



VIEWS from the HILL

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Dunoon & St Martin's Tighnabruaich

Scottish Charities Number

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From the Rector

It was a great pleasure to welcome our new bishop, the Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, and his wife Elspeth to Holy Trinity. Bishop Kevin is now starting the process of getting to know the churches and congregations in his diocese, an area covering all of the Western Isles and a vast slice of the mainland from Mallaig as far south as Campbeltown – and it was a delight to be such an early part of this 'getting to know' you phase.

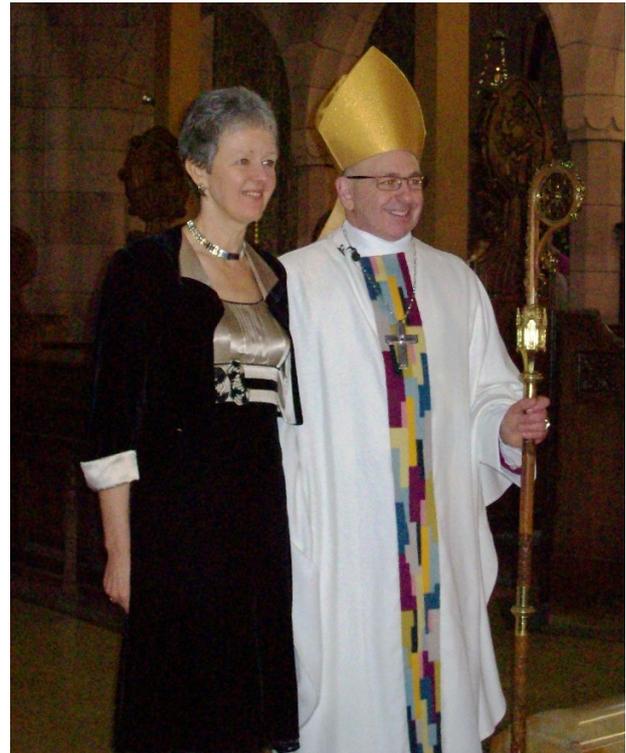
Bishop Kevin, when he arrived with us in Cowal, found a church filled with enthusiastic and energetic people, all keen to see growth in the church and a richer and deeper engagement with God and the world. As we worshipped together, I believe he could feel the sense of warmth and commitment. This sense of warmth and commitment only felt stronger as we spent time together afterwards in food and fellowship.

The sense that anyone gets, as they meet the Scottish Episcopal church in Cowal, is of a group of Christians who are looking for ways to be a faithful worshipping, praying community, and for ways of making the wider commu-

nity a better place to be, whether by helping neighbours, speaking out about local issues (e.g. Cowal Hospice – see later article), doing charitable work or many, many other activities. All of that package is such an attractive proposition that I believe it would hard to resist joining such a church!

The bishop's first visit past, we are now approaching the season of Lent, a time for reflection on our lives, our journey with God, and where we may need to work to improve that journey. This year we will be holding a Lent Course, which gives us the opportunity to share some of these thoughts with others on the journey (see the later article for details).

There is also a different feel to worship in Lent. We start with Ash Wednesday, a Eucharist with the 'imposition of ashes' – a sign of the cross made on our foreheads in the service using ash from last year's Palm Sunday crosses. The words said as the ash is placed: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,' remind us of our frail lives and need for God. The church is also



Bishop Kevin & his wife Elspeth after his consecration in St John's Cathedral, Oban

changed: no flowers for Lent, penitential violet church hangings, and this year we plan to keep the altar bare for Lent, exposing the beautiful but colourless stonework of the table at which we worship.

Further ahead lie Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday and the rollercoaster ride that is Holy Week: but not for now. For the moment, we prepare ourselves for the long haul that is the wonderful, but challenging season of Lent.

Blessings to you all

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The Consecration of Bishop Kevin

by Christine McIntosh



On a day when the wind threatened to lift the roof and the rain battered down on the alarmingly glass roof of the choir, an unfeasibly large number packed the cathedral to see Bishop Kevin consecrated and Bishop Mark give up the burden of looking after us - it's been a long haul, and he's been brilliant. There was a considerable invasion of Edinburgh folk, obviously loathe to let +Kevin go, and a selection of luminaries from other parts of the province, all interested by the Argyll weather and the possibility that gaiters might be worn (they weren't). Kilts there were, however, and some tartan trews, and tweed - not to mention the odd fleecy jumper.

