

ST. NINIAN'S NEWS

July, August & September 2023



Welcome to the Newsletter for St Ninian's Troon

All are welcome to our Services

10.30am Said Eucharist with Hymns on Sunday

10.00am Morning Prayer with music on Monday

10.00am Holy Communion on Wednesday

Rector: Rev Keith Thomasson

01292 313731 or email: troonrector@myphone.coop

Email: stninianschurchtroon@gmail.com

Facebook: Saint Ninian's Episcopal Church Troon

Address: Bentinck Drive, Troon, Ayrshire KA10 6HZ

Message from Rev Keith Thomasson....

Bricks without Straw aims to obtain an honest picture of the reality of the charges across the diocese in 2023. This snapshot will consider the Spiritual Reality, the Missional Reality, and the Financial Reality of each charge. The purpose for doing this is to provide some background to the Synod and Diocesan Council in making strategic decisions for the life and mission of charges around our diocese as they allocate resources in the coming years - it will also help to feed into the necessary preparations of the next Diocesan Profile once we reach an episcopal vacancy in the coming years (The Diocesan Website).



I wonder whether you have ever made bricks? In certain locations ancient methods are still used today. Clay, dung, and straw are combined through some mixing work done with bare feet. The resulting mixture is then placed in a rectangular mould to produce a brick shape. The bricks are left to dry in the sun for fifteen days and then 'fired'. This technique produces strong bricks that last for generations.

You may wish to watch this video that explains this technique.
[The Nile Series: Brick-making tradition lives through centuries - YouTube](#)

In Exodus 5 - 6 we read how the enslaved Hebrews made bricks for Pharaoh. Moses and Aaron requested that Pharaoh release the Hebrew people for several days for a festival, which they would go out in the desert to hold. Pharaoh said no and was irked and decreed that in future all bricks would be made without the straw that helps to bind the constituent materials and give strength to the bricks. If the people wanted to use straw, they would have to find it.

Within the current climate the various and abundant resources the church once had are diminishing in many places. In a certain way it could be argued that we are trying to make bricks without straw. This is balanced by the binding agent that is our 'relentless hope' in God. God is with us and inviting us to join God in God's mission in the world, now, and simply, with what we have. We have everything we need for Scotland right now. We have every reason to be excited. The Diocese of Glasgow are asking us to do some work as a Charge to communicate the reality on the ground in the summer of 2023. Diocesan colleagues will then work out how they can further support and resource our local mission. Bishop Kevin and Dean Reuben are calling this **Bricks without Straw**. They are inviting us all to participate and become involved.

Bishop Kevin introduces the initiative in this video, which is also on the Home Page of the Diocesan website
[\(The Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway - United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway \(anglican.org\)\)](#).

So, make a cup of tea and sit down for seven minutes with your Bishop, Kevin.

[Bricks without Straw - United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway \(anglican.org\)](#)

As a Charge, and through the oversight of Vestry, we are asked to consider our Spiritual, Missional, and Financial *reality* right now. For the first two weeks of July our services shall be shaped around this theme of **Building Bricks without Straw**. We shall step away from the lectionary.

I propose we meet for an extended period on Sunday 9 July. The 10.30 service will be followed by a congregational lunch and a

workshop-based ***Building Bricks without Straw*** afternoon for all, ending at 16.00.

SUNDAY 9 JULY CONGREGATIONAL EVENT

We will catch up over lunch. We shall explore the bible, participate in discussion, be creative and most of all, have fun. From this a small group will shape our submission to the diocese.

Our response will be placed alongside all other responses so that the Diocese can work out how to best support our shared mission. The material will also be introduced to the diocesan clergy at their October conference. I am on the small organising team for this, and colleagues are, for the first time, being invited to ‘say how it is’. This is emanating from the lead of Bishop Kevin and Dean Reuben. It is a refreshing request.

You may be wondering what is meant by spiritual and missional reality and what types of questions are to be explored.

First, please watch Dean Reuben speak on Spiritual Reality.

[Bricks Without Straw: Spiritual Reality - YouTube](#)

Then please consider these questions:

What the Reality of the Spiritual life of your Charge?

What is the prayer and worship life of your Charge?

How do you manifest the SEC pub sign “The Scottish Episcopal Church Welcomes you”?

How are relationships nurtured between members and with God?

How does the vestry consider the spiritual life of the Charge?

Now watch Canon Audrey speak on ***Missional Reality***

[Bricks Without Straw: Missional Reality - YouTube](#)

Then please consider these questions:

What is the Reality of the Missional life of your Charge?

What is your Charge engaged in Missionally at the moment?

What missional opportunities do you perceive in your Charge?

What missional planning is there in your Charge?

Financial Reality

Finally consider these questions (this is not the full list):

What is the Reality of your Financial situation?

Where does your Vestry’s income come from?

What do you consider your financial state of health to be over the next 5 years?

Here is a link that will show you the forms with the questions on. Once again, they are on the diocesan website.

