

# Holy Trinity News

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Summer/Autumn 2014

## Wars and rumours of wars...

This quotation of Jesus from Matthew's gospel (24:6), trying to reassure his followers, seems very apt in the current world and national situation. World news is dominated by the conflicts in the middle east, violence apparently drawn on religious lines in Gaza, Iraq, Syria. Our national news (in mid August, as I write) is full of the independence referendum, with heated debates and fears of dire consequences whatever the outcome.

How, as Christians, can we respond to this world? The humanitarian aspect of world crises we can support with aid & giving, even as individuals. The political situations at home and abroad we must engage with, to understand the issues and sub-

tleties. As individuals, we can lobby agencies and governments and support causes that we prayerfully feel are just and reasonable. To study, pray and act is a sound Christian response to *any* challenging issue. As individual Christians we are *not* powerless even when faced with such large issues.

Jesus, teaching his disciples, foresees the destruction of the Jerusalem temple (image below of the rubble today), and tells them that the world is a danger-



The ruins of the temple in Jerusalem  
(Image A Swift 2006)



ous and hostile place, but he directs them to be calm and proclaim God's love whatever situation they may find and whatever may happen to them. As the disciples of today, we must find a way to live out this message of faith and love, through our lives and our actions.

Finding the spiritual strength to engage with world issues, the political future of Scotland, even the problems in our personal lives is hard. It will help us that this year, as part of the diocese, we will be exploring '**Reflection for Action**' - the fourth year programme to grow the spiritual strength of churches and individuals. We are invited to explore the three areas of *theological reflection, retreats/quiet days* and *spiritual direction*. There is more information on

what these are on the diocesan [website](#) or the flyers in church.

We are planning a quiet day early in Lent, probably in Millport, which members of both the charges in the linkage can attend. This will be led by an experienced facilitator who will help us to pray, to reflect and to find space. Plans for a pilgrimage to Iona in 2016 are also in hand.



# Holy Trinity Harvest Supper



Come for our Harvest celebration meal  
with entertainments

High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street

**13 September at 7pm**

Tickets £7 from Pauline (704731) or Mary (702444)

Charity Number SC08066

## Elaine Garman: our 'ordinand'

Elaine Garman has arrived, informally, as an ordinand, a person training for ordained ministry. She has been a member of our linked charge of St Paul's Rothesay for many years, but this is a new role within the linkage, so she has answered a few questions about herself and her planned time here:

### **Can you tell us a bit about yourself?**

I'm married to Gordon with two step children, Lynda and Ross and two beautiful (of course) granddaughters, Ava and Lucienne. I work as a Public Health Specialist, heading up the public

health team in Argyll. Gordon and I live on the Isle of Bute, previously having lived in Gourock.

### **Apart from work and worship what do you spend time doing?**

I love to sing and sing with two groups Island Voices and Ballianlay Choir both of which meet on the island. The first is a small number of singers; the other is a community choir again with a varied repertoire. We also have a large garden which I enjoy and share a greenhouse with my friend and neighbour. The greenhouse is in my garden and Sandra does the work! Gordon



and I also both love sailing although with grandchildren and other commitments that has taken more of a back seat in the past few years.

### **What stage are you in your training for ordination?**

I have completed my first year of training. Part-time and fulltime students (both lay readers and ordinands) train together. Teaching is provided through a series of residential weekends and annual summer school. I have been studying with the University of Aberdeen for a degree in theology part-time over a number of years and am continuing my academic studies with them as well attending the residential weekends. Bishop Kevin has set my date for ordination in June 2015.

### **How long will you be with us at Holy Trinity?**

I will be here up until November this year. I will then have a rash of

assignments and exams to contend with. A placement in Oban at St John's Cathedral follows some time after Epiphany till Easter. After ordination as Deacon I'll return for a three year curacy in Bute and Cowal with Andrew as my training incumbent.

### **From Andrew:**

It is very exciting for us a church, and for me as a priest, to be supporting Elaine as she grows and develops in her training for ordained ministry. As she is ordained deacon and then priest, as 'our' curate, she will become an integral part of the worship and ministry teams here in Cowal and Bute, as well as in the wider diocese. I wish her every blessing as she gets to know this church better in the next few weeks and months. Please keep Elaine and Gordon and all their family in your prayers at this exciting time!

