

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

**www.stniniansglasgow.org.uk
www.facebook.com/StNiniansPollokshields**



May 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

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Mrs Liz Booth, Mr Vivian Davey

If you would like your copy of the magazine sent to you by email,
please email info@stninianglasgow.org.uk

Rector writes

I *write* this letter on Holy Saturday – that strange cosmic waiting room between Good Friday and Resurrection – and you will *read* it in the glow of post-resurrection glory. There is always a feeling of impatience between Good Friday and Easter Day, as though Saturday is an irritating interloper. However, if you are willing to be patient, Holy Saturday is an important day. By and large, literature and theological writings have tended to avoid Holy Saturday. That being said, I have seen it described in poetic terms as “a curiously empty day as if the world’s life had gone underground”. Not many theologians have written on the subject with the notable exception of W.H. Vanstone’s book *The Stature of Waiting*. Even the scriptures are almost silent on what transpired on that first Holy Saturday. Only Matthew in his Gospel records that the chief priests and Pharisees asked permission from Pilate to use a detachment of guards to seal the tomb. Vanstone in his book writes about what he calls the “stature of waiting”. Waiting is an important spiritual discipline but becoming increasingly difficult for us. One could add to the notion of “waiting” the equally vital quality of “patience”. We are, by and large, not very good with “waiting” and “patience”. Our pace of life demands instant gratification. If we have to wait for anything we regard that as “bad” service. How many of us pace the carpet like a demented lion as we wait for, say, the gas engineer to appear and the best the utility company can say is ‘sometime between 8am and noon...’? We set great store by activity and busy-ness. This give us the comforting illusion that we are in control and we would regard it as peculiar if someone were to ask us ‘who are you?’ rather than ‘what do you do?’ We will work very hard to avoid what we see as instances of waiting or being passive. Vanstone argues that in his passivity, in his willingness to be handed over, Jesus discloses the deepest dimension of the glory of God. The times when we simply wait are as important as the times of action and taking charge. Our understanding of Easter emphasises heavily the glory of God in bursting free from the tomb and that, in some way, the experience of suffering on Good Friday is somehow mitigated in, not vanished for, humanity. Such an understanding is only partially correct. Yes, there is the glory but that first Good Friday made us fellow-sufferers with God. We, like God, are handed over to the world to wait upon it and to patiently accept its variety and intensity of meaning. There will be times in our life when all we can do is wait. Do not feel that you are impotent and, in some sense, a “failure”. Take heart, for you have the template of Our Lord who had to wait on that curious empty day before God could show his mighty power. Easter is for both action and patience.

The Rector

May mindings

6	Sarah White	20	Tommy Bolsworth
	Winifred Lang	22	Nancy Bain
	Vivian Morrison	25	Liz King
8	Allan Cameron		Kate Young
10	Denis Cruddace		Mary Rodgers
12	Jessie Jamieson	26	Noreen Tully
13	Ernest Brady		Ruby Gibson
	Madge Connor	27	Brian Warren
	Mary Smith	31	Sherry Kidd
14	Edna Churcher		Willie Campbell
15	Sara Leitch		



Thanks for a successful increased giving campaign

From the Pledge Forms that have been completed, we will achieve an increase of £11,000 in our income in a full year. This is a most successful outcome for the Increased Giving Campaign and will put St Ninian's on a sounder financial basis. So, very many thanks to everyone who carefully considered the request to review their giving, both those who were able to increase it and also those who, for understandable reasons in the present difficult economic times, had to decide that their circumstances did not allow them to make any increase.

We still have almost six months remaining in our present financial year so, provided we all implement straight away the increases we have promised, the extra income by 30th September should amount to approximately £5,000. This will reduce to £3,000 the deficit of £8,000 previously forecast and the Vestry are of course looking at ways of improving income from other sources like the letting of the halls and fundraising events to cover that remaining shortfall. Once again, thank you for your support and commitment to St Ninian's. With your generosity and by the grace of God, we have once more the financial resources to continue and further the ministry and mission of St Ninian's.

Tom Baylis, Lay Representative, and Vivian Davey, Treasurer

DIARY FOR MAY 2019

*** indicates use of incense

- 2 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 4 Sat 10am Healing Service
- 5 Sun *Easter 3*
8am Morning Prayer
8.30am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 6 Mon -
8 Wed Clergy conference at Stranraer
- 9 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 11 Sat 10am Coffee morning
- 12 Sun *Easter 4*
8.30am Eucharist
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1982 Liturgy
- 16 Thu 10am Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
- 19 Sun *Easter 5*
8.30am Eucharist
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1982 Liturgy
Vestry
- 23 Thu 10am Eucharist
- 26 Sun *Easter 6*
8.30am Eucharist
10.15am Sung Eucharist 1982 Liturgy***
- 29 Wed 7.30pm PCT meeting at St Alberts
- 30 Thu 10am Ascension Day Eucharist 1970 Liturgy
7.30pm South Regional Council Eucharist at St Aidan's
- 31 Fri 7.30pm The Wonderers meet at the Rectory

Coffee morning

Thanks to everyone who helped at the April coffee morning or turned up for a very social and enjoyable time. Thanks also to all of you who took part in the 50/50 Egg competition. The winning number was 37, Jennifer MacDonald, who was delighted with her good luck. Our treasurer was also delighted with £50 for church funds. Altogether we raised just over £300. Please invite your friends to come along to the next coffee morning.

