Dear Friends,

Half way through this month, we celebrate Pentecost and the Birthday of the Church. Carrying on from last month's reflections of where St Ninian's is and where it is going, I thought I might make a few comments on 'church' in general and St Ninian's in particular.

Church is the Body of Christ here on Earth. Jesus left us when He ascended to heaven, but at Pentecost he sent His 'Helper', in the form of the Holy Spirit, to inspire His followers to carry on His work.

The early church was founded on 'community'. We are told in Acts that people gave up their possessions which were sold and their wealth used for the good of all. Thus, the early Christians lived for and in their community of believers. Following Christ also involved 'praising God' in the temple, then later in house churches, after they were persecuted and banned from the Temple and synagogues. The third strand of 'doing church' was the most important: spreading the Good News or Gospel of Christ so that others would come to know Jesus and be saved. And these are still the three main characteristics of church two thousand years later.

Each Sunday we come through our red doors to join together in community to listen to the Gospel being proclaimed, and to praise God in prayer and song. So far so good, but if that is all we do, we miss the point of being church, and that is *being* Christ's body here on earth – of *doing* Christ's work, as His hands, feet, and being His *voice* here, today in Seaton and Aberdeen. Its hard work being Christ-like, as that involves doing something – being proactive like Christ and reaching out to others.

Luckily, we seem to have grasped this. People who come through our red doors tend to comment on the warmth of our welcome and I have also heard people remark on how they feel loved, affirmed and valued - much like 'coming home' to their 'own family'. This is encouraging, and as I said last month, the Holy Spirit is definitely at work in our little church. It is carefully nudging us and moulding us as it prepares us for the next stage in our journey. However, we mustn't be complacent. We must be alert, and ready to respond whenever Christ calls us, and willing to go to wherever He calls us.

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, 12th & 26th May 2015, 2pm

WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY EVENTS

Donside Christian Partnership (DCP) invite you to their annual week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Sunday 17th May @6 pm: Holy Communion at St Ninian's. Joint service with the churches of Donside Christian Partnership to celebrate the beginning of our week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Wednesday 20th May @ 12 noon: Mass at St Joseph's RC, Woodside.
Sunday 24th May @ 2pm: BBQ at High Hilton Church of Scotland.

ALL WELCOME AT ALL EVENTS

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 prepare for their exams; our local Schools; members who can't be with us due to illness or frailty; and Hospital Chaplaincy.

WHAT'S ON @ St Ninian's?

MAY 2015

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday, 3rd May – Easter 5
10.30am: Holy Communion with Rev Dr Chris Brittain

Sunday, 10th May – Easter 6
10.30am: Holy Communion with the Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies
3.00pm: Lord Hay's Court Service Rev Elsie Fortune

Tuesday, 12th May
2.00pm: Craft Club @ St Ninian's

Sunday, 17th May – Easter 7
10.30am: Holy Communion with Rev Dr Chris Brittain
6.30pm: Holy Communion with TBC
Joint service with the churches of Donside Christian Partnership to celebrate the beginning of our week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Wednesday, 20th May
12 noon: DCP Joint Service at St Joseph's RC Church, Woodside.

Sunday, 24th May – Pentecost
10.30am: Holy Communion with the Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies
2pm: DCP BBQ at High Hilton, Church of Scotland

Tuesday, 26th May
2.00pm: Craft Club @ St Ninian's

Sunday, 31st May – Trinity Sunday
10.30am: Holy Communion with TBC

HARK

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HARK is the newsletter of St Ninian's Church
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