



HolyTrinity News

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

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Autumn

‘The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness’. Keats famous poem has not been echoed in Dunoon recently with all the rain and only the odd glimpse of sun. However, there are plenty of celebrations ahead at Holy Trinity to cheer us.

How good it has been to have all this talk of angels due to the Michaelmas celebrations. I for one am much cheered to think we worship God in the company of Angels and Archangels, not to mention the whole heavenly host.



Points to Ponder

To be an angel, one need not have wings.
In giving love there is an equal grace.
Nor need one seek the aura in the face,
As love unveils the beauty of all things.

François Couperin

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What’s Ahead

In October we look forward to:

- Music workshops – Wednesday 22nd and Wednesday 29th October 5-6pm in Church
- Discussion on Liturgy – Saturday 25th October 10 am to 2 pm at the Rectory.
- Sea Sunday 26th October Joint Service 11.00am Eucharist, St. Paul’s Rothesay
- All Soul’s tide/Hallowe’en worship & Open House

Dates for Diary

- Wednesday 19th November Russian Concert
- Friday 14th November Book Group
- Saturday 29th November Congregational Meeting with Bishop Martin and Ann Tomlinson
- Saturday 17th January 2009 Congregational Meeting with Bishop Martin

Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

Rector's Letter

As I write this, my mind and my house are full of Angels. The Michaelmas project has taken on a life of its own, and I am eager to see what will happen. I wanted to take this space to say how grateful I am that the vestry was so supportive of this wild idea: trusting me to run an event with people we've not worked with before, letting it be 'in our name' and even approving a budget for the event (which I had not considered asking for). Who knows what will come of this experiment – but the vestry's response has shown me that we really are willing to be brave with finding new ways to engage with the community, and that gives me a great deal of hope.

Early October will more restful than September. Many of us are away at the start of the month, and church may seem quiet. Still, worship and bible study carry on; there will be a music practice as we begin to explore ways of singing psalms; and we can watch in delight as the beech leaves turn and the fields glow golden.

At the end of the month, there are three events to watch out for. On Saturday, 25 October, there will be a Liturgy Day – a chance for us to think and learn about the liturgies we use and discuss the choices we make about liturgy in our public worship. This arises out of questions that were raised at one of the Congregational Meetings in August which were too big for us to handle in that

meeting. You can read more about this in the Growing Together column.

The day after that, on Sunday, 26 October, we will travel to Rothesay for a joint service to mark Sea Sunday. Then, on Friday, 31 October there will be an open house in the rectory to mark All Saints and All Souls-tide. OK, that's dressing it up a bit... there will be a Halloween party (though no requirement of costumes!). This is just a chance for us to gather and to chat without an agenda, against the backdrop of pumpkins and bats (the other inhabitants of the rectory, I suspect). More information on our worship plans for All Souls will follow in the pew sheets and on the web page.

Till then, I hope the autumn offers peace and blessing.

Vestry Focus Groups

Individuals

There were three proposals put forward and agreed by Vestry:

- Assets/Skills register – see article on page 6
- Increased social activities and involvement connected with the Russian concert
- Coffee meetings and/or lunches by members in local venues for discussions or poetry readings

Wider Community

- This group proposed 4 areas to the Vestry.
- Outward Focus Project – care packages to Argylls – see article, page 4.
- Ecumenical links – we should be represented and to that effect volunteers will be needed.
- External publicity needs further work
- Presence in town – we need to think about ways to be seen more as a church.

Meet Maurice Smith



When did you first come to Holy Trinity?

I first came in 1943. Of course, that was just visiting - when I came to meet the parents of my future wife, Emily.

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

I was born in Burton Latimer Northamptonshire and as a boy went to the Baptist Sunday School. I was baptized at the age of 16 and became a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Lay Team.

In 1940 I joined the Royal Air Force and after a spell overseas was stationed at RAF Ashbourne. Stationed there with me was a certain young lady in the WRAF, LACW MacNaughton (Emily). A year later we were married and 14 months later our daughter Joan was born. I was posted to Khartoum and Emily and Joan returned to Emily's home town of Dunoon. I followed when I came out of the Air Force in 1949. When I arrived in Dunoon first, I was a member of the Baptist Church, becoming both Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon, Emily was an Episcopalian, with 4 generations of her family going to Holy Trinity, so I soon got to know Holy Trinity well and joined her there. In the late 1950s I appeared in two nativity plays, held just before the Midnight Service. Emily and I were kings and Joan was an angel.

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

I worked as a Master Tailor in Dunoon, taught evening classes for a while and was a member of a local amateur dramatic club. I also enjoyed cricket very much, both playing and watching. Of course, when Emily and Joan were here, I spent a lot of time with them doing things as a family. Joan was the most wonderful daughter, always cheerful and helpful, despite being ill most of her short life.

