

ST. NINIAN'S NEWS

March, April & May 2024



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

Websiste: www.stninianstroon.org.uk

Address: Bentinck Drive, Troon, Ayrshire KA10 6HZ

Message from Rev Keith Thomasson....

Before Christmas I wrote to you all about the place of spiritual nurture within the Charge. For this edition of the newsletter, I wish to share with you the ideas on mission presented at the Diocesan Conference.

Our guest speaker was The Revd Diana Hall. Diana is a priest in the Edinburgh Diocese, a Franciscan, and former lawyer. She chairs the recently convened Provincial Local Mission and Development Committee and teaches reflective practice with the Scottish Episcopal Institute. I had the pleasure of thanking Diana. We had worked together on the Provincial Transitional Ministry Course in 2022/23.

Diana has a winning style, infectious energy, and her delivery was a perfect balance of asking searching questions, self-deprecation, and missional stand-up comedy routine. Her talk was simply entitled:

Mission: What? Why? How? (This comes from Simon Sinek's the Golden Circle model)



What?

Here are two of Diana's *what* questions:

- What have you got that you wish to share on?
- What model of mission do you inhabit?

An important theme for Diana was 'taking delight in abundance' and the related 'looking for abundance rather than deficit' (this is classic Sam Wells theology). Connected with this was the importance of 'along-sidedness', which is essentially participating in the work of the Holy Spirit, the *Paraclete*. This is a theology of 'Being with'.

Certain phrases remain with me, some of which are familiar e.g. 'all are welcome'. Others are new, such as 'facing relentlessly outwards', asking questions such as 'what are you hoping for?' and 'if you could ask God a question, what would it be?'

I would be delighted if you spend time with these questions and phrases and note down your response. Then please invite me to visit so I can hear your ideas. Invite your friends along too.

Why?

- First, 'are we dwelling in God?' This is the language of abiding we read about in John's Gospel.
- Second, 'are we continuing to do the same thing and expect different results?'

Crucially as a community are we inviting and enabling people to be nurtured, abide in God, and grow? A connected question is, 'is your community bearing fruit?' 'What things might you do to change things for the better?'

I find these questions very interesting as it is first about how we invest spiritually rather than doing for and to others. Secondly it is about doing things afresh and differently. For such work to be fruitful we should try things out and ask questions, and not to be afraid to fail. There is a sense of movement inherent in this approach.

Diana was very clear that the other choice is remaining as we are, and this is akin to palliative care. For some communities or elements of a community this may be the correct choice. If so, how can we prepare well spiritually for a good death?

I am delighted to hear about the priority given to spiritual investment and a sense of movement. I also appreciate the insight that for those who wish to remain as they are, and the community to remain as it has been, that there is still a good spiritual option, namely preparing well

for death.

I was fascinated that spiritual investment, when connected to the Why? of mission, has various dimensions. The second of these reminded me of using the resource Grave Talk. We couldn't quite get it off the ground before. Is it time to try again?

How?

Diana spoke of the work at Dunbar. Their work has been nationally recognised - and was reported in the last newsletter. It stemmed from these questions:

- What ideas do you have?
- What would you like to try?

The work connected past, present, and future. It stemmed from being willing to invest spiritually and take responsibility for personal and communal growth and taking time to abide in God. It also involved becoming a congregation where everyone gave sacrificially to enable sustainability.

In the next edition of the newsletter my theme is money. Here is a taster:

For it to be good, think, *what?* and *how?* For it to be great focus on the *why?* Giving is a spiritual practice and leads to joy. Dave Richards from St. Paul's & St. George's in Edinburgh gave the talk. I whet your appetite with a quotation from Dave.

'Jesus spoke more about money than anything else (i.e. sex, prayer, heaven, hell). 2,000 verses. Two thirds of the parables are about money'.

Shalom.

Keith

P.S. have a look at this, two minute's worth, about Simon Sinek's the Golden Circle model [Bing Videos](#)

MUSIC FOR THE WEEKLY EUCHARIST

You will notice that we have a new music team in place who will work alongside Keith. I hope that everyone will get to know Reuben, Greg, and Dan by name, and value all that they are bringing to enhance the worship and family of St. Ninian's.



I am grateful to the Vestry who have worked hard to establish a fair means of working with the musicians, and especially to

Dorothy Ferguson who has liaised with a law firm to enable everything to be as good as possible. We are now at the leading edge of working well with our musicians.

With the team in place, I am very excited that we are beginning to use a new, well-crafted setting of the Ordinary of the Mass (e.g. Kyrie, Agnus Dei). The music is published by the RSCM and written by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange [Joanna Forbes L'Estrange - Singer, Composer, Choir Director \(joannaforbeslestrange.com\)](http://joannaforbeslestrange.com).

Music copies are available each week to enable your participation. Yet each piece is easy to pick up by ear. So far, we have been using the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy) and the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). Yet there is more to learn including the Gloria, and the Sanctus and Benedictus (Holy/Blessed is). It is all in English and all very singable yet still of quality and depth.

Learning our new setting together on Sunday 10 March - RSCM Women Composers Day

You are warmly invited to learn the music together on Sunday 10 March. I hope that everyone will participate in what should be a fun and community building event.

Refreshments will be served in the hall from 10.00. From 10.30 we shall remain in the hall and enjoy learning the music together led by our music team. We shall then have a short break and move into church for a shortened Eucharist starting between 11.15 and 11.30 in which we sing most of the eucharist music accompanied by organ (we shall save the Gloria for Easter). We should finish by 12.15 and then you will still have time to attend any celebratory Mothering Sunday lunches. *Should any of you wish to eat together on this day, why not work with Keith to organise it?*

It is likely we shall have a refresher event to consolidate our learning later in the Spring/early Summer. I appreciate some may be elsewhere on 10 March with it being Mothering Sunday.

