

ST NINIAN'S SAYS:

HARK!



Services in August

10.30am Said Holy Communion using Iona Liturgy (adapted)

On 26th August, Dr Leon van Ommen will be talking about his experiences visiting different L'Arche communities in the course of his research about "joy".

Services in September

2nd Congregational Gathering Day beginning with a short Service of Holy Communion at 10Am – see separate sheet for information.

9th Sung Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am

16th Farewell Service for Revd Joan Lyon & Confirmation of Jaime Buckingham taken by Bishop Anne Dyer.

23rd & 30th To be announced

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

(Jeremiah 29:11)



Dear Friends

This is my last letter to you as your priest. During my ministry and in my life before ordination I have had the privilege of living and working in very different places. Location, housing, different languages, different accents, some rural, some urban, size of church building and congregation – what a variety! However, when I have moved on, the hardest thing is to say goodbye to the people.

What stays with me is the uniqueness of each church community worldwide ever since the early days of the churches set up by the apostles as they travelled from place to place. Our communities flourish because we, as church members, have something to say – and it's good news. There is no other institution whose members gather voluntarily week by week across the whole country to share this good news and to learn more about it.

I have spoken to so many people with amazing faith stories to tell. We all have this treasure within us and God's treasure store of love is for sharing. The church community is the place where that faith can be sustained and developed but then, the most important part, carried out into our own communities. Faith is not a private enterprise. How we share our faith is unique to us because God calls us in different ways but share it we must.

In Aberdeen, I have had the joy of doing this within the church but also with colleagues working for the council, for different agencies in Aberdeen seeking to improve the welfare of those whose lives are stretched to the limit, those working in other churches and faiths and voluntary organisations. I do not go in with my Bible in my hand but I feel very strongly that unless the voice of the church is heard, our good news story will disappear. We become some alien group which operates in mysterious ways. Remember that the voice of the church is the voice of Jesus who gives us the words to speak. When we read the Gospels, we hear Jesus' words highlighting love for our neighbour, justice, peace, listening, speaking when the moment is right. Some of those who followed him realised how challenging this would be and turned away. (John 6:60-66). It is not always an easy road as we experience our own personal challenges along the way.

But God calls us to be faithful; faithful to the extent that he showed us in sending us his Son Jesus to show us the way and not to be fearful as we take this path.

What has sustained me and what I pray for you, as individuals and as the body of Christ gathered in St Ninian's Church, is the continual discovery of new dimensions of God's love. I leave you with words from St Paul.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen" Ephesians 3: 20

Thank you for all your support and what you have offered me over the last three years. May you know God's blessing in all that you do.

Revd Joan

.....and into the future with news from Bishop Anne

After much prayer and consideration for the congregations of St Ninian's, Seaton and St Clement's, Mastrick, the Bishop is minded to have the same priest caring for both congregations. For this next year this will be Revd Nick Bowry, under the supervision of the Bishop. Nick is currently serving the third year of his curacy at St Clement's. Detailed conversations still need to take place about the start date for this new pattern of ministry. Please keep Reverend Nick and Bishop Anne in your prayers.

REVEREND JOAN'S FAREWELL SERVICE & CONFIRMATION OF JAIME BUCKINGHAM

Bishop Anne Dyer will be presiding on Sunday 16 September 2018 at 10.30am when we gather for the Confirmation of Jaime Buckingham and to say farewell to Revd Joan. There will be a Bring and Share Lunch afterwards. Please indicate to Anne Keenlyside on anne.keenlyside@btinternet.com if you are coming to either or both the service and the lunch so that we can find enough chairs!

MONTHLY SERVICE AT LORD HAY'S COURT

Sunday 9th September at 3pm – refreshments and worship. This will be Reverend Joan's last Sunday with this lovely group of people who gather to learn about and share God's love.

CRAFT GROUP

On Tuesday 4th September, the Craft Group will come together again for any kind of craft – painting, card-making, knitting, crochet....whatever you would like to bring with you or pick up when you are here. 2pm-3.30pm in the Church – refreshments always on the go. This is a small group so do please bring your friends or come along for the first time yourself and make some new friends. Please use church side entrance in the car park.

First meeting: 4th Sept and fortnightly thereafter. Contact: Anne Keenlyside on anne.keenlyside@btinternet.com.