What do you like about Holy Trinity?

Holy Trinity means a lot to me. It is a special place where I value the spirituality, the prayers and the peace. I also value the link with the past and am comforted by having Emily and Joan resting nearby in the graveyard. I was confirmed by Bishop Wimbush in Dr. Quelch's time. (See photo) I love the people and the fellowship in Holy Trinity. If I arrive on a Sunday feeling low, I almost always leave uplifted by the worship and the fellowship.



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

I was a server, Priest's Warden, and the first lay chalice bearer at Holy Trinity which was a great privilege. I have helped at various events. One of the jobs I enjoyed most was as Priest's Warden, together with Victor Reece, People's Warden, interviewing Martin Shaw (now Bishop Martin) for the vacancy at Holy Trinity.

What is your favourite hymn and why?

Possibly my favourite hymn is - 'Guide me, O thou great Jehovah' to the tune Cwm Rhondda. I like this because I was very interested in the work of the China Inland Mission (Gladys Aylward who was born in Dundee was an active member). They liked this hymn particularly for the line 'Pilgrim in this barren land' which they thought aptly described the mission in China at that time. I also like 'Lord Jesus Christ, I will come to you' and dare I add, as an Englishman, 'Jerusalem'.

Growing Together



One of my favourite moments in the Liturgy is the Sursum Corda: that moment at the start of the Eucharistic prayer when I turn to the congregation and say ‘The Lord be with you.... Lift up your hearts...’ and the congregation responds ‘and also with you... we lift them to the Lord’. There is usually a sense of expectation and energy, and for a moment (just a moment) there is real connection between the president and the congregation as we celebrate the Eucharist. Then, all too soon, heads dip and are buried in books, and I turn away from you.

Why do we do what we do? What determines when we sit, stand, kneel; when we engage with each other, and when we tuck our heads behind sheets of paper (most of you know the liturgy... it’s not just about needing the words)?

Here at Holy Trinity, our worshipping life moves back and forth between blue book and grey, between two well crafted liturgies from the 17th and 20th Centuries (both of which are based on a pattern of worship that was established by the 4th Century) with hardly a thought for the cultural and theological jumps this asks us to make.

Have you ever thought about what each liturgy says about God? ... What each says about us?

Every generation has its own biases and its own strengths and weaknesses. Our liturgies reflect that. So what does this mean for us, to be worshipping through liturgies that offer different pictures of God and the relationship between God and human beings (or should I say God and Mankind)? Why does one century think that

before we take communion we need to speak of our unworthiness, while another century thinks that we must first offer each other a sign of shared endeavour and reconciliation in ‘The Peace’?

On Saturday, 25 October, we will have a chance to explore these questions during our Liturgy Day. In the morning, we will consider Images of God and human beings in the 1982 and 1970(/1929/1662) liturgies. Then, after a soup lunch, there will be more open discussion about the details of our worship, and why we do what we do (maybe even, ‘what would we like to do differently?’)

I realise that this will be a busy weekend, with the Liturgy Day on Saturday, and a joint service in Rothesay on Sunday, but I hope that it will also be a fun and encouraging weekend.

Liturgy Day

- 10 am coffee
- 10.30 am – 12 noon
Images of God in the 1982 & 1970 Liturgies
- 12 – 12.45 pm lunch
- 12.45 – 2 pm
Our patterns of worship at Holy Trinity

Care Packages for Argylls

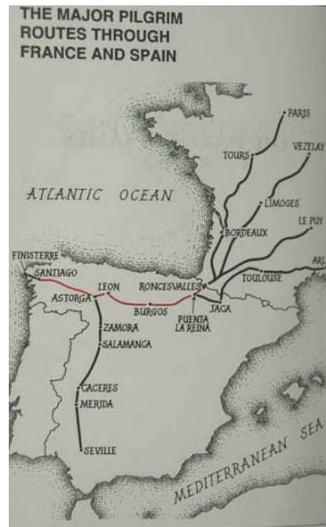


What a great effort by everyone! 11 packages have been sent to our troops and we have sufficient items left to send another 4 boxes. We will find out where the Argylls are being sent next and then collect another boxful of goodies. Watch this space!

Miracles do Happen

For 20 years I have been walking in France, the UK, Spain and the Benelux Countries on Long Distance footpaths; at times following old Pilgrim routes (which is where I am now) and visiting Marian sites. Two years ago I modernised my transport and destination.

My first year of unemployment had taken me to Nice and Menton, so I went again, but by train. Then I cycled east and south east across Italy, Slovenia, Croatia to Herzegovina and Medugorje where Our Lady still appears to visionaries. It turned out to be not only the best October in 40 years but the 25th year of apparitions.



