

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Christ Church, Dalbeattie



Issue No. 4 December 2014/January 2015

Sunday Services

December 2014

7 December	Second Sunday of Advent
8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
14 December	Third Sunday of Advent
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
21 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
10.30 a.m.	Carol Service followed by Holy Communion Celebrant the Rt Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway.
6.30 p.m.	Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon Parish Church Carols by Candlelight
7.00 p.m.	Carol Service, St Ninian's, Castle Douglas
24 December	Christmas Eve
4.00 p.m.	Christingle at St Ninian's, CD
10.00 p.m.	The First Eucharist of Christmas at Christ Church, Dalbeattie
11.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist at St Ninian's, CD
25 December	Christmas Day
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist at Christ Church
11.00 a.m.	Family Service at St Ninian's, CD
12 noon	Holy Communion at St Ninian's, CD
26 December	St Stephen
10.15 a.m.	Joint Service of Holy Communion at St Ninian's, CD
27 December	St John the Evangelist
10.15 a.m.	Joint Service of Holy Communion at St Ninian's, CD;
28 December	The Holy Innocents
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
7.00 p.m.	Taize Service at St Ninian's, CD

January 2015

4 January	Second Sunday after Christmas
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
4.00 p.m.	Evening Service (to be confirmed)
11 January	First Sunday after the Epiphany
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
6.00 p.m.	Evensong at St Ninian's, CD
18 January	Second Sunday after the Epiphany
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
25 January	Third Sunday after the Epiphany
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
7.00 p.m.	Taize Service at St Ninian's, CD

February 2015

1 February	Fourth Sunday of the Epiphany
8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

Midweek Service

Thursday 10.00 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Revd Canon David Bayne wishes to share the Christmas message he has received from the Bishop with us all. The Bishop has asked that this message be included in Church magazines and on Church websites.

Christmas Message 2014 from Bishop Gregor

In 1951, I was told many years ago, for my first birthday I was given a set of what were then called Fairy Lights, for the Christmas tree. I grew up with these lovely things and enjoyed them well into my teens – what happened to them, I don't really know. They were larger than modern lights, spherical, in delicate colours and they cast a beautiful soft light through the fragrant greenery of the tree – every Christmas I see them in my mind's eye and wish I still had them. I've never been able to find anything remotely like them. Their memory is important to me, they are iconic, really, of Christmas past for me, iconic of a very special and precious kind of light.

But not just of Christmas past. I wonder if you share with me a sense of an ever-darkening world, of really dark things happening at home and abroad. The darkness of fear – fear for the future, fear of the other, fear of sudden terror and murderous violence, fear of what may still be revealed of abuse at all levels of our society – all of these and many more dark things, gather around us and in us and stalk our world, God's world. So that when at Christmas we hear again the words of St John proclaiming Christ as the light that the darkness can never overcome – *the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (1.5)* - we are challenged once more to hold fast to the hope that in the end the light will have it, the light will have it.

But not simply at the end – now as well. The light has some of it now, too. Not all is dark and not all is bad news, not at all. People still seek what is just and true and beautiful, people still reach out across barriers of hatred and fear, people still do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. People of many faiths and people of none. But some of them do all these things for they know the Light that shines in the darkness and they love that Light above all else and all others. And they hope, even know, that the Light will have it in the end and is having it now in their struggles and commitments. And the Light will draw all other lights to Himself. Christmas is, above all, their time, their celebration.

+Gregor

Please turn to pages 12 & 13 for an account of our Year 1 MAP Review with Bishop Gregor.

Bishop Gregor will be the celebrant at our Carol Service to be held on Sunday, 21st December at 10.30 a.m.; the Carol Service will be followed by a service of Holy Communion.

Update from the Vestry

The main points from the meeting held on 22nd October 2014:

- ♦ It was decided that there would be a regular collection of goods for a Food Bank.
- ♦ It was advised that the Revd Mark Smith would be available for two Sundays a month at Christ Church; his first service at Dalbeattie will be on 4th January, 2015.
- ♦ Christmas Carol Service 21st December. We are blessed that the our service will be led by Bishop Gregor; followed by a service of Holy Communion.

And, from the meeting held on 26th November 2014

- ♦ The Vestry appointed Llyn Glendinning as Honorary Treasurer; Anthony Duncalf as Honorary Secretary and Helen Stephens as Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Co-ordinator.
- ♦ It was agreed that a Link Christmas Card be sent.
- ♦ It was decided that a property sub-committee be formed.
- ♦ That a Churches Together in Dalbeattie & District service for the Week of Christian Unity be arranged.

