

Fishers of People

Church of the Holy Rude

Park Church Stirling

St.Ninians Old Parish

Viewfield Erskine

**Joint Summer Newsletter 2022
(June, July, August)**

From the Ministers:

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to be able to write and extend our greetings and good wishes to you.

This is the first of our joint church newsletters which we hope you will find informative and interesting.

As many of you know, congregations within the Church of Scotland are being encouraged to work together and to combine their resources in order that our witness may be strengthened.

It is our hope that when the Presbytery of Stirling approves its Mission Plan in the autumn, it will be agreed that the congregations of The Church of the Holy Rude, Park Church, St Ninians Old and Viewfield Erskine will form a 'grouping'. This will enable us to work more closely as the body of Christ witnessing effectively to his love within our respective communities.

As the number of full time ministers of Word and Sacrament reduces to approximately six hundred in the next few years, it is more important than ever that all who are members of the Church use the gifts God has given to us in order that we can continue the work of our Lord.

As colleagues, we are excited at the thought of what we can do by working together and building on past joint ventures, that have enabled us to get to know one another better, and engendered a warm feeling of fellowship and friendship.

We will also, at various times, engage with other Churches in the surrounding area, and we look forward to this happening.

This is a challenging time for the Church of Scotland and inevitably decisions will be made in the coming months that will impact on every congregation. While it would be tempting for some to lose heart, we must draw strength from God and go forward in faith believing that He will not fail us and that His good plans for us will come to pass.

Following His resurrection and prior to His ascension, Jesus gave His followers what we call the Great Commission. He said *'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'* That was quite an instruction and, had Jesus left it at that, no doubt His followers would have been filled with anxiety as they thought of going out on their own in obedience to his commandment. But they weren't going out on their own! Jesus reassured them with these words, *'And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.'*

The first followers of Jesus were sent out with the greatest task in history but with them was the greatest presence in the world!

Jesus' promise to be with His people still stands today. Therefore, we look to the future with confidence and great hope, knowing and believing that Jesus is with us and will bless all that we do in His name.

With our warmest good wishes for the summer,

The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

The Rev Alan F Miller,

The Rev Attie van Wyk,

The Rev Gary J McIntyre

Easter Holiday Club

Imagine 28 excited children descending on St Ninians Old Parish Halls and a further 23 volunteers hoping that everyone will learn something and also have fun! This was the scene on 5th April at the start of a 3 day joint venture with St Ninians Old and Park Church - Streetwise 2 - our Easter Holiday Club.

For three mornings from 10.00-12.30 it was a busy time where the children listened to stories about Jesus.

On Day 1 it was the story of Martha and Mary, on Day 2 it was the story of Jesus during the days before the cross and on Day 3 it was the story of the walk to Emmaus and the fact that Jesus is alive.



As well as learning about these stories through drama, storytelling, activity sheets and craft the children were also engaged in various other activities, singing and games. They also made a wonderful street frieze, drawing and cutting out buildings from newspaper.



A well-deserved snack was enjoyed mid-morning and throughout the entire time there was laughter and fun especially when water or squeezy cream were involved! Our prayer is that the children will have learned something about Jesus but also that learning about Him can be interesting and that people who attend church can have lots of fun just like them.

Contributed by Moira Parry on behalf of the Holiday Club Team
Photos taken by Nancy Turnbull, Park Church

St.Ninians Old Parish Church Notices:

Please note

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session will meet in the Church on Tuesday 14th June at 7:30pm.

ANNUAL BARBECUE

The annual congregational barbecue will be held in the Manse garden on **Saturday 16th July** from 3pm to 6pm. Tickets will be available soon.



'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it'

Psalm 118:24

What will you do with this day that the Lord has made? All of us only have today to love God, and to serve Him with all our hearts, minds and souls. Even as we try to see a way forward, seeking God's will for ourselves and for our congregations, it is this day that matters, so we must use this day wisely. Every day that God makes is an opportunity to rejoice and to give thanks, even - and especially - those days where things do not go well or as we would wish.

At the start of a new day,

with the whole of the day ahead;

Rejoice and be glad!

In the middle of the day,

and problems are unfolding

Rejoice and be glad!

In the evening,

when the worst of our fears are realised;

Rejoice and be glad!

At the end of the day,

when we recognise

that God has been with us all day;

Rejoice and be glad!

For this is the day.



GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

Moira Park and David Parry were married on Saturday 19th August 1972 at St Columba's Church.

Rev. W. Grant Anderson officiated and the organist was Mr Ross McGowan. (!)

Congratulations to Moira & David

Thanks too, for faithful service from Ross McGowan as organist

Friendship bags and Prayer cards

When became clear that Covid restrictions were to be with us for some time, the Mission and Outreach Committee in Park Church decided in March 2021 to reach out to the older members of the congregation by way of monthly friendship bags and prayer cards.

These have been very well received and the Church is very grateful to Margaret Risk and Moira Parry for compiling prayers which over the months have covered a wide range of topics-Love, Joy, Compassion, Creation and Political leaders-to name but a few. Sometimes, the monthly delivery has also included flowers, marmalade, small gifts and very welcome afternoon teas!

This initiative would not have been possible with out the help of our delivery team-Anne Miller, Rae Scott, Wendy MacLean, Sheena Tweedle, Willie Troop, Margaret Crombie, Helen MacDonald, Sarah and Peter Murdoch and Lyndsay Boyack. In the process, new friendships have been formed and enjoyed.

Thanks also to Sarah and now Sheena our Church administrator for printing out the prayers.

As life slowly returns to some sort of normality, it has been decided to discontinue the bags as many people are now enjoying being back at Church. Prayer cards will still be available on request as well as available at the door of the Church.

Contributed by Lyndsay Boyack, Park Church



The Lent Appeal for Pennies in the jar at Park Church raised £692.65

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this annual collection to provide clean water and sanitation to some of the poorest people in the world.

ST FILLAN'S CAVE

During our recent holiday in the East Neuk of Fife we visited the fishing village of Pittenweem. The village has been such since early medieval times. The oldest structure there is St Fillan's Cave situated in Cove Wynd near the harbour. From this ancient sacred cave St. Fillan is said to have converted the local Pictish population to Christianity.