[Bricks-without-Straw-2023-Form.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Paper copies are available for you in church if that makes participation easier for you. Take them away, answer the questions you feel able to answer, and hand them back for July 9 if you cannot attend the sessions that afternoon.

Yes, the time scale is quite tight. Yet what a fantastic opportunity to share together and co-create the future with God and with diocesan colleagues, and one another. The vestry have voted in favour of all these plans and look to actively participate.

Please pray for our Diocesan leaders Bishop Kevin and Dean Reuben, for me as your Rector, and for this Charge in our shared ministry and mission. Please sign up for the Building Bricks Without Straw afternoon by contacting me directly. *Please RSVP* to troonrector@myphone.coop or ring me up on 01292 313731 by July 9. And, even if you don't manage this please come along anyway.

Wishing you all a super summer, and see you on July 9.

Shalom,

Keith

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Sunday 9 July

Morning service followed by a bring your own lunch and *Bricks without Straw Consultation* (see Rector's Letter for more information)

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 September

Open Doors Weekend (tbc)

Sunday 17 September

St Ninian's Patronal Festival followed by congregational lunch.

Sunday 1 October

Harvest with a talk from the Mission to Seafarers.

Sunday 8 October

Homeless Sunday. The guest speaker is Kate Alexander, Director of Scottish Detainee Visitors



STORY AND SONG

Story and Song begins in September on Thursday mornings in St Ninian's Hall from 10.00 - 11.30.



We will sing songs with movement, play instruments, hear stories, play, and enjoy hospitality, making friends and meeting old friends. The sessions will use stories and songs from around the world, including many tried and tested favourites and will include elements of Christian faith and spiritual nurture.

We would like all interested in this, pre-school children with an accompanying parent or carer, to register their interest by contacting Keith by the end of August if possible:

Ring 01292 313731/ text 07529221404/
email: troonrector@myphone.coop

The *Story and Song* initiative emanates from Vestry making connection with children their number one priority. Such a connection echoes both the charge profile created when you advertised for a new Rector and the conversations held when using Appreciative Inquiry. I currently have four women interested in being involved. I would like to call more of you, men, and women, to share in this delightful work of:

- * Welcoming
- * Preparing the space
- * Praying
- * Getting to know the children
- * Listening to parents/carers
- * Offering hospitality
- * Leading a song, telling a story, baking a cake
- * The carers/parents will always have responsibility for their child/children



Please get in touch to discuss your involvement.

ADDITIONAL THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES

Compline

Thursday 6 July & 7 September at 19.30

Taizé Service

Thursday 21 September



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - MAY 2023

Income & Expenditure Account Summary (excluding depreciation and changes in investment valuation) for the first eight months of the current financial year – October 2022 to May 2023:

Total Income	73,633
Total Expenditure	75,448
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,815)



Total expenditure exceeded income resulting in a deficit of £1,815 (excluding depreciation and changes in investment valuation).

The only significant restricted fund at 31 May 2023 was the Window/Building Fund; the value of which was £27,910.

Karen McPherson Bookkeeper

Bank Account Name: St Ninian's Church Vestry

Sort Code: 82-68-21 **Account Number:** 20510140

Reference: OFFERING

Donations can also be made on our

Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/stninianschurch>

or by cheque made out to: St Ninian's Church Vestry

SCOTTISH GUILD OF SERVERS

The Liturgical Seasons seem to be passing by very quickly and with Easter having now passed, Ascension Day was celebrated in St. Andrews, Ardrossan, lead by Bishop Idris.

This has now been followed by Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

The serving team are continuing to carry out their duties attentively, and coping while members are away on holiday.

As we are now in the holiday season, enjoy your holiday and I wish you well in your travels.

Should you wish to explore becoming member a server, I will be delighted to hear from you.

Roger Robinson

Guardian of Ayrshire and St. Ninian's Church, Troon



Two messages from Dorothy Ferguson, The Rector's Warden....

SELECTION OF A CONGREGATIONAL CHARITY

Vestry has agreed that the congregation will support two charities for a period of three years, one to have an international focus and one a local focus. This will enable the congregation to develop a relationship with the charity and gain a deeper understanding of the work of the charities.



Members of the congregation are invited to propose the charity they would wish to support. The Vestry will receive these proposals and filter the list so that six, three in each category, can be presented to the congregation at the AGM, where the congregation will vote to choose one in each category.

The outcome will be reported in the Newsletter. If you wish to nominate a charity, please let Dorothy Ferguson have the name and some brief details before Sunday 1 October.

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR

The Vestry wishes to thank John O'Donnell for his time as our Safeguarding Co-Ordinator. As John is now standing down from the role, a new co-ordinator is required. The person appointed will be responsible, on behalf of the Vestry, for ensuring that the work of the church is carried out in accordance with the law and the Scottish Episcopal Church's policies on the protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.



The role of the Co-Ordinator is one of responsibility and confidentiality and will be occupied by someone of competence who attracts the respect and trust of others.

