



Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

November 2019



Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon

Recent Incumbents

David Railton
Andrew Swift
Kimberly Bohan
Hugh Lee
Alexander Guinness
Colin Wheatley
Allan McLean
Martin Shaw
Philip Isaac
Iain MacKenzie



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Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church

View from the hill ...

"November is a month of remembrance, inspired by the Church's remembrance of all its unnamed saints and all the faithful departed at the beginning of the month, All Souls Night with the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, and then Remembrance Sunday, when we remember with respect and gratitude all who died in those great conflicts and those which followed, and indeed those who lose their lives in the present day in conflicts across the world.

But if you have ever been to Westminster Abbey maybe you have noticed the statues which were erected above the west door in 1998 - ten figures of Christian martyrs of the 20th century, drawn from every continent and different denominations. They remind us of the cost of being true to one's beliefs, and of the continuing persecution of those who dare to stand up for what is right, and they challenge us to expand our remembrance to include all who have made great sacrifices for the benefit of others. Each one represents many other victims of tyranny, fanaticism, dictatorship, prejudice and brutality. They include Janani Luwum, Archbishop of

Uganda, murdered in 1977 by the troops of Idi Amin for his opposition to the unchecked violence of the security forces, and Archbishop Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, who stood out against the oppression of the poor and the abuse of human rights by a repressive government. He was shot at the altar in 1980 while saying Mass. There are also the human rights leader, Martin Luther King, assassinated in Memphis in 1968, the Chinese pastor Wang Zhiming, executed in front of a mass rally of over 10,000 people during the Cultural Revolution, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, a member of the Russian royal family, who renounced her status to take religious vows and care for orphans, but who was murdered by the revolutionaries, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the leaders of the German Christians who refused to make an accommodation with the Nazi regime, and Esther John (Qamar Zia), an Indian Christian whose Muslim family had to flee to Pakistan at partition, and who was brutally murdered in 1960 because her faith was seen as a threat to the established order of her community, and the Polish

Franciscan priest, Maximilian Kolbe, who as a prisoner in Auschwitz voluntarily took the place of a fellow prisoner who had been condemned to die.

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" - words of Jesus that are often read on Remembrance Sunday. The statues above the abbey door illustrate them powerfully. In November, old comrades will think again of the sacrifice of those who died alongside them in war, but we can all ponder the vision of the future that inspired them and countless others who have striven, often against enormous odds and at great personal cost, to make our world a fairer, better place. True remembrance should motivate all of us to renewed efforts to preserve all that is good in our society and change what is bad, and increase our prayers and activity for the coming of God's Kingdom."



Another Revd David Railton....

At the west end of the Nave of Westminster Abbey is the grave of the Unknown Warrior. The grave, which contains soil from France, is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble from a quarry near Namur. The idea of a Tomb of the Unknown Warrior was first conceived in 1916 by the Reverend David Railton, who, while serving as an Army chaplain on the Western Front, had seen a grave marked by a rough cross, which bore the pencil-written legend 'An

Unknown Soldier of the Black Watch'. He wrote to the Dean of Westminster in 1920 proposing that an unidentified British soldier from the battlefields in France be buried with due ceremony in Westminster Abbey "amongst the kings" to represent the many hundreds of thousands of Empire dead. The idea was strongly supported by the Dean and the then Prime Minister David Lloyd George, and the 'Unknown Warrior' was interred on the 11th

November 1920. "Padre" Railton made his home in retirement at Ard Rhu, Onich, Inverness-shire, and was returning there on 30 June 1955 from Battle, Sussex, where he had been helping the Rural Dean, when he accidentally fell from a moving train at Fort William railway station and died from his injuries. He is buried in St. Bride's Episcopal Church Graveyard, North Ballachulish.

Autumn/Winter 2019



Altar Frontal

Pet Service

We had a noisy service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 20 October when people brought their pets for blessing. Our Rector, David, reminded us how much of a blessing the pets were to us and we thanked God for them. Altogether there were 12 pets, 11 dogs and a rabbit, not to mention a couple of photos where the animals did not travel well! It was a joyous occasion.



Vestry News

The last meeting was 24th October 2019.

We began our Vestry Meeting with Bible Study as is our norm now. We all find that helps us focus as we discuss what God wants us to do in this place.

Under matters arising we were delighted that the new organ had been installed and sounded so good. We are still considