

ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

PARISHIONER

WINTER 2025



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Freewill Offering Convener

To be appointed

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

You may remember the Charles Dickens story 'Great Expectations' where all the main characters had different expectations of life. The same can happen with Christmas. People have different expectations of what Christmas will bring. For some it will be a time of celebration, a time to spend with family and friends; for others it will be a time of sorrow and a reminder that family and friends are no longer here to share the festivities; for some it will be a time of loneliness and isolation whilst for others, it will be a time of revelry and an opportunity to eat and drink as much as possible!



I'd like to share a couple of stories which show how expectations can alter the way we view things.

This first story is about two wealthy brothers who set out one Christmas to buy the very best Christmas present they could for their mother. The search for this present became so fierce that the two brothers turned it into a contest to see who could find the best present.

One brother thought he had found the perfect present when he came upon a Zurka bird.

This was no ordinary bird. It was very rare and special. It was also very expensive and had to be flown all the way from the Amazon. It could speak five different languages. It could recite poetry and sing opera. It was a truly amazing bird.

This brother paid dearly for the Zurka bird, and had it sent to his mother for Christmas.

Finally, he could wait no longer. He called his mother and when she picked up the telephone, he almost shouted into the phone, "Mum, Mum, what did you think about the beautiful, intelligent Zurka bird that I sent you, isn't it just amazing?"

On the other end of the line, the Mother replied, "Oh son, it was absolutely delicious."

Obviously, the son's and the mum's expectation of the present were somewhat different!

This next story is about two sisters. One was an incurable optimist and the other an incorrigible pessimist. No matter what happened to the one child, her spirits couldn't be deflated, and no matter what happened to the other, her spirits couldn't be lifted.

So, one Christmas, totally exasperated, their parents tried to shake both girls out of their extreme pessimistic and optimistic attitudes.

For the pessimist, they bought Christmas gifts that anticipated her every wish, hoping that seeing so many good things on Christmas morning would lift her pessimism and produce signs of a more positive disposition. And, for the eternal optimist they gave nothing but a bag of horse manure.

Christmas morning arrived. The pessimistic girl opened a box of magnificent dolls. In response she said in dismay, "They'll probably break." When she opened a box containing a brand-new stereo she simply groaned "I don't have any CDs to play on this thing. And if I did, I probably wouldn't like the music anyway." She went on like this as she opened one gift after another.

On the other hand, when the optimistic child opened her bag and found that it was full of horse manure, she started shouting and jumping up and down for joy. When her parents wanted to know what she was so happy about, she exclaimed "Did you see what I got? Don't you see what it means? With all this horse manure there's got to be a pony around here somewhere!"

There are many different expectations of Christmas but at the heart of Christmas is the good news that God loves us so much, he came to us in human form. He came as one of us, born a child and yet a king. And because of the first Christmas, we can have peace with God, we can know the joy of sins forgiven, and through putting our faith in Jesus, we can have life everlasting.

Whatever your expectations this Christmas, I hope and pray that you will know the joy and peace that came into the world at the first Christmas, and that you will be blessed as you journey into the New Year.

Every good wish,

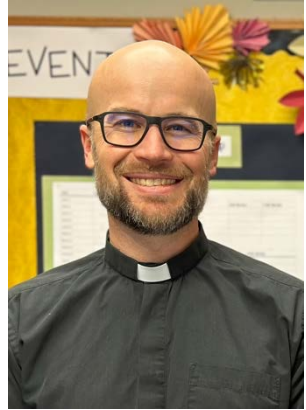
Gary

The Rev Gary J McIntyre

Devotional from Jake

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned.” - Isaiah 9:2

This time of year, these words from Isaiah seem like they might have been written specifically for the people of Scotland! As you probably know, my family and I moved to Stirling from Michigan, which is one of the states on the northern border of the US. But even though the city we came from was actually at a more northern latitude than some portions of Canada, the earliest the sun will ever set in Kalamazoo, Michigan is still over 20 minutes later than the sunset here in Stirling the day after British Summer time ended, and nearly 1.5 hours later than the sun will set here on the winter solstice. All that to say that the people of Scotland have a unique perspective on what it means to walk in darkness! However, as helpful as it may be, living within sight of the arctic circle isn't a requirement for understanding this verse from Isaiah, because darkness comes in many ways and at any time.



