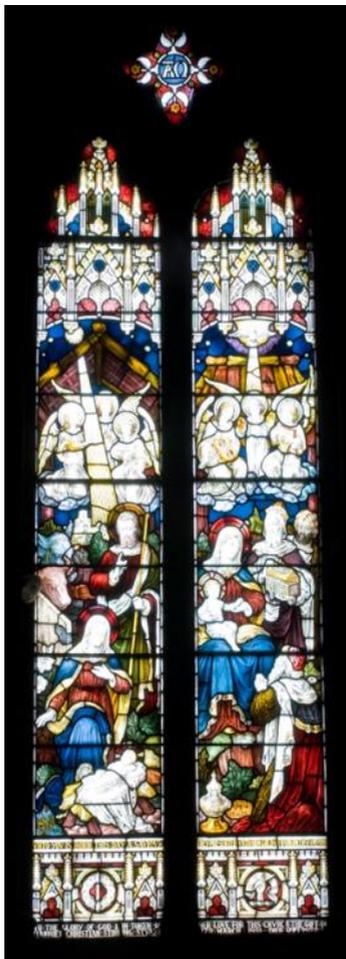


**THE MAGAZINE OF  
SAINT NINIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
(Corner of Albert Drive and Pollokshaws Road Glasgow)**

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**December 2018 – January 2019**

## *Service Times*

### **Sunday Services**

**8am** Morning Prayer (1st Sunday in the month only)

**8.30am** Eucharist (said)

**10.15am** Sung Eucharist

### **Weekday Services**

**Thursday 9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Eucharist (1970)

**First Saturday of each month: 10:00 am Healing Service**

**Saints' Days** Eucharist as announced

## *Clergy and Ministers*

**Bishop:** Vacant,

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Vincent Place, G1 2DH

Tel 0141 221 6911/6912 Fax 0141 221 6490

E-mail: [bishop@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@glasgow.anglican.org)

**Rector:** The Revd Paul Romano, 32 Glencairn Drive, G41 4PW

Tel : 0141 423 1247

E-mail: [paul.romano@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.romano@btinternet.com)

**Deacon:** Mr Paul Whitton,

**Eucharistic Assistants:**

Mrs Liz Booth,

Mr Vivian Davey

If you would like your copy of the magazine sent to you by email, please email [info@stniniansglasgow.org.uk](mailto:info@stniniansglasgow.org.uk)

## *Rector writes*

I want to share a passage from a recently published book (*Touched by God: the way to contemplative prayer*) by the Benedictine monk Luigi Gioia. He writes: "We spend time with the Lord through listening to what he says to us in scripture, praying, recognising his presence and action in our lives and welcoming him in the people we meet daily. In this way we start knowing him better and better, just as it happens with a friend. And just as with any other friend, we become acquainted with God's character, because God too has personal defining features: a temperament, a sense of humour, longings and even weaknesses. He always wants to forgive, he refuses to look back but urges us on, he is unable to give up on us, whatever happens. As we know him better, slowly we also discover that he knows us too in a special way. We understand this because the closer we come to him the more deeply we know ourselves."

We are now in the Christmas season and we have, as we do year in and year out, the opportunity to look at Christmas with new eyes. I think the problem is that "Christmas" has become separated from the Incarnation. "Christmas" has been turned into an overly commercialised set of tawdry baubles, frenzied agony over what Christmas presents to purchase and an impending sense of doom as the day for the arrival of the credit card monthly repayment demand draws ever closer. Then there is the very real issue of the forced jollity of "Christmas" for those who cannot cope with the rest of the world seemingly enjoying the frenzy of activities and preparations. Some struggle with the very real issues of seasonal debt, long-term illness, loneliness and not feeling particularly festive behind closed doors. A good step would be to recapture the need to rejoice in the Incarnation and not a false "Christmas". To do so requires us to put aside the Christmas purchasing requirements (just for a short time) and, in the words of Luigi Gioia, "spend time with the Lord.... and recognis[e] his presence." The Incarnation is the most glorious example of God breaking into our temporal world in the shape of a baby. This should provoke the response of adoration and wonder. Contemplating this brings us closer to knowing God "better and better". It is truly stupendous to think that God would become so vulnerable by entering into our reality via the stable in Bethlehem. This is what we need to share at Christmas and in doing so we gain a new and deeper perspective into the nature of God. Christmas does not need to be a period of exhausting stress. Viewed as the most wonderful gift given to us, it can be a true celebration of the Incarnation. A gift to be shared with yourself and with all those you meet. In doing so a re-invigorated sense of self and a sparkling joie de vivre emerge.

Gioia believes that God has a sense of humour so let's leave the final words to Daniel, aged 4, who returning from Sunday School where he had learned all about the wise men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Daniel was so excited

that he just had to share this with his parents: 'I learned in Sunday School today all about the very first Christmas. There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three blokes on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet, so they had to have this big light in the sky to find their way around.'

A very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

The Rector

### *Christian Solidarity Worldwide*

In December we are asked to pray for Mexico and the problems all Christian groups have from criminal gangs, and also the minority churches which are targeted by the majority ones. Over Advent the prayer request is first for China and the persecution and imprisonment of human rights lawyers; Coptic Christians in Egypt need support due to attacks by Islamic groups; Indonesia has been a country of tolerance which is being eroded now - the presidential election in April may be critical; Hindu nationalism in India is targeting Christians, Muslims and human rights activists. To begin the year 2019 we are asked to give thanks for the progress made in 40 years of CSW, and the belief in the power of prayer.

Margaret E. Anderson

The lectures that I have been giving this term have been on the Church in mediaeval Scotland. It has been fascinating to explore various aspects of this and to find where there are still churches, ruins, or only a few stones left from places of worship from pre-1000 AD. onwards. I've had fun preparing these and the students seem to have been stimulated if the discussions are anything to go by. The history of the Church, parish churches, abbeys, cathedrals and pilgrimages have been covered. I see that Stenlake Publications have six books by John R. Hume, a noted architectural historian, on the Churches of Scotland from early times through to the present day. Some of you might like to look out for these. As with all the Stenlake books they are fully illustrated.

Margaret E. Anderson

# DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

\*\*\* indicates use of incense

- 1 Sat            2.30pm and 7.30pm *Hansel and Gretel*
- 2 Sun            *Advent 1*  
8.00am Morning Prayer  
8.30am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy  
10.15am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 6 Thu            10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 8 Sat            10-12 Coffee Morning
- 9 Sun            *Advent 2*  
8.30am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy  
10.15am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 13 Thu           10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 16 Sun           *Advent 3*  
8.30am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy  
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1970 Liturgy,  
followed by the AGM  
  
6:30pm Advent Taize Service
- 19 Wed           7pm PCT Carols by Candlelight at Sherbrooke  
Mossspark Parish Church
- 20 Thu           10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 21 Fri            7pm Carols and Mulled Wine
- 23 Sun           *Advent 4*  
8.30am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy  
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 24 Mon           11pm Christmas Midnight Eucharist 1982  
Liturgy\*\*\* shared with the Polish congregation
- 25 Tue           10am Christmas Day Eucharist
- 27 Thu           10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 30 Sun           *Christmas 1*  
8.30am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy  
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1982 Liturgy

# DIARY FOR JANUARY 2019

\*\*\* indicates use of incense

- 3 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 5 Sat 10am Healing Service
- 6 Sun *Epiphany*  
8am Morning Prayer  
8.30am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy  
10.15am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy\*\*\*
- 10 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 13 Sun *Epiphany 1: Baptism of the Lord*  
8.30am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy  
10.15am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy
- 17 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 20 Sun *Second after Epiphany*  
8.30am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy  
10.15am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy
- 24 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 25 Fri 7.30pm The Wonderers at the Rectory
- 27 Sun *Third after Epiphany*  
8.30am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy  
10.15am Eucharist 1982 Liturgy
- 31 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy

**Cover photo:** the Nativity and Epiphany window at St Ninian's.

Photo: Susan Walker.

If anyone has any photos suitable for the front cover, please send them with a brief description to the copy editor. Credit will be given for all photos used.

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# *Mindings*

## *December*

- 2 Nancy Britton
- 3 Muriel White, Graham White,  
Tom White
- 4 Peter Gibson
- 6 Frank Currens
- 8 Gladys Smith, Bill Ruffell
- 9 Jean Graham, Robert Morrison
- 12 Emily Hinds
- 14 Grant Carson
- 15 Arthur Layland
- 17 Helen Kissell, Alec McCaw
- 21 Rosalind, Jack, Paul and  
Lynsey Somerville  
(Lockerbie 1988)
- 22 Marjory Laing, Edward Turner  
Smith
- 23 Mauraide Hamilton,  
Alex Wason
- 24 Pat Ferris, Jessie Clucas
- 29 Madge Hart
- 30 Florence Ritchie,  
Audrey Macauley
- 31 Eva Kennedy, Kate Carson



