

The Blessed Thing



Summer 2022
Glencairn and Moniaive Parish Church

From the Manse...

Aflame in June, unknown July...

As I write this (in time for the deadline) I know what I don't know! That sounds daft, but it's always good to be aware of what you don't know. However clever you think you are there are things you don't know, can't foresee, or control. That's life!

Our Elders and Kirk Sessions are planning for the future as best we can. We, with our friends at Dunscore Church, are reviewing our pattern and timing of services. The outcome of that deliberation won't be known until after this piece goes to print.

That's just one thing I don't know. Another is what shape the organisation of the local churches will take. Again a decision is imminent, but the result unknown as I write.

As with many organisations, the church is having to adapt to the reality of life in 2022.

We know that a new Presbytery will be formed later this year and that a revised Presbytery Plan is being compiled to meet the need for reduced numbers of Ministers. It is likely that we will be linked with other congregations beyond our current link with Dunscore, hence the review of our service pattern. Much will have to change.

How can I spread myself around most effectively?

How can we continue to serve our parish most effectively?

How can we make the most of the resources and skills we have?

June starts with Holy Communion as we celebrate a great occasion – Pentecost Sunday. Many see it as the birthday of the Church – flaming tongues of fire showing the Holy Spirit touching people's lives in a new way. That fire within has not been ex-

tinguished over the years and people still respond to the flame of faith as it ignites in their lives. Even in Moniaive!

Across Glencairn, men and women try to follow Jesus' way for their lives, aided, quite literally, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In Communion we remember Jesus' life and death, helped by the symbols of bread and wine, and ask Him to be real to us day by day.

Summer is here, why not fan the flames of your own faith and join us?

Unclear future plans, and an invisible Spirit at work don't seem to add up to much. Yet God is at work around you. Not always in dramatic flames, but in the lives of neighbours and friends, quietly sharing His Love through them. As you enjoy the sights and sounds of Summer, listen for the silent presence of Jesus. Look for the invisible flow of His Love on your street and open your door to Him, just as you open your doors to the refreshing breezes of Summer.

May God Bless you,

Rev Mark RS Smith

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SERVICES

St Ninian's Church, Moniaive

JUNE

5th	10am	Holy Communion
12th	10am	Morning Worship
19th	10am	Morning Worship
26th	10am	Café Church

JULY

Pattern and times of services under review at time of printing.

Watch for details – noticeboards, website, Facebook.

Moving Forward



Hi Everyone,

Here we are halfway through 2022 already, where does the time go. Throughout Covid church life has been going on - slightly different at some points but we now see a return to near normality.

The living advent took place, and we were so pleased with the good turn out of people. Those who heard Debbie's rendition of Silent Night on the church steps couldn't fail to be impressed and moved by it... what a voice you have Debbie, truly fantastic.

Café Church continues on the fourth Sunday of the month, time for a coffee and chat with friends. Please think about coming along and sharing this experience with us. As well as Café Church once a month we have a cuppa after the service on the first Sunday of the month.

The church was a brilliant sea of yellow for Easter. A big thankyou to those who to the time to provide daffodils and to those who so expertly arrange them.

The Easter Bunny visited the church and was followed by a bunch of eager kids (old and young) to hunt for eggs. What a treat they were in for as all the eggs were inside

beautifully crocheted sheep, rabbits, whales and lots lots more animals and figures. Cheryl Easton you are a marvel. I was so chuffed with my wee sheep and of course the cream egg that was inside.

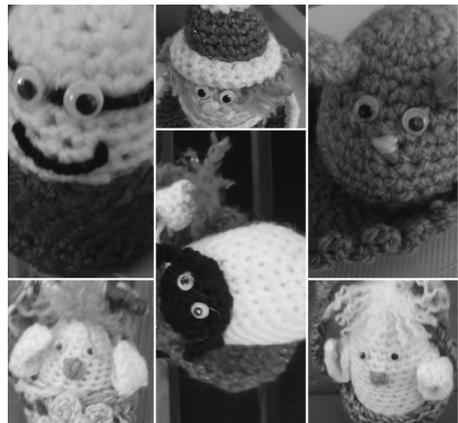
A small display is now on the wall at St Ninians (beside main door) with some memories of Glencairn Church. If you have anything that we could use please get in touch.

