



# HolyTrinity News

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Kilbride Road, Dunoon, Argyll  
[www.holytrinitydunoon.wordpress.com](http://www.holytrinitydunoon.wordpress.com)

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## And so to Lent

It doesn't seem that long since we were putting away our Christmas decorations and yet Lent is approaching fast. Even with the weather so cold and miserable you can see the green shoots in the bare ground. Spring is around the corner!

The miracle of life coming from what seems dead, gives us an early pointer to the Resurrection and New Life of Easter.



As the days lengthen,  
And the earth spends longer in the light of day,  
May we spend longer  
In the light of your presence, O Lord.  
May the seeds of your Word  
Which have been long buried within us, grow  
Like everything around us  
Into love for you and love for other people,  
A visible declaration of your lordship in  
our lives.  
Grant, Lord, that there may be  
A springtime in our lives this Lent.

From **Anthology of Public Prayers**  
Compiled by the Mothers' Union

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## What's Ahead

In February we look forward to:

- Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> – Candlemas Eucharist (incense) 5.30pm
- Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> -- Pancake Party for Shrove Tuesday at Rectory 4pm -10pm
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> -- Ash Wednesday Eucharist 7.30pm
- Saturdays in February: workshops on prayer at the Rectory 10.00 coffee, 10.30-12.00 workshop
- Tuesdays from 12.15 -1.30 'No Small Talk' lunch at the Crown Court Lounge Bar

Dates for the diary

- Book Group Friday 20th March
- Diocesan Festival, Oban, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

## Rector's Letter



Dear Friends,

Please be sure to read Growing Together this month. It talks about the Prayer sessions in February. Now onto Rector's business...

Over the next week, each of you will be getting a letter explaining an urgent repair for which the church needs to raise funds. The Vestry has been thinking very carefully about how we manage these urgent repairs when our cash-flow is so tight. We do need to ask for your help – but we do not expect that the congregation can meet all of the financial needs of the church simply by reaching into their pockets. So, it's time for us to be a bit more creative about how we raise the money we need.

There is an urgent need to raise funds to repair the cross on the East gable of the church, which is at risk of falling down, and presents a danger to anyone walking past. We hope to do this by seeking as many ways as we can to raise £50. If most of us could find a way to raise £50, and if we get the Provincial grant we hope for, then we could secure the dangerous bit of masonry and get that part of the roof repaired.

So, the game is: How many ways can we raise £50?

Here are some initial suggestions:

Ask 10 friends to 'buy' a homemade cake, loaf of bread, etc. from you for £5, and explain why keeping the church building safe matters to you.

Have friends round to your house for coffee or lunch instead of going to a cafe. Ask them to contribute what they have spent if you'd gone out.

Could you run a workshop on something? I bet that if we ask around, we could find people who were willing to offer £5 or £10 to spend the afternoon learning how to make cards, bake bread, knit, sew, play bridge, garden, identify birds or wild-flowers... We don't have the facilities to charge for formal events, but a lot can be done informally in people's houses.

Do you have a skill to offer? one-on-one computer lessons, baby-sitting, house –cleaning, catering for a dinner party, driving someone to appointments, helping someone to redecorate a room. Five sessions at £10 – or £50 at a single swoop for a fancy dinner party or a day of DIY and redecoration, heavy work in the garden...

Tap into the quiz culture. Chrissie & Donna have put together a quiz for February and are asking £1 per entry. There will be a small prize (apart from the heart-warming glow of righteousness) for the winner. Quizzes can be sold at work, to neighbours, to bored ferry travellers... We could write a different one each month, or you could write one for a group you know.

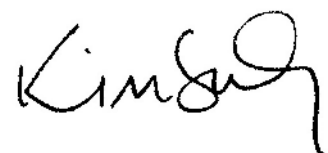
Work on commission – is a friend always telling you how much they love your knitting, sewing, painting, cooking, poetry, dress-making, tie-dying, etc? Would they sponsor you to do something for them?

Do you have 25 friends who care enough about you to give you £2 to help the church you care about? Would you ask them?

Or maybe, you really do have £50 to spare right now.

I will talk more about this in church, and you all be receiving a letter soon. I hope that this project can be fun and creative, and that we can manage to raise the needed funds without unduly raising stress for the congregation.

Yours,



## Meet John McIntosh



*When did you first come to Holy Trinity?*

1974

*Tell us a little about where you were before and what brought you to Dunoon?*

I was brought up in Edinburgh, moving to the west to study music at Glasgow University, where I was a Choral Scholar in the university Chapel Choir. It was through choirs and singing that I met Christine, and when singing at Cumbernauld cathedral in 1973, we met Iain Mackenzie who was being installed to look after the place after the death of Dean Douglas. It was this meeting that brought us to Dunoon in 1974. I was appointed Principle Teacher of Music at Dunoon Grammar School and I have been Organist at Holy Trinity for a good deal of that time. Oh dear, now that I think about it I've been playing the organ for 50 years.

