



HolyTrinity News

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Kilbride Road, Dunoon, Argyll
www.holytrinitydunoon.wordpress.com

Scottish Charities Number
SC008066

Happy New Year

Mysterious new year
So wrapped in reserve and surprise
You have no reason to feel smug
Or even condescending.
After all, the majestic God
Has full knowledge of you
Just as he has of me.
There is not an issue that you can evade.
Furthermore you are powerless
To do anything to me
That God does not permit.
All he allows in his infinite wisdom
Is for my ultimate good
And his greatest glory.
Consequently, new year,
You cannot trick or disillusion me
By your baffling unexplainable
Or your feverish activity.
My times are in the hands
Of my sovereign God
Whose power is limitless
And whose love for me is everlasting.

Ruth Harms Calkin
From The Lion Prayer Collection

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

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What's Ahead

In January we look forward to:

- Epiphany – Tuesday 6th Eucharist 5.15 pm (incense)
- Friday Jan 16th Book Group venue to be advised
- Saturday 17th January 2009 Congregational Meeting with Bishop Martin
- Tuesdays from 12.15 until 1.30 'No Small Talk' lunch at the Crown Court Lounge Bar

Dates for the diary

- Ash Wednesday - February 25th
- Diocesan Festival, Oban, Sunday 7th June
- Provincial Conference 2nd to 4th October

Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

January marks the season of Epiphany, the season of recognising and celebrating the presence of God in our midst. Epiphany is boundaried by dramatic recognitions of Jesus' identity: the Wise men come with gifts, the Spirit swoops in at Christ's baptism and then at the end of the season we return to the infancy narratives, to Anna and Simeon who find in Jesus the fulfilment of a lifetime of longing. In between, though, there will be no fanfares. To see God in our midst takes a quiet attentiveness to the details. It takes a form of attention that most of us need to cultivate carefully, and that can so easily be lost if we let go of the discipline and rhythms of worship and prayer.

On Christmas morning when I went out to feed the birds, I saw the first crocus bud pushing up through the ground. I'm sure that half inch of growth hadn't sprung up overnight, but I had been too rushed, too distracted to notice what was right there in front of me. Every year it is the same: I think that the flowers miraculously begin to grow on Christmas Eve because it is only then that I am able to see them.

A bit later in the winter, we will be thinking about prayer together as a congregation. In the meantime the best suggestion I can make, the best advice I can give for learning to be with God more fully is this: open your eyes. Take time to watch the buds growing on the trees, the bulbs pushing their way up through the earth. All through the month, one day will seem much like the day before; it will be hard to name or describe any

change, but by February there will be flowers. Prayer is like that: day after day, nothing much seems to happen; then one day the sun comes, and you realise that everything is changed.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimsey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'K' and a long, trailing flourish.

Not Exactly All Change!

The AGM took place on Saturday December 5th in the comfort and warmth of the Rectory and unsurprisingly was well attended. The personnel changes that took place are as follows:

Richard McGilvray, who has been our Treasurer for many years, hands over the reins to Chrissie Holliday, although he will continue to give us the benefit of his long experience and advice. Thanks for all you have done, Richard.

The posts of Rector's Warden (Pauline Revill), People's Warden ('Mac' McLean), Lay Representative (Ann Narraway), Alternate Lay Representative (Margaret Dineley) and Vestry Secretary (Di Tennent) were retained.

Richard McGilvray, Margaret Dineley and Catherine Webber stepped down but were voted back onto the vestry and 'Dinkie' McEwen was voted back on after a couple of years out. Welcome, Dinkie.

Di Tennent

Meet Dinkie McEwen



When did you first come to Holy Trinity?

It was probably about 1952 after returning from Australia. My Grand Uncle was friendly with the Rector, Archie Campbell, and since I attended an Anglican school in Australia, I decided to go to Holy Trinity rather than return to the High Kirk. After confirmation sessions I was confirmed in 1955 at Holy Trinity.

