

### **Dear Friends,**

Writing this on Palm Sunday Eve and coming to the end of the Lenten Reflection period, I have to confess that I have used the past couple of weeks to reflect on all that is St Ninian's: where we have been; where we are now; and where we might be headed.

When I came to St Ninian's as your Treasurer in February 2011, I found a welcoming and eager church that had been through much, but which was looking forward to a new era under their new priest.

During those early months, our attendance stabilised in the mid teens and our income began to increase as more people took Free Will Offering envelopes, and two or three signed up for regular giving via Standing Order. Since then, the congregation has risen steadily and the Vestry has seen first 20, then 25 regular numbers breached, and by the time Sam left, 30 communicants had become the norm, rather than the number at major festivals. Now we are pushing towards the 40 barrier- we've breached it several times – and a movement from a small church facing possible closure in 2011, to a confident medium sized church with a secure future.

At the moment we are bucking the trend for churches during an interregnum. Usually attendance falls, but ours is actually rising. People continue to seek us out and are impressed by the warmth of the welcome they receive and that indefinable something that is the essence of St Ninian's – the interplay of the Holy Spirit within St Ninian's every time it opens its big red doors.

Make no mistake, St Ninian's has been and continues to be grounded in prayer – not just the corporate prayer of Sunday mornings, but the personal prayers of its members – whilst at the same time, being gently nudged in the right direction and guided by the Holy Spirit towards the future that God has planned for our church.

So as we enter the season of Easter, we should do so as Easter people who believe in the impossible, and who are looking forward in faith that the right person to lead us is being gently nudged and guided by the Holy Spirit to seek us out as our new Priest in Charge.

**On behalf of the Vestry, Margaret Hodder.**

### **ST NINIAN'S CRAFT CLUB**

**Fancy meeting new people,  
learning a new skill or remembering an old one?**

**Come along every fortnight to the church  
for fellowship and crafting.**

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 2pm**

### **ST NINIAN'S EASTER EVENTS**

**Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Morning Prayer @ 10 am**

**Holy Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April - Deep Clean of the church,  
2-4 pm. Please come and help as we prepare the  
church for Easter Day.**

**Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April - Early Morning Walk with St  
Mary's C of S. Pick up at St Ninian's @ 7.45 am**

**Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April - Eucharist @ 10.30 am**

**NB No Maundy Thursday or other Holy Week Services, but  
services are being held at St Andrew's Cathedral (11.30 am  
Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday; 12 noon-3pm Devotion & 7.30  
pm Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday), and at St Mary's C  
of S (Card available with service times).**

### **Prayer Points**

*Most Holy Lord, You are the One who calls and sends and reveals. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on St Ninian's, and guide us as we seek to discern Your will for us. Help us to know where You would lead us and what work You call us to do. Broaden us and challenge us, for we remember that the work we do is designed to reflect Your glory. We pray that You would give us ears to hear Your Spirit as we watch for the one You are sending to be our Priest in Charge. Amen*

**Our Students as they go home for Easter**

**Members who are on holiday**

**Members who can't be with us due to illness or frailty**

**Steph as she prepares to marry Andrew on 11<sup>th</sup> April.**

## **WHAT'S ON @ St Ninian's?**

**APRIL 2015**

### **SERVICES AND EVENTS**

#### ***Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Good Friday***

10.00am: Morning Prayer with Lay Ministry Team

#### ***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Deep Cleaning of the church***

2.00-4.00 pm

#### ***Sunday, 5th April – Easter Celebration***

7.45 am: Early Morning walk and Breakfast with St Mary's

10.30am: Holy Communion with Rev Kate Gibson

#### ***Sunday, 12th April – Easter 2 (Low Sunday)***

10.30am: Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Errington

3.00pm: Lord Hays Court Service Rev Elsie Fortune

#### ***Tuesday, 14th April***

2.00pm: Craft Club @ St Ninian's

#### ***Sunday, 19th April – Easter 3***

10.30am: Holy Communion with Rev David Emerton

#### ***Monday, 20th April***

7.30pm: Vestry @ St Ninian's (TBC)

#### ***Sunday, 26th April – Easter 4***

10.30am: Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Errington

#### ***Tuesday, 28th April***

2.00pm: Craft Club @ St Ninian's

# **HARK**

## **APRIL 2015**



*he is risen...*

[www.stninians.com](http://www.stninians.com)

**HARK is the newsletter of St Ninian's Church  
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