*Apart from Church, how do you spend your time? What are you passionate about?*

Since I retired in 2004, I've had more time to compose and arrange, in between foreign trips and more recently, visiting my grandchildren. I'm still involved with singing through directing 8+1 (the Choir who sang at the Advent Carol Service). I also enjoy walking

*What do you like about Holy Trinity?*

I'm a cradle Piskie so it's a natural home. I love its fine position on the hill and for a small church, its surprisingly good acoustic. Our survival hangs in the balance but I'm impressed and encouraged by the extent to which our laity has engaged so effectively with many aspects of our life and worship. No frozen assets here!

*What do you do (or have you done) around Holy Trinity? What do you enjoy about it?*

I'm the Organist which, among other things, means providing music for the Liturgy, Sunday by Sunday. We are a singing Church and I'm supported well

*What is your favourite hymn and why?*

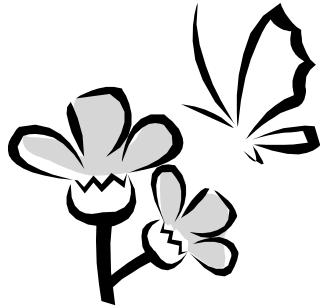
I don't have a single favourite. I rather like a broad interpretation of Saint Ambrose's definition of the Christian hymn as 'Sing in Praise of the Lord'.

My favourites would include:

'Come Holy Ghost' to the plainchant *Veni Creator*;  
 'Sing my tongue the glorious battle' to *Pange Lingua*;  
 'Praise to the Holiest' to *Gerontius*;  
 'Come Down O Love Divine' to *Down Ampney*;  
 'Christ's is the World' to *Dream Angus*;  
 'The Spirit brings me here' to *Selma*;  
 'How shall I sing that majesty' to *Coe Fern*;

There is a great variety of expression but they all have splendid words and a tune to match.

## Growing Together



Each Saturday in February, there will be a workshop on prayer from 10.30 am – 12 noon at the Rectory, coffee available from 10 am.

Prayer is a natural and instinctive part of our life, but also something that can be hard to talk about, hard to think about or imagine. So, I want to offer a framework for what we will be doing.

There is no ‘magic method’ of praying well. There is nothing that anyone can teach you that you might not find on your own, by attending carefully to what God is doing in your life. But precisely because prayer can be elusive, confusing, unpredictable, it is sometimes good to talk about it and to explore different ways of beginning. There *are* methods, approaches, ways of thinking about prayer that have been tried and tested by God’s people across the centuries, and that may help us deepen and sustain our relationship with God.

During the Prayer Workshops, we’ll be trying to build up a prayer repertoire: a tool-box of ways of praying and attending to what God is doing in our lives. Two years ago, we looked at ways of praying with Scripture, Imagination, Meditation, and Colour. This time, we will be thinking about how we can attend to God by paying attention to our bodies – ‘listening’ to what we are feeling, exploring the ways that we can use our bodies to pray more attentively, and giving physical expression to what God is showing us in prayer.

I will ask two things of the group who gather on Saturdays:

If at all possible, I hope that you will come to all four weeks. Prayer is a time when we let our defences down. If we are to pray together and be willing to talk about prayer, it will help if the group is fairly ‘stable’. If you are interested in learning about prayer, but cannot commit to the Saturdays in February, please talk to me, and we will find other ways for growth.

Prayer takes time. If you want to use this month to grow in prayer, you will need to set aside some time most days. At a barest minimum, you will need 10 minutes in the morning, and 5 minutes at night. Ideally, you will find 30-45 minutes for prayer once or twice a week throughout the month. This is in addition to the time on Saturday mornings.

The sessions will be as follows:

### **Week 1: Where do we start?**

Becoming aware of what we hope for from prayer, how we see our relationship with God, ‘naming’ our starting points. During the week, we will be building up rhythms of prayer.

### **Week 2: Standing in God’s Presence.**

Ways of Discernment, paying attention to our bodies in prayer, learning to use our bodies to help us attend to God.

### **Week 3: Embodying Prayer.**

How can we express the things that prayer stirs in us? How can we use physical form and motion to ‘work through’ whatever is going on with us and God?

### **Week 4: Moving On.**

Finding sustainable patterns for prayer. Learning how to ‘use’ what we find in prayer to help us grow. Learning to begin again (and again, and again).

## A poem from Brian

“Lovest Thou Me?”