Lesley Lucas

Easter egg stall.

The Mothers' Union raised £125 for The Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme. Thank you everyone in St Ninian's for being so generous.

Lesley Lucas

Prayers for healing

Please pray for Karen, Elaine Kelly, Moira Watson, Bernadette Chapman and David Williams. Very many thanks, your prayers are always very much appreciated.

Alva Caldwell

Men who lunch

The next lunch will be on Tuesday, 11th June 2019 at 12.30pm at the White Cart Inn, Busby, G76. You may wish to diary this now.

Graham Vahey

Welcomers needed

We need welcomers to stand at the church door from 10am on Sunday

mornings to greet people arriving. All you need is a friendly smile and availability about once a month. Please speak to Paul Whitton if interested.

PW

Christian Aid

Christian Aid asks us to stand together for justice, equality and dignity. This year, Christian Aid Week runs 12th-18th May with the theme "All mums should live". I will be asking around for people to deliver and/or collect envelopes in our house-to-house in West Pollokshields, involving a walk of under a mile on the flat. I also hope to hold a cheese-and-soup lunch on 12th or 19th May – to be confirmed.

Rosemary Anwar

Bible reading

Due to changed circumstances, I have an extra copy of the Bible Reading Fellowship's guideline notes, weekly units of in-depth study broken into six sections, plus an introduction giving context for the passage and a final section of points for thought and prayer. On any day you can read as many or as few sections as you wish.

Rosemary Anwar

Magazine donations

Thanks to Mrs S O'Hara, Miss D Rendall and Anon for their generous donations.

JS

All the right notes

What next?



I used to hear my mother ask this of me all the time: “What’s he up to now?”

Well, I guess some things never change, for I’m up to no good yet again and I can just picture some choir members rolling their eyes.

Firstly, I want to thank our wonderful choir for all the work they have put in, again, to make Easter special. It takes a lot of dish washing to get the notes right... you’ll need to ask them what that means. However, without their dedication, you’d just be left with me and I wouldn’t have nearly as much fun!

Last month, I was banging on about planning and the conversations that had taken place about Easter and Christmas. What I didn’t mention was that over the last few months, our Reverend and I have been trying to find another setting of the Eucharist to complement the three we currently use. Well, we’ve found a splendid wee setting by Shephard, *The Addington Service*. Nicely written, easy to sing and relatively short. The choir will begin learning this and before too long, I hope to be teaching everyone in stages before the service begins. But don’t worry, I’ll be sure to let you know, for if you’re late, you’ll miss all the fun!

Of course, we’ll need to learn more new music before this time next year, when we produce this new hymn for Lent... (yes, banging on about hymns again) and I’m sure we’ll do a good job – when someone enters the competition! But then, good well-crafted material takes time.

On the subject of crafts and talent and arts, I want to tell you about something *else* I’ve been up to. You’ll be glad to know that since joining the Vestry, I’ve been very well behaved and haven’t (consciously) upset anyone.... BUT, I have suggested that as part of our Dedication Festival in September, that we might hold an Arts Festival, which could be an enjoyable way to raise funds if we market it well, plus attract new people to St. Ninian’s. My idea is to use the abundance of talent within this congregation to fill two days with the Arts, from a concert to be given by the choir and organ, to readings, poetry, drama, art, masterclasses... I’ll also hold a choral masterclass with a difference!

So, if you have any ideas, please do let me know... of course, I'll be having a wee chat with a few folks too...there's no hiding!

David S

Lent hymn competition entries to be submitted to David by 1 December 2019 please.

Getting to know you - Vivian Davey

I hail from Yorkshire although I was born over the border in County Durham since Darlington was the nearest maternity hospital. I had a very happy childhood in the villages in which we lived in Wensleydale and Swaledale with loving and encouraging parents. Dad was the headmaster of the local C of E schools. Both he and mum were very involved in the community and church life of the villages. Being in country areas, my parents, although always concerned for our well-being, were able to allow my older brother, Martin, and me freedom to explore by ourselves the beautiful and interesting countryside on foot and by bike as long as we told them where we were heading. For myself I had complete confidence that Martin would get us back safely and no thought of danger entered my head.