When we read this verse, we likely associate it rightly with Christmas and the good news of the birth of Jesus, but when Isaiah wrote these words he was in the midst of dealing with an Assyrian invasion of Israel and a king who had chosen to align himself with the invaders rather than recognize the signs of God's presence. So, these were certainly what you could call dark days for Israel. But into that darkness, the prophet Isaiah speaks a word of hope. Into that time of suffering and struggle, Isaiah assures God's people of the promise of a new king; one who would bring light, and life, and hope.

We live in a different time...and further north...than Isaiah and the people of Israel, but the same promise is true for us. Beyond the times of our sunrise and sunset, there is plenty of darkness in our lives and in the world. And whether that darkness comes to you in the form of personal struggles, in the form of the latest headlines, or in any other way, we are promised that it will not last forever. We are promised the coming of a new king, Jesus Christ, who brings light, and life, and hope. So, whether this season for you is one full of joy or one full of challenge, may we hold to that promise, and no matter how dark it might be, may we be a people who keep our hearts and minds focused on the light.

Your friend in Christ,
Jake

SERVICES IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER - FIRST IN ADVENT

10:30AM MORNING SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER TIME FOR PRAYER

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER - SECOND IN ADVENT

10:30AM MORNING SERVICE WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

6:30PM LESSONS AND CAROLS IN PARK CHURCH

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

6:30PM CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS IN THE CHURCH

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER - THIRD IN ADVENT

10:30AM MORNING SERVICE - GIFT SERVICE

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

10:30AM ST NINIANS PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE IN THE CHURCH

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER - FOURTH IN ADVENT

10:30AM CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE WITH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
FOLLOWED BY SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS IN THE PARISH HALLS

3:00PM A TIME TO REFLECT

WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE

11:30PM WATCHNIGHT SERVICE WITH RETIRAL COLLECTION FOR PLUS FORTH VALLEY

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30AM UNITED SERVICE IN PARK CHURCH

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER - FIRST AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:30AM - SEASONAL WORSHIP

CAROL SERVICES

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER

2:00PM ROSELEA COURT CARE HOME
3:15PM WESTERLANDS CARE HOME

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

2:00PM ECCLES COURT

**VOLUNTEERS TO COME ALONG AND LEAD THE SINGING
WILL BE WELCOME!**

Christingle Service

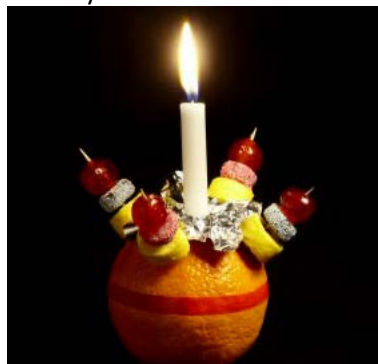
There will be a Christingle service in the Church on Friday 12th December at 6:30pm.

Christingle services are a popular annual tradition in many Christian denominations and offer a clear visual message about the Christian faith. The name "Christingle" likely derives from the German dialectical word *Christkindl*, meaning "Christ-child."

A Christingle represents the Christian story of Jesus as the Light of the World, with each part having special symbolism: the orange symbolizes the world, the lit candle is Jesus's light bringing hope, the red ribbon represents Jesus's love and blood, and the sweets and dried fruit symbolize the goodness of God's creations. The four sticks holding the fruit can represent the four seasons or the four corners of the Earth.

The service will be prepared with young people in mind but people of all ages will be very welcome!

There will be juice and crisps, tea, coffee and mince pies afterwards!



Gift Service

Our Gift Service this year is on Sunday 14th December. We are gathering gifts for the Salvation Army Gift Appeal. The Salvation Army distribute gifts to young people aged 1 – 16 years of age, they are particularly in need of gifts for teenage boys. If you are able to bring a gift to Church please bring it unwrapped. Thank you.