This will be a lay person who is not involved in working with the vulnerable in the congregation. The Co-Ordinator is supported by the Vestry, the Diocesan Protection Officer and the Provincial Officers.

Please prayerfully consider whether or not you could fill this role and speak to Keith, our Rector, if you are interested. Please respond by Monday 31 July.

Dorothy Ferguson



SUMMER SUPPERS



Tuesday 4 July & 5 Sept - Scotts

Tuesday 1 August - South Beach

Each month please sign the list on the Welcome Desk by the preceding Sunday.

All are most welcome to any of the suppers which begin at 6.00pm.



10K FOR ST NINIAN'S

The run started in Twickenham, ran through Teddington then along the Thames Path via Richmond and back to Twickenham. Over 850 runners were crazy enough to do the 10K in around 30 degree heat so it was a relief to get to the end - still breathing and still chatting. Thank you to everyone for the encouragement to keep going.

With your support we raised £330 to which gift aid will be added, raising the total to around £380.

Dorothy



CHURCH REGISTER

MARRIAGE

Saturday 3 June

Megan Coady and Patrick Rooney

FUNERAL

Monday 26 June

The funeral for Susie (Sylvia) Smith was held at Masonhill crematorium and a service of celebration followed at St Ninian's.





The congregation celebrated the coronation of King Charles III with coffee & cakes after the morning worship.



ST. NINIAN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship will recommence on **Tuesday 3 October** and meet on the first Tuesday of the month through to March at 7.30pm. (More details in the pew leaflet.)

The speaker for the first meeting is still to be confirmed but on Tuesday 7 November, Linda Macaulay with Hamish will be talking about the work of Therapet.

The Beetle Drive will take place on Tuesday 5 December. All our welcome to the meetings. *Linda*



SUMMARY OF THE VESTRY MEETING - MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 MAY



Vestry Notes

- The Role of Treasurer remains vacant
- A contract for any church musician is currently being prepared by the lawyer.
- Vestry has agreed the annual Well Being budget for the Rector
- The process for the selection of the congregational charity was agreed.
- Progress is being made in the development of the Community Garden.
- The development of 'Music for Toddlers' on Thursday mornings during term time was agreed.
- Vestry agreed to invite the congregation to identify what they prefer and value in the different services. What helps spiritual growth? What would they find helpful?
- New hall let charges were agreed. £20/hour for the hall. £12/hour for the meeting room.
- Vestry members are currently completing the Diocesan Risk Assessment Training.
- The Sacristy doors and locks have been repaired.
- The advert and job description for the Safeguarding Co-ordinator was agreed.

Following approval, the full Minute will be available in the folder on the Welcome desk.

The People's Warden, Evelyn Wilson, encourages you to talk with her and would welcome this. Any points for submission to Vestry can be discussed with Evelyn, or any member of Vestry, liaising with Keith as Rector and Chair of Vestry, and then, as a proposal, emailed to Alison and Keith.

Dorothy Ferguson

SUMMARY OF THE VESTRY MEETING - HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JUNE



Vestry Notes

The principal items discussed at the Meeting were as follows:

- The meeting began with prayer and an exploration of Hagar and Ismael in Genesis. The Vestry were asked to re-affirm their Commissioning which emphasises the scope of our shared task and commitment to collaboration.
- A vacancy for a person to work alongside the Treasurer dealing with day to day financial matters is still vacant. One person has volunteered but this vacancy would be made easier if two people could work together.
- An employment lawyer is still finalising his thoughts on the status of the musicians employed in the church and will support us with drawing up contracts.
- A group has met to discuss how we can seek the views of the congregation as to what types of services are relevant to individual members and the community as a whole. The particular focus is about what is realistic and best to offer at Christmas and Easter and then more generally.
- Community Garden (Ninian's Garden) Dates have been finalised for a general meeting to which everyone is welcome on 29 August and a Garden Party on 30 September. (Further details in the Newsletter on pages 14 & 15.)
- On behalf of the Vestry Keith has written to all hall users with new rates for 2023 - 2024.
- Three people have come forward to work towards becoming Pastoral Assistants. Interviews will be conducted in the near future.
- Further work will progress soon on the display board in the church porch.
- Discussion took place on Equal Marriage. It was decided it would be useful for the Rector to preach on this topic, for a congregational lunch and discussion to take place in order to discuss this further. The Canon Theologian will be approached for input.
- It was agreed to continue using the new blue Scottish Liturgical service booklets. A further supply will be purchased.
- Work is ongoing with regards to repairs in the Rectory, water

supply in the church and repairs to the Lychgate. Following the sacristy being broken into, new locks and bolts have been installed. A new water heater has been installed in the Gents toilet in the church hall. Relatives will be contacted with regards to the Memorial benches in the church garden, one of which has been disposed of due to being beyond repair.

- A fire drill will take place on Sunday 25 June 2023.
- Bishop Kevin's *Bricks without Straw* initiative has been received. Keith has been asked to preach on it and host a congregational lunch and afternoon on Sunday July 9 so that all can participate and be heard and share their ideas.