AGM of the Dumfries & Galloway Regional Council

This was held on the **12th November 2014 at St Ninian's, CD**. The meeting started with a service of Sung Eucharist. This was followed by a delicious tea provided by the Congregation of St Ninian's.

There was a most interesting talk on a strand of Growing with God's Grace in Glasgow & Galloway - Missional Leadership by the Revd Jane Ross and Jill Hislop.

Necessary arrangements were made for the year ahead.

AGM of the Congregation 2014

- ♦ The meeting started with the Celebration of Sung Eucharist, during which the Revd DW Bayne laid out his charge to us for the next year. Which was that we need to renew our spirits as we can often with medical help renew our bodies and our minds. He added that most of us are more like St Peter needing constant re-assurance than like St Paul who only needed the one telling.

After the last Hymn there was a short break for coffee and then before the business of the meeting started the MAP Group's visual presentation for Bishop Gregor's review of our

Year One Goals (see page 12) was shown.

- ♦ Canon Bayne thanked the MAP Group and especially Sue Thomas for their hard work. He added that the visual presentation showed that God's spirit is alive and in action at Christ Church.
- ♦ The minutes of the four meetings held during the year were agreed as a true record.
- ♦ Mark Parry, our Independent Examiner, presented the accounts to the meeting. Canon Bayne thanked Mark for his hard work, The adoption of the Financial reports was proposed by the Revd Richard Stephens and seconded by Robin Charlton and were unanimously accepted by the Congregation.
- ♦ The Vestry and other reports were accepted and thanks given to all who contribute to the life of Christ Church in Dalbeattie.

Elections of official positions and vestry membership

Lay Representative:	Mrs Edith Thorp
Alternate Lay Representative:	Mr Stephen Gaukroger
People's Warden	Mr George Sims
Two constituent members to serve on the Vestry for a three-year term:	Mrs Robin Charlton Mrs Sue Thomas

Official positions:

Rector's Warden (appointed by Canon Bayne)	Dr Kenneth C Dennison
Independent Financial Examiner:	Mr Mark Parry

The date of the next AGM will be arranged in due time. The Meeting closed with the Blessing and Dismissal.

After the AGM, it was quick change for the Hall and a quick change for Canon Bayne to be ready for the Baptism of Lexie Ann Silver.

It was a joy to be part of the service that welcomed Lexie into our Church. It was also a joy to see so many adults and children at the service. The children were a delight in their best clothes and on their best behaviour.

From the Registers

Baptism

23rd November, 2014

Lexie Ann Silver

HARVEST THANKSGIVING 2014



This year it was decided that our Harvest Gifts would be for items needed by a local Food Bank. Many churches are now making this a part of their Harvest Thanksgiving. During my recent visit south all the churches I visited were doing so. It is a sad reflection of the times we are living in that so many people are needing this service.

I could not believe how beautiful the church looked and how appropriate it was to have tins and packets of food on display behind the Altar. Many thanks are due to the congregation for their generous donations. Especial thanks are due to the 'Flower Ladies' for all their hard work arranging our gifts. Thanks to Keith & Julie Dennison for taking our gifts to the First Base Agency, Dumfries.

Footnote 1: The Vestry has agreed that donations of food be given on a weekly basis as part of our offerings. Jane Greenwood has offered and her offer has been accepted to undertake the delivery of our donations to a Food Bank. In the first instance the food will be taken to the First Base Agency in Dumfries. She is to investigate serving the people of the Stewartry; Father William, St Peter's, Dalbeattie, already delivers food to Kirkcudbright.

Footnote 2: Looking at other churches websites I have noted that requests are being made for donations of seasonal foods over the next few weeks.

Muriel Palmer

Remembrance Sunday 2014



Before the Service
Edith Thorp; Revd Beryl Scott
& Keith Dennison



Part of the Display including the
1914-1918 Remembrance Candle



Celia Hanbury, Mary Haythorne
& Jenny Edkins

*Many thanks are due to Ron
Newton for these photographs.*

Church, Dalbeattie

As the remedial building work on the tower and the back of the Church had started the service had to be held in the Church Hall. This caused several problems but all were overcome. Thanks are due to the Sea Cadets in preparing for the Remembrance Sunday Service elsewhere, normally they would complete their preparation in the Church Hall.

The two minutes silence was observed, bookended by recordings of the Last Post and Reveille. Maggie Kelt provided musical accompaniment for the service on a portable organ.

There was a small display at the back of the Church of some of the material that was displayed at the Peace Service held in August; so many of us did not get chance to look at the Display as we were busy looking after the many visitors that joined us. In addition to the items displayed in August Pam Horner brought the many mementoes she has of her father's time as a Conscientious Objector during WW1.

