

The Link

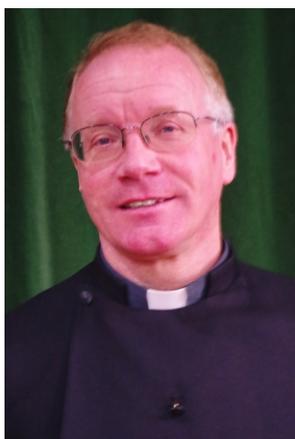
The magazine of Auldearn & St. Ninian's
Church of Scotland, Nairn
SC015361



Summer 2016

From our Minister

Ah, a year already!



It has been just over a year since I was inducted into the charge of St Ninian's linked with Auldearn and Dalmore. It has been a good year, in many ways, and sad in other respects. It has been good getting to know people, and taking stock. Over the year I have tried to make myself available, and show a keen pastoral interest.

I have become familiar with the pastoral care and responsibility of Whinnieknowe Nursing Home, and have been visiting all the other nursing homes, and have almost completed visiting two thirds of the roll both in St Ninian's and all of Auldearn.

It's been good to see some return, and not so good to see some come and then go.

However, even though the responsibilities of the Vacancy Committee was over as soon as I was inducted I am very grateful for their support over the last year, and in indeed some of them have become good friends due to this.

We have had a lot of changes over a year - refurbishment of the organ, the retiral of the organist, the death of one or two of our Elders, and many other things. A lot of things have caught my attention, my eye, and my ear - situations where I basically have to say that I do not think we can change over night and as usual the dynamic tension we have is the great expectation every congregation has of their new minister.

Sadly I am not an all-singing and all-dancing minister. I am only human like the rest, and what you see is what you get. I am limited in my field and sometimes I really do have bad days as well as good days. But as a minister I have my expectations also, and some I know will never be fulfilled and the ones that will, will not be the ones I desire.

When the Apostles began to exercise their ministry they discovered that a pattern of expectation slowly began to emerge.

St Paul himself began to face the pattern, unlike the pattern of expectation today. He could do many things but even he could not walk on water. So what he would do is have a mind set, and all he could do was try to lead by example. He came up against criticism from a young man called Apollos (1 Cor 3) and met division in the church. Each time he travelled from church to church, few of the churches ever met his expectations, except Philippi, where even Ephesus found many a stumbling in its life.

However, it was Philippi that stuck out in Paul's mind because of their partnership in the gospel. (1 Cor 1.5)

They were not only hearing the gospel and reading the gospel - they were living it. And that was the thing that stuck in St Paul's mind, and came to accept in them. He may well have expected it from the other churches, but in reading his letters, it is hard to find that same generosity of expectation.

Yet he laboured on. And as he laboured on alone, he found dismay, disappointment, and so found in every church and every town the same opposition, 'carnality'.

And so he preached about freedom from human regulations (Col 2. 6ff) and outlined the rules for Holy living (Col3.6ff).

In Thessalonica he faced some dreadful opposition (1Thes 2. 2) and was accused of trying to trick them (1 Thes 3).

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But exactly as it was with St Paul it is also the same with me. I believe I have a lot of good people, and some of you are wonderful, but it takes time to know a person. But its only when you begin to drop your guard, as they say, you begin to know the real person.

Things do not happen overnight, and in the climate we are living in, it is getting harder and harder to live up to people's expectations and even harder to please God, and I would just pray as hard as St Paul that people would start to please God rather than themselves.

Rev Tommy Bryson



Flower Rota July - December 2016

July

- 3rd Mrs M. Scott
- 10th Mrs D. Cooke
- 17th Mrs P. Gordon
- 24th Mrs G Grant
- 31st Mrs S Forbes

August

- 7th Mrs's D & M MacDonald
- 14th Mrs K.Dunlop
- 21st
- 28th

September

- 4th Mr A McGowan
- 11th
- 18th
- 25th Mrs N. McIntyre

October

- 2nd Mrs M. Bunker
- 9th Mrs N. McIntyre
- 16th Mrs K Dunlop
- 23rd Miss P Forbes
- 30th Mrs B MacDonald

November

- 6th Mrs's D & M MacDonald
- 13th
- 20th
- 27th Mrs K Dunlop

December

- 4th Mrs J Kennedy
- 11th Mrs E Main
- 18th
- 25th Christmas

Please contact Grace if you can take an 'available' week.