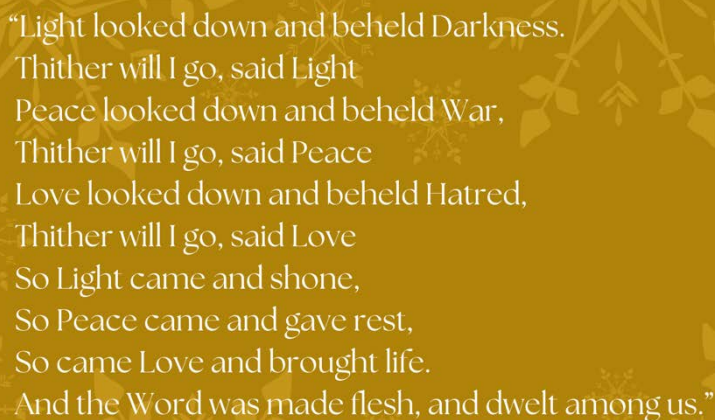


A Time to Reflect

Christmas and the lead up to it can be a hectic time, and for many it is a time of joy spent with family and friends. But it can also be a time some people find difficult. Those who live alone, those who have lost a loved one, those going through a time of anxiety or despair can find this particular season hard.

Even those who have company and who enjoy the festivities can welcome a time to be still, to take stock and reflect. With this in mind, there will be a short service in the Church on the afternoon of Sunday 21st December, the shortest day and longest night, at 3pm. The service will provide an opportunity for the difficulties of life to be acknowledged alongside the celebrations and good news of Christmas.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available afterwards. You will be very welcome.



“Light looked down and beheld Darkness.
Thither will I go, said Light
Peace looked down and beheld War,
Thither will I go, said Peace
Love looked down and beheld Hatred,
Thither will I go, said Love
So Light came and shone,
So Peace came and gave rest,
So came Love and brought life.
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”

Laurence Housman 1865-1959

Plus Forth Valley

The Kirk Session has decided that the retiral collection at the Christmas Eve service will go to Plus Forth Valley.

PLUS was founded in 1988 by parents and carers, who wanted their children with disabilities to have access to the same social, leisure and recreational activities as their non disabled peers and siblings. These services were initially developed in Stirling, but are now taking place on a smaller scale in Clackmannanshire and Falkirk, supporting parents to have regular short breaks which help to increase the capacity and resilience of families in their caring roles.



PLUS currently engages with over 240 individuals between the ages of 0-35 with a range of disabilities and complex needs.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God,

At this holy time of year, we remember the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and the light he brought to a weary world.

We lift up before you our brothers and sisters across the globe who are struggling with conflict, poverty, and loss.

Pour out your peace upon all nations, and grant wisdom to world leaders that they may work for justice and reconciliation.

For those who are lonely, sick, or grieving, we pray for your comfort and healing.

For those who have lost their homes or are seeking refuge, we pray that they may find safety and loving communities.

Help us to be beacons of your light and love, sharing kindness and generosity with all we meet, and reminding everyone of the hope that is found in you.

May your love reign in our hearts and homes, and bring peace upon the earth.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Services in January and February

Sunday Services will begin at 10:30am.

The children of the Sunday Club meet in the sanctuary for the first part of the service and then go to the Session House for a programme of activities.

There will be a service in Eccles Court at 2pm on Wednesday 28th January and Wednesday 25th February.

On the last Sunday of the month there is a further opportunity for prayer in the McMichael Chapel. All welcome.

The Kirk Session

The Kirk Session will meet in the Parish Halls on Tuesday 20th January 2026 and Tuesday 17th March 2026.

Bible Study

The second in a series of Bible studies will commence in the McMichael Chapel at 7pm on Tuesday 27th January and we will meet thereafter every Tuesday until 3rd March.

The studies will be relaxed and informal and you are warmly invited to come along!

- 27th January – ‘How does God guide us?’
- 3rd February – ‘Who is the Holy Spirit?’
- 10th February – ‘What does the Holy Spirit do?’
- 17th February – ‘Why and how should I tell others?’
- 24th February – ‘How can I make the most of the rest of my life?’
- 3rd March – ‘What about the Church?’

ST. NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

All are welcome.

Saturday 6th December 2025

10am till 11:30am Coffee Morning £2.50

**12 noon till 1:30pm Soup & Dessert Lunch
£5.00**

Craft Stall

All in the Parish Halls



Sunday 7th December 2025

12 noon till 2:00pm

Tea, Coffee & Home Baking

In the Church

Craft Group

JANETTE PETERSON

The craft group will meet for the last meeting of the year on Thursday 27th November from 2-4pm in the front hall.

After a short break we will restart the fortnightly meetings on Thursday 8th January from 2-4pm.

Anyone interested in coming along to this friendly group to enjoy a cuppa whilst working on your craft projects will be most welcome.



Pastoral Care Group

GRACE McINTOSH

If you know of anyone who would benefit from telephone contact or a visit from a Pastoral Care Group member, please let me or the Minister know.

Prayer Group

Please make your prayer requests known to the Prayer Group and we will pray over them.



Members of our prayer group will hold your loved one or situation in their individual daily devotions and monthly we meet following the service in the McMichael Chapel, where others are welcome to join us in a *Time for Prayer*.

You can make your prayer requests known to us at Church or online. In the McMichael Chapel, in

the Church, you will find the prayer tree and prayer box. You can write your request on a label and hang it on the tree or if the prayer request is more private, please use one of the small cards and place it in the prayer request box.

You can also submit your prayer requests online you will find the link to the form on the Church website and Facebook page. These requests are anonymous and confidential.

Social and Fundraising Committee

ALISON NEWMAN

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

The committee wishes to thank all supporters of the Soup and Sandwich lunches. Those who prepare the food, who come along to enjoy the fellowship and to the people who serve the food and the boys of the Boys' Brigade who do a sterling job.

Christmas Tree Festival

We would like to thank those who sponsored the trees and those who decorated them. The donations went a long way to assist in the success of this event. We also appreciate all the donations of baking and sweets for the coffee morning and lunch on the Saturday 6th December.

We look forward to seeing as many of you in the New Year when the Soup and Sandwich lunches will commence on Saturday 10 January 2026.

Sunday Club

We have had a varied programme since we started back after the summer holidays.

We have explored different Bible stories, David & Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den and the Last Supper.

At Harvest Thanksgiving we talked about harvest and how we get our food and we made harvest baskets. On Remembrance Sunday we were joined by some of the Anchor Boys and Junior Section of 8th

Stirling Boys Brigade and we talked about Remembrance and made poppies.

Over the next few weeks, we will be working hard to make decorations for the Sunday Club Christmas Tree in the Church Christmas Tree Festival.



We have started to meet in the Session House in the Church rather than the Parish Halls. This allows us to start on our activities quicker and it is nice staying in the Church where our parents and carers remain for the Church service.

Sunday Club is for children from Nursery to Primary 7 and we love to welcome new families to our Sunday Club family.

Tuesday Group

MIRANDA MILLER

The new session of the Tuesday Group opened with an afternoon tea. The event



was very well attended, and a lovely, social time was had by all. Many thanks to the committee and friends who provided the delicious home baking.

The recent quiz afternoon was good fun. Thanks to Chris and Elaine Mackay for organising it.

Members and friends thoroughly enjoyed the recent

Scots' afternoon. The Billy Ferguson ceilidh band was a big hit, and the band has agreed to perform at our Burns supper in January.

Anyone wishing to attend the Christmas lunch on the 16th of December should let the committee know by the end of November. The venue is the Stirling Golf Club, 12:00 noon for 12.30 and the meal will consist of 2 courses at a cost of £22.

The annual Burns Supper will be celebrated on the 27th of January tickets costing £15 will be available in the new year.

On the 24th of February the Rev Gary J McIntyre and the Rev Jake C Lehman will address the group. The AGM will be held on the 31st of March with the venue still to be confirmed

The committee send you their very best wishes for a lovely Christmas and many thanks for your support over the last few months.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal.

This year 52 boxes are making their way to Eastern Europe from St.Ninians Old Parish Church. That is a wonderful number of boxes.

Money donations were up this year, thank you to those who contributed money, this goes towards the transport costs.

Next year the only knitted items that Blythswood will accept will be scarves and hats.



Christian Aid

ELAINE WALKER

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Stirling Kirks Together coffee morning. It was a great time of fellowship. A wonderful amount of £1016 was raised for the charity on this their 80th anniversary year.



Stirling Kirk's Together – All Age Friendship Lunches

Thank you for your continued support of the Stirling Kirk's Together - All Age Friendship Lunches.



Through your enthusiastic and generous support three charities recently benefited from the funds raised at these lunches. Crossreach, Stirling Street Pastors and UNICEF each received donations of £300. These donations help to support the vital work each of these charities does in their respective sectors.