Pittenweem Priory was built over the cave in which St. Fillan lived and worked, reputedly writing by the light shining from his forearm ! The cave was rediscovered in 1990 and can be visited by obtaining a key from the Cocoa Tree Cafe.

Submitted by Margaret Sibbald, St.Ninians Old Parish



Jesus in Our Lives

1) Keep our eye on Jesus

The disciples were on the boat on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus came walking toward them, walking on the water.

Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, keeping his eye on Jesus. But then he was distracted by the turmoil of the waves underneath and began to sink.

Jesus saved him of course but the lesson is that as long as we keep focused on Jesus all will be well, and the ups and downs of life will take care of themselves.

2) Good often comes out of bad.

The Romans couldn't have devised a more cruel method of execution than nailing someone to the cross. And yet the suffering and death of Jesus, God's only begotten Son, on that Cross on Calvary, not only resulted in the greatest religion the world has ever known but more importantly Jesus bore the burden of all our sins on that Cross that we may be forgiven and have eternal lives. Also there followed the Resurrection of Jesus who is with us for evermore, through good times and bad, a permanent presence in an ever changing world. The symbol of The Cross is a reminder that God, our Father in Heaven, loves us so much, that his only begotten Son suffered and died for the sins of all mankind. The World has known no greater love!

And so sometimes in life when something unfortunate happens good can come out of it. Just remember that Cross on Calvary.

3) God always answers our prayers.

God always answers our prayers. It may not be the answer we want or expect, but we must trust in God that he knows what is best for us as he knows us better than we do ourselves or anyone does.

Paul confirms this in his Letter to the followers of Jesus in Philippi. Chapter 4, Verses five to seven, "The Lord is near; do not be anxious, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanks giving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus."

4) Jesus Our Guardian

The only sport that I was any good at was cricket. However as a batsman I often thought that in many ways the role my bat played could be compared to the role of Jesus in our lives. No matter what type of bowling I had to face I had my bat to deal with it. I could use my bat to defend or to attack the bowling. And so it is with Jesus. No matter what life throws at us we have Jesus. Sometimes to defend our cause and on other occasions to go on the attack and knock our troubles for six, whatever they may be. People could be getting us down, or we are upset over something. But Jesus is our guardian, our ever present help in trouble!

Arthur S Walls

Elder St.Ninians Old Parish Church.





The Sparks Pre-school play group held in the Main Hall at Park Church on Friday mornings is a lively place and both children and adults enjoy the play, praise and singing.

On Friday April 29th an **Eco-gardening session** was held . Potatoes were planted in growing bags in the front garden with great care so as not to waste compost.



Sunflowers were planted in pots and watered before going into propagators on the sunny windowsill in the Maxwell Thornton Room upstairs. The flowers will be used in the church garden this summer. Every child also planted a sunflower to take home for their own garden.

Happy Sparks families playing and learning together:





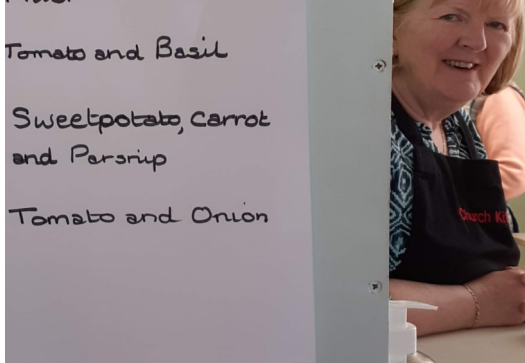
Above : Happy folk enjoying lunch in May



Left: What was Gary McIntyre saying to Attie Van Wyk?



Below: our wonderful volunteers -backroom boys setting up tables and the kitchen team



Stirling Kirks Together

**Friendship Lunches are held on the second
Wednesday of the month.**

The summer dates are:

Wednesday 8th June

Wednesday 13th July

Wednesday 10th August

From 12noon to 1.30pm

Venue: Park Church Hall, Park Terrace



Conversation

Homemade Soup & Rolls, Tea, Coffee and Home Baking

**All welcome-why not bring a friend and the children during
the holidays?**

For further information



contact Johan Stirling on 01786 461571

SUMMER IN PARK CHURCH



Sunday 5th June- A celebration of our Pentecost, our Union and welcome to the Minister and the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen

A special service of thanksgiving at 11.00am will be followed by a congregational lunch in the Main Hall

Sunday June 12th You are invited to a service of Holy Communion at 11am followed by Tea, coffee and biscuits in the Main Hall.

Sunday worship during the summer months of June , July & August is at 11am and followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and an opportunity to chat in the Main Hall after the service.

Please note:

Children are very welcome every week of the year and there will be age appropriate materials provided and activities led by members approved by Session who have undertaken Disclosure and safeguarding training.

Mr Van Wyk will be on holiday from 29th July to 19th August.

In his absence All Age Services will be led by Peter and Sarah Murdoch.

Annfield House Care Home Services: will be intimated in the Order of Service but are usually the first Sunday of the month (excepting June this year) at 3pm.

Street Pastors Service: will be intimated on the website and Order of Service

Every Thursday Coffee Club meet in the Main Hall from 10.30 to 11.30am for friendly conversation and home baking—all welcome.



SUMMER SERVICES IN ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

*Sunday 5th June-Pentecost and the
Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen*



**A special service of thanksgiving at 10.30am will be followed by a celebration in the
Parish Halls**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated during the morning service on
Sunday, 12th June. All who love the Lord are warmly invited to gather at His table.**

**Worship on Sundays at 10.30 am in June, July and August except 7th August when the
service begins at 10am.**

**Fellowship with tea, coffee and biscuits in the Parish Halls on Sundays 19th June, 17th
July and 21st August.**

**Mr McIntyre will be on holiday from 8th to 30th August. Mrs Jean Porter, BD, DCS will
conduct the services on the 14th, 21st and 28th August.**

SUMMER SERVICES IN THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE AND VIEWFIELD ERSKINE CHURCH

**Sunday worship is at 11am in the Church of the Holy Rude on the first and third Sunday
of the month and Viewfield Erskine on the second and fourth Sunday.**

You will be made most welcome.

