



# **View from the Hill**

**The Magazine of Holy Trinity, Dunoon  
Spring 2016**



**He is Risen;  
He is Risen indeed.**

Dear Reader,

This edition of our church magazine has been quite an adventure. A total of 8 people have contributed articles and effort. Many, when they were approached to provide an article, said “I don’t know what to write, I’ve never done anything like this before”. Without exception, everyone has ‘come up trumps’, and you can see the results for yourselves. We obviously have many budding journalists among us, and I thank them all.

The hope is that, over time, we will develop a team of editors to produce the magazine. If you would like to join the editorial team, or have something that you wish to contribute, speak to me or Andrew, or contact me on [sibley446@btinternet.com](mailto:sibley446@btinternet.com).

*Colin Sibley*

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Front Cover; The Easter Altar at Holy Trinity, Dunoon.

## **Rector's Letter**

It's a great pleasure to write a pastoral letter for the newly re-launched Holy Trinity magazine: it has been nearly 18 months since our last edition was published, and this is a very valuable and useful means for communicating within and about our church community, here in Dunoon.

The life of our community has continued to grow and develop in many ways, as you will read about in this edition. It is a great pleasure and privilege to have the Rev Elaine Garman as our curate, now approaching her ordination as priest and the beginning of her second year with us. We have welcomed new friends to the congregation, and said farewell to members who have died or moved away. The life of Holy Trinity continues, just as it has done over the past one hundred and sixty-six years that we have sat in the beautiful location above the town of Dunoon.

What does the future hold for us? The diocese is encouraging us to continue to plan for our mission in Cowal, and to think about what sort of Christian community we might wish to be growing into. Our sacramental tradition of worship is always evolving, especially with the numbers of children and young people who form part of our community. Quiet, reflective worship can be inconsistent with the joyful play and delight of all-age eucharists. Ways that we can study, pray and socialise together are evolving and developing all the time. Finding new ways of making our wonderful building open to more people may require some risks and certainly much work! These are all signs of the life and health of our church community.

An essential aspect of the life of our community is growth. As we enter spring and the church season of Easter, new life and new growth are all around us. We have grown as a church over the

past few years: it is essential that we continue to do this! We must be a community that is attractive to others, and this will only be possible by being a community that is focused on what God wants us to be. It is good practice to make sure that we pray for what we would like to become, and a growing church is just as much a matter for our prayers as any other part of our life. May I offer a Prayer for Growth:

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bless you all this Easter time, and may we journey, with God, into the next few months and years of our life together as a community, here in Dunoon.

*Andrew*



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday, from your stationery to your phone contract - you could be raising a free donation for Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

Those of us who use Easyfundraising and have done for more than 5 years now, have raised more than £1000.

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join.

Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/htcdunoon/> and sign up for free.

2. Shop.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise.

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon will be really grateful for your donations.

If you are unsure or hit any problems, just give me a shout and I will help.

Thank you for your support.

*Maureen McKellar*

## **Confessions of a Lay Rep**

I realise that those of us who have reached a certain stage in life are increasingly concerned with the proximity of the nearest 'convenience', but why on earth did I feel it necessary to stand up in front of the Bishop, the Dean and a roomful of worthy delegates from the various charges of Argyll and The Isles and talk about toilets?

After all, Maureen, Dorothy and I had prepared a splendid visual aid celebrating our mission achievements at Holy Trinity, with no mention whatsoever of the 'Tardis' that sits discreetly to the right of our front entrance. The visual aid detailed how this year we took another look at our foundations of trust, engaged in the congregational exercise (the post-it notes and the dot-sticking thingy) to determine what matters most to us, where we would like to see changes, what should stay the same and so on. It showed the vestry analysing the dotty sheets and the discussions how to implement the ways to make our worship, meeting together, spiritual growth and reaching out to the community more meaningful. It showed photos of these activities taking place to illustrate how we have actually put many of these ideas into practice: The need for more quiet space and contemplative services has been implemented with the introduction of weekly Compline throughout Lent, monthly prayers for Israel/Palestine and the prayer tree from the Haven; our informal coffee mornings at the Yachtsman and the book group were shown, although we could have added quiz nights and harvest suppers which come into both that category and the 'reaching out' one, for which we showed the church website and the open day; pictures of our quiet day, lay training and bible study groups were shown as examples of spiritual growth.

