



Holy Trinity News

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Kilbride Road, Dunoon, Argyll
www.holytrinitydunoon.wordpress.com

Scottish Charities Number
SC008066

Farewell Kimberly

Three months have flashed past and here we are at Kimberly's last service. We have learned so much from her in the three years she has been with us: how to blog, make pancakes, grow together and award ourselves gold stars, pray better and use various aids to help us, understand theology better, hunt for Easter eggs, follow Stations of the Light, make prayer maps, celebrate Independence Day with a bar-b-q, lead bible study groups, improve our sermons, lead worship, fight the midges and celebrate Compline by candle-light, greet Advent with a superb Advent Carol service, love Molly and so much more.



We will all miss you and send you to Dunblane with our very best wishes. We pray for your continued success and much happiness in this next stage of your vocation.

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What's Ahead

In May we look forward to:

- Thursday 21st May Ascension Day – Service at 5.15
- Thursday 28th May at 7.30 Kimberly's institution in St Mary's Dunblane
- Sunday 31st May Pentecost – **wear something red**

Dates for the diary

- Diocesan Festival, Oban, Sunday 7th June

Vacancy News

The next meeting with the Bishop, Dean, Diocesan Secretary and Representatives from Holy Trinity, St Paul's and St Martin's is scheduled for Monday 25th May. Please remember this Meeting in your prayers.

Rector's Letter



Dear Friends,

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

-- Mother Julian of Norwich (14th C)

Mother Julian's Revelations of Divine Love was one of the first books on Christian Theology I ever read. Julian was an anchoress in Norwich in the fourteenth century, and in the midst of an illness which seemed life threatening, she 'received' what she spoke of as 'showings' from God. Now, you can make of this what you will: she would have been well versed in biblical stories and the images of the liturgy, and a sceptic could argue that her visions were nothing more than the product of a (literally) fevered imagination. Alternately, one could say that God shaped her imagination in such a way that these images helped her understand more deeply the Love of God and the meaning of the cross. The showings seem wild to our modern eyes: Julian dwells on graphic images of the cross and Jesus' wounds, as a way to get to the heart of his suffering. Yet through that emerged a theology which was centuries ahead of its time.

Through the revelations, Julian came to believe that God's love was such that no one and nothing could be excluded from salvation. There was indeed a hell (who would dare say otherwise so close to the time of the Black Death?) – but when Julian pondered the mystery of hell, she had a vision in which Jesus led her into its depths, and she saw that 'there was no one there'. It could not be otherwise: a God of love who sustains all things in life keeps calling us to salvation and will not leave us forever in a place of misery and death. Thus Julian's most famous showing: “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

I have found, over the years, that Julian's mantra comes unbidden whenever my human instinct is saying “everything is a mess, and everything will be a mess, and all manner of things will remain messy.” Her reassurance comes in the midst of chaos – a sharp reminder to trust God, to trust the world that God is creating. At first, when I am stressed and bewildered, the words come as an abstract and far away truth. I believe them to be true, but they do not match my experience. At best, they allow me to laugh at myself for getting caught up in panic – but they don't immediately make me feel better.

Yet in times of prolonged stress, I have learned that Mother Julian's words do change me. Slowly, slowly over the weeks and months, I move from hearing that “all shall be well” and thinking “yeah, right” (at times like these, I think in American) to feeling the words well up inside as my own when the darkness breaks and hope becomes real.

To be able to speak Julian's words and hold them as your own is a wonderful, joyous thing – and one cannot get there by simple choice or determination. The words come from God, and our only hope of speaking them as our own is to learn to let God speak them in us – then hear God telling us what salvation looks like, what healing feels like, what being well shall mean. Then one day, one day, we offer the words back as a sure statement of our trust.

It is no easy thing for a congregation to be without a priest; and a 'vacancy' brings huge challenges and responsibilities for every member of the congregation. I have said many times that I have every confidence in your abilities, in the gifts God has given you to help you thrive in this time of transition. But we are only human: you may know and believe that you have what you need, and still face days when as individuals and as a group you feel very fragile, very vulnerable, and hope feels a long way off. If you find yourself there, I hope you will let Julian tend to you: “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” It doesn't matter if you don't quite believe it at first. Just hold onto it. Make space for God to speak its truth into your being, and one day the words will be yours to sing and shout and laugh over.

Every blessing,

Meet Richard McGilvray



When did you first come to Holy Trinity?

1996 – not too long ago really. I bought the house as a holiday home and soon moved here permanently.

Tell us a little about where you were before and what brought you to Dunoon?

I was born in Edinburgh and moved south to Sussex when I was 12 or 13 when my father came home from India. I was confirmed when I was at school. I always wanted to join the Navy, so did my National Service in the Navy. That was where I first became involved in church. It was through the dentist, he drilled your tooth until you agreed to come to church! I have been an Auditor all my life. I worked in Africa from 1965 to 1985.