## *January*

- 1 Ray Aitken
- 2 Bob Hardy
- 3 Norman Whitton, priest  
Anne Hardy
- 4 Edward West, Anne McPherson,  
Phyllis Watson
- 5 Thomas Ross Kennedy, Nellie  
MacDonald, Helen Rice
- 7 Arthur Nash, Stella Cameron
- 8 John Fraser, Alexander Tait,  
Agnes Liddell, Chris Zochowski
- 9 John Shearer, John Reidford,  
David Corkill
- 10 Ted Clucas
- 11 Tom Watson
- 12 John Reid
- 13 Bernadette Rodgers,  
Rev Barbara Morrison
- 14 Ian Angell
- 16 Richard Lowe
- 17 Margaret Laidlaw
- 20 John Fairful Smith,  
George Fairful Smith
- 21 Minnie Howbridge
- 22 Netta Bulger
- 23 Vera Ross, John Herford
- 27 Bill Young
- 29 Sadie Chalmers

## *Money matters*

I am pleased to be able to report that the books more or less balanced for the last financial year.

Again we have suffered the sad loss of a number of members in the year through death and we have seen a consequent further reduction in pledged giving as well as missing greatly the valuable contributions made by these members in many spheres of the life of the congregation. In this period pledged giving has fallen by £1,650 to £38,233. An increase of £700 in the collections in the open plate, however, has compensated to a certain extent for the loss of pledged giving. Tax recoveries under the Gift Aid scheme were maintained at £10,280.

In addition to the collections, members of the congregation gave generously of both their time and money at the various fund-raising events. They raised £4,100, including the admirable sum of £3,155 from the monthly coffee mornings and £370 from the Summer Barbeque. Special mention must also be made of the splendid support from RATS by way of donations totalling £2,500 from the proceeds of the Christmas pantomime and the play staged in the springtime.

We were successful in the application we made for a grant from the Province to assist with the cost of repairs to the west window. While the repairs were paid for in the 2016/2017 financial year the grant of £3,500 was not received until the financial year under review and this bonus has helped considerably to reduce the shortfall in income and expenditure to the small sum of £453 when compared with expenditure of £84,000.

This shortfall can be easily met from the General Reserve. The Vestry therefore wishes to place on record its thanks to all the members of the congregation for the generous financial support they have provided to maintain the ministry of St. Ninian's.

I feel I must mention, however, that in the coming year there will not be a bonus similar to the one mentioned above, so there will be added pressure on our finances. It is therefore important that we gain more contributors to the pledged giving scheme, either by way of weekly envelopes or a monthly bank standing order. The Vestry would therefore like to ask any member who is not already contributing through the scheme to look closely at whether they could do so. The running costs of St Ninian's are now £1,600 each week and regular income is required to meet these even in the weeks when any one of us is unable to attend a service.

In March we were extremely grateful to receive the very generous gift of £6,250 from Chris Liddell and Rosemary Morris in memory of their dear father Bill Liddell. In view of the maintenance and repair work recommended in the recent five yearly surveys of the church and the rectory, the Vestry decided to use the major part of these monies to add £2,000 to each of the Church and Rectory Fabric Funds in anticipation of the inevitable costs of such work. The remaining £2,250 has been set aside in the Special Projects Fund while consideration is given to what project would be beneficial for the life of St Ninian's and also a suitable testimony to Bill.

Further information about the finances and also details of the activities of the congregation over the year are contained in the Annual Report & Accounts which accompany this magazine. Please take time to read this record of the past year at St Ninian's.

Vivian Davey, Treasurer

### *AGM*

This year's AGM will take place on Sunday 16th December after the Sung Eucharist. We will be looking to elect people to the following positions:

People's Warden

Lay Representative

Alternate Lay Representative

Regional Council Representative

2 Representatives to the PCT

5 members to the Vestry

Nomination papers will be available at the back of the church and should be completed and handed to the secretary before the meeting.

Please consider if you could fill one of these positions.

Many thanks.

Irene Nairn (Secretary)

### *Pews*

Some members of the congregation have raised concerns over the number of people who have tripped when entering or exiting the pews – especially at events like funerals when people are visiting and therefore unfamiliar with the building. The vestry have contacted the Diocesan Property Committee who advised us to contact Historic Environment Scotland for guidance. They responded by advising that the best way to deal with this problem was to paint the floor at each end of the pew with white, breathable paint.

We are therefore completing the second stage of the Canon 35 application for permission from the Diocese to do this work. Part of the application process is to obtain the comments from the congregation on this proposal. If you have any comments please submit them to the Vestry Secretary. The process also asks for a congregational meeting to be held to ascertain the views of the congregation – this will be done at the AGM.

