The Link

The magazine of Auldearn & St. Ninian's Church of Scotland, Nairn SC015361

Summer 2015

From our Minister



In 1960 William Barclay brought out a little book called 'The Promise of The Spirit'.

It is a very interesting little book to say the least. The purpose of his book was to collect what the Bible actually said about the Holy Spirit. Jesus had commanded his disciples not to begin their task until they had received the Holy Spirit. And as far as we can tell, and the evidences are profound, the Spirit was dynamic in the life of the early church. This book begins to scan the rapid forces of the Holy Spirit.

It deals firstly with a survey of Spirit in the Old Testament, and then deals with the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Barclay's aim is not to venture into a theological explanation of the Spirit, but simply to describe the early church's experience of the Sprit. He highlights that there is, perhaps, a need for an experience of the Holy Spirit today.

In chapter seven he comes up with a very interesting passage, and says, "Today in the middle of the twentieth century the Christian Church is confronted with challenge and with opportunity in a way and on a scale that it has not known for centuries, perhaps, ever before. This is a time of the emergence of nations, with all the accompanying clash of race and of colour, and all the problems of finding a way of living together. This is a time when humanity is genuinely faced with the possibility of racial suicide, for men have acquired powers and tapped forces with which they can quite easily destroy each other and destroy themselves. This is a time for ecumenicity, when the church has become acutely conscious of the sin of its divisions, and when it seems tragically unable to do anything to turn them into unity."

Fifty five years on I find it hard to see that we have learned anything from our existence. "Men" turned out to be as Barclay warned us. Scripture itself, the Gospels of Jesus Christ tell us of this period of time.

In 1994 Ian Moir, head of National Mission at the time, addressed us in New College and told us that the church was about to crash, and would have to bottom out before it would grow. The height of the church he said, 'was in the 1950's'.

However, life has changed and the church has changed. The church has still not bottomed out and the phoenix has still not risen from the ashes. We no longer hold to the values we once did—that it is the Spirit of God that has the power to change and grow.

We forget our scripture—1 Cor. 3. Paul tells us that it is God who compels.

All in all, Barclay hits on this whole concept in his little book, 'The Promise of the Spirit', by saying that, "Without the holy spirit the Church cannot have a message. It was through the Holy Spirit that the gospel was first preached, and it is through the Holy Spirit that the gospel must continue to be preached (1 Peter 1 .12)". He says "without the Holy Spirit the Church can have no accent of certainty". (Pages 112,113.) He also says in Page 117 that the curiously distressing feature of the church is not the amount of bickering and indifference we have, but the proven absence of The Holy Spirit.

In my opinion, he is right. The absence of the Holy Spirit has been with us for some time and still prevails. That is why we find absence and disloyalty within the church. As Dietrich Boneuffer once said, 'It is within our new found strength that we will have to find God. I can understand both men and the Gospel. Our new found strength is our weakness'

You know we are the only religion in the world where God dwells in us. The evidence that I see in the church and all around is the absence of God.

A Word of Thanks and Welcome

Dear Friends,

As we approach a new era in our Church I would like to take this final opportunity to thank Revd. Fraser Turner, our Interim Moderator, for all the help and support he gave St. Ninian's Church over the last twenty months. Fraser worked tirelessly to prepare us for the Vacancy and to the stage we are at now. He helped us move on during his time with us and most importantly believed in us! Fraser we thank you.

We now have a new Minister, Revd. Tommy Bryson, and we welcome him and his wife Jean to Nairn St. Ninian's Church.

I hope and pray, as a congregation, we support Tommy as he is our future.

I pray for our Church and our new Minister and ask the Lord to watch over us and guide us.

Blessings,

Grace McCloy, Session Clerk

The Leprosy Mission Scotland—Ardclach Memorial

The service to mark the renovation of the Mitchell Memorial at Ardclach was held at the site of the memorial stone on a very cold Saturday 25th April 2015 at 11am.

It was led by our former Interim Moderator, Rev Fraser Turner. The Bible Reading was read by Rev John Waugh and Mr Ross Napier, who was the architect of the event, gave a short talk on the life of the Rev Donald Mitchell.

