



VIEWS FROM THE HILL

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Dunoon, Scottish Episcopal Church

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From the Rector

Welcome to this latest edition of 'Views from the Hill'.

We live in interesting times – when an Anglican cathedral in London can apparently become the focus for anti-capitalist protests, countries in Europe seem to be falling like financial dominoes, and there is only one passenger-only ferry running at a time between Gourock and Dunoon. News, current events and the happenings in the

wider world are ever-present in our lives. But how, as Christians, can we process all these things and try to respond to them?

We are entering a season where the Christian story is powerfully presented: Advent, as we wait for the coming of God into our broken world; Christmas, the mystery of God and humanity united through a child; Epiphany, the revelation that Jesus IS

Christ, God's Messiah, the new covenant.

This powerful account of God's relationship with his creation makes everything else take its proper place. Jesus preached values based on love and justice – capitalism and markets must be viewed in terms of humanity. Wealth is not a good or an evil thing – but poverty or excessive consumption is destructive and loveless. Financial pressure

on troubled countries (including our own) must be balanced against the social consequences of 'fiscal prudence.' The non-presence (or otherwise) of ferries must surely be seen as an irritant rather than a fundamental social issue.

Faced with a world beloved by God, redeemed through incarnation revealed in Jesus – everything else must surely fade!

On a practical note, we have many opportunities in the next few weeks to explore these and other issues. The Advent course will study classic scriptural references in Advent. Evensong for Advent and Christmas Carols will pick up the themes and sentiments of the changing season. Midnight Mass and the Sundays of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany will move steadily through what God's plans for humanity, in Jesus, might actually be.

And, as ever, we will be invited, through the lens of our Christian faith, to look again at ourselves and the broken world in which we live.

Bless you all.

Many thanks to Duncan's photostream on Flickr for this fantastic picture of the Banksy installation outside St Paul's!



Building Our Vision - Together by Gill Young



Communication is a funny thing, you can talk, write, email, and phone people and they will still say "I never heard anything." However, I think most congregations in your scattered and beautiful diocese of Argyll and the Isles will have heard whispers about Building the Vision, the current of new life running through your congregations. This year's three day synodical gathering proved to be a catalyst for this process.

The pre-synod day was a 'Vision day' an opportunity for folk to share their vision for life in the diocese. Emerging hopes and visions were fed into the post synod clergy day, as enthusiasm grew for a similar sharing process to spread around the diocese.

Many of you will be familiar with this story thus far, and now each congregation is being accompanied by a 'Visitor' to guide and smooth the path of similar congregational conversations.

I am writing this because I was asked to be your 'Visitor', your companion along the way of Building the Vision.

Dunoon's first gathering: Who are we? was on October 1st when I came to spend the day

with Andrew and sixteen members of Holy Trinity.

It was a fruitful day fuelled by coffee, delicious scones and a shared lunch. Having donned sticky labels to help me with names, we settled round the table to share a short Gathering Liturgy

We numbered ourselves as ones or twos, and in the introductory activity first the ones and then the twos listened to one another speak about Holy Trinity, and how they personally had first become part of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Using the same process, we talked about hopes and fears for your congregation and community. These Hopes and Fears were written and displayed.

In groups of four we then talked about gifts and strengths from the distant and recent past at Holy Trinity, eventually choosing three for display. So there was much to see and to read at lunch-time.

After lunch we asked ourselves Where are we now? looking at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in the life of the congregation. These were prioritised, displayed and discussed.

We ended the time together by exploring what might be chosen as a symbol for Holy Trinity and its people, before offering our discussions in a final act of worship.

The previous Wednesday I spent the day with Andrew and ten folk from St Paul's Rothesay for a similar day together. The sun shone and we had some really helpful discussions which were duly recorded and displayed.

I have really enjoyed both these days and look forward to being with you again.

Session 2 asks Where are we going? and looks to the future building on discussions and ideas that have emerged from our previous time together.

I shall be with Holy Trinity on Saturday 10th of December (2pm in the High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street) and meet with St Paul's on Sunday 11th December.

Look forward to seeing you there, especially if you couldn't make the first meeting.

