

Ninian's



News



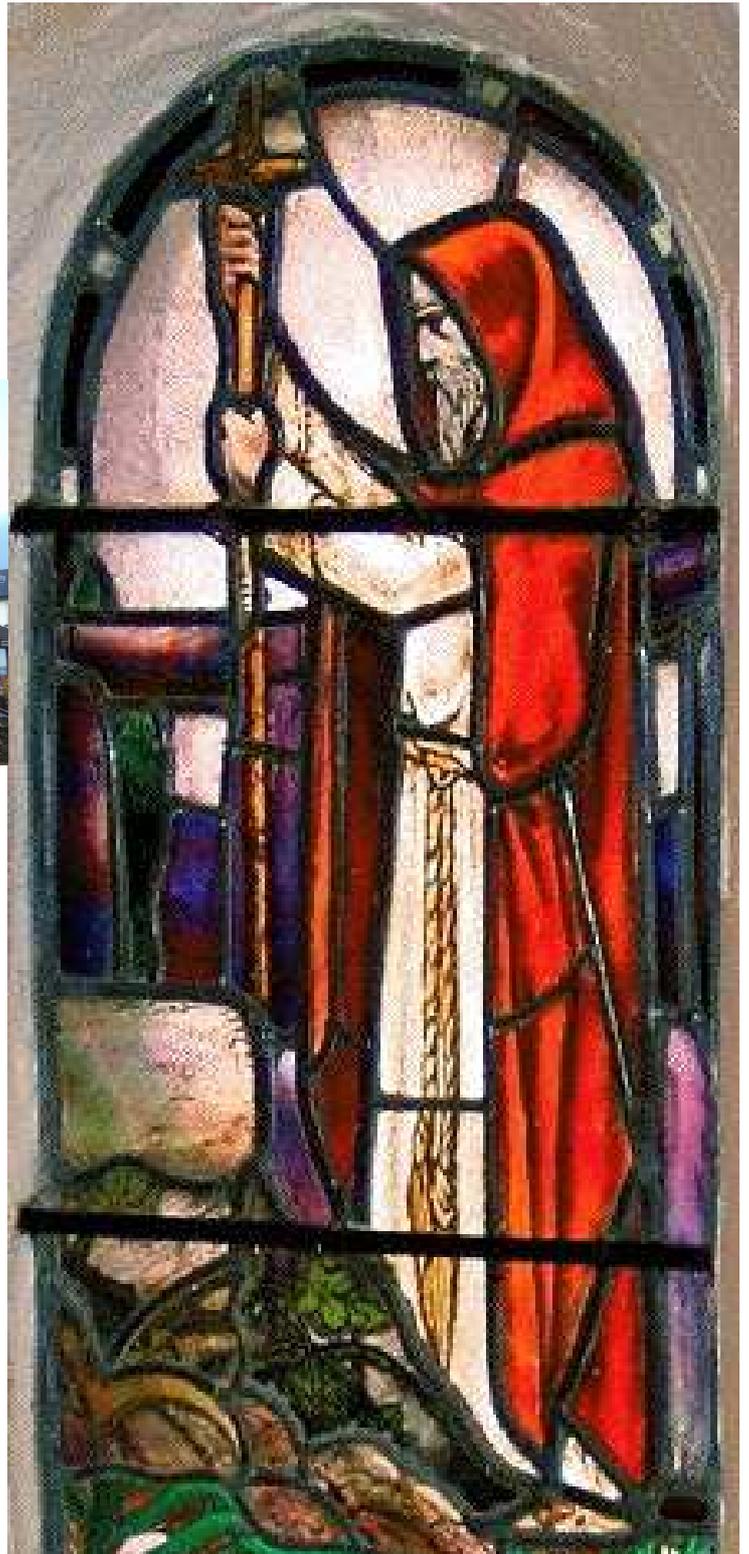
St Ninian's Scottish Episcopal Church
Saltburn Road
Invergordon
IV18 0HH
Charity No: SCO13625

Weekly Services

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Sundays | 10:30 |
| Wednesdays | 10:00 |

See Diary for other services and events

October 2017



Thresholds of Growth

Yesterday in Tain, we hosted the Easter Ross Inter Church Group's annual Songs of Praise. The theme that we chose, a couple of days after the autumn equinox, was Harvest. There was a very good crowd who were in fine voice, St Andrew's Church was suitably decorated and there were lovely things to eat afterwards as we shared fellowship in the hall. It was a fitting celebration to mark the end of summer and all the good things that it has brought.

