

St Ninians Old Parish Church

'The Gate of the Year'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied;

*'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'*

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

The Minister

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Order of Service and Intimations



Sunday 5th January 2020

God will do a new thing with His people now.
God will do a new thing, as in prayer we bow,
Wondering at His wisdom, marvelling at his power.
God will do a new thing in this present hour.
Praise the Lord of newness; trust His solemn vow –
God will do a new thing with His people now.

God will do a new thing with His people here.
God will do a new thing: Christ is ever near,
Searching for commitment, sending out a call.
God will do a new thing, touching lives of all.
Praise the God who's faithful; trust the word you hear –
God will do a new thing with His people here.

God will do a new thing for our age and time.
God will do a new thing: to us He'll assign
All His Spirit's blessings, peace from Heaven's store.
God will do a new thing as He's done before.
Praise the God who's with us; trust His love divine.
God will do a new thing for our age and time.

God will do a new thing with His call today,
Seeking new disciples for His pilgrim way;
Bidding us to follow; making all things new.
God will do a new thing, for His Word is true.
Praise the God who offers mercy when we stray.
God will do a new thing with His call today.

God will do a new thing! Praise His glorious name!
For His Kingdom's purpose, every life He'll claim:
Guiding us in service; calming every fear.
God will do a new thing through our joys and tears.
Praise the God of love, whose grace we now reclaim.
God will do a new thing! Praise His glorious name.

Words: Tom Gordon © April 2019

Order of Service

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn 103 (Ps 147) 'Fill your hearts with joy and gladness'

Prayer

**Hymn 'God will do a new thing with His people now'
(See insert – Tune 'Armageddon')**

The Word of God

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (P658)

John 1:1-18 (P78)

Hymn 235 'God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year'

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn 237 'Look forward in faith'

*Sermon
'The Word became Flesh'*

Offering

Prayer of Dedication and Lord's Prayer

**Hymn 605 'Thanks to God whose word was spoken'
(Tune 'Regent Square' Hymn 680)**

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen

Intimations

Visitors are invited to sign the Visitors book in the vestibule.

There is a loop system for people with hearing aids.

Please feel free to remain seated during the singing of the hymns.

A happy and peaceful New Year to you!

The **Flower Calendar for 2020** is in the vestibule. If you would like to give flowers to the Church please put your name and contact details against the Sunday of your choice.

The **Tuesday Group** will meet this week at 7:30pm in the Parish Halls. The group will be addressed by the Minister and there will be a Finger buffet.

The **Bible Study Group** will meet at the Church on Wednesday at 7:30pm.
'Will you follow me?' Mark 5:1-20 (P70)

There will be a **Soup and Sandwich Lunch** in the Parish Halls on Saturday, at 12 Noon.

The **Sunday Club** will resume next Sunday.

There will be a short celebration of **Holy Communion** following the service next Sunday morning.

There will be a joint Church **Friendship Lunch** in St Columba's Church Hall on Monday, 13th January at 12 Noon.

Start Up Stirling – Donations of food and money can be left at the Church on a Sunday morning.

It was on the wireless, in the first Christmas of the war, that the king was heard quoting from a poem called 'God Knows' which he had found in a commonplace book: 'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

A.N. Wilson After the Victorians

Q: I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year . What's the Gate of the Year? Thanks. C. And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Spoken by George VI in his Christmas 1939 broadcast to the Empire these words struck a chord with a country facing the uncertainty of war. As we pass through the gate of the year, no one can know what the new year will bring. But God knows! There's a great lesson to be learned from a generation past. It comes from a message to the people of one of the most powerful nations on earth as they endured a time of uncertainty and fear. More than seven decades have passed, but the truths of this message remain. As we stand at the gate of the new year, let us remember these unshakable truths. A Message to a Troubled Nation. In December 1939, Great Britain was at war. The Third Reich of Nazi Germany had ruled in Germany since Hitler took

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