

ST NINIAN'S SAYS: HARK!



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JULY/AUGUST 2017

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.

Bring & Share Lunch

To welcome Pastor and Mrs Teo
On Sunday 2nd July

Baptism of Cairstine Anudu

We look forward to the baptism of
Cairstine Obianuju Anudu, daughter of Goodluck and
Anthonia and sister to Cherry and Goodluck, on Sunday
2nd July 2017

Dear Friends

“*It’s all Greek to me*” is a phrase used when we just don’t understand something, when we read the instructions and they make no sense. The church can be skilled at this but it’s not Greek that’s the problem – it’s Latin! Because many of our religious words come from Latin, these can be lost for lack of translation. We hide behind words like “redemption”, “justification”, “transubstantiation”, “trinitarian” but they carry little meaning for our daily lives.

“Salvation” is one of these. Think of that classic phrase “Are you saved?” Saved from what? Saved for what? I’m fine, thanks, so no thanks!

Salvation can be understood in two ways – God is described as our rock and our salvation (Psalm 89:26) to whom we cling when all is chaos around us. We hide behind this rock safe from everything that is going on outside. There are times when that is what we need and all that we can do. But that is to ignore another way of thinking about salvation which comes from the Latin *salvus* and means *safe, healthy, unharmed*.

How safe, healthy, unharmed is life in Aberdeen? Can we see our communities as broad spaces where everybody can live in safety? Jesus lived in a “broad space” despite the surrounding danger and crossed many borders willingly. This took him to the cross but led millions to follow that way which actually brings freedom as we claim our “salvation” – the right to be in a broad space in freedom, safety and health – and to find calm in the chaos which can surround us.

Apologies for the Latin lesson but it’s good to know our roots!

Revd Joan

First published in Saturday Sermon for Press & Journal 10th June 2017

Seaton Speaks

Revd Joan will be the guest on the radio programme “Seaton Speaks” on Monday 3rd July at 10am – SHMU radio 99.8fm or listen online.

www.shmu.org.uk

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. Margaret and Mike Hodder are representing St Ninian's at Steph's Ordination and First Service as a Deacon. Photos in the next Hark!

Vestry Membership

Due to the departure of two of our Vestry members, there are two vacancies on our Vestry who can be co-opted at any point in the year. This is your opportunity to find out more about and to have a say in how our church is run. The Vestry is open to all members of St Ninian's. Please speak to Joan or any member of the Vestry if you would like to serve in this capacity.

Help needed

Our rota is a bit thin at the moment and help is needed particularly on the Coffee and IT front, but it would be very useful to also have some people who were willing to help out with the Coffee Afternoons. See Pam to go on the rota and any Vestry member about helping with fundraising.

Thank you to our musician, Ian, and his friends for giving us a lovely summer concert of music after our service on 18th June. We enjoyed music arranged for piano, guitar and cello with both solo, duet and trio pieces. A magnificent £60 was raised for our funds.

Summer Services: Ian will be away for several weeks over the summer holidays which means that we may have visiting musicians or we may sing "a capella". Thank you to Ian, and also to Leon, who plays with us from time to time, for inspiring our worship in the way that you both do.

Welcoming Church for Everybody

On Sunday 2 July we shall be joined by Pastor David Teo and his wife Betty who are in Aberdeen on sabbatical from Singapore where they run St Andrew's Autism Centre in the Anglican Chapel of Christ our Hope. Pastor David is going to tell us about their work in their special centre and how they make people with different abilities welcome. St Ninian's prides itself (if pride is allowed!) on being a welcoming church so in this occasion we shall have a short communion service followed by a **BRING AND SHARE LUNCH** and then an opportunity to hear more.

and a welcoming church for our children – Being Family Together

We are delighted to welcome Anthonia Anudu and her family of 3 as well as the addition of little Myles to the Dongo family. A group from the congregation has been looking at how we can include all our children to support and encourage their faith. You may see some new initiatives.....