The farther south I went the poorer the countries became (I went on to Montenegro and Albania (just). Some nights my water bottles froze solid, then after lunch back to shorts when I was in the mountains.

When you make a journey you get excited when you can see your destination but when you do reach it you realise that's the end, it's an anti climax. Not so pilgrimages, it's the reason and highlight. It was the same at Santiago (NW Spain) when I'd walked for 4 months from Southern England. And now Medugorje. You go to the Cathedral or Church every day for mass, you see the other pilgrims find out where they are from, their aspirations and hopes, you see the wonderful faith and devotion, utter peace and calm.

Six times in the last 50 years I've been to Lourdes, my favourite, but Medugorje is special. The paths are steep, earth and rocks, to the 2 special sites where Our Lady first appeared and at a cross on top of a hill. I camped just out of town for a week but before I went I would eat my meal near the

church. I could hear from inside the Rosary being said in French. (I can almost say the Hail Mary in French). What a way to end the day!

I was at a statue called the Resurrection, cast in bronze; it was cruciform, hollow like a coffin and horizontal; the Risen Christ standing vertical as he had been on the cross. As soon as it was installed one knee began to weep. No known reason. I was waiting in line not knowing this. I saw a lady collecting the liquid on a tissue, now and again, a slow process. The lady before me could not reach, so I said 'stand on my foot'. Then my turn came, there were three drips. I was overwhelmed and just said, out loud, 'Sweet Jesus' again and again. I got the liquid on my hand and put it on my back and hip, then staggered to some nearby benches and prayed for a long time. On reflection I remembered I did not even feel this lady's foot even though I just had sandals on. I also was reminded of the Trinity. A lady came over and gave me a lovely kiss on the forehead.

Towards the end I was on the Hill of the Cross when I heard a Canadian lady say 'look the sun is dancing'. I looked but the sun was too bright to even see. I continued to the summit where the group was and the lady said 'look the sun is dancing'. I looked but this time I could see the sun as it had a 'cover' over it except the very rim and to me it was this cover 'dancing'. It changed colour, sometimes 2 colours, sometimes one. I watched for minutes. I said to the group 'only one person could do this, as we would have burned our retinas and damaged our sight'.

I have now linked all these walks and I want to walk to Lowestoft (most easterly in Britain) and one more pilgrim route. Then when I'm 75, cycle to Santiago. Just walking along singing hymns, going into churches and praying, seeing God's creation and thanking him. Utter faith that I'll find the way, find food and somewhere to camp, and if not someone to help me.

My memory of the Holy Land of the 50's and 60's is dimmer now, but nothing will eclipse my memories of Lourdes and Medugorje.

Hugh Lyons

The Organist Writes

Are you remembering the two singing workshops coming up later this month? Have you put the dates in your diary? Here they are again, to remind you: Wednesday 22nd and Wednesday 29th October, in the church, at 5pm.

We shall be singing some psalms, using a modern – and rather easier to read – method of pointing. This should satisfy all the people who over the years have expressed a desire to ‘do psalms again’. And we shall have a look at some new hymns, to allow us to worship in ways that are fresh and to bring new vigour to our singing.

Please come – we can’t do it without you!

John, Organist

From the Counting House

This is the end of the financial year so we are busy counting last year's bean harvest to make sure that we have not missed any.

I don't think any financial whirlwinds have happened in the last month. We bank with the Bank of Scotland but that spot of bother seems to have abated.

The chief counter is away for October, staying with Yaro. There is great excitement - electricity may arrive in the village while I am there!

Richard, Treasurer

Comments and Clippings

- The next book for the Book Group is ‘The Red Tent’ by Anita Diamant. This will be discussed on Friday 14th November.
- The Newsletter is free but donations are welcome. There is a jar at the back of the church.

Register Your Assets

Sounds scary, huh? As banks crash and the credit squeeze tightens, what on earth are we asking of you now? Relax. This is good news – for your Vestry focus group would like to compile a register of what each of us can offer, not in cash but in skills. We have in mind a system which could benefit us all, individually and as a community, fostering links within the congregation and making best use of the abilities which we consider ordinary but which another person might regard as way out of their league.

So: if you can bake a great cake, or enjoy gardening, or can wire a plug or aren't afraid of replacing light bulbs, or walk a dog for someone who might need help, or cat-sit, or read aloud; if you can write a good business letter, or use a computer, or teach someone else basic computer skills ... if, in short, you can do something that someone else might value, would you be willing to register that skill? If you would, please use the tear-off slip in this magazine and let us have it.