A Visit to IONA

It is the kind of island that, once you have made your first visit, no matter how brief, calls you back again and again. This was my 5th return to the peaceful and relaxing island of Iona and the Spring air was fresh and cool while the sun shone for the week.

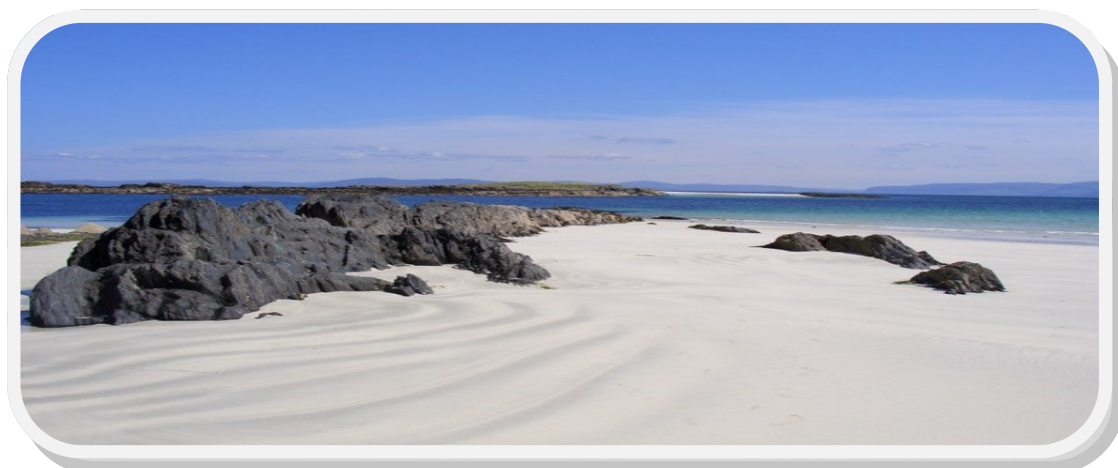
In 563AD St Columba arrived on the island with 12 of his followers from Ireland and built his first Celtic church there, establishing a monastic community and thereafter setting himself the task of converting most of pagan Scotland and northern England to the Christian faith. Although described as being the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland, St Ninian had already arrived in south west Scotland at Whithorn in 397AD and established Candida Casa, The White House, there.

Country walks and beautiful sandy beaches with turquoise waters are readily available and the main attraction for most visitors is, of course, the atmospheric Iona Abbey which was raided by Vikings in 802, and St Columba's Shrine. The 13th century Nunnery, which is considered the best preserved in Europe, and the local Heritage Centre with the Cafe and sheltered garden are well worth a visit. Birdlife is all around and, in the peace of the surroundings, birdsong can easily be heard and appreciated. Corncrakes are not renowned for their musical abilities but they are there on the island although difficult to spot.

Reverend George McLeod, minister at Govan Old Parish Church in Glasgow and a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was founder of the Iona Community in 1938 and instrumental in the refurbishment of the Abbey, involving unemployed workers and fellow clerics. Abbey services are held daily, are non-denominational and organised by the Iona Community.

Iona can easily be reached by public transport. Bus or train from Glasgow to Oban takes you to the Calmac ferry and the crossing to Craignure on Mull. At certain times the ferry is met there by a bus for the 1 hour scenic journey to Fionnphort (where you leave your car if driving yourself) and a 10 minute ferry crossing then takes you to Iona. It's always a good idea to check timetables for connections and is certainly worth the effort. There are 2 good hotels on the island as well as other types of accommodation.

Contributed by Marion Jackson, St.Ninians Old Parish



Easter Code programme for schools March 2022

On Friday 25th and Monday 28th March, Park Church, at last, had the pleasure of hosting the Easter Code programme after a break of 3 years. Around 120 young people in Primary 6 from Allans PS, St Ninians PS and Borestone PS took part.

The children re-enacted the events of Holy Week, and by following some of the experiences of Jesus and his disciples, they participated in foot washing, Easter craft and a Passover meal, as well as hearing about Gethsemane and experiencing being part of a hostile crowd on Good Friday.

In each area the children had to note a keyword, the initial letter of which had to be unscrambled to solve an anagram. The final re-enactment at the tomb enabled them to decode the anagram revealing the word EASTER. They threw themselves into activities and role play with great enthusiasm and from their evaluations it is clear that the majority enjoyed their experiences with a number commenting on what they had learned during the morning/afternoon.

We had revamped some parts of the programme to allow the children more active dramatic participation, and it was gratifying to hear that this had gone down very well with almost everyone. However, it is still a bit of a quandary to decide the best way forward with the code solving, when most are saying that it was too easy and boring whilst others found it more difficult, and yet others really enjoyed the challenge – a conundrum to be worked on for next year. This time also some of the staff comments will also give us food for thought before we plan for next year. .

Comments about what was learned are always eye opening, showing generally little knowledge about the reason behind Easter. This year they included:-

I learned about the stories of Jesus, about a blind man and a shepherd learned new things about what Jesus did. I learned that some people did not like Jesus

I learned that Jesus was killed on the cross

I learned that people had the choice to free Jesus

I learned a lot more about Jesus and God

I didn't learn a lot of new stuff – it was like revision!

And a couple showed a deeper side to their thinking:-

I learned not to judge

I learned that being proud takes you nowhere – be humble.

Perhaps it was best summed up in one comment which offered

Overall it was great fun, interesting and unique

Our groups of helpers were assisted by our friends in St Ninians Old Parish and thanks goes to everyone who helped both to present and support during the two days and to those who gave their time to help set up the gazebo areas.

Submitted by Joy McFarlane, Elder in Park Church and Convenor of the Youth & Education Committee

This Reflection on a sermon preached 8th May 2022 by Rev Attie Van Wyk reminds us that we are never alone and always loved even when we stray

The 'P's of Psalm 23, John 10:22-30, Revelation 7:13-17

The Shepherd of life planned everything ahead

He prepares our way.

He has patience with us.

He protects us, even from the unknown dangers.

He provides for the things we need.

He is always present.

And for these reasons we have peace.



