

The Blessed Thing



Spring 2020
Glencairn and Moniaive Parish

Kirk Session

A new year a new decade, and a new Minister, a good start to the year.

The Kirk Session appointed Nan Tait as Session Clerk, taking the 'Oath' and Sue Grant as Scribe to the Kirk Session, at a Meeting of the Kirk Session on the 17th January 2020.

Three Elders stepped down last year, from active service, leaving us with seven in total. Whereas, it has been known for Kirk Sessions to function with less, it would be good if we could increase our numbers. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in finding out more about this valuable contribution to church life, please contact our Interim Moderator or Minister. (Contact details on the

back page.)

Our grateful thanks to William Glencorse, Max MacKenzie and Paul Lyttle for their invaluable contribution, and commitment to the work of our church. Our prayers and thoughts are with them and their families.

Also, our thanks to Lindsay Dunse, who was our Session Clerk for eleven years, who stepped down but, as an Elder, still plays an important part in our church life.

We are most grateful to Max MacKenzie, who agreed to be our Treasurer, and who is active in many of our events.

*Nan Tait
Session Clerk*

Prayer for New Beginnings

Bless us O Lord in the coming year, hear our prayer for your blessing as your servant Rev Mark Smith, his wife Debbie and their family begin their new life with us. May they know that your hands are upon them to bless and protect them.

May the Church and our Community work together and give them a spirit of adventure to welcome all that has to come and help them to make friends and soon become an accepted member of our Church and Community. This we ask in your name.

Amen



Dear Friends,

What better way for the congregations of Dunscore with Glencairn and Moniaive to begin a New Year and a New Decade than by appointing a new Minister!

On 19th January 2020, the Revd Mark R S Smith was duly elected by an overwhelming majority of those whose names appear on either of the two Electoral Registers and who cast their votes. As Interim Moderator, I am delighted at this convincing result and offer my congratulations to Mark.

We are truly indebted to the members of the Nominating Committee under the leadership of Pam Mitchell and John Drabble for their enthusiasm, their generosity with their time and energy and for their commitment to finding the right candidate to nominate as Sole Nominee.

As the preparations for his Induction are set in motion, I trust that members, friends and parishioners of Dunscore with Glencairn and Moniaive will not only keep Mark in their thoughts and prayers, but also keep themselves informed of developments as the Presbytery assumes its role in organising the service of Induction.

Someone whom you already know as your Associate Minister, is the Revd Tim Harmer.

Tim has been active in leading worship and providing pastoral care in Dunscore for a number of years on an informal basis.

We are very grateful to him for kindly agreeing, last year, to accept the more formal role of Associate Minister of both congregations and parishes. He brings to this new expanded role the spiritual depth, warmth of personality

and valuable experience which, by God's grace, have already begun to bring rich blessings to those whom he serves in the Name of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I urge you to support The Revd Mark Smith and the Revd Tim Harmer as a new chapter in the life of the Cairn Valley Churches begins.

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, may we be drawn into the mystery of God's gracious and dramatic Incarnation, seeking and speaking the truth in love.

I wish you, your family and friends a joyful and blessed Easter.

It is true, the Lord has risen! He is risen indeed!

The Revd J. Stuart Mill



Our Bells Session ended in December with a very enjoyable meal at La Dolce Vita restaurant in Dumfries.

We were due to restart on 13th January but, due to very stormy weather, we had to postpone until the following Monday. A new music book has been acquired and we are hoping to begin it soon. Our numbers have become depleted so sometimes we have to cancel our practice if more than one member cannot attend and it would be lovely if we could attract some new members to join our fun and friendly group.

Kath Bentley, Chairperson

Hi Everyone...



Well how fortunate are we? After only a year our nominating committee have managed to find us The Rev Mark Smith who we warmly welcome to our parish as the new minister. It is with great delight that we welcome Mark and his wife Debbie to our “wee” church.

What a busy year it has been. The Way Ahead Group have been working tirelessly to promote the sale of Glencairn Church (with Church of Scotland Law Department), which when it comes to fruition, will be indeed a sad day but we will all have many happy memories of services, baptisms, picnics, concerts and weddings that have taken place and cherished memories shared at funerals.