Nairn St Ninian's Stewardship Committee Strawberry Tea & Gift Day Saturday 6th August 2 - 4 pm

This is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship in the church hall over a cup of tea and delicious eats. It's also a time for giving which is a clear sign of our commitment to Christ and the church.

Transport is available if required.

Contact Sandra on 454219 to arrange this.

Come along and join us!

Encourage Equip nablePastoral Care
A half day Conference for all those involved in Pastoral Care across Inverness Presbytery

**Saturday 24th September 2016: 9.00am – 1.30pm
Inshes Church, Inshes Retail Park, Inverness**

This free conference will look at very practical ways to support church people involved in any aspect of pastoral care. Workshops choices are:

"One thing dementia cannot destroy" with Andy Lowndes from "Playlist for Life"

"Bereavement" with Revd. Bart Buell and Revd. Dr. Innes Visagie

"Pastoral Visiting" with Revd. David Scott, Inshes Church

"Dementia Friends" with Gillian Council from "Alzheimer Scotland"

Please see notice at church entrance for details and application or speak to Clifford

A Final Mutterings from our Organist!

Our organist, Donald Maclagan retired from both churches on 29th May 2016. To mark the occasion, both congregations worshipped together in Nairn, and made a joint presentation as thanks for Donald's faithful service. The collection for Donald raised £370 from Nairn and £173 from Auldearn. A letter of thanks has been received from Donald. His farewell speech is reproduced here.

Address to the Joint Morning Worship on retiral from the Parish Church of Saint Ninian, Nairn and Auldearn Parish Church, Sunday 29th May 2016.

My dear friends,

It is with a considerable amount of sadness, but also with a *certain* amount of relief, that I take my leave of you upon my retiral after thirteen years as your Director of Music in Saint Ninian's and ten years as your Organist in Auldearn.

In December 2003, being temporarily without an organist position, I informed the Presbytery of Inverness of my availability. Saint Ninian's had been without an *Organist Titulair* for some three years and so, of course, Jim Main, Presbytery Elder, cottoned onto my availability right away. After interview by the late Nigel Copeland, Session Clerk, and Mrs Sheena Main, leader of the church choir, I came to you on the Second Sunday of Advent 2003 to play the organ for Morning Worship, then to oversee all the services of Advent and Christmas, and to see if I liked you and you liked what I had to offer!

I ended up being appointed and staying with you for these thirteen years.

A couple of years later, when the congregation of Auldearn was linked with the Saint Ninian's congregation, Rev Archie Chisholm, Interim Moderator of Auldearn, realised that if the new Minister could take both services then what was to stop the Organist doing both as well?! Thus I have been playing the musical part of the services in both churches for all these years.

Now, in spite of my hope, expressed at the organ re-dedication recital on Saturday 1st August last year, to continue directing the music in Saint Ninian's for many more years, and as a consequence of increasing pain and joint immobility due to chronic osteoarthritis, I find myself with no option but to retire from any permanent position as a Director of Music. I do hope, however, to be able to play the organ on an *ad hoc* basis when other churches nearer home need me.



The Willis & Lewis organ in Saint Ninian's is one of the best instruments in the north of Scotland and, having been regularly maintained over the past 92 years, and remaining tonally unaltered since it's original building by Henry Willis III in 1924, throughout almost a century of continual use, is the proud holder of an Historic Organ Certificate granted by the British Institute of Organ Studies.

Since shortly after I arrived in Saint Ninian's in 2003 I have campaigned to have the organ overhauled and cleaned and so it was a huge delight to me to achieve that rebuilding in the summer of 2015 by Paul Miller and

David Wilson of PM Pipe Organ Maintenance Ltd. Saint Ninian's now has an instrument that will be fit to accompany worship and also be used as a solo instrument for many decades to come. If I have done nothing else during my time at Saint Ninian's I have left you an organ to be proud of for many, many years to come. It is my earnest hope that you



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Guild News

The last meeting of the year was held on 6th April. This was our Annual General Meeting. The basic committee remains as last year but Norma returns as Secretary and Evelyn will be minute secretary. Nicol and Libby step down but Ian joins the committee. We are grateful to Libby for offering to remain as tea convener.