Experience Christmas 2011 at Dunoon Grammar School



A local team took an 'Experience Easter' project into Dunoon Grammar School earlier this year. Six forms of S1 pupils explored the Easter story with interactive stations. The feedback received from the school has been excellent. A team of volunteers from local churches and the school chaplains were involved in preparing materials, building stations, presenting to the students and breaking down and packing away the material at the end of the project.

We have now been invited to take 'Experience Christmas' stations into the school, on Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December, to present the Christmas story to the present S1 classes. Five

stations will be built, covering the Christmas story from Nazareth to the birth at Bethlehem. The shepherd's station 'The Message' is shown here. A script is available at each station to guide the students, along with an activity to help in relating to the wonderful story.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the project, from building stations to staffing a station for the students, please contact the Rev'd Andrew Swift (01369-702444) or come along to a drop-in session at Holy Trinity Church on Kilbride Road 2pm on Tuesday 29th November.

It is planned to repeat the Easter and Christmas stations each year as part of the Religious and Moral Education activities in the school.

Christmas Flowers & Church Decoration



If you would like to contribute to the cost of the church Christmas flowers and decoration please put a donation in the flower box in church or give it directly to Ann Narraway.

Church will be cleaned & decorated for the Christmas services on the morning of Friday 23rd of December - all volunteers welcome - the coffee pot will be on!

Thank you

Pilgrims on a Journey by Andrew Swift



Our group, a mix of Holy Trinity folk and their friends, has now met three times. The group, a place to discuss and explore the Christian faith, has explored the following subjects:

- God & the modern world
- Jesus of Nazareth

• Scripture

These are all very weighty subjects on which there are many opinions held within and outside Christian churches, and all of the discussions held went in fascinating directions. One rule in this group is that any question can be asked, regardless of what it is.

Each session also starts with a light meal (served at 6.30pm) to allow us to settle in and catch up on news or get to know new members of the group.

The group will take a break for Advent and

New Year, so the next meeting will be the first Tuesday in February, in the rectory. The subjects to be discussed next year are:

7th February – Sin & Forgiveness

1st May – The Death of Jesus

5th June – The Resurrection

3rd July – The Holy Spirit

If you would like to take part, please let Andrew know (702444 or rev.andrew@familyswift.org.uk) or just turn up on the night.

eXp11 Summer Camp



- 33 young people
- 10 leaders
- 4 denominations
- 1 Christian youth-work agency
- 100 hours of camp (some sleep!)

It's true – numbers can never tell the whole story!

In August 2011 congregations in Dunoon from the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Baptist Church, Church of Scotland and Aoradh along with Scripture Union organised Argyll's first Christian summer youth camp, called 'exp11'. Run at Benmore House near Dunoon it was a great week, attracting young people from Cowal and across Argyll. They took part in outdoor, arts and sports activities and discovered God's love through these sessions and worship meetings and small group discussions. A radical new element was our social action programme where young

people worked with local agencies to clean a beach, learn first aid or share in an inter-generational indoor curling afternoon.

We are grateful to all the supporting bodies and look forward to growing the camp in future, helping serve young people and churches across Argyll.

We are already organising next year's camp 'exp12'. More details are on the SU website.

Mary Swift is the Holy Trinity representative on the camp planning group - if you would like more details or want to get involved please get in touch (702444)

From the Counting House by Andrew Swift



Team news: As the end of the church's financial year loomed, Mary Swift kindly volunteered to act as book-keeper and generate the end of year accounts. After much hard work, a set of accounts were delivered to the Independent Examiner's office.

At the end of the year, the accounts show that much has been achieved through the hard work and generosity of our members.

General funds: The generous giving and fundraising that supports the day-to-day ministry of the church has been very good this year. We started the year anticipating an overspend of some £6,500, but ended up only overspending by £900. As well as an increase in congregational giving (both through more members and increased donations) we also received several significant one-off payments. As we continue to grow the congregational growth should mean that we can now hope to

break even each year. This situation is achieved, however, with a grant from the province in Edinburgh, currently set at just over £11,000. A condition of appointing a full-time priest to the charge is that this 'stipend support' grant is planned to reduce, starting in October 2013. We need to do more than break even by this time, to allow us to pay our way. Our costs – bills, travel costs, maintenance – are also increasing, so the pressure is still there! Next spring we will discuss giving and this target with the whole congregation.