And so Holy Trinity and St Paul's, Rothesay are truly leading the way and proving to the other charges in the diocese that growth and change is possible. Our crowning achievement has to be coming off Augmentation and being able to support our Rector unaided, but because it was a condition of Andrew staying with us, we jolly well made it happen!

And I promise you, I did point out all these achievements as well. The presentation was part of the Pre-Synod Day where once again the Synod reviewed the progress of the whole Vision for Mission enterprise. Now before we get too much above ourselves and fall victims to the sin of pride, I must remind you that most of the material for Vision for Mission was written by none other than our own Dean Andrew and Rothesay's Alison Clark. That is not in any way to lessen our achievements, but it does help to show why we now have such a 'can-do' attitude. We have some fantastic motivators. And let us not forget Bishop Kevin, whose vision and enthusiasm has really transformed Argyll and The Isles from a bit of a joke in the Province into a *tour de force*.

But looking back to the beginning of our upward trend, I remembered that the single most often cited drawback of our beautiful little church building, with its stunning acoustic and numinous character, beautiful setting and lovely grounds, was the lack of a toilet. What's more, the conscientious and assiduous clearing of rhododendron and laurel around the church had distinctly lessened the opportunity for *al fresco* relief of those taken short.

And so it came into my head, as I listened to the presentations from the many other churches, most of which were built around the same time and many of which shared our lack of plumbing, that the most significant innovation we have made at Holy Trinity in the last few years, the one that has freed us to use the church for so many services and events to which we can invite the community, and has made our own community happy in the knowledge that the 'usual facilities' were close at hand, was the Portaloo.

I make no apology for lowering the tone of the proceedings and I leave you with this thought: wouldn't it be nice if next Synod I could talk about loos again? You know what I mean.

*Di Tennant*

## From Priest in Charge to Rector

On 17 January The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, collated\* the Very Rev Andrew Swift as the Rector of Holy Trinity Dunoon and St Paul's Rothesay at a service in Dunoon. Both charges were represented, and the occasion also saw the Lay Teams being relicensed. Following the service, the Bishop, our Rector, and the congregation enjoyed a very sociable time together, accompanied by refreshments. A very happy occasion.

Andrew has been the Priest in Charge of the two congregations since 2010, but the charges have now grown numerically and financially to the point where they are no longer dependent on financial support from the Province for their ministry. The charges have therefore ended their period of 'suspension' and were now able to ask the bishop to appoint a permanent Rector instead of a temporary Priest in Charge. In practical terms, the day to day mission and ministry of the charges does not change, but the change from a suspended incumbency for both churches is a significant milestone in our lives. As "Rector", Andrew now has security of tenure in his post.

Andrew says "It has been a privilege to work as Priest in Charge with the teams in Dunoon and Rothesay for the past few years, and this change of status in the charges is a sign of the growth in self-confidence and mission focus that these congregations have achieved. We are looking forward to the next few years of exploring where the Scottish Episcopal Church in Cowal and Bute is going to journey!

\*Collation - It's the process of putting an Anglican cleric into their tenured post - sometimes presentation by patrons then institution by the bishop - here the bishop presents, so it's just called collation!

*Alan Mole*





## Pilgrim – Turning to Christ

The booklet for this year's Lent course is subtitled a course for the Christian Journey and on the back cover is described as “an inspiring programme for enquirers and new Christians”. At first the choice of words seemed slightly out of step with the majority of the group who have been members of the Scottish Episcopal and other churches for many years. It was not long before I understood it to be an apt description of our circumstance.