We met our Guild link friends from Buckie South and West Church at Brodie on Wednesday was a wonderful evening of praise.

The Summer Rally this year was held at Nairn Old Parish Church on 7th June. The speaker was Kate Allen from Care for the Family. Care for the Family is a national charity which aims to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties. Our members assisted with catering and administration duties.

The committee meets on 5th July to prepare the syllabus for next session.

Happy holidays to all our members.

Sheena Proctor



Mission International: HAITI PROJECT

Mission International has sent speakers to many Guilds this year, telling of the work they do and especially of the problems in Haiti. Haiti is a very poor country and was devastated by the earthquake. With the help of the Guild the land has been purchased to build a new multi-purpose building and church. The architect has had a further visit to the site to discuss with local specialists and trades people what has to be done.

We are asked to pray for this work, talk about the project and give what we can to help with the work. So far £29,322 has been donated. This is only the first year of the Guild's participation so hopefully soon more progress with the building will be made. It is hoped the building will be operational by the end of 2017.

The church has 700 members and it is very expensive to send children to school. Some Guild members are sponsoring children who will benefit greatly from the schooling they will receive.

More information can be found on the website: <http://www.mission-international.org>.

Isabel Bryce, project partner.

Church Openings for Prayer and Organ Viewing and Use

Since the beginning of May, the church sanctuary has been open for visitors each Monday afternoon and Thursday morning. Numbers have not be huge, but all those who have come into the church have been very positive about the opportunity and appear to love our building and its sense of peacefulness. Visitors have also enjoyed the chat with our guides and viewing the organ displays. A few have even played the organ! Our thanks go to those who undertake this aspect of outreach which has seen us meeting with some locals but mostly overseas visitors from

places including Germany, Singapore and Norway!

It's planned that the sanctuary will be opened until the end of September, and reviewed thereafter to agree any further openings. If you'd like to assist in the next round of volunteers, please let Margaret Nesbitt know. Be reassured, you DON'T need to know any thing about the workings of the organ to help!



Easter Sunday Morning Breakfast & Service

Nairn St Ninian's held its own Easter Breakfast prior to the morning service. Bacon and sausages were served up in bakery rolls along with tea and coffee. The weather



er was awful, so we were pleased that we decided to hold it in the church hall, and not outside!

This was a special time of fellowship as we prepared for the morning service, with the money raised being given to the church's "Let Us Build a House" campaign for

earthquake victims in Nepal. This, with other fundraising, made in excess of £500.



As is our tradition, a daffodil cross was made at the start of the service, and hung outside afterwards.

The children had all decorated eggs, and the adults took part in a hat competition. These were judged by our organist, Donald.



All of the children won a chocolate egg. As for the adults... The winner, is... All in all, this was a blessed time of worship and praise for all those who attended.



Bible Readers to December 2016

July

3rd Norma McIntyre
10th Grigor Mackay
17th John Waugh
24th Clifford Cooke
31st Judy McIntosh

August

7th Rose McKendrick
14th Andrew Paton
21st June Ranscombe
28th Norma McIntyre

September

4th Grigor McKay
11th John Waugh
18th Clifford Cooke
25th Judy McIntosh

October

2nd June Ranscombe
9th Rose McKendrick
16th Andy Paton
23rd Norma McIntyre
30th Clifford Cooke

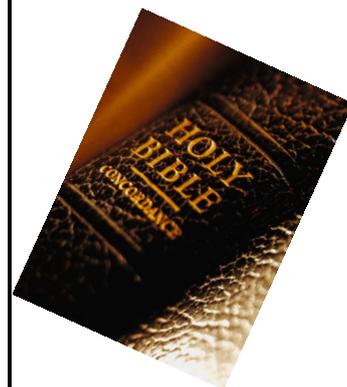
November

6th June Ranscombe
13th Grigor Mackay
20th John Waugh
27th Clifford Cooke

December

4th Judy McIntosh
11th Rose McKendrick
18th Andrew Paton
25th June Ranscomber

Please let June Ranscombe know if you swap dates!



(Continued from page 3)

will find a new incumbent who will continue the high quality of music that I have endeavoured to supply here over the past thirteen years.