Below are links to the music, so you can listen and sing along beforehand:

Kyrie rscmshop.com/media/1399/rc199kyrie.mp3

Gloria rscmshop.com/media/1398/rc199gloria.mp3

Sanctus and Benedictus rscmshop.com/media/1400/rc199sanctusbenedictus.mp3

Agnus Dei rscmshop.com/media/1395/rc199agnusdei.mp3



BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2024

The charity chosen for Bishop Kevin's Lent Appeal 2024 is Friends of the Holy Land.

Friends of the Holy Land works to support the lives and witness of Christians living in the Holy Land through prayer and practical projects, recognising that their presence in the land where Jesus once walked is an important witness to all Christians.

In these deeply troubled times, support for Christians in the Holy Land provides a lifeline for them. So many Christians have had their lives completely destroyed by this war, either directly for those in Gaza or indirectly for those in the West Bank and Israel. Tourism has shut down, work permits have been withdrawn, many Christians have lost their ability to make a living. Friends of the Holy Land helps with emergency support and projects to help them rebuild a sustainable future to remain in the Holy Land.

Your support will help Friends of the Holy Land to direct more help to Christians in the Holy Land, giving support and most of all, hope.

Dedicated FHL Donation Page

The Donation Page for Bishop Kevin's Lent Appeal

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Fundraisers/diocese-of-glasgow-and-galloway-lent-appeal>

[Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Lent Appeal | Friends of the Holy Land](#)

The preferred and easiest way is to donate electronically and instantly to the appeal, either as individuals or as church treasurers sending collected charge donations. Gift Aid can be added to your donation for individual donations, adding 25p to every pound donated (if you pay tax). **Whether donating as an individual or as a church via your treasurer, please add the name of your church to the Donation Comments** (this should be possible even if you prefer to remain anonymous).

Please donate through *this* page (which donation goes directly to the Lent Appeal) by clicking the link above.

continued overleaf...



Cheque Payments

For those who prefer to send cheques, they should be sent to the Diocesan Office. **Cheque payments** should be made payable to **Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway**, please include a note to confirm the name of your charge and your contact details. Send to:

***Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
Bishop's Lent Appeal 2024
49 Cochrane Street, Glasgow G1 1HL***

Money will be transferred to Friends of the Holy Land on a regular basis, and included in the final Lent Appeal total. This will also apply to the following method.

Electronic Transfer to the Diocese

Although it remains easier to transfer electronically via the Donation Page on FHL's website, it remains possible to do so through the Diocesan account. Send by BACS to the following details:

Sort code: 83-41-00

Account Number: 00162089

Account name: GW & GALL GEN FUND 7

Please use the reference **Lent24** and your quota number for ID, and **also** email Iolanthe Stack at iolanthe@glasgow.anglican.org to confirm a donation has been sent, and from which charge it has been sent. Iolanthe will acknowledge receipt by email. If you are sending a personal donation this way, also use **Lent24** and your surname for ID, again copying in Iolanthe for information, and she will reply to confirm receipt.

PROVISION FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Easter Vigil - an enlarged ecumenical choir

Once again, now for the consecutive third year, St Ninian's will host the Easter Vigil service on behalf of the provision for Holy Week shared by Troon Churches Together. This is a candle-light service enhanced by silence and special music and readings.



We shall have an enlarged ecumenical choir once again. Anyone and everyone can participate. We shall rehearse on the day from 16.00 - 17.30 and follow this with tea, before readying ourselves for the service which begins at 19.30, with an Easter Fire as darkness descends. Please share this invitation with family and friends and let Keith know of your desire to be involved by Sunday 17 March.



Troon Churches Together Holy Week services

Maundy Thursday 28th March 2024

Troon Old : Service at 7.30pm

Good Friday 29th March 2024

Lighthouse : Space for Reflection between 12.00 - 3.00pm

St Meddan's : Evening Service at 7.30pm

Holy Saturday 30th March 2024

St Ninian's : Gathered Choir Rehearsal at 4.00 - 5.30pm

St Ninians : Evening Service at 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 31st March 2024

Our Lady of the Assumption : Beach Service at 7.00am

Seagate : Bacon rolls after Service

EASTER DAY AT ST NINIAN'S

**Eucharist for Easter Day at
10.30am**

**Followed by refreshments
in the church hall**



SCOTTISH GUILD OF SERVERS

The Liturgical seasons have raced along since the last St. Ninian's News, the Birth of Jesus Christ, and the Visit of the Wise Men to the stable.



By the time this edition of St. Ninian's News is published, Ash Wednesday will have been celebrated, leading us into Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day, when Jesus rose from the dead. We continue the Easter celebrations into May looking forward to Ascension Day and Pentecost.

As I write this the Scottish Guild of Servers will be holding a Workshop and Training at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Ayr on Saturday 24 February, which will consist of the following disciplines, Serving at the Altar, use of a Thurible, Setting up for the service of Holy Communion and Processions. I am pleased that all the servers of St. Ninian's have registered their interest in attending.

This may be a good time to ask if you are thinking of becoming a server; I will be delighted to hear from you.

Roger Robinson

Guardian of Ayrshire and St. Ninian's Troon

CHOSEN CHARITIES

These are the two charities that the congregation voted to support for three years at our AGM in December.

