

# ST NINIAN'S SAYS: HARK!

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Sun	10.30am Palm Sunday and the reading of the Passion Story  2pm at St Machar Cathedral Ecumenical Walk of Witness to Cruickshank Garden. Refreshments at The Mission.
Mon	5.30pm Evening Prayer
Tues	7.30pm Walking the Wilderness with Eucharist
Wed	10am Morning Prayer
Thurs	11.30am Chrism Mass, Cathedral + Lunch  7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist followed by Vigil till 10pm
Fri	12noon – 1pm Meditation on the Cross
Sat	1.30pm Easter Garden (children)

## Dear Friends

It is always challenging to write an Easter letter a few days before Holy Week begins. What lies ahead for us is a journey the end of which we look forward to but the road which we take to reach that end can be full of unknowns and surprises. We know the story but those who walked with Jesus on the way to Golgotha were bewildered, fearful, wondering if they had got it all wrong. Was this the King they had expected? Someone who rides on a donkey, someone who washes his friends' feet, someone who allows a woman to anoint his head, someone who knows that he will be betrayed and what that will lead to but never hesitates on his journey? When we spend time contemplating these individual stories during Holy Week, we may well meet the God of surprises. How would we have reacted if we were amongst the crowds in Jerusalem as we came to celebrate what we thought would be a normal Passover Festival? God was doing something new and something which would transform our world and I encourage you to be open to and part of that transformation.

I will be making a personal journey from 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May on a Pilgrimage/Retreat along 126 kilometres (that's 78 miles in old money) of the ancient pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. I will take with me the words of Søren Kierkegaard: *"Above all, do not lose your desire to walk. Every day I walk myself into a state of well-being and walk away every illness. I have walked myself into my best thoughts and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it. If one just keeps on walking, everything will be all right."*

I will be seeking sponsorship, probably through a Just Giving website page, to raise money for Embrace the Middle East, the charity which we learned more about from Mark Calder who came to speak to us last Sunday.....so you will be hearing more!

Not all of us are physically capable of walking very far but you can find a way of keeping your minds and hearts "walking" – it's called prayer. Please join me in our services of prayer and reflection through Holy Week and our celebration on Easter Day .....*"and that will be heaven"* – see the Poem for Easter by Evangeline Paterson.

May you be richly blessed this Easter,

Revd Joan

## Visit from Bishop Anne

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Anne on her first visit to St Ninian's on the Feast of the Ascension Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at our 10.30 service. Please bring some food for a Bring and Share Lunch.

The Consecration Service at St Andrew's Cathedral, despite the appalling weather, was a truly uplifting event and from that moment, she has encouraged us to look forward, to pray together and to seek God's will. Please read below Victor Dongo's report as our Lay Representative at Diocesan Synod.

### **Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney Synod held 17/03/2018 at DoubleTree Hotel, Aberdeen.**

The Synod started with a Eucharist conducted by Bishop Anne.

#### **Bishop Anne's charge/Priorities**

1. Prayers - she wants to plant a staff of prayers in our midst. Meet folks and build relationships
2. Get to know the ordained clergy in the diocese
3. Mission planning for the diocese - locating where the resources of faith, prayers, finance and others are with view to deploying them appropriately.
4. Network beyond the churches - establish new relationships with those outside the diocese to further our reach and interests.

She also prayed for grace to move beyond the past discord and appealed for a fresh start.

#### **Motions**

Two motions were introduced and passed:

1. Review of Canon 4 which deals with election of Bishops was introduced by Mr. John Whittall, the Diocesan Secretary. It calls for it to be reviewed in all parts and revised as necessary.
2. Review of Lay Ministry was introduced by Mrs. Avril Hern. This calls for training and deployment increased especially for younger people for mission and ministry in such a way that it is not a one size fits all - a sharp focused training.

#### **Annual Accounts**

This was presented by Lorraine Paisey, Diocesan Treasurer and adopted by the Synod.

#### **Elections and reappointment of Diocesan officials**

Elections were conducted for various posts including Diocesan representatives for the General Synod. There are 7 Diocesan representatives to General Synod: those newly elected are Revd David Atkinson, Revd Nick Bowry, Revd Joan Lyon; new alternate clergy representative is Revd Canon John Walker.

Lorraine Paisey and John Whittall were reappointed as Diocesan Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Revd Canon John Walker agreed to serve as Synod Clerk for another 5 years.

#### **New Data protection policies**

Rev Vittoria Hancock informed the Synod of the new policies affecting personal information kept by congregations - people must be informed about the exact use of their personal data collected. No more implied consent to use the data collected as the collectors wish.

#### **Mission and ministry presented by Revd Joan Lyon**

1. **City of Sanctuary**- a UK wide initiative that enables the building of relationships between Refugees and their host communities to help their integration.

The importance of creating more awareness about the initiative was discussed. Groups were formed to discuss roles we as individuals can play to help spread the message of City of Sanctuary and as well, help with our actions. Revd Joan asked the Synod to encourage their churches, clubs, business contacts, organisations to sign the City of Sanctuary Resolution of Support which asks for a specific commitment to foster the aims of City of Sanctuary. There is both a website and an email address. [www.aberdeen.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.aberdeen.cityofsanctuary.org) and [admin@aberdeen.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:admin@aberdeen.cityofsanctuary.org)

2. **Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees** - similar to City of Sanctuary initiative but comprises representatives of various faith groups tackling issues associated with Refugees and resettlement. Current areas of focus:

1. New Scots Scottish Government Strategy 2018-2022
2. Statelessness
3. Commitment from each faith groups to organise a spiritual & 1 practical event each year. See [www.sfar.org](http://www.sfar.org)

### Place of the Cathedral in the Diocese presented by Revd David Atkinson

Questions about things the Cathedral can do for the Diocese and its churches were discussed in groups. The points raised from each group were submitted to Rev. Canon Isaac Poobalan for consideration. From our table, we suggested

- 1) earlier communication from the Cathedral about its activities,
- 2) to bring all churches together (where geographically possible) once or twice a year to worship there on a Sunday morning with no services happening elsewhere thus offering to everyone to come together to experience the unique character of cathedral worship particularly at this time with the outstanding work of the Cathedral Choir.