We have now had our flat roof repaired above the kitchen. The tradesmen are confident that this will solve the problem of our leaky roof and we are now set to proceed with the next steps...still to be finalised.

We have been working on the layout of St Ninians in order to try and accommodate a space that is inviting and practical for worship as well as for groups to use. It is with huge pleasure that I can say the Toy Library is going to restart on a Friday morning 9.30am to 11.30. Look out for posters around the village. Plus, an evening for games for older children is also about to start one evening a week. Again, look out for details.

Please consider joining us at any of our services. At the time of writing services start at 10am but this is due to be reviewed soon.

Val McNeil



Kirk Session

2022 and then ...

The Kirk Session has been severely restricted during the pandemic but can we say things are beginning to move in the right direction. At present we no longer require to sit at a safe distance or wear face coverings whilst singing unless you prefer to do so.

At present we have five Elders led by Rev Mark Smith. We are indebted to the Congregational Board who step in to assist in many tasks. Also, our thanks to all who contribute to the upkeep and running of the Church.

Annual Attestation of our Church Records have been duly examined and attested in March of this year and found to be in good order,

Attendances at Church are slowly improving and we would welcome all, whether a member or not. We have refreshments after the Service on the first Sunday of the month and Café Church on the fourth Sunday why not come along? bring a friend and sample the fellowship and hospitality.

Our Services have been varied, introducing video links ie: *'Mission Aviation Fellowship'*, *'Eco Congregation Scotland'* and *'Easter Celebrations'* from Lubuto.

An alternative Communion was celebrated on *'Maundy Thursday'* conducted by Rev Tim Harmer, Associate Minister who, with the assistance from members of the Congregation, enacted *'The Last Supper'* – different but the message was clear.

Easter Day Fun in Macara Park culminated with an Easter egg hunt in St. Ninian's Church – easter eggs, easter bunnies, crocheted daffodils etc., to look

for, against the backdrop of our Church, simply decorated with 'A host of golden daffodils'. The sound of laughter and chatter from the children was most uplifting – alleluia indeed.

'It's not just somebody else's problem' – the theme of the Dunscore Eco Team who visited St. Ninian's Church and gave us much food for thought. We are an Eco-Congregation Church and have made strides in getting to the next level but we have some way to go.

'May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others.'

Nan Tait (Session Clerk)



A last 🎵note🎵 from The Bells of St. Ninian's:

Members met at Beechbank on Tuesday 24th April 2022 to bring the group to a close.

It was, unanimously, agreed to donate the balance of their funds - £315 to Cancer Research Scotland in memory of:

**The Late Muriel Young,
our Musical Director.**

We take this opportunity of thanking all those who encouraged and supported us over the years.

Nan Tait - Secretary



Embrace Middle East: We continue to donate to the 'Disabilities Programme' each month and regular new letters are received. The key themes of the work are: women's social and economic empowerment, providing education and training to marginalised communities such as African refugees, healthcare provision for pregnant women and children under 5 years old, and inclusion into society for people living with disabilities. Their latest message received:

'Our bread and salt between us' – which means 'We sit at the table as equals in an alliance of fellowship'

The Kirk Session extends an invitation to Members and Friends to the Church Service on **Sunday 5th June 2022** **Holy Communion will be celebrated in St. Ninian's Church at 10am**

All who accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord will be welcome to share in the Sacrament

Individual Glasses and Bread will be served



Safeguarding: Following removal of the last Covid 19 legal requirements it is expected that all Churches will celebrate 'Safeguarding Sunday' on 19th June 2022. We hope to embrace this.

Emphasis in the May newsletter focussed on Training for Safeguarding Co-ordinators to ensure that we are up-to-date with the latest changes. This is a post-General Assembly drop-in session and will be on Zoom.

At present they are in the process of combining the six handbooks into one which is good news.

Also Safeguarding advice for supporting Ukraine Refugees.

Nan Tait – Co-ordinator

In Memorium

Jessie McMillan
The Bungalow, Hastings
Hall, Moniaive.

James Thomson
Ingleston Mains, Moniaive.

Jack Herbert Fletcher
Heathers, Ayr Street,
Moniaive.

Glencairn Quilting Group

Looking back at what we wrote last year for the Blessed Thing it was all just a bit gloomy. We were starting again after months of stringent Covid regulations with a rather uncertain future. However, restricted to 8 in the Paterson Rooms was just about right for us with several long term members erring on the cautious side and staying away. Eight months on our group is thriving with the number of regulars rising gradually. Maureen, one of our original quilters, gave the group impetus recently when she demonstrated a new idea which happily has the added advantage of enabling us to use up our scraps of material.

