



VIEWS from the HILL

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Dunoon & St Martin's Tighnabruaich

Scottish Episcopal Churches

www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk

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Rector's Letter



Dear friends

As we enter Advent and feel Christmas approaching faster and faster, I am very conscious that I have been with you for six months. As is often the case, it feels as if the time has flown by but also that Mary, the children and I have been living in Cowal and Bute for a very long time – but in a good way. It has been a pleasure to be made so welcome in Dunoon, Rothesay and Tighnabruaich. We have also enjoyed starting to get to know the local

communities. This is a good place to be church.

We are also, as a church, entering times of increasing busyness. The repair work on the tower is now imminent, along with longer term planning for our fabric. Our Advent carol service is now in planning, preparations for the Christmas services are starting, thoughts about the shape of next year are coming together. All the busyness of the new vestry is in hand. But we should take time to slow down and reflect.

Advent is a time of new beginnings. A new church 'liturgical year' starts, the pattern that follow the life story of Jesus Christ from before his birth right through to the 'end times', when we reflect upon the Son of god glorified. At the Advent end of the year,

we begin our preparations for the first major festival of the year, the birth of our Lord, Christmas.

But it feels important not to get to Christmas too soon. We can rush on ahead in the darkening weeks as winter approaches (and as I write this the snow outside the rectory window both delights and threatens), a rush to get us to the crib, the baby, the shepherds and the angels.

But Advent is a time when we are encouraged to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. There is a richness about Advent that the later season of Lent rightly lacks. Lent is sparse and lean, Advent is filled with potential and expectation. Lent is sackcloth and sharp violet, Advent is rich, royal purple. Lent ends with an empty church, stripped of all trappings and colour. Advent ends with an in-

creasing excitement as the Advent Antiphons draw us towards the wonder that is Christmas Day.

This Advent, pace your movement towards the end, towards the white and gold season of Christmas. Whether the themes you think about are 'patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist and Mary,' or 'death, judgement, heaven and hell,' or 'hope, peace, love and joy,' take your time on the journey through the next few weeks, towards Christmas and the next year. Two thousand years ago, a story began that changed the world forever. We can all share in that story, now and always.

Bless you

From the Editor

Well thank you all for the many and varied suggestions for the new newsletter name. The editorial board has had a difficult task choosing - I hope you approve of the decision.

Why did we choose 'VIEWS from the HILL'? Well I think the hill connection to Holy Trinity is

fairly obvious (especially to anyone who has recently walked up the drive) - but did you know Tighnabruaich means 'house on the hill'. Biblically there are also lots of 'hill' & 'Mount' quotes and associations we can make, so all round I think it is a good choice.

Who gets the prize I hear

you cry - well as the answer should really be a certain Rector we all know, lets suggest we all share the chocolates at coffee this Sunday!

I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

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Meet Rosemary Sharp from St Martin's

When did you first come to St Martin's, Tighnabruaich?

My grandparents lived in Tighnabruaich so all my family have spent a lot of holidays here. When the children had finished college, got jobs and left home I came to live here permanently in 1985 and attended the Eucharist service whenever there was one. If I remember rightly the name St. Martin's did not come into being until the Rev. Edgar Pacey came over from Rothesay to take the services.

Tell us a little about where you were before you came to Tighnabruaich?

I was born and brought up in Lenzie – outside Glasgow. When I married we lived in London for a short time before going out to Marangu on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro where my husband was researching the Bantu languages. Then we came back to London for a few years and when our daughter was born we moved to Reigate where our son was born. In 1965 we moved to Bangor in Wales where my husband died very suddenly of a heart attack in 1979 at the age of 56.

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

I have done a lot of voluntary work wherever I've been – Brownies, Guides, student club, Sea scouts, WRVS, Oxfam, and here I've been a member of the RNLI for over twenty years, been their treasurer, their chairperson and still work in their shop when needed. I have also served on the Kilfinan Community Council as treasurer for the past seven years. I just like helping where I can. I

have loved travelling all over the world – on the cheap not on luxury liners! And I love music – until this year I went up to the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall concerts and I read quite a lot.