All those present, numbering around 60 people, then made their way to Lethen House, courtesy of the Lord Lieutenant, Brodie of Brodie. On arrival, we were greeted warmly in the reception hall by the ladies and young members of the house before taking our seats.

Mr Ross Napier gave us a more detailed account of the life and work of the Rev Donald Mitchell followed by a short talk from the Leprosy Mission Fund Raising Convener for Scotland. We were then treated to hospitality of coffee, tea or juice followed by hot and cold snacks, including cakes. Enjoying this fare, were 3 members from St Ninian's together with former Ministers from St Ninian's, Auldearn and Ardclach churches and their wives.

I took the opportunity to put out a collecting plate, with the permission of the Leprosy Mission Representative, and was pleased to receive the magnificent sum of £97 for the charity. To this amount was added the contents of 2 of the blue collection boxes totalling £5 and £102 was paid in to the bank.

It is hoped to hold more fund raising events, but meanwhile, any full blue collection boxes should be returned to me. Used stamps are also welcomed.

Norma McIntyre, St Ninian's representative

Encouraging Start to Church's Campaign

Nineteen new recruits to Church of Scotland ministry have been accepted following the first round of this year's assessment conferences. A further 34 candidates are eligible to be considered this autumn and hopes are high this year's intake of trainees could prove be the largest for some time.

A large number of the Church's 800 ministers are due to retire over the next 10 years and the Church is actively seeking candidates for ministry through its new 'Tomorrow's Calling campaign. The initial response has been very positive, with a video promoting parish ministry viewed by more than 55,000 people in the

(Continued on page 8)

Flower Rota July 15 — Dec. 15

July

5th Mrs M Scott12th Mrs D Cooke19th Mrs P Gordon26th Mrs G Grant

August

2nd Mrs S Forbes

9th Mrs's D & M MacDonald

16th Mrs K Dunlop 23rd *available*

30th available



September

6th Mr. A.McGowan 13th *available* 20th Mrs. B. Borthwick 27th Mrs. N. McIntyre

October

4th Mrs. M. Bunker 11th Mrs. N. McIntyre 18th Mrs. K. Dunlop 26th Miss P Forbes (Communion)

November

1st Mrs B. MacDonald 8th Mrs's M & D. MacDonald (Remembrance Sunday) 15th available 22nd available 29th Mrs. K. Dunlop

December

6th Mrs. J. Kennedy 13th Mrs. E. Main 20th Christmas

Please contact Betty if you can take one of the 'vacant' weeks.

Organ Restoration Update—June 2015

As you may recall, we have five criteria we need to meet in terms of our Heritage Lottery Funding award conditions. An update was recently sent to the funding body and main points are summarised below.

heritage dualchas

LOTTERY FUNDED MAOINICHTE LEIS A' CHRANNCHUR

attending sessions in the church, two open evenings have been run for church organist groups in the north and east of the Highlands. Responses from those attending (c.30) was very positive.

A digital record will be kept on the restora-

tion of the organ which will be available

The church organ will be fully restored bringing it back to its original operational condition by specialists who will be procured through a tendering process.

online and an exhibition will be produced on the history of the organ.

The Specialist Team commenced work a week later than planned due to unforeseen circumstances. Since 20 April

Photographs of the children's engagement in the project and the work of the restoration team have been taken as

the team of two have worked in blocks, spitting their time between the church and their workshop. During the times in Nairn, they have been photographed at work as part of the digital archive. Works are expected to be completed by the mid July, 2015.

works progress. In addition, the restoration team have taken photos of works undertaken at their worship. A memory stick has been provided for these to be transferred for project use. Mrs Kathleen Dunlop has been interviewed by the primary children as she recalls the organ being installed 90 years ago. This has been digitised for inclusion on the church's Facebook site. The digital record so far, can be viewed on the church Facebook page which is updated at least weekly (and often daily). Work on the booklet and display is targeted for mid June with pupil writings, photographs and sketches already done forming a basis for

School sessions will be delivered to 40 pupils on the restoration and science behind the church organ.

mid June with pupil writings, photographs and sketches already done forming a basis for this.

Organ lessons will be provided for those who wish to try the instrument and recitals will be delivered regularly once the

during works!

