



# Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

August 2019



Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon

## God's Gang

Activities for children and young people will resume on Sunday 1st September and will be on every Sunday in September. We are looking forward to it!



## Inside this issue:

Vestry News	2
Events	2
Away giving	2
The Haven	3
Our Services	3
Volunteer Survey	3
Other Activities	3
Reflection	4

## Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church

### View from the hill ...

As I write this, we have just passed the three month anniversary of our arrival here in Dunoon – a warm day in April when we unloaded our worldly goods and installed them in the Rectory. In the ensuing months, we have begun to get to know people, and to settle in to life here up on the hill at the foot of Bishop's Glen.

And what a special place it is, a place where you can feel the closeness of God, where there is a tangible sense of the numinous. The setting is peaceful – though not quiet – with the wind sighing through the trees, or the Balgie Burn bubbling busily in the glen. And

although secluded, it isn't a lonely place, with plentiful company.....from the many birds, to the regular visiting deer or walkers, to the many, many midges! And there is also the company of the church family here at Holy Trinity, both the present members, and all those who have prayed and praised, worshipped and sung here over the past 160 odd years.

Jesus often went up a hill to pray, to be nearer to his heavenly Father, and being here at the 'wee church on the hill' in Dunoon helps me to understand why.

David Raiton, Rector

Summer 2019



Rev. David Raiton is installed as Rector of Holy Trinity by the Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

### Some words which say something important to us in the current political climate.....

Reconciliation is one of our greatest needs and toughest challenges as human beings. In a world plagued by conflict, division and indifference, the Church has a crucial role to play as a community of reconcilers. Jesus calls every one of us to love God, our neighbours, ourselves and our enemies – a challenging command, with nobody left out.

The word 'reconcile' literally means to bring together – or heal – that which was broken. This healing is much more than the absence of conflict. It's certainly not about suppressing difference. Reconciliation is about seeking to transform relationships that have become damaged or destructive into relationships of trust that bring new life.

The journey towards this is not easy. It requires humility, time and patience. Most of all, it demands a decision to let go of the destructive power of memory and past hurt. It's precisely because reconciliation is so difficult that it is so powerful.

Reconciliation is at the heart of Christ's good news. It's at the centre of the call he makes to those who follow him. That's why I've made it a personal priority for my ministry. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are the story of God's reconciliation with humanity. Through them, Jesus opens the way for a restored relationship between God and us. If we embrace that joyful new relationship, it should overflow into the way we relate

to one another. This will look different in each of our lives – from making cups of tea to acting as professional mediators.

Christ calls us to be peacemakers who cross the borders and barriers that divide us – radical in our generosity and welcome. It's a call to see others in their full humanity, to persist in seeking their good. Communities of followers of Jesus across the world are present at the most local levels where relationships are made or broken. In these relationships, the Church has the opportunity to offer honest, deeply-rooted hope.

Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



Altar Frontal

### Organ Fund

Our organ, which has served us well for over 20 years, is becoming increasingly unreliable.

**The Organ Fund** is now at a level where quotations for replacement are being requested. It is hoped that a decision will be reached in the next few weeks.

Donations can be Gift-Aided.



Rev. Canon Paddy Allen

### Vestry News

The Vestry meets approximately every 6 weeks in order to manage the activities of Holy Trinity and its buildings.

The last meeting of the Vestry was 4th July 2019. The Treasurer reported on the financial situation nine months through the financial year. She reported that the regular position was satisfactory but as there had been considerable expenditure on the Rectory (£16,000) she intended to draw down £3,000 from

investments to help cover Holy Trinity's share. This was approved. She added that there had been generous giving to the Organ Fund.

The Rector discussed various ideas for mission including a Prayer Walk which the Vestry agreed. Ideas were put forward for different services, such as a pet service, healing service, praise service, Songs of Praise, evensong and a quiet prayer service.

Pastoral Visiting was discussed, and it was agreed to communicate better how this worked in Holy Trinity.

Fabric matters were discussed including maintenance of the church roof, next steps for water to the back of church, a DIY day on 21st September and the Land Project.

Next meeting Thursday 15th August.

Maureen McKellar  
Vestry Secretary

### Events

The **Coffee Morning** on 1st May raised almost £650 for the church and £74 for Christian Aid. Thanks to everyone.

David and Sarah kindly hosted a **Coffee Morning** at the Rectory on Saturday 3 August, £26 was raised for church funds.

The next event planned is the **Heritage Open Day** on

Saturday 7 September, 10:00-16:00.

This is in association with the Doors Open scheme that weekend. There will be information about the church and its history as well as displays of sacramental silverware and vestments. The Baptism, Marriage & Burial Registers will be available for examina-

tion. Tea & Coffee will be available.

On Saturday 21 September, a **Church Grounds Tidy Up** is planned.

### Away Giving

#### Bishop's Lent Appeal

£75 was collected for Aberlour Child Care Trust. The Vestry topped this up to £150 from church funds.

#### Christian Aid

£74 was raised in the Hamper Raffle at the coffee Morning

#### DEC Cyclone Appeal

The church raised £112 for the Idai Cyclone Appeal.

The Vestry topped this up to £150.