Following approval, the full Minute will be available in the folder on the Welcome desk.

The People's Warden, Evelyn Wilson, encourages you to talk with her and would welcome this. Any points for submission to Vestry can be discussed with Evelyn, or any member of Vestry, liaising with Keith as Rector and Chair of Vestry, and then, as a proposal, emailed to Alison and Keith.

Julia Izatt

Dean Kenny Rathband (now retired) was being shown around St Ninian's in May by Keith. He was visiting as he was preparing to officiate at the wedding of Patrick and Megan later in the month, Patrick being a family friend. Kenny and his wife were both really taken with the beauty and excellent maintenance of the plant here at St Ninian's.

Keith shared some of his hopes for mission and outreach especially with those using the hall. It was fun to host the Rathbands and visit the Craft Group who were meeting that morning. Patricia kindly took this photograph of the visit.



CHRISTMAS FAIR 2023

“It’s only July” you are most probably saying as you read this article.

Yes, we know, but planning has already started for this year’s event which will take place on Saturday 25th November.

The planning committee met in May, and we would like to ask the congregation of St Ninian’s

Have you any ideas for different kinds of stalls?

Do you know of anyone outside the church community who might like to have a stall/display?

How could you help?

Could you help setting up/clearing up?

The Christmas Fair is our main fundraising event for our chosen Charities which will be finalised at the AGM in December. We would really like to maximise the money we raise and so have decided to open the fair to individuals from outside the church who could have a table/ space for a moderate donation. The more stalls we have hopefully more money will be raised. We hope to use the church itself as well as the halls for the event.

Please pray and think hard about whether you can help in anyway. We want this year to be the best ever.

Thank you.

Committee: Keith Thomasson, Emma Cassidy, Julia Izatt, Robert & Janet Keene, Alison McIndoe, Linda Rayner & Evelyn Wilson

PLEASE KEEP THE 25th NOVEMBER IN YOUR DIARY

VISIT TO THE COMMUNITY GARDENS, MILLPORT ON FRIDAY 19 MAY



A small enthusiastic group of us met at the ferry terminal in Largs for the 10.15am crossing to Cumbrae. We had no need of raincoats and wellies as the sky was blue and we arrived at Millport in warm sparkling sunshine.

We headed straight up to the Community gardens and were greeted by two ladies who welcomed us warmly with coffee and biscuits while they showed us the garden and told us all about it.

We were impressed! Small manageable raised beds were allocated to individuals or groups who applied. They grew a variety of things, herbs, vegetables, flowers. They gardened organically and made their own compost and managed a wormery. Experts among the volunteers advised and helped.

Produce belonged to the growers, but any surplus was shared and was there for the taking. The garden was open to a Nursing Home nearby, as well as the school and passers by. It was a place to sit and chat, a place to be enjoyed by all.

They explained that they had acquired money from lottery funding (readily available for community projects). The project also attracted enthusiastic and often knowledgeable volunteers who were keen to share their expertise.

From the gardens we walked down to the Garrison very close by, where we enjoyed a welcome and enjoyable lunch.

Then we climbed the hill to the Cathedral of the Isles....a place of beauty and peace. The sun shone through the glorious stained glass windows and the church was filled with flowers, ready for a wedding the next day. We walked through the peaceful grounds to the labyrinth, constructed for meditative and prayerful walking and then back through the wild garlic to the sea front.

Here we soaked up the sun and relaxed with an ice cream from the Ritz Café before finally catching the bus back to the ferry.

Val Bryant



Dear Friends,

As you know St. Ninian's Episcopal Church is hoping to host a community garden within its grounds. We would like to offer gardening space for individuals and community groups in raised beds in the South-West corner of our grounds between the hall, South Beach Lane and Sandilands. If you are interested in this venture or have questions or concerns, please come to our open community garden meeting on **Tuesday 29 August at 19:30** in St. Ninian's hall or a garden party on **Saturday 30 September at 14:30**. For more information consult our charter which was published in the May & June edition of the Newsletter.

Looking forward to see you,

Warm Greetings,

St. Ninian's Garden Committee niniansgarden@gmail.com



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK UPDATE

The amount raised in Troon this year came to a total so far of **£2,496.30**. The Troon Lunch made £665.00, coffee morning £456.30 and the remaining £1,375.00 from envelopes and other donations. I believe that £1,085 of these donations were gift aided as well which increases the total further. Thanks to all who helped or contributed in any way to this . *Ken Welsh*



PROPERTY REPORT JUNE 2023

Sacristy

New security locks and bolts, where necessary, have been installed. The new keys have been passed on to the appropriate personnel and the key register will be updated. **Cost was £1,260.00**

The issue of the improvement windows is being discussed with the Glazier with the idea of installing the carbon outer glazing as soon as and then proceeding to update the leaded glass at a later stage. This would spread the cost into the next financial year.