Twenty five pupils from Mill-bank Primary have regularly attended sessions in the church. These children have looked at the history of the church (and their school and town compared), the workings of the organ prior to disassembly and meeting with the restoration team where they have looked in detail at its workings. This included hands-on experience with components and also playing the organ too.

organ has been restored.

These will be offered in the autumn, however, pupils and organist groups have been made aware that these lessons are proposed. The head of music at the Academy is herself an organist, and is supportive of this option.

Some thirty senior pupils from Nairn Academy have also attended. They enjoyed a recital and the opportunity to view the internal pipe chamber and all had the opportunity to play their exam pieces on the organ. Currently, these pupils are on study leave.

Just like new!

Project Timescales.

16 volunteers will be given training on tour guiding and 100 visitors will attend monthly open days on the restoration of the organ.

Most aspects are within expected timescales. The production of the display and booklets may be into July as they can't be produced until the children have completed their work. The first, planned recital is now scheduled for 1st August 2015, with three other scheduled through to spring 2016.

Volunteers are currently being sought with seven signed up for the first training event. This will be run by the organ sub-group with agreed input from the organist. This training is planned for the summer. Others will be trained as they come forward. In addition to the children

Please see separate advert for our first concert!



Guild News

The Guild is now on holiday until the beginning of October. We had a successful year which has been reported in previous issues of the Link.

We do try to have a varied programme related to the Theme, Topic and Project. As ever we would welcome anyone to come along and join us. The fellowship enjoyed over our cup of tea is every bit as important as the speaker and many life long friendships have begun in this way. Please do consider this over the summer and we will be delighted to see you in the autumn.

Guild

At our AGM Nicol Rainy-Brown replaced Norma as Secretary. Norma is remaining on the committee but taking a rest from organising for a wee while. Evelyn Main has also agreed to join the committee. We are delighted to welcome Nicol and welcome back Evelyn.

Our afternoon Tea on 15th April realised £205, so thank you to everyone who supported us. In May, members met our Guildlink friends from Buckie North & West Church for afternoon tea at Baxters in Fochabers. What a lovely time was had by all, good food and excellent company. At the end of May, some of us travelled to Daviot Church to the Summer Rally.

It was with great sadness that many from the Guild joined family and friends to say goodbye to Betha Clark. Betha remained interested in the Guild right to the end, having been a member and office bearer over many years.

Sheena Proctor.

Sunday School Closes for the Summer

The end of term is here again and we celebrated it with our end of term book service.

Two of the girls will be starting in the Academy in August and they both received a Bible to mark the occasion. The other children all received books.

During the service the children helped to tell the story of Mary Jones, a young Welsh girl, who 200 years ago wanted a Bible of her own. Her parents were so poor they couldn't afford to buy one for her, so Mary decided to save up and buy one for herself.

It took her 6 years! Then she had to walk 25 miles to the nearest town to buy it (and 25 miles back of course).

I told the girls how fortunate they were to be **given** a Bible.

Sunday School will now be on holiday till 23rd August.

Dorothea Cooke.

A Fond Farewell to our Interim Moderator

During the Induction Social Grace McCloy spoke, on behalf of both congregations, thanking Revd. Fraser Turner for his help and support during our vacancy. Her words of thanks are reproduced here.



Fraser, you have been our Interim Moderator for twenty months and in that time you have taken both churches forward in so many ways—both in Gospel and outreach.

When you first took on this role, we, in St.

Ninian's were just starting the third year of our Stewardship Campaign. Right away you came on board and helped and supported us for which we were truly grateful. It was a lot of hard work.

Fraser, you introduced a Bible Study & Prayer Group meeting twice a month, Sunday evening services also twice a month and Preparatory services before Communion. We also have a monthly Food for Thought Lunch with a message. These are all down to you. You have guided us, supported us and encouraged us in every possible way. Fraser, most of all, you believed in us and on behalf of Auldearn & Dalmore and Nairn St. Ninian's I thank you. We will miss you.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go..

Some people become friends and stay awhile...

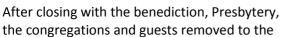
leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts...

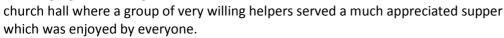
and we are never quite the same because we have made a good friend!!