If you've never attended a consecration - and it seemed before this one that tickets were like hens' teeth - you'd be surprised at how unlike anything else it is. As the Cathedral of St John the Divine is small as cathedrals go, the clergy attending have to pile into one side of the nave, so the solemn procession

fragments quite early on in its progress down the aisle. You'd be amazed at the number of while-robed figures in the procession - not just the ones you might recognize as belonging to Argyll, but also others from the rest of the province come to see the deed done. There was Hugh, presiding over it all as Synod Clerk. And then there were bishops - the five Scottish bishops currently in office, two retired Primuses (should that be Primi?) and three Bishops from overseas, including the Bishop of Lund - and I'm still trying to ascertain if this was the first time a female bishop was one of those laying hands on a new bishop in Britain. This is possibly the most moving part of the ceremony - the outward and visible sign of the tradition

of the Apostolic Succession.

The Right Reverend David Conner, Dean of Windsor, preached a sermon that drew heavily on Philip Larkin's poem Church Going. Written 60 years ago, it gives a picture of the poet - and Larkin himself took part in a TV film that showed him, bicycle and all - visiting a church, going in only when he is "sure there's nothing going on". Larkin, said the Dean, was like the Greeks in the Gospel of the day who wanted "to see Jesus". Although Larkin said he was "bored, uninformed", he nevertheless often found himself "tending to this cross of ground" because of what it held, what it had held over the ages, and this was a commonly-found



attitude of the majority of people nowadays, who still have this hunger without really knowing what it is they seek. Bishop Kevin's role was to be a leader in mission, relentless in his prayerful quest to show the love of Christ in the world so that those who seek find not barriers and impenetrable theology but rather the answer to the need they might not fully understand, the "hunger ... to be more serious".

"Reach out, my friend," he said in conclusion, "reach out, but dig deep."

The digging will soon begin, but for this weekend, it seemed, the celebrations were paramount. And after a service lasting over two hours, the hungry horde scuttled along the road like so many Mary Poppinses under their billowing brollies and descended on the purvey in the Argyll Gathering halls.

When we left, five hours after arriving, the rain was still falling steadily. We surfed home through the gathering gloom, crashing through the potholes that seemed to have multiplied since the morning. At least we didn't crash the car. Summer consecrations must be more dangerous - we drove into a ditch after the last one. You've got to thank for the fact that Holy Trinity still has an organist!

'Experience Easter' in Dunoon Grammar School

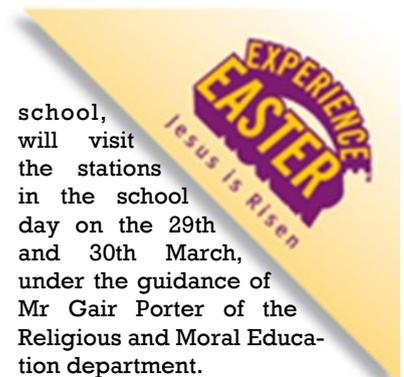


Andrew & Children from Elmbridge Junior School, Gloucester 'experience' the 'Resurrection' station

We are taking the 'Experience Easter' project into our local secondary school this March.

This project involves creative 'stations' to tell the story of Holy Week and Easter in an exciting, engaging and interactive style. These creative and powerful Easter stations have been developed for school-age children, but can also be used by adults. We are now recruiting people to staff the stations in the Grammar school. No experience is necessary, full training will be given – the only requirement is a willingness to tell the Easter story and to allow the children to respond from their own life experience.

The stations will be created by a small team in early March and built in the afternoon and evening of Monday 28th March. The students, from S1 of the

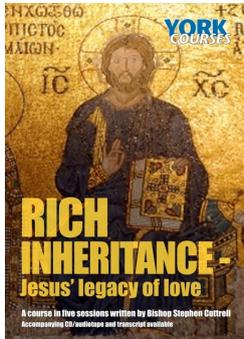


school, will visit the stations in the school day on the 29th and 30th March, under the guidance of Mr Gair Porter of the Religious and Moral Education department.

From Mary and my experience of taking these stations into schools in England over the past two years, we have found that the team themselves had a positive experience from taking the Easter story into schools – the students were interested and engaged with the material, sharing amusing and often very profound reactions to the account of Jesus' last week, up to the cross and beyond, to the empty tomb.

For any further information or to get involved, please contact me, Andrew Swift, on 702444.

Lent Course 2011: Rich Inheritance, Jesus Legacy of Love



Holy Trinity is holding a Lent Course this year, based on the latest of the highly successful 'York Courses.' These courses are used all over the world, helping people to share their experiences and understanding of the Christian faith.