John 21:17.

When I was wee, aged seven, my Granda said  
 “Come follow me” and gave me loaves of bread  
 To carry on a board on outstretched arm,  
 Unwrapped, unsliced, sweet-smelling, steaming warm,  
 Behind his friendly, sturdy, gaitered bulk  
 To Govan shops dispensing bread and milk  
 And cheese and eggs and butter, tins in stacks  
 And greens and new potatoes, ranged in sacks,  
 Past balance scales and slice machine for ham  
 (And if the purse was light you could have spam);  
 Such sights and smells of food to feed the weans  
 And sometimes, for a treat, fish for their brains.

A few years on, a bigger, stronger lad,  
 I found myself apprenticed to my Dad;  
 My task was now to labour on our plot.  
 Up past the “Fifty Pitches” our allotment  
 Waited for my green and callow hands  
 To add their puny efforts to his plans  
 For mighty cabbages and show-stop leeks,  
 A natural sweet-pea frame of hawthorn stakes,  
 Enlaced with bramble vines – small, painful pricks  
 Reminding us, along with aching backs,  
 That gardens need hard work and constant care  
 ‘Ere pleasures from our harvests blossom there.

A grown up man, I followed no-one’s call  
 Except my own, ignored for years the small,  
 Still voice that urged me to a servant be –  
 Instead, I gave commands, bade others see  
 My will was law, men listened to my word.  
 I planted trees (fresh crosses for my Lord?)  
 In thousands, built fine walls and gardens grand.  
 Won recognition, honours, and I planned  
 To scale ambition’s heights unto the crest,  
 But He who orders all spoke in my breast  
 And I awoke from shallow, selfish sleep:  
 “Come follow me,” He said, “And feed my sheep.”

Brian F. Dineley

## The Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 12<sup>th</sup> January with a full agenda. The Rector began by welcoming Dinkie McEwan back onto the Vestry. In her report, the Rector clarified the expectations of Vestry members. She gave us copies of Canons 35 and 60 and asked us to read and familiarise ourselves with these. She invited us to be commissioned as a Vestry for the new vestry year on Sunday 18th of January. She talked through the structure of Vestry meetings and invited questions.

There were reports from the Vestry Focus Groups on ideas to take forward. These Groups enable us to spend time thinking through ideas in greater detail to bring to the Vestry. The first Group thinks about how we as a congregation can grow in relation to God and each other. The second Group focuses on our life together as a community and the third Group focuses on outreach and service.

We then looked at major areas of concern regarding property. There was considerable concern over the issue of the loose cross on the top of the roof, highlighted by the Steeplejacks. We discussed the action required to ascertain the extent of rot in the building. We discussed the major problems with the drainage at the Rectory which had had a temporary repair the previous year. We considered the findings of the stained glass experts on all the church windows (following the fitting of the new windows in the sacristy).

The Treasurer always gives a finance report at Vestry meetings. It was a particularly gloomy picture given that our annual income is not meeting the cost of running the church, our small reserves are lower due to the market problems and we face major expenditure on the property side. We discussed various options, some of which need further work.

Other business included discussion of the forthcoming ecumenical services and the proposal by the Rector to have Prayer workshops.

## The Organist Writes

Given John's interview on page 3, we have let him off his usual column and instead share with you the following:

### A Musician's Prayer

I will make the Lord my music,  
I will make His love the key  
Which tunes my Heart to Him  
And gives life Harmony.

Author unknown



## The Quilt

Love is a quilt – a quilt is love.  
Both love and a quilt should be  
Soft enough to comfort you,  
Bright enough to cheer you,  
Generous enough to enfold you,  
Light enough to let you move freely,  
Strong enough to withstand adversity,  
Durable enough to last a lifetime,  
And given gladly, from the heart.

The Monkton Comfort quilters sent this to Maurice Smith. Thanks for sharing it with us, Maurice



## From the Counting House

For my first report I would like to say a very special thank you to the wonderful Richard who continues to support us all with his wise council and endless patience.

Richard and I have been considering the ways our congregation give. There are several methods used. One of the most popular is the blue Gift Aid envelopes. These envelopes are a free will offering to God and **not a pledge to gift a specific weekly amount.** Of course our finances benefit if members make up weeks that they have missed but this is a voluntary act for the individual and depends on personal circumstances and the ability to contribute as large or small amounts as their situation permits.

Gift Aid is a wonderful and much needed source of additional revenue for our community and your finance team make an annual claim for Income Tax that you have already paid on the gifted amount. Giving through Gift Aid can be made in several ways, there is the blue envelope mentioned above, through standing orders with your bank or indeed the white (one-off) envelopes held in the Church. If you would like further information about making your offering through Gift Aid please speak with either Richard or myself.