Tom Heggie.

Induction of Revd Thomas Bryson on Friday 29th May 2015

Tommy's Induction to both congregations took place in Nairn St Ninian's on the last Friday in May. Starting at 7pm, Revd. Dr. Jonathan Humphries opened and conducted worship. During the service, Revd. Alastair Younger proceeded to formally induct Tommy. Presbytery then welcomed him with "the Right Hand of Fellowship". Our neighbouring minister, Revd. Jan Matheson then presented the charges to our new minister and to both congregations.





Revd. Fraser Turner welcomed Tommy and his wife, Jean. Mrs Ann Poyner (Auldearn with Dalmore) and Mr Grigor McKay (St Ninian's) both welcomed Tommy and Jean on behalf of the congregations.

Grace McCloy gave a vote of thanks to Fraser where she highlighted his help, encouragement and support during the time he spent with us. A presentation was then made on behalf of both congregations, marking his much valued contribution as Interim Moderator and Locum during the 20 month vacancy.

Presentations were then made to both Tommy and Jean and a welcome from the Nairn Fraternal was given by Revd. Murdo MacLeod.

Much appreciated entertainment was provided by members of our own congregation.

Closing words and the blessing were given by Tommy.

The service and social were both a great encouragement as so many of our congregations were present, and a happy and blessed time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Volunteers Wanted for Befrienders Highland

Befrienders Highland is a voluntary organisation and charity that provides a free 1-1 befriending service for people across the Highlands and Argyll and Bute who experience mental ill health and feel lonely and isolated. Our new Befriending Dementia service is also available for people living in the Highlands. Our trained volunteers offer confidential 1-1 regular social contact from which genuine friendships develop, improving the lives of our Friends right across the Highlands.

Volunteers are trained and only require to give up one or two hours a week. Befrienders Highland offers a range of services including:

- Face to Face befriending to people living in Inverness, Nairn or Ardersier areas,
- a Distance Befriending Service by phone, letter or email to people living anywhere in the Highland Council or Argyll and Bute areas,
- a telephone befriending service for people who have dementia and live anywhere in the Highland Council area,
- a Distance Befriending service by phone, letter or email for Carers of people who have dementia and live anywhere in the Highlands.

If you are interested, please contact Alison MacLeod, Administrator, on 01463 712791, or email admin@befriendershighland.org.uk

Bible Readers July 15— Dec. 2015

July

5th	Patsy Forbes
12th	June Ranscombe
19th	Andy Paton
26th	Clifford Cooke

August

2nd	Betty Borthwick
9th	Norma McIntyr
16th	John Waugh
23rd	Grigor McKay
30th	Judy McIntosh

September

6th	Rose McKendrick
13th	Dorothea Cooke
20th	Patsy Forbes
27th	June Ranscombe

October

4th	Andy Paton
11th	Clifford Cooke
18th	Betty Borthwick
25th	Norma McIntyre

November

1st	John Waugh
9th	Grigor McKay
16th	Judy McIntosh
23rd	Rose McKendrick
30th	Dorothea Cooke

December

6th	Patsy Forbes
13th	June Ranscombe
20th	Andy Paton
27th	Clifford Cooke

January 2016

3rd	Betty Borthwick
10th	Norma McIntyre



Please let June Ranscombe know if you swap dates!

Musical Mutterings 15

You might have been aware over the past while that although using CH3 in Auldearn we have not been singing the last printed verse, the *Gloria*, after the psalms. What is behind this I hear you ask! Well, there is history behind this and also opinion.

Going back to the 1595 Psalter, it had two innovative features. The first was that every Psalm had a prayer added to it and the second was that the book included a set of thirty-two *Conclusions* or metrical *Gloria Patri*.

In spite of strong opposition, the practice of singing the *Gloria*, along with the use of the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Creed*, ceased in deference to the prejudices of the fanatical puritans in the Westminster Assembly of Divines in 1643. To this day the Church of Scotland is the only one of the various Presbyterian churches in Scotland to use the *Gloria*, the *Creed* and the *Lord's Prayer*.