Below is a photograph of the Rolls of Honour loaned to us
by Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon Parish Church
with Urr Parish Church for the Peace Service



Town Service at Dalbeattie War Memorial

After the service four of us went to the RBLs service at the War Memorial in Colliston Park. It was good to see Brian Woodburn, Chaplain to the Sea Cadets, marching with the Cadets. The service was led by the new minister of Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon Parish Church with Urr Parish Church, the Revd Fiona Wilson. Many Wreaths were laid including ones from the Community Council; the schools and the Youth Groups of the Town. (Unfortunately I have no photographs of this service.)

War & Peace: Hindsight

On the 9th November, The Feral Choir, devised and conducted by Alison Burns, gave two performances of their concert. The first one was at 2.30 p.m. at the Dumfries Museum; the second was held at Threave Visitor Centre at 6.30 p.m. Robin Charlton and Sue Thomas are members of the Choir. A third performance was given at Kirkcudbright Parish Hall on the 22nd November. It was a thought provoking and moving programme. Monies raised from the performances are to be donated to Charity. (Thanks to George Thomas for the photographs.)



Sue Thomas

Ali Burns



You will need a magnifying glass to see Robin Charlton

World War One Books

For several reasons there has been a slippage of the proposed publication dates of the two books I am compiling. The main reason being that there is now so much more information available on the Internet. I prefer to produce better books later than expected (but not too late) rather than rush to meet a self-imposed completion date.

It has been suggested that maybe the stories from the Congregation be expanded to include stories from the Congregation of St Ninian's, Castle Douglas. By the time I am ready to have the book printed our churches are very likely to be linked under Canon Law. I will provide an update early in the New Year. Have you a story to tell? If so I would be delighted to hear from you. Stephanie Dewhurst is including a similar article in Issue No. 48 of *St Ninian's Review*.

Muriel Palmer

WW1 ART INSTALLATION AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

Graham Brignall writes:

While I was staying recently in Hertfordshire with our son and his family I took the opportunity to visit the display of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London. I arrived by 10.30 a.m., as asked by the authorities and could hardly move because of the sheer volume of like-minded people. On the lower path people were 6-deep; on the upper path probably twice that. There was just time to take a quick photo before you were swept on by a mass of humanity; I must have heard every adjective under the sun to describe the sight, and in every language as well. I was lucky that I was there on 10th November, when the last few thousand poppies were being put in place. I cannot imagine that the creator ever dreamed that his installation would touch the world in the way that it did.



To do Graham's photographs justice; they need a page each.

Last Post Every evening during the installation, the Last Post was played at sunset. Members of the Commonwealth forces who were killed in the First World War were nominated to have their name read out in this nightly ceremony.

Roll of Honour It is possible to listen to the Roll of Honour by visiting the Tower of London website. (Images ©Tower of London)



Churches Together in Dalbeattie and District

St Peter's RC Church is one of the Churches Together in Dalbeattie & District. The other Churches are Dalbeattie & Kirkcunzeon Parish Church linked with Urr Parish Church; Galloway Christian Centre and Christ Church, Dalbeattie. St Peter's, Dalbeattie is the oldest ecclesiastical building in Dalbeattie, erected in 1814. Indeed, it is the oldest church building still in use in the Diocese of Galloway, and on 29 June 2014 it celebrated its 200th anniversary. St Peter's is linked with the churches of St Andrew's and St Cuthbert's, Kirkcudbright and with The Church of the Resurrection, Gatehouse of Fleet and The Parish of St John, Castle Douglas.



Father William about to cut the cake!



The Cake

The parish of St Peter's, Dalbeattie is a parish in the Diocese of Galloway. The diocese exists to serve the People of God in the local authority regions of North, South and East Ayrshire, as well as Dumfries and Galloway. The vision and mission of the Catholic Church in the Galloway Diocese is the same as that for the Catholic Church universal. It is the Church's mission to be a sign and instrument of communion with God and of unity among all people. Bishop John Cunningham is Bishop of Galloway.

Sunday Mass is at 11.30 a.m.; midday Mass is at 10.00 a.m. on Thursdays. Visit their website for more information. www.rckirkcudbright.org.uk



St Peter's Church - Exterior



St Peter's Church - Interior

In the next magazine there will be a 'bio' about the Galloway Christian Centre.

Bishop Gordon Mursell's letter for the last magazine did not arrive in time - so never one to waste a good article I decided to include it in this magazine. Bishop Mursell is a retired Bishop and is one of our visiting clergy in this time of Interregnum.