WaterAid is our International Charity. Support from St. Ninian's will go to help WaterAid reach many more people with clean, safe water and change lives for those living in vulnerable communities. We are looking for a volunteer to be our link between the church and this charity. If you feel you could do this, please have a word with Dorothy Ferguson.



River Garden, Auchincruive is our local charity. Its aim is to create a unique recovery model to benefit those affected by drug and alcohol addiction including families and residents. The charity aims to remove the stigma of addiction and share with the community, the garden and landscape and the wider health and wellbeing benefits that this brings. Do visit the garden, have a coffee or snack at the café and see the work that is going on.

I will be the link between River Garden and

St. Ninian's. *Julia Izatt*



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 2024

Income & Expenditure Account Summary (excluding depreciation and changes in investment valuation) for the financial year 2023 - 24 – October 2023 to January 2024:

Total Income	£28,155
Total Expenditure	£30,263
Surplus/(Deficit)	-£2,108



Total expenditure exceeded income resulting in a deficit of £2,108 (excluding depreciation and changes in investment valuation).

A donation of £2,000 has been received in December.

The only significant restricted fund at 31 January 2024 was the Window/Building Fund; the value of which was £16,575.

Bank Account Name: St Ninian's Church Vestry

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

Reference: OFFERING GIFT AID envelopes available

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

Karen McPherson

Bookkeeper

ST. NINIAN'S FELLOWSHIP

The speaker at the Fellowship on **Tuesday 5 March** will be Ronnie Russell, who is well known locally and will be reminiscing about his life in Troon, in his usual humorous way, illustrating the talk entitled 'Memories' with his cartoon sketches.

This is the last meeting of the 2023 - 2024 season and group will hopefully continue in the autumn.

The Summer Suppers will commence in May. (see Page 25)

All are welcome to the meetings. *Linda*



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 2024

- The trellis fencing between the Rectory and the adjacent property has disintegrated or come away from brick wall. Tenders to be updated to take account of recent storm damage. Ongoing. Damage to garden fencing not covered by household insurance.
- Ceiling lights for the hall were delivered 11 November 2023. Installation took place 12 January 2024. Total cost was £2,650.
- Rusted electrical switch gear in boiler room replaced 13 January 2024, as per electrical survey.
- The strip light at the organ foot well has broken. New LED light strip to be installed. Temporary light in place. Ongoing.
- Annual gas boiler maintenance and safety checks for Rectory and three flats at Sandilands took place 15 January 2024.
- Church Boiler annual maintenance and safety check will take place 22 February 2024.
- Water ingress at sacristy, during storm of 22 January 2024. Heavy rain caused small sink drain to choke, backup and overflow onto carpet. Sink cleared. The gardener has excavate the site. Order placed with plumber to clear drain. The gardener will re-instate the soil and level the ground to the correct level below the drain cover in the spring. Insurance claim is being made.
- Installation of new bathroom fan ordered for 7 Sandilands.
- Checking of gutters and replacement of slipped roof tiles at Sandilands to take place this month. Cost estimated at £4,000, including powered access hoist. Our share of costs will be 3/8s i.e. £1,500.
- The main lock to the hall is faulty. A new lock has been ordered. New keys will be issued in due course.

Should anyone require any clarification on the above items. Please just speak to me or phone me on 07774 432740 *Joe Cassidy*

MEMORIAL BENCH



The memorial bench to Iain Ogg, gifted by the congregation, is now in poor condition. The Vestry agreed that an appeal be made to the congregation for donations to replace the bench. It is proposed that the installation of the bench take place in late Spring. Can any donations be handed to Joe Cassidy (tel: 07774 432740) within the next 8 weeks. Thank you. *The Vestry.*



BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Book Group is **Tuesday 26 March at 2.30pm** in the Meeting Room. The book being discussed is: A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman. *Emma*



VESTRY NOTES JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024.

The Vestry met on 16th January and 13th February in the Rectory. Both meetings were chaired by the Rector and commenced with devotions.



Vestry Notes

Main issues of note are:

Vestry has accepted the Diocesan guidelines for the marriage of same sex couples within St. Ninian's and has approval to conduct such ceremonies.

Reuben Thomasson was welcomed as the new Lay Representative.

Claire Milne is now the Safeguarding Officer for St. Ninian's.

A volunteer Health and Safety Officer is still being sought.

Contracts, as approved by the lawyers, have now been issued to the three organists.

A questionnaire has been sent to the young people connected with the church to discern their views.

A schedule of meetings will be trialled, with two subgroups (one Property and one Ministry and Mission) formed. The whole Vestry meetings will alternate with meetings of the subgroups on a monthly basis; thus, the groups will meet in March, the whole Vestry in April, the groups in May and the whole Vestry in June. All Vestry members are members of at least one subgroup.

Vestry approved the nomination of Dorothy Ferguson and Julia Izatt as new Pastoral Assistants for St. Ninian's and approval from the Diocesan Office will now be sought.

The financial report highlights a monthly deficit of over £2,000. Vestry will hold an extraordinary meeting to explore the financial situation.

The property report noted that 'urgent' issues highlighted in the Quinquennial report area outstanding and should be dealt with in the next 2 years. It is estimated that this will cost the equivalent of around £1,500 per month. Repairs to the Rectory are still ongoing. *Dorothy Ferguson*

EASTER OFFERING

All are invited to make a generous Easter Offering. Please place your offering, in a gift aid envelope if appropriate, on Saturday 30 March, Sunday 31 March and/or Sunday 7 April. You are invited to give in response to God's love for you as shown in his cross, death, and resurrection. As Rector, Keith is entitled to this offering yet he has requested that this year it goes to one of our nominated charities, River Garden Auchincruive.