In the Scottish Psalter of 1615 there were twelve tunes published for use in public worship and by 1635 this number had increased to thirty-one. By this time it was <u>expected</u> that a *Doxology* or *Conclusion* would be sung after each psalm-portion sung. In 1635 there were indeed thirty-five of these *Doxologies* in different meters published in the Psalter. Missing out about three hundred years (!), the *Scottish Psalter*, 1929, with which most of us grew up, did not include *Gloria*, but then, all of a sudden, they re-appeared in the *Church Hymnary: Third Edition* of 1973.

Those people who have criticised the inclusion of *Gloria Patri* at the end of each portion of the Psalms in that book may be confounded by quoting Robert Baillie who in 1638 spoke of the singing of the *Gloria* as "the constant practice of our Church".

So it was that, after a good deal of coming and going, the singing of the *Gloria* or *Doxology* was restored to common practice in the Church of Scotland in 1973 with the publication of the *Church Hymnary: Third Edition*. However, in true Church of Scotland indecisive fashion when the *Church Hymnary: Fourth Edition* appeared in 2005 the *Gloria* disappeared again!

Do we sing the Gloria, or do we not? Our locum minister since Ricky Reid left has taken the view that we do not. Our new minister expresses the opinion that the *Gloria* is only sung at Communion. I personally think it is a matter of opinion!

A few weeks ago some of you might have thought you were having some sort of wide awake dream when we sang two hymn tunes in the one service that seemed familiar but were not quite right! Maybe I should explain.

The verses of hymns, just like any other poetry, have a particular metre or rhythm. Sometimes a hymn writer thinks that his words are just terrific but the guy who wrote the tune he has in mind for them wrote the tune wrongly and it doesn't fit the writer's words! The solution? Change the familiar tune to fit your words!

On 29th March we used the tune *Toulon* for the hymn *Far before time*. This was great, but it was not hard to suss out that we were also singing a very slightly altered version of the tune *Old 124th* (used in our time for *Now Israel may say*). Lo and behold! the next hymn that morning was *Go to dark Gethsemane* to the tune *Wells*, and what a resemblance there was to the tune *St Petersburg* (used in CH4 for *Thou hidden Love of God*).

Thus, if a tune does not fit your hymn, alter and rename it! (I am reminded of a minister from my youth of whom it was often said that if the Bible did not fit his sermon then he changed the wording of the Bible to suit the sermon!)

An old chestnut to finish: what is the difference between an organist and a terrorist? You can negotiate with a terrorist!

Donald Maclagan

Did You Know...

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

Shetland ministers to star in BBC's Island Parish

Next season the BBC2 programme "An Island Parish" will follow the fortunes of the communities living in the Shetland Islands. Filmmakers will be heading to Shetland, to show a year in the life of the people living in the most northerly part of the British Isles: the islands of Unst and Whalsay.

Whalsay has the largest population with approximately 1,000 residents, followed by Unst, home to about 600 people and Fetlar with 60. Rev. David Cooper has been minister for Unst, Yell and Fetlar for the last seven years.

RE-DEDICATION AND RE-OPENING RECITAL OF THE

1924 HENRY WILLIS & SONS AND LEWIS & CO. LTD ORGAN

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST 2015, 7.00pm

Recital given by

GRAHAM MACLAGAN

Associate Director of Music, The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Edinburgh Teacher of Music, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh

Fanfare for the Nairn St Ninian's Organ Rowe (first performance - commissioned for this occasion) (b. 1970)

Psalm 100: All people that on earth do dwell

Toccata in F Dieterich Buxte-

hude

(1637-1707)

Three Handel arrangements

March from Te Deum G.F. Handel Ombra mai fu from Serse ("Handel's Largo") (1685-1759)

March from Scipio

Intrada from Suite for organ John Ireland

(1879-1962)

Four pieces based on hymn tunes

Regent Square Betty Roe

(b. 1930)

Rockingham Kenneth Leighton

(1929-1988)

Bishopthorpe Colin Mawby

(b. 1936)

Ellacombe Robert Jones

(b. 1945)

from Sept pièces pour orgue Théodore Dubois

Cantilène Religieuse (1837-1924)

Prière in D Marcietta

Andante with variations Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1947)

Hymn: Now thank we all our God

Nun danket alle Gott Siegfrid Karg-Elert

(1877-1933)

At the close of the concert, refreshments will be available and there's an opportunity to meet and talk with the recitalist and to take a closer look at the restored organ.