YOUNG ADULTS' RETREAT, ST DROSTAN'S LODGE, TARFSIDE, GLENESK

Friday 12-Sunday 14 October 2018

St Ninian's Church Young Adults Group has previously joined with others from St Mary's, Carden Place for two weekend retreats. This year we would like to extend an invitation to all young adults in

the diocese (must be 18+ but the upper age limit is very flexible). It's a chance for young adults from across the diocese to experience a retreat, spend time together and share experiences with friends old and new.

The retreat will include whole group activities, worship, time in silence, and opportunities to go walking in the beautiful countryside. There is a cost for the weekend which includes transport, food and accommodation but we are able to offer assistance from a grant already received from the Diocese.

For more information, please contact Jaime Buckingham at church or via the Diocesan Office. (office@aberdeen.anglican.org)

DONATIONS FOR REFUGEES

Most of the donations which have been held in our basement have now been distributed to the Syrian refugees across Aberdeen. Thank you to so many of you who have offered help in this way. The remainder will be taken to the pop-up charity shop run by Woodside Parish Church at 346 George Street during the week beginning 13 August.

Mary Chapman from our congregation is acting as the link with the City Council Syrian Refugee Project, and will be in touch with you should there be a specific need for the Syrian families.

CHURCH GIVING

How would you prefer to do this? Options are:

- **Freewill Offering Envelopes** marked with weekly dates are available at the back of the church. Bring these to church and put them in collection plate during the service.
- **Monthly Standing Order** via your bank account – this is the easiest way for you and it helps with church budgeting. Standing Order forms available.
- **Open Plate offerings** – simply putting your offering in the collection plate during the service (and remembering to give for the weeks you are unable to come to church).

Please note that **all of these methods can be gift aided** which adds 25% to each amount via the Government Gift Aid Scheme. This makes a huge difference to our income and is available to any tax payer, whether in work or retired. Gift Aid forms are available.

If you have any questions please speak to Elizabeth Herlihy, Vestry Secretary elizabethmackenzieherlihy@gmail.com or Claire Milne, Gift Aid Secretary lesleyesleymilne@outlook.com

SPONSORSHIP FOR CHURCH FUNDS

Please remember to sponsor Anthonia Anudu on her half marathon run through the streets of Aberdeen – 13.5 miles! - which takes the runners past our church on Sunday 26th August 2018. With your support she will be raising money for St Ninian's Church.

Sponsor form is on the table in the coffee area. This is a noble effort – a half marathon is a long way! Let's cheer her on!

WEDDING

Johanna Martin, a student member of our congregation, and Sam Ainsworth will be married on Saturday 25 August at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Dunblane. We wish them every blessing and happiness. Revd Joan will be attending the wedding so will be able to report back on this happy day!

R.I.P.

Christopher Wright, a long-standing member of this congregation died peacefully on 8th August. Chris suffered a severe stroke four years ago, spent much of this time being cared for at home, then moved into permanent nursing home care before being admitted to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for his last weeks. His funeral will be held on Friday 17 August at 1pm at King's College Chapel in the University of Aberdeen where he was a staff member of the Sociology Department for many years.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

DIOCESAN NEWS

New appointees who will join our Diocese in the next two months.....

Revd Lynsay Downs as Rector of St Ternan's, Banchory 2pm: Sat 11 August.

Revd Canon Neil Brice installed as a Canon in the Cathedral at 6.30pm on Sun 2 Sept.

Revd Canon Gerry Bowyer as Rector of St Devenick's, Bielside at 2.30pm on Sat 15 Sept.

Revd Terry Taggart as Rector of St Mary's, Carden Place, Aberdeen at 7.30pm on Thurs 27 Sept.

.....and a new Centre of Mission. The Church Army and the United Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney are together establishing a Centre of Mission in Aberdeen City. The Centre of Mission will build on and extend the work done over a number of years by the Church Army Evangelists Gerry and Jo Bowyer. The Centre will be resourced from three locations, St Devenick's Bielside, the missional community Caf4e in the Bridge of Don, and Caf4e at Credo in the city centre.

In September Revd Capt Gerry Bowyer moves to be Rector of St Devenick's, Bielside and will become the leader of the Centre of Mission. Jo Bowyer will continue to be based at Credo, the café in the city centre that is the location of a fresh expression of church with Caf4e. A third church army evangelist will be appointed to lead the Caf4e community at the Bridge of Don. Through the Centre of Mission, the Church army and the Diocese will look to resource evangelism in partnership with other churches, including ecumenical partners.