I returned to the UK and lived in the Brighton/Hove area working for London Transport. I lived with my older brother John and my twin brother Harry and his wife lived close by. The day after I bought the flat in Inellan John died. I came up to Inellan to take possession of the flat and liked it so much I decided to move here. I was delighted when my twin brother Harry and his wife moved up here to join me.

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

I am passionate about trains, model railways, buses, ships, travelling and Africa (and Yaro). I am on the local Community Council and I still enjoy doing some accountancy work for various people.

What do you like about Holy Trinity?

What got me coming to Holy Trinity was loyalty to the Piskies – the first service was a Christmas celebration. I received such a welcome. I began to attend twice a month at the early service, then it crept to every week. When the early service ceased I had the chance to meet all the lovely people at the 10.30 service. The people encaptured me, they were so different from church-goers I had met elsewhere. I really enjoyed talking to Hugh our priest at that time. Although we have a lovely building, the church is definitely the people.

Coming to the big services has made me realise how wonderful the music is.

I have loved the intellectual challenge of Kimberly's preaching and teaching. She can convert intellectual thoughts into something the rest of can understand.

I feel the Holy Spirit is very powerful in Holy Trinity – hovering above us. Perhaps that is because we are at the top of the hill!!

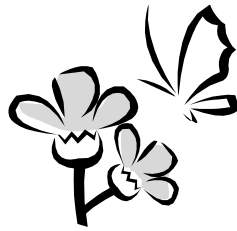
What do you do (or have you done) around Holy Trinity? What do you enjoy about it?

I am on the Vestry and have been Treasurer. I am still involved with helping Chrissie with the finances of the Church. I enjoy working with her, it makes the job much more fun. I also help with the cleaning of the church.

What is your favourite hymn and why?

'Eternal Father Strong to Save' is my favourite hymn. It reminds me of school and the navy. Another favourite hymn is 'Far round the world, thy children sing your song'.

Growing Together



Over that past two months, the Vestry has been discussing how best to handle the pattern of worship during the vacancy. Because of the geography and the shortage of clergy in this Diocese, it is unrealistic to hope that Dunoon, Rothesay and Tighnabruaich will find a visiting priest every Sunday. I therefore recommended to the Vestry that for the duration of the vacancy, you adopt a pattern of worship that is more sustainable in the absence of a priest. The goal is to establish a pattern that is manageable and that lets you feel calm and in control of the situation, rather than one which leaves you constantly worrying if there will be someone to take the service. Once that sustainable base line is in place, then if a priest is available more often than you were expecting, so be it: everyone gets to breathe a sigh of relief, and there will be an additional Eucharist.

The Vestry agreed to this proposal – though we all recognize that a weekly Eucharist would be the ideal.

Therefore, for the duration of the vacancy, we are asking you to adapt to and support the following pattern of worship. The ‘dates’ in this are flexible (so, for example, the services for weeks 1 & 3 could swap in any particular month, according to the availability of clergy), but here is a rough outline of what to expect:

week 1 – Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

week 2 – Morning Prayer

week 3 -- Sung Eucharist

week 4 – Morning Prayer

week 5 – Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

There would also be a mid-week Eucharist as often as possible, though this will be a priority in a week before a service from the Reserved Sacrament.

That pattern of Morning Prayer will be new to many of you. Pauline has led this service once at short notice when I was away and Mac was ill, but not everyone will have experienced it then. Please set aside memories of choral mattins. That is not what this is. Rather, it is a service of prayers, readings, hymns, canticles and psalms, which is easily and appropriately led by a lay person, and which has sufficient flexibility to allow for changing circumstances: sometimes there will be a sermon, sometimes there may be a led mediation, or ‘something to think about’. There is lots of room for creativity and variety in the services, within a set order of service that will soon become familiar and comfortable.

Over the past few weeks, I have been training Di Tennent to share in leading worship. You will remember the process by which we chose Pauline as a new worship leader last year, in which the whole congregation was asked to help choose a worship leader. This was not possible in the time we had before the vacancy, but the Vestry were clear that Di was the appropriate person to share in this role, and I knew from our previous consultation that the majority of the congregation would support that decision. Please be kind to her: she has been thrown in the deep end with very rapid training. I am sure that she will grow into the role beautifully, just as Mac and Pauline have done.

During the vacancy, all of the lay team will need your support: please pray for our worship leaders, preachers, Eucharistic ministers and servers, and give them space before the service to do what they need to do without disruption.

As Vestry Secretary, Maureen will be co-ordinating clergy cover for all services. The vestry will make sure to circulate information on the schedule of services regularly and to post the service times on the web-site.

