

# Spring Magazine

## Nairn Old Parish Church

### March 2022

Sharing God's love and serving the community



Long Service certificates, Profession of Faith and Ordination of Elder and memories from a few years ago.



## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When I sat down this time last year to write my Letter for our Church Magazine, we had been in lockdown for almost a year and we were still not back into the Church building for worship. None of us could have imagined how the global Coronavirus pandemic would play out nor the impact across all our lives it would make.

In the end our 'church' was never closed, though our building was closed for 15 months and when it did eventually open it was of course with many restrictions. Bit by bit, step by step we have returned to more normal practise and soon we may be worshipping as before, without any mandatory regulations – keep praying.

I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to a different daily focus from risk assessments and worship protocols. That said we already have a shared focus for our time ahead – it has been set by the General Assembly and instructed from the Presbytery – and that focus is mission.

In truth, mission is primarily God's work, not ours – we serve a missionary God who is at work in the world by his Holy Spirit and he is the one who brings in the harvest. However that doesn't mean for one minute that us making mission plans is unimportant – in fact through the process of prayer and listening we can become more receptive to the unexpected guidance and prompting of God.

In many ways missionary work is simple, and scripture gives us great guidance and encouragement:

**“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples increased rapidly.” Act 6 v7**

We are all called to play our part. New presbytery mission plans are in hand and we each have to share in spreading the Good News and pray hard for the return of our faithful, as well as being ready to welcome new disciples through our doors. As we journey through the season of lent and onwards to our resurrection celebrations we must never forget that we are Easter People – people full of hope. The Easter cross always bears hope and hope is our encouragement.

On behalf of the Manse Family I wish everyone the fullness of God's love and rich blessings this Easter time and always.

Your Minister

*Alison*

March 2022

## FRIENDSHIP GROUP

I came across this poem for the opening meeting of the Friendship Group.

*We left New Year behind us,  
Resolutions laid aside,  
And now we are on a journey  
With hope to be our guide.  
The Winter may seem endless,  
Yet just below the earth  
So many seeds awaiting  
The moment of their birth,  
So greet each new tomorrow,  
Be cheerful come what may,  
For just around the corner  
Spring is on the way!*

(Written by Iris Hesselden)

Jessie Holmes

## THE GUILD

St Ninians Church on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.

An EVENT by Guilds Together, Inverness, is being held in the above Hall lasting slightly over 1 hour on the above date and time. Tea will not be served. It is open to any Guild member who would like to go along, and transport getting there and back can be available if you contact myself Liz Marshall at 455816.

Sadly, since we have lost our Treasurer Mrs Sandra Fulton, we have not been able to meet, but St Ninians have been very welcoming to those wishing to go along and Fellowship with them, until such time as a decision can be made on the outcome of Nairn Old Parish Guild. Please come along!

Liz Marshall  
Guild Contact

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## **WORSHIP at NOPC**

At Nairn Old Parish Church we have been back to 'in-person worship' since the end of May 2021. This means we have safely been meeting and worshipping together for the past 9 months without incident.

Our worship protocols are the result of the Kirk Session agreeing a regular Risk Assessment and we are pleased that the protocols have kept us all safe – even when regulations had to tighten up during the Omicron variant outbreak before Christmas.

At the time of writing, we ask for everyone attending to undertake a 'lateral flow test' on the morning before attending – anyone who feels in any way unwell is asked not to attend but rather to recover at home. On arrival at the church, hand sanitising and registration for the Test and Protect register is still in place. People are free to choose their own seat, taking into account that we still have every other pew cordoned off and social distancing is still encouraged. Face coverings are still a mandatory requirement for the congregation. Only the Choir may unmask for singing and the Minister for the conduct of worship.

We are very pleased that hospitality after worship is now available and the fellowship enjoyed by those who attend is very much appreciated.

In the not too distant future we anticipate that the regulations will be further relaxed, but be assured that the Kirk Session will always be mindful of assessing any risks and will cautiously move forward.

We are so looking forward to returning to more normal days and seeing more of our church family feel confident to return to Sunday worship.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2022

This has been another difficult year for our congregation owing to the continued imposed restrictions as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. We have had no Hall lets, minimal Fund raising, tea collections down and some members not attending because of Face Covering regulations and consequently our overall INCOME is down on last year's figure by almost £6,000.

Having said that, our congregation must be congratulated on the Christmas Gift envelopes £2,130, Smartie Tubes £2,005, Easter Gift envelopes £3,662 and thanks to those of you who have responded to the strategy of reviewing their weekly givings. There is no substitute for regular weekly or monthly offerings.

