

# ST NINIAN'S SAYS: HARK!



## WATCH AND PRAY

**Palm Sunday** 9 April Ecumenical Walk: meet at The Mission in St Machar's Drive at 2pm for walk round Cruickshank Garden; followed by refreshments at St Machar's Cathedral

**Maundy Thursday** 13 April

Celebration of Holy Communion 7.30pm

The service will be followed by a vigil till 10pm.

**Good Friday** 14 April

Meditation on the Cross from 12 noon till 1pm

**Easter Saturday** 15 April

Children's activity - Creation of the Easter garden at 2pm

For children, grandchildren and young friends

**Easter Day** 16 April

Easter Celebration – Holy Communion 10.30am

## Dear Friends

It is the time for planting and new growth. If we received a packet of seeds without knowing their purpose, we would be pushed to imagine what emerges out of these tiny pips. Like the image Jesus uses as he compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, who could possibly think that new and abundant growth might emerge from something so tiny? This is the story of Easter.

St Ninian's congregation has a history of prayer – a small group of people praying for what might seem to be impossible – and receiving answers. Our new prayer group, Wellsprings, spends time listening intently to passages of Scripture and waiting for God to speak to each one of us as we seek God's desire rather than what we might think we need or what we should be doing.

Our congregation itself is seasonal as the "new seeds" arrive in September at the start of the university year and we watch growth taking place in front of our eyes. Most students then disappear towards the beginning of summer, not back into the ground, but to blossom wherever the summer might take them, well-watered and fed by our praying community. Those of us who no longer take off in such exciting directions can spend time enriching the soil by continuing our prayers for our community, our changing country and the wider world.

As we journey with Jesus to the Cross, remember that each step we take is not to be hurried.....as with gardening, there is no quick-fix. As we gather for the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the making of the Easter Garden on Holy Saturday, the journey through Holy Week gives us time; time to enter into the gift of bread and wine, of Jesus' act of deep humility and service in washing the disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday, his agonising journey to Golgotha and his violent execution on Good Friday, the long grief-filled wait of Holy Saturday and then to the astonishing events of Easter Day.

May God be with us and bless us richly as we approach the joy of Easter Day.

*Reverend Joan*

## Prayer Matters

In your own prayers at home, please pray for the following:

For Christians across the world as we walk the way of the Cross through Holy Week that we may be witnesses to the power of God to bring good out of evil and calm out of chaos.

For the plight of refugees across Europe and the Middle East and for an end to the conflict in Syria. For all those who offer sanctuary.

- For our student members as they complete assignments, prepare for exams, and look forward to summer activities.
- For Mary Chapman as she travels to South Africa in preparation for the birth of two new grandchildren. For all parents expecting babies at this time of celebration for the gift of new life.
- For those who are unwell, especially Chris Wright in residential care in Milltimber and his wife Jean; for Hilda Farman; for Louise Fortune, daughter of Revd Elsie Fortune in our neighbouring Church of Scotland, St Mary's. For those we carry on our hearts that they may know your peace in body, mind and spirit.
- We pray for wisdom as we seek to call a new bishop using the words of our Diocesan prayer:

*"You have given your Holy Spirit to the church to lead us into all truth; bless us with the Spirit's grace and presence as we discern and choose a new Bishop for our Diocese. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love that we may seek to hear your voice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

## Photos from Mothering Sunday



## and our Emmaus Group



## Your Priest is moving!

My own journey is taking me in unexpected directions as I will be on the move as I take ownership of a set of keys on 8th May. These belong to a little mews house at 8 Seaton Stables, just off Don Street, halfway up to Hillhead Halls of Residence. The Diocesan Finance and Property Committee has agreed to let the house in Kingswells and rent this smaller house so that I will be in much closer contact with the community I serve. I am very grateful for this decision and look forward to blossoming where I am planted. My garden will be the whole of Seaton Park! Look out for the house-warming party sometime in June!