So, why did we come to sit in a space, often cold and usually damp? Why not ask for a copy of the booklet to read in the comfort of our own home as and when we found convenient? But that would not satisfy our curiosity, our desire to learn, to discuss and to share the time, space and fellowship. We all wanted to explore, to learn from one another, to revisit what it means to be a Christian and to get back to basics.

It is so enriching and refreshing to study a familiar passage from scripture and to listen to another's reaction and response. In other words, to hear afresh, to see from a different perspective and to study anew. We all feel constantly renewed in our faith as members of our church family. It seems particularly relevant during Lent and at Easter.

As enquirers is it not often the case that we read a familiar passage or tease out an idea in fellowship with others, only to find our own understanding and interpretation challenged and we are forced to think again, to re-appraise and to enquire further?

During the six sessions the group studied and considered various aspects of our relationship with God. We thought about our relationship with Jesus, and our own spiritual journey. God is often portrayed in the Old Testament as a father figure, sometimes angry and even vengeful. But a deeper understanding reveals the relationship between God's anger and his love for us. We talked about father figures, for some this can bring an image of loving kindness, security and comfort but for

others it can be challenging, difficult and painful.

We discussed how God's love brought Jesus to live among us, as a normal vulnerable human being rather than in a palace leading the life of privilege as a king and, how by Jesus' death on a cross the sins of the world are forgiven. We talked about God's forgiveness and how God the Holy Spirit came among us at Pentecost and fulfilled the promise of Jesus to be with us always.

In the last session we looked at evil in the story of Cain and Abel, thinking of our perception of evil in the world today and thinking about the attraction of evil and what other emotions result in bad behaviour.

Turning to Christ is the first part in the Follow Stage of the Pilgrim Course; this is succeeded by the Grow Stage, in all there are eight courses. Turning to Christ certainly met my expectations and hopes of fellowship and renewal and did not disappoint the enquirer in me either. I look forward to revisiting this course in future and to subsequent courses in the Pilgrim series.

I am very happy that this year's Lent course was held at a time which afforded me the opportunity of taking part; thanks to Alan for his timekeeping which got me back to the office on time. Thank you, Andrew and everyone, for your fellowship.

*Pauline Revill*

## **Dates for your Diary from The Events Team**

At the recent meeting with the Rector and the Events Committee the following programme of events was set out for the coming year.

We start off with our annual spring coffee morning to be held in the High Kirk Hall on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. with the usual stalls and tearoom.

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May, in the afternoon, the Waulking Group will sing in church where tea, coffee and cake will be served.

Christian Aid bag pack will be at the Co-op store on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Do sign up to help even if you cannot stay for very long. Its good fun and you get to have a good natter with folk.

June is a rather special month. DIY week is from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June where tidying, polishing, strimming, and painting are all undertaken, so it is all hands to the pump. We want Holy Trinity to look at its best for Elaine's first Eucharist with us after her Ordination. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, following the service we shall have a celebration lunch with food and "fizz" for Elaine.

Thinking caps on for July as our Rector will have his quiz master hat on. H.T. Quiz is on Friday 22 July in the High Kirk Hall with a baked potato supper prior the start.

Our church open day is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August. Tea, coffee and shortbread will be available.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, in church, the fabulous 8+1 will perform an ABBA concert, (so flairs, platforms and white knee-high boots are optional dress). Light refreshments will be served.

The Harvest Supper on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, in the High Kirk Hall, will once again take the form of a Talent Show, so come on all you Divas this is your chance to shine.

Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November in the High Kirk Hall with the usual stalls and tea room.

As you can see, we have a full programme for the coming year, but we also look forward to hosting the Russian Choir Bi-annual concert, and a bag pack for the Vestry roof project. Dates are still to be confirmed.

More details of all events will be available in church.

The Rector and team thank the congregation and friends of Holy Trinity for all the support given to our events in the past. We look forward to seeing you this year and sharing fun and fellowship together.