The usual reminder is offered: if you pay tax, please let us claim Gift Aid on your donations. This costs you nothing, does not commit you to any future level of giving and makes your donations 25% bigger! We will also be exploring other sources of income from use of the church, especially once the internal décor of the church has

been improved this year. We will be reviewing the Gift Aid records – it is important that we have a signed declaration from the person who actually pays the tax.

Fabric finances: A Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been applied for to try and fund the whole of the extensive internal and external repair work still required for the church. A grant has been received from the Scottish Episcopal Church Dunderdale emergency fund to help with repairs to our contaminated water supply. We will also be claiming back a proportion (as yet unknown) of the VAT we have paid on repairs carried out in the last year. The team continues to look into grant applications to support the many areas of work required.

Treasury Team:

Rector; Susan Watling (Treasurer); Mary Swift (Book-keeper & Gift Aid); Maureen McKellar (Paying Officer); Ann Narraway (Banking & cash)

Christmas Stamps for the RNIB

Just a reminder as the Christmas post get's underway - please save any stamps you receive & put them into the box in church so we can send them off to the Royal National Institute of Blind people to help them raise much needed funds for their work.

Please cut out the used stamps leaving approximately 1cm of envelope around the stamp.



What faith communities can do to STOP Domestic Abuse

The Scottish Women's Aid STOP campaign was launched in November 2010, and aims to engage with communities across Scotland to highlight our shared responsibility for ending domestic abuse. It recognises that by standing together we can make it clear that domestic abuse is not acceptable in our communities. An important strand of this campaign is working with faith communities, enabling them to build their capacity to challenge such abuse. This campaign builds on and joins with some of the excellent work already undertaken by faith communities by:

- connecting people
- providing resources
- building activism

Domestic abuse can affect survivors not just physically, but emotionally, psychologically, financially and spiritually. Faith leaders and communities can be a significant resource and a protective factor for those affected. They also have an important role in prevention work – raising awareness and ensuring that the community challenges domestic abuse. Domestic abuse occurs in all communities and across all faiths. As such it is everyone's issue and faith leaders, organisations and community members can play a vital part in addressing it. Many people of faith are already doing just that. Join us by saying STOP. Show your support by pledging to do one thing to stop domestic abuse at <http://togetherwecanstopit.org>

10 things faith communities can do

1. Develop a statement at your place of worship which highlights that domestic abuse is contrary to the teachings of your religion and promote this on posters, in leaflets and faith community newsletters.
2. Ask those with responsibility for leading prayers at your place of worship to pray for those experiencing domestic abuse and to help them understand that it is not their fault but the responsibility of the perpetrator.
3. Check whether your place of worship has a domestic abuse policy that links to its child protection and adult support and protection policies. If so, encourage those with responsibility to receive training on domestic abuse.
4. Ask for, or organise, domestic abuse awareness events at your place of worship.
5. Make links with other faith communities working on this issue and arrange an interfaith event as part of the 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women (25th November – 8th December each year).
6. Write letters and articles about domestic abuse, the Scottish Women's Aid 'Together we can stop it' campaign and any other initiatives you are involved in for your faith community newsletter or website.
7. If you think someone at your place of worship might be experiencing domestic abuse, make it possible for her to tell you or someone else. You can get advice about how to go about this from your local Women's Aid group or the Domestic Abuse helpline 0800 027 1234.
8. If you think someone at your place of worship might be perpetrating domestic abuse or condoning it, challenge this. You can get advice about how to go about this from the White Ribbon in Scotland campaign.
9. Promote helpline numbers in your faith community leaflets and newsletters, posters and websites.
10. Contact your local Women's Aid group to find out how you can support it.

This article was supplied by and published at the request of the 'Church in Society' Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The Short Break Bureau

In partnership with



BritishRedCross

The Short Break Bureau is a new and exciting way of coordinating short breaks for those who are cared for and their carers in Argyll and Bute.