# Mission Report

**The Haven at Cowal Gathering** is running again for 2014, led by members of HT. The drop-in café at the top of the hill above the



stadium will serve Fairtrade refreshments and snacks. As in the previous two years, it will be staffed ecumenically. Displays in the café will and will raise awareness of all the churches whilst offering hospitality and shelter to gathering goers as well as fundraising for our local hospice.

Colin Sibley, the project manager for the Haven, has been planning the event since last year and it is now (in mid August) ready to go!

The costs of the project have been met by church bodies, as this is an mission outreach. This year, the project has been supported financially by:

- The Church of Scotland:  
Mission & Discipleship Council  
Augusta Lamont Bequest  
Kirn Parish Church
- Scottish Episcopal Church:  
Diocese of Argyll and The Isles  
Bishop Kevin  
Island Retreats Limited  
Holy Trinity Dunoon
- Dunoon Baptist Church

Other groups and churches have supported with people and , of course, many prayers for the initiative.

Please let your friends know about the Haven, and if you are at the gathering, pop in to say 'hello' and have a coffee.

**29th & 30th August 2014**

## Events and activities

Holy Trinity has been as busy as ever in the past few months, with a wide range of social events and activities in addition to our times of worship. We have done:

Bag packs in the Co-op for Christian Aid and for Holy Trinity Fabric.

A Summer Coffee Morning for church funds.

A Fundraiser Quiz Night with the

Dean.

A DIY week of cleaning, tidying and decorating the church building.

A Celebration barbecue after the service at the end of the DIY week.

Supporting the wedding of Philippa Revill and Ian McKee: with light lunch and refreshments!

And more besides...!

**HT Book Group**  
is meeting on:

**Thursday 11th**  
**September**  
**at 11am**

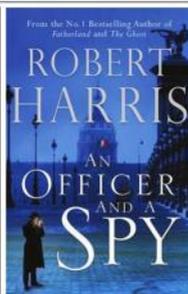


**We are reading**  
**two books:**

**'Frankie and Stankie'**  
by **Barbara Trapido**

'a gorgeous book  
about growing up'  
(Observer) set in  
1950s South Africa

**At**  
**Holy**  
**Trinity**  
**Rectory**



**'An Officer And A Spy'**  
by **Robert Harris**

'a gripping historical thriller set in 1890's Paris based on the Dreyfus Affair'

**All Welcome, Please Join Us!**

More details from: Di Tennent (840779)

# Vestry Update

The vestry of Holy Trinity Du-noon is responsible for the day to day running of the church, as well as being the official 'charity trustees.' They meet several times each year to discuss a mix of finances, property issues, mission and general review of where the church community is going, spiritually and practically. Issues discussed in recent meetings:

Financial status of the charge— see the Treasury Team report opposite. The finances are fairly healthy, but there are still significant challenges.

Completion of the restoration project and finishing the details of the contract with W H Kirkwood.

Other property and grounds matters: working out the priorities and planning fundraising & grant applications.

Overseeing the programme of events and activities.

Possible changes to service times or approaches.

The plan to experimentally install a CCTV system to allow the church to be safely left open and unattended in the day (as required by some of the grants received).

The vestry discusses, with the Rector, every aspect of church life, freely sharing ideas and reactions.

If you are interested in joining the vestry at the annual meeting later this year, or wish to know any more about vestry business, please contact Liz McFarlane the vestry secretary on [jlizg@gmail.com](mailto:jlizg@gmail.com).



# Treasury team report

We are approaching the end of another church financial year, and the treasury team have been working hard to manage and report on the church finances. The finances fall into two broad areas:

- Grants & major fundraising for fabric projects;
- Running costs (including paying for clergy ministry)

This year the first category has been less significant than previous years, as the restoration project has completed and its finances have been winding down.

