

ST NINIAN'S SAYS: HARK!



PENTECOST

Sunday Services are held at 10.30am.

They include Holy Communion and finish at 11.45am.
Refreshments are served after the service, to which all
are warmly invited.

Wellsprings

Wellsprings is a contemplative prayer group which is
held on Thursdays 10-11am.

Craft Group

Tuesday 6th June 2-3.30pm

Open to all crafters and those seeking fellowship.

Dear Friends

Every Tuesday afternoon at the start of parliamentary business, a brief Time for Reflection is offered in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The contributors are representatives from faith and community groups and I was invited to offer this by our Member of the Scottish Parliament, Kevin Stewart. I had never visited the new Parliament just below the iconic Arthur's Seat and he kindly gave me a tour of this impressive building. It was a long way to go to offer a 4 minute reflection but it is such a good opportunity to address the members of parliament and I was privileged to do so. I share my Reflection with you below.

One particular Easter moment stood out for me this year, the moment when a young boy of 5 told me earnestly that Jesus died on a hot cross bun. It's not surprising that there is a level of confusion and mystery surrounding the Easter story – that, after all, was the initial reaction of Jesus' disciples. But there was obviously some connection in this child's mind between the cross which decorates the bun and the story he had heard about Jesus earlier that day in his school assembly. What stayed in his mind was but a small snippet of a much wider and deeper narrative.

Isn't that so often the case?

In your experience as those who represent the people of this country and certainly in mine as an Episcopal priest, we hear many conversations, listen to many stories; and sometimes we have to move on quickly to the next conversation or the next task. But, like the small boy and his hot cross bun, there is always more than meets the eye. There is always the other side of the conversation, perhaps even many sides, often unheard, frequently ignored or discounted. We don't take time to hear the whole story, to ask the open question, to allow space for the person talking to actually hear their own story in a new way.

When we read the Gospels, we see Jesus listening in this positive way; taking time to engage with people so that each conversation made a difference. The way of Jesus is a way of paying attention to people's individual stories and at the same time helping them to be part of the wider narrative of

Dear Friends continued

The way of Jesus is a way of paying attention to people's individual stories and at the same time helping them to be part of the wider narrative of God, that longing for all nations to actively pursue justice, mercy and equality. Every conversation counts.

In today's Time for Reflection, I'd like to encourage real conversations and perhaps more than 4 minutes reflection time, as, in the coming weeks, you seek to engage the nation with your story, your vision, your view of the future. When we listen for the whole story, there is always more. There's so much more than just enjoying the taste of a good hot cross bun.

The best stories, the clearest vision and the most positive view of the future arise out of good conversations and the deeper reflection which follows them.

Revd Joan

Refugee Festival Scotland

To celebrate Refugee Festival Scotland, Elphinstone Hall at Aberdeen University, will be hosting a Refugee Celebration in the form of a large Conversation Café on the afternoon of Saturday 1st July from 2 – 5 pm. Please come and meet the newcomers to Aberdeen whom we have supported in many ways but may not have actually met. Help them practise their English and enjoy a cup of tea together. There will be various stalls with information about the various groups who offer support to refugees. Particularly at this time where there is much misunderstanding and fear, it is vital that we open our hearts to those who have experienced what we would never want.

Just come along – no tickets required.

Prayer Matters

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

For Christians across the world as they face persecution and martyrdom in Christ's name. For those affected by terrorist attacks in Manchester, London and elsewhere. May they be witnesses to the power of God to bring good out of evil and calm out of chaos.

For the political situation in our country during the election, and around the world, particularly in Syria and the Korean Peninsula. May those in power be given wisdom and restraint in these difficult times.

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 head home or elsewhere for the summer.
- For Mary Chapman in South Africa welcoming her two new grandchildren. For all parents expecting babies at this time of celebration for the gift of new life, especially Kate and Victor as they prepare to welcome their third child this month.
- For those who are unwell, especially Chris Wright in residential care in Milltimber and his wife Jean; for Hilda Farman; for Revd Lisa Eunson, priest at Banchory, who is now in Glen O'Dee Hospital in Banchory, we pray for her to be upheld in prayer and in God's love in the time ahead. 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."