The British Red Cross and Argyll & Bute Council are working in partnership to provide a personalised service which is tailored to the needs of the individual. The bureau arranges and promotes short breaks within Argyll & Bute but also out with the local area.

The service is available to those over the age of 18 with mental health issues, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and older people. The breaks are overnight and must be taken away from the home lasting from a

minimum of one night up to two weeks, depending on the individual.

The Short Break Bureau aims to provide more flexibility, more choice and more control for those going on overnight breaks. Funding for the breaks is provided by Argyll and Bute Council and is based on assessed need. However, the bureau can also be used free of charge for those who are self funding breaks.

We launched the service in Helensburgh and Lomond in February and in Bute & Cowal in May. The bureau was then launched in Oban, Lorn & Isles in August. The final launch was for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay and this took place at the end of October.

The launches provided a phased approach to the roll out of the new ser-

vice. They allowed us to focus and publicise the bureau in one area at a time. However we are up and running and able to arrange breaks for anyone within Argyll and Bute regardless of what area they live within.

If you are interested in going on a break or would just like to find out more please contact:

Lynda Barr (Programme manager) or Claire MacDonald (Administrator) on 01436 672 744

or email: lbarr@redcross.org.uk
cmacdonald@redcross.org.uk

www.redcross.org.uk

Registered Charity number in Scotland SCO37738

The Short Break Bureau is a partnership between the British Red Cross & Argyll & Bute Council.

'Glory In Our Midst' Advent Course 2011 by Andrew Swift

This is a three week course on Advent themes, exploring key passages from the bible that are commonly linked with Advent. The flavour of the course sessions is shown below, based on thoughts and questions from a variety of old and new testament passages.

Week 1: "Child & Judge"

The messages of Jesus about the end times, from his teaching. Exploring John the Baptist and who he was. What does Isaiah tell us about the 'line of David' and what this

means for the Jewish people?

Week 2: "The Baptist" and "Our Journey"

Does God interfere in human affairs, making a human baby have a destiny? Is John the Baptist's message fair or easy? Does he connect baptism and repentance? What is nature of the kingdom that is close at hand? Are we called to social action or to faith in Christ?

Week 3: "A Mother" and "A Physical God"

How does Mary react to her

angelic visitor – and what does it mean? How counter-cultural is Mary's song in Israel and here, today? Comparing Jesus' birth and his death – similarity and differences? Does the eucharist mean more in Jesus birth or his death? What is the body of Christ?

Each week we will read the passages and examine them in some detail, guided by Advent themed questions. This course aims to explore what God might be saying to us as a Christian community in Advent 2011.

A Letter From Yorkshire by Reg Taylor



In August we said our farewells to friends, neighbours and fellow worshippers at Holy Trinity. There were some poignant moments – sadness and happiness – tears of sorrow and joy. Over the following days we completed our packing and were able to reflect on 23 years during which time our children grew and matured, went off to University; Selena married and Ingrid now preparing to do so.

During the time leading up to our moving day Morag worked tirelessly preparing for the arrival of Pickfords and the final packing of cases and furnishings. The down-sizing process meant lots of possessions being discarded in readiness for the move to our new home. Good fortune was with us on the actual day as the sun shone brightly enabling the ‘removal men’ to load up in the dry. Not so on our arrival here in Cold Kirby. That morning was wet and pretty miserable but by midday the skies had cleared and our goods and chattels were safely delivered!

Renovation then started. Organised chaos ensued while essential works were carried out and in the midst of it all Morag and the girls worked

tirelessly to bringing order to our new home. We were eventually able to move into our new home ten days later!

After a family baptism, at last we have been able to relax a little more while still keeping busy in and around the house. We are now beginning to really feel at ‘home’. There is glorious open country all around and our cottage looks out over the village green. People are very friendly and have given us a warm welcome. We are looking forward to joining some of them in worship at St. Michael’s church in Cold Kirby – services being the last Sunday of each month! Also passing our front door is the very popular long-distance footpath: The Cleveland Way. This footpath also leads to our ‘local’ hostelry about 1 mile distance!