To date there have been seven viewings and we are hopeful that an offer will be accepted soon. Perhaps we could all look out a photo of a fond memory of Glencairn and create an album of photographs that we could keep in St Ninians for folks to look back on. A time for reflection but also a time for moving on.

The Services will continue to be at 10am in our parish up until July then we will revert to 11.45am for the next year – how quickly the year goes by. You just get used to the earlier time

then we are changing again. Definitely a sign of getting old!! Everyone is more that welcome to pop in and join us on a Sunday morning and stay for a cuppa after the service. We have been working on trying to make the entrance area more welcoming to sit for coffee and a chat.

Like all other organisations fundraising is becoming more and more difficult. We are indebted to those who have put on lunches and would welcome any ideas that anyone has for fundraising. Even better we would just love it if you felt you could organise a fund raiser.

Over the year we have lost a few Elders and Board members, me being one, but after a lot of thought I decided to return, although I’m not quite sure I intended to end up as Chairperson of The Board but hey ho that’s the way it went. I am truly grateful to everyone for their help and support. I do hope some of you out there will consider coming and joining us. Board life is not an onerous task, but it can only be made better and easier for everyone with more members.

*Val McNeil,
Chairperson
Glencairn and Montiaive Church Board*

Rev Tim Harmer Associate Minister



I was brought up in Leicestershire and previously worked as a PE Teacher, Naval Officer and Civil Servant. I am married to June, we celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary this year! We have two grown up children, Ed who lives and works in Birmingham and Jenny married to Michael who farm at Auldgirith, they have two sons who attend school at Dunscore.

I was ordained in the Church of England at the age of 48 and following full time ministry south of Birmingham and in Cumbria I retired in 2016. We came to Scotland to support our daughter and son in law and help with the care of our two grandsons. We have always believed in the ministry of the local parish church and so June and I became members at Dunscore Church. We have been made to feel very welcome by the congregations both at Dunscore and Moniaive.

I have become more involved in preaching and leading worship and other aspects of ministry across the linked parishes as a retired Reverend, particularly during the vacancy. Because of this, in consultation with Rev Stuart Mill our Interim Moderator and the Presbytery, the suggested role of Associate Minister to the linked Parishes was proposed last year. Both Kirk Sessions agreed, however I am 72 and as June keeps reminding me retired, so I will continue to offer what support I can to the linked Parishes and to Mark when he begins his ministry here.

*Tim Harmer
January 2020*

The Kirk Session
extends an invitation to
Members and Friends
to the Church Service on

Sunday 1st March 2020

**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*

*Both the Common Cup and the
Individual Glasses will be available*

**Glencairn & Moniaive Parish
Church**

Stated Annual Meeting
will be held after the Service on
Sunday 8th March 2020
at approximately 11.15am

Teas and coffees will be served
immediately after the Service.

Christingle 2019

St Ninians was well lit up for our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Rev. Stuart Mill led the service and spoke to the children about the history behind the Christingle. The children eagerly and knowledgeably answered his questions.

Everyone sang beautifully and brought tears to the eyes of many. Away In a Manger, Silent Night and The Christingle Carol filled the church with love and just set the perfect mood for Christmas Eve.

Our thanks must go to everyone who came and joined us and to all that helped make this such a magical time.

I have to say that there was more than one young person at the service but sadly I forgot to ask those there if it was ok to use their photo.

Our link Church, Dunscore run a very successful Messy Church if there is anyone out there that would be interested please let us know and maybe it's something, we could try perhaps a few times a year to link in with religious festivals .

Val McNeil



The Smith's Are Coming!

Hello readers,

Let me introduce myself – I am Mark Smith and I have been chosen by the congregations to be the new Minister for Dunscore with Glencairn and Moniaive. It will be a privilege to serve alongside you and I look forward to meeting many of you face-to-face and trying to remember your names!

I am married to Debbie and we have an adult (she claims to be grown up) daughter, Natasha, who is in turn married to Nick. She is a proud mum to Isaac (who is 10 going on 40) and a Junior Doctor due to start training as a GP soon. Nick also works for the NHS near their home in Billingham in the North-East of England.