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

Apart from two periods in my life when I was in Australia and London most of my life has been in Dunoon. Being acknowledged as a 'local' of Dunoon is difficult, but I suppose I am a Dunonian. My great grandfather and his family came to Kirn in 1884 from Glasgow and then moved to Dunoon where they bought the house where I now live. My Grandfather was five years old when he came to Dunoon and after living here until his ninetieth year was finally accepted as a local. My father was definitely local as he was born in Dunoon. Like my grandfather and father, I attended Dunoon Grammar school in primary and secondary. As a teenager during the summer holidays I worked in Esson's newsagents, Catignani's café, and Brendan's grocer shop until I left school to train as a nurse.

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

Apart from church my other interests are Dunoon Heritage Society, the Castle House Museum and Cowal Archaeology and Historical Society.

Although I am interested in archaeology my main interest is Egyptology. Art, painting and drawing are skills I try to acquire, not with much success but with enthusiasm. Of course dog walking takes up a great deal of my time. Smudge makes sure I get plenty of fresh air and exercise whether I want it or not.

What do you like about Holy Trinity?

Holy Trinity is a haven of peace to me, it is a place of tranquility which helps in contemplation and gaining a better perspective on things that trouble and confuse. Being located out of centre of town does have disadvantages but this isolation may be a contributing factor to the holy atmosphere of the church. To me HT has been place of refuge several times in my life.

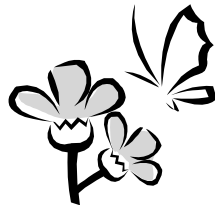
What do you do (or have you done) around Holy Trinity? What do you enjoy about it?

I help with the chores that need to be done. I have just been re-elected to the Vestry . Helping in whatever way I can in the church gives me enjoyment. Being involved with the various groups such as the book group, the Bible study group is very stimulating. I have been to one or two of the Pub lunch chats which have been very enjoyable.

What is your favourite hymn and why?

I don't think I really have a favourite hymn but there are hymns which I associate with memorable occasions. In the Bleak Midwinter was one of the carols we sang when rehearsing for an advent play at Holy Trinity. It was dark and snowing outside. The words and the occasion made it my favourite carol. Before he left for New Zealand Edgar Pacey after celebrating Eucharist joined in singing the hymn that contained the refrain 'here I am lord, I have heard you calling in the night...' It was so beautiful I think every face had tears running. On a trip to the Holy Land we stopped our boat in the middle of Lake Galilee, it was absolutely still. You couldn't hear the water lap at the side of the boat and the hymn was 'Be still for the presence of the Lord is here'. Lastly, I find the words of the hymn 'Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you' very comforting.

Growing Together



A few days ago I was speaking with someone who had just finished her first term of studying theology at university. She had learned a lot, and was asking all the right questions, but found it hard to find her own voice in the midst of what she was learning. When we start questioning things we used to take for granted – or start believing things we used to keep at arm’s length – we need to find a new vocabulary for faith, a new way to say what we mean.

So, this month’s learning game is to turn off the censor in your brain that makes you worry about what is right or wrong and think about what the central bits of Christian theology mean to you. I’m the sort of person who needs to write to see what I think. Others need to talk. Others get there simply by musing over a cup of coffee. However you do it, I encourage you to ask yourself: ‘what does X mean to me’ inserting the words below:

incarnation
 salvation
 healing
 forgiveness
 love
 justice
 hope
 completion/ perfection
 resurrection

If you’ve never tried a ‘free write’ I’d recommend it as a starting point: give yourself five minutes to write about one of the words. During that five minutes, force yourself to keep writing no matter what. Start by posing the question: ‘what does X mean to me? Then keep writing whatever comes to mind, letting yourself digress then pulling yourself back to the topic when you can. Just keep going. By going quickly and not stopping, and by writing

for a set time you get past the inner censor, and learn that you really do have something to say. Afterwards, look back at what you’ve written, and circle (or just notice) anything that strikes you as interesting or important. That could form the starting point for another free write if you like. Here’s my quick attempt to show you the way (not five minutes worth, by any means).