Door and Offering Duties to December 2015

July

5th Harry Scott & Sheena Welsh
12th Grigor McKay & Sheena Proctor
19th Iain Colquhoun & Andy Paton
26th Jim Main & Bill Welsh

August

2nd Norma McIntyre & George Proctor
 9th Bill Kennedy & Grace McCloy
 16th Harry Scott & Judy McIntosh
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November

1st Harry Scott & George Proctor
8th Grigor McKay & Grace McCloy
15th Iain Colquhoun & Judy McIntosh
22nd Jim Main & Sheena Welsh
29th Norma McIntyre & Sheena Proc-

tor

December

6th Bill Kennedy & Andy Paton
13th Harry Scott & Bill Welsh
20th Grigor McKay & George Proctor
27th Iain Colquhoun & Grace McCloy

Those on rota duty are asked to let June Ranscombe know when you have "done a swap", so that the details in the Sunday Sheet are accurate.

If you'd like to assist with door duties, please speak to Harry Scott.

Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will. Stay in touch.

Fabric Report

The Manse

Prior to Tommy & Jean's arrival, all renovation work on The Manse was completed. A big thanks goes to Billy Hossack for all his hard work in decorating throughout the interior and staining all exterior woodwork. Our grateful thanks also go to Jim Clark for supplying and laying floor coverings. Throughout the entire period of vacancy, the gardens were well maintained, and thanks go to both the Auldearn contingent and Nairn folks who undertook this big commitment.

The Manse is now in an excellent state of repair—and it's the responsibility of all of us to keep it that way. The work of the Joint Manse Committee was highly commended by Inverness Presbytery when they inspected the building and grounds.

St Ninian's

After a few complaints about being dazzled by bright sunshine on Sunday mornings, new vertical blinds have been fitted to the sanctuary windows on the Post Office side of the building.

During Tommy's Induction Service, it was discovered that one of the central heating boilers had developed a leak. Thankfully, it was found early enough to avoid damage and has been repaired by our heating contractor.

The overhead projector has been acting up for a few weeks, and we have had to revert to printed hymn sheets. The fault has been identified and a new part is on order.

The kitchen water boiler had been out of commission for some months but the thermostat has now been checked by an electrician and has been adjusted. The boiler is now back in use, but kitchen users are asked to look out for the water overheating and venting to the outside. Should this be the case, the Fabric Convenor should be contacted ASAP.

The ceiling lights in the church hall have been slowly failing over the last year. We have now installed nine new double light units. The increase in light output is so great that one person has commented that its now too bright!

Auldearn & St Ninian's

Both church noticeboards were taken down for re-painting and updating of minister details. It was found that both boards were in a poor state of repair and actually need to be replaced. This work is in hand.

Andrew Paton, Fabric Convenor, St Ninian's

Did you know...

It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.

(Continued from page 2)

first three weeks since it went online. A Vocations Conference at Aberdeen's Queen's Cross Church on June 27th was full, with almost 60 people registered to find out more about taking forward their call to ministry.

The recent assessment conferences saw thirteen candidates accepted to full time Ministry, five to Ordained Local Ministry (OLMs), and a single applicant to the Diaconate, who was also successful. OLMs are ordained ministers who work in unpaid roles in local areas, the Diaconate are ordained ministers who work in professional supportive roles in a parish or elsewhere. http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/ministries council/education and support/tomorrows calling

Food, Fun & Fellowship A Date for your diary!

The Stewardship Committee are organising a "Food Fun Fellowship" Afternoon Tea which is being held on Wednesday 16th September between 2 and 4 pm in St Ninian's church hall.

All from the congregations are encouraged to come along.

Anyone requiring transport should telephone Sandra Paton on 454219.

Put the date in your diary now!

Deadline for next Link Magazine

Articles are welcomed from both congregations, so do think about how you can contribute. Items can be e-mailed at any time. For the next edition, please have them to clifford.cooke@talktalk.net by **Sunday 22nd November 15.**