I should not finish without mentioning the organ of Auldearn Parish Church. During the late 19th century the firm of Casson imported from Germany hundreds of small *Positive* pipe organs that are to be found in country churches all over the UK. Approximately twenty years ago the Auldearn Casson was rebuilt by my good friend Sandy Edmonstone. When I first arrived at Auldearn I had a conversation with Tom Rennie, Messrs. Harrison & Harrison's Scottish organ tuner who maintained both organs for many years. He expressed the opinion that the Auldearn organ was one of the best preserved Cassons in the country. Do please ensure that it continues to be regularly maintained!

It has been a huge pleasure and privilege to be organist of both churches over the past decade and I thank you all for your support over the years, not only supporting myself but also so kindly supporting Barbie during her illness over the past year and a half. Barbie is so very grateful to you all for your thoughts, your friendship and your gifts. She is very sorry that to be here with me all day today would just be too much for her but she sincerely joins me in expressing to you all our good wishes for a continued high quality of musical worship in the future.



On Donald's final evening the Badenoch Chorale played as part of our Organ recital series. It was a great success. As well as being thoroughly enjoyed by all, it also raised £284.57 which will be lodged in Organ Account.



Sunday School Picnic a great success

All 9 children were able to come on the Sunday School picnic on Saturday 18th June. They all had a great time first of all at the Floral Hall in Inverness and then at Whin Park.



After eating a huge lunch the children played on the slides, swings, trampolines and climbing frames. Then Tommy and Dorothea took them boating in the boat pond! Fortunately, no one fell in!



The day was finished with an ice cream before heading home.

A big thanks to Sandra, Tommy and Dorothea.

The end of term book service was held the next day when all the children received a book after leading the congregation in 2 songs about prayer with lots of actions!



Sunday School will resume again on 4 September.



Fabric Report

At the recent Congregational; Board meeting, Andrew Paton reported on the following matters.

Replacement hall windows at gable ends

There is no further progress with Highland Council planning still to come back to us about our application to replace these windows in hardwood. We have been advised that we are now a priority with planning department.

Church Hall storage

The Fabric Committee has sought a quotation from Mervyn Grant for the installation of storage units at the rear of the hall. These will be designed to take the tables and hall users' goods whilst leaving the hall looking neat and tidy. After discussion, it was agreed to purchase smaller folding tables and dispose of the metal and wooden ones which are too heavy to lift safely. In addition, it was agreed to purchase 10 chairs with arms for use in the church hall.

Church sanctuary and hall sound and vision systems

As it is now some time since our sound system in the church was installed - and even longer since the hall was equipped - it has been decided to seek quotations for upgrade/replacement of this equipment. In particular, the loop system and screen options need to be upgraded. It was noted that the Fabric committee met with Sandy from "HiAudioVisual" to discuss needs and options. This included laying of network cables to the new phone router which is now in place in The Vestry. This will allow internet access throughout the church building once upgraded.

Paintworks

Internal and external paintworks are required. The paint above sanctuary radiators is flaking and requires rubbing down and re-emulsified. The kitchen and remaining church hall windows require a fresh, outside coat of paint.

Heritage Area at church entrance

The Board had previously agreed with the minister that a Heritage display be set up at the church entrance. This will complement the organ display and give visitors more to view. This area at the front entrance requires display units, and church members are asked to be on the look out for suitable display units.

Unable to Get to Church?

Would you appreciate Home Communion?

Home Communion is now being offered in the week following Communion in church. For 2016, Communion is being held the last Sunday in June and September.

If you'd like home communion just after these dates, please speak to your elder who can arrange this.

Door and Offering Duties to December 2016

July

3rd	Norma McIntyre & George Proctor
10th	Grigor McKay & Grace McCloy
17th	Roberta Stuart & Judy McIntosh
24th	Bill Kennedy & Sheena Welsh
31st	Harry Scott & Sheena Proctor

August

7th	Iain Colquhoun & Jean Bryson
14th	Jim Main & Bill Welsh
21st	Norma McIntyre & George Proctor
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4th	Grigor McKay & Grace McCloy
11th	Roberta Stuart & Judy McIntosh
18th	Bill Kennedy & Sheena Welsh
25th	Harry Scott & Sheena Proctor

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.

Deadline for next Link Magazine

Articles are welcomed from both congregations, so do think about how you can contribute. Items can be e-mailed any time. For the next edition, please have them to clifford.cooke@talktalk.net by **Sunday 20th November 2016**.