For your information the following make up the team;-

Chair: The Very Reverend Andrew Swift

Secretary: Pauline Revill

Members: Sharon Barnard,  
Jennifer Woodward  
Geoff Roberts  
Ann Narroway  
Val Taylor

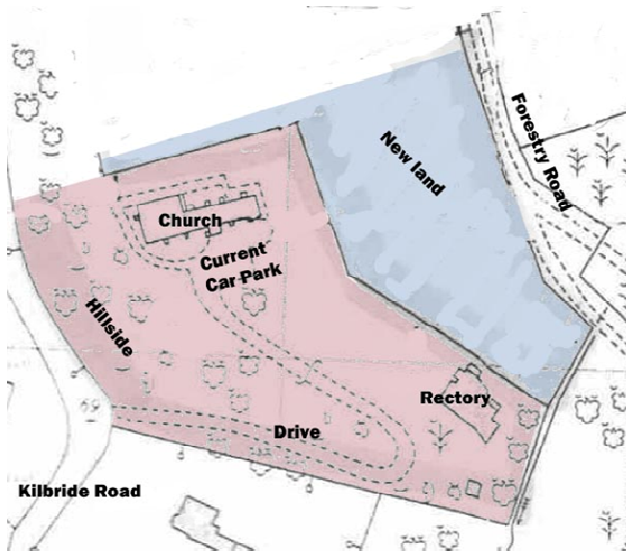
Hon. Member: Dinkie McEwen.

*Val Taylor*

## Holy Trinity's Site is Growing!

One of our longest-standing members, Mrs Irene Storie, has very generously given more land around the current Holy Trinity site to the church. The details are (as of the end of March) being worked out by the lawyers, and this exciting development will allow potential developments in car-parking, graveyard area and possible even in extensions or a church hall.

The diagram below shows the current land that the church holds, and the new area that Irene has given. The new area is between the graveyard and rectory, up to the forestry road, and a strip of land along the edge of the old graveyard to the south of the church.



An immediate priority for this land, and one which Irene is keen that we develop, is car parking. The current car park is far, far from adequate for parking at the larger services and on special occasions. This new land would allow parking for many more cars to be made, with suitable paths and access to the church through the graveyard. The gift of the land will also include a right of access on concrete road up from Kilbride Road, and also access

from this road across to the larger area to allow an entrance route into any new car park.

The large area of land will not, however, limit us to just being able to develop a car park. The generous gift will double the area of flat land around the church and rectory, so will let us have a fundamental review of the way that use our site. The vestry will start a process of exploring what we wish to be able to do around our buildings, and will then engage a suitable architect to produce some plans for what could be done. We will also plan the fundraising required to achieve any objectives! These are some areas that could be considered:

Improved car parking

Church extension or hall providing:

Toilet block

Kitchen

Meeting Room

Increased size of graveyard area

Space for prayer/meditation/labyrinth

Eco-friendly power projects e.g. ground source, solar

Green projects, e.g. plantings, environmental, bees

And so forth...

Irene's gift is giving the church an exciting opportunity to re-consider how we use our beautiful site and how we may wish to develop. Our thoughts and prayers on mission and growth will help us to plan and prioritise these projects. We will have some exciting years ahead of us as we plan, develop and grow!

*Andrew*

## **A Dream of an Interview.**

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

“So you would like to interview me?” God asked.

“If you have the time” I said.

God smiled. “My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?”

“What surprises you most about humankind?”

God answered...

“That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.”

“That they lose their health to make money... and then lose their money to restore their health.”

“That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.”

“That they live as if they will never die, and die as though they had never lived.”

God’s hand took mine and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked...

“As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”

“To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved.”

“To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.”

“To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.”

“To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them.”

“To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.”



"To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply have not yet learned how to express or show their feelings."

"To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently."

"To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves."

"Thank you for your time," I said humbly. "Is there anything else you would like your children to know?"

God smiled and said, "Just know that I am here... always."

Author unknown

## **Facebook for the Senior Generation**

For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists:

I am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom.