Jesus didn't write a will. He left no written instructions. He didn't seem to have a plan. At the end, as he hung dying on the cross, almost all of his followers had abandoned him. By most worldly estimates his ministry was a failure. Nevertheless, Jesus' message of reconciliation with God lived on. It is the central message of the Bible. With this good news his disciples changed the world. How

did they do it? What else did Jesus leave behind – what is his 'legacy of love'? This course addresses these questions.

- Session 1: An empty tomb
- Session 2: A group of people
- Session 3: A story
- Session 4: A power
- Session 5: A meal

The course booklet, written by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, includes questions aimed at provoking wide-ranging discussion. This course booklet is available for each member of the group (price £3.50). The group uses a specially recorded CD as a guide to the session (and which can be listened to by anyone who misses a session.) The participants on the course

CD/audiotape are the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols; writer and lecturer in Biblical studies, Paula Gooder, and author and public theologian, Jim Wallis. Dr David Hope, the ex-Archbishop of York, introduces the course and Methodist minister Inderjit Bhogal provides the Closing Reflection at the end of each session.

The course will take place on Monday evenings 14th March, 21 March, 28th March, 11th April and 18th April. Please contact Andrew if you would like to know any more or if you wish to sign up to attend the course.

Holy Trinity Quiz Night



Are you a Budding TV Egghead ?

The next family social event on our calendar is the HT Quiz Night to be held on the 26th, March 2011 at the High Kirk Hall in Hanover Street, Dunoon 7.15pm start.

Teams will consist of 4 persons and with tickets at £5 a head, this includes a supper with tea and coffee. But feel free to bring your own bottle & glasses if you need extra 'brain power'!

The first prize will be £20 for the winning team.

Don't worry if you haven't as yet got a team - buy a ticket, come & join in the fun & we will make up teams on the night.

Our Quiz Master for the evening will be Rev. Andrew Swift.

There will be a raffle during the evening - donations of prizes are welcome - please give them to Ann Narroway before the night if possible.

Tickets available from Mary Swift (702444) or Pauline Reville (704731) Come along and join in the fun.



Ceilidh Report by Ann Narroway



On 25th of February Holy T held a highly successful ceilidh at St Mun's church hall. Some 60 people turned up with their dancing shoes on ready for an evening of tripping the light fantastic. Pauline talked us through the unfamiliar ones and although we sometimes found ourselves facing the wrong way or ziging when we should be zaging, we all had great fun.

The Old Bores provided the music, to set our feet tapping and songs and poetry to entertain and a bottle draw or two provided some more excitement.

At the interval we had one of our famous HT 'Bring and Share' buffets which would have fed the 5000. The other 4940 didn't turn up so there were lots of doggie bags of delicious food.

It was a really good night - be sorry if you missed it!



Thanks to Alan McQuillian for the fantastic photos



Save Cowal Hospice Update by Andrew Swift

Much activity is continuing in the local campaigns to prevent the closure of Cowal Hospice and to ensure the future local provision of a high grade of palliative care for patients from the Cowal area. Any person who wishes to personally raise their concerns is encouraged to write to Elaine Mead, the Chief Executive of NHS Highland.

The address to write to is:

Elaine Mead
Chief Executive
NHS Highland
Assynt House,
Beechwood Park,
Inverness
IV2 3BW.

If you mark it 'Private and Confidential' she will open the



letter personally.

Please sign up to the various petitions, and if you are online and use Facebook, join the 'Save Cowal Hospice' group. Watch the 'Observer'

for notice of public meetings and attend if you are able. This is matter that needs much thought, prayer and, of course, action!

Easyfundraising by Susan Watling



Following the arrival of a £66 cheque - proceeds from HT's internet Christmas shoppers! The Easyfundraising total now stands at £325.

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](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. Not only can you spend with Amazon, M & S, Boots, Mothercare etc etc but also have a look at the insurance deals. I got a very good deal on house insurance through the site and made £45 for the funds. Before you spend anything online its always worth checking if you can put it through easyfundraising. I have just booked a holiday car rental through the site, got a very good deal and made some money. Please do check before you buy anything, it's surprising what you can find.

Reflections on Diocesan Synod by Andrew Swift



Just returned from my first diocesan synod in Argyll and The Isles. My impressions?

