

Glisten



AUTUMN 2009

CONTACTS

Minister: Reverend Alex Currie - Telephone 500267

St Ninian's Priory, Whithorn Services - 10am each Sunday.	Glasserton Church Services - 11.30am 1st & last Sunday of each month.	Isle Church Services - 11.30am Middle Sundays of each month.
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Session Clerk Lindsay Vance Tel 500338	Session Clerk Robert McKinnel Tel 700117	
Treasurer Ian Duncanson Tel 500911	Treasurer Eleanor Matheson Tel 500375	
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The Guild
Life & Work Distribution
Sunday School/Creche
Scripture Union
Anchor Boys
Junior/ Company Section
Priory Praise
Glisten Magazine
Child Protection Officer
Tape Ministry
Bible Study / Prayer Group

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THE MANSE - ST NINIAN'S GROVE

WHITHORN DG8 8PT - TEL: 01988 500267

Our Church Mission Statement - "To see all people become mature followers of Jesus Christ within a growing Church"



Dear Friends,

Was the decision of Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill to release the Lockerbie bomber, Al Megrahi, correct ?

This question has been raised, not just here in Scotland, but throughout the whole world recently. At the time of writing up this piece, Al Megrahi is still alive. The basis for his release, on compassionate grounds, was founded on medical evidence that Megrahi had less than three months to live.

In his statement, following the release of Al Megrahi, the Justice Minister stated:-

“ Mr Al Megrahi now faces a sentence imposed by a higher power. It is one that no court, in any jurisdiction, in any land, could revoke or overrule. It is terminal, final and irrevocable. He is going to die.” He added;-

“Our beliefs dictate that justice be served, but mercy be shown.”

The rights or wrongs of Mr Megrahi's release will rumble on no doubt long after his death. What Kenny MacAskill has done for us however, is to cause us all to think about what we understand today by such values as 'justice, compassion and mercy'

These values are grounded in Biblical principles which God wishes all men to live by. The Old Testament prophet Micah once wrote:-

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6 v 8)

I for one, would not have wished to have been faced with the decision our Justice Minister has had to take. Perhaps the church and the nation at large should thank him for challenging us all to think about what we consider to be 'just and merciful' and to then think about how we practice these principles, on a daily basis, in our own lives.

Your Minister,
Alex Currie

Diary Dates & Services

- 1st Oct Glasserton & Isle Board meeting 7pm Isle Church.
- 4th Oct Fundraiser for Glasserton & Isle - Open Buffet 2- 4.30pm at the home of Tommy & Catherine Millar.
- 11th Oct Family Service, Priory 10am
- 15th - 21st Oct St Ninian's Priory Charity shop (in shop formerly Cameron Newsagents kindly provided by Mike & Linda Vickers)
Open each day, 10 am - 4 pm plus Friday 6 - 8 pm, not open on Sunday
- 18th Oct Guest preacher - Robert Mc Quistan, Priory 10am, Isle 11.30am
- 8th Nov Remembrance Sunday Services - Priory 10am, Whithorn Memorial 10.50am, Isle Memorial 11.15am , Isle Church 11.30am, Glasserton Memorial 12.15pm
- 15th Nov Family Service, Priory 10am
- 29th Nov Fundraising 'Songs of Praise' evening in aid of the Fishermen's Mission led by Richard Fowler Mission Officer, Priory 7pm



Marriage

St Ninian's Priory

Carol Longridge, Whithorn, to Andrew Jamieson, Stranraer 22.8.09.

Funerals

Mrs Margo Jamieson	High Street, Whithorn	14.6.09.
Mrs Peggy Bell	Castlehill Court, Whithorn	29.7.09.
Mrs Nessie Brolls	West View, Monreith	31.7.09.

Bible Study

The Bible Study group continues to grow with a couple of new members joining over the summer months. We have been looking recently at the work of the Holy Spirit which has provided for some lively discussion!

Do think about joining us if you can. We meet on Thursdays at 7.45 pm in the Manse and you would be made most welcome.

Crèche / Sunday School

A reminder that a crèche and Sunday School facilities are available each Sunday during morning worship at St Ninian's Priory. All children will be made most welcome.

Fabric Matters

Glasserton & Isle - Isle Renovations

Isle renovations – An unexpected collapse of plaster on the wall to the rear of the Isle church resulted in a hasty repair to the whole wall recently. The Congregational Board have decided to press on with the work to create a new kitchen and toilet facility but have also decided to look at funding for this project and the repair of the internal walls and ceiling in the Isle Church.

St Ninian's Priory - Surplus Pews

The Congregational Board have decided to advertise for sale, the surplus pews which are a result of the recent alterations. Further information should you be interested in purchasing a pew, can be had from the minister or John Wilson.

Finance

Glasserton & Isle

The recent round of coffee mornings, suppers and lunches in the homes of some of our members proved to be a most enjoyable occasions. Once again our thanks go to our various hostesses who provided such a marvellous welcome. As well as good food and fellowship being enjoyed, £1,043 has been raised for church funds so far. Our Annual Gift Day in July raised a further £ 710.