CHRISTIANS AND THE SCOTTISH REFERENDUM

Many of us will be sighing with relief now that the Scottish referendum is finally over. Looking back on it underlines what a really extraordinary experience it was. Certainly I have never known a time when so many people were so actively engaged in conversation about what kind of society they longed to see. My wife and I celebrated our silver wedding anniversary in early September with a few days on the island of Islay, and spent a fascinating hour in a coffee shop in the village of Bruichladdich, where the locals were engaged in a passionate but friendly argument about the pros and cons of No versus Yes.

The whole experience leaves Christians with a major question. *Why does this kind of creative envisioning of a new and better society not take place more often within the Church?* It is certainly present in Scripture; and what is noticeable there is how often the biggest and boldest visions of a renewed cosmos emerge, not from times when the people of God are strong and thriving, but precisely when they are in exile, struggling to hold on to their faith in a deeply hostile environment. John “the Divine” (meaning “the theologian”), the author of the book of Revelation, dreams of a new heaven and a new earth when he was himself in exile on the island of Patmos. You might have thought that in times of exile and fear the Church might have made, at best, plans for a renewed church, or even given up entirely. In fact the people of God spent their time in exile dreaming, not of a renewed church or synagogue, but of a new creation – a new heaven and a new earth.

The Church now, at least in the northern hemisphere, is undergoing a time of exile: exile, in Christian tradition, is any place or experience in which you are not at home and not in control. If you go on holiday, you are not at home, but you aren't in exile because you're in control of what is happening. But if you go on holiday and suddenly fall ill, or lose all your belongings, you suddenly find yourself in exile, because you are neither at home nor in control. The remarkable thing about exile in Scripture is that it is precisely there that the biggest and boldest dreams come into being.

So we can learn something from the referendum experience. The best and most enduring visions of a new Scotland are unlikely to come from politicians: they will come from ordinary people, whatever their political persuasion, coming together to imagine how things could be better than they are now. That is emphatically the responsibility of the Church. Let's hope and pray that we can tap into all that enthusiasm and envisioning which we saw in the run-up to 18th September, and ask God to show us what kind of future he longs for us to make our own.

The Referendum vote on Thursday the 18th of September may seem a long time ago; but the discussion now is about Westminster keeping their promise of more powers to the Scottish Executive. MP

Year One Map Review



***Diocesan Prayer** - Spirit of our loving God, in your mercy and compassion inspire, encourage and empower us to live and work together as a Congregation and as a Diocese, to allow your mission for us to take flesh, through Jesus Christ our Living and Eternal Lord. Amen*

Twenty-one people attended the review either for the whole of the day or part. The day started with Lunch; many thanks are due to our regular gang of 'volunteers cooks' and 'kitchen staff.'

Before the review started **Bishop Gregor** wanted to say a few words. The main points being:

- ♦ About the Induction of the Revd David Bayne as rector of the proposed new charge of St Ninian's, Castle Douglas and Christ Church. This has not been forgotten no details to date.
- ♦ The funding for a curate for the new charge has been approved. It is hoped that a curate can be appointed during the late Summer of 2015. The curate to be accommodated in the Christ Church Rectory. It is hoped to have this confirmed by the end of February 2015.
- ♦ That the Bishop is to meet with Greyfriars, Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Gatehouse Vestries about advertising for the post of Rector for their Churches.

Keith Dennison, our Lay Chair, gave an account of the past year including the many challenges we have had to face. He also explained why several of our goals were not met. Later the Bishop was to advise that these goals become part of our Year Two goals and that we should apply through the Regional Council for grants towards the costs of these projects.



**L-R - Sue Thomas, Bishop Gregor
and Edith Thorp**



Listening intently to what the Bishop had to say.

The Bishop was then shown a Visual Presentation of the year created by **Sue Thomas**; the Bishop commended Sue for this. He was moved that we mentioned the passing of five dear friends (he was later to pray for them in our Eucharist). He told us that ours was the first presentation to do this. The Bishop was also impressed by the quality of our website and publicity materials; he stressed the importance of well produced posters and other publicity that would reflect well on our organization.

He was most interested to learn more about the Hard of Hearing Group from Jenny Edkins. And our monthly Ecumenical Service held at Munches Care Home., from Keith Dennison.

In the New Year there is to be another meeting with our facilitator, Anne McWilliam when our Tear Two plans will be confirmed.

In response to Mary Haythorne's wish that we were not constantly referred to as the English Church he advised that we needed to be more aggressive without being rude to ensure that people know that the Scottish Episcopal Church is more than just a church for Scotland. After the review there was a quick change to ready the Hall for a Service of Holy Communion. After the service Alfred Thorp took the Bishop to see the work being carried out in the Church and the Tower, whilst the kitchen staff sprang into action yet again.