The lunches are held monthly throughout the year on the second Wednesday of the month in Park Church Hall. We are very grateful to the committed volunteers who run and manage these lunches. Not only do they provide delicious sustenance and an opportunity for fellowship, but they also contribute throughout the year to various different local, national and international charities.

The next lunch will be held on Wednesday 10th December.

Photo Gallery

AONGHAS REID
Mother and Child



Church of Scotland Welcome Table

HELEN WYND

Many thanks to the members of Bridge of Allan, Park and St. Ninians Old who staffed the Church of Scotland Welcome table during the University of Stirling Welcome Week.

The purpose of the table is to welcome new and old students, chat with them and let them know there are a variety of Church of Scotland Churches in the area they could visit and where they would be made welcome.

The initiative started last year. We created a brochure containing photographs, contact information and service times of all the churches in the area. The information can also be accessed through a QR code on a poster and business cards are available with the QR code on it.

The table has been at several events over the past year and we have spoken to many students. A smile and a sweet go a long way when folk are away from home or are worried.

The volunteers all enjoyed their time, meeting the students and mixing with members of other churches.

Some of the students may visit the church and I know they will be made welcome.

The seeds have been sown.



Lincoln Cathedral

JIM AND MARGARET MACLEOD

An extremely interesting place to visit is Lincoln Cathedral. We were there recently and attended worship during Evensong which was a very moving experience. Two new choristers were being invested - they were only primary school age!

Lincoln Cathedral was founded in the early days of William the Conqueror and is steeped in history. A copy of the Magna Carta is there, and three English medieval Parliaments took place within its walls. Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward the First, died there and Lincoln was the starting point as her body was conveyed to London; at each stopping point on the journey an Eleanor Cross was erected. A very few can still be seen today, with the final one being Charing Cross in London. Lincoln also has connections with Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell, but not for the best reasons!

There are a number of Military Chapels which are extremely interesting but the architecture and design is incredible. The crypt, stained glass windows, carvings and organ are just some of the many amazing aspects of the Cathedral.

It is well worth a visit and you can easily spend a couple of days there and around the old town. For over 900 years people have worshipped and celebrated God there. You can certainly feel the awesomeness and magnificence of God's spirit, while at the same time being able to enjoy quietness for solitude and reflection. We can certainly recommend it.



A pilgrimage to Bethlehem

BRUCE MCNICOL

We were welcomed as pilgrims by the nun at the Benedictine convent on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. There were 6 of us; all Divinity students from Glasgow. We had travelled by train and ferry, train and ferry and finally train and taxi from Glasgow to Jerusalem. It had taken us one week and the journey had been almost 3,500 miles long. That was 60 summers ago and Jerusalem was then in the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan. It was to be our base for almost a fortnight before we went through the Mandelbaum Gate in the old city dividing Jordan and Israel.

However, before that part of our journey into Israel we were still pilgrims and one day we all piled into a very large Mercedes taxi that took us on the 6 mile journey to Bethlehem. There, at the Church of the Holy Nativity we had to stoop to get through the door to visit the site attributed



to be the birthplace of Jesus. The Church was not busy and we were alone to look upon the star embedded in the rock that symbolised his birthplace. For the site is inside a small cave. Various lamps hung from the ceiling and priests were on duty. It was Helena, mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, (a convert to Christianity and who legitimised it) who on her visit to the Holy Land in the 4th century eagerly sought out the places associated with Jesus' life, death and resurrection. She affirmed the places already identified by the Early Church as of significance and erected buildings around and upon them. Hence, she was responsible for the earliest parts of the Church of the Holy Nativity.

As I approach Christmas, I don't really think about that visit to Bethlehem all those years ago. My days of pilgrimage do not belong to the past. And what I bring to mind is not the place but the person, the birth and not the birthplace, the present and not the past and I long for Christmas to be recognized for what it is...a glimpse of God in the love He has for us in Jesus Christ.

Stirling Street Pastors – University Campus Patrols

HELEN WYND

During the covid pandemic SSPs were asked to start a weekly patrol on the campus of the University of Stirling. Many international students were on campus unable to return home and felt isolated. SSPs had been patrolling the Stirling streets on Friday and Saturday nights supporting the night-time community for over 10 years so it was deemed suitable to have patrols on campus.