What do you like about church life in Tighnabruaich?

This is a difficult question because church life is nearly non-existent. We used to have thirty people who attended services and there was a lovely church in the village. We now worship in Kames. Many people have moved away, many have died, a few have gone to the Church of Scotland. I was treasurer for many years and Lay Representative but there are now only about five of us who are extremely grateful that Andrew is still willing to come over to take a service twice a month.

What have you done in previous churches? What do you enjoy about it?

In Lenzie I was baptized and confirmed and attended Sunday School, then became a teacher and a Youth Club leader. The children were baptized in London but apart from attending services it was mostly the social events we got involved in. However the church in Wales was wonderful. We had a vicar who with the help of his wife devoted his whole time to caring for his large congregation. The children were confirmed there and I was soon involved in women's groups, prayer groups and even acting! I also had what I considered the chance of a lifetime by being

included in a group the vicar took on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. To receive the Eucharist on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where Our Lord fed his disciples and to walk on the tiny bit of the ancient road to Emmaus were just two of the unforgettable experiences.

Any thoughts for here?

As for any thoughts for here, I would like us to work hard to reclaim the true message of Christmas; I am so fed up with this money mad society who celebrate a festive season. I would like us to be telling people to "Put Christ back into Christmas. Wise men still worship Him".



What is your favourite hymn and why?

I have found that favourite hymns change with age. At school I remember it was "Immortal, Invisible, God only wise". Then came "When I survey the wondrous Cross" – there are so many I love and enjoy singing, but now in old age I find the words of "O Love that wilt not let me go" and "Just as I am, without one plea" to be more favourable.

Events Report

Holy Trinity Christmas Fair

Wasn't it an amazing success! Thanks to everyone for all your hard work and support! We raised over £660 a great effort & we even got a nice mention in the 'High Kirk Notes' in the Observer - I quote "A very successful Christmas Fair, with delicious home baking was held on Saturday, November 20, by Holy Trinity Church in our Hanover Street Hall..."

I think this may be an annual event - well done Events Team!



Advent Carol Service



This popular annual Service will be held at 3pm on Sunday 19th of December in Holy Trinity.

It will feature a range of music which will include a chance to listen to local Choir 8+1 as well as giving the congregation a chance to sing of some of our Advent favourites like 'O come O come Emmanuel'. The readings will include a range of seasonal secular and Biblical texts to illustrate the Advent story.

Refreshments of mulled wine & mince pies will be served at the end of the service and the parlour is booked to make a return visit for the event - so please bring your friends & neighbours along!

100 Lucky Squares

We have a number of fantastic prizes left from the Christmas Fair - so the Events Team thought we would run a 'Hundred Squares' competition over the next few weeks.

You will have the opportunity to purchase your 'lucky' squares for £1 each over the next few Sundays in Holy Trinity. Make sure you don't miss out on your chance to win some of the goodies - the prize winners will be revealed at the end of the Advent Carol Service.

But remember - 'you have to be in it to win it' as they say!

The ADVENTurers



Some of the hardy crew who made it up Holy Trinity's drive for our Advent Sunday Eucharist.

By Alan Neale

Coffee & Cakes....

St Martin's, Tighnabruaich are holding a charity coffee morning on Tuesday the 18th of January 2011 in Kyles Parish Church Hall, Kames.

Can you help with baking (any contributions can be handed in at the Rectory on the 17th for Andrew to take over) or even better have a trip over and join them for the morning? You are guaranteed a warm welcome and a great cup of coffee....

More details from Andrew (702444).



Advent and a New Church Year

Advent 2010 is now upon us, so the purple church dressings and robes have come out again. The Advent wreath has appeared, with pink berries and purple and pink candles to mark the passage of the weeks as we approach Christmas. Traditions of our society and traditions of the church seem to merge at this time of the year, as almost everybody seems to be caught up in the business of the Christ-mass, the celebration of the birth of the Messiah. Even though many seem oblivious to this meaning, our culture has 'hard-wired' the sense of wonder that the incarnation brings.