To learn more about the work undertaken there to support people in an imaginative way to leave behind drug and alcohol dependence.

[River Garden | Charity helping recovery from alcohol and drug addiction](#)



Christmas Eve-
choir rehearsals,
blessing the crib
and lighting the
Christ candle



Epiphany

STORY & SONG

This new initiative in Mission started on Thursday 7 September 2023. Each Thursday morning the hall is set up to welcome babies and pre-school children along with a parent, grandparent or carer to listen to stories, sing songs, move about and play. Everyone is welcomed and known by name and the children have all got used to coming along and engaging with each other and the pattern we follow.



Keith, Gillean (Locum Minister to Troon Churches of Scotland) and Dorothy all lead the session and Janet and I share in welcoming, recording attendance and offer hospitality and friendship.

We have met every Thursday with the exception of the week between Christmas and New Year and usually have about 6 children with their adult.

We have had visiting musicians pop in to play recorder and violin which matched up with The Animal Orchestra, a story the children enjoy taking part in and it was joyous to witness their delight.

We keep asking Mums, Grans, Carers what they need or would enjoy and everyone seems happy with what we are providing.

Alison

MEDITATION GROUP

We meet on the last Monday of each month from 10.30 to 11.00am in the tranquil setting of the Church where you can enjoy a calm and peaceful start to your week.



You may have no experience of meditation or have tried it before and found it difficult. All are welcome to join us.

Relaxation and breathing techniques help us to still the mind and body to enable us to experience a period of calm and reflection. Meditation is an ancient practice which today is used by psychologists for stress management and to promote good mental health.

Next Dates: 21 March, 29 April & 20 May.

If you wish any further information, please contact Val or Emma

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next edition is **Tuesday 21 May**

THIS EDITION WILL COVER

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

Articles should be emailed to stninianschurchtroon@gmail.com



THE TIME FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN AYRSHIRE?

Who is on the Ayrshire Regional Council (ARC)?

The ARC is formed by people from the Scottish Episcopal Churches within Ayrshire.

The Lay Representatives from each parish (and Alternate Lay Representative, a position that is vacant in Troon) are on regional council. In St Ninian's, Troon members of Regional Council are Keith, Anna-Claar (as she is ordained and holds Permission to Officiate, Reuben, and Nigel (for as long as he is a lay member of General Synod). Following the new Diocesan Constitution (2021) there is no real need for a Regional Council Representative to be elected from the charge although one can be. This is to be discussed by Regional Council this year whether or not this post will be done away with.

What is the purpose (functions and duties) of ARC?

The 2021 Diocesan Constitution reads:

- 3.7.1** To facilitate discussion and the sharing of good practice amongst charges of the region.
- 3.7.2** To encourage and facilitate nominations of representatives and other persons required to be elected by the Synod at its annual meeting.
- 3.7.3** To consider any matter referred to the Regional Council by the Bishop, the Synod or the Council.

ARC is in a time of transition. At the AGM the outgoing secretary made the following notes, which I have expanded slightly to ensure a greater degree of clarity:

*Archie (chair) & Alison (secretary) are stepping down from current roles, but it was proposed that we would not discuss electing anyone to these roles at this stage. The Revd Canon Jane Ross (St Ninian's Prestwick) pointed out that we would be electing individuals to a rigid structure, and this is our opportunity to be creative and rethink what we want ARC to be and what structure would best support this. Under the new Diocesan Constitution, Regional Councils have limited powers but have an open remit to work out their needs and how best to use the Regional Council as a way of supporting and encouraging one another. Once we know what we want our Regional Council to be we can decide on format of meetings and the structure to support the plans. **Action:** The clergy will meet for further discussions. They will bring ideas and suggestions to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting of ARC.*

The clergy are meeting for a second time in March to further develop initial ideas to feedback. The focus of conversation is how we might work more closely together, sharing skills and learning together.

Should anyone from St Ninian's want to propose ideas for me to feed into this discussion please just contact me by Sunday 10 March.

RECORDING OF THANKS

As a church we thank Nigel Rayner for faithfully serving on Diocesan Council. Constitutionally the Diocesan Council guides the Diocese in matters of policy and direction, controls Diocesan funds and resources and processes proposals for action by the Diocesan Synod. The Diocesan Council also monitors and receives reports from Diocesan post holders on income and expenditure, budgets, stewardship of resources and investments. The Diocesan Council also supervises the appointment of Diocesan staff and all elections falling under the remit of the Diocesan Synod.

LEARNING FROM VISITING OTHER CHURCH COMMUNITIES IN AYRSHIRE AND BEYOND

In recent months I have had the pleasure of attending services at St Ninian's Prestwick and Holy Trinity Ayr (see below). I visited these churches as I had not been to a service at

either, whilst I have attended services of various kinds at Maybole, Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, and Largs. I felt it very important that I should know something about these



communities from my own experience rather than knowing about them at one step removed. I have a bit of a feel for them now and this completes an initial overview I have of the region.

It was interesting to observe how, when compared with St Ninian's Troon, each church is deeply connected in terms of their identity as Scottish Episcopalian churches. Clergy robed, furniture was decked with liturgical colours appropriate for the season, and the Blue Book (1982) with use of the alternatives, for example as to the placing of The Peace, provided the liturgical shape. The advantages of each building were well used. Both made use of nave altars. Both were streaming services, and at St Ninian's Prestwick we could interact with those attending from home. Preaching was of a good quality in both places, and hospitality was offered.