KB

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Dinkie McEwen



During the vacancy, it is important that there is one designated person to act as 'contact person' for any pastoral situations that arise. Dinkie McEwen has kindly agreed to take on this role, and is in the process of getting the necessary disclosure under the Child Protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act.

If you learn of someone who is ill or in hospital, or if you or someone you know has a specific pastoral need, would you please ring Dinkie so that she can arrange for an appropriate response. Sometimes that response will be as simple as a visit; other times, it will be making sure that a person's friends know that they are in hospital; other times it will mean seeking a priest to offer the sacraments or to respond to more complex pastoral needs.

Please ring Dinkie whenever you would have rung the Rector to say 'someone is ill', 'someone needs attention', 'you should know that x has happened...'. Her phone number is 705257.

KB

A Letter from Margaret

Dear Congregation

As I shall be residing in Dunfermline from now on I am writing this farewell message to you. I have so much appreciated not only being a part of your little community but also the privilege of acting as part of your lay worship team. I shall miss my friends in Holy Trinity but I wish you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all as you say goodbye to Kimberly and embark upon a vacancy of uncertain length.

For now, au revouir
Margaret Dineley

Talents and Skills Swap

An idea the Focus Group for Individuals has been developing is that of exchanging our numerous skills and talents.

Many of us, if asked, would say "I have no talent; I don't think I have anything to offer others". In the Focus Group we believe that we all have talents and skills which we can offer to one another, in support of Holy Trinity and in support of our church family.

In fact, every one of us can do something that another member of the congregation or the wider community of our families and friends might not even attempt. Here are a couple of suggestions for some of the ways we can offer to share and receive our skills.

While one of us may not attempt to bake a cake or make a pie to share with family or friends for another this is an activity which presents no problem whatsoever. However, the baker may find the need to trim a hedge, mow the grass or write a "disgusted of Bearsden" letter, very daunting indeed. So our suggestion is that we swap skills amongst ourselves, our neighbours and friends so that all of us benefit.

Among our small church family there are a number of people with talents which can be offered in a wider context. In last month's newsletter there was news of quilting and photographic workshops. You may like to offer a morning flower arranging, how to plan a day walking in the hills, how to make a perfect soufflé or how to read poetry.

To take part you do not need to have any skill or talent to share. If you need help with something someone in our church family might be happy to offer their skill to you. You may even choose to swap – mow the grass for a steak pie; or you may prefer to make a donation to Holy Trinity.

Let's use our imagination as well as our skills. Let's do so joyfully and with thanks that we are able to offer and accept these gifts.

Large "postcards" will be available for use. Please take a card home with you. If you do not wish to participate now, please keep it handy, you may need it later. Completed cards can be handed to Christine, Catherine or Pauline.



The £50 Pledge Challenge

Talk on Mac's Trinidad

Are you interested in a talk on the Trinidad I remember? If so let me know so that I know numbers and I will arrange a date.

Mac McLean

Kilmun Flea Market

Fiona and I are planning to take another table at Kilmun Flea Market. Please see me for details.

Alan Neale

Congratulations to:

Patchwork without Tears

On 25th April, seven ladies assembled for the 'Patchwork without Tears' workshop in my friend Rosemary's house. Soon there were small groups spread all over the house, eagerly ripping fabric or hunched over a hot iron or stitching busily. No-one actually managed to finish their cushion in the time available, but all went away confident they could finish at home. The workshop finished in civilised fashion with tea and cakes. Donations included generous amounts from two friends of Rosemary's who came just in time for tea! £67 was raised for the Tower Fund. Thank you



Ann

Pancake Party

The Pancake Party at the Rectory was a great success and made just over £50.

TIE dye T Shirts

The tie dye t shirts are selling well with even a repeat order. I have 6 more to do, please be patient, they will be worth the wait!

Graham



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is 10th – 16th May. Brian Dineley is our Co-ordinator. He is away at the beginning of May but will be back on Wednesday 6th. He will be in touch with collectors when he returns and promises to have everything available by the 10th at the latest.

Heather and Mac

Heather and Mac wish to thank all concerned for their prayers, cards and wishes on the occasion of their Golden Anniversary on March 30th.

H&M xxx



From the Counting House

Things are going well with the Appeal Fund and there are still wonderfully inventive new ways of raising money coming in. Our thanks for everyone's remarkable efforts.

The Finance Team are concerned that after the recent damage to the recently replaced sacristy window, a similar unfortunate event will occur again. To avoid such a thing happening again we would like to consider getting a grill for this window. Obviously there is a cost for the grill and a quote is currently being sought.

The Growing Season. A wee reminder about the £1 flower pots. Many of us retained our flower pots from last year's incredibly profitable fund raising venture. We hope that Pentecost this year will be equally fruitful.