Irene Nairn (Secretary)

### *Dorothy Mary Ward*

My mother Dorothy was born on 15th July 1922 (St Swithin's Day). She was 96 years old at the time of her passing. She was the 3rd of 5 children and she has outlived them all. Their names were George, Phyllis, Dorothy, Sydney and Maurice. Dorothy was born in Coplaw Street, Govanhill, and three



generations of her family had connections with that area.

At the age of 2 she moved with her family to Renfrew and when she left school, she trained to be a secretary and started working in John Brown's shipyard. It was at this point that her great sense of style first started to manifest itself and she used to be on the receiving end of a lot of wolf-whistles from the men in the yard – which she secretly greatly appreciated.

After WW2, she joined the Foreign Office as a secretary and had to sign the Official Secrets Act.

She spent a number of years in Germany as a secretary to the British High Commissioner as part of the occupying forces. She often said that this was one of the happiest times of her life and on coming home on leave, she used to keep her family stocked with designer clothes, coffee etc., which were not readily available in the UK. She was very glamorous and often created a sensation when out and about in Glasgow or London. In 1951 she came home to Scotland to marry William Ward and in 1952 their only child, Howard, was born.

Dorothy joined the health service in about 1959 as a secretary at the Samaritan Hospital in Glasgow and worked there until she retired in 1987. She is survived by her son Howard, 2 granddaughters, Stephanie and Nathalie, and 3 great-grandchildren, Arran, Mia and Jesse, with another on the way.

Dorothy had about 23 operations over the years and up until about a year ago was living reasonably independently in her own flat with the help of carers. Dementia slowly crept up on my mother and things started to change. Sometimes she was away with the fairies as the saying goes, but at other times she was still as sharp as a tack. Sometimes the meanings of words got jumbled which would lead to surreal conversations. A prime example of this was when she was admitted to the Victoria Hospital in Glasgow and caused hysterical laughter at the neighbouring nurses' station when she announced in her loud voice that she did not like being in a bisexual ward.

Only latterly did her health deteriorate to such an extent that she had to move into a care home and she realised that she would not leave it – a source of distress to both her and me. Claremont Nursing Home in Ayr did a great job of looking after her and I appreciate that greatly. Now she has passed her suffering is over. She will be greatly missed.

Howard Ward

Photo: Susan Walker

### *Janey Whannel*

On behalf of Colin and myself and all the family, I would like to thank everyone at St Ninian's for their kindness and their prayers during my sister's illness. I'd particularly like to thank Fr Romano for his support and help particularly on Janey's last day. Fr Paul came a very long distance on that terrible Saturday to comfort Janey and the family, bringing Holy Communion and administering the Last Rites. Janey had no fear of death but had said that leaving us would be the hardest thing ever. She became very distraught on that last Saturday and it was enormously supportive of her and of us all, that Fr Paul came to be with us in the hospice. We will all be forever grateful to him for his personal and priestly support for us all.

I've put off writing this each month because of how hard it is to even begin to accept what has happened. My sister fought absolutely determinedly to live, through six desperate months where she was rarely well, continually fighting for life. She only accepted what was happening a little over a week before the end. We really knew it was over at least a month before, but you keep hoping and asking for more time. I am very cautious about believing in interventions on earth – I find it very difficult to reconcile how or why



there might be interventions. We were all extremely saddened that our prayers to Jesus and His Mother to intervene seemed to receive no response. On that terrible Saturday, Janey was often delirious with morphine but asking, in desperation, if Our Lady would really come and take her to Jesus. Trying to comfort her and tell her that of course this would happen soon was amongst the most difficult experiences of my life.

I left the hospice on the Saturday evening, Janey's daughters were staying all night and I was coming back early Sunday - we expected the end would be over the following few days, maybe into mid-week. I came to mass at 8.30am in our church on the Sunday and at church, begged Our Lady and Jesus to intervene and end the suffering and just take her away. I knew how terrible it would be to lose her but I couldn't bear to see her suffering emotionally and physically as she had on the Saturday. I left St Ninian's and drove straight to the Hospice and got there 10 or 15 minutes at the most later. As I arrived at the hospice she died, very quickly and in some ways suddenly.

The reason I've written this is maybe that is the answer to the prayers that we said (both the kind people who remembered her and us, here at St Ninian's, and our own prayers). I've only once or twice begged God with the intensity I did that Sunday morning. I asked Our Lady to come and get her now - just take her away. I never saw her alive again after the Saturday evening and I'm grateful that her terrible suffering, most of all her sadness, had come to an end. Having your prayers answered can be a strange and tortuous thing - always open to interpretation, to doubt and most importantly, to hope. Most of all to hope.

