

VIEWS FROM THE HILL



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October & November 2012 Volume 6, Issue 2

From the Rector



Dear friends – welcome to the latest edition of ‘Views from the Hill’, the newsletter of Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church.

As we enter autumn, here in Dunoon, the life of our church remains as busy and lively as ever. The events planned for the next few weeks promise to be entertaining and enjoyable, our planning for fabric restoration is progressing well and our worshipping life continues as richly as ever. My thanks go to the many, many people who make all these activities possible!

One piece of news that you will hopefully have heard is that the Bishop has asked if I will take on the additional role of the Dean of the diocese. After much prayer, reflection and discussion I have agreed, and now find myself as a ‘Very Reverend,’ the twentieth Dean of Argyll and The Isles. I hope that this will make little or no difference to the life of our charges. I will have certain responsibilities in Oban (on committees most of which I already attend) and will also assist the diocese with certain projects and activities, such as helping vacant charges with the process of finding new priests and particular issues with buildings and registers. As far as Cowal and Bute are concerned, it should be ‘business as usual.’ There will be a service of installation in the cathedrals at some point – an announcement will be made about this in due course (I suspect the new Dean will have to sort something out – they usually do!) Your prayers for the diocese and for myself are greatly appreciated as this new role is developed.

Closer to home, I would encourage you all to reflect upon where we are now going as a charge. We have been engaged in the diocesan ‘Building the Vision’ programme for two years now, and this has been a useful time of reflecting upon our history and heritage, and thinking about the future and where we are heading. In the wider diocese, it has become apparent that we are already some way down this path, and the busy programme of social, fundraising, heritage activities are exactly what most charges are looking for. The heart of all this: the worshipping life of the church, is also being strengthened, I believe, by the many other things that we are doing as a community.

As we approach 2013, the charges in the diocese will be encouraged to think about our mission in our local communities. Again, this is an area where I believe we are already starting to do the right sort of things. Supporting ‘The Haven’, ‘Starter Packs Plus’ and ‘Mission to Seafarers’ have all been working for good causes in our local context. Special services (like our recent ‘Pet Service’) have also raised our visible profile in the local area. People know that there is a Scottish Episcopal Church in Dunoon, and that is a place with a good Christian community.

But we cannot be complacent. There is much work to be done as we repair our building, continue to deliver the many activities that are becoming ‘normal’ and just live our lives as disciples of Christ.

Bless you all

Handwritten signature of the Rector.

Holy Trinity Dunoon
**Christmas Coffee &
Crafts Morning**



**Saturday 24th
November
10am - 12noon
High Kirk Hall
Hanover Street**

**Tickets £2 Adults / 50p Kids
includes Refreshments**

**available on the door or from
Church Members**

phone 01369 702444 for more details

**crafts, gifts, baking, tombola &
more...**

All Welcome

Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church, Dunoon *Scottish Charities no.SC008066*

Holy Trinity Christmas Fair

10am to 12noon Saturday 24th November, High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street.

This promises to be another busy but fun filled morning! Tickets (£2 for Adults 50pence for Children) will be on sale from early November, so make sure and get some for your friends & family. We will have a range of high quality craft & gift stalls so it will be an ideal opportunity for doing a spot of Christmas shopping. There will also be the chance to guess the weight & win one of Sharon's fabulous Christmas cakes, a tombola, a book stall and a Christmas themed 'Home baking' table. After all that retail therapy you can then relax & enjoy a sumptuous 'Holy Trinity Tea'.

It will be a busy morning and as the saying goes 'many hands make light work' – so if you can help for an hour or two we would be grateful! We will also need donations for the teas & stalls – see below for details. For more information speak to: Mary Swift (702444) or Pauline Reville (704731).

We need donations of items for:

- **Tombola Prizes** - anything goes but please make sure it is in date & you would want to win it - donations for the tombola to Ann Narraway Please.
- **Crafts** - are you a budding artist or jeweller? Have you a hobby to exhibit? Donations of small items to sell on the Holy Trinity craft stall are very welcome!
- **Baking & festive foods** - we need donations for both the teas & also to sell on a 'Home Baking stall'. Christmas puddings, jams, chutneys, mincemeat, tablet and all other festive foodstuffs most welcome!
- **Book Stall** – this is always a popular stall, we need a good selection of books of all genres.

Thank you!

Easyfundraising

We are into Christmas shopping season again and this always gives a good boost to Easyfundraising. For those of you new to church, to sign up for free you go to:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/htcdunoon

and use the links to shop at Amazon, M&S, Boots etc etc. The church then receives a percentage of your money spent. You can also book holidays, insure your car and use many services. Before you buy anything on line please first check with easyfundraising to see if the company is on their list, you may be surprised. It costs you nothing and every little helps....