### Next Synod on Saturday 2nd of March, 2019

### STEPS – OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN

STEPS is proving very popular with our group of children thanks to our students, Megan, Sophia and Sarella with help and organisation from Nele Beutels. We'd like this to continue whenever possible during the summer. If you can be a "helper" on any Sunday over the summer, please speak to Nele as she is trying to work out a rota – a challenging task given the variable availability over the summer months of both children and helpers.

Email: [nele\\_beutels@hotmail.com](mailto:nele_beutels@hotmail.com).

### SPRING & SUMMER SATURDAY AFTERNOONS

We are looking forward to opening our doors again on Saturday afternoons in the spring and summer months for our Hospitality and Fundraising events. Ian Lovegrove is planning some musical entertainment.

Anne Keenlyside is lead organiser – please speak to her at church about helping out or via email [anne.keenlyside@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.keenlyside@btinternet.com). Pam Shand is the contact for the Craft Fair [pamela.shand@googlemail.com](mailto:pamela.shand@googlemail.com).

Dates so far & times	2pm-4pm
Coffee Afternoon	Saturday 21 April
Craft Fair	Saturday 19 May
Coffee Afternoon	Saturday 16 June

### VESTRY BUSINESS – CITY OF SANCTUARY

Victor Dongo has written about this initiative in his Synod report – see above and Google [www.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.cityofsanctuary.org) At its last meeting, the Vestry considered signing the City of Sanctuary Resolution of Support which means saying yes to our support in whatever we can do to help the resettlement and integration of refugees, asylum seekers and also those who seek sanctuary across Aberdeen – this is not just for the Syrian families although their arrival has been the catalyst for looking at Aberdeen as a recognised City of Sanctuary. The Resolution of Support asks us to make a specific commitment. This is not difficult as we have already opened our doors – and our basement – to help with donations, transport and welcoming gift days. I suggest that this continues as our commitment.

If you would like to find out more or have any comments on this, please speak to any of the Vestry members or to Joan who is the Co-chair of Aberdeen City of Sanctuary. **The Vestry would like to have your views before their next Vestry meeting on 23 April.**

### DONATIONS FOR SYRIAN NEW SCOTS

I have been in touch with some of the Syrians who have arrived in the last few months. One important kitchen item for them is a meat grinder! This, as you can imagine, is not in the City Council's list of basic furnishings. I can vouch for Syrian food – the meals which I have shared with them are wonderful but much of their cooking depends on having meat ground up to stuff vine leaves or make filled pastries. I well remember grinding up oranges for marmalade making with my mother's heavy iron grinder which was clamped to the kitchen table. There are now electric versions with prices varying from about £40 - £150!

If you could contribute to a small fund for this which will help to give these families a sense of meaningful home-making, please speak to me.....**Revd Joan**



## POEM FOR EASTER

**And that will be heaven**

*Evangeline Paterson*

and that will be heaven

and that will be heaven

at last            the first unclouded

seeing

                 to stand like the sunflower

turned full face to the sun        drenched

with light        in the still centre

held        while the circling planets

                 hum with an utter joy

                 seeing and knowing

at last            in every particle

seen and known        and not turning

away

                 never turning away

again

This poem is taken from Janet Morley's collection "the heart's time" and she writes: "The poem begins and ends as if in the middle of a sentence. Ordinary punctuation is absent. Inarticulacy is the point .....Throughout our lives, we inevitably go through a pattern of being distracted and turning away from God and the consciously, as in Lent, turning aside to try to approach and gaze at God once more. As we have seen, to gaze directly is not give to us in this life. The poet here imagines heaven as the place where that is no longer impossible. May it be true.

*Spend time in silence, with your heart turned 'full face to the sun'.*

## ST NINIAN'S CONTACT DETAILS

St Ninian's Episcopal Church, 696 King St, Aberdeen AB24 1SJ  
Church ansaphone 01224 483887

Priest-in-charge: Revd Joan Lyon

Email: [joanblyon@gmail.com](mailto:joanblyon@gmail.com)

Church House 01224 487241: 07807 783168

Church Treasurer: Vacant (but contact Vestry Secretary)

Vestry Secretary: Mrs Elizabeth Herlihy

Email: [elizabethmackenzieherlihy@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethmackenzieherlihy@gmail.com)

Craft Group: Mrs Janet Lawrence

Email: [drpaul.lawrence@btinternet.com](mailto:drpaul.lawrence@btinternet.com)

Young Adults' Group: Ms Jaime Buckingham

Email: [Jaime@the-buckinghams.com](mailto:Jaime@the-buckinghams.com)

STEP (Children's Sunday activity)

Mrs Nele Beutels: [nele\\_beutels@hotmail.com](mailto:nele_beutels@hotmail.com)

Music: Mr Ian Lovegrove

[ian.lovegrove@orange.net](mailto:ian.lovegrove@orange.net)

Rota: Mrs Pam Shand

[pamela.shand@googlemail.com](mailto:pamela.shand@googlemail.com)

Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney

Email: [office@aberdeen.anglican.org](mailto:office@aberdeen.anglican.org)

Lay Representative to Diocesan Synod

Mr Victor Dongo: [donvik009@yahoo.com](mailto:donvik009@yahoo.com)

[www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk](http://www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stniniansaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/stniniansaberdeen)

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