But not all life has been in Yorkshire: we headed off to Spain with family and friends. Our flight from Leeds/Bradford took us to Malaga and after picking up a hire car we set out for our destination – a remote villa set in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The villa was set amidst a huge area of olive groves, up a very bumpy, winding track.

This wonderful old farm had five en-suite bedrooms, a magnificent kitchen, roof terrace with built in B-B-Q facility and a large vine-covered patio leading out to the very inviting swimming

pool; as near to paradise as one could get. Best of all was the company we shared: Selena, Ben and baby Max; Ingrid and Mat; Sue and Ed (close friends of ours for many years) and Phillipa (Selena’s chief bridesmaid at her wedding and friend from her schooldays).

Since returning from our holiday we have enjoyed some very good Yorkshire weather and have made some progress in the garden as well as in the house. We were even able to have an evening B-B-Q in mid-October with not a midge in sight!! A real surprise for us was when Hugh and Christiane arrived at our gate on their way to Rievaulx Abbey; it was really good to see some of our friends from Holy Trinity, share a chat and enjoy a coffee.

Apart from on-going work in and around the cottage we are now also very busy organising and making arrangements for the wedding of Ingrid. This will be next April but we have much to do before then. Ah well, it’s good for the soul and as the saying goes, “grass doesn’t grow on a busy street”. We hope everyone is well at Holy Trinity and the church continues to thrive; God bless to you all.

Reg & Morag

Easyfundraising by Susan Watling



The HT Easyfundraising total stands at £419.07 in the middle of November.

So how does it work? You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but if you sign up to:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/htcdunoon>

for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes

directly to us at no extra cost to yourself. You can shop with most major retailers through the site e.g.. Amazon, M & S , Boots, Argos so before you spend anything online its always worth checking if you can put it through easyfundraising.

So when you are finishing your Christmas shopping online - or hitting the January sales, please do check & see if you can raise some more funds for HT at the same time!

Heritage Open Day - 17th September 2011



Mr & Mrs Trapp

On Saturday 17th September Holy Trinity church held its first 'Heritage Open Day.' The church was open to the public, with displays on:

The history of the Scottish Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church in Dunoon and area

Development of the church buildings over the years

The rectors of Holy Trinity

Vestments & 'sacred vessels' of the church

Registers of services, baptisms, marriage and burials, in some cases going back to the 1840s.

A steady stream of visitors came to see inside our beautiful church, and to learn a little more the history of our denomination and tradition in this part of the west of Scotland.

As I researched the material for this day, many fascinating facts and memories came to light. I discovered for myself the location of the Victorian 'English church', as opposed to the 'Episcopal Chapel,' and also learned more about the origins of both churches at a time when a dispute was raging in the church over the use of 'English' or 'Scotch' communion services.

I also met a member of

Holy Trinity choir from the 1930s: Gordon Trapp, who now lives in Hunter's Quay, on the site of the old Emmanuel English Mission church. When I met him and his wife Gladys, he told me about choir practices held in the Rectory, for which the choristers would be paid twopence. On Sunday, as they sang at mattins, they were required to place the twopence in the collection plate. I wonder for how many years those pennies were recycled!

It is planned to hold more heritage open days in the future, and as we were only able to tell a tiny part of the story of Scottish Episcopalianism and Anglicanism this time, there is much more to display and explore.

Many thanks to all who gave photos, information and their memories of the church.

Vestry Report November 2011 by Maureen McKellar

At the meeting on 16th August the Rector talked more about the Building the Vision process, explaining the Gill Young would be the visitor for Holy Trinity and the first session of the three would be on 1st October. The Rector reported that Bishop Kevin planned to visit Holy Trinity again in the autumn.

Under the heading of worship, the Rector talked through provisional thoughts for services leading up to Christmas. The Vestry were given an update on the work of the children and young people.

There was discussion on the fact that the ecumenical outreach activity planned for Cowal games had had to be cancelled. It was reported that it was hoped there would be something at Cowal Games 2012.

The revised Constitution was discussed and it was agreed that consultation with the congregation would take place at the Annual Meeting.