St Ninian's offered a broader range of musical input in terms of songs used and everyone sang (it was wonderful) whereas Holy Trinity was more focussed within a single tradition. *How were they different?* I was struck by the offer of an open table at one place. Receiving the bread and wine was not dependent on baptism or confirmation. At one the generous financial giving of everyone present was deeply moving.

Numbers attending in person in both places were in the mid-thirties. This is very similar to St Ninian's Troon. The configuration of seating made St Ninian's a different experience from Holy Trinity. As at St Ninian's Troon



St Ninian's Prestwick

there was an attempt at welcome in both places. We could all learn important tips from one another.

Could the communities benefit from working together and learning together? Most definitely. There is both delightful and refreshing difference yet much common ground. Such a new approach would lead to enrichment. Let's do it before it is critically necessary.

On New Year's Eve I attended the Troon Churches Together (TCT) service at The Lighthouse Church. I counted about eight others from St Ninian's Troon. Welcome was superb - an open outer door with two people on opposite sides of the porch. We began with a slow start with refreshments and sat café style with people from a range of churches. The music was of a high quality with contributions from the worship team at St Meddan's. For me it was a privilege to send people out with blessing for mission. I encourage those of you who are around but don't get to such shared services to make the effort in future. You will be richer for it.

During January Father Martin, the new priest at the Roman Catholic Church, hosted a service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A similar number attended from St Ninian's Troon as attended the service at the Lighthouse. The overall attendance was impressive, with several local churches represented. For me it was my first visit to this church, which is immaculately kept and beautifully designed. Shirley, our TCT representative, read the lesson and I gave the homily. We had real fun in the service and fellowship afterwards over tea. I am hopeful at how the Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Church of Scotland, and Lighthouse church leaders are beginning to work fruitfully together, enriched by other colleagues at certain times. We have much to gain from full church participation on such occasions, and we shall come together next during Holy Week. It would be good to see everyone involved.

Recently I was on parental duty supporting Johan during an EXEAT from school. We met in London and attended the Dutch Church in Austin Friars adjacent to The Bank of England and Royal Exchange. This a superb building in a quiet courtyard within the city, and some of you will know it from Hilary Mantel's novels. The experience was characterised by excellent welcome, brilliant facilities, and superb music (including the Dutch tradition of musical commentary on the sermon).



Diaconal giving (giving money for the missional work of the church) could not have been easier. I said the amount I wished to give and using my bank card touched the handheld terminal. Impressive. Easy. No cash required and no visit to the bank afterwards. (Whilst the Vestry at St Ninian's discussed such provision two years ago without implementing such a move, two of our congregants have recently asked for such provision. Perhaps, now is the time?)

What are my conclusions from such a recent array of attending church elsewhere? At St. Ninian's Troon we have much expertise to share with others as well as much to learn. I suggest that our flourishing depends on embracing such possibilities. 'We haven't done it like this before', so let's have a go.

Keith Thomasson

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH

We remember those close to our hearts whose anniversary falls in coming months,



In March: Paul Baker, Ian Campbell, Hugh Cheyne, Ulrich Haempel, Cath Hewitt, Tommy Hull, Dorothy Humphries, Ronnie Johnstone, Thelma Lewis, Joy McLeonard, Peggy Monckton, Hazel Sampson, Ted Read, Tom Phillips.

In April: Anne Brantson, Cyril Halstead, Greta Holmes, James Kemp, David McCune, Iain Ogg, David Ritson, Margaret Watson.

and in May: Angela Baird, John Cooper, Mary Kemp, Muriel Luck, Joe Meek, Jean Ritson, May Stack, Florence Watson,

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

The Troon World Day of Prayer Service takes place at 2.00pm on **Friday 1 March**. The service has been prepared by the ladies of Palestine and the theme is 'I Beg You... Bear With One Another' Ephesians 4: 1 - 3. All are welcome.

World Day of Prayer 2024
Palestine



VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS

A message from Evan McLaughlin...

I am currently volunteering on a project overseas in Tanzania with International



**INTERNATIONAL
VOLUNTEER HQ**

Volunteer HQ (IVHQ). They have projects all around the world, and I am doing the construction and renovation project. I am helping to build a house for a local lady in the impoverished Elerai district of Arusha, near to Mount Kilimanjaro.

That is the main project I'll be helping with, but I intend to also be helping out at the schools in the afternoons (when it is too hot to work!).

I flew out in the middle of February and will be away for a month. Although I had always planned to pay for my trip myself, I was persuaded to set up a fundraiser to help with the costs of travel, accommodation, vaccinations and visa, approximately £2,000.

You can find some more information on my GoFundMe page here -

<https://gofund.me/70f20f5e>

Evan McLaughlin



LIVE STREAMING AND RECORDING OF SERVICES

Services of worship at St Ninian's are now being video live streamed via YouTube.

You can find these by opening YouTube and searching for St Ninian's Troon - (Don't forget the apostrophe)



To find the St Ninian's YouTube channel please use the following link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBJ4_CceNW40Gnt98VxQ4xg

Then click on the subscribe button and the notification bell to receive notification of services as they start.

The liturgy can be found at

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/liturgies/scottish-liturgy-1982-alternative-eucharistic-prayers/>

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP LAUNCHES CONSIDER CREATION LENT RESOURCE

A message from The Rev Canon Audrey O'Brien Stewart

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we embark on the Season of Lent, your Diocesan Environmental Group (DEG) wishes to share the following resources we have created for use during this season.



We have taken the first Creation story from the book of Genesis and broken it down, day by day, to engage more deeply with our call to be stewards of the environment. The program can be engaged with in small groups, as a congregation, or individually. It has been designed to be scalable and to work with what you might already have planned for Lent.

Each week new, supplemental resources will be added to the DEG page on the Diocesan Website. ([Diocesan Environmental Group - United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway \(anglican.org\)](http://Diocesan Environmental Group - United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway (anglican.org))) The QR code and weblink on the inserts will direct users there. Supplemental resources to accompany the Ash Wednesday launch of the project went live on Monday, 12 February. Subsequent weeks, resources will go live on the Sunday for each week.

Those who participate in the project are invited to share pictures from their walks, journaling, or other activities on Facebook and Instagram tagging the Diocese and using the hashtag: **#ConsiderCreation**. The Diocesan pages will share some of the insights to keep us all moving forward together.

As we take time away from the hustle and bustle of our world to grow closer with God and examine our lives in this season of Lent, we hope the Consider Creation resources will provide structure to ground you on this vital journey with Christ through Creation.

If you have any questions or feedback, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Your friend on the Journey,

The Rev Canon Audrey O'Brien Stewart
Canon Missioner



SUSIE SMITH
18.06.1931 – 16.06.2023

Although known by us as Susie, she was referred to variously as, Sue, Mrs Smith, Auntie, Granny Susie, Granny Butlins, and even Madam President, but **never** Sylvia the name she was given when she was born. She was the third child of Jock and Aimee Paul of Prestwick.

She had an older sister, Angela, and a brother, Paul. She was a high-spirited girl, and was 'requested' to leave school on more than one occasion, after some misdemeanour or other. When war broke out the family moved to the home of an aunt near Stirling. The family were all able to be there together, and to be reasonably self-sufficient; there were hens, a large vegetable garden, and best of all, a pony for Susie. This gave her such a love of horses, that stayed with her all her life.

After the war, the family moved to Symington, and Susie did a Secretarial course to earn enough money to keep her horse. Her Father was a stockbroker in Glasgow, and when the markets were up they managed to live in some style, including even buying a racehorse, which never managed to win a race. Her mother was a passionate gardener, and loved nothing better than to escape into her garden wearing an old coat tied with string.

It will not surprise you to learn that Susie, being beautiful and vivacious, was in great demand at parties, and at one of these she met Phillip Smythe, who worked at Whighams in Ayr. They married here at St. Ninian's in 1953, and had two daughters, Nicky and Verity. Their first home was a flat in Fullarton House, but after it was demolished, they moved to a house in Midton Road, in Ayr.

Sadly, Phillip died very suddenly in 1959, leaving Susie with two little girls, so her brother Tom bought the house, and Susie moved back to live with her parents. Unbelievably, they died the following year, when an earthquake struck Agadir, where they were holidaying.

Despite these awful blows, Susie managed to carry on, helped in part by her mother-in-law, Aunt Os. She took Susie on the first of several trips to Venice. Through her aunt, Susie met John Halliday, an artist, and they were married in 1961. They moved into a house near Kilmarnock, with room for a studio for John, and grounds where the girls could keep their ponies.

About this time, Susie became involved with the 'Save the Children'

Fund, with which many of her friends were involved, and she remained a staunch and active supporter of it.

Unfortunately, Susie's marriage came to an end, but she found love once more with Bob Smith, an Ayrshire Yeomanry officer, and businessman, and they were married in 1968, setting up home in the house at Corraith, which is where many of us knew her, and where her third child, Kate was born. The children grew, married, and had children of their own, and Susie became a dotting, and adored grandmother to eight, and then great-grandmother to twelve.

Sadly, Susie's dementia meant that she could no longer remain safely at home, and she moved in Queen's View Harbour care home, where her extended family visited frequently, and where she was extremely well cared for. She considered it her home, and though she was sometimes puzzled at all the people that seemed to be there, she remained the gracious 'hostess' to all who visited, including her long-standing help and friend, Mrs Jess who was with her when she died.

Susie was a person blessed with great faith, as well as many other gifts, which she used freely for the benefit of others. She baked for cake stalls, she cooked for lunches and suppers, and she even hosted a coffee morning, with the assistance of Mrs Jess, to raise funds for the gardens at St. Ninian's. She delighted in all of her family, and she was a great friend to many. It is hard to believe we shall ever see her like again.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