As a new arrival in the diocese, I tried to approach with no strong expectations one way or another. The new bishop, only a few weeks into his episcopate, was always going to bring a fascinating twist to the sense of the synod, but as for the rest of us?

A pre-Synod day on building a vision was hard work, but creatively done. Did we hear any new hopes or fears? Probably not too many - the challenges we face as a widely distributed church in the 21st century are well known. The opportunities that ministry offers in a breathtakingly beautiful place, a thin place, a rooted place are wide and varied.

+Kevin managed to remember to constitute synod at the eucharist that evening, and the dining and dancing flowed on smoothly from there.

The business of synod was brisk - finance, the progression of canonical change, diocesan review of provincial initiatives. The financial story was improving very greatly (although, as at the local level, still a way to go!). Canonical change seemed largely uneventful and largely not relevant to this diocese: no licenced posts

held by over seventy-year olds. The provincial gender audit was of interest: more women than men worship, a universal truth it seems. More men than women lead - a statistic that I believe time will even for the clerical side of the balance: less than 20 years of female priests, several hundred (in the modern era) of male!

A good debate on the rural report: there is tangible and relevant hope for ministry in the rural swathes of Scotland. But how to embrace this opportunity? We had plenty of tales of successful initiatives and positive encounters.

Elections, reports, all the usual business of a synod. But all done in good spirits and with a positive, optimistic sense.

The post-synod day - a clergy day - was very interesting too. The clergy do not have the answers on where the diocese will go, but are the ordained 'specialists' in some areas (oh, the debates one can have on that title!). The conclusions from this morning? There are opportunities for mission and growth, and we all need trained and formed to seize these opportunities. And we all need trained and formed to grow a vision that will lead us there.

Tired but feeling positive, we departed for our far flung yet beautiful corners of the world!

Christian Aid Week - a Chance to Make a Real Difference!



Thanks to Dinkie McEwen who answered last month's appeal for a Christian Aid Co-ordinator for Holy Trinity!

Christian Aid Week is 15 - 21 May 2011

HT will once again be collecting in the West Bay area of Dunoon - if you can help (even just with a few houses) please let Dinkie know (705257) & put the dates in your diary now!

Vestry Report by Maureen McKellar, Vestry Secretary

The Vestry met on 28 February 2011.

There was brief discussion on the constitution changes and it was agreed to discuss the changes proposed at the next meeting, taking notes of any comments from members of the congregation.

The Vestry agreed with the Rector's outline proposals for worship in Holy Week and considered it would be worthwhile to have the church open again from 12 noon until 2.00pm each day in Holy week.

There was discussion on the proposed structure of the Vestry and the sub-committees and this was agreed.

The new Treasurer reported the financial situation, saying that there was likely to be a deficit of around £5000 to £6000 at the year-end in the General Fund. It was agreed that some investments would need to be drawn down, albeit that reducing ongoing income. There was discussion on a proposed letter to the congregation explaining the financial situation and this was approved.

A joint service at each of the churches in the linked charge once per year was agreed; the first of these being Palm Sunday at St. Martin's, Tighnabruaich.

The Rector said that he would like Holy Trinity to support Christian Aid this year and the Vestry approved. The Rector also outlined plans he had for working with Dunoon Grammar School on the topic of Easter.

There were the usual updates on fabric and events.

HT Fabric update by Andrew Swift

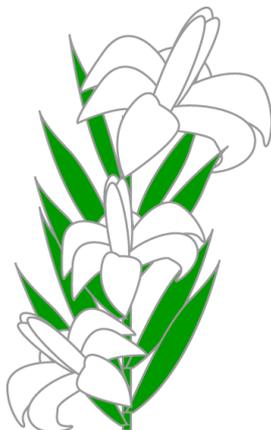


The work to make the tower on Holy Trinity safe and suitable for use has continued. The latest work has been to start to prevent the water ingress that has caused so many of the problems that we have faced in the tower project. New internal rain pipes have been fitted in the belfry, and a major hole in the leadwork (which appears to have been leaking for a long time) has been repaired, with the use of a cherry-

picker access platform.

There is still water entering the tower, but we are going to replace some damaged louvres and clean the internal lead guttering that is choked and overflowing with debris of all kinds.

Work to set the ringing chamber back in order has been paused while the leaks are repaired, but the floor has been restored for safe access.



Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Easter flowers please see Ann Narrow or put it in the 'flower fund' box by the church door.

Thank you

Events Team Update - look out for the Bag Pack!



So after the Ceilidh and the quiz (on the 26th - have you got your tickets yet?) What's next on HT's social & fundraising agenda?

