk have Scottish relatives, have you? Would you share your story with our readers?

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

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

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

DATES FOR YOU DIARIES

LENT TALKS 2017

These will follow the pattern of previous years; i.e. five talks (led by ministers from our churches). The talks - details to follow - will be presented on Wednesdays at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas at 2.00 p.m. and on Thursdays at the Maxwell Hall, St Peter's RC Church at 10.45 a.m.

Castle Douglas March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th & April 5th

Dalbeattie March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & April 6th

REGIONAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday, May 25th Time and venue to be confirmed

What's On in February 2017 at Christ Church and District

<u>Thursday, 2nd</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<u>Sunday, 5th</u>	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday, 7th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Barlochan Care Home
	12.30 for 1.00pm.	Theological Reflection Meeting in the Maxwell Hall, St Peter's, Dalbeattie. The Revd Dr John McPake, Ecumenical Officer for the Church of Scotland will be speaking about "The Columba Declaration" which was recently agreed between the Church of Scotland and the Church of England.
<u>Thursday, 9th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	12 noon	House Group at 4 Screel Drive, Dalbeattie
<u>Sunday, 12th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong at St Ninian's, CD
Tuesday, 14th	10 a.m.-12 noon	Hard of Hearing Drop-in-Clinic In the Church Hall.
<u>Thursday, 16th</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1.00 p.m.	Chat & Craft at 12 Park Terrace, Dalbeattie
<u>Sunday, 19th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	2.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Service at Munches Care Home. All welcome.
Tuesday, 21st	12.30 p.m.	Mothers' Union at St Ninian's, CD
<u>Thursday, 23rd</u>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Friday, 24th	2.30 p.m.	Julian Meeting at Savat, Meikle Richorn
<u>Sunday, 26th</u>	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	7.00 a.m.	Service in the Gordon Memorial Hall, St Ninian's, Castle Douglas
Monday, 27th	12 noon	House Group at 4 Screel Drive, Dalbeattie
Tuesday, 28th	<u>Shrove Tuesday</u>	

March

ASH WEDNESDAY

<u>Wednesday, 1st</u>	tbc	Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
Thursday, 2nd	tbc	No service
Friday, 3rd	7.00 p.m.	Service for the World Day of Prayer at Christ Church, Dalbeattie.
Saturday, 4th	9.30 a.m.	Diocesan Synod 2017 at the Barony Campus, Dumfries.