Current estimate for the whole job is £6,636.00



Water supply upgrade

Plumbers on site and new pipework being installed between our Bentinck Drive fence and entering at the disabled toilet where it will connect with all internal pipework. Scottish water is installing a new branch and Toby to connect at our boundary. The work should be completed by end of June.

Cost so far paid is deposit of £3,000.00. Grant of £1,500.00 received; balance of £6,400.00 approximately to be paid at completion of works.

The hot water heater supplying the taps in the gents' toilet has broken. The Vestry homologated the immediate replacement of the heater. Work completed 20 June. **Cost £531.69 + VAT = £638.00**

Rectory dampness

The stone work at the left and right of the front upper bedroom has been capped with appropriate lead equivalent material. Roofer will also investigate the dampness at front lounge wall and hall skylight. Stonework completed and extension to down pipe installed.

Cost was £1,600.00

Rectory inspection 31st May

The following items of note were found at the inspection.

- a) There are no trickle vents on the double glazing. This encourages condensation in the two bathrooms and Kitchen. Vestry approved the installation of extractor fans in these three locations.
- b) Vestry approved replacement of shower seal.
- c) The trellis fencing between the Rectory and the adjacent flats has disintegrated or come away from brick wall. The exposed metal post holders are rusted and posed a hazard to children climbing the wall. These should be removed. The vestry should consider the installation of new trellis or similar to provide privacy. Price to be established and reported to Vestry.

Approved estimated costs for a. & b. above £1,550.00

The Lychgate

The poor state of the lychgate timbers and roof is a cause for concern and repairs are classified as urgent in the Quinquennial Report. An initial survey

was carried out by Russell Wyllie (Diocesan Architect recommendation) on 1 June. Initial findings are that several rotted timbers will require replacing and the roof realigned. A further survey was carried out on 7 June and thereafter a specification and estimate for works was supplied on tender submitted on 20 June. The vestry approved this matter proceeding at the earliest opportunity.

Approved estimated cost is £4,150.00+VAT = £4,980.00

Memorial Bench

The Family Memorial Bench to Joyce Victoria Johnstone (1926 – 2008) is broken. The timbers have rotted and have been disposed of. Vestry agreed that family be informed and asked whether or not they wish to provide a replacement at their cost. Matter to proceed dependant on their response. The Congregational Memorial Bench to Ian Ogg will require replacement at the end of the summer. The Vestry agreed that the family and the congregation be approached to fund its replacement.

Property Team

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH

We remember those close to our hearts whose anniversary falls at this time including...

in July: Sidney Radford, Betty Welsh, Ruth McKenzie, Kathleen Lawrence, V. Allen, Douglas Laird, Stan Kewney, Jeanette Haempel and Dora Mann.

In August, we remember Fiona Irving and her mother Elaine MacWilliam, Bill Izatt, Doreen and Alan Smyth, Marjorie Mackay, Ray Greenwood and Vera Kewney.

In September, Jean McIndoe, Christopher Hardwick, Rosemary McGill, Malcolm Collins, Doreen Norman, Winifred Boucher-Myers and Mattie Hancox.



SMALL CHANGE COLLECTION

The Small Change Collection continues on the last Sunday of the month. In April the total was £9.28 and in May a total of £12.

Thank you for your support.

Norma



CHURCH AT HOME

Please continue to pray for those of our members at home or in care, including Nan Inglis, who has carers regularly as well as the nurse calling twice a week. John & Constance Wright are both well, visited by their family and their carers, and send their best wishes to those in the congregation that remember them. Moira Dalton is no longer able to drive, but continues to go out walking regularly.



Edith Cooper is very settled in Belhaven, and the staff would be pleased for her to have visits from those who knew her at St. Ninian's. Owen Light and Doreen Jardine both continue reasonably well at Queen's View, and Doreen always attends the services that are held once a month.

Sadly, as you will probably know by now, Susie Smith died peacefully after a period of ill health. She remained the same very gracious lady to the end, and when told of anyone's good wishes to her, she immediately asked that I convey hers to them in return.

Norma

THE LICENSING OF THE REV. LIZ CRUMLISH AT ST. OSWALD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MAYBOLE

With love, joy, and laughter, the Rev Liz Crumlish was embraced by her congregation of St Oswald's Maybole, the wider Ayrshire region and the diocese at her licensing as Priest-in-Charge on 22 June. We pray for Liz, her family, and the community of Oswald's. As this ministry develops, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide, encourage and bless their work and witness in serving God and God's people.



PLAINSONG WORKSHOP & COMPLINE

St Ninian's hosted the Scottish Plainsong Choir on Saturday 24 June. In the morning choristers gathered from Glasgow, Argyll and the Isles, Stirling and elsewhere. Many delighted in the building and being singers, especially the acoustic in the hall. One Medievalist was taken with the stained glass, especially the presence of the signs of the zodiac, and will think further of the purpose of their presence in such a sacred space.