And how would this register be useful? Well, consider how miserable it is if you are ill and suddenly can't get to the shops and your larder is bare but for a can of beans and the dog is whining for a walk. You make a couple of calls and bingo: one jolly person appears with a load of tempting delicacies and another walks the legs off the dog and life seems better again. You haven't felt bad about asking, because you know these people have volunteered, and you may well be about to contribute something you can do when you feel better. And one last thing: if someone using the register wants to make some payment for services rendered, that money would go to Holy Trinity. So we all give a bit extra without noticing it – because we are benefiting materially as well as spiritually.

And we might be striking up new friendships while we're at it!

Christine (McIntosh)

The Wider Church:

Homosexuality & the Church

I'm proud of us at Holy Trinity. Last Saturday Kimberly hosted a discussion about homosexuality in the church over coffee and cakes at the rectory.

Most of you will know that I'm a passionate believer in full equality for GLBT, having what might be termed a vested interest in that one of my sons is gay. This puts me very much at the extreme end of the debate and I was apprehensive about how I might react faced with someone who was very firmly in the opposite camp, so I was in two minds whether to go.

In the end I went. The whole issue stirs up strong emotions in me that I prefer not to air in public, but it's these very emotions from either side that are fuelling the whole unedifying mess the Anglican Communion has got itself into.

So there we were, nine of us including the rector and two members from Tighnabruaich who felt strongly enough to make the long trip over the hill, sipping coffee and tea and wondering how Kimberly was going to get the ball rolling given our natural Scottish tendency to reticence on the subject of sex.



You see everyone there (except our rector) was of my generation and older. We didn't have sex education at school and many of us grew up with only the vaguest notion of what homosexuality was. So to sit in a circle and chat about it in a non-judgemental and frank manner in a church context was to many of us entirely unprecedented. But we did.

Yes indeed there was a wide range of viewpoints, but folk put their cards on the table and the

discussion was both frank and honest. And most of all we listened to each other. As people shared their experiences, it became obvious that here was a group of people who cared very much about the issues of welcoming openly gay clergy (particularly bishops) and blessing same-sex unions in the church, but were reaching out for reconciliation and doing so with both compassion and dignity. And that's what makes me proud.

Gosh, I wish the whole Anglican Communion was like us!

Di

The Vestry Report

The Vestry met on Monday 15th September.

We discussed and agreed the proposal that we have a joint service for Sea Sunday this year at Rothesay.

We looked at how the Newsletter could be distributed to any members of the congregation who were housebound.

We heard plans for the Michaelmas Celebrations at the Pier Building and agreed to support and fund the event.

The Treasurer presented the monthly report and his forecast for the end of the financial year.

There were updates from the Focus Groups looking at next steps for Individuals and the Wider Community – more details on page 2. The Focus Group looking at our Community and buildings is still collecting information.

We considered and agreed some of the urgent routine property matters to be undertaken

We discussed the Congregational meetings held in July and the next steps.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Notable dates – October

Wed 1	Bible Study St. Mark (4) 7.30pm 15 Broomfield Drive
Sun 5 – Trinity 20	
Wed 8	Bible Study St Mark (5)
Sun 12 – Trinity 21 – Lay Team	
Mon 13	Bible Study Genesis 7.00pm Rectory
Wed 15	Vestry Meeting 7.30pm
Sun 19 – Trinity 22	
Wed 22	Singing Workshop 5-6pm church
Wed 22	Bible Study St. Mark (6)
Sat 25	Discussion on Liturgy 10.00am to 12.00 noon Rectory
Sun 26 - Sea Sunday in Rothesay 11am	
Mon 27	Bible Study Genesis
Wed 29	Singing Workshop 5-6pm church
Fri 31	All Soul's tide/Hallowe'en worship & Open House

October Readings

Trinity 20	Exodus 20.1-4,7-9, 12-20 Philippians 3, 4b-14 Matthew 21,33-46
Trinity 21	Exodus 32, 1-14 Philippians 4, 1-9 Matthew 22, 1-14
Trinity 22	Exodus 33, 12-23 1 Thessalonians 1, 1-10 Matthew 22, 15-22
Trinity 23	Deuteronomy 34, 1-12 1 Thessalonians 2, 1-8 Matthew 22, 34-46

Church Contact Points

Name	Contact
Rector	Rev. Kimberly Bohan (702444)
People's Warden	Mac McLean (705497)
Rector's Warden	Pauline Revill (704731)
Lay Representative	Ann Narraway (830400)
Vestry Secretary	Di Tennent (840779)
Vestry Treasurer	Richard McGilvray (830116)
Organist	John McIntosh (703304)
Book Group	Di Tennent
House Groups	Rector
Mission to Seafarers	Pauline Revill
Christian Aid	Brian and Margaret Dineley (870073)
Bible study	Rector
Coffee Rota	Pauline Revill
Flower Arranging	Sharon Barnard (706240)
Worship Rotas	Margaret Dineley
Newsletter	Maureen McKellar (703058)

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