I give them pictures of family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

And it works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me - two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

## Building the Vision

Although Building the Vision really began in 2011 when Bishop Kevin became Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, Holy Trinity began reassessing what God was calling us to do in this place with a Vestry Awayday in 2008. The Treasurer had indicated that there was only sufficient money for 5 years, we were on 50% stipend support from the Province, the five year Quinquennial Inspection on the church building made very grim reading and the Rectory needed considerable work to bring it up to standard. Altogether a gloomy picture!

The Vestry thought and prayed about what we thought we should do and came up with a vision for 5 years hence (i.e.2013):

*In 5 years, we aim to have*

*a church building that is both beautiful and functional for worship, fellowship and making people feel welcome. This will include an accessible toilet, a kitchen, a gathering space, and a worship space that is beautiful and acoustically sound.*

*grown as a community, both in numbers and in spiritual depth. there will be a mix of ages including some young people*

*a more diverse ministry team including clergy and laity*

*more diverse services and other events attractive to seekers*

*stronger ecumenical links and links with the wider community*

We drew pictures of our vision, a full car park, lots of children, multiple services, beautiful music, work in the community – far removed from the gloomy reality.

Building the Vision in 2011 made us take stock of our history, produce a Foundation of Trust (what was really important to us going forward and look at our current strengths and weaknesses).

Our Foundation of Trust was:

Place of worship  
Congregational Involvement  
The church building & site

Liturgy  
Worship

Year 2 (2012) was called Equipping the Vision and looked at giving us tools to help us achieve our vision. We took part in the Compass Course and reviewed our vision for 2015 in the light of where we had come.

*In 3 years, we aim to continue on the path and have*

*Andrew as our Rector and be off Stipend Support from the Province*

*A church building in good order, with toilet, kitchen, extended car park, meeting room and community hall*

*A larger congregation of mixed ages, all participating in church activities and worship*

*Lots of choice of services and groups*

*A congregation involved in and known in community*

Year 3(2013) was Mission Possible - Three questions were asked: What is Jesus calling us to do? How do we share the vision within the congregation? How do we share the vision in the community? This work drew together the vision and discipleship work of the first two years, and helped encourage us to think about mission as an outside-facing activity. Actions were proposed and delivered.

Year 4 (2014) was Reflection for Action – For mission to be sustainable it is essential that the spiritual health of individuals and communities are nourished and encouraged. We explored theological reflection, spiritual direction and retreats and quiet days.

This led us on to year 5 (2015) which was Vision for Mission. We took part in the Mission Planning exercise described in Di's article, looking back at our Foundation of Trust and planning activities for the future to help bring the Kingdom of God to this place.

*Maureen McKellar*

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Vision without Action is just a Daydream;  
Action without Vision is a Nightmare.

Anon

## **Pop- in Coffee Chats**

It is a year ago since Maureen McKellar suggested Holy Trinity friends meet in a local town cafe for coffee. Many of us did this already, so why would this be different? The objective was to make Holy Trinity more visible in the town. Although since the arrival of Andrew, our Rector, Mary and the rest of the Swift family our profile has been raised considerably, Holy Trinity is still viewed as that wee English Church up on the hill whose congregation are a mystery to some locals. Hopefully, if we met in town regularly more people would get to know us and we them.



So on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 a group of about five or six of us met in Seasons. Word about our Pop-in Coffee chats at Seasons spread around the congregation. By June 2015 numbers had grown again to such an extent that we could not sit together as one group. Small groups at separate tables formed denying the opportunity to mix. We were crowding out Season's regular customers; another venue was needed. Fortunately, the

Yachtsman at West Bay/ Victoria Parade had space to fit us in. Joyce and Alistair, the proprietors, have been very welcoming, re-arranging tables and chairs for us so that we are all together. Alistair has the scones ready freshly baked (Joyce has taught him well) while Joyce's homemade cakes and brownies are delicious. We have been fortunate in that the location of the Yachtsman allows easy access, has good parking and the owners have been willing to move furniture to meet our needs. We have been meeting every month since March 2015.