It was a delight to attend the morning rehearsal and see how the meaning of the text shaped the singing. The purpose of the choir was to present the texts, with as much beauty as possible, in worship. Following a trip to a local hostelry and a beach walk and paddle for some, the choir was doubled in size with workshop participants coming from across the region.

Following his recent visitation, Dean Reuben wrote 'St Ninian's is screaming out for missional'. This workshop was a clear example of how the ancient attraction of the spiritual embedded in Plainsong may be harnessed to attract people who wish to sing, people of all faiths and none.

Here is an account from one of those participants:

'It was a real delight to sing Compline in a choir of around 50, under the amazing leadership of Alan Taverner. Alan guided us through the subtleties of plainsong with a very relaxed teaching style. After the afternoon workshop we sang Compline – the music making the text more meaningful. Thank you to those who joined us for the service and to all those who came to sing. It was an unforgettable experience!'

We have been singing a Plainsong Compline at St Ninian's on the third Thursday of the month at 19.30. All are invited to participate and access the ancient beauty, yet spiritual refreshing of this last office of the day.

The day was punctuated with times of hospitality which reflected the loving generosity of God. Hospitality, worship, song. What more do we need?

Keith



GENERAL SYNOD

The Scottish Episcopal Church held the 2023 meeting of the General Synod on June 8th - 10th, at St Paul's & St George's Church, York Place, Edinburgh.

During the Opening Eucharist, the Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, spoke about the matters to be discussed in the days ahead, highlighting the church's commitment to achieving carbon Net Zero by 2030. *"At all levels of its business, our church has been working on a plan to achieve Net Zero in our emissions but also debating and praying and worshipping our way towards a renewed understanding of our custodianship of Creation. As a church we pledged to reach Net Zero by 2030 and much work has been undertaken in helping us to reach this target"*.

The Primus also looked forward to a historic first address to the General Synod by a Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, on Friday, the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, who will talk about her hopes and vision for churches in Scotland at this time. *"The churches in Scotland continue to work together to try to heal many of the matters troubling our society. We are at the forefront of engagement with government in both Scotland and the UK, but something else has changed and the historic visit to address this Synod by the Moderator is a mark of that"*.

After the conclusion of the Open Eucharist, General Synod commenced its business, which took place on the Thursday afternoon, Friday and the Saturday morning.

Business on the Thursday afternoon included a presentation and debate on Net Zero. In 2020, Synod had recognized that urgent action was required in relation to the global climate emergency and that the church should work towards net zero emissions by 2030.

Today, the Provincial Environment Group (PEG) brought a Net Zero plan to Synod following a period of consultation, and Synod members were asked to affirm the direction of the plan. Bishop Ian Paton, PEG convener, proposed the motion and described the objective as a "whole church challenge". In an introduction to the debate, he said: *"The size of the challenge is complex and overwhelming, but we can make a difference if we act together. The Net Zero Action Plan provides a practical pathway for the whole church to follow."*

It has been the subject of consultation and discussion across the Province, including at Diocesan Synods and in webinars and presentations. This has allowed a wide range of views, expertise and experience to influence and shape it.”

In order to assist Charges in their plans to achieve Net Zero, guidance packs will be available later this year.

On the Friday morning, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland gave an historic first ever speech to the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton spoke of the opportunities both emerging and possible from the Saint Andrew Declaration, a series of acknowledgments and commitments agreed between the churches in 2021 intended to deepen their relationship. Her address concluded with her thanks to Synod members for giving their backing to a Net Zero action plan on the opening day of Synod, and recalled the COP 26 march in Glasgow, *“where a sodden and fully robed Primus walked in rain-soaked solidarity with sisters and brothers who know the depth of this climate catastrophe. The Scottish Episcopal Church made a statement that day, and you have continued to be a beacon for the church in Scotland and I am gladdened to hear of your decision yesterday. Thank you.”*

In other business, the Standing Committee presented the Accounts, Budget and Overview. There were presentations by the Mission Board, the Faith and Order Board and the Committee for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

General Synod concluded on Saturday lunchtime, with a closing act of worship and confirmation of the Acts of Synod.

Nigel Rayner Lay Representative



CREATIVE COMMUNITY GROUP

Discover the joy of our Creative Community Group! Join us on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00am to 12 noon in our church hall.

On **Saturday 1 July**, Margaret will teach us to hand sew mug rugs. The next meeting is **August 5th**, where as usual we'll chat, share projects, and inspire one another and after that the next meeting will be on **Saturday 2nd September**.

Whether you're a seasoned crafter or would just like to join us for a coffee and chat, everyone is welcome. Join us and be part of our vibrant community!

Shona



Hexagon Coaster

You will need:

- Sizzix® "Big Shot" Plus Machine (660020)
- Sizzix® "Bigz" Die - Hexagons 1" Sides #2 (659835)
- Sizzix® "Bigz" Die - Hexagons 1 1/4" Sides (659834)
- 25cm x 13cm each of 2 contrasting or co-ordinating fabrics
- Paper to use as hexagon template

Opposite: Shona demonstrated how to make a Hexagon coaster.