The Bishop's last duty before he left was to cut THE CAKE; a delicious chocolate cake made by Edith and very suitably and beautifully decorated by Sue Thomas and of course to eat a slice. The Bishop particularly admired the 5 green G candles - **Growing with God's Grace in Glasgow and Galloway.**



Celebrating the Eucharist



Cutting the Cake!

Thanks to Ron Newton and Sue Thomas for the photographs



Elizabeth Woodburn, Joint Leader, writes:

The Regional Rally for Mother's Union Members met at St Ninian's, Castle Douglas on the 18th November. The Diocesan President, Ann Glenesk, and the Mother's Union Chaplain, the Revd Lucy Ireland along with members of St John's Dumfries, joined with us for worship and fellowship as well as a lovely lunch. This was followed with Home-Spun Entertainment, most of our members taking part. Ann Glenesk had brought along a video showing the Mother's Union involvement at the Commonwealth Games. We all agreed it was another super get together and much appreciated by all who attended. Thanks to Stephanie Dewhurst for the photographs.

They next meet on Tuesday 16th December for their annual Christmas Party



L-R Revd Lucy Ireland, Ann Glenesk and Ruth McLellan from Dumfries



Members enjoying themselves including Miranda Brignall and Alison Coolican from Dalbeattie

Website of St Ninian's CD
Website of Mothers' Union

www.stninianscastledouglas.org.uk
www.muscotland.org.uk



Garden Rules



from a plaque given to me by friend Jenni who knows I would rather be gardening than doing housework

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Welcome all bees and butterflies! | 4. A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever! |
| 2. A garden is a friend you can visit anytime! | 5. If you can only do one thing keep the lawn mowed! * |
| 3. May all my weeds be wildflowers! # | 6. Give your plants a little breathing room! |
| # Jenni's favourite rule. | * Muriel delegates this rule to her son Nicholas. |

In the last magazine Anthony Duncalf wrote about being involved in fund-raising for a church-run orphanage in Kiev.

Mission Ukraine (Part 2)

Following the trips to Kiev which I described in the last magazine, I kept in contact with several of the people I had met over there, particularly Vitaly, my English-speaking guide. A couple of years on, I mentioned to Vitaly that, with some friends from my church, I was hoping to do some fund-raising to help the many orphans and street children we had heard of in Ukraine, but wanted to be sure the money would reach those who really needed it. He wrote back immediately to say that his Church actually sponsored a small orphanage, run by a member of the congregation, and suggested I contact his Pastor, whom I had met on my last visit. Pastor Uri was delighted to hear from me, as it was always a struggle to pay the expenses of the orphanage (which was home to around 15 children). He sent me lots of pictures of the home and the children with their helpers – which were quite heart wrenching – and I felt sure this was exactly the opportunity I had been looking for. We arranged that I would fly out to Kiev again a couple of months late, and, in the meantime I collected a lot of children's clothes and toys which I would take out with me.

On this trip, I stayed with the church administrator, Natasha at her family's apartment on the outskirts of the city. While they spoke no English, Pastor Uri did have a basic smattering of the language and, as well as my friend Vitaly, there was a young English graduate in the congregation who was very fluent, so things were much easier, and we were able to converse with ease. Of course, the first priority of the visit was to visit the orphanage – which was actually the home of a middle-aged widow, which she had thrown open to abandoned children. The two downstairs bedrooms were packed full of rickety metal beds, with barely any space between them, but the children I met all seemed clean, well-cared for and – most importantly – happy. They were delighted with the parcel of toys and clothes I had brought, and I was overwhelmed with hugs from the tearful lady helpers! As it was November, they suggested that they keep back most of what I had brought to give to the children as Christmas presents. I learned that most were not strictly orphans, but had been abandoned by their parents, most of whom were severe alcoholics (a major problem throughout the former Soviet Union). As well as the orphanage, I learned that the church was trying to set up a project taking food to youngsters sleeping rough around the city. We soon established that any help I could give would be invaluable, and put together a plan for me to set up a small UK charity to work in partnership with its Ukrainian counterpart, both raising money and promoting the project in the UK.

My hosts took me on several excursions around the sights of the city, including the medieval monastic catacombs under the magnificent Orthodox cathedral, and the colossal Soviet war memorial. I was interested to see the new supermarket, where Natasha's family now bought their food – a big change from the dreary ex-soviet corner shops I had seen previously, which seemed to be stocked mainly with giant jars of pickled gherkins – although rather taken aback that the security staff (none of whom looked older than eighteen) all carried pistol! In the city centre, high end shops were appearing - in stark contrast to the streets where the majority of local citizens lived and worked. On the Sunday morning, I attended an outreach service in a school hall in one of the poorer parts of the city, and was very much struck by the obvious poverty among the congregation, many of whom were obviously seriously disabled, or – as I was coming to recognise as typical – under the influence of drink or drugs. Yet the service was a joyful occasion – if rather unusual in that the main feature was a Ukrainian folk group, whose contribution went on so long that there was no time left for me to deliver the address I had prepared! In the evening, we went to the main church service, held in an auditorium nearer the centre of the city and attended by a wider cross section of society, and carried on with a much more disciplined structure!

Once back in the UK, I wasted no time in getting together a group of folk I knew shared my interest in helping the young people of Ukraine, and we set up a charity – Children's' Hope (Europe) – published a website, and began raising money. Our most successful effort was a sponsored walk – the National Three Peaks Challenge – which saw 6 of us ascending the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales within 36 hours, and raising almost £1,500, which went towards buying new beds and bedding for the orphanage.

Over the next three years, I paid several more visits to Kiev and got to know several members of the congregation really well. I was able to see how the city was changing rapidly under Western influence – typified by the number of Macdonald's restaurants in prominent sites around the city centre! Underneath the main square, a glitzy shopping mall opened, full of designer shops with prices beyond the reach of a moderately well-paid Westerner like me, and which the majority of Ukrainians could only look at in awe! On one visit, I travelled on the overnight train to the city of Lviv, where we stayed overnight with the local Baptist pastor, before attending Sunday service at his ramshackle church in a nearby village – a greater contrast with the growing prosperity of central Kiev would be hard to find; no mains water in the village and a primitive electricity supply which could not be relied on to work. But the service was a joyful affair – and once again the hospitality of our hosts was quite humbling.

Sadly the orphanage ran into problems, after the lady who ran it was in disagreement with the Pastor over the management of the finances. A lot of

conflicting rumours filtered back to me of problems elsewhere in the Church, and I spent a lot of time trying to get to the bottom of what was going on, but without success, and, sadly, after about 5 years, the charity here was obliged to close down, and our remaining funds were transferred to another larger charity sponsoring similar work across the former Soviet Union.



Pastor Uri with the children and helpers at the Children's Hope Orphanage



Anthony and Sveta (interpreter) at Sunday service in Praise & Worship Church, Kiev,



Anthony with the Pastor of Lviv Baptist church and his family.

Anthony and his partner Joseph are the owners of Idlehour Gifts. This year the proceeds of their Annual Christmas raffle are to be donated to Christ Church. Tickets are available at the shop and the draw will take place at lunchtime on the 20th December.

Anthony and Joseph have kindly agreed to hold stock of the three cookery booklets **What's Cooking at Christ Church, Dalbeattie?** in their shop. The cost of the booklets is £1.00 each; all proceeds to be donated to Christ Church, Dalbeattie (SC010918)

Top Twenty Home Baking Recipes

Top Twenty Vegetarian Recipes

Top Twenty Soup Recipes.

Here are some of the words from the wonderful poem **How the Light Comes** by Jan Richardson; that was part of the Dalbeattie Churches Together service to mark that start of Advent on Friday, 28th November at **St Peter's RC Church.**

**I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark**

**that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.**



Theological Reflections at St. Peter's Church Hall

Revd Beryl Scott

The Seventh Theological Reflection Meeting was given on the 21st October by Dr Margie Tolstoy on the subject of Christianity, the Bible and Judaism.

For almost 20 years Margie has been a Professor at Cambridge University, her subject - **'Jewish and Christian Response to the Holocaust'**. We must be aware of the unprecedented cruelty against humanity, and the effect on the young as well as the elderly when six million Jews and many others were killed. Other similar atrocities have been committed over the centuries, yet these were not minutely planned well in advance. Gas chambers were built and everything organised ready to eliminate the world of a people whose history has probably been the most documented. Anti-Judaism has existed since the time of Jesus and is a Christian problem. One of the examination questions for the students was **'Is Christianity necessarily Anti-Judaic?'** On looking back over the centuries the answer seems to be 'Yes'. This probably became a real problem during the 4th Century when the nature of Christianity fundamentally changed when the Roman Emperor Constantine embraced Christianity as the state religion after receiving a vision during a bloody battle for supremacy. He saw a cross in the sky as an omen. Christianity was imposed on the empire when he was victorious and the cross became a dominant Christian symbol, but not one of love and compassion, but of suffering, and this has tarnished the teaching of Jesus ever since. Important Fathers of the Church, such as Jerome, Augustine, Martin Luther and others have written vicious polemic against the Jews and only since the Holocaust has the Church addressed this matter. Hopefully, for our generation we can give the answer **'No'**, although there are still many whose words and actions belie this. The gospels were written and coloured at a time of Christian persecution. Those who do not recognise that blaming the whole Jewish race for the death of Jesus, who along with the disciples and Paul were all Jews, is not according to the teaching of Jesus continue to perpetuate this sin. In 1965 an official declaration was issued by Pope Paul VI removing the charge of deicide against the Jews. Since this time a number of anti-Judaism statements have been removed from the Liturgy and texts. Reconciliation between the Jews and the Church has continued, although there are still Christians who are anti-Judaic.

