

Diocesan Advent Quiet Days

A reminder that the Diocesan Advent Quiet Days will take place in two venues on **Saturday 2 December** from 10.00 for 10.30am - 3.00pm.

At Holy Trinity & St. Barnabas, Paisley led by Bishop Gregor. (The church is opposite Paisley Gilmour Street Station)

At the same time at St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas Bishop Gordon Mursell will lead another gathering.

Participants are asked to bring their own lunch, but tea and coffee will be provided from 10am. Please apply to Jennifer FitzGibbon (Secretary), Development Team for Prayer and Spirituality, e-mail j2fg@aol.com; phone 01294 823992, or write to the Diocesan Centre (mark envelope 'Advent Quiet Day').

Messy Church

The next Messy Church is **this afternoon** at Troon Old Parish Church from 4.00 - 6.00pm. This is for pre-school children to P7 along with their families. It is an afternoon of fun, crafts, stories, songs and a meal and the theme for this meeting is 'Shepherds'.

St Ninian's Christmas cards

St Ninian's Christmas cards giving details of all the Services over the Christmas & New Year Season are now available to be picked up at the back of the church. Would Magazine Distributors please assist by picking up their respective bundles. If you receive an electronic copy of the magazine there will be a card for you on the table.

St Ninian's Community Arts Project - Troon Wall Hanging

The next meeting of the Wall Hanging is on **Saturday 2 December. The final date for the Autumn session is Saturday 9 December.**

More information is available on St Ninian's website - www.stninianstroon.org.uk/troonwallhanging There is also a dedicated email address for information - troonwallhanging@gmail.com

Traidcraft

The next Traidcraft Stall will be on **Sunday 3 December** in the Hall following the Sung Eucharist.

Fellowship

The St. Ninian's Fellowship continues on **Tuesday 5 December** and this will be The Beetle Drive. Please come along for a fun packed evening, mince pies and shortbread will be served with the tea & coffee. The meeting will be in the Church Hall, **commencing at 7.30pm. All** are most welcome to any of the meetings.

The Flower Team

Anyone who would like to help with the church flowers or be on the Flower Team please come to a meeting at the Rectory on **Saturday 9 December at 10.00 am** for coffee and croissants to discuss the future plans.

Christmas Decoration of the Church

This year the Church is to be decorated on **Saturday 16 December, from 10am - 12noon**, in preparation for the children from Muirhead Primary having their Christmas Service in the church on Thursday 21 December. Offers of help will be gratefully appreciated. Helpers are asked to bring any foliage and berries in order to decorate the window sills. Please let Maggie or Iolanthe know if you are able to come.

Christmas Supper

There will be a Christmas Supper at Scott's on **Tuesday 12 December**, 6.00 for 6.30pm. Classic Christmas Menu, two courses, (starter & main) for £17.95. If you would like to go please sign the list on the Welcome Desk.

Book Group

The next meeting of the Book Group is on **Wednesday 13 December at 7.30pm** in the Rectory. The book for discussion is **The Lemon Tree Café by Cathy Bramble**. New members will be made most welcome.

Foodbank

Sunday 3 December is the day to bring your donations for the local Foodbank, this will be the final collection before Christmas. **They would be particularly grateful for donations of practical toiletries at Christmas time. They currently have plenty of tins of beans and soup.** More information about suggested donations can be found on the church website.

...Also for the Foodbank

The South Ayrshire Foodbank have devised a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' where each day you can add an item and thus throughout December make up a box of 24 products to be donated to the South Ayrshire Foodbank. Copies of the 'Advent Calendar' are available on the Welcome Desk and if the parcels are made up in advance the boxes can be taken to Morrison's on **Sunday 17 December** where the Foodbank are having a Donation Day.

Gifts that Transform and Renew

There is information at the back of the church regarding Christmas gifts that transform lives, from Present Aid operated by Christian Aid (www.presentaid.org), for example a goat for a poor family in Ethiopia costs £22. Oxfam have similar schemes, just google 'Oxfam unwrapped charity gifts' or from Traidcraft look at www.traidcraft.co.uk/gifts-for-life.

Notelets

Notelets have been produced and are on sale at the back of the church. A pack of six is £4.00 and all profits will go to the Mission of St Ninian's.

Support for Kilmarnock

If you wish to support Rev. Mary Jepp and the work she and the congregation at Holy Trinity are doing, prayerfully and practically, please speak to Robert Keene or the Rector.

Toilet Twinning

As part of our own initiative here at St Ninian's, we are hoping to raise funds for the charity 'Toilet Twinning'. There are collection boxes and leaflets at the back of the Church or donations can be made via the St Ninian's Just Giving page which is <http://www.justgiving.com/stninianschurch> and select Toilet Twinning.

You can also donate by TEXT 70070 and send SNIN99 then £1/£2/£3/£4/£5 or £10.

Ayrshire Charity Quiz

The November Quiz is available, the subject is 'It's only Natural'. All the answers are names of animals, fish, birds, insects and plants. Entry costs £1 with all proceeds being donated to SeAscape, a charity which works across South Ayrshire to help homeless people and those in housing need. Please support this worthy cause - you might be surprised to know how many need this help in Troon. Completed entries can be returned to the folder on the Welcome Desk.