ST. NINIAN'S GARDEN

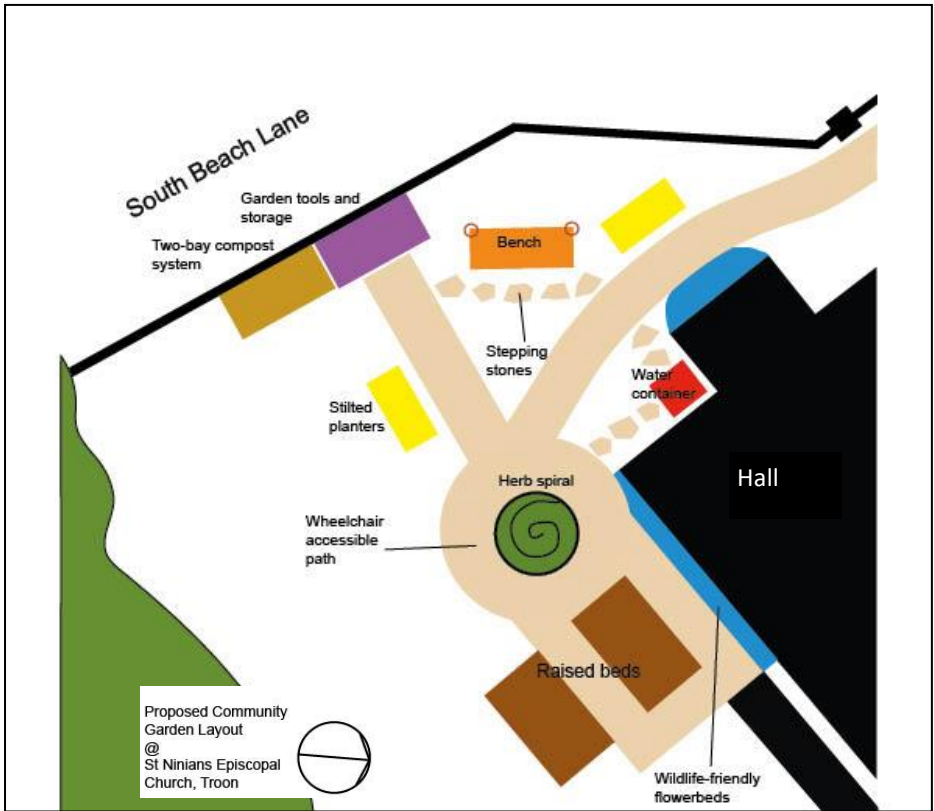
Following approval from the Diocese, on Saturday 16 December, Anna-Claar, Shirley and myself, plus a few helpers, planted 15 saplings in the church garden. These will start to provide a hedge between the church garden and Sandilands, therefore providing some privacy.

We will plant more saplings later in the year to extend the hedge in line with the start of Sandilands buildings. We now have final plans from our associate at Re-Pollinate and hopefully funding for this will come through soon.

We are excited that our plans are coming to fruition and that the garden will be a haven for wildlife, for the community to come together, for people to find peace and tranquillity in a quiet corner of the garden. If you are interested in helping us in any way, please do speak to one of the Team.

on behalf of the Garden Team, *Julia Izatt*





CHURCH AT HOME

Nan Inglis was a bit restless, the last time I called, as if she was in pain. She cannot really communicate, so it is difficult to tell, but we hope the nurses were able to deal with it for her. Bob, himself, is feeling a bit stronger, and is hoping to get back to doing some walking, as well as looking after Nan.



Doreen Jardine is noticeably more frail, but is still determined not to miss any of the services I take at Queen's View. She is so appreciative of these, and of the Home Communion she receives.

Edith Cooper is quite often asleep when I visit, or in such discomfort that she finds it difficult to sit for any length of time. She is still able to talk about St. Ninian's and of singing in the choir. If she is able to attend the service at Belhaven, the carer's tell me she can sing all the hymns.

The Wright's continue well, and remain bright. John's hearing is not very good now, which is frustrating for him, but he still manages to participate in the service, and they both remember St. Ninian's, and their friends here, fondly. *Norma*

SMALL CHANGE COLLECTION

The Collection for the Autumn months came to £27, thank you for this.



CREATIVE COMMUNITY GROUP

The Creative Community Group continues to meet in the church hall on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00 - 12noon. At our last session we learned about needle felting from Joan and had the opportunity to make our own needle felted keyrings.

At our next meeting on Saturday 2nd March and we are delighted to have Frances, a very creative visitor join us. She has kindly agreed to show us how to make fun fabric chocolates.

The April session will be on Saturday 6th and the May meeting on Saturday 4th, with projects still to be confirmed.

Do come along and join us or just pop in for a chat and a coffee. All most welcome.

Shona



Left: Woolly hats knitted for Seafarers

Below left: Toys for newborn babies.

Below right: Felted animals.



SUNDAYS@3

Sundays@3 met on Sunday 4 February to look at the story of Rachel at the Well from Genesis chapter 29. It tells the story of how Jacob arrives at the Well and meets Rachel. His heart is full of love for her, and he asked her father Laban if he could marry her. Laban gave permission and Jacob served him for seven years. As you can see from the pictures, we incorporated LOVE into our crafts and made heart shaped mobiles and Valentine cards. We always start the sessions by introducing ourselves and singing action songs. We finish the afternoon by having some refreshments together followed again by songs and the Blessing.



We hope to meet again around Easter time. It would be lovely to welcome members of the congregation to our sessions. Everyone is welcome, with or without children. We would LOVE to see you.



Julia Izatt



SUMMER SUPPERS



This summer all the suppers
will be at Scotts.

Tuesday 7 May, Tuesday 4 June
Tuesday 2 July, Tuesday 6 August
Tuesday 3 September

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

SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS (YEAR B)

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

Sunday: Said Eucharist with hymns 10.30am

Wednesday: Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 3 March 3 Lent

Exodus 20: 1 - 17 (58), Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25 (926), John 2: 13 - 22

Wednesday 6 March

Sunday 10 March 4 Lent Mothering Sunday and RSCM Women

Composers Sunday (please see Page 4 for special arrangements for this day)

John 3: 14 - 21

Wednesday 13 March

Sunday 17 March 5 Lent Passion Sunday

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34 (642) Psalm 51: 1 - 13 or 119: 9 - 16,

Hebrews 5: 5 - 10 (973), John 12: 20 - 33

Wednesday 20 March

Sunday 24 March 6 Lent Palm Sunday (we will use some of the following)

Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11: 1 - 11, Psalm 118: 1 - 2 + 19 - 29