There were the usual discussions on Finance and Fabric. The Vestry

approved the purchase of folding chairs for use in church. The progress of the Heritage Lottery Application was discussed and it was reported that the application would be completed in time for submission by the deadline of 31st August. It was reported that there were still some snagging issues to be done in the tower.

The Events Group gave an update on suggested events for the remainder of the year.

The Vestry approved the new web site.

At the Meeting on 27th October, the Rector reported that Gill Young had been pleased with the Building the Vision session and reflected upon changes in Holy Trinity that have been taking place since her Mission 21 visits.

The Annual Meeting was fixed for Sunday 4 December after the morning service. It was agreed that the Vestry would approve the accounts at their November meeting. The Rector indicated that a meeting would be arranged shortly

with secretaries and treasurers of the Linked Charge to determine the budget for 2011/2012.

Under the worship heading, the Rector reported that the Healing Service had received good feedback and he intended to hold another. There was some discussion about other types of additional services that might be held. The Rector reported that the Reverend Norman McCallum had announced that he would retire at the end of April 2012, giving up being Dean in February. The Vestry received an update on the work of the children and young people and authorised purchase of the material for the new liturgical year.

Finance and Fabric were discussed, including the issue of contaminated water in the church. Scottish Water has been involved and an estimate for replacement pipework approved.

The next meeting of the Vestry will take place after the Annual Meeting.

Property Report November 2011 by Andrew Swift

Fabric work in Holy Trinity continues. An application has been completed and sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund and to Historic Scotland to carry out water-proofing and internal repairs of water damage and rot to walls, wood and windows. This application is due to be considered for

funding in December. There is fierce competition for such grants, but we remain optimistic.

Water supply - long-standing contamination to the water supply in the church building has been examined by Scottish Water and Stories, the contractor

based at the back of the church. A new water supply pipe, run from the existing mains in Kilbride Road up the route of the drive, is the preferred option to restore clean, usable water to the church. An emergency grant for 50% of the cost of the work has been received from



the Scottish Episcopal Church Dunderdale fund. The balance will be paid from the fabric appeal fund.

Tower & Nave Repairs –After optimistically reporting that we

had a dry tower in August, we are continuing to work with our contractor to chase ongoing leaks. The leadwork around the tower roof is in very poor condition and the drains from here and the ringing chamber are still letting water into the tower structure. Plastic sheeting has been placed in the ringing chamber to protect the vestry in the base of the tower, but the walls continue to be damp from rain penetration. The tower contractor has been authorised to go ahead carry out repairs to the leadwork, before the winter snows and storms cause too much water damage. This work is being funded from the fabric appeal fund.

The long-standing leak at the back of the nave, from damaged lead at the joint of the nave and narthex, has been repaired with new leadwork fitted. This is now dry. A new 7-day digital heating controller has been

fitted to allow cost-effective use of the heating over the winter. Some snagging of the new nave wooden floor has been required as the new beams fitted in the summer swelled with autumn moisture. Some snagging of the window ingoes has also been carried out to address a few small damp spots.

Overall, the watertight state of the church and tower will be significantly better than this time last year, and hopefully, once the contractor has carried out the tower repairs, we will be able to start getting the tower walls dry again.

Windows — the clear glass windows on the north (organ console) side of the nave are still awaiting replacement. The new windows have now been manufactured, but the contractor is awaiting opening 'hoppers' to fit in the frames. It is hoped these may be replaced at any time.

Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association



The Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association (SECMA), was founded by bequests in 1875, & was originally known as the Church Women's Missionary Association.

The charity is overseen by a committee comprising diocesan representatives which makes decisions on disbursement of funds to projects.

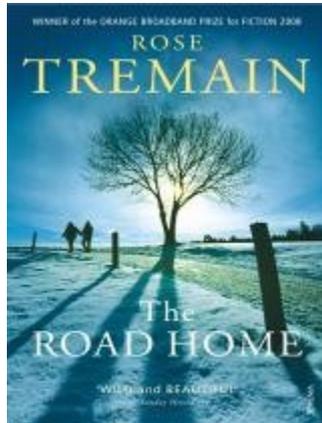
All monies must be spent abroad, with grants designed to assist local communities, mainly but not exclusively in Africa and

Asia, to become self-sufficient. The type of support lent is to agricultural projects, medical and educational services, care of children and empowerment of poorer communities.