The next dates for your diaries are Friday & Saturday 15th & 16th of April when we are organising a bag pack at the CO-OP to raise money for repairing the stained glass windows.

We are aiming to try & 'pack' at 3 to 4 tills from 10am to 4pm on both days

as well as having a small display area with someone handing out leaflets. There will shortly be a sign up list at the back of the church - please put your name down for the time you can give.

Holy Trinity Postcards featuring some of the stained glass windows are for sale in the church, Individual cards 20p and packs of 6 (3 of each design) are £1.

From the Counting House by Andrew Swift & Susan Watling

We are continuing to keep pretty much to the budget set for the church at the start of the year. This is good news, but that budget was based on a deficit - making a loss - at the end of the year. A campaign has now started to try and address this deficit.

We hope you have received the letter 'Finances and Our Future' from Andrew (and the vestry) explaining that we need to increase our regular giving to try and break even. If you have not received one, please pick it up from church or contact

Andrew. If we are to flourish as a church, it is vital that we get our finances in a healthy state. To reach out into our community, to keep our worship fresh and engaging, to keep on growing as a church family: all these things need income. The fabric is progressing well, with wonderful donations, fundraising and grants, but our regular, month-by-month income must increase. Please prayerfully consider this appeal. Speak to any of the treasury team for more information.

Gift Aid - an easy way to grow Holy Trinity's income

We are coming up to the start of the new tax year on the 6th April. This is the time of year to see if you can donate through the 'Gift Aid' scheme. I know many of you already do, but please do fill in a new gift aid form for this coming tax year to make sure our records

are up to date. If you are not already giving through Gift Aid (and are a UK taxpayer) please fill in a form.

The Gift Aid scheme is for gifts of money by individuals who pay UK tax. Charities take your donation - which is money you've already paid tax on - and reclaim the basic rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs. This is worth 25% of the donation from 6th April 2011 and 28% of the donation up to that date (see the treasury team if you would like to know about back-dating donation to previous years).

Gift Aid costs you nothing but makes a lot of difference for the church (and if you are higher rate tax payer you can also claim back an element of the tax you have paid on Gift Aided donations). If you are a couple and only one of you is a tax payer then make sure the donations come from the tax payer. Forms can be left at the rectory with Andrew or

Mary (in a sealed envelope) or given directly to Melinda or Susan who manage the scheme for Holy Trinity.

We also having extra donation envelopes for visitors or to keep track of one-off payments (such as the flowerpots at Pentecost).

Fabric Appeal

The fabric appeal continues to do well, with fundraising going well, generous donations coming in and grants continuing to be received. We have received a grant this month from the All-churches Trust (part of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group) for £3000 to help us with any aspect of the project. We have also received generous donations this past month that will help us start to do some work (it is hoped) on some of the internal decoration and water damage in the chancel of the church. Watch this space for more news on this.



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

1st & 3rd Sundays : 3pm Eucharist

In Kyles Parish Church, Kames



On the positive side, the peeling paint has poisoned most of the death-watch beetle, and the leaky tower roof should drown at least some of the woodworm!

Church Contact Points

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

Notable Dates

Wed 9 March	5.30pm Eucharist, with imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday, Holy Trinity
Mon 14 March	7.30pm at the Rectory Lent Course session 1
Mon 21 March	7.30pm at the Rectory Lent Course session 2
Sat 26 March	7.15pm H T Quiz Night, High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street.
Mon 28 March	7.30pm at the Rectory Lent Course session 3
29 & 30 March	Experience Easter at Dunoon Grammar School
Sun 3 April	8pm Cowal for Christ Prayer Meeting at Dunoon Baptist Church
Mon 11 April	7.30pm at the Rectory Lent Course session 4
Wed 13 April	7pm - Book Group, Seasons Cafe
Mon 18 April	7.30pm at the Rectory Lent Course session 5
15 & 16 April	HT Bag Packing at the Co-Op 10am - 4pm

Readings

6 March	Sunday Before Lent Deuteronomy 11.8-21,26-28 Romans 1.16-17;3.22b-28 Matthew 7.21-29
9 March	Ash Wednesday Joel 2.1-2,12-17 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
13 March	Lent 1 Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7 Romans 5.12-19 Matthew 4.1-11
20 March	Lent 2 Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17
27 March	Lent 3 Exodus 17.1-7 Romans 5.1-11 John 4.5-26

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 April magazine is Wednesday 23rd March.

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.