However, the end of one thing marks the beginning of something else. In the case of the seasons, what is beginning is obvious, the end of summer marks the beginning of autumn; but at other times, the end of something seems very much the end and doesn't readily seem like a beginning. These points are what the spiritual writer Margaret Silf calls 'Crossing-Places' and she lists bridges and gateways,



causeways and burial grounds – yes burial grounds. Whilst all these types of place can be found in a literal sense, they can also be found in metaphors of what we are facing in our lives; those places where we are crossing from one world to another.

When I was in training for ministry, we spent our summer schools at Kinnoull Monastery near Perth and part of the week was a couple of days of silent retreat. I had been reading one of Margaret Silf's books (*Sacred Spaces: Stations on a Celtic Way*) and I went for a walk down the hill from the monastery, through the park, part way across the railway bridge onto an island in the middle of the Tay.



at the upstream end, I could see the traffic on the road bridge, hear the trains on the railway bridge, and see the ford back to the mainland and the old cemetery. I suddenly realised that I was at the confluence of many crossing places and as I reflected I began to see that perhaps the lack of certainty about where I thought I might be heading in ministry, might not simply

be waiting on God, but a more active trying not to hear what God was saying and a failure to commit. Perhaps not quite in the same league as Jonah's heading off in the opposite direction when God asked him to go to Nineveh (as we heard in the Hebrew Scriptures on Sunday), but a reluctance to accept God's will all the same.

Crossing-places can be difficult, something to do with crossing into the unknown. Imagine how the disciples felt when the leader that they had followed and come to rely

on was suddenly taken from them. They saw it as an ending, but never in their wildest dreams did they see it as a new beginning. Even when three days later Jesus started His post-resurrection appearances, it took them some time, and a certain persistence on Jesus' part, to grasp the new beginning and run with it.

We arrive at crossing-places: when we come up against resistance along our chosen path or barriers which give us a choice – to fall back in despair or break through into something new. We arrive at crossing-places when we suddenly find ourselves in a new and perhaps frightening stage of our lives or face the challenge of new demands or loss of control over what we are doing or where we are going. We arrive at crossing-places when we are forced to face our own mortality, including the death of our dreams and wonder about what it all means and whether we have missed something in it all.

All the congregations in the north-east of our Diocese are at crossing-places, one way or another. New ministry is anticipated, just beginning or temporarily postponed. Any or all of the descriptions in the previous paragraph may apply and the challenge for all of us is to move beyond what has ended into what is starting to emerge as a new beginning. We stand at the threshold of the growth that those new beginnings offer. The nights may be “fair drawin’ in” as we move into autumn, but the autumn fruits in the hedgerows don't just mark the end of the long days of summer, but the start of a new season full of anticipation and promise and an unshakeable hope in God's goodness to us.

Blessings to you all.

James

Regional Synod

On Saturday 7th October a meeting of the Northern Synod will take place at St. James' Dingwall, starting at 10.30am. with the Eucharist. This is an opportunity to meet with other people from our part of the Diocese and to discuss issues relevant to us in a less formal setting than the annual Diocesan Synod. In the afternoon there will be a presentation by Rev Sarah Murray on “Mission Shaped Initiative”, which should be very interesting.

Anyone who would like to attend please see Val, who can provide transport.

Val Dunford

News From The Pews

We send our love and good wishes to Babs Brandon, who will be moving to Dunfermline on 7th October to be near her daughter Jay. Babs has been a member of St. Ninian's for many years, born and brought up in Invergordon and worshipping here with her late husband Den, bringing along many members of her family over time, serving on the vestry and providing refreshments for any events that took place. We are going to miss her but wish her every blessing in her new home and hope and pray she will make new friends there.

Congratulations to Robin and Philippa Nairn who will celebrate 20 years of marriage on 11th October and will renew their wedding vows at St. Ninian's Sunday service on the 15th.

Val Dunford

Evening Prayer



At our Vestry meeting it was suggested that a special service should be held on Sunday 22nd October at 4pm – partly to give thanks for 10 years of Bishop Mark's Episcopacy, but also to pray for the future of the Diocese and in particular for our congregation and those in Dingwall and Strathpeffer prior to the interview to take place on 3rd November, asking for guidance and wisdom in relation to our ministry in this place. We do hope as many people as possible will come along to this service.