The new church year also means that Sunday upon Sunday we tend to focus upon a different one of the synoptic gospels. To digress: synoptic – coming from the same point of view – Matthew, Mark and Luke are the synoptic gospels, sharing source material and tending to be a narrative of major aspects of the life of Jesus. The fourth gospel, John, has much more developed ideas of the divinity of Christ and much more complex teaching on this subject. It has little common source

material with the other three gospels – hence why it is viewed as coming from a different point of view. Each synoptic gospel has a different emphasis and was believed to have been written in a different context. There is still much debate on exactly how and when the gospels were written, but there are common threads and clear parallels between the first three books of the New Testament.

In Advent 2010 we start gospels generally taken from the gospel of Matthew. Matthew's gospel has a strongly Jewish perspective, and makes much of the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy in the birth, life and death of Jesus. In Matthew's gospel Jesus is also quoted criticising the Jewish authorities in very strong terms. This is not seen as criticism of the Jews per se, but rather strong attacks on the corrupt and Roman-collaborative Jewish rulers. Matthew, when he wrote the gospel, was almost certainly in a situation where his early Christian community was under attack from the Jewish rabbis and leaders. It was a time of great unrest, the temple in Jerusalem has been destroyed and there much fear of the Romans and Roman aggression in Israel-Palestine. Some scholars suggest that this context of conflict and developing Rabbinic Judaism can be seen in Matthew's work. Matthew has several chosen examples of very positive relationships between Jesus and non-Jews – the magi are only found in Matthew's gospel, wise men from an eastern land, who understand who and what Jesus is, even as a young child. Much of

the above characteristics of Matthew's gospel is repeated in the other synoptic, but Matthew has unique emphasis.

These themes of Matthew's gospel will be explored and developed as the year moves on, but Advent remains a time of preparation for the feast of Christmas. This season is a useful *aide-memoire* for a Christian community. The actual events of Christmas, however and whenever they occurred, do not have to be repeated and focused upon each year, but to do so draws the worshipper back into the wonder and mystery of God's plans for all humanity. It can be all too easy to focus upon the issues of our day – be they financial-, or social-, or gender-, or sexuality-, or warfare-centric. But in this focus on the issues before us, we can lose sight of the wonder of what God has planned for us, the potential of the divine and human, foretold, combined, filled with possibilities. The new calendar year will begin with the early life then the ministry of Jesus, as Matthew guides us on: but Advent leaves us on the edge of seats, waiting for God's plans to literally leap into this world.



All Age Worship



The phrase 'all age worship' is often taken, in church circles, to mean children's worship. Simple songs, maybe with actions, simple paraphrasing of bible stories, lively music and lots of running about are the anticipated features of such worship.

I would suggest, however, that 'all age worship' actually means exactly that: worship that is suitable for people of *all ages* (and tastes, and abilities, and gender etc. etc.). All age worship is a way of praising, thanking, asking, confessing that everybody can fully participate in and find worthwhile,

stimulating and sacred.

How is this achieved?

Well sadly, there is no single formula that works for all – the tastes of different generations are different, and the tastes of individuals within those groups even more so. A three year old girl will (probably) prefer different worship to a ninety-nine year old man.

We are becoming blessed at Holy Trinity with some children: some of them mine, other who have slightly further to travel to church each week. The question we face is: how can we all worship together? I straight away, of course, broaden the question out to cover all of us – how can the diverse group of humanity that calls Holy Trinity 'church' ever worship together?

On Sundays, we tend to have a Sung Eucharist: a traditional service with robed clergy and servers, organ music. The children who worship with us can take part in this eucharist – a baptised Christian can be admitted to our church's communion. There will also be 'age-appropriate' activities most Sundays during the service: craft, teaching, discussions. Once the tower is operational again, we hope to have even livelier (aka nois-

ier) activities for the children.

