

# ST NINIAN'S SAYS: HARK!



## OCTOBER 2017

**Sunday** Services are held at 10.30am. They include Holy Communion and finish at 11.45am. STEPS (children's activities) fortnightly during service.

Refreshments are served after the service, to which all are warmly invited.

Ecumenical service at Lord Hay's Court – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm.

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[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

Dear Friends

In a former church house where I lived, there was a wood burning open fire. When summer time officially ended and I reluctantly turned the clock back an hour, I took refuge by lighting the fire on the first dark evening and eating toasted teacakes – now something of an annual ritual which helped me to reacquaint myself with the different rhythm to the shortening days, although a candle now has to suffice for a wood fire.

Our church life goes through different rhythms – a period of lightness during the summer months when regular activities are fewer and then a period of activity as the new students arrive amongst the familiar ones returning and other members come back from time away on holiday or being with family and friends further afield. My diary becomes fuller as every organisation with which I have contact, and the list is growing, seems to pick up this busier rhythm and organise meetings or conferences. Then as we settle down again, and before the Christmas season, we can experience a time for bringing new plans to growth and fruition.

What is important for me at any time in the year is our Sabbath rhythm. No matter what changes occur in our personal lives or our church life, we are called to gather before God as a community.....to acknowledge that we live within the arc of God's love at all seasons of the year, to seek forgiveness as we are reminded that God is with us even when we fail God, fail one another and fail ourselves, to thank God for the gifts brought to our door and into our hearts, to pray for our world and, in particular, for one another. With the shorter days, perhaps we are being called to deepen our practices of prayer and find a regular rhythm which brings us closer to God and God's desire to be close to us. The rhythm of God never ceases – let's pray that we can become one with that eternal purpose.

Revd Joan

## What's our building for?

**FINDING SPACE**..... it's an unexpected oasis of quiet after the noise of busy traffic on King Street; come in on a Sunday morning from just after 10am and see for yourself.

You can sit wherever you want – we have comfy chairs, no hard pews here

**FINDING EACH OTHER**.....there's always someone to say hello; we welcome everybody – babies, the elderly and everybody in between; we get to know each other because we are a small and diverse family congregation

**FINDING OURSELVES**.....time to think, to listen, perhaps to pray, to ask questions, or just to be....and to enjoy a good cup of coffee or tea

**FINDING GOD**..... through our singing, our prayers, through hearing the story of God from the Bible and finding our place in that story now, through our sharing of bread and wine as tokens of God's love for each one of us

**FINDING PURPOSE**.....we go out to share God's love asking God to be with us and show us what God might be calling us to do with our lives

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## STEPS – Spirituality through Education and Play – Sunday activity for our children to equip them for every day of the week.

A big thank you to our students, SarellaArkkila, Megan Shaw and Sophia Korpiun with the oversight of Nele Beutels for setting up a new fortnightly children's session during our 10.30am service. We would like our children to feel welcome, cared for and safe and plan to offer activities appropriate to our wide-age spread of children which will help them to engage with the Bible Stories. This will be based on an excellent resource produced by the Church of Scotland, called "Spill the Beans". All those involved will be DBS checked (Disclosure and Barring Service) in accordance with the Church's Safeguarding Policy.

**First session – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October and fortnightly thereafter.**

There will be some weeks when those leading and helping cannot come so if you would like to help out on an occasional basis, please contact Revd. Joan.

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## Social and Fundraising – Our big Craft Fair

Let's have St Ninian's humming with beautiful craftwork, friendly faces and good cake on

**Saturday 18 November from 2-4pm**

We need:            Raffle prizes (please bring to church at any time)  
                          Help to set up tables – 11am  
                          Donations of cake and help with refreshments  
                          Help to clear up – 4pm.

If you can help at some point in the day please contact Pam Shand on 07854 863442 or email [pamela.shand@googlemail.com](mailto:pamela.shand@googlemail.com).

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## Regular activities

**Wellsprings** - weekly time of reflection on bible readings and silent prayer – a time to deepen our practice of prayer and renew our spiritual energy – Thursday mornings at 10am at the home of Nele Beutels (07484203001).

**Craft Group**– meets in church fortnightly on Tuesdays from 2 – 3.30pm. Bring your own crafts or find something new to do. Boost your creativity and enjoy some company. Meetings in October on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Regular Food Bank donations** – please continue to fill up our large black bin (in coffee area) with goods for the local Food Bank which now has weekly distribution points in The Mission, St Machar's Drive and King's Community Church at the other end of King Street. Dried and tinned goods (probably less pasta and baked beans!) and toiletries.