Susan

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the Christmas Flowers in Holy Trinity please put it in the flower box by the church door or see Ann Narraway. Thank you.

Treasury Team Report

Treasury Team Report for October 2012 Newsletter

Although we are past the end of the accounting year for Holy Trinity, we have not quite finalised the accounts at the time of writing. There will be more in the next Newsletter after the Annual Meeting. However at this stage, after great efforts from everyone we look as if we will have a small surplus on our budgeted figure for the day to day running of the Church. That really is great news, especially considering we have also been hard at work fund-raising for our Restoration Project.

We cannot let ourselves be complacent because the next financial year will be another tough one for us. We are in the process of putting together the budget but we know that the stipend support is reducing and our expenses will all be increasing. The Vestry will endeavour to keep tight control of the expenditure and we hope everyone will continue to be as generous with their giving as they have been.

We will also continue to apply for grants to help with restoring our beautiful building and will fund-raise with specific events to add to the fund. The Government have made changes to the scheme for reclaiming VAT on church repairs which will mean we will be able to reclaim almost all of our VAT which is terrific news. We have now almost raised the money required by Heritage Lottery Fund in their grant conditions but there are other things we want to do, such as add a toilet, a loop system, etc so additional money will always be useful.

Many thanks to everyone for their continued support and particular thanks to the other members of the Treasury Team - the Rector for help, insight and strategic overview, Mary Swift for the books and Gift Aid and Ann Narraway for banking and cash.

Maureen McKellar

Treasurer & Paying Officer

Vestry Report

The Vestry last met on Tuesday 4th September in the Rectory.

As the current financial year draws to a close the Treasurer reported that the financial situation is better than it has been for some years. However the Treasurer warned against complacency. During the coming financial year Holy Trinity will apply for augmentation of 40% less than for the current year.

Vestry agreed to the following:

To purchase a three year licence for the payroll software

That the treasurer continue to investigate ways of investing some of our money in short term funds/bonds

That the organ fund remains as it is because this money will be needed during the restoration work

To reinvest money drawn down in 2011 but not needed yet

The Rector gave an update on the Restoration Project. This is on schedule and will soon go to Heritage Lottery Funding for approval to proceed to the next phase.

During a recent visit by the architect a leak was identified in the tower which needs attention now. Vestry approved this work.

In his status report for the Restoration Project, the Rector advised that approximately £8,500 still needs to be raised by December 2012.

The Rector gave an update on worship matters. There will be a Harvest Festival service at which there will be a collection for Starter Packs plus. A pet service has also been planned for the same day. A Healing Service is planned for Sunday 21st October at 6 p.m. The Rector has been asked to take the service at the War Memorial in Dunoon on Sunday 11th November. As this takes place at 1100, morning worship on 11th November will be a said eucharist at 0930.

The Rector has produced a joint budget for the linked charges. At present no joint services are planned.

The Rector attended the installation of the new Provost, at Oban Cathedral on the 31st August. The Diocese has a new website, Holy Trinity has its own web page.

Vestry agreed to buy two new mats, one for the porch and one for inside. The Rector is investigating signage for the Bishops Glen approach and a notice board for the porch.

The Rectory gutters have been cleared. A new fuse box has been installed and the vestry and Rector agreed to look at installing a new central heating system in the Rectory next year.

The next Vestry meeting is on Monday 22nd October at 7.30 in the Rectory.

Pauline Revill
Vestry Secretary
8th October 2012

News from the Events Team

Since our last report the team has helped at a number of events.

There have been two Open Days - the Heritage Open Day and the Open Doors at which the team helped provide a warm welcome, supported Andrew and Mary and served tea, coffee and refreshments.

There have been two Holy Trinity Challenges – The Swift's Dalriada Challenge and 8 + 1's Autumn Gold Concert.

The Swift family hosted a very enjoyable, relaxing and fascinating day at the Falkirk Wheel cruising on Dalriada on a warm sunny day.

8 + 1 and Friends Autumn Gold concert at the Burgh Hall was an entertaining musical evening which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all present. There were also many new faces from around the town and the venue proved a great success.

Most recently the Holy Trinity Ceilidh was held at Innellan Village Hall. Music was provided by the Cowal Fiddle Workshop. This was a lively and happy occasion offering dancing and music and a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new friends.

Coming Soon

The Russian concert on Wednesday 31st October at the Burgh Hall – for information contact Christine McIntosh. If you have not heard this choir before, please do try to make it this year.

Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair – this is our next fund raising event and is on Saturday 24th November in the High Kirk church hall in Hanover Street between 1000 and 1200 noon.

Ideas please?

Mary is hosting a brainstorming evening later this week. We will be sharing ideas for crafts and things to make for sale at the Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair.

If anyone has any ideas for fundraising or for a social please tell us about it. Team members are Mary Swift, Val Taylor, Sharon Barnard, Ann Narraway, Jennifer Woodward, Susan Watling and myself.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Pauline Reville,
Team Member
October 2012

Words From Felix...

In 1930 the Bishop of Durham, Hensley Henson, wrote 'who cares what is done or said in the Scottish Churches?' On commenting to my fellow students at seminary that I was undertaking my placement in the Scottish Episcopal Church, many responded in a similar vein. Most had never heard of the SEC and thought perhaps my placement was simply in the Church of Scotland or even a northern branch of the Church of England! Those that did know of the SEC wondered why I wished to spend time outside the safe confines of the Church of England. It appeared that over seventy years later, Bishop Henson's comment was ringing true.

Yet, why *should* people care what is said or done in the SEC? Something that Bishop Kevin said to me whilst I was on placement went some way towards answering this question. He commented that the clergy who came to minister in the SEC were a bit like those who had gone West in America in the nineteenth century: they were leaving what was perhaps a more secure existence for the promise of something else, and in this case the promises of God. The journey would be treacherous, the resources scarce and the future unclear, but they remained faithful to the vision they had been given and determined to work hard to make it a reality.

My four weeks spent in Holy Trinity Dunoon and St. Paul's Rothesay, demonstrated to me that these two qualities, faithfulness and determination, were present in abundance. In the services, weddings, vestry meetings, diocesan events, small groups, open days, and innumerable other things I was involved in during the month, I encountered a church, a diocese and indeed a province that is growing in confidence and looking for new ways to share the Gospel in Scotland.

Our presence at the Cowal Games was a perfect example of this in action. 'The Haven' was a tent in which we provided teas and coffees, games for children and a shelter from the rain! It was an ecumenical event, aimed at providing a warm and friendly welcome to those at the games, serve the local community, draw the various churches closer together and share God's love with all those who came through the doors (or tent flaps, to be precise!) For four weeks I was welcomed as a member of that community: meeting new people, sharing in worship and generally reflecting on and being involved in all that was going on. It was a whirlwind of a month and, as we drove the long journey back to Oxford, Laura and I reflected on an exciting, exhausting, challenging and inspiring time that we shared with all that we met; a time that no doubt will have been vital in preparing me for a curacy beginning next year.

So who cares what is said or done in the SEC? Well, I do for one. And I think God certainly does too.

Felix Smith (*Felix is the ordinand who was on placement with us and St. Paul's in August*)

...and some from Louisa and Joe

We would like to thank everyone for their help and kindness, cards & gifts on the occasion of our wedding. Special thanks to Sharon for amazing flowers and those who helped her; everyone who was there on the day to share the ceremony with us; those who helped clean the church before and tidy up afterwards; Ann for making sure the groom's bow tie was straight! - and for her photos; also Jennifer and Maureen for their photos. One of Maureen's is definitely my favourite - so far! Thanks too to Andrew and Mary - not only for Andrew's liturgical / legal part - but for their help with the outside catering on the day, printing the service sheets, and keeping all the family sane! It may not have been the most lavish wedding of the year, but it was a wonderful, special, perfect day - and the good folk of Holy Trinity helped make it so. Thank you one and all.