It has been a real privilege to patrol the campus meeting students, staff and members of the public. The patrols are varied interacting with new international students, excited and anxious first years, stressed students at assignment time, celebrating taking photographs for students on graduation day, chatting with staff and encouraging them in the work they do and meeting members of the public who may be out enjoying a walk, youngsters up enjoying the facilities and pizzas, lonely first time mums out pushing the pram or people seeking peace in the beautiful surroundings.



Street Pastors strap line is to “Care, Listen, Help”. We don’t go out to preach or push people towards faith, we are there to walk beside people, but are thrilled if conversations become spiritual. We are often encouraged by those we meet supporting the work we do and delighted to hear we are Christians from a variety of churches.

We value St Ninians support through prayer and financial contributions, but we need more campus SSPs and hope YOU will consider volunteering. It is an amazing outreach opportunity and great fun.

Campus Patrol Volunteers – The Facts

- Volunteers are expected to patrol once every four weeks – patrols are easily swapped if something clashes.
- Campus patrols last from 11.45 until 2.30.

- A normal patrol usually involves walking round the west end of the loch and bridge three or four times and some visits to a variety of buildings with lots of chatty stops.
- Training is provided before becoming a SSP with an annual training opportunity – the training for campus is the same as for all Street Pastors.
- The next round of local training starts in January.
- Campus volunteers will not be expected to do evening patrols unless they request to go on one.

If you are interested, please contact our coordinator Russell Boyd on stirling@streetpastors.org.uk or talk to Helen Wynd.

Volunteers for evening patrols are always welcome too.

Photo Gallery

MARION JACKSON

Autumn Lane



The (Alternative) Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I'm glad we've bought a turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard as we
tucked into our turkey - a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas we'd friends in from next door. The turkey
tasted just as good as on the day before.

On the fourth day of Christmas Gran came, she's rather old. We finished up
the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried but we were
nice and warm inside - we ate the turkey - curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas the turkey spirit dies.
The children fought and bickered and we ate the turkey, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave a wince when he sat
down to dinner and was given turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog ran off for shelter. I served up
turkey pancakes and a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas poor Dad began to cry.
He said he couldn't stand the strain of eating turkey pie.

On the tenth day of Christmas the air was rather blue and everybody
grumbled at eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting, mince
pies as hard as rock and the turkey quite revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas at last Dad smacked his lips.
The guests had gone, the turkey too - we dined on fish and chips!

(ANON)



Knitted Umbrella Candy Cane Cover

HEATHER SCOUGALL

Knitted in minutes and great fun to make. Transform candy canes into umbrella decorations.

YOU WILL NEED

A pair of 4mm knitting needles
Scraps of double knit wool in assorted colours
A box of standard supermarket candy canes 12cm in length

UMBRELLA SLEEVE

Cast on 6 stitches

(Right side) Knit into the front and back of every stitch – 12 stitches

***1st pattern row** (Purl 1 knit 1) repeat to end*

Repeat from * to * another 20 times

next row knit into front and back of every stitch – 24 stitches

Knit one more row

Cast off knit wise

TO MAKE UP

Over sew row ends of umbrella together and turn right side out. Seem is at the back of the sleeve.

Slide the candy cane through the knitting sleeve as shown. Tie a length of contrasting wool tightly around top of umbrella into a bow.



Stir-up Sunday

ELAINE WALKER

The last Sunday before Advent has long been the traditional day for mixing and making Christmas puddings and fruit cakes. Making them ahead allows the flavours to mature and leaves time to feed the Christmas cake with our preferred tipple, usually sherry or brandy.



The day gets its name from the Book of Common Prayer and not from the stirring of the pudding. The collect for the day for the last Sunday before Advents starts, "Stir-up, we beseech thee, Oh Lord, the wills of thy faithful people."

Traditionally there would be 13 ingredients in all, to represent Jesus and his disciples. Sometimes silver coins are added to the pudding. Anyone who finds one is said to have wealth, health and happiness in the coming year. The pudding should be stirred from East to West in honour of the Magi.

I hope that on Christmas Day as you enjoy your pudding you will remember this old tradition from as far back as 1714 when George I introduced it from Germany.

I always use Mary Berry's traditional recipes, she knows what she is talking about and her rich fruit cake and pudding proves it. Happy baking folks.