The work of the Association is reported in its magazine 'Links' published twice yearly. The Autumn edition is in church (or available from Dinkie McEwen). This edition has been edited by their new Provincial Secretary Hilary Blyth.

As some of you may know her predecessor, Jinty Kerr, died peacefully at St Columba's Hospice in Edinburgh on August the 31st this year. After seven and a half years with SECMA, five of them fighting recurrent bouts of cancer and latterly TB as well, her courage, dignity and positive attitude was a remarkable example to us all!

Between the Lines- Book Group's Choice by Mary Swift



Since the last magazine the HT Book Group have enjoyed a couple of excellent reads - there was a good murder in Peter May's 'The

Black House' - set on the Isle of Lewis it was a page turner with a good twist in the tale - we recommend you read it and find out more!

We are also now far more educated about polygamy having read the '19th Wife' by David Ebershoff - this was a harder read and the story chopped & changed between narrators & time periods which kept us on our toes - but it was definitely worth persevering & getting to the end.

We are now reading 'The Road Home' by Rose Tremain - which tells the story

of an eastern European immigrants experiences in England. It promises to be a thought provoking tale.

Why not get a copy & join us for a bowl of soup & what I am sure will be an entertaining discussion on Thursday 15th of December at 11.30am in Season's Café. We could even have mince pies!!!

The Road Home by Rose Tremain, published by Chatto & Windus. ISBN-13: 978-0701177935

Events Team Update!



By the time you are reading this the Christmas Coffee & Crafts morning will be over for another year. So many thanks to all who supported the event & also to those who worked so hard to make it possible with donations of books, tombola prizes, baking etc or setting up & running stalls or the tea's. We couldn't have done it with out all the individual contributions & it's been a great way to fly the 'HT' flag down the hill in Dunoon!

So what next? Well December is pretty busy with all the Advent & Christmas preparations & services so the next 'social' is planned for Saturday 14th of January

from 2 to 4pm. St Mun's Hall is booked & we shall be hosting 'Afternoon Tea' with an illustrated talk by Maureen McKellar, Dinkie McEwen & Rosemary White on their recent trip to the Holy Land. It promises to be an enjoyable afternoon with an interesting talk, pictures of 'Sunshine' and a chance to catch up with friends over one of HT's renowned 'teas' - so put the date in your now diaries & make sure you can come along.

In February we plan to celebrate shrove Tuesday in style with Pancakes & a Beetle Drive! The date will be Tuesday 22nd of February so watch out for more details nearer the time.

A Visit to Morocco by Maureen McKellar

What does Morocco conjure up to you? Marrakesh filled with evidence as a favourite destination of the hippies? The film set from Casablanca? The usual religious tensions of a Middle Eastern country? I found none of these and so thought you might be interested in what I did find.

First of all, arriving in Marrakesh, the countryside was much greener than I expected. Marrakesh was founded in 1062 by Almoravids from the Sahara and around 1100 an elaborate irrigation system was built bringing water from the High Atlas Mountains. It became a trading place where the Berbers from the mountains, the Arabs from the plains and the trans-Saharan caravans met. The city walls and buildings in the old city are made from dried clay in an ochre/ russet colour and all repairs must be likewise. The colour changes with the sunlight and gives the place a unique feel.



The population is 98% Muslim and I found a warm, hospitable, tolerant people unlike other parts of the Middle East. The call to prayer from the hundreds of Mosques continues almost unceasingly, seeming part of the fabric of daily life. There is a Jewish quarter in Marrakesh and the Jews and their neighbouring Muslims get on well. I attended the only Christian church in the city, French Roman Catholic. This is situated right across from a Mosque. The service was fantastic, there was a black African choir and dancers

who took both monetary and harvest gifts to the altar to be blessed - a very spiritual atmosphere.