But I find myself wondering what other age-or-taste appropriate worship we should be offering, for all of our members. I would like to think that we can offer additional ways of helping people to encounter God, whether in small groups, special services or other forms. The Scottish Episcopal Church is also thinking about the variety of forms of worship. It feels important that we do not lose what we already do well and love, but also that we explore how we can do more in addition.

We are all being invited into our journey of all age worship. Whether this is 1929 liturgy, or 1982 with hymns, or 1970 with incense, or a youth service with smoke and drums or wherever we go: this is ALL 'all age worship.'

Christmas Flowers



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

Many Congratulations to John & Christine McIntosh (& family) on the safe arrival of new granddaughter Anna.



Vestry Report by Maureen McKellar, Vestry Secretary

The Vestry met on 23rd September and 25th October.

At the September meeting the Rector told us that he had purchased the website domain www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk which will be a help for increasing our online profile. He also said that he had been asked to be part of the Dunoon Grammar school chaplaincy team. The Vestry welcomed this. It was reported that there had been an approach from Cowal Green Gym to see if we would be interested in supporting them. It was agreed that if they could make a path to St. Bride's Well that would be very helpful.

The usual subjects of the Linked Charge, Wider Church Links, Finance, Fabric and

Events were discussed. It was agreed that we needed to repair the church sign on Kilbride Road. The Editor of the local paper had suggested doing an article on Holy Trinity and that was agreed. It was reported that the drive up to the church had been repaired, funded by the Removal Company who had been responsible for the damage.

At the October meeting the Rector said he intended to follow our tradition and have incense at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, at Epiphany and at Candlemas. The Rector told us that Elly, Peter and Frankie were interested in serving. The Vestry welcomed this and agreed to

purchase robes that could be used by them and any other children interested in serving. It was reported that the Holy Trinity 1982 Liturgy Booklet had been completed and was being tried at services to check for accuracy. The Vestry was pleased to learn that the Rector intended to run an Advent course. The Secretary reported that an additional £2,000 had been given to Holy Trinity from Scottish Churches Architectural Trust to help with repairs. The Vestry discussed in some detail the draft accounts for the year.

From the Counting House by Richard McGilvary, Vestry Treasurer

The books are still away at the Auditor as I write so Mr Mean is still in fear and trepidation as to the boo-boos he will discover, (with a tweak or two, all was well).

A wonderful thing happened on Saturday Morning. I had mislaid the bank statement of the Appeal Fund so I could not finish the October book-keeping. I know this is daft but I was quite depressed by this. On Thursday I posted a note to the Bank of Scotland asking for a replacement. On Saturday one of the lassies from the Bank dropped the replacement in at home as she said she knew it was holding me up.

October finances were very much as budgeted but we sold some of the chimneys from the Rectory. On this note our Budget for the current financial year shows a deficit

of some £6000. SO we have got to try and increase giving - please help if you can.

I would like to thank Ann for all the help she is. Each week apart from all her other work for the church she counts the Sunday giving and banks it. She prepares a wonderfully detailed report so filling in the Bank Cash Book is easy.

Andrew is a spreadsheet whiz so I hope he will prepare some graphs to amaze, inform and shock you.

Thank you Richard for all your hard work 'in the counting house' over the years - enjoy a well earned retirement from Church finances!



H. T. Fabric Update by Maureen McKellar



The work on the tower was due to begin week commencing 15th November. The steel beams have been manufactured and galvanised, Wise Property have been advised and all was ready to stabilise the tower and repair the valley gutter. Unfortunately, firstly the scaffolding lorry was in Cambeltown and then the

bolts didn't arrive in time. However, all being well, by the time you read this, we will be underway. Also over the course of the next few weeks the next phase of roof work will be carried out by Northern Steeplejacks. Both these jobs will ensure that the church is more wind and waterproof and rot free for the winter.