RECIPES



Bailey's Chocolate Orange Pots

LORRAINE REID

Taken from "Amy Sheppard Food" Facebook page. I have not tried these yet, but I am certainly going too!

Makes 6 pots.

Ingredients:

157g chocolate orange

100g dark chocolate

100ml Baileys (or off brand equivalent)

1/2 tsp orange zest

300ml double cream

8 digestive biscuits

25g melted butter

Method:

Place the digestive biscuits in a freezer bag, crush with a rolling pin until you have a rough crumb.

Add 25g of melted butter to the crumb and mix well until all of the crumbs are coated.

Divide the biscuit between 6 ramekins and press down with the back of a teaspoon.

Set aside 6 chocolate orange segments for the topping and put the rest in a microwaveable bowl with the dark chocolate broken into pieces.

Microwave the chocolate at 30 second intervals stirring each time before microwaving again.

When most of the chocolate has melted remove from the microwave and stir until completely smooth, this will stop it overheating and getting gritty.

Leave to cool.

Place 300ml double cream in a mixing bowl and using a hand blender, mix for 30 seconds or so until it begins to thicken. Add 100ml of Bailey's, the orange zest and the melted chocolate and whisk until smooth and one single colour.

Divide the mixture between the ramekins and place in the fridge for 4 hours or overnight.

Remove from the fridge 15 minutes before needed.

Place a chocolate orange segment on top of each one before serving.



The Parish Register

Baptism – “In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”

31st August 2025

Douglas Eden James Fulton Duke

Son of Kieran and Rebecca

1st November 2025

Lottie Boyd Ferguson

Daughter of John and Kaitlyn

19th October 2025

Grant Robert Hutchison

Son of Robert and Susan

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

14th August 2025

Mrs Myra McIntosh

22 Ashbrae Gardens

Stirling (District 18)

26th September 2025

Mr Ian McNair

1 Westerlands Drive

Stirling (District 20)

22nd August 2025

Mrs Wilma Robertson

38 Randolph Road

Stirling (District 20)

7th October 2025

Mrs Mary Wilson

Annfield House Care Home

Stirling (District 40)

24th August 2025

Mrs Muriel Oswald

Roselea Court Care Home

Stirling (District 40)

19th October 2025

Mrs Sheila Gallan

30 Holmehill Court

Dunblane

28th August 2025

Mr James McDowall

8 Graystale Road

St Ninians (District 32)

23rd October 2025

Mrs Margaret Park

56 David Avenue

Stirling

4th September 2025

Mrs Irene Hamilton

6A McGrigor Road

St Ninians (District 31)

18th November 2025

Mrs Flora Nicolson

20 Crosbies Court

Stirling (District 3)

19th September 2025

Mrs Madge McAllister

1c Agricultural Houses

Chartershall

Wordsearch
The Christmas Story

M	T	B	M	A	N	G	E	R	O	S	T	A	R
Y	J	S	H	E	E	P	J	O	N	K	E	P	C
R	P	E	A	C	E	D	O	N	S	E	V	V	N
R	M	J	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	J	O	H	M
H	A	M	C	M	B	H	N	V	A	F	H	E	L
O	R	N	C	A	E	O	G	Y	A	T	I	P	L
Y	Y	F	G	G	T	L	O	E	N	T	F	H	W
E	C	E	B	I	H	Y	L	M	I	D	S	E	S
A	A	N	G	E	L	S	D	M	M	V	T	R	I
S	U	A	B	M	E	P	P	A	A	J	S	D	S
T	M	X	R	T	H	I	M	N	A	E	V	E	M
G	B	A	F	Y	E	R	J	U	S	S	N	S	E
F	G	R	B	D	M	I	T	E	V	U	P	K	E
S	A	V	I	O	R	T	J	L	S	S	B	E	N

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CAMEL
DONKEY
EAST
EMMANUEL

GIFTS
GOLD
HOLY SPIRIT
INCENSE
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER

MARY
MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEEP
SHEPHERDS
STAR
WISE MEN



ST.NINIANS OLD PARISH CHURCH

PARISHIONER

SPRING 2026



**The Spring Edition of the Parishioner
will be out in early March**

**Submission Date for Articles is:
Sunday 15th February**

Thank you

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Scottish Charity Number SCO16320