Mrs Maureen Lerche took up her post at the beginning of the summer as **Bishop Anne's Personal Assistant**. We wish her well as she finds her way through the intricacies of church, diocesan and provincial administration.

Wanted! - a new Centrepost Editor, to collate information on events taking place throughout the diocese and list them in Centrepost (which is circulated monthly to all congregations by email) and on the website calendar. The Centrepost Editor also has a key role within our Diocesan Communications Team and has a seat on the Diocesan Information and Communications Committee and on the smaller Editors sub-group. For further conversations about this role or other roles within the Diocesan Communications Team, please contact Mary McKinnell, the IT Officer in the Diocesan Office at itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org or on 01224 662247.

PRAYER PRODUCE! (Offered by Anthonia Anudu)

When we get to the other side of eternity, outside this passing world, one of the things I believe will happen is that believers would see the effect of their prayers.

We will be able to see what we accomplished through the great power in prayer.

Someone like Epaphras who according to Paul always laboured FERVENTLY for the Colossian Church would be able to see the lives of those in the church and how his prayer enabled them stand perfect in all the will of God both in living and preaching this gospel. Apostle Paul will get to see many whom his prayer helped to discover ministry because after he prayed, they began to see the Purpose of God's calling. But then, many people that have spent many times in prayer and had vigils will look and not find anything their prayer did in eternity.

They will see that the cars they received through vigils, the promotion they got after fasting and the contract they got after prayers never made it outside time.

Many will see that their prayer times were spent on things that could not stand time. Things that doesn't count in eternity.

Dear friend, what takes your time in prayer?

Your need for money? The next contract in view? Promotions? Enemies fighting your life?

One question, when our prayer works shall be tested, is there anything that will stand? Is there anything that made it to eternity? Anything?

Spend your prayer time praying for that which will count in eternity.

Examples:

Pray for the gospel! That it grows in different cities and prevails.

Pray for ministers of the gospel, that utterance be given to them, that they be delivered from evil

Pray for saints in your local church and other churches, that they stand perfect in all the will of God.

Pray for believers that they receive revelation in the knowledge of Christ such that they be aware of the exceeding greatness of God's power for and in them. There are many more things you can accomplish relevant to eternity through prayers.

This is the reason for prayer! For those things that only prayer can do.

Those results that money can't buy, oratory can't solve and fame can't achieve, these are what prayer was designed to solve.

After you have prayed!

Would you look around in eternity and point at one person that your prayer changed?

Would your prayer answers be seen in eternity or end with time?

And amazingly as you pray selflessly, that same prayer affects you, changes you and shapes you.

Pray as much as you sleep always. Pray today, tomorrow and all the days of your life.

"The first step to getting ENOUGH SLEEP is first by knowing that SLEEP CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH and that SLEEPING a WHOLE DAY doesn't exempt you from tomorrow's sleep." Amen!



ST NINIAN'S Who's Who

Priest-in-charge & Vestry Chair

Reverend Joan Lyon

joanblyon@gmail.com 01224 487241

Church ansaphone 01224 483887

Vestry Members:

Vestry Secretary Mrs Elizabeth Herlihy

elizabethmackenzieherlihy@gmail.com 01224 587734

Treasurer Vacant

Lay Representative to Synod Mr Victor Dongo donvik009@yahoo.com

Elected members

Mrs Anne Keenlyside anne.keenlyside@btinternet.com

Mr Ian Lovegrove ianlovegrove@hotmail.com

Ms Jaime Buckingham jaime@the-buckinghams.com

Mrs Pam Shand pamela.shand@googlemail.com

Ms Gioia Barnbrook gbarnbrook@googlemail.com

If you would like to raise any item of interest to our church for discussion at a Vestry meeting, please contact the Vestry Secretary.

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Claire Milne lesleylesleymilne@outlook.com

STEPS Organiser (Children's activities) Mrs Nele Beutels nele_beutels@hotmail.com

Craft Group, Mrs Janet Lawrence drpaul.lawrence@btinternet.com

Young Adults Group Ms Jaime Buckingham jaime@the-buckinghams.com

Rota Organiser, Mrs Pamela Shand pamela.shand@googlemail.com

Music Mr Ian Lovegrove ianlovegrove@hotmail.com

Magazine Sophia Korpiun sophia.korpiun@gmail.com

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