Sweet Potato and Ginger Soup

Serves 6

Ingredients: One tablespoon Olive oil

30 grams root ginger, peeled and grated (can use dried ginger)

700 grams sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks

One medium onion, chopped

One clove of garlic, chopped (optional)

One litre hot stock

Fresh lime juice or long life lime juice concentrate (optional)



Method:

Heat oil in large deep pan and gently fry onion until softened. Add ginger and garlic and cook for 2 minutes.

Add sweet potato chunk, stir to coat in gingery onion and cook for another 2-3 minutes.

Pour in stock, bring to the boil, then cover and simmer for 15 minutes until sweet potatoes are tender.

Cool slightly and liquidise.

A dash of lime juice may be added before serving.

Submitted by Marjorie McGowan, Elder & Depute Session Clerk, Park Church

Popcorn & Cake programme for schools -May 2022

On Friday 13th May and Monday 16th May Park Church was the base for a joint church outreach relating to Pentecost—the birthday of the Christian Church and a great day of **celebration**.

We welcomed youngsters from Borestone, St.Ninians and Allans Primary Schools to a fun and thoughtful two hour session in which they enjoyed group games, making popcorn and reflecting on how Christians believe that people can change, help each other and the world. Quite an important message as they are Leavers in the last couple of weeks of their Primary school careers. Rev Gary McIntyre and Rev Attie Van Wyk were part of a big team of volunteers from St.Ninians Old Parish, Park Church and St. Ninians UF. Volunteers in the kitchen made sure every child went home with a gift box of popcorn and cake with our best wishes and prayers for their future careers at High School next term.



Walking St Cuthbert's Way by Ian Ritchie

My brother, my Best Man and I have taken a week each year for the past few years to do a long-distance walk. This year, to celebrate freedom from lockdown, we decided to walk St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to Lindisfarne.

St Cuthbert was born in Dunbar c. 634, died 687, near Melrose Abbey. He was the Prior in Melrose, Lindisfarne and Durham but ended his days on Holy Island. He lived at a time when the Celtic Church, with its emphasis on spirituality and contemplation was being strongly influenced by the structures and disciplines of the Roman catholic church. He seems to have been a man who brought people together.



Melrose to Lindisfarne

The walk extends for 62.5 miles (100km). It can be done in 4,5 or 6 days but it depends on the availability of accommodation. Some of the stages can be quite long as they pass over the Borders hills.

Poring over the maps and planning your stages is part of the fun. In practice, you soon find that many people have done it before you and there is a recognised route with logical stages.

If you do plan to do the walk, it is a good idea to take advantage of the courier who can take your bags between destinations, leaving you free to walk without a burden. On any pilgrimage, the burden isn't necessarily a physical one!

It is also a good idea to do regular walking for a few weeks before you set out so that you are that bit fitter and your feet are less likely to become sore and blistered.

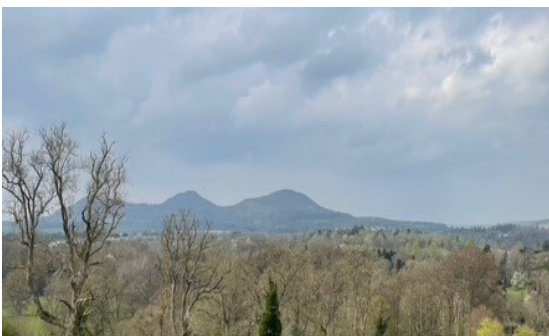
The walk

We did the walk in 5 days which means that 14 or 15 miles a day for 4 days. The last day was a short 5 miles across the causeway to Holy Island and a day spent looking at the priory ruins, seeing the museum and visiting the Castle.

Day 1 Melrose to Jedburgh - 14 miles

We started with a visit to Melrose Abbey ruins which was closed at 0900 on Easter Sunday.

We headed uphill towards the Eildon hills in sunshine and then down towards Bowden and Newtown St Boswell. Lovely green countryside with all the spring foliage coming out and the Eildon Hills behind us.



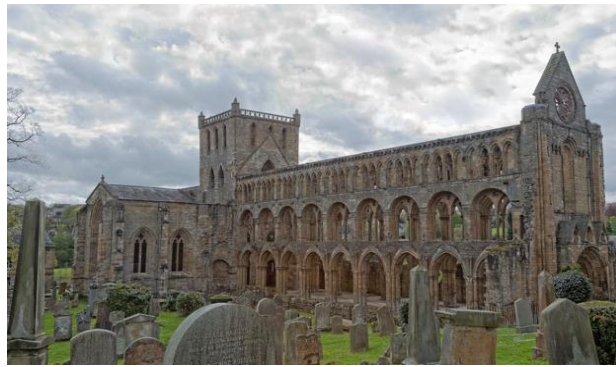
A great lunch in an Italian restaurant in Newton St Boswell. After lunch, we had a lovely walk along the banks of the river Tweed in sunshine and a gentle breeze.

We live in a country with many cultures. It made me wonder about the Romans who came to this part of the world several hundred years before St Cuthbert lived and whose remains are visible in forts, watch stations all along the route. Indeed, we walked along Dere Street for 3 miles as we approached Jedburgh. And now we have the latest Italian people providing a delicious lunch. I'm grateful for such diversity in our country.

At Liliards Edge, there is a grave commemorating the Maid Liliard who helped the Scots win the Battle of Ancrum Moor in 1545 against Henry VIII in his 'Rough wooing' Scotland.

Clearly, we were not so friendly with our nearest neighbour in the past.

The abbey in Jedburgh is a magnificent ruin but since we got there in the evening and on Easter Sunday, all we could do was look from the outside.



Day 2 Jedburgh to Kirk Yetholm – 15 miles

Again a lovely day with sunny weather but cool enough to make us walk briskly. Fine fertile rolling countryside with a castle at Cessford. We saw much evidence of the effect of Storm Arwen in the uprooted trees on the east side of any stand of trees.

We had lunch a Morebattle, enticed by leaflets offering a free drink at a named hostelry along our way!

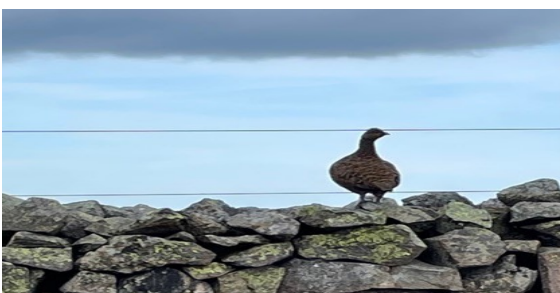


After lunch, we climbed steadily up to the top of Wideopen hill which is half way and the highest point along the route.

Then a lovely gentle walk along the top of the hill and down into Kirk Yetholm.

Day 3 Kirk Yetholm to Wooler – 14 miles

Another lovely day starting with a climb to the high moors and the border with England.



Then down to the valley which was lush and green and then up to the moors above Wooler. My memories of the day were of sunshine, good company, curlews a very nosy chaffinch, some gliders enjoying the breeze and the fabulous weather and amazing clouds and finally a grouse standing on a wall and looking at us looking at him/her!

Day 4 Wooler to Beal - 14 miles

This leg of the walk was the last long stretch. It is through some lovely countryside with evidence of pre-historic, Roman and more recent history all around.

We came across St Cuthbert's cave and wondered whether he had ever been there or was it a fable.



Day 5 Beal to Holy Island – 5 miles

We were grateful for a short walk across the causeway to Holy Island with a steady stream of cars heading in the same direction.

I found a letter in the Church of St Mary the Virgin from the Parish of Nidaros in Norway dated 1993, 1200 years after the first Viking raid on Lindisfarne and have quoted two parts from the letter:-

“We commemorate the event of 793 (the assault of the Vikings on the Monastery of Lindisfarne) and the sacrifices of the monks of Lindisfarne with contrite hearts. We honour the memory of St Cuthbert, prior and bishop of Lindisfarne, and greet you in thanksgiving for the Christian heritage we were given to share.”

“Pilgrimage is said to be the move toward a sanctuary with the openness to be changed in spirit and to search for new values.”

I was taken by the reference to pilgrimage and have since reflected on the way in which our short ‘pilgrimage’ has changed my view of such things as the arc of history, immigration and national independence amongst many others.

I got a lot from my walk – renewed friendship, good exercise, appreciation of our beautiful country, a better understanding of some history and a chance to think of things beyond the daily walk of life.

I commend it to you, especially if the weather is as good as it was for us.

Submitted by Ian Ritchie, Elder in Park Church



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for accompanying us in prayer through six and a half years of service with United Mission to Nepal (UMN).

At the end of our time as UMN and Church of Scotland mission partners, these are our continuing priorities for prayer:

- 1. For UMN's ongoing relationship with the Government of Nepal.**
- 2. For Dhana Lama, Joel's successor as head of UMN.**
- 3. For Fiona's MSc/PhD research into medicinal plants, which will bring us back to Nepal.**
- 4. For Caleb and Isaac to find good friends during our time in the UK.**

Throughout March and April, first Joel and then the whole family were on the road, visiting all of UMN's working areas—two hospitals and the six "Cluster offices" where our village-level anti-poverty work is coordinated. It was wonderful to be able to visit the frontline work in person, after the pandemic and our visa interruption in 2021 had kept us away from the Clusters for a long time.

We were consistently delighted and impressed by the work we visited. The restoration of village ponds, with the fishery income and irrigation benefits they provide; the small backpack factory founded with grant assistance from UMN to help people who had lost their jobs because of the pandemic. People with disability and their families supported to make a living, get medical help, and connect with each other to provide mutual support and oppose traditional stigmas. Health posts and local hospitals in all our working areas equipped to respond to COVID-19. Schools supported to bring students back and help them resume education after the long lockdown.

When Joel last visited Mugu district in late 2016, he was struck by the deep-rooted injustices that had emptied most schools in the upper Mugu Karnali valley. Most teachers were drawing their salaries without actually going to the remote villages, and the ethnic minority Karmarong population was too politically isolated to assert its rights. Today, thanks in significant part to the long advocacy efforts of UMN's local partner NGO, the schools have teachers and we're working with a receptive local government to strengthen education there. UMN has consistently strong positive relationships with the local governments that see our work close-up; please pray that this will extend more consistently to the central level where our agreements are signed!

We returned to Kathmandu and a wonderful official farewell at UMN, where we celebrated the last few years and looked forward to the achievements to come under Dhana Lama, UMN's first Nepali executive director. We feel we've had a wonderful ending to our time at UMN.

We do not expect that will be the end of our time in Nepal, however. As we mentioned in our February newsletter, Fiona will be starting MSc/PhD research on medicinal plants at the University of Kent. Her primary focus will be on *Artemisia annua*, a plant that has long been used around the world against falciparum malaria and is now in clinical trials as a COVID-19 treatment. It is indigenous to Nepal but little-studied there, and Fiona has had enthusiastic support for her proposed research not only from Kent but from the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh and Nepal's own National Herbarium (which is assessing some samples she brought back from our April travels).



We hope that from spring or summer 2023 we will be able to return to Nepal on Fiona's research visa. After the many ups and downs of the last few years, Joel is looking forward to a quieter season as house-dad, primary child-carer, and writer.

Meanwhile we would be grateful for prayer for this year in the UK as a family—especially for Caleb and Isaac, who we hope find good friends at school and church in Canterbury.

We hope you will continue to pray for the United Mission to Nepal and its faithful service to Nepal. Please consider signing up for their weekly prayer updates at <https://www.umn.org.np/pray>. We would also be grateful for anyone who wants to keep receiving our family's regular prayer updates; although we will no longer be official mission partners, we will continue to work to serve the people of Nepal and will be in need of prayer support. Please email [jhaven98](mailto:jhaven98@gmail.com) at gmail if you would like to be on that list.

Thank you, again, for all your support and prayer during our time with UMN.

Joel and Fiona, Caleb & Isaac Hafverstein

United Mission to Nepal

Kirk O'Muir

Kirk O'Muir is situated in the Carron Valley which is in the large and diverse parish of St Ninians. It is an old burial ground where in the 17th century man and women gathered to worship God. They became known as Covenanters - people who were determined to defend Presbyterianism and to oppose state interference in spiritual matters.

Covenanters - the name given because they had signed two Covenants supporting the freedom of the Church - gathered throughout the country in remote and isolated places. Ministers who were supportive of the cause, preached in the open air, and it was at that time that Conventicles were introduced.