Chrissie

The Organist Writes

Let me plug the Diocesan Festival to be held in St. John's Cathedral, Oban, on Sunday 7th. June. At the Eucharist (3.00 pm), the preacher will be the Most Reverend Richard Holloway, previously Primus. The setting will be the Kilbride Mass so why not come along and show them how it's done. I'll be running a short workshop in the cathedral between lunch and the Eucharist, when everyone will have a chance to learn the music for the service. Times to be announced.

John

Last month you may remember John lamenting sliding along his organ bench. The culprit has come clean – excuse the pun!

Apologies, John!

With polish spray and yellow duster
The cleaner cleaned each pew,
Rubbing them to a shiny lustre
To make them look like new.
Each ledge; each wooden candle-stick
Was cleared of dust and bugs.
She gave them all a final flick
Then vacuumed all the rugs.
But then – when all was looking good -
Before she went for lunch –
She dusted all the Organ's wood
And polished up the bench!
Alas for John, that was no good –
She'd done her work too well –
He slid along the polished wood
And nearly went pell-mell!
This lack of thought we must deride,
Apologies, John, to you.
Next time, she'll leave the Pledge aside
And use some Super Glue!

Anon

(With apologies from the guilty party)

The Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 8th and 30th of April.

The meeting on 8th April was an additional meeting to discuss urgent items of business that could not wait till the next scheduled meeting. We had further discussion on patterns of service during the vacancy, particularly given the shortage of priests in Argyll Diocese. We agreed on a possible monthly pattern of worship including two services of morning prayer, one Celebration of the Eucharist by a visiting Priest and one or two services of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

The Rector left the Meeting at this point and we elected Pauline Reville as Chair during the vacancy. We had further discussion on Linked charges and the Vestry agreed to formally ask the Bishop that Holy Trinity be linked with St. Paul's Rothesay, with St. Martin's Tighnabruach becoming a dependent congregation of Holy Trinity.

Various urgent property matters were considered, and it was agreed that we would seek a meeting with the Architect who had conducted the quinquennial report.

At the Meeting on 30th April, the Rector used her report to encourage us in our endeavours. She talked about some specific handover details.

We talked through patterns of service during the vacancy, what to do about special services and the planning involved. We talked about priest cover for the vacancy. The Bishop had asked that the Vestry Secretary of each charge be the point of contact for priest cover.

We discussed in some detail how pastoral care would work during the vacancy. It was agreed that there should be one point of contact and that person would be Dinkie McEwen.

The Treasurer's report was discussed and the success of the £50 pledge challenge to the appeal fund was much appreciated. The Treasurer advised that the Diocesan Treasurer and Secretary were visiting Dunoon later in the month.

There was a short discussion on property and it was reported that the property group would meet shortly. Details from the meeting with the Architect would be discussed at the next meeting of the Vestry.

Notable dates – May

Sun 3	Easter 4
Thurs 7	Stations of the Light and Eucharist
Sun 10	Easter 5 – Holy Communion from Reserved sacrament - Lay Team
Sun 17	Easter 6 – Morning Prayer
Thurs 21	Ascension Day Service 5.15
Sun 24	Easter 7
Thurs 28	Kimberly's Institution at St. Mary's Dunblane 7.30pm
Sun 31	Pentecost

May Readings

Easter 4	Acts 4, 5-12 1 John 3, 16-24 John 10, 11-18
Easter 5	Acts 8, 26-40 1 John 4, 7-21 John 15, 1-8
Easter 6	Acts 10, 44-48 1 John 5, 1-6 John 15, 9-17
Easter 7	Acts 1, 15-17, 21-26 1 John 5, 9-13 John 17, 6-19
Pentecost	Acts 2, 1-21 or Ezek 37, 1-14 Romans 8 22-27 or Acts 2, 1-21 John 15, 26-27; 16, 4b-15

Church Contact Points

Name	Contact
Rector	Rev. Kimberly Bohan (702444)
Pastoral Care	Dinkie McEwen (705257)
People's Warden	Mac McLean (705497)
Rector's Warden	Pauline Revill (704731)
Lay Representative	Ann Narraway (830400)
Alternate Lay Rep	Vacant
Vestry Secretary	Maureen McKellar (703058)
Vestry Treasurer	Chrissie Holliday (704927)
Organist	John McIntosh (703304)
Book Group	Di Tennent
House Groups	Rector
Mission to Seafarers	Pauline Revill
Christian Aid	Brian Dineley (870073)
Bible Study	Rector
Coffee Rota	Pauline Revill
Flower Arranging	Sharon Barnard (706240)
Worship Rotas	Dinkie McEwen (705257)
Newsletter	Maureen McKellar (703058)

Please send any articles or views by email to mpmckellar@aol.com or by post to: Maureen McKellar, Eden Cottage, 45 Hill Street, Dunoon PA23 7AY