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## What were our student members up to this summer?

### From Megan Shaw –Volunteering for First Aid Africa

In the summer I spent six weeks teaching First Aid with a charity called First Aid Africa in Uganda. We were based in a town in the Rwenzori Mountains called Fort Portal and stayed in a local family run youth hostel. It was amazing to experience a culture which is so different from my own, everyone was really friendly and so eager to help us in any way they could. My expedition group was assigned to teach in the local secondary schools; this turned out to be more of a challenge than I first thought!! There was huge variety between schools that were less than a mile apart. In one school three of us taught a class of 212 pupils in a classroom the size of one you would find for 30 pupils at home. There were students literally climbing through the windows!! Whilst teaching in another school we discovered that in Uganda they don't have lessons when it's raining due to

the noise from the corrugated roofs. I also had the chance to experience the Ugandan healthcare system when I dislocated my thumb and had to have a plaster cast for the remaining four weeks of the trip. Despite this on the weekends off, I still managed to go on Safari, visit the equator and see the Crater Lakes.

**We wish all our students well in their studies this year.**

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## Visit of the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA

### Most Reverend Michael Curry

Our new Primus, Bishop Mark Strange, the Cathedral Chapter and the Trustees of the Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Aberdeen, has invited all of us to **Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Sunday 5 November 2017** in St Andrew's Cathedral.

The service will include the Installation of the Revd Canon Dr C K Robertson (Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church)  
as Honorary Canon of the Cathedral.

This is a unique opportunity for our whole Diocese to come together to welcome Presiding Bishop Michael Curry into our worship and to listen to his words to us at this important time in world and church relations. Many of his sermons are available on Youtube and this will give you a flavour of what is in store for us. I commend this evening to you.

## Vestry Matters

The Vestry would like to welcome Pamela Shand and Jaime Buckingham as newly co-opted members of St Ninian's Vestry with thanks to them for their willingness to do so. Current members are:

Revd Joan Lyon, Chair  
Mrs Elizabeth Herlihy, Secretary  
Post of Treasurer – vacant  
Mr Victor Dongo, Lay Representative on Diocesan Synod  
& an elected member  
Post of Alternate Lay Representative - vacant  
Mr Ian Lovegrove, elected member  
Mrs Pamela Shand, elected member  
Ms Jaime Buckingham, elected member

### **POST OF TREASURER**

Mrs Margaret Hodder resigned from the post of Treasurer and Lay Representative on 29th August 2017 and we would like to record our thanks to her for all that she has done, not just as Treasurer, but in many other capacities in St Ninian's over the last 7 years.

As a charity, the church is legally required to keep an updated record of all our financial transactions and to present them on an annual basis, duly examined, to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Our finances are not complicated but do need the time and attention of a dedicated person. Until someone steps forward, we will have to pay a firm of accountants to do this on our behalf, thus using some of our small amount of reserves. Revd Joan is awaiting a quote from Gardner & Partners, Accountants, for the services of regular book-keeping and preparation of annual accounts.

The next Vestry meeting is on Tuesday 3 October at 7.30pm in the church. Please contact the Vestry Secretary if there is anything you would like to be discussed at this or future meetings.

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## Money Matters

### Church giving – Freewill Offering Envelopes

These envelopes are now available in the church dated week by week for the next year. If you would like to offer your donation to the church by this method, please put your name on the list to the envelopes on the table in the coffee area. If you are a tax payer, do please remember to fill in a Gift Aid declaration and the Tax Office will raise your contribution by 25%. Any questions? Please ask Mary Chapman (01224 935789).

### Easyfundraising for St Ninian's!

Every time you order something on the internet, please remember to use Easyfundraising.

This website, [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) allows you to search for retailers (including Amazon, M&S, Ebay, Tesco, John Lewis and lots of others) who offer a small percentage of the item price to St Ninian's Church, Aberdeen. You can also ask for a reminder to use Easyfundraising everytime you buy online.

Every penny counts and they do mount up, especially as we begin to think about Christmas presents!

Step-by-step:

1. Go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
2. Choose your retailer and you will be directed to that site
3. Choose St Ninian's Church, Aberdeen, as your charity of choice, make your purchase and a donation will be sent directly into the church bank account.
4. Encourage your friends and family to do the same!