St Ninian's Priory

Summer activities in the Priory brought not only visitors, but also extra income for the ongoing work of the Lord in Whithorn. The Summer Strawberry Fair was blessed with good weather and £ 294 was raised on the day. The Flower Festival proved to be very popular with visitors from far and near. Thanks to a huge effort by many a further £732 was raised. Our next big effort is our Charity Shop (15th -21st Oct) in what was Cameron's newsagent. This year's Harvest Retiral offering of £104 went to the Yorkhill Neo-natal Transport Service (West Team) Appeal. We also thank all who regularly contribute to the work of the church through regular giving via gift aid, envelopes or the jars of glass.

Scripture Union

The local Scripture Union group began again in Whithorn School in September. The group meets each Monday lunch time and an enthusiastic group of P6& 7's gather to have fun with crafts quizzes and to learn Bible stories.

St. Ninian's Priory Church Website

St Ninian's Priory now has its own website. This will allow both visitors and local people to keep up to date with what's on in our church.

The website address is www.whithorn-stninianspriory.org.uk

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Once again the wider community is invited to support the work of this international relief agency via its annual shoebox appeal. The closing date for shoebox collection is Friday 6th November. If you would like to take part in this appeal, please contact the minister or Ethel Brolls.

Boys Brigade

The Session for 2009/2010 began in September with all sections again meeting in the New Town Hall. As in previous years, the times are as follows –
Anchors (P2-3) meet at 5.30pm Juniors(P4-6) at 6.45pm Company (P7 upwards) 8pm
This year we hope to welcome boys from the wider South Machars area in response to parent enquires from outwith the parish.

The Guild

The Guild resumes its new session on the 6th of October with an evening when we will hear about the work of Yorkhill Hospital. On the 27th of October we will be asking 'Who are the Gideon's?' Through the visit of a couple of local representatives we will find out. November 3rd will be an opportunity to think about and sample some 'Fairtrade' goods. The Rev Joe Crawford will entertain us on the 17th November with stories of his ministry at home and overseas. We close 2009 with an evening of music for Christmas with Maggie and Lindsay Vance and friends. All are welcome to join us on a Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Priory.

UNICEF Jars of Grace

Labels for the annual 'Jars of Grace' appeal were again handed out at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Even if you did not get a label, you are invited to put a coin in a jar after each meal as a thank you to God for food. At our Christmas family service the jars are collected and all monies sent to UNICEF.



Ethel's Appeal goes Global !

Little could Ethel Brolls have imagined when she started her appeal for donations of wool to knit items for Romanian orphans six years ago, that a world-wide circle of knitters would be the result. The circle of knitters contributing knitted items has grown to over 80 including many local folks and now includes one in Greece and another in Australia. By the middle of 2008 more than 3,400 items had been knitted and the current figure now stands at over 6,000. All the items forwarded to orphans in Romania who have so little are very much appreciated and make the work involved so worthwhile. This year's exhibition of knitted items held in Whithorn Library helped to raise the profile of the appeal and the plight of the Romanian orphans.

Flower Rotas



St Ninian's Priory

18 th /25 th Oct	Mrs E. Anderson, George St. Whithorn
1 st /8 th Nov	Mrs M. Gemmell, Priory Croft, Whithorn
15 th /22 nd Nov	Mrs K. Martin, Shalom, Whithorn
29 th Nov/6 th Dec	Mrs L. Forsyth, Low Blair, Sorbie
13 th /20 th Dec	Mrs J. Duncanson, Portyerrock Mill, I.O.W.
3 rd /10 th Jan	Mrs H. Smith, Almont, Whithorn

Isle

11 th Oct	Mrs W Kiltie
18 th Oct	Mrs S Newberry
8 th Nov	Mrs M Niblock
15 th Nov	Mrs M Niblock
22 nd Nov	Mrs M Niblock
13 th Dec	Mrs E McShane
20 th Dec	Mrs E McShane

Glasserton

4 th Oct	Margaret Wilson
25 th Oct	Mrs C M Millar
1 st Nov	Mrs C M Millar
29 th Nov	Mrs C McKinnel
6 th Dec	Mrs C McKinnel
27 th Dec	Mrs C M Millar
3 rd Jan	Mrs C M Millar

St Ninian's Priory Flower Festival

For the first time in nearly 20 years we were delighted to run a flower festival in the church with cream teas, from Thursday 30th July to Saturday 1st August with Priory Praise performing on Saturday and the Sunday service encompassing the flower theme. We had many local visitors to the flower festival from as far as afield as Drumore and Dumfries. We also benefitted from tourists visiting the area. Our grateful thanks go to all our flower arrangers who donated both time and flowers, and to those who provided the teas.



Strawberry Fair



Yet again we were blessed with good weather for our Annual Strawberry Fair held in the Dig field in Whithorn. The food was excellent and this year we were entertained by a group of ten musicians led by Fiona Smith

Holiday Club '09



After a brief absence of a couple of years, a holiday club for local primary age children was again provided by the church in August. A small team, led by Sandy and Naomi Currie welcomed around 50 children who registered during the week. As the photographs show, a great time was had by all !