Above: One of the lace panels brought for Show & Tell



MESSY CHURCH

Members of St Ninian's Church helped with crafts, stories and songs at the first Messy Church held after school on a Friday afternoon...



MARGARET JOHNSTONE

Margaret was born in Kilmarnock in 1923, the young sister of Jim, to parents, Matthew and Agnes Kerr. Her father was an elder in St. Marnock's Church, and Margaret never could understand, why they had to walk the long way there, when there were so many other churches nearby they could have attended. It did prove to be an advantage though, as when our previous Rector came, she knew him well from sitting in the same family pew as him and his family, in his younger days as a member of the Church of Scotland.

Margaret obviously had a great gift for friendship, as she remained life-long friends with many of the girls with whom she played badminton, or travelled on holiday. In the days before air travel, these holidays were mainly in Britain, but she was not averse to long coach or ferry journeys to go abroad. The travel bug was to prove useful when, much to the surprise of her family, she got married at the age of 50, to Ronnie Johnstone, and went off to Kuala Lumpur, where Ronnie was working at that time. Not only did she take the plunge by marrying and going abroad, she also became a member of St. Ninian's when Ronnie retired and returned to his family home in Troon.

Ronnie was a great believer in "doing things while you still can", and so they continued to travel the world in cruise ships, or by air. When at home, they walked every afternoon, along the prom and back through the town, and got to know many of the people they encountered on their way.

Sadly, they did not have too much time together, as Ronnie took ill, and eventually died in 2002. When the idea of the Memorial Pathway was mooted, Margaret did not think that was something of which Ronnie would really approve, so instead she gifted the handrail in the porch which has been such a boon to many, including Margaret herself, some years later.

About the same time Ronnie was ill, Margaret was also travelling to and from Kilmarnock to visit her brother in hospital, until he died. Her nephew Jim, was thus her only living family member, and he made many faithful visits to Troon over the years. When she was more mobile, he took her to lots of the local landmarks, which she thoroughly enjoyed visiting. Even when not so mobile, she took vicarious enjoyment from his detailed itineraries of *his* various travels.

Unfortunately Margaret became more disabled, and needed the help of a team of carers. These were all cheery young women, and Margaret

took a great interest in their lives. She was amazed that none of them were married, but all had “partners”, and she used to speculate about obtaining such a “partner” herself. Apart from the gardener and the chair lift maintenance man, she was singularly short of male visitors, until one evening the “Alert” team phoned to say she had a problem, and, as they were in Girvan, could I go round? We had people in for a meal, so all the gents took themselves off to Darley Crescent to see if they could help. They could and they did, and Margaret retold the tale, for some weeks, of the night she entertained all these gentlemen visitors.

Margaret was determined to remain in her own home despite it becoming more and more difficult, but matters were taken out of her hands when she had yet another fall, this time on her front, which meant she could not reach her alarm. The carers called the ambulance, and she was taken into Ayr Hospital. She was then moved to the Biggart, but suffered a stroke, and died very peacefully some time later, in the excellent care of every single member of the staff in Urquart Ward.

Margaret lived her life as a person of enduring faith, and who practiced it in her church-going and in her life.

She is now at home with her Lord.
May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS (YEAR A)

The numbers in brackets refer to the page in the pew bibles

Sunday: Said Eucharist with hymns 10.30am

Wednesday: Holy Communion 10.00am

JULY 2023

For the first two Sundays in July we have two readings only, one from the Hebrew bible that is lengthier and intentionally read on consecutive Sundays and a Gospel reading. These readings are not from the lectionary but connected with the **Bricks without Straw** initiative. *Readers will need to find these in the pew bibles rather than the large Red Lectern book of readings.* I also ask that as with every Sunday the reader prepares well please for this most important ministry amongst us all.

Sunday 2 July

Exodus 5 - 6 (45), Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Wednesday 5 July Thomas, Apostle

Sunday 9 July

Exodus 5 - 6 (45), Mark 12: 41 - 44

Wednesday 12 July

We now return to the lectionary reading cycle:

Sunday 16 July

Genesis 25: 19 - 34 (19), Psalm 119: 105 - 112, Romans 8: 1 - 11 (918)

Matthew 13: 1 - 9 + 18 - 23

Wednesday 19 July Mary Magdalene

Sunday 23 July

Genesis 28: 10 - 19a (21), Psalm 139: 1 - 11 + 22 - 23,

Romans 8: 12 - 25 (919), Matthew 13: 24 - 30 + 36 - 43

Wednesday 26 July James, Apostle

Sunday 30 July

Genesis 29: 15 - 28 (22), Psalm 105: 1 - 11, (45b) or 128,

Romans 8: 26 - 39 (919), Matthew 13: 31 - 33 + 44 - 52

Wednesday 2 August

Sunday 6 August

Genesis 32: 22 - 31 (26), Psalm 17: 1 - 7 + 16, Romans 9: 1 - 5 (920),

Matthew 14: 13 - 21

Wednesday 9 August

Sunday 13 August

Genesis 37: 1 - 4 + 12 - 28 (30), Psalm 105: 1 - 6 + 16 - 22 (45b)