Fois shiorraidh thoir dhi, A Thighearna, agus solus nach diobair, deàrrs oirre.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Jim Whannel

Photo: supplied by Jim and Colin

## *Getting to know you: Tom Baylis*

### **What is your name?**

Thomas Jasper Baylis, named for T. S Eliot. It was going to be Jolian but by the grace of God my father intervened.

**Please tell us something about your faith journey.**

My mother took me, my two sisters and my brother to church in Nottingham every week when we were small, she was very involved in the church and we all had jobs. The church was very firmly in the catholic tradition of the Church of England, my sisters were in the choir, my brother was an acolyte and I, being the youngest, was boat boy to a rather austere elderly thurifer. An abiding memory of that time was the thrill of waking up with the birds for Dawn Mass at Easter, the drama of the Easter fire outside the church in the dark and the Parish breakfast in the church hall afterwards. My father is an atheist and my mother was ordained when I was about 12 so I had a good balance. I can't remember when I stopped attending church regularly but my siblings and I had all drifted away by the time we were in our teens. I attended a CofE (protestant mainstream, which in Nottingham means evangelical) secondary school, being surrounded by tacitly, sometimes explicitly illiberal attitudes towards homosexuality and divorce and the mandated church attendance (all of which I believe was a hallmark of faith school education in England in the early 2000s) closed my mind to Christianity and probably delayed my coming to faith by around 10 years. In a culture and generation which is understandably resistant to if not completely dismissive of organised religion, I had always been rather protective of people of faith and, after the egocentrism of my student years, I began actively probing my own conscience in my early 20s which led me agnostically to the door of St Ninian's.

### **What did you want to be when you were growing up?**

The oft quoted family story is that I wanted to be like our parish priest, Father John. So much that on discovering my mother's razor in the bath one evening I attempted to attain the monkly bald patch he sported. I managed to completely ruin my haircut but also sliced my ear open. Ears bleed a lot! I really wanted to be a fiction writer (no idea) and a chef until I properly got in to dance.



### **What is your favourite hymn, and why?**

I'm really bad at 'favourites' questions so settle in...

Introit: *All People that on Earth do Dwell* - version by Vaughan Williams

Gradual: *Ye that Know the Lord is Gracious* (Blaenwern)

Offertory: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

Anthem: *I Sat Down Under His Shadow* - Bairstow

Post-Communion: *Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour*

But it changes week by week. I am also a sucker for *Sing We of the Blessèd Mother, I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* - if it's slow - and *The Day Thou Gavest*.

## What is your guilty pleasure?

Hymns. Don't tell my hipster coterie.

## What is the most surprising thing about you?

I think to people getting to know me my faith is probably pretty surprising. I have to say that I'm rather sinfully pleased by that.

## Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

It's not a dinner party, it's a wild night out followed by an early morning discussion and I want Debbie Harry, Gloria Steinem, Jake Shears, Rosa Luxemburg and Yoko Ono.

Photo: Susan Walker

## *Saints alive*

Due to space I have not covered all of the Saints for December and January, but here are perhaps the more interesting ones.

### DECEMBER

2nd December: Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, AD1637

English scholar, courtier and failed businessman. He was ordained to the Diaconate in the C of E and, after losing the family fortune, he retired with his family to the manor of Little Gidding in 1626. Here he set up a spiritual community which followed the high Anglican tradition of worship.

3rd December: Francis Xavier, priest and missionary, AD1553.

4th December: Clement of Alexandria, teacher of the faith, cAD210.

An educated Greek, Clement taught basic Christianity to the unbaptised and expounded the reasonableness of the Christian faith. He urged the discipline of the Word (*logos*, in Greek), from which we learn frugality, humility and love of each other.

6th December: +Nicholas of Myra, bishop of the city of Myra, Greece, Asia Minor, AD343. Early Christian bishop to whom are attributed many miracles.

Noted for his idea of gift-giving, giving rise to the now popular tradition of the model of Santa Claus

(*Sinterklaas*)

8th December: Conception of Mary the Virgin. The immaculate conception, free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her son, Jesus Christ. In the Creed, which we recite regularly at the Eucharist, we say '...born of the

Virgin Mary...' Since the Scottish Reformation, the



reformed churches have perhaps neglected Mary somewhat and downgraded her importance.