This is a very brief summary of 12 A4 pages of the lecture. Those attending would agree it doesn't do justice to an extremely good lecture followed with an interesting discussion.

Note: If you would like to read the full lecture copies can be provided, contact the Editor with details of your e-mail address. A paper copy can be provided at the cost of £1.00 per copy.

The Eighth Theological Reflection Meeting was a power point presentation given by the Revd Dr Ann Shukman on the 22nd November about how the Russian Church survived 70 years of persecution.

Ann is a fluent Russian speaker and visitor to the country and has studied the history of Russia. Her very interesting talk was illustrated by pictures of the churches, monasteries, icons and people.

Those travelling in Russia today are welcomed and unlike many countries in the West are greeted by people who are mostly Christian. The main church today is Orthodox, although there are a number of Roman Catholic centres, and the people are fiercely traditional.

The churches are open all the time and well used by individuals bringing their own needs and worship to God praying through the icons which cover the walls. Individual worship far outweighs those attending services. Protestant religions have been renewed but met with suspicion. Russia is very different now from the times of persecution.

The first wave of persecution began in 1917 lasting until 1921. In that period under Lenin it seems that churches were desecrated and taken over for other purposes with the clergy and monks driven out, many killed. Christians were hounded and any religion survived in secret. It was a time of civil war and famine. The second wave of persecution began in 1929 to 1941, with Stalin's five year plan, culminating in 1937 at the outbreak of war. Then there was a mass destruction of churches, monasteries, clergy and church members, all religion banned. In 1943 Stalin after some victories gained decided to open some of the churches. Three bishops were consecrated although the church was closely connected with the KGB, but not necessarily corrupt.

Persecution began again after the death of Stalin under Khrushchev. Many believers were put into mental institutions. In the 1970s and 80s a loosening up began and persecution stopped in 1988. There were very few priests, and a problem with incoming sects. Many cathedrals, churches and monasteries were reinstated. Discoveries of relics of the saints were discovered and placed in the Cathedrals and monasteries and are now places of pilgrimage. Saints were revered, and Spiritual Elders became prominent in the monasteries dealing with the needs of the people. Icons celebrating those persecuted became popular.

There was time at the end of the talk for questions and personal stories about Russia.



Beryl with Bishop Idris and the Revd David Norwood (the then Rector of Christ Church)

Photograph © of Galloway News 2004

Ten years ago on Sunday the 19th December, 2004, Beryl was ordained priest by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones, at Christ Church, Dalbeattie.

It was believed to be the first time an ordination had taken place at Christ Church. Beryl was confirmed at Christ Church and in 2002 was made deacon.

We thank Beryl for her service to Christ Church.



Dalbeattie Hard of Hearing Group

Update from Jenny Edkins

Audiology are now issuing new aids, the Oticon Aid, they replace the Phonak Micro Aid. We will be given training on these aids when they are in more general use. Key points are the button on the back is used both as a volume control and to access for use with a loop system if required. They will be issued to people with low to moderate hearing loss, although if a person is satisfied with the aid they already have and it works for them, they will continue with those aids until a replacement is required or their circumstances change.

Key points for these aids are:

- ♦ They automatically adjust to different situations. They will switch to the best microphone to hear if you are in a noisy situation
- ♦ When first issued the volume can be set lower than needed and the volume will be built up over time to help the service user adjust
- ♦ They are wireless hearing aids so the two aids are linked
- ♦ They do have a volume control this might not be activated
- ♦ Patients so far are really liking them
- ♦ The hooks do not have filters and do not screw on so should not need to be replaced
- ♦ The battery sizes are the same as the Phonak aids
- ♦ No microphone covers to replace

Potential Issues These aids do have more feedback than the Phonak aids so this may mean more people are fitted with moulds to stop this problem

- ♦ **Other issues in general that hearing aid users may like to be aware of:** Tubing on aids needs to be changed about every 3 months
- ♦ Wires and domes need to be changed every 5 to 6 months
- ♦ The volume control on some aids cannot always be activated although the aid may have a volume control rocker switch. This is because Audiology have pre-set the volume to the computer settings.
- ♦ Audiology will ask if you would like a loop programme installed on your hearing aid. All aids work the same way, press the programme button on the back of the aid as opposed to the volume rocker. You will hear a series of beeps, one beep if your aid is fitted with the loop access programme, and a series of beeps usually 3 for general use. Mine has 2 beeps as well which allows for both loop access and microphone together. If you only get a series of beeps, then your aid does not have the loop access facility. If you require this programme to be installed on your hearing aid you need to contact Audiology. (Continued on page 21.)