The running costs are the area that the vestry monitor closely. The grant that we have long received from Edinburgh for ministry has reduced to half the full amount this year, about £6k, and will reduce to only £2k next year. This reduction is a requirement for the continuation of full-time clergy ministry. To pay our bills, given this reduction, has required

income from giving and fundraising to increase over the past few years, which it has.

For financial year 2013-14 the finances are on budget, with expenses well controlled and income close to what is required. As all costs rise, we do require more income, of course, and would ask that all members prayerfully consider their level of giving and if any increase may now be possible. Next year, with the end of the ministry grant, the vestry plans to have a formal stewardship campaign, as we have in previous years.

The team wishes to thank all church members for their efforts through giving and supporting fundraising—we would not be able to continue without your very, very important contributions.

## **Treasury Team 2014:**

Maureen McKellar; Ann Narra-way; Mary Swift; The Rector.

# Fabric & Property Update

## Life after the restoration project

It has been good to spend the summer in our own building, without the bustle of scaffolding and contractors on the hill, and without having to assemble a worship space in a (generously loaned!) hall each week.

The restoration project has made a wonderful difference to the worship and social space at Holy Trinity, and we will continue to remind ourselves how much has been done. The project also ended almost exactly on budget, once we had used the contingency amounts al-

lowed in the project.

We have to allow public access to the church as a condition of some of the grants we received, so the vestry are working on making this safe and secure.

## Other work...

The **new heating** had not long been installed at the last magazine—this seems to work well keeping us warm, and uses less power than the old system. The next winter will be real test of the system!

The **flat roof** over the vestry and above the old organ frame, was not included in the restoration project as it was hoped it was sound enough. In the winter, however, it started leaking severely. Following investigation and competitive quotes, this roof, made of lead, has now been renewed. The lead has been security marked with 'Smartwater', a forensic system,



and we are now confident that the leaks will have been stopped. The sound system will eventually be placed in the organ frame, once we are sure that it is fully dry.

The **DIY week** in August was a great success, with painting, deep cleaning, churchyard leveling and litter picking, extra strimming and gravestone cleaning, to name just a few of the activities that were carried out. Large, difficult tasks must be done by contractors, but it is

## Contact details:

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Vestry secretary: Liz McFarlane [justlizg@gmail.com](mailto:justlizg@gmail.com)

Rector's warden: Val Taylor [valeet98@aol.com](mailto:valeet98@aol.com)

Treasurer: Maureen McKellar [mjmckellar@btinternet.com](mailto:mjmckellar@btinternet.com)

People's Warden & Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:

Dinkie McEwen, 01369 705257, [dimce@btinternet.com](mailto:dimce@btinternet.com)

wonderful to be able to care for our building as a community, and to gather and celebrate with worship and a barbecue. More weeks will be planned!

## The future

The temporary siting of a portaloos by the front porch gives us a basic toilet facility, but the vestry wishes to start work on plans to fit a permanent toilet in the church and grounds. This work is an early stage, as it has had to wait while we completed the restoration project, but watch for news on these developments.

## Dates for your diary...

August:

**29th & 30th Aug**—'The Haven' at the Cowal Gathering

**31st Aug**—All Age Worship at the 10.30am service

September:

**11th Sep**—11am Book Group at the Rectory. See notice for details.

**13th Sep**—7pm, Harvest Supper at the High Kirk Hall. See notice

**27th Sep**—Saturday Open Day at Holy Trinity

October:

**11th Oct**—1.30pm Gillian Aitken & Ross Ferguson Wedding at Holy Trinity

**25th Oct**—6pm—Evensong at Millport Installation of Hugh Lee as Honorary Canon of Cumbrae (numbers limited)

November:

**3rd Nov**—7pm All Souls' Service at Holy Trinity

**5th Nov**—Russian Choir Concert at Holy Trinity

**8th Nov**—Diocesan Protection of Vulnerable Groups Training in Oban

**15th Nov**—Diocesan Lay Training: Eucharistic Assistants—Oban

**16th Nov**—Holy Trinity Annual Meeting (after 10.30 Eucharist)

**22nd Nov**—Holy Trinity Christmas Fair in the High Kirk Hall