What is so different about meeting in a cafe in Town? We have coffee in Church every Sunday, opportunity to chat and catch up, so what is the added benefit of meeting in a cafe. Often after Church, chat is rushed, people are going off elsewhere, or hurrying to lunch. We tend to have a quick word with each other in passing rather than spend time to get to know each other. Meeting outside Church gives us time to get to know each other, in addition, it gives opportunity to bring friends, and visitors, along to meet our Church friends. Not only do we get to know each other but these chats are wonderful sources of information and advice. Suggestions are given on where to find the best tradesmen, gardeners, and odd job men. Free advice is ready on where and what are the best remedies for ailments. Someone is always ready to help with transport. And then of course we put the governments - British, Scottish, and local, to rights and then sort out the world. There is no end to the ranges of our discussions.

We have passed our first anniversary, so if you haven't joined the Pop-in Coffee chats yet, please come along and bring a friend. Remember, the first Thursday of each month between 10.30 and 12.00 hr we meet at the Yachtsman Pop-in for 5 minutes, 10 minutes or 1hr 30 min whatever you can manage. Next dates are 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June etc....

*Dinkie McEwen*

## **Cowal and Bute Video Project**

Following the wider publicity around the collation of Andrew as the Rector, which actually means that we, and St Paul's Rothesay, have grown to the point where we need no financial help from the Province, we have been asked to make a short video to talk about our experiences in the past few years.

Rev Jane Ross, the chair of the Provincial Mission Board, wants a 3 or 4 minute video to give a positive and encouraging snapshot of community life in Cowal and Bute. It is a very good news story for the Scottish Episcopal Church that churches can identify where they have weaknesses, produce plans to develop and grow, and then carry out those plans and achieve that growth.

Andrew has volunteered to try and pull together a rather simple video clip: he needs people who are willing to say just a few words about what makes being part of Holy Trinity worthwhile. Why do you come? What makes you smile and laugh? What makes it all work? The video will be made using mobile phone clips, edited together.

Andrew will approach some people directly to get some specific areas covered, but if you have some strong feelings about what you like about Holy Trinity, and you are willing to offer a few phrases or sentences to camera for consideration in the video, please get in touch: [rev.andrew@familyswift.org.uk](mailto:rev.andrew@familyswift.org.uk)

The video will be shown in the charges before it's taken to Edinburgh in June. It will probably also go on the [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org) provincial website.

“Lights – camera – action” for our mission in Cowal and Bute!

## **Fabric Report**

It is now over two years since we carried out the restoration project at Holy Trinity, and it easy to forget how much work was carried out in that project! The ongoing management of a Victorian building in the west of Scotland requires significant effort and finance.

The project itself was successful, and the window repairs, flooring, pointing, joinery, electrical upgrades, lightning conductors, drainage etc. have all had a major impact on the state of the building. There are still some snags with the roofing that are under review with the contractor under their ten year guarantee on the work, but overall, the project has transformed Holy Trinity.

We are planning another 'DIY' week this May (starting on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>) to tidy up inside and outside. The paintwork in the church always shows some wear and tear by the spring, as the natural materials tend to have a little mould growth, and the new rendering at the back of the church continues to dry and settle. The grounds and graveyard also need to be tamed again, and there is a long list of small repairs, areas to be cleaned and minor improvements. Watch out for the list of jobs to be done nearer the time!

We have applied for a grant to re-roof the vestry at the base of the church tower. This area was not addressed in the restoration project, due to budget constraints, but we continue to lose tiles and have water coming in about this space. The Listed Place of Worship Roof Repair Fund seems perfect for this project, and we will learn in June if we have been successful in getting this financial support.

The church building is in a good state of repair, with modern, safe systems and a good plan for ongoing maintenance. This is thanks to all your support in the restoration project, and your ongoing help with DIY and fundraising for larger jobs. On behalf of the vestry, many thanks for all your support!

## **Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church, Dunoon**

The Scottish Episcopal Church is a national church. We are modern, yet deeply rooted in the traditions of Christianity in Scotland.

We are an open and inclusive church, and try to be a community that proclaims the gospel, cares for all and challenges the world.

We are part of the Anglican province in Scotland, in communion with all Anglican churches worldwide.

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