Many Covenanters were dealt with harshly by the state and a number went to the gallows. It has been said of them; "The scaffold could not daunt them; Instruments of torture could not make them quail; the sufferings and discomforts of cave or moor or prison cell could not move them to act and speak against their conscience - the love of Christ spread abroad in their hearts ever spurred them on to do and to suffer."

These courageous saints of an age long gone can yet encourage and inspire us as we seek to serve Christ faithfully in our day.

Contributed by Rev Gary McIntyre, St.Ninians Old



A service has been held at Kirk O'Muir on the first Sunday of August for over 150 years.

The service this year will be on Sunday 7th August and will begin at 12 noon. All will be welcome.

Summer Saturday Coffee & Chat Café

Are you coming onto town to get your shopping?

Why not pop in and rest your feet , get out of the heat (or rain!)

Park Church Warmly invite you to come for a cup of coffee or tea and chat in the Main Hall

Saturday 9th July from 10am to 12noon

Saturday 20th August from 10am to 12 noon



Forthcoming Summer Events in Holy Rude Church

Thursday 16th June 2022

Big Noise Symphony Orchestra at 7.00pm

Saturday 18th June 2022 **5th Link Study Day**

10.30am - Challenges and Opportunities facing the Church of Scotland -
Speaker Rev. Dr Liam Fraser

1.00pm - Psalms and Poetry
Speaker Rev. Dr Jock Stein

3.00pm McDiarmid's poem "On a Raised Beach"
Speaker Professor Richard Roberts

Tickets £10

Friday 29th July 2022 at 7.30pm

455th Anniversary of the Coronation of James VI Lecture
"The Heraldic Times of King James VI"

Speaker - Mrs Elizabeth Roads LVO Secretary of the Order of the Thistle
Admission by donation programme

Sunday 15th May was a busy and very happy service for Park Church with visitors and friends from Edinburgh, England, Jersey and our Missionary Partners Joel and Fiona Hafverstein with their sons Isaac and Caleb. The boys, who are avid readers and sent many book parcels by the church when they were in Nepal, were presented with book tokens from the congregation.

It was also the Minister's birthday and we celebrated Isaac Hafverstein's birthday a few days earlier. An enormous cake and balloon were presented in church and Ross McGowan led the congregation on the organ to sing "Happy Birthday". We wish the Hafversteins God's richest blessings as they settle back in the UK.



The Unlikely Street Pastor

I only went to the information evening to find out how our church donations were being used. I had no intention of becoming a Street Pastor and had every excuse why I would not be able to be one – my family wouldn't like it, the training would disrupt some weekends, I wouldn't manage the late nights even although part of me thought I should still be out partying.

Suffice to say I went home full of enthusiasm for the organisation. When I mentioned I had been asked to observe a patrol all the family were very supportive.

I didn't expect to find on that first patrol that picking up broken glass and putting flip-flops on sore feet could be such a moving experience – it was amazing to feel that these actions were a positive witness of God's love for the people on our streets. We have a friendly city and all the people we met were supportive and welcomed us being on the street.

Several years later I am still a Street Pastor. The experiences on the street and the people I have met have strengthened my faith and enhanced my spiritual journey.

Stirling Street Pastors continue to patrol on the streets most Friday and Saturday nights and in recent years have been fortunate enough to be allowed onto the university campus where we have regular Friday lunchtime patrols.

Street Pastors like many organisations need new volunteers each year as Pastors leave the area or are no longer able to patrol. We currently are down at around 24 volunteers but pray that we will reach our target of 32 to ensure no patrols are cancelled and we have some flexibility.

If you have the slightest notion to volunteer, be a prayer partner or have skills you think may be useful to Stirling Street Pastors then please get in touch with me, Helen Wynd 07980460962 or with our coordinator Russell Boyd on 07545527511. We will be happy to discuss our work and answer any questions.

I pray that you feel moved to make that phone call leading to new spiritual experiences and the privilege to "Care, Listen and Help" as part of God's church on the street or to support the organisation through prayer and other talents.

We welcome invitations from groups and churches to give talks about our work.

Contributed by Helen Wynd, St.Ninans Old Parish

PS

Street Pastors have their base in the office on the third floor in Park Church

Steven Moore, percussionist

Marimba & Vibraphone concert

Sunday 14th August 7pm in Park Church, Stirling

Street Pastors' Prayer

Living God

We praise you for the vision that gave birth to Street Pastors and for every life that has been touched through this movement of your spirit.

We thank you for every Street Pastor and we pray for them as they share Your love with others:

Your Protection and encouragement

Your wisdom and courage and an even deeper faith in and love for You

We pray for those they meet week by week outside the pubs and clubs, on the streets, on the university campus and at the bus stops and taxi ranks.

May those who are lonely be warmed by Your presence;

Those who are bruised and hurting find healing in Your love;

Those ashamed and without hope be set free Your forgiveness and grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, You came to seek and to save the lost.

You walk the streets night after night searching for those lost to Your love.

Thank you for the privilege of being Your hands and feet, Your eyes and Your heart where we are.

Give us:

Eyes that see as You see

Hearts that love as You love

And words that You can use to bring life and peace.

And in it all, Lord God, give us thankfulness, generosity and joy in serving You whom to serve is perfect freedom and whom to know is life eternal.

Triune God of Grace, to You be honour, praise and glory, from everlasting to everlasting, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen



THE 8th STIRLING (ST. NINIANS) Company, The Boys' Brigade.

A company of the Boys' Brigade have been meeting in St Ninians since 1893 and since returning from lockdown the 8th Stirling haven't looked back. Already back up to pre-pandemic numbers, our boys come each week with enthusiasm, excitement and a real sense of fun. It is through this fun and enthusiasm, rooted within the Christian faith that allows us to continue to offer a diverse and varied programme. For example, this session has seen Lego days, 10 pin bowling and Adventure days. In writing this article I asked one of our senior boys Hugh to share a little about what the BB means to him,

"During the covid-19 pandemic everything changed for most people. Whether it was staying inside or not being able to see friends and family it has taken its toll on everyone.