However, of late the Church has begun to again see her as very important. In our lovely church of St Ninian, we have the icon of Our Lady of Vladimir in the Prayer Chapel where we light candles after receiving Holy Communion, and offer prayers.

21st December: Thomas the Apostle, AD72. One of the 12 apostles of Jesus. We all identify with 'Doubting Thomas', who wouldn't believe in the Resurrection until he saw the wounds himself.

26th December: Stephen, Deacon and Martyr. cAD34. Patron of altar servers, deacons, horses, masons, coffin makers and headaches!

27th December: John the Apostle. One of the 12 apostles of Jesus and thought to be the youngest one. Son of Zebedee and Salome (Joanna), and brother of James the apostle.

28th December: Holy Innocents' Day. The massacre of the male children of 2 and younger in the Bethlehem district by Herod because he feared the importance of the new baby Jesus is well known in the Bible. However, modern biblical scholars have contested the accuracy of Matthew's report and consider the story is a myth. Discuss!



## JANUARY

2nd January: Seraphim of Sarov, AD33.

A Russian saint revered by the Russian Orthodox Church as being perhaps the most important Orthodox saint. He extended monastic teaching of contemplation, theoria and self-denial to the laity. He taught that the Christian life was to acquire the Holy Spirit ('Acquire a peaceful spirit and thousands around you will be saved.')

13th January: +Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop of Glasgow, AD 614.

Buried in Glasgow 'Cathedral', he was an apostle to the Kingdom of Strathclyde and is patron of the City of Glasgow now.

13th January: Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, AD353. He is known as important particularly to the hermits known as the Desert Fathers, and later among all monks.

21st January: Agnes of Rome, martyr, cAD304.

Venerated in both the RC Church, Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Lutheran Churches and our own Anglican Communion of Churches, she is one of the women who, along with Mary the Virgin, is commemorated in the Canon of the Mass. Patron of



gardening and New York. I think she should also be included as patron of women's rights.



25th January: Conversion of St Paul the Apostle. Originally named Saul, he is thought to have changed his name to Paul after his conversion to Christianity by the appearance of Jesus before him on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus. Other reports say he changed his name to Paul whilst on a missionary visit to Cyprus. On the road to Damascus, ostensibly to arrest Christians whom he was persecuting, Jesus appeared in a blinding light and Saul lost his sight for three days, then Ananias appeared from Damascus and ministered to him. His works, covered mainly in Acts of the Apostles and Paul's Epistles to the various Churches he established, attest to him being controversial at times, even today amongst us.

Graham Vahey

*Images: St Nicholas, in a 14th century Book of Hours. Photo: public domain.*

*St John, in the 11th century Vyšehrad Codex, Prague. Photo: David Pritchard.*

*St Agnes, painting by Matthias Grünewald, c. 1500. Photo: public domain.*

*St Paul, 18th century icon in the Transfiguration Church, Kizhi Monastery, Russia. Photo: public domain.*

## *All the right notes*

So this is Christmas...

OK, I admit it! I spend many a lazy hour gazing at a webcam of my favourite railway station, watching some shunting and trying to figure out what will move first and where to before it happens. It's a solitary event, usually enjoyed when I should be doing something else!



Like many, I also like to 'people watch' and I'm often amused, for

sometimes the expression on an adult's face when they see a steam engine appears more excited than that on the child they have on their shoulders! And of course, there are the people who work or volunteer at the railway, for Buckfastleigh in Devon is a preservation railway, which makes it all even more special. I'm fascinated with how people interact with each other in the same environment.

People's perceptions of the same thing undoubtedly differ; what is going through a person's mind is perhaps something that passes us by. A man watching a steam train will see this through his own eyes. Perhaps he has an interest in engineering; perhaps he has an interest in history, or perhaps his father worked on the line and has recently passed, and this is his way of saying goodbye and finding closure.

As Christmas approaches, I will think again about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary and what she must have thought. I suspect that she was utterly terrified, but I also wonder what Joseph might have thought, if he'd witnessed this.

Christmas is a time to be merry; a time to rejoice, sing carols, exchange cards and gifts and, well, eat...

On Christmas morning, there's nothing quite like the expressions on the faces of children as they open gifts (and like watching the steam engine, their parents excitedly snap pictures). They've probably been awake during the night, pretending to be asleep and have had a wee peek from under the bedding in the hope of seeing Santa's boots... but spare a thought for the children who peek from under the tent: these boots do not belong to Santa, for Santa doesn't wear camouflage and carry a gun.

Or the man passing the brightly lit window where a family enjoys Christmas dinner in their new home; the house that was once his before he was made homeless through no fault of his own and as the result of a hole in society.