Val Dunford

Update on Vacancy

Following an Advert in the SEC magazine Inspires we have received an application for the post of Priest in Charge for Dingwall, Strathpeffer and Invergordon. Arrangements are being made for the candidate to come up on Friday November 3rd. to meet with the Bishop and members from both congregations. Details are yet to be confirmed but we hope that he will spend the morning in Invergordon and we plan to provide morning coffee in the hall, giving people an opportunity to call in and meet him informally. So please put this date in your diary so that you can come along at some point in the morning. Look out for further details on the pew sheet nearer the time.

Val Dunford

ERICG - Songs of Praise

St Andrew's Church in Tain was almost full for the first meeting this session of the ERICG. The service was a celebration for harvest put together by James, who welcomed everyone warmly and led the service, introducing each hymn by giving us some background information about the authors. The readings included a recitation of John Betjeman's poem Diary of a Church Mouse read by James' son. Amongst all the favourite Harvest hymns was a simple tune played by James' wife Anna on the fiddle – which had beautiful words. Perhaps it is one we could have at St. Ninian's sometime



Spirit of God, come dwell within me. Open my heart, come set me free.

Fill me with love for Jesus, my Lord. O fill me with living water.

Jesus is living, Jesus is here

Jesus my Lord, come closer to me.

Jesus our Saviour dying for me

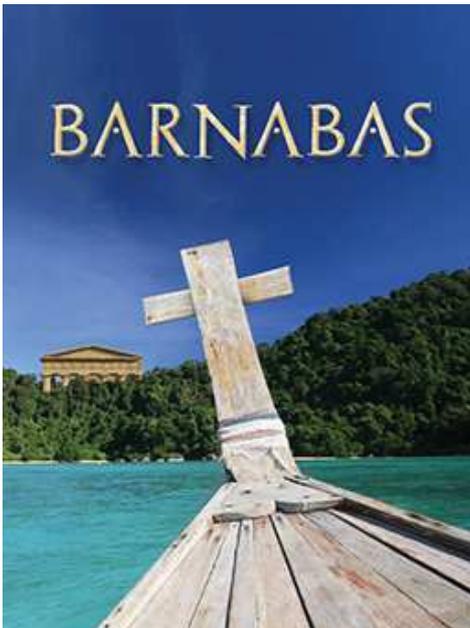
And rising to save his people.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th October at 7.30pm at St Joseph's church when we will hear about the work of Highlands Supports Refugees.

Val Dunford

Barnabas the Musical

Some if you may have spotted on the hall notice board a brightly coloured poster advertising Barnabas, to be performed in Logie Easter Church. I heard about it from Margaret, a member of the congregation there, but didn't know anything more about it, other than the date of the performance. I am so glad that I went and experienced such a powerful and polished show by the small group known as Christian Music Ministries. They are a touring group who perform short musicals written by their musical director Roger Jones, who is a retired music teacher. They have visited Logie a few times before on their Scottish tours, this time the tour includes performances at St Stephens Inverness, at Lossiemouth, Aberlour and Penrith.



The score for the performance is sent out to the church ahead of time and the local chorus has plenty of time to get to grips with the music, which is just as well, because there is one rehearsal on the day of the performance. Christina Chisholm and Judith Ross had worked hard with the local choir, known, I believe, as the Kildary Croakers, and they obviously all enjoyed the performance. The touring group is made up of five soloists, two or three musicians, the sound engineer and the musical director, and they tell the story of Barnabas and Saul's visit to Cyprus at the start of their missionary journey across the Mediterranean. In doing so they brought a whole new meaning to the phrase 'bringing the bible to life'

Alison Ferguson

Letter from Jamie

In the last magazine reference was made to the fact that Jamie Campbell was taking up a place at Aberdeen University to study theology. In recognition of his contribution to St. Ninian's the Vesry sent him a card and book token and we have received the following letter from him:

Dear Friends in Christ

Having completed my first week of study I now have time to write a short note to say thank you to you all for your generous gift. It has been used to purchase the two textbooks required for my New Testament classes (which will be very interesting. We are reading the whole thing before Christmas!)

I'm settling in well to Aberdeen. I've adopted St. Mary's Episcopal Church as my base camp while also going to midweek services at URC/C of Scotland. I've also been poached to play and sing at the Roman Catholic cathedral – and people say I don't like ecumenism!

I hope all is well at St. Ninian's, please continue to pray for me as I pray for you.

With love in Christ. Your friend.

Jamie