Between the Lines

Book Groups Choice

Plain Truth

by

Jodi Picoult

Hodder, (2008)
ISBN 978-0340960493

"Katie Fisher is Amish. For eighteen years, she has grown up in a community set apart from the modern world by lifestyle & belief. It is a community fiercely protective of its way of life, & to turn your back on it is to lose everything—your church, your home your family.

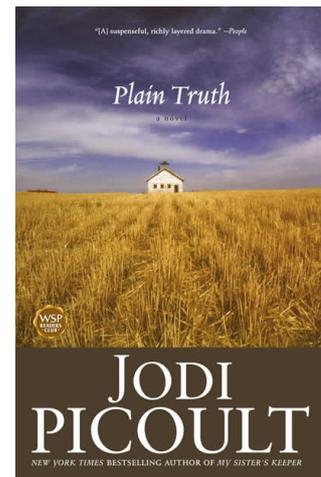
So when, in the middle of the night, the baby comes, Katie does the only thing she knows how to do in times of stress: she prays.

She falls asleep, exhausted, and when she wakes, it seems her prayer is answered. The baby is gone. Her father need never know.

But Faith alone cannot help when the child's body is found."

Jodi Picoult writes an engaging storyline which uses the unfolding legal drama to explore the background ethical issues of neonaticide. She paints a fascinating picture of Amish life where Church and the good of the community as a whole take precedence over the rights and opinions of the individual. As in many of her other titles, nothing is as straight forward as it first appears - look out for the final twist in the tale.

The snow prevented many of us getting to our meeting, however



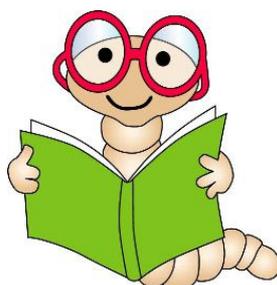
the intrepid few enjoyed a good discussion & would recommend the book to a friend.

Mary Swift

Book Group is now reading:

Due to the small number of us at the discussion we didn't set the next book - have you any suggestions of a book to read over Christmas & discuss in January?

Suggestions to: Di Tennent on (840779)



Readers Recommendation

This is a new spot that I would like to encourage in the magazine - I know a lot of us read lots particularly over the winter months when it is too cold, wet or miserable to go out. So when you finish a book why not send a few lines about it to the magazine to recommend it to others—or even warn them off it!

I look forward to hearing from you all.

The Ed

From the Organ Bench by John McIntosh

Those of you who came to the recent concert of Russian choral music given by Voskresenje will remember not only the music, but the joyous sight of a packed church – something it would be good to strive to repeat from time to time. With that in mind, don't forget our Advent Carol Service on Sunday 19 December at 3.00 pm. Do come for a good sing and bring a friend.

**while
shepherds
washed
their socks
by night.....**



Silk Painting by Maureen McKellar

As part of the £50 challenge, I held a silk painting class last year. This was a new experience for most of us and our teacher, Linda, showed great patience. Some of our efforts were quite good, but we only produced small pieces of art. One or two of us thought it would be good to learn how to make scarves. So, on 30th October this year, Linda travelled back to Cowal to teach us. It took us most of the day and at times our



kitchen looked like a bomb site, but the results were worth it. Our scarves have been much admired and the Fabric Fund benefited. (*Don't the Scarves look Fabulous - Ed.*)

H.T. Fundraising Challenges

Smartie Tubes

How are you getting on at filling your 'Smartie Tube' with 20pence pieces?

Did you know that we are averaging around £12.70 in each full tube. So far we have raised over £75 for the fabric appeal fund.

However that was from just six Smartie tubes - there must be lots more out there still lurking on your shelves, so keep collecting those 20p's!



£50 Challenge

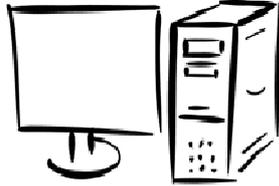
Inspired by Maureen's Silk Painting article?

What could you do to raise £50 for the appeal fund?

Let's start the New Year with a fresh out break of £50 fun!

Let us know about your event.