Romans 10: 5 - 15 (921), Matthew 14: 22 - 33

Wednesday 16 August Mary the Virgin

Sunday 20 August

Genesis 45: 1 - 15 (37), Psalm 133, Romans 11: 1 - 2a + 29 - 32 (921),

Matthew 15: (10 - 20) 21 - 28



COFFEE ROTA	
2 July	R. & J. Keene
9 July	G. & E. Wilson
16 July	A. & N. Livingstone
23 July	J. & E. Cassidy
30 July	H. Henderson & J. Greenwood
6 August	K. & M. Welsh
13 August	A. & N. Livingstone
20 August	R. & J. Keene
27 August	H. Henderson & J. Greenwood
3 Sept	A. & N. Livingstone
10 Sept	R. & J. Keene
17 Sept	G. & E. Wilson
24 Sept	H. Henderson & J. Greenwood

WEDNESDAY	
5 July	S. Henderson
12 July	P. Dowson
19 July	L. Rayner
26 July	N. Rayner
2 August	R. Robinson
9 August	D. Combe
16 August	D. Ferguson
23 August	S. Henderson
30 August	P. Dowson
6 Sept	N. Rayner
13 Sept	D. Combe
20 Sept	D. Ferguson
27 Sept	L. Rayner

Wednesday 23 August Bartholomew, Apostle

Sunday 27 August

Exodus 1: 8 - 2:10 (43), Psalm 124, Romans 12: 1 - 8 (922),
Matthew 16: 13 - 20

Wednesday 30 August

Sunday 3 September

Exodus 3: 1 - 15 (44), Psalm 105: 1 - 6 + 23 - 26 + (45b)
Romans 12: 9 - 21 (922), Matthew 16: 21 - 28

Wednesday 6 September

Sunday 10 September

Exodus 12: 1 - 14 (51), Psalm 149, Roman 13: 8 - 14 (923),
Matthew 18: 15 - 20

Wednesday 13 September Holy Cross Day

Sunday 17 September St Ninian's Patronal Festival

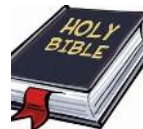
Isaiah 52: 7-10 (596), Psalm 67, Acts 2: 14 + 22 - 36 (885),
Matthew 9: 35 - 38

Wednesday 20 September St. Matthew, Apostle

Sunday 24 September

Exodus 16: 2 - 15 (55), Psalm 105: 1 - 6 + 37 - 45,
Philippians 1: 21 - 30 (953), Matthew 20: 1 - 16

Wednesday 27 September



ROTAS FOR JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023

DATE	TIME	WELCOMERS	OFFERING COUNTERS	READER (R) INTERCESSOR (I)
2 July	10.30am	A. Livingstone N. Livingstone	M. O'Leary & C. Milne	D. Ferguson (R) N. Livingstone (I)
9 July	10.30am	E. Wilson R. & J. Keene	J. Stack & M. O'Leary	P. Dowson (R) C. Phillips (I)
16 July	10.30am	J. Cassidy E. Cassidy	C. Milne & L. Rayner	L. Rayner (R) A.-C. Thomasson-Rosingh (I)
23 July	10.30am	E. Wilson G. Wilson	J. Stack & L. Rayner	J. Deason D. Ferguson
30 July	10.30am	A. Livingstone L. Rayner & M. Lamont	A. Livingstone J. Keene	N. Livingstone E. Wilson
6 Aug	10.30am	C. Milne Milne Family	M. O'Leary & K. Welsh	P. Dowson (R) C. Phillips (I)
13 Aug	10.30am	N. Rayner S. Henderson & L. Rayner	J. Stack & N. Rayner	G. Wilson (R) E. Wilson (I)
20 Aug	10.30am	J. Cassidy E. Cassidy	M. O'Leary & J. Stack	C. Phillips (R) S. McKernan (I)
27 Aug	10.30am	A. Livingstone N. Livingstone	E. Cassidy & J. Keene	J. Deason (R) N. Livingstone (I)
3 Sept	10.30am	A. Livingstone L. Rayner & G. Wilson	J. Stack & J. Cassidy	D. Ferguson (R) C. Phillips (I)
10 Sept	10.30am	J. Cassidy E. Cassidy & S. Henderson	A. Livingstone J. Cassidy	C. Phillips (R) D. Ferguson (I)
17 Sept	10.30am	E. Wilson K. & M. Welsh	N. & L. Rayner	N. Livingstone (R) A.-C. Thomasson-Rosingh (I)
24 Sept	10.30am	N. Rayner L. Rayner	K. & M. Welsh	E. Wilson (R) N. Livingstone (I)

Responsible Person in **BOLD** (for Health & Safety issues only)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition is **Thursday 21 September**
THIS EDITION WILL COVER OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
 Articles should be emailed to stninianschurctroon@gmail.com