## The Future of our Church.....and YOU!!!!

The Vestry has received a request from the Diocese asking us to ***“comment on the impact a reduction in funding would have on your ability to maintain ministry in your charge. .... It would be helpful for the Diocese to have an up-to-date picture of the difference grant support makes to your charge and the extent to which you could absorb a decrease in grant: how that would be done and the impact it would have on ministry in your local area.”*** Provincial funding is decreasing and the Diocese will have a much smaller pot of money to distribute after 2018. The Vestry is preparing a response in the light of the fact that we would not be able to have a full-time priest without this funding. This is your congregation and I would like to ask for any contributions you would like to make to this report. Please speak to me or send me comments in writing before the 20 April.

Revd Joan (01224 740791 or [joanblyon@gmail.com](mailto:joanblyon@gmail.com))

## Emmaus: The Way of Faith

The four meetings to look at the sessions on “Called into Life” have been well received by our 9 participants. Not everybody has been able to come to every session but we have enjoyed getting to know each other better, eating together, studying, learning and praying.

We would like to continue during May and June with some new members although we will be without most of our student members as they take off for other interesting ventures during the summer.

Watch this space for more details in the May magazine.

The Emmaus course has been an effective tool for evangelism and adult initiation in the UK and throughout the world. Its authors, Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, John Finney, Felicity Lawson and Robert Warren happen to be Anglican but the course has been used successfully across different denominations. It is published by Church House Publishing.

## Wellsprings

This meditative prayer group continues to bless all who are gathering together. Do please join us at any time. This is a group which you can just slot in and out of when you would like to do so.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 6 April at 10am in the church** and then we shall have a short break until **11 May at 10am. Contact Revd. Joan for details**

We follow a way of praying that energises us and leaves us feeling more peaceful within ourselves and therefore more ready to engage with the reality of the life we live on a day to day basis.

It helps us to take time to discover the rich truths of the Word of God.

## Our Church Garden

Last year we agreed to help to keep the Church garden tidy but sadly this year we feel unable to volunteer. We had some very willing help for part of the time, which was very much appreciated. This sharing of the work made a tremendous difference and showed that if a team could be formed, each taking on a small part of the work, no task would be too onerous. As spring is on the way it might be a good time to think seriously about forming a team of people to undertake mowing, weeding, pruning, etc. **It would probably help to have one person co-ordinating.** This does not mean that they have to be available at all gardening sessions. Some tasks have to be done regularly, for example the mowing of the lawns, others as and when needed like weeding and pruning. We are happy to show volunteers how the mowers work and which parts of the garden are the responsibility of the Church.

We are very sad that we cannot help again this year but hope to be available to join in again in the not too distant future!

Janet and Paul

## Note from Joan - We need to build a wall! .....

.....not to keep people out but to keep our plants in. The wall at the front of the garden is not high enough to stop the soil from pouring out on to the pavement in the event of heavy rain and we need to do something about this. I have asked a gardening contact to give us an estimate of what we think this might cost and we need to think about what we would like a new wall to look like. Ideas, please!



## Social, Fundraising and Other Events

**Lord Hay's Court Service at 3.00pm on Palm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Craft Group** meets in church as usual on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Vestry** meets on Tuesday 2 May in the church at 7.30pm.

**Craft Fair – Saturday 6 May from 2pm – 4pm.**

Specialised crafters from across Aberdeen/shire will be displaying their goods for sale. Refreshments available. Please contact Revd. Joan if you would like to help.

### Christmas Quiz

The Christmas quiz money is now all in and has been forwarded to Church. The total of just over £205 shows what a very good team of sellers we had and what a good way of fund raising such quizzes are. We would like to thank all those who took quizzes for sale and helped towards this excellent total. We hope to have another quiz worked out for one of the summer coffee afternoons and will be looking for lots of willing sellers once again! Janet and Paul

### Church Contacts

St Ninian's Scottish Episcopal Church  
696 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 1SJ  
Church Ansaphone 01224 483887  
Church House: 01224 740791 Rectory  
[www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk](http://www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/stniniansaberdeen](http://www.facebook.com/stniniansaberdeen)  
Priest-in-charge: Reverend Joan Lyon  
Scottish Charity No. SC002429