The most important item to report is that all the target for MAMA due to the GENERAL TRUSTEES of £64,081 has been met in full.

Our MAMA figure for 2022 is £70,375 and this will be a real challenge but with effort and the continued support of a loyal and faithful congregation it can be done as we learn to give prayerfully, sacrificially and spiritually for the Lord's work here and throughout the mission of the Church of Scotland.

J G Somerville

Treasurer

**£££** Please find enclosed an envelope for you to give a donation to help pay for the Magazine. Donations can be returned to the Church Office or at the church door on Sundays. Thank you. **£££**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 4 TH MARCH, 2022**

Sadly, once again, there will be no united World Day of Prayer service being held. As I understand it, an online service will be available in due course, giving the link to log into. The service has been written by the Christian Women of England, Wales and Northern Island, the Theme of which is – ‘I Know the Plans I have for you’ which is taken from Jeremiah chapter 29 v 1. - 14. Booklets will be at the front door shortly to take away and pray about the Committee and the women who wrote the material. All the churches who normally participate will also receive material, including Whinnieknowe, and Queen’s Park Gardens. I am happy to send the Link to anyone in the congregation who wishes to log on.



Liz Marshall

**FUNERALS**

Mrs Lydia Mackintosh	Alderside, Water Lane, Nairn	01-Dec-21
Mrs Margaret Clark Nicol	St Olaf, Frmlly Cannon Cres, Elgin	03-Dec-21
Mrs Agnes Hardie	5 MacLean Court, Nairn	08-Dec-21
Mr Robert McAulay (Bob) Pottie	33 Lodgehill Park, Nairn	21-Dec-21
Mrs Kathleen Clare (Kathy) Terry	3 Corsee Gardens, Nairn	11-Jan-22
Mrs Margaret Long	11 King Street, Nairn	13-Jan-22
Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Wilson	Carolton Care Home, Nairn	04-Feb-22
Mrs Stacia Marie (Stacey) Grant	Hillcrest Care Home, Nairn	23-Feb-22
Mr John Black (Jack) Rodger	St Olaf Care Home, Nairn	25-Feb-22

**PROFESSION of FAITH**

Miss Gillian C Burtwell	Albert Street, Nairn	6-Feb-22
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**ORDINATION OF ELDER**

Mr Allan Philip	Morlich Crescent, Nairn	6-Feb-22
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Gillian Burtwell saw this poem and thought it was apt for the service of Profession of Faith and the Ordination of Alan Philip as an Elder.

Me: Hello God.

God: Hello...

Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

God: I'd rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because you're not a puzzle.

Me: What about all the pieces of my life that fall to the ground?

God: Leave them there for a while. They fell for a reason.

Let them be there for a while and then decide if you need to take any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking!

God: No, you don't understand. You're transcending, evolving.

What you feel are growing pains. You're getting rid of the things and people in your life that are holding you back. The pieces are not falling down. The pieces are being put in place. Relax. Take a deep breath and let those things you no longer need fall down. Stop clinging to pieces that are no longer for you. Let them fall. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will I have left?

God: Only the best pieces of yourself.

Me: I'm afraid to change.

God: I keep telling you: **YOU'RE NOT CHANGING! YOU'RE BECOMING!**

Me: Becoming, Who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light, love, charity, hope, courage, joy, mercy, grace and compassion. I made you for so much more than those shallow pieces you decided to adorn yourself with and that you cling to with so much greed and fear. Let those things fall off you. I love you! Don't change! Become! Don't change! Become!

Become who I want you to be, who I created.

I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yes. Let it be like this.

Me: So... I'm not broken?

God: No, but you're breaking the darkness, like dawn.

It's a new day.

Become!!

Become who you really are!!


John Roedel



**John G Bruce** Director  
Director/Independent Financial Adviser

108 High Street, Nairn, IV12 4DE  
t: 01667 455444  
e: [john@east2westfs.co.uk](mailto:john@east2westfs.co.uk) w: [east2westfs.co.uk](http://east2westfs.co.uk)

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## EASTER PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned.

For God so loved the world

**That all might have eternal life.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand.

For God so loved the world

**That all might have eternal life.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest and king and yet humbled himself

to take our place upon the cross.

For God so loved the world

**That all might have eternal life.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love for human kind.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the ignominy of a sinner's death to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection.

For God so loved the world

**That all might have eternal life**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son for the sake of me and you and other sinners too.

God so loved the world

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer

AMEN

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