What does x mean to me. well i suppose it – oh help, I’m stuck already, that’s the problem with writing an example and not having really decided whether I’m pretending to write on salvation or incarnation. The two have felt pretty close to each other this year. Lets take salvation then. Always important for me to hear that as part of salveo, to pick up connotations of healing. I really shouldn’t start free associating in Latin. It will not be at all helpful for people trying to figure out how to free write. But maybe by now they are getting the idea...

Notice the lower-case ‘i’ and the missing apostrophe. That’s how I typed it, that’s how it stays. In free writes, spelling, punctuation and orthodoxy are all optional. Just see what comes out...

KB

Comments and Clippings

- We are pleased to report that Don and Stella are both home and making good progress.
- The next book for the Book Group is **Third Class Ticket** by Heather Wood. This will be discussed on Friday 16th January at a venue to be fixed and notified in the pew sheet.
- Names are needed for the Coffee Rota. If you can help, please add your name
- Remember to return your Asset Register form to Christine McIntosh.

Winter Contrasts

Fern like patterns forming on window panes,
shining blue with moonlight

Wide eyed children listening intently
to Fairy Godmothers

Icicles growing overnight and glinting
in the brittle sunlight

Sledge runs carefully engineered
for maximum speed

Angry people phoning to complain

Grit bins needing to be filled

Tired drivers waiting for the loading shovel
to fill the trucks

Angry emails questioning priorities

Christmas fairy lights in all the windows

Real Christmas trees for sale

Mulled wine and mince pies

Gentle hiss of snowflakes

Road salt being ordered,
another 1300 tonnes please

Soft Irish accent confirming delivery

Action plans being interpreted, grit runs at 1800,
2300 and 0600

All night runs on the high routes.

Christmas trees being balanced in buckets of sand

Favourite decorations brought down from the attic

Any Christmas stamps left please

Cards written in haste, 'hope you are all well'
'have a good time'



Fit the ploughs, we have snow forecast

10 grams pre grit, 40 grams on the second run

Angry letters in the press

Nordstar delayed due to engine trouble
delivery by road if necessary, costs rise though

Sherry and shortbread for Father Christmas,
don't forget the reindeer

Christmas wish list sent up the chimney,
hope I get lots!

Busy shopping malls

Wrapping paper strewn on the table

Tearful pleas for help on the phone

Its ok take your time have you no neighbours?

"They are extraordinarily unhelpful"

Abusive phone calls

Thought provoking Advent cards

Advent colours explained (thank you Margaret)

Warm smiles whilst holding the coffee cups

Nervous rehearsals

Up all night answering phone calls

Drivers ignoring 'Road Closed' signs

It's your fault I've had an accident

Have the gritters been out at all

Welcoming handshake at the midnight service

Peace be with you, and with you

The joy of Christmas morning

A new beginning.



Graham

(who loves Christmas and making and getting
pressies)

The Organist Writes

The Advent Carol Service, with a larger than usual choir, attracted people from a wider spectrum of the community. We enjoyed preparing for it and I hope that, for those of you who attended, the words and music gave a glimpse of the joy of Christmas.

I hope to continue with short workshops to learn new music. If you'd like to come please let me know of any days and times which are not suitable and I'll try to choose the best time for the majority.

John

Advent Carol Service

The Advent Carol Service took place on Sunday 21st December. We were very fortunate to be joined by our sister churches and by the choir 8+1 and friends from Rothesay. Despite laryngitis and a fever, John masterminded the music beautifully. Interspersed with scripture readings were stunning poems and prose written by members (and an ex-member) of Holy Trinity and St Paul's congregations. The atmosphere was superb, candles flickered, and we all saw a real glimpse of the meaning of the Incarnation. Warmed mulled wine was a welcome finale. Thanks are due to everyone and particularly Kimberly and John for all the hard work



Heading for the mulled wine.

(photos: Christine McIntosh)

From the Counting House

As those who attended the AGM will know, Holy Trinity has a new Treasurer. Chrissie Holliday has taken over from Richard. We welcome Chrissie to one of the most important roles in Holy Trinity and wish her well. We also extend our thanks to Richard for all his efforts over the years. Richard is not abandoning the Accounts, he will help Chrissie for the foreseeable future.

Decorating the Church



The Wider Church

This is the Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year message which was taken from his web site www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1.

It's always a relief to have a bit of space after the busyness of Christmas to relax at home and mull over the past 12 months and the hopes and possibilities of the year ahead. The prospect of this coming year, though, is one that produces a lot of anxiety and insecurity for countless people. There are fears about disappearing savings, lost jobs, house repossessions and worse. While the headlines are often about the big figures, it's the human cost that makes it real for us.

A little before Christmas I visited a new academy in Scunthorpe named after St Lawrence. Lawrence was a Christian minister in Rome in the days when you could be arrested and executed for being a Christian, nineteen hundred years ago or so.

When he was arrested, he was told to collect all the treasures of the Church to be given up to the courts. He got together all the homeless, the orphans and the hungry that the Church looked after in the city, and presented them to his judges, saying, 'These are the Church's treasures.'

Like any really good school, St Lawrence's treats its children as treasures. In the last few months we've had to think a lot about wealth and security and about where our 'treasure' is.

But it set me thinking - what would our life be like if we really believed that our wealth, our treasure, was our fellow-human beings? Religious faith points to a God who takes most seriously and values most extravagantly the people who often look least productive or successful- as if none of us could really be said to be doing well unless these people were secure.

And as we look around in our own country as well as worldwide, this should trigger some hard questions – whether we think of child soldiers in Africa or street children in Latin America, or of children in our midst here who are damaged by

poverty, family instability and abuse, street violence and so much else. Children need to be taken seriously, not just as tomorrow's adults but as fellow-inhabitants of the globe today, growing human beings whom we approach with respect and patience and from whom we ought to learn.

One of the most damning things you could say about any society is that it's failing its children. That's why I was really encouraged recently to be invited to open a project in Springfield in Birmingham – a church-based initiative supporting children and their parents from across the whole community. Here the church community took the brave decision to open up their church building for work with local families and to seek funding for further buildings and resources from the local authority. What's more, they've worked throughout in close collaboration with the local mosque and have a joint programme with them for young people. There's a community with its eye unmistakably on its real treasure.

So what about a New Year in which we try and ask consistently about our own personal decisions and about public policies, national and international, 'Does this feel like something that looks after our real treasure, something that keeps our real wealth safe – the lives and welfare of the youngest and most vulnerable?'

Jesus said where our treasure is, that's where our hearts will be. Our hearts will be in a very bad way if they're focused only on the state of our finances. They'll be healthy if they are capable of turning outwards, looking at the real treasure that is our fellow human beings. A very happy and blessed New Year to you.



Notable dates – January

Sun 4	Christmas 2
Tues 6	Epiphany Eucharist 5.15 (incense)
Sun 11	Baptism of Christ – Lay Team
Fri 16	Book Group at 7.30 venue tba
Sat 17	Meeting with Bishop Martin time tba
Sun 18	Epiphany 2
Sun 25	Epiphany 3

January Readings

Epiphany	Isaiah 60, 1-6 Ephesians 3, 1-12 Matthew 2, 1-12
Baptism of Christ	Genesis 1, 1-5 Acts 19, 1-7 Mark 1, 4-11
Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3, 1-10 (11-20) 1 Corinthians 6, 12-30 John 1, 43-51
Epiphany 3	Jonah 3, 1-5,10 1 Corinthians 7, 29-31 Mark 1, 14-20

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)

Please send any articles or views by email to mpmckellar@aol.com or by post to: Maureen McKellar, Eden Cottage, 45 Hill Street, Dunoon PA23 7AY