Boys Brigade was one of the things that stayed constant throughout, whether it was online sessions or getting involved with BB at home where we would have sports challenges, food challenges such as making milkshakes and sharing our results with the rest of the company section. It made lockdown that little bit better.

Returning to BB after lockdown was one of the ways we got back to normality, we've been more active than ever to make up for the time we lost. In the Company Section each night we start off with marching and move onto tasks or activities and finish the night with games. We have been on some trips as a company. For example we went to an ice hockey match at Braehead Arena, went to the outdoor activity centre Lendrick Muir (Owned and run by the Scripture Union) and took part in lots of fun activities, went to church on many occasions and the older boys participated in a day out to contribute towards our President's Badge. These are just a few of the things we have done.

Every Friday night we've been playing lots of different games, doing some baking, working with leaders to plan some events and a trip away and overall just having a great time. Leading up to our President's Badge the senior boys and I have been volunteering with the juniors and anchors and working with the BB Leaders to plan lots of fun things we can do as a company over the next 6 months or so which we all can't wait for.

All together the BB continues to be an amazing experience, especially after covid. I'm so excited to see what's in store for the next year and to watch our Company Section grow as the Juniors and Anchors come up and watch them have as much fun on a Friday night as I do."

Through working with our boys each week it has been amazing to see their resilience, following such a difficult time for us all, especially our young people. Through the BB our boys develop key life skills, such as teamwork, communication and dedication. If you would like more information:

8th Stirling meets:

Anchors P1-P3: Wednesday's 6:15-7:30pm

Juniors P4-P6: Friday's: 7-8pm

Company Section/Seniors P7-S6: Friday's 8:15-10pm

Our new session starts with our enrolment evening on the 24th of August.

For further information, see our Facebook page: 8th Stirling - St Ninians Boys' Brigade or email us at 8thstirlingbb@gmail.com

David Ross, Officer in Charge, Company Section, 8th Stirling Boys' Brigade

Anchor Boys playing games



BB activities in the hall at St. Ninians and adventures on the water !

Please pray for the work of the BB and all the officers, helpers and parents who are giving their time and talents in the nurturing of our young people: we may never know what role the Lord has planned for them in the future but are certain that he is with them every step of the way.

CH4 Hymn 737 'Will your anchor hold in the storms of life'

My reason for liking this particular Hymn is because of its association with the Boys' Brigade. That Organisation in my view is so important to young boys, together with its connection to the Church and the discipline and learning passed on by dedicated Officers in the formative years.

I was a member of the 2nd Campbeltown Company (along with Gary McIntyre's father !) and have been forever thankful since for my BB days which undoubtedly led me and those around me on the right path to adulthood.

Tommy Newlands, member of St. Ninians Old Parish

Summer Seasons and celebrations :

Pentecost (5 June 2022)

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday fifty days after Easter. Pentecost is also known as Whitsun.

Prayer for Pentecost

God, at Pentecost, You spoke through flame and fire
As we gather, through the power of Your Spirit,
may we follow Your call.

God, at Pentecost, Your Advocate spoke truth in our world
As we gather, through the power of Your Spirit,
may we hear and obey.

God, at Pentecost, You celebrated the gifts of diversity in cultures
As we gather, through the power of your Spirit,
may You hear our heart languages of prayer and praise.

God, at Pentecost, Your Helper offered peace to every troubled heart
As we gather, through the power of Your Spirit,
may You calm every anxious heart.

Pentecost Blessing

“Go in the name of the God who scatters

May the wind of the Spirit enfold you into God’s mission

May the warmth of the Spirit rest on your work

May the words of the Spirit fill your mouth for witness

May the sounds of the Spirit guide your walk”



Trinity Sunday (12 June 2022)

Trinity Sunday is a day when Christians think of the nature of God rather than, as with other festivals, commemorating historical events of special significance.

Junior Church at Park Church

After a welcome break of 3 weeks during the Easter holidays the rota of Leaders and helpers is now up and running for the last couple of months until June. The weekly turn out is usually around 2-5 children, and whilst we are delighted to see them when they come it would be good if we could encourage a few more children to return now that we are in a more settled phase in our church life. We still only have 4 people who are presently willing to lead the children with support from parents/grandparents and one or two faithful helpers. This small group of leaders would REALLY appreciate a few more people offering their services for the rota from August/September, particularly if some children return, allowing more than one class to be formed, but also as they have other Sunday duties, and would like a few Sundays just to relax and enjoy the service! Please give some thought as to whether you might be able to help, even occasionally.

It is understandable that some of you may be willing to help but are unaware of what is involved. All of the leaders would be very happy to welcome anyone who might wish to shadow us for a few weeks before committing, and there is plenty of material and resources on line that are very helpful. Even if we have a few more people to join on a very occasional basis, it would make such a difference.

Our children are a very important part of our church family and will be welcomed at all services over the summer. Some of these will be all age services with the children helping if they are there, and at other times there will be the opportunity for them to meet as usual as a group, with Sarah planning and leading the topic, so as to give the current leaders an opportunity to recharge batteries. So please bring your children along as normal to church where they will be warmly welcomed and well looked after.



St.Ninians Old Parish Church Sunday Club

St.Ninians Old Parish resumed Sunday Club during Advent and we have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme over the subsequent weeks.

Our January to Easter programme included “Looking After God’s Creatures” when we made bird feeders and took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. We also read and discussed the stories of Moses, Noah, Miriam and Paul.

In the weeks leading up to Easter we learned about Shrove Tuesday and Lent. We enjoyed some tasty pancakes as part of this lesson. The children also enjoyed making lots of Easter crafts and Mothering Sunday cards.

Our new term started with us tidying up our planters in front of the Parish Halls. We had a lovely show of daffodils in the run up to Easter and now we are preparing the planters to sow some vegetables.

We also had a very exciting visit to our Church Tower. We climbed the narrow staircase to the first floor and we were able to have a wee shot at ringing the bell. Mr McIntyre also told us some really interesting facts about the tower and the bell. The bell is very old and dates from 1655.

Also, in our programme for this summer term is discussing the work of Christian Aid. We are also going to talk about how we Pray and write our own Prayer. We will learn about Ascension Day, Pentecost and the Sacrament of Communion. We plan to hold our own Communion in Sunday Club when the Sacrament is being celebrated in Church.