I currently work three-days a week for Tesco, delivering groceries for Tesco dot.com customers – I have even delivered to some of you reading this magazine! Debbie works as manager for School Nurses across the region for the NHS and has been a nurse for over #** years! Before we moved up here I was a minister in the Church of England and

since joining Lochend and New Abbey Church I have been helping churches across the area through pulpit supply and locum work. The Church of Scotland has now certified me to become a full-time Minister and here I am.

We have lived in Beeswing since 2005 and have repaired and extended our cottage over the past decade or so. The site of the house used to be the village smithy so it was fitting that we bought it and brought it back to life! We have been quite involved in life in the community through the village hall and playing field as well as the community council. We're looking forward to getting to know the communities around Moniaive and Dunscore – watch out for strange faces at local activities over the next few months.

As the time of writing we're not sure when the Induction will take place and I formally begin, but I hope that you will all be able to join with us on that occasion to celebrate us joining you on the journey of faith.

Rev Mark Smith

Living Advent Calendar



Living Advent Calendar but unfortunately this year it didn't happen as planned.

We were all set to go, but it was not

to be. Although we were all glad that we were able to help in the small way that we did by taking down hot drinks, mince pies and shortbread to the firefighters, police and those who were stuck in the traffic due to a tragic house fire on the High Street in the village.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the family and all those who have so generously contributed and supported them through this sad time.

Val McNeil

Toy Library

Over the past few months a small number of youngsters have enjoyed meeting to play together in St Ninians. Due to the small numbers attending the group have decided to move to Paterson Rooms. It is hoped that the group will be able to continue.

If you or anyone you know would like to become involved, please get in touch with Janet Yule (200373) or Sandra Neill (200416) and if enough people come forward then perhaps the group will be able to keep going.

The group would run in The Paterson Rooms which has a lovely outdoor area that would be suitable for outdoor play.

Not only is it a chance for the younger children and babies to socialise it is also ideal for the adults to have a chat and a cuppa. Anyone is welcome to pop in for a coffee and a play!!

Val McNeil



Book Group



The choice of book for the St Ninians Book Group for the past two months was *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. We met for a very interesting afternoon to discuss this novel about Alaska in the 1920s. It was thought to be magical, heart-breaking and very atmospheric.

The book chosen for the next two months is *The Seal Woman's Gift* by Sally Magnusson.



We will next meet on Monday 23rd March at 3.00pm.

If you would like to join us contact Jane Murray Flutter or Elna Wilson.

Financial Review for 2019



At the time of writing this report, the Congregational Accounts for last year had not been finalised, but the items below give a general view of the Church's finances.

The figures, which have been rounded for clarity, are awaiting formal approval by the Trustees. When approved, the full 2019 Accounts will be posted on the Church website. Look under the 'News' tab when the details are updated.

Looking at the main account for operating the Church funds, Expenditure exceeded Receipts by £4,800. The budgeted excess for the year had been £12,570, and this was mitigated by an increased draw-down (to a total of £9,700) from Revenue Account funds. This draw-down was taken out of the interest earned on sums invested.

Regular freewill offerings and standing order payments remained the main source of donation income. These, together with the General fundraising in 2019 totalling £24,000 showed a reduction to about 70% of

the previous year's donations. A claim to HMRC for refund of tax on Gift Aid of about £5,000 was not reimbursed, but payment is expected in 2020.

The rental income from use of church buildings of £2,100 showed an increase from last year's amount of £1,500.

The expenditure on Fabric maintenance and repairs was nearly £8,000, against a budget of £5,700. Of this extra, about £2,000 was for Manse upgrading. Heating and Lighting costs of £2,300 were within budget. The Insurance premiums were similar to last year at £4,660.

Included in the above figures is the cost of maintaining Glencairn Church, which amounted to £9,500 in the year.

The Vacancy Committee incurred Expenses, for which an allowance of £1,000 has been made, and which will be reconciled in the 2020 Accounts.

During the year, there was little movement in the Restricted Funds held for the Glencairn Windows and Lubuto. The St Ninian's Refurbishment Fund paid out the architect's fees of £3,000 for the Option Study done in late 2018.

*M MacKenzie
Treasurer
January 2020*

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Every Day?

How Many of These Bible Verses Do You Use in Daily Life?