The texts of various carols tell the story of how Jesus came into the world not in a palace, but in a cave used as a stable. They tell of the angel visiting the shepherds; the star in the east, guiding the wise men to such a small place to see this child. At least two different types of people witnessing the same event - what might have gone through their minds at that time? Even Matthew and Luke see things differently; writing for two different peoples, but I wonder what they actually thought?

We'll never know. To this day, people still see Christmas in different ways.

But Christmas is for everyone, regardless of who or where. It's a time for peace and goodwill. Who knows... that soldier might carry a toy for the child in the tent. And as we sing our carols this year, sing them with all your heart, for that man in the street might be just outside.

David S

### *Coffee morning*

Thanks to all who helped at and attended the November Coffee Morning. We raised £270, plus £125 for Save the Children and £40 for Traidcraft. One new attendee was impressed by how many people from outside the church were there, how chatty and friendly everyone was, and how many busy stalls there were.

Rosemary Anwar

### *December coffee morning*

Thanks to those who have donated to the raffle. There is still plenty of room in the baskets if anyone would like to contribute – this will be greatly appreciated.

#### **December coffee morning:**

Saturday 8th December, 10.00-12.00

### *Prayers for healing*

Please continue to pray for Karen, Jacob Eli Chapman, Michael Chapman, Rosie and Jim Hastie, Sue Wilson, John Murphy and Doreen Rendall, who is back in the GRI. Very many thanks, your prayers are always very much appreciated.

Alva Caldwell

### *UNICEF Jar of Grace appeal*

All over the world, UNICEF provides life-saving food, vaccines, clean water and warm blankets where needed. In 2018, St Ninian's raised £181 through Jars of Grace, so thank you to everyone who participated. In recent years, however, the number of people supporting the appeal, and therefore the

amount raised, have declined and new participants would be very welcome. The principle of the appeal is that you put a coin in your Jar of Grace each time you have a meal.

Vivian Davey



### *Pollokshields Churches Together*

The following events are being organised by the Pollokshields churches in the next two months: Carols by Candlelight - Service of nine lessons and carols at Sherbrooke Mossspark Church on Wednesday 19th December at 7pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Lunch from 12 noon at Sherbrooke Mossspark Church on Sunday 20th January. Everyone is cordially invited to these annual events which have always been enjoyed by those who have attended previous ones.

Vivian Davey

### *Men who lunch*

There will be no pub lunch for men in December or January due to hectic Christmas and the weather. The February date is intimated as Tuesday, 12th February 2019 at 12.30pm in the White Cart Inn, Busby, subject to the weather and ease of travel. This will be confirmed later, but please put the date in your new diary now as tentative.

Graham Vahey

### *Magazine*

Thanks to Ms D Rendall for your generous donation.

JS

## DUTY ROTAS

<b>Date</b>	<b>9 December</b> Advent 2	<b>16 December</b> Advent 3	<b>23 December</b> Advent 4
<b>Sides-people</b>	J Sinclair D Sinclair	J McLean M Montgomery	E Graham C Graham
<b>Readers</b>	R Anwar	V Davey	Y Grieve
<b>Readings</b>	Mal 3.1-4 Phil 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6	Zeph 3.14-20 Phil 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18	Mic 5.2-5a Heb 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-55
<b>Servers</b>	(r) S Whitton (l) P Whitton (th)	I Nairn R Anwar	J Whannel S Whitton
<b>Intercessions</b>	E Rodgers	Y Grieve	S Walker
<b>Elements</b>	A Forrest T Baylis	L Arrol L Booth	R Anwar E Graham
<b>Coffee</b>	J McLean C Shearer J Maxwell	D Sinclair J Sinclair A Forrest	A Marr Y Grieve A Grieve
<b>Welcomer</b>		S Whitton	E Graham

## DUTY ROTAS

<b>Date</b>	<b>24 December</b> Christmas Eve	<b>30 December</b> Christmas 1	<b>6 January</b> Epiphany
<b>Sides-people</b>	L Booth V Davey	A Marr A Caldwell	L Arrol J Arrol
<b>Readers</b>	S Walker	D Pritchard	I Stainsby
<b>Readings</b>	Is 52.7-10 Heb 1.1-4 John 1.1-14	1 Sa 2.18-20, 26 Col 3.12-17 Luke 2.41-52	Is 60.1-6 Eph 3.1-12 Mt 2.1-12
<b>Servers</b>	(r) S Whitton (l) R Anwar (th) I Nairn	R Anwar P Whitton	I Nairn S Whitton J Whannel
<b>Intercessions</b>	P Whitton	Rector	I Nairn
<b>Elements</b>	N Gordon A Forrest	T Baylis L Arrol	L Booth R Anwar
<b>Coffee</b>		A Forrest T Baylis V Rodgers	J McLean C Shearer J Maxwell
<b>Welcomer</b>		C Graham	