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a (594), Psalm 31: 9 - 16,

Philippians 2: 5 - 11 (954), Mark 14: 1 - 15 + 47

Wednesday 27 March

Saturday 30 March Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil 19.30

Exodus 14: 10 - 31; 15: 20 - 21 (53), Isaiah 55: 1 - 11 (598), Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20 (767), Romans 6: 3 - 11 (917), Gradual Psalm 114, Mark 16: 1 - 8

Sunday 31 March Easter Day

Isaiah 25: 6 - 9 (568), Psalm 118: 1 - 2 + 14 - 24, Acts 10: 34 - 43 (895),

Mark 16: 1 - 8

Wednesday 3 April

Sunday 7 April 2 Easter

Acts 4: 32 - 35 (888), Psalm 133, 1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2 (989), John 20: 19 - 31

Wednesday 10 April

Sunday 14 April 3 Easter

Acts 3: 12 - 19 (887), Psalm 4, 1 John 3: 1 - 7 (990), Luke 24: 36b - 48

Wednesday 17 April

Sunday 21 April 4 Easter

Acts 4: 5 - 12 (887), Psalm 23, 1 John 3: 16 - 24 (990), John 10: 11 - 18

Wednesday 24 April

Sunday 28 April 5 Easter

Acts 8: 26 - 40 (892), Psalm 22: 24 - 30, 1 John 4: 7 - 21 (991), John 15: 1 - 8

Wednesday 1 May

Sunday 5 May 6 Easter

Acts 10: 44 - 48 (895), Psalm 98, 1 John 5: 1 - 6 (991), John 15: 9 - 17

Wednesday 8 May**Thursday 9 May Ascension Day**Acts 1: 1 - 11 (884), Psalm 47 or 93, Ephesians 1: 15 - 23 (949),
Luke 24: 44 - 53**Sunday 12 May 7 Easter**Acts 1: 15 - 17 + 21 - 26 (885), Psalm 1, 1 John 5: 9 - 13 (991),
John 17: 6 - 19**Wednesday 15 May****Sunday 19 May Pentecost**Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14 (704), Psalm 104: 25 - 35 + 37, Acts 2: 1 - 21 (885),
John 15: 26 - 27; 16: 4b - 15**Wednesday 22 May****Sunday 26 May Proper 8**Hosea 2: 14 - 20 (731), Psalm 103:1 - 13 + 22, 2 Corinthians 3: 1 - 6 (938),
Mark 2: 13 - 22**Wednesday 1 June**

WEDNESDAY ROTA	
6 March	D. Combe
13 March	L. Rayner
20 March	S. Henderson
27 March	N. Rayner
3 April	R. Robinson
10 April	D. Ferguson
17 April	D. Combe
24 April	S. Henderson
1 May	N. Rayner
8 May	R. Robinson
15 May	L. Rayner
22 May	D. Ferguson
29 May	D. Combe

	COFFEE ROTA
3 March	R. & J. Keene
10 March 10.00am	G. & E. Wilson, J. Keene
17 March	J. & I. Stack
24 March	A. & N. Livingstone
31 March	G. & E. Wilson
7 April	J. & I. Stack
14 April	H. Henderson & J. Greenwood
21 April	R. & J. Keene
28 April	G. & E. Wilson
5 May	A. & N. Livingstone
12 May	R. & J. Keene
19 May	J. & I. Stack
26 May	H. Henderson & J. Greenwood

ROTAS FOR MARCH, APRIL & MAY 2024

DATE	TIME	WELCOMERS	OFFERING COUNTERS	READER (R) INTERCESSOR (I)
3 Mar	10.30am	C. Milne S. Henderson	M. O'Leary A. Livingstone	L. Rayner (R) A-C. Thomasson- Rosingh (I)
10 Mar	10.00am	J. Cassidy M. O'Leary	J. Stack C. Milne	S. McKernan (I)
17 Mar	10.30am	C. Milne Milne Family	L. Rayner E. Wilson	N. Livingstone (R) D. Ferguson (I)
24 Mar	10.30am	J. Cassidy J. Keene & E Cassidy	J. Cassidy M. O'Leary	P. Dowson (R) N. Livingstone (I)
Sat 30 March	7.30pm	J. Cassidy G. & E. Wilson	M. O'Leary J. Stack	L. Rayner (R) E. & G. Wilson (R) D. Ferguson (R) E. Cassidy (R) J. Deason (R) A-C. Thomasson- Rosingh (I)
31 Mar	10.30am	J. Cassidy A. & N. Livingstone	M. O'Leary L. Rayner	L. Rayner (R) D. Ferguson (I)
7 April	10.30am	C. Milne Milne Family	J. & E. Cassidy	N. Livingstone (R) P. Steed (I)
14 April	10.30am	C. Milne S. Henderson E. Wilson	C. Milne G. Wilson	G. Wilson (R) A-C. Thomasson- Rosingh (I)
21 April	10.30am	J. Cassidy & E. Cassidy	A. Livingstone J. Stack	S. McKernan N. Livingstone (I)
28 April	10.30am	J. Cassidy A. & N. Livingstone	C. Milne J. Cassidy	N. Livingstone (R) E. Wilson (I)
5 May	10.30am	C. Milne J. Keene M. Lamont	G. & E. Wilson	J. Deason (R) D. Ferguson (I)
12 May	10.30am	J. Cassidy N. & L. Rayner	J. & E. Cassidy	P. Dowson (R) C. Phillips (I)
19 May	10.30am	C. Milne Milne Family	C. Milne J. Stack	S. McKernan (R) A-C. Thomasson- Rosingh (I)
26 May	10.30am	C. Milne G. & E. Wilson	L. Rayner C. Milne	L. Rayner (R) N. Livingstone (I)

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