I took a walking tour around Marrakesh with a very knowledgeable guide. We saw the magnificent souks where you can buy anything. It is not called the world's biggest market for nothing. We also visited Place Jemma el-Fna which is described as the nerve centre of Marrakesh. It is a huge, rather irregularly-shaped open space which showcases traditional Morocco. It comes alive at night and has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

When we got to the food market Najib explained that although there were both rich and poor no one went hungry. Convention had it that between 10am and 12 noon the wealthy people (or their staff) came to purchase food. They got the best selection. From 12.00 to 2.00 the middle class people bought slightly cheaper poorer quality food and from 2.00 to 4.00 the poorer people came and bought the poorer quality food which by then was cheap. The butchers shop has two parts, one for those with money and one for the poor with the scraps.



The Moroccans are not showy people. The majority of their houses are very plain on the outside. All that is obvious is sometimes a decorated door. Inside those I saw were often courtyards and beautiful decorations. I was fortunate to stay in the old Medina in a Riad - these are traditional houses with a courtyard, trees and often a fountain or pool and most nowadays have become small boarding houses. It had just a plain wall and inside was this gorgeous, beautifully decorated building. The most surprising was a plain walled building the guide took me to. Inside was the most fabulous palace, each room with architecture and decoration better than the previous one. It



was built at the end of the 19th century. Near it are the Saadian tombs built in the 16th century with what is said to be the finest example of Islamic architecture in Morocco.

There is a lot more I could tell you as I took a trip to the High Atlas Mountains, took a bus to the south of Morocco and stayed in a little village with no tourists and experienced life as the Moroccans live. However you will just have to visit and see this fascinating country for yourself.

Services

Holy Trinity, Dunoon

Sundays : 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Nb. On 2nd & 5th Sundays in the month at this service communion may be from the Reserved Sacrament

Thursdays: 5.15pm Holy Communion

Church Contact Points

Rector	Rev Andrew Swift (702444)
People's Warden	Dinkie McEwen (705257)
Rector's Warden	Pauline Reville (704731)
Lay Representative	Ann Narraway (830400)
Vestry Secretary	Maureen McKellar (703058)
Vestry Treasurer	Susan Watling (701037)
Organist	John McIntosh (703304)

Notable Dates for your Diary

Tues. 29th Nov.	2pm - 'Experience Christmas' Information session in Holy Trinity
Thurs. 1st Dec.	1.30pm - 1st session of Advent Course 'Glory in our Midst' in the Rectory
Sat. 3rd Dec.	1.30pm - Service of Blessing for the marriage of Anne & Alan Neale
Sun. 4th Dec.	10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by Holy Trinity Annual Meeting
Sun. 4th Dec.	4pm Advent Evensong
Sun. 4th Dec.	8pm Cowal for Christ Prayer Meeting at Dunoon Community Church
Thurs. 8th Dec.	1.30pm - 2nd session of Advent Course 'Glory in our Midst' in the Rectory
Sat. 10th Dec.	2pm Building the Vision Session 2 - High Kirk hall, Hanover Street
Thurs. 15th Dec.	11.30am - 1pm Book Group in Season's Cafe
Thurs. 15th Dec.	1.30pm - 3rd session of Advent Course 'Glory in our Midst' in the Rectory
Sun. 18th Dec.	3pm Holy Trinity Carol Service followed by mulled wine & festive treats
Mon & Tues 19th & 20th Dec.	'Experience Christmas' with S1 in Dunoon Grammar School
Sat. 24th Dec.	Christmas Eve - 11.30pm Midnight Mass - traditional candlelit service with incense
Sun. 25th Dec.	Christmas Morning - 10.30am Family Communion Service to celebrate Christmas Day
Sat. 14th Jan.	2pm HT Events - Afternoon Tea & illustrated talk on 'A visit to the Holy Land' in St Mun's Hall

This Magazine is distributed free of charge - however there is a box in church for you to make a contribution towards the production costs, if you can.

Thank you.

Please send any articles or views to the Editor, Mary Swift by email to: mary@familyswift.org.uk or post to: The Rectory, 55 Kilbride Road, Dunoon PA23 7LN

Please note the deadline for submission of articles for the February / March magazine is Wednesday 18th of January 2012 .



*Famous Hymnal Typos:
Angles from the Realms of Glory*