## DUTY ROTAS

<b>Date</b>	<b>13 January</b> Epiphany 1	<b>20 January</b> Epiphany 2	<b>27 January</b> Epiphany 3	<b>3 February</b> Presentation
<b>Sides-people</b>	G Vahey E Laurie	J Sinclair D Sinclair	J McLean M Montgomery	E Graham C Graham
<b>Readers</b>	L Lucas	C Shearer	J Maxwell	G Vahey
<b>Readings</b>	Is 43.1-7 Acts 8.14-17 Luke 3.15-17, 21-22	Is 62.1-5 1 C 12.1-11 John 2.1-11	Neh 8.1-3,5-6, 8-10 1 C 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21	Malachi 3.1-4 Hebrews 2.14- 18 Luke 2.22-40
<b>Servers</b>	(r) P Whitton (l) R Anwar (th)	S Whitton I Nairn	R Anwar I Nairn	S Whitton P Whitton I Nairn
<b>Intercessions</b>	E Rodgers	Y Grieve	Rector	P Whitton
<b>Elements</b>	E Graham N Gordon	A Forrest T Baylis	L Arrol L Booth	R Anwar E Graham
<b>Coffee</b>	D Sinclair J Sinclair A Forrest	A Marr Y Grieve A Grieve	A Forrest T Baylis V Rodgers	J McLean C Shearer J Maxwell
<b>Welcomer</b>		E Graham		



## *Lay Officers*

Lay Representative	Thomas Baylis
Alternate Lay Rep	Vacant
Regional Council Rep	Susan Walker
Rector's Warden	Liz Booth
People's Warden	Vacant
Vestry Secretary	Irene Nairn
Vestry Treasurer	Vivian Davey
PVG Officer	Rosemary Anwar
Property Convener	Peter Falconer

## *The Vestry*

The Rector, Liz Booth, Irene Nairn, Vivian Davey, Angela Forrest, Thomas Baylis, Joyce Maxwell, Christine Shearer, Lesley Lucas, Eileen Graham, Catherine Cumming.

## *The Church*

At St. Ninian's, as in nearly all Episcopal Churches in Scotland, we reserve the sacrament of the Eucharist. From this reserved sacrament Holy Communion is given to the aged, sick or infirm at home, in hospital or in hospice to assure them of Christ's love and presence and to enfold them in the communion and fellowship of the church. The sacrament is also reserved to assure us all of Christ's constant presence with his people.

For baptism, visitation of the sick, funerals, marriages and confession, please speak to the Rector.

At St. Ninian's, we meet our needs largely through planned giving envelopes. Every member of the church is urged to pledge a definite amount and, if possible, to Gift Aid their offering. Please apply for information and envelopes through either the Recorder or the Treasurer.

The Vestry has reluctantly decided that it is unwise to keep the church open on weekdays. If you need access at times other than the services and events posted on the notice board please phone the Vestry Secretary.



## Life at St. Ninian's

All phone numbers have the code 0141 unless otherwise indicated

Organisation	Contact
Bible Reading Fellowship	Rosemary Anwar
Choir	David Spottiswoode
Christian Aid	Rosemary Anwar
Coffee Convenor	Yvonne Grieve
Flower Guild	Sandra Whitton
Hall Convenor	Joyce Maxwell <a href="mailto:hallbooking@stniniansglasgow.org.uk">hallbooking@stniniansglasgow.org.uk</a>
Library	David Pritchard, Isabel Stainsby
Magazine	The Rector (Editor) Joyce Sinclair (Sec & Treasurer) Isabel Stainsby (Copy Editor)
Mothers' Union	Lesley Lucas (Branch Leader) Aileen Grieve (Secretary)
Paperback Book Club	Rosemary Anwar
Pew Sheet	Valerie Rodgers
Pollokshields Churches Together	Vivian Davey
Prayer List	Alva Caldwell
Recorder	Sandra Whitton
Sacristy Guild	Christine Shearer
Sanctuary Guild	Sandra Whitton
Servers' Guild	Paul Whitton
Traidcraft	Catherine Cumming
Web Page	Susan Walker <a href="mailto:info@stniniansglasgow.org.uk">info@stniniansglasgow.org.uk</a>

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