Our term finishes on 19th June with our Prize Giving and a tea party in the Parish Halls.

It really has been great having the children back in the Church and being back at Sunday Club after such a prolonged break.

Sunday Club meets during Church time and is open to all children from Nursery Class to P7. We would love to welcome you to our Sunday Club family.



St. Ninians Old Parish Church:

Baptisms - Jesus said 'Let the children come to me'

Magnus Leslie William Esplin
Son of Calum and Katy

Jane Isabella Thomson
Daughter of Adam and Annie

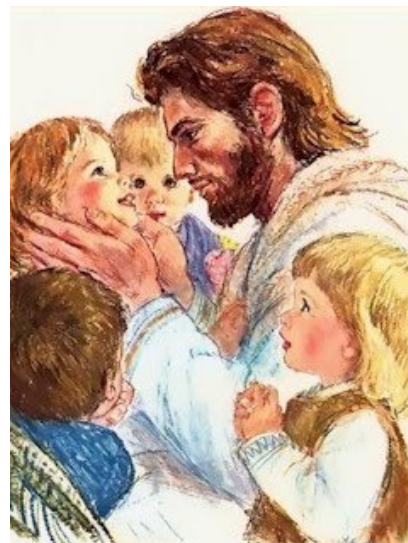
Adam Brodie Fulton
Son of Alan and Gillian

Eli Claudio Morris
Son of John and Elena

Silvana Ziggy Morris
Daughter of John and Elena

Aster Belle Smith
Daughter of Craig and Carolyn

Jude Allen
Son of Chris and Emma



In loving memory

It is with sadness, but great thankfulness for lives well lived, that we have to share the news of deaths of the following people:

Mr Euan Snowie
East Gogar
Blairlogie

Mrs Jean Leslie
Orchard Care Home
Tullibody

Mrs Gladys Denholm
72 Colquhoun Street
Stirling

Mrs Isobel Dow
71 Springfield Road
Stirling

Mr Charlie Smith
7 Randolph Terrace
Stirling

Mrs Isabel Crawford
15 Calder Court
Stirling

Miss Maureen Watt
9 Polmaise Court
St Ninians

Mr Howard Allen
29 Newhouse
Stirling

Mr James Wilson
Flat 6, Hanover Court
Causewayhead

Mr James Ford
Wallaceview Care Home
Stirling

Miss May Monteith
Westerlands Care Home
Stirling

Mrs Betty Campbell
Annfield House
Stirling

Mrs Effie Kemp
Annfield House
Stirling

Mr Alan Currie
47 Barnsdale Road
St Ninians





Archie MacCallum

Archie will be greatly missed not only in Park Church where he was an Elder, choir member and Communion Convenor but in Stirlingshire for his loyal support of Christian Aid through beautiful plants that he and his late wife Sonia, who died a year ago, supplied to the annual Coffee Morning. A past Chairman and Trustee of the Friends of the Smith Art Gallery & Museum he helped so many groups and societies in numerous ways with great modesty and efficiency.

Park Church

In loving memory

It is with sadness, but great thankfulness for lives well lived, that we have to share the news of deaths of the following people:

Neil Thompson, Stirling

David Pilley , Dunblane

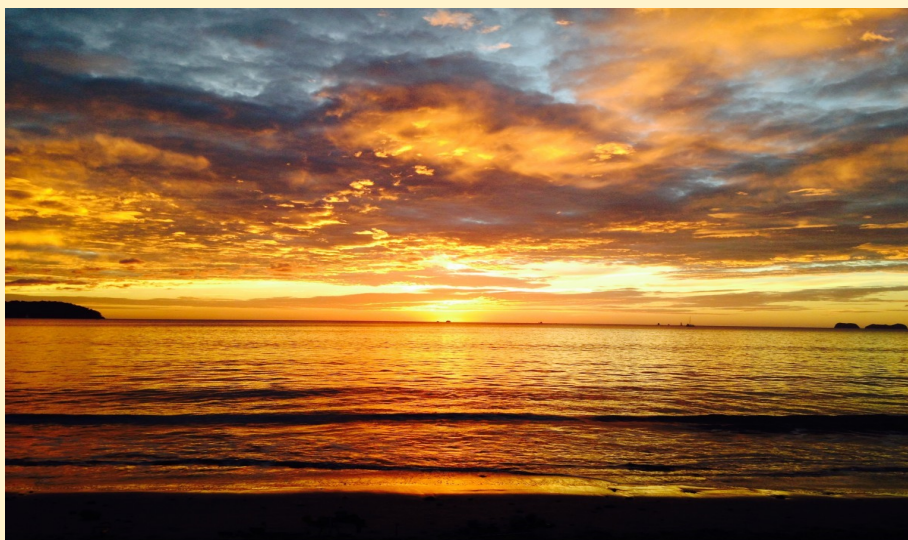
Sheila Pilley, Dunblane

Sheena Wilson, Westerlands Care Home, formerly Stirling (retired Elder)

Archie MacCallum, formerly Bellfield Road (retired Elder)

Margaret Peebles, Parkdyke

Gerry France, Jersey and formerly Stirling



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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS: NEW CONTRIBUTORS WELCOMED

This newsletter depends on you sending interesting copy to the Editor! Why not send in something for the autumn edition?

Any content for the next newsletter must be handed into the Park Church office or sent by e-mail to the Editor **before 5pm on Friday 19 August 2022**

We reserve the right to edit or hold over copy if required.

Please send text as a **Windows** file and photos as **JPEG** format.

Handwritten text is accepted but should be in as early as possible please

Any submissions received **AFTER** 5pm on the copy deadline will be held over for the next issue.

AUTUMN EDITION (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022)

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Stirling District eco-congregations network

The next public event will be a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday 21st September 7.30pm** at which the guest speaker will be **Miriam Adcock** from **Zero Waste Scotland**:

Event theme: 'Think before you buy'.

The Church of Scotland in Stirling City Centre



Park Church, Park Terrace,
FK8 2NA



Church of the Holy Rude
Stirling linked with
Viewfield Erskine Church



St. Ninians Old Parish Church
FK7 9AY