The secondary school Martin and I went to in Richmond had the figure of St James (of Compostela) as the principal feature of its coat of arms because the endowment lands of a chantry dedicated to him had provided the main part of the resources to re-found the school after it had been in abeyance for a period following the Reformation. St James would therefore be the Apostle I would like to meet.

When Dad retired, we moved to the Rhinns of Galloway where he pursued his passion for sea fishing which he had had since his boyhood in Cornwall and mum had more time to pursue her creative artistic talents. So it was in Stranraer that I started my banking career. After six years in the south west of Scotland I was posted to Glasgow to the bank's head office where contrary to my initial expectations I remained in various interesting posts until retirement except for a short spell of three years in a Glasgow branch.

Arriving in Glasgow in 1966 was a huge cultural shock for me. Having always lived in rural communities where we all knew one another it was very strange to know so few people in the hordes you passed in the streets every day. During the first month or two I attended several churches in the Queens Park area where I stayed initially but at the end of the services everyone spilled out onto the pavement and departed after only brief exchanges.

Casting the net further afield I alighted by divine providence on St Ninian's and found it provided coffee after its service and the opportunity to talk to people. Its style of service was somewhat 'higher' than what I had been used to in the dales of Yorkshire but fortunately the coffee and chat did the trick and I stayed!

Other cultural shocks of Glasgow in those early days were the dirty, literally black, buildings and the November/December smogs which noticeably affected one's breathing as well as reducing visibility to a few yards. All this



was such a sharp contrast to the open vistas, fresh air and fells to which I was accustomed. The obvious antidote to the city was to make regular excursions to the mountains, lochs and sea coast within such easy reach, both in summer and winter. After experiencing the exhilaration and beauty of climbing in snow, skiing followed a few years later. My love of sunshine on a snow-covered landscape probably goes back to one of my earliest memories which is of my mother shielding my head as she was carrying me along the side of the house in case any of the deep snow on the roof slid off. It was not unusual for snow to lie

permanently for three months in winter in those days in the dales.

I soon of course discovered that there were also opportunities in the city that are not available in country areas, including theatre, concerts and opera so my love of music has certainly developed while in Glasgow although my lack of ability to sing has not changed! Nevertheless, one of my favourite pieces of music, Mozart's clarinet concerto, is closely associated in my mind with my hearing it while drinking hot chocolate outside a mountain restaurant where a recording was being played. This was in the course of my first skiing expedition over a longer distance crossing several valleys in the Alps. The clear notes of the clarinet and the music corresponded beautifully with the pristine sunlit landscape of snow covered mountains.

In addition to the love and encouragement of my parents and brother, I have gained in the years I have been at St Ninian's a great deal spiritually and enjoyed much friendship among its family and for that I shall always be most grateful.

Photo: Susan Walker

Any volunteers for the next issue? Let me know. IS

The bird, the tree, the fish and the bell. Part 1: Kentigern.

The cover of this month's Magazine shows a familiar coat of arms. Even if you've never noticed it on the stonework of St Ninian's, you'll have seen its famous four emblems – the bird, the tree, the fish and the bell – somewhere in the city. (Maybe even on a bus stop, or a bin!)

You might not know how the story of these emblems is tied in with those of Glasgow and of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Over three articles, I will try to tell that story.

The emblems come from the *Life of Kentigern*, which was written in about 1180 by the monk Jocelyn of Furness Abbey, at the behest of Bishop Jocelyn of Glasgow. As a professional hagiographer, Jocelyn's job was to collect existing traditions and weave them into a narrative that would confirm Kentigern as an important saint, worthy of a Scottish church that had recently asserted its independence from the archbishop of York. Among the traditions he used were a variety of miracle stories, three of which gave rise to emblems.

The **bird** was a robin, the pet of Kentigern's teacher St Serf. When Serf's other pupils accidentally killed the robin they tried to blame Kentigern, who proved his innocence and averted Serf's wrath by restoring it to life. (There is an attractive modern mural on the High Street depicting Kentigern with the robin.)

The **tree** was originally a branch of hazel. It seems the robin incident didn't endear Kentigern to his schoolmates, who played a nasty practical joke on him. He had been left in charge of lighting the church lamps one morning, so they crept out at night and extinguished every nearby source of fire. On the point of quitting the monastery in dismay, Kentigern took a green hazel branch from the hedge and prayed for it to burst into flame – which it did, says Jocelyn, "just as long ago the bush which appeared to Moses was seen to burn without consuming itself".

