

Ninian's



News



St Ninian's Scottish Episcopal Church
Saltburn Road
Invergordon
IV18 0HH
Charity No: SCO13625

Weekly Services

Sundays	10:30
Wednesdays	10:00

See Diary for other services and events

June 2017



When Darkness Descends

Last week we were away deep into England near Kidderminster for my niece's wedding. It took place over the weekend and the happy couple very much did their own thing, not following some notion of how things should be and how much should be spent. Much of the proceedings took place on a camp site with the guests camping and the reception and dancing in a marquee. Their families made all the decorations, table cloths and table centre-pieces and everything had a bicycle theme. They are really serious about their cycling and spent 11 months cycling through the Far East a couple of years ago. If their relationship can stand that it can probably stand anything. We also visited my parents in Shropshire and saw how the other half live by visiting Chatsworth, which Anna has wanted to visit for some time.

Then we got home to the smell of burning and a note on the kitchen table from our neighbour assuring us that any burning smell was as a result of a fire that had raged for three days in the woods at Spinningdale. Sure enough, the fire brigade turned up for the



third day running. It seems likely that someone camping by the side or the road or a carelessly discarded cigarette end set the tinder-dry vegetation alight and fanned by a very strong wind, the fire soon took hold and swept through a large patch of the broad-leaved woodland between the main road and the shore of the Dornoch Firth. What a contrast with our joyous camping weekend.

We walked through the woods this morning and it looks a mess. It will be some time before the full extent of the damage becomes clear – just how many trees have been damaged along with the devastated understory. It doesn't take much to turn a peaceful scene or a peaceful life into something which looks bleak and hopeless. Just one little act or omission and things change in a very short space of time. A cigarette end beside the road, a bomb at the Manchester Arena, and light and joy turns to blackness and despair. As the summer progresses, new life will emerge from the blackened ground, and the kindness of strangers, friends and family in Manchester will show the love of God to those whose lives have been torn apart by the senseless action of a single individual. Things will never be the same again, some trees in Spinningdale Wood will die, just as 22 people have died in Manchester. Both will leave a huge hole. Young folk and their parents will have to live with the psychological trauma and lasting physical injuries. but we pray that the miracle of God's healing power will be there and slowly new life and growth will happen. Our Christian hope is that good things will emerge out of tragedy, though the road will not be easy for many many people Meantime our prayer are with those who weep and watch and wait.

Blessings James

Tea Tales and Treats Games Night

Games Night, or more accurately Games Afternoon, at 3Ts. Now don't go thinking Roulette, Poker, 3 card Brag, Snooker or highly competitive Bridge, I'm talking Beetle Drive, Headache, Connect 4, Downfall and the like! Yes children's games that we, the more mature children, could have a fun afternoon playing.

Unfortunately once again the bus wasn't available but no worries, those of us with cars did the taxi run and so we had a full complement of players. Doreen, Lynn and I played a game called Headache which I had brought and nobody had heard of!! This was a game my daughters had played so it was quite an age, possibly 40 + years, we used to have great fun with it but it took me a wee while to remember the rules by which time poor Lynn was bored witless but Doreen and I laboured on with it. I think with 4 people playing it would have been more exciting, sorry Lynn! However everybody knows how to play Connect 4 and Beetle and more modern games and by the amount of clapping and cheering and banter that was going round the room a good time was had by all. I had taken a game called Shut the Box but nobody tried it. I wonder, does anybody know of this game? If you do can you let me know? I think it used to be played in pubs as shove ha'penny was and NO, I didn't spend my youth in pubs! Our friends from Kintyre were able to come this month; they don't always do so as they have other things to do, it was lovely to see them.

Tea was as usual excellent and obviously enjoyed by all as there wasn't a great deal left over; it is very satisfying seeing all the plates full of sandwiches and cakes steadily emptying. It's lucky we have a very large teapot as refills are always appreciated. If you haven't come to a TEA TALES and TREATS afternoon perhaps you may like to pop in, we do something different every month.

Philippa Nairn

How Does The Lord Speak to You?

In life, it is sometimes easier to give in to the feeling that God isn't there anymore than to work at prayer. Recently, after a conversation with a tired and despairing friend, I stood at my kitchen window gazing out at the garden, past the blossom on the apple tree, the pink clematis clambering eagerly over the shed, the daffodils and tulips still brightly blooming, sadly thinking of her words as she left.... 'usually the glass is half-full for me, Julia, but now I feel that it's half-empty

The world seems such a fragile place and I'm sure that many of us grapple daily with the uncertainties which every day brings in the news and at home. I began to see how easily I had slipped into the same frame of mind as my friend, unable to remember the last time I'd had a good chat with God. Had I stopped looking for him, I wondered? Drearly, I carried on with the job I'd been doing before my friend arrived – clearing out some books to donate to the local charity shop. One of the books particularly stood out with a lovely cover photo of a Lighthouse, standing on a clifftop overlooking a calm, blue sea. As I skimmed through the pages, my eye was caught by these beautiful words from the Song of Songs.

Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come..... The Lord speaks to us in so many different ways, doesn't he.

Julia Raban Williams

Services & Events

All Events at St Ninians Unless Noted Otherwise

- 04/06 **Pentecost**
1030 Sung Eucharist
- 06/06 1415 Eucharist Perrins Centre (Alness)
- 07/06 1000 Eucharist
- 11/06 **Trinity**
1030 Sung Eucharist
- 14/06 1000 Eucharist
1430 Tea, Tales and Treats
- 15/06 1200 Eucharist at the Crask Inn
- 16/06 1930 ERICG AGM.
Kilmuir & Logie Easter CofS
- 18/06 **Pentecost 2**
1030 Sung Eucharist
2359 Magazine Deadline
- 20/06 1415 Eucharist Perrins Centre (Alness)
- 21/06 1000 Eucharist
- 25/06 **Pentecost 3**
1030 Sung Eucharist
- 28/06 1000 Eucharist
1430 Service at Kintyre

Cathedral Events

- 03/06 1930 Kelvin Chamber Orchestra
- 04/06 1800 Thy Kingdom Come
(Global Prayer Event)
- 06/06 1330 Watoto (Ugandan Children) Choir
1900 Watoto (Ugandan Children) Choir
- 09/06 1900 Friendly Access Concert
- 10/06 2000 Mahler in Miniature
- 23 to 25/06 Quilting Exhibition

Useful Contacts

Ministry Team

Interim Priest in Charge.

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Magazine

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East Ross Inter-Church Group

There was a good crowd of people in St Andrew's Tain for the May meeting, eagerly awaiting a talk by Jude Monson about the work of The Highlands Supports Refugees. Unfortunately, due to a mix up with dates and a family bereavement, Jude was unable to be with us but hopes to arrange an alternate date.

We were fortunate to have Donald Grant with us, who, as some of us know, is embarking on a programme of training for ministry. Donald had his tablet/iPad with

him so was able to share the presentation he made recently as part of his course. He invited us to imagine ourselves as each of the characters, including the donkey, in the story of the Good Samaritan and to explore our feelings and how we might have acted in the circumstances. His talk was thought provoking and very well received. Hopefully our response was encouraging for him as he waits for feedback from his tutors.

We then enjoyed the usual time of fellowship, it was lovely to catch up with Margaret Fox and other members of St Andrew's congregation, as well as people from the other churches involved in the group.

The next meeting is the AGM on Friday 16 June at 7.30pm, at Kilmuir and Logie Church of Scotland.

Alison Ferguson



**EASTER ROSS
INTER-CHURCH
GROUP**