The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world

Christ Church has received a letter from Mrs Jennifer K Gray (Jenni), Director & Trustee of the Mission to Seafarers, Scotland. Jenni has asked that I write this article on her behalf.

The gist of her letter is that the Mission is establishing support groups throughout Scotland and that has been asked to help formalise these groups. The main aims are to:

- ♦ raise the profile of the mission and the work it does to promote the welfare of seafarers;
- ♦ Provide intelligence on welfare needs so that the Mission can respond timeously and appropriately;
- ♦ Raise funds for the work of the Mission in Scotland and worldwide.

I have suggested to our Churches Together Dalbeattie & District representative, Anthony Duncalf, that this a project that would be most suitable for the Group to work on together.

You may remember from Jenni's visit to us on Sea Sunday that she requested that we consider knitting for the Mission. In fact, that is how I got to know her; there was a poster at **All Saints' Challoch** asking for Crafty Knitters. The rest as they say is history.

There are patterns for socks, hats, scarfs and fingerless gloves all needed and gratefully received by the Mission. There is a box of wool at the back of the Church that can be used for healing blanket squares and for items for the Mission. Donations of wool are gratefully received. Knitted items can be left at the back of the Church (with the name of the donor please); so that Jenni can write a letter of thanks. I will ensure that the items are passed on to her.

Watch this space for more information in the next magazine. Find out more about the Mission by visiting their website www.missiontoseafarers.org

(Continued from page 20)

- ♦ When you are issued with a new hearing aid, you do need to wear it/them for about 4 hours each day. This is because the sound is different and your ears etc need to adapt and get used to this sound. It takes time to adjust and if you only wear your hearing aid occasionally your responses if you like to the sound you are hearing will not adjust and every time you wear your hearing aid it will be to some extent like wearing it for the first time. A word to the wise here, audiology can tell when you visit them and they access computer records how long you have actually been wearing them for!

What's On

December

Carol Services	10.30 a.m.	Carol Service followed by Holy Communion
21 December		Celebrant the Rt Revd Dr Gregor Duncan, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway at Christ Church, Dalbeattie.
	6.30 p.m.	Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon Parish Church with Urr Carols by Candlelight
	7.00 p.m.	Carol Service, St Ninian's, Castle Douglas
Christmas Eve	4.00 p.m.	Christingle at St Ninian's, CD
24 December	10.00 p.m.	The First Eucharist of Christmas at Christ Church, Dalbeattie
	11.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist at St Ninian's, CD
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist at Christ Church, Dalbeattie
	11.00 a.m.	Family Service at St Ninian's, CD
	12 noon	Holy Communion at St Ninian's, C



"Consider the lilies of the field:
They Google not, neither do they Twitter."

Another couple of gems from the Internet
I could not resist sharing with you. MP

A Sunday school teacher asked her children on the way to service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

The Health of Hugging

It is healthy - helps the body's immune system.

It had been known to cure depression.

It definitely reduces stress.

It induces rest.

It's invigorating and rejuvenating.

It has no bad side effects.

All natural, sweet, organic, 100% wholesome.

There are no artificial ingredients in it.

No batteries to wear out or replace.

Best of all it's non-fattening, inflation proof and non-taxable

And of course it's fully returnable.

From a magazine of St Cyprian's, Lenzie

Prayer is the soil in which hope grows best. Another quote from Kay Whitby, Colvend Church.

Groups and Activities

Chat and Craft Group

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

Hard of Hearing Group

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

House Groups (Ecumenical)

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

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

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

Julian Group (Ecumenical)

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

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

Third Sunday in the month

All Welcome

Message from the Editor Tel: 01556 630314

E-mail: murielpalmer21@gmail.com

The dead-line for articles for the next magazine **February/March 2015** is the **15th January**; the magazine will be available on **Sunday, 25th January, 2015**.

Back copies of the magazine are available on request at a cost of £1.00 per copy. To date there have been 4 issues of the new format magazine.

Many thanks are due to Canon David Bayne and Stephanie Dewhurst of St Ninian's Castle Douglas for coming to the rescue and printing this edition of the magazine. My main computer crashed on Thursday! Fortunately I had a copy on an external hard drive which I could upload on to my laptop. MP

Who's Who

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