The **fish** recalls a story that appears elsewhere in Celtic legend (e.g. the Irish *Táin Bó Fráich*). The Queen of Cambria gave a ring to her lover; the King detected it on her lover's hand and threw it into the Clyde, then demanded that she bring him the ring. Under threat of execution if she could not produce it, the Queen sent to Kentigern for help, and he sent her messenger to the Clyde to catch a salmon – which, of course, contained the ring. So Kentigern made peace between the King and the Queen; Jocelyn takes the chance to remind us about the fish that Peter catches in Matthew 17, and the instruction to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.

The **bell** is a little different. It does not appear in the *Life*, but seems to have been

a real bell, a few inches long, which was in use in Glasgow until the mid-1600s. Although early depictions show a rectangular bell which may be of ancient Irish design, it became popularly identified as one of the gifts that Kentigern is supposed to have brought back from a journey to Rome, as a sign that his ministry was authorised by the Pope.

The bird, then, is a symbol of resurrection and of Kentigern's saintly character. The hazel branch is a symbol of his power and his ability to overcome those who wished him harm. The fish links him into the Celtic legendary tradition and also establishes the saint's authority as more than equal to the King's. And the bell – wherever it came from and wherever it went – became a symbol that his legitimacy came directly from the head of the Catholic Church. One can see why all these symbols might have appealed to the formidable Bishop Jocelyn.

We will see these themes again in the second part, when we'll look at how the emblems were used by the Bishops of Glasgow and their city until the end of the seventeenth century.

Further reading

Jocelyn of Furness, *The Life of Kentigern* (trans. Cynthia Whiddon Green)

A. Macgeorge (1866), *An Enquiry as to the Armorial Insignia of the City of Glasgow*.

C. Whiddon Green (1998), *Saint Kentigern, Apostle to Strathclyde: A critical analysis of a northern saint*.

Words and cover photo: David Pritchard

If you have any photos suitable for the magazine cover - a religious theme, or something beautiful in nature, maybe - please send them with a brief description. A full article is not necessary but will be printed if you feel so led.

IS

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Most importantly we are asked to pray for Leah Sharibu on 14th May which is her 16th birthday. She and Alice Ngaddah are being held as slaves for Boko Haram. In Mexico, the laws to protect indigenous rights are often used to oppress freedom of religion in localised areas, depriving children of education and cutting off water and electricity. Many countries including Iran and India constitutionally guarantee religious freedom but do not put it into effect; clerics are imprisoned and Christians persecuted. Eritrea has a terrible record. CSW has had some successes but release from prison has also brought problems for Nguyen van Dai, now in Germany, and Asia Bibi and family in Canada. Others have had to flee Cuba. See the CSW website for more details.

Margaret E. Anderson

DUTY ROTAS

Date	5 May Easter 3	12 May Easter 4	19 May Easter 5
Sidespeople	A Marr A Caldwell	G Vahey E Laurie	L Arrol J Arrol
Readers	V Davey	Y Grieve	S Walker
Readings	Acts 9.1-6 Rev 5.11-14 John 21.1-19	Acts 9.36-43 Rev 7.9-17 John 10.22-30	Acts 11.1-18 Rev 21.1-6 John 13.31-35
Servers	(r) S Whitton (l) I Nairn (th)	R Anwar P Whitton	I Nairn J Whannel
Intercessions	S Walker	E Rodgers	Y Grieve
Elements	L Arrol L Booth	E Graham N Gordon	A Forrest R Anwar
Coffee	D Sinclair J Sinclair A Forrest	A Marr Y Grieve A Grieve	A Forrest T Baylis V Rodgers
Welcomer		S Whitton	E Graham

DUTY ROTAS

Date	26 May Easter 6	2 June Easter 7
Sidespeople	J Sinclair D Sinclair	J McLean M Montgomery
Readers	D Pritchard	I Stainsby
Readings	Acts 16.9-15 Rev 21.10, 22-22.5 John 14.23-29	Acts 16.16-34 Rev 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17.20-26
Servers	(r) S Whitton (l) P Whitton (th) I Nairn	I Nairn R Anwar
Intercessions	Rector	P Whitton
Elements	T Baylis L Arrol	L Booth E Graham
Coffee	J McLean C Shearer J Maxwell	D Sinclair J Sinclair A Forrest
Welcomer	C Graham	



Lay Officers

Lay Representative	Thomas Baylis
Alternate Lay Rep	Vacant
Regional Council Rep	Joyce Maxwell
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, Eileen Graham, Catherine Cumming, David Spottiswoode, Nancy Bain.

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

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Bible Reading Fellowship	Rosemary Anwar
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Magazine	The Rector (Editor) rector@stniniansglasgow.org.uk Joyce Sinclair (Sec & Treasurer) Isabel Stainsby (Copy Editor)
Mothers' Union	Lesley Lucas (Branch Leader) Aileen Grieve (Secretary)
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