June Coffee Afternoon with Flowers

Saturday 24th June from 2-4pm

Following on from a successful flower themed coffee morning we had a couple of years ago, the Vestry decided that the June Coffee Afternoon should be on the theme of flowers. Donations of flowers, flower arrangements or help to arrange the flowers on the day would be greatly appreciated.

We will be taking a break in July due to the holidays, but will be back on 26th August.

Craft Fair & Christian Aid Coffee Afternoon News

We had an excellent turn out for this event and managed to raise £232 despite being two crafters down. Thanks to Pam for organizing it and to those who helped make it a success.

Our last Coffee Afternoon was held to raise funds for Christian Aid for which we raised £110 from the donations at the door, bakery goods and the plant sale courtesy of Paul and Janet. The £65 from the raffle will go to church funds. A big thank you to all who helped at both events, and to Ian and Conoll for providing the music – speaking of which...

MIDSUMMER MUSIC AT ST NINIAN'S

On Sunday 18th June at 12 noon

Our regular 10.30am Eucharist will be followed by some exciting music to complement our regular serving of tea and coffee! Classical guitarist Conall McKay and pianist Ian Lovegrove are preparing for a series of concerts in SE England and the Republic of Ireland and are offering us a 'sneak preview'. They will be joined by 'cellist Alex Warham.

All are welcome to join us, and if you just turn up for the music at 12 noon you'll be just as welcome. As ever, a donation to cover the tea, coffee, etc would be appreciated.

Photos Craft Fair



Sarella & Erika receiving prayer before departing for the Summer



Max who leaves
this month for a new job in Exeter.

News from the Tsukada Family

All my family are settled well. Mathew is struggling with his new Japanese school, especially with Japanese language. Sho is doing fine, but Ruri is still having hard time doing her homework. Tokiwa is utterly happy with both school and church. All our children have found good friends at St Margaret, so they look forward to every Sunday.

Anna is busy, having started working part-time twice a week in a nursery. It takes her almost an hour to commute! Still, she is good.

Surprisingly, I find joy in serving in this relatively big congregation in our diocese. So I am happy with the church, but not with the diocese. It sticks to the old way which has been destroying the diocese from inside.

It seems that I am staying here over three years. But I am still dreaming of going back to Scotland someday. *Revd John*

Dr Max Barnish

Max has been a member of St Ninian's for over three years and during that time he has contributed greatly not just to the music side of things, but as a valued member of the Young Adult Group, and for the past eighteen months the Vestry where he has contributed ideas and shared his personal vision for St Ninian's. Max leaves us this month to move to Exeter, and Joan and the Vestry wish him well and hope that he will keep in touch.

Stephanie Hunter's Ordination to the Diaconate

Please pray for Steph as she prepares for her ordination as Deacon in the Cathedral in Bradford on Saturday 1st July 2017 at 3 pm

Nick Bowry's Ordination to the Priesthood

Currently Assistant Curate at St Clement's, Mastrick, Nick will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday 17 June at St Clement's at 2.30pm. Please pray for Nick and the congregation as he prepares for this special day.

Social, Fundraising and Other Events

Lord Hay's Court Service at 3.00pm on Sunday 11th June.

Craft Group meets in church for their last meeting before the summer break on Tuesday 6th at 2pm. The **Summer Lunch** will be held on **Tuesday 20th June at 1pm in The Brig O'Don**. All are welcome and there's a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Vestry meets on Tuesday 13th June in the church at 7.30pm.

Coffee Afternoon – Saturday 24th June, 2-4pm

Quiz

After the success of the Christmas Quiz, Paul has produced another quiz with the summer theme of 'Flowers'. Donations are asked for each quiz with a suggested donation of 50p, so if you think you can 'persuade' friends and family to take part in the quiz, or if you know a local business, library, etc. who might take some on our behalf, please see Paul or Janet.

Church Contacts

St Ninian's Scottish Episcopal Church

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www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stniniansaberdeen

Priest-in-charge: Reverend Joan Lyon

Scottish Charity No. SC002429