Easyfundraising



Just a reminder that If you are doing your Christmas shopping online – remember to use the Easyfundraising site to do it!

This is a FREE service where you can shop with

your favourite online stores and at no extra cost raise funds Holy Trinity. You have a choice of 2000+ Brand Name retailers who will all make a donation from your purchase - all you need to remember to do is use the links from the Easyfundraising website first - it's that simple!

If you ALREADY shop online, why not help Holy Trinity at no extra cost from purchases you

would make any way - & encourage your friends & family to do so to!

The web site is www.easyfundraising.org for more information phone: Susan Watling on Dunoon 701037.

Thank You to all those that do use the site - we have just received another £90 for Holy Trinity general funds from Easyfundraising - It really does work so keep shopping!

Some Festive Cheer.....

I know it is still only Advent as I write but I thought you might enjoy this.....

The 12 Days of Christmas - A Turkey Version

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I'm glad we've bought a turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey - a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas we'd friends in from next door
The turkey tasted just as good as on the day before.

On the fourth day of Christmas Gran came, she's rather old.
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christ-

mas outside the snowflakes flurried
But we were nice and warm inside - we ate the turkey - curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas the turkey spirit died.
The children fought and bickered and we ate the turkey - fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave a wince
When he sat down to dinner and was given turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas the dog ran off for shelter
I served up turkey pancakes and a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas poor Dad began to cry
He said he couldn't stand the strain of eating turkey pie.

On the tenth day of Christmas the air was rather blue
And everybody grumbled

at eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting
Mince pies as hard as rock and the turkey quite revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas at last Dad smacked his lips
The guests had gone, the turkey too - we dined on fish and chips!

Happy Christmas to you all!



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

St Martin's, Tighnabruaich

are joining Holy Trinity in Dunoon for December Services

Church Contact Points

Rector	Rev Andrew Swift (702444)
People's Warden	
Rector's Warden	Pauline Revill (704731)
Lay Representative	Ann Narraway (830400)
Vestry Secretary	Maureen McKellar (703058)
Vestry Treasurer	
Organist	John McIntosh (703304)

Readings

5 Dec	Advent 2 Isaiah 11.1-10 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12
12 Dec	Advent 3 Isaiah 35.1-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11
19 Dec	Advent 4 Isaiah 7.10-16 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25
24 Dec	Midnight Mass (Incense) Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-12 John 1.1-14
25 Dec	Christmas Morning Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20
26 Dec	St Stephen 2 Chronicles 24.20-24 Acts 7.51-60 Matthew 10.17-22

Notable Dates

Wed 1 Dec	7pm - Book Group, Seasons Cafe
Thurs 2 Dec	4pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 1
Sun 5 Dec	10.30am - Sung Eucharist, Holy Trinity followed by Annual Meeting for Holy Trinity & St Martin's
Mon 6 Dec	7.30pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 2
Thurs 9 Dec	4pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 2
Mon 13 Dec	7.30pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 3
Thurs 16 Dec	4pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 3
Sat 18 Dec	Ecumenical Carol Singing, meet outside Free Church on Argyll Street at 2.30pm.
Sun 19 Dec	3pm Advent Carols at Holy Trinity
Mon 20 Dec	7.30pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 4
Thurs 23 Dec	4pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 4
Fri 24 Dec	11.30pm Midnight Mass (Incense), Holy Trinity
Sat 25 Dec	10.30am Eucharist for Christmas Day, Holy Trinity
Mon 3 Jan	7.30pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 5 (final)
Thurs 6 Jan	4pm Advent & Epiphany Course at The Rectory - Session 5 (final)
Thurs 6 Jan	5.30pm Epiphany Eucharist (Incense) Holy Trinity
Tue 18 Jan	St Martin's Charity Coffee Morning, Kyles Parish Church Hall, Kames.
Wed 2 Feb	5.30pm Candlemas Eucharist (Incense) Holy Trinity

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 January magazine is Sunday 26th December - the January issue will be available on Sunday 9th Jan.