Out of the mouths of babes.	(Psalm 8:2; Matthew 21:16)
Woe is me.	(Psalm 120:5; Isaiah 6:5)
Blind leading the blind.	(Matthew 15:14; Luke 6:39)
Fight the good fight.	(1 Timothy 6:12)
Turn the other cheek.	(Matthew 5:39; Luke 6:29)
A leopard cannot change his spots.	(Jeremiah 13:23)
Sign of the times.	(Matthew 16:3)
Adding fuel to the fire.	(Ezekiel 21:32)
Holier than thou.	(Isaiah 65:5)
How the mighty have fallen.	(2 Samuel 1:19)
Skin of of one's teeth.	(Job 19:20)
Double-edged sword.	(Proverbs 5:4; Hebrews 4:12)
Root of the matter.	(Job 19:28)
The salt of the earth.	(Matthew 5:13)
To be the scapegoat.	(Leviticus 16:9)
Wolf in sheep's clothing.	(Matthew 7:15)
My brother's keeper.	(Genesis 4:9)
Face to face.	(Exodus 33:11)
See eye to eye.	(Isaiah 52:8; Jeremiah 34:3)
You reap what you sow.	(Galatians 6:7)
Better to give than to receive.	(Acts 20:35)



Lubuto Update January 2020

Alison Boyes and I continue to maintain contact with our twinned church in Lubuto, mainly these days by social media. Each month we are in contact, in particular to greet each congregation and to exchange prayer requests.

The Lubuto congregation have been praying for our linked churches during the vacancy. On hearing that we have accepted the Rev Mark Smith as our minister, Rev. Joseph Simukondo sent a message that they would continue to hold our congregations in their prayers.

We have received news that Mr Moses Mvula, with whom we corresponded before the Rev Simukonda became their minister, stood down as Congregational secretary after eight years.

On the 16th January the United Church of Zambia celebrated Fifty Five years since its formation. May they go from strength to strength.

As previously reported Alison Boyes is stepping down as the representative for Dunscore. Ali Robertson has now volunteered to continue in her place.

I will continue keep you up to date with the life and times of the Lubuto Congregation.

Margaret H MacKenzie

Project Linus UK

Project Linus UK has been very much part of the creative activity of the Glencairn Quilting Group since we were made aware of it by one of our group, Mary Donaldson. Over the past few years we have made many of these small colourful quilts for the project which has been great for our creativity but also very gratifying as it is so worthwhile.

Project Linus, which began in America in 1995, is a volunteer organisation. It aims to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through provision of new homemade patchwork quilts and knitted blankets. 3,500 quilts and blankets are delivered across the UK each month, showing these children that someone cares along with the physical reassurance that comes with being able to snuggle up under a quilt. Furthermore, it gives volunteers across the UK the opportunity to contribute to their local community as there is a local co-ordinator who aims to deliver the quilts and blankets to children who are local to the makers.

The Glencairn Quilting Group was formed as a result of the 'Church Without Walls' Project during Christine's time as minister of Glencairn and Moniaive Church. We meet from October until early May each Monday from 10 – 12 in the Paterson Rooms and then monthly throughout the summer in different homes.

Helen Kelly

Contacts

Interim Moderator

The Revd J Stuart Mill, MA, MBA, BD

The Manse, Manse Park, Thornhill DG3 5ER

Tel: 01848 331191

Email: jmill@churchofscotland.org.uk

Associate Minister

Revd Tim Harmer

Dorma Cottage, Dunscore DG2 0TE

Tel: 01387 820861

Email: timharmer95@gmail.com

Session Clerk: Nan Tait

Clerk to the Board: Helen Kelly

Treasurer: Mr. Maxwell MacKenzie

Gift Aid Convener: Mrs. Jacqueline Wilson

Fabric Convener: Mr. Walter Patterson

Weekly Offering Convener: Nan Tait

Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Nan Tait

Bookings Clerk: Mrs. Anja Lyttle

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 Interim Moderator or one of the Elders.

Church Website:

www.glencairnparish.co.uk

Editor:

Sue Grant

Tel: 01848 200331

Email: suegrant23@me.com

Copy deadline for next issue 5th June 2020

Charity No. SC 014663