The weekly group has just finished for the summer and so over the next four months we will meet only once a

month and in the homes of our members. On past experience these summer meetings turn out to be more of a happy get together over coffee. Some quilting gets done but mostly it is an opportunity to ask for advice and exchange ideas. It also gives the more industrious quilters a chance to share their latest projects.

When the weekly meetings begin again in the Autumn anyone interested to find out more about what can be achieved with a needle and scraps of cotton is most welcome to drop by the Paterson Rooms on Monday mornings between 10 and 12am. You might even be persuaded to join us!

Sandi McIver and Helen Kelly

Report from Lubuto

Andy Barr from Dunscore Church has shared the most recent news from Rev Sinkonde and the Lubuto congregation.

"First and foremost it's my great pleasure to hear from you after a long time. The church is going except the ups & downs which we have always been talking about concerning the day to day operations of the church. Covid 19 really has left serious operational challenges.

Dearest Andy its been hard to have both projects to be fulfilled ,during the covid pandemic yet we need them urgently. We are trying to encourage our members to contribute, however most of them are out of employment and worse those doing busi-

nesses are facing serious challenges. As for roofing we are hoping to do it end of this month if at all the response will improve. For the bus we are pushing tho the response has been slowly. We need your prayers...

Secondly its our prayer that Robertson gets well soonest. Our hearts are with her. My family is doing great thanks."

It was also a lovely surprise recently to be able to see the congregation at worship via 'WhatsApp'. worshiping with great joy in spite of their ongoing needs. We will continue to support them in our prayers and if possible with some fund raising activities.

Margaret H MacKenzie

Book Club

'Out of Africa' by Karen Blixen



Pam Bradley: I have had this book for many years and fell in love with the content and the way it was beautifully written. It is always like reading it for the first time for me.

There are many beautiful passages to mention. But being a lover, of nature and all the things it has to offer, these words resonate:

'The sky was rarely more than pale blue or violet, with profusion of mighty, weightless, ever-changing clouds towering up and sailing on it, but it has a blue vigour in it, and at a short distance it painted the ranges of hills and the woods a fresh deep blue.'

She is one of my hero's.

I give it... 10/10

Nan Tait: 'I had a farm in Africa at the foot of the Ngong Hills' – the first line in a book of many chapters.

The story is based on the memoirs of Karen Blixen (Danish author) first published 1937 – during her seventeen years in Kenya – then British East Africa.

Initially she and her husband were dairy farmers, before her husband spent their money on a Coffee Plantation. Karen was left to run the Coffee Plantation whilst he spent all his time on Safari, resulting in their marriage ending in divorce in 1921.

Karen runs the farm with the Natives Kikuyu tribe, with her head servant Farah – a Somali man.

The natives work on the farm to pay for the land through labour.

She paints a poetic picture of the African landscape and characters she met whilst living in Africa, re-telling stories of the natives and the many interesting visitors to the plantation. She strives to improve relationships with the local natives and builds schools to educate the native children.

The narrator feels that her household is one with the African wilderness.

Karen left Kenya at the age of 46 years, penniless due to the failure of her Coffee Plantation – the result of repeated locust infestations. She returned to Rungstedlund, to the house where she was born and lived in, dependant on her family.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would give it... 10/10

Elna Wilson: I found this book a wonderful insight in to the way of life of many adventurous people who went to Kenya in the Mid-20th Century in search of a more meaningful lifestyle. The author and her husband went to in 1921 to run a coffee plantation. She remained after their divorce in 1921 and stayed until her return to Denmark in 1931.

Beautifully written, describing her deep love and sympathetic affection for the people and animals of the landscape, and a sad farewell to her beloved farm.

A way of life which has disappeared forever. I give it ...10/10

Anyone wishing to join, please contact Nan Tait or Elna Wilson – you will be most welcome.

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Church Membership

Any and all who come to our Church are welcome, whether member or not.

If, however, you would like to know more about membership, whether by profession of faith, or by transfer from another church, please contact the

Minister or one of the Elders.

Church Website:

www.glencairnparish.co.uk

Facebook: Glencairn and Moniaive Church

YouTube: Cairn Valley Churches

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