#### Mission to Seafarers, Scotland

Over £300 has been collected during the current financial year. Following an appeal from Rev'd Tim Tunley, 9 knitted items (mostly woolly hats) were sent to MTSS for distribution.

A Collection was taken at David's Institution as Rector. The sum of £330.40 was raised for the **Scottish Episcopal Institute**. This was not topped up.

### The Haven at Cowal Games

In association with the other churches in Dunoon, Holy Trinity Church members take part in "The Haven Café" at the Cowal Games. The Haven is an ecumenical venture involving most of the Dunoon churches. The aim is to provide a quiet space away from the hurly burly of the main activities. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available to anyone who wants to drop in.

Volunteers are required to staff the marquee, please contact Colin Sibley (01369 830660) for information or if you can offer assistance.

Last year, thanks to our many visitors, £800 was raised in aid of the Cowal Hospice.



### Our Services

Our main service of the week is on Sunday morning at 10:30. It will take the form of a Sung Eucharist or Communion from Reserved Sacrament. Both services have sung parts of the liturgy as well as hymns. Children are most welcome and there is an activity space at the back of church.

We routinely have a said service of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 17:30. This is a short (30-40 minute) quiet and more reflective service.

Compline is usually said on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 19:30. A quiet service of prayer at the end of the day.

On the 24th day of each month we gather to pray for Israelis and Palestinians caught up in the conflict in the Holy Land. This is a short (10-15 minute) time at 10:00 (15:00 if a Sunday). This is an Ecumenical prayer vigil using texts supplied by Christian Aid.

### Volunteer Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed a volunteer survey form. The data are still being correlated. The exercise did, however, let us see the wide variety of tasks and roles that members of the Holy Trinity Church

family undertake. These include (in no particular order) - Welcoming, Intercessions, Reading, Server, Church Open, Gardening, Worship Leader, Preaching, Christian Aid Rep., Flowers, Vestry, Cleaning, Pastoral

Visitor, Tea/Coffee.

If, as a church member, you would like to be involved in one or more of the roles, please speak to the Rector.

**Compline - a quiet service of prayer at the end of the day.**

### Other Activities

#### Book Group

Holy Trinity Book Group has been running for almost ten years. It began as a small group from Holy Trinity meeting once a month in each others' houses. These days it's a more ecumenical group that meets about every six weeks. This gives plenty of time to read the chosen book, but that's not a requirement for attendance - life's too short to read a

book you don't enjoy! Sometimes everyone loves the book, sometimes nobody does, mostly it's a mixture of both, but the important thing is the discussion, which can become lively. The group is open to anyone who would like to come along - expect a cuppa and a biscuit as well as a good blether and above all, some good reads. The next meeting is

at Eden Cottage, Hill Street, on September 17th at 2pm, and the books are 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn, and 'Gallowglass' by Gordon Ferris.

#### Drop in Coffee Group

An informal gathering on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30, usually at Walker's coffee shop. A time to share stories, questions and laughter. Just drop in and join us, don't wait for an invitation.



Drop in Coffee Group

## Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church

55 Kilbride Road  
Dunoon  
PA23 7LN  
Phone: 01369 702444  
E-mail:rector@holytrinitydunoon.co.uk

**Scottish Charities No. -  
SC008066**



Holy Trinity is part of the Anglican Communion, in the same family of churches as the Church of England, the Church in Wales, the Church of Ireland, and The Episcopal Church in the United States. We are also in communion with the Scandinavian Lutheran churches and the Old Catholic churches.

You can contact the Vestry Secretary by phone on 01369 703058 or secretary@holytrinitydunoon.co.uk  
Protection of vulnerable groups (adults or children) – local coordinator is Dinkie McEwen 01369 705257.

[www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk](http://www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk)

### One year on... Our plans and God's plans

When we first thought to buy a house in Kames for our retirement, we checked out the local (Church of Scotland) church and the nearest Episcopal Church, in Dunoon. Once Ros had felt called to train as a Lay Reader (Chris had been one already for some years), it became clear that when we (eventually) retired, our focus would be Holy Trinity. We worshipped at Holy Trinity from time to time and always received a warm welcome. As the date to move was set, we looked forward to helping in ministry (a bit – we were retiring, after all!) alongside Andrew, and alongside Elaine, with whom Ros had trained. But God had other plans. Elaine left to be Rector of Forfar in June 2018 as we were packing up, and Andrew was consecrated Bishop of Brechin the day after our moving out of our Glasgow house...

And so we 'retired' into a church in vacancy, with work to do. We have been privileged to serve in such a great lay team, with the help of Paddy (who presumably also thought she was retiring from her ministry!) in this lovely congregation. We are now greatly enjoying sharing in ministry with our new Rector David and the rest of the team, and getting to know people better.

Meanwhile, the plot thickened as Bishop Kevin thought to invite us to replace Elaine in her diocesan role as Mission Enabler, encouraging and facilitating congregations in mission and training lay leaders... We are now engaged on that task, and getting to know this (geographically) huge but (humanly) small and friendly diocese.



Floral Arrangement at the North Door

And so... Our anticipated retirement activities, such as sailing, crosswords, reading and tapestry, are on the back burner a bit for the moment. Our plans. God's plans. The service of the living God is never boring!

Chris and Ros Brett