Chrissie Holliday

## Comments and Clippings

- The next book for the Book Group is **Easter** by Michael Arditti. This will be discussed on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Rectory.
- Congratulations to Paul Barnard on having a story published in a National Newspaper. We hope to publish it here next month.

## The Wider Church

Excerpt from a sermon preached by

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of USA  
to Holy Trinity Church, West Palm Beach, Florida,  
USA on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009

full sermon on

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/presiding-bishop.htm>

... Seeing the world with God's eyes means that we can see evidence of the presence and nearness of the kingdom of God, we can see "the hand of God at work in the world about us." It's an invitation to let our eyes become less self-centered and more like God's, concerned for all of creation.

When Jesus calls the first disciples, he's asking them to leave their old way of life behind, not because it was sinful, but as an invitation to see the world in a larger perspective. Some of us really are called to fish for fish, and feed others in the process – note that Jesus didn't call Zebedee or the hired hands. He called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to work that would feed more than just their own families.

That change in perspective, from fishing for fish for your own folk, to fishing for more abundant life for the larger community, is the kind of transformative gospel life we're all invited into. Sometimes that bigger picture confronts us before we're ready. Jonah was a pretty reluctant evangelist, and shocked when his words actually produced some transformation. And presumably even more shocked to discover that God had changed the divine mind! [*When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.*] Does our perspective include the possibility that the divine mind might be changed?

Paul's words are even more challenging to our usual perspectives. Think about his story – he was

absolutely certain he was doing what he was supposed to be doing, as a "keeper of the law." He was trying to clean up the community by getting rid of these heretics called Christians. He was diligent, forceful, and totally committed, until he quite literally got knocked off his high horse and discovered he was blind. His perspective got changed, from high above to down on the ground, from seeing clearly to being blind, and eventually, to seeing the world and God's intent for it in a completely new way.

That change of perspective is what he means when he says, "the present form of this world is passing away." He's inviting others into a new view – the married as though their spouses are not the center of their existence, those who mourn, that their grief not be the center of their being. Strikingly, he says, "let those who buy be as though they had no possessions," in other words, let the folk who go to the market place be as if they were poor.

If we remember that Jesus says more about poverty and riches, and economic issues, than he does anything else, maybe we'll recognize that this is of central importance... I've come to realize that looking for the poor is what Jesus means when he tells his disciples to go fish for people...

Going fishing, and finding the poor, is not just another social service ministry or a corporal work of mercy. It is where we're most likely to find Jesus – both the suffering Jesus on the cross and Jesus the party animal, the gracious host celebrating with his friends. Meeting the poor is where we have the greatest possibility of getting a different perspective on the world – that's where our blindness might be healed, and that's where we're most likely to find that God is already at work, in spite of our fondest American prejudices about the connections between hard work and success...

Go fishing, go get a new perspective, go look for the poor, and discover Jesus in their midst.

## Notable dates – February

Sun 1	Epiphany 4
Mon 2	Candlemas 2 Eucharist 5.30
Sun 8	Epiphany 5 – Lay Team
Sun 15	Epiphany 6
Sun 22	Epiphany 7
Tues 24	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party at the Rectory 4pm – 10pm
Wed 25	Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 7.30pm

## February Readings

Epiphany 4	Deuteronomy 18, 15-20 1 Corinthians 8, 1-13 Mark 1, 21-28
Epiphany 5	Isaiah 40, 21-31 1 Corinthians 9, 16-23 Mark 1, 29-39
Epiphany 6	1 Kings 5, 1-14 1 Corinthians 9, 24-27 Mark 1, 40-45
Epiphany 7	Isaiah 43, 18-25 2 Corinthians 1, 18-22 Mark 2, 1-12
Ash Wednesday	Joel 2, 1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58, 1-12 2 Corinthians 5, 20b-6, 10 Matthew 6, 1-6, 16-21

## Church Contact Points

Name	Contact
Rector	Rev. Kimberly Bohan (702444)
People's Warden	Mac McLean (705497)
Rector's Warden	Pauline Revill (704731)
Lay Representative	Ann Narraway (830400)
Vestry Secretary	Di Tennent (840779)
Vestry Treasurer	Chrissie Holliday (704927)
Organist	John McIntosh (703304)
Book Group	Di Tennent
House Groups	Rector
Mission to Seafarers	Pauline Revill
Christian Aid	Brian and Margaret Dineley (870073)
Bible Study	Rector
Coffee Rota	Pauline Revill
Flower Arranging	Sharon Barnard (706240)
Worship Rotas	Margaret Dineley
Newsletter	Maureen McKellar (703058)

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