- Some changes to the children's space near the font placing it further away from the projector and the font (not something you would want your child to knock their head against)
- Regular children's activities in the coffee area during the service organised by some of our student members with the oversight of Nele Beutels – possibly twice per month beginning in September and during term time.
- Regular All Together worship services as we have done previously on e.g. Mother's Day, Harvest
- A continuation of the Time to Talk to introduce the theme of the day which will be picked up in the activities for the children.
- Purchase of good quality play resources which will help the children to weave the Bible stories into their own experience (thanks to Bishop Bob, we have dedicated money for this)

- An opportunity, if the children so wish, to talk about what they have been doing at Notice Time.....and for you all to continue this conversation with the children at Coffee Time

This will happen gradually over the next few months so if you have friends with children or grandchildren coming to visit, please think about inviting them along.

And if you would like to help out on an occasional basis with the children's activity, please speak to Nele.

Cake and Connect Conversation Cafe

We are delighted to invite you to this special event to celebrate Refugee Festival Week Scotland 2017.

VENUE: ELPHINSTONE HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

DATE: JULY 1ST 2017 TIME: 2-5pm

The theme of the event will be connections between our local community and Aberdeen's New Scots.

This will be an event to meet new people, learn about exciting opportunities in Aberdeen and find out more about different cultures.

Please bring with you a "home-bake" which can be shared with others, ideally something that has a story or a special connection to your life.

Please RSVP to Susan Morrison by June 28th 2017 - susan.morrison@acvo.org.uk or phone 01224 686070

Donations for Food Bank

The Mission in St Machar's Drive and King's Community Street in King Street in conjunction with the Trussell Trust are opening Food Bank distribution points on two different days in the week. They will be in constant need of donations and are happy to pick these up from our church. There is a large bin in the coffee area so please add some items as you do your own shopping so that our bin can be a sign of our generosity.

Change to the Canon Law on Marriage

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church today voted in favour of altering the church's Canon on Marriage to remove the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman and add a new section that acknowledges that there are different understandings of marriage which now allow clergy to solemnise marriage between same sex couples as well as couples of the opposite sex. The revised canon also stipulates that no member of clergy will be required to solemnise a marriage against their conscience.

This decision has not been taken lightly and only after many years of consultation and debate. Much of this process has been painful – painful for those who have experienced decades of discrimination against their given humanity as they desire to receive the holy sacraments of the church – painful for those who fundamentally disagree with this new understanding of marriage. In our small piskie church, we seek to find room and safe space for all. In passing this resolution, we have voted to retain this principle. No priest will be instructed or forced to marry anyone against their conscience but others who rejoice in this new liberation may freely do so.

The College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church will now adopt pastoral guidelines and principles to enable clergy who so wish to be nominated to the Registrar General for authorisation to solemnize weddings of same sex couples. As your priest, I make it clear that I will be happy to be counted amongst those who are willing to marry any couple, irrespective of gender, given that their intentions and commitment towards each other are faithful and committed.

Revd Joan

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 those affected by the Grenfell Tower Fire and their families and friends, and all those who live in tower blocks who might be afraid at this time. May they be upheld in God's love.

For the political situation in our country, and around the world, particularly in Syria and the Korean Peninsular. 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 those who are unwell, especially Chris Wright in residential care in Milltimber and his wife Jean; for Hilda Farman; for Paul and Janet. For those we carry on our hearts that they may know your peace in body, mind and spirit.
- For all those who mourn, especially the family and friends of the Revd Lisa Eunson. May they know God's presence during their time of grief.
- 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."

Social, Fundraising and Other Events

Lord Hay's Court Service: NB there are no services in July and August. Normal service will resume in September.

Craft Group- resumes in September with a welcome lunch to which all are invited. Date to be arranged.

Wellsprings – finishes for the summer on Thursday 29th June and will resume in September. Details in the next Hark!

Vestry meets on Tuesday 29th August in the church at 7.30pm.

Coffee Afternoon – Saturday 26th August, 2-4pm

“Fling wide the doors”

St Ninian's Church is easy to find – just look for the church with the red doors. We have now signed up to Aberdeen Open Doors Day on **Saturday 9th September from 10am – 4pm** so that people may come through our red doors and discover our tranquil space and a warm welcome.

Welcomers (2 at a time) **will be needed throughout the day.**

Church Contacts

St Ninian's Scottish Episcopal Church

696 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 1SJ

Church Ansaphone 01224 483887

Church House: 01224 487241 ***New Number***

www.stniniansaberdeen.aodiocese.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stniniansaberdeen

Priest-in-charge: Reverend Joan Lyon

Scottish Charity No. SC002429