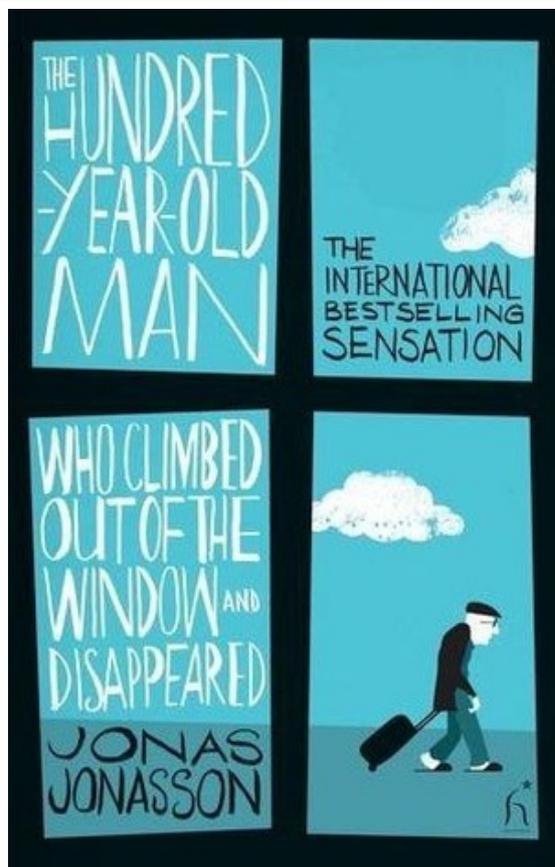
PET BLESSING



Service of Pet Blessing, Harvest Sunday September 30 2012

We had a Harvest Festival with a difference this year. After a successful service of thanksgiving for God's bounty in which we collected items to give to Starter Packs Plus - the local charity we support throughout the year, in the afternoon we had another first: a service of Pet Blessing! Many of our pets are familiar with the church: dog-owners use the car-park to get to the Bishop's Glen and the rectory cats are regularly on mouse-duty, not to mention the occasional dog that pops in for a visit while its owners are engaged in church duties. But it wasn't just dogs and cats that arrived on Sunday afternoon; we had rabbits and guinea-pigs as well. Considering the number of pets that arrived to take part in the service, there was remarkably little chaos. Several of the more musical dogs joined in the singing, especially the new hymn the Sunday school taught us: 'I wish I were a butterfly'! We thanked God for the love our pets afforded us, for the way they teach us to care for God's creation; then Andrew blessed each animal and deceased pets were remembered. Afterwards there was a lot of socializing in the car-park as the midges had decided to give the occasion a miss.





Holy Trinity, Scottish Episcopal Church, Dunoon Scottish Charities no.SC008066

Book Group is next meeting on:

Thurs. 25th October
at 11.30am

23b Hunter Street, Kirn

See Morag Fowler for Directions!

We will be discussing:

The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed
Out of The Window & Disappeared
by Jonas Jonasson

All Welcome, Please Join Us!

More details from: Di Tennent (840779)

Book Group

After a long summer holiday during which we read three books: *The Thread* by Victoria Hislop, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *The Wild Swans* by Jung Chang, we met at Maureen's house on September 13th to discuss them. The idea was that we would each try to read at least two of the books. Of course there was at least one person who had diligently read all three but most of us had read at least one. The discussion was lively - it's amazing how people's tastes differ! One thing these three very different reads did was get us talking!

The Book Group meets about every six weeks or so, which usually gives enough time to read the chosen book. Don't worry if you haven't finished it (or even started it - you may want to hear others' opinions before reading). There is tea and coffee and nibbles and the group is open to all comers. Bring your friends!

Services

Holy Trinity, Dunoon

Sundays: 10.30a.m. Sung Eucharist

NB. On 2nd and 5th Sundays in the month, this service may be from the Reserved Sacrament

Thursdays: 5.30p.m. Holy Communion

Church Contacts

Rector	V.Revd Andrew Swift	702444
People's Warden	Dinkie McEwen	705257
Rector's Warden	Pauline Revill	704731
Lay Representative	Ann Narraway	830400
Vestry Secretary	Pauline Revill	704731
Vestry Treasurer	Maureen McKellar	703068
Organist	John McIntosh	703304

Diary Dates

Sunday 7th October 2012

4pm - Cowal for Christ prayer meeting, Cowal Community Church, Victoria Road, Dunoon

Sunday 21st October 2012

6pm - Healing service, Holy Trinity, Dunoon

Monday 22nd October 2012

7.30pm - Holy Trinity Vestry meeting in the Rectory

Thursday 25th October 2012

11.30am - Holy Trinity Book Group, 23b, Hunter St. Dunoon. Contact Morag Fowler for directions

Wednesday 31st October 2012

7.30pm - Holy Trinity Presents Voskresenije Russian Choir at the Burgh Hall, Argyll St.

Thursday 1st November 2012

5.30pm - All Soul's Service, Holy Trinity

Sunday 4th November 2012

4pm - Cowal For Christ Prayer Meeting, Dunoon Baptist

Sunday 11th November 2012

9.30am - Said Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

Sunday 18th November 2012

Holy Trinity Annual Meeting after 10.30am Eucharist

Saturday 24th November 2012

10am-12.00 - Holy Trinity Christmas Fair, High Kirk Hall

Saturday 2nd December 2012

4pm - Cowal For Christ Prayer Meeting, New Life Church, Queen St. Dunoon

Thursday 6th December 2012

7.30pm - Holy Trinity Vestry Meeting at Eden Cottage, 45 Hill Street, Dunoon

Sunday 23rd December 2012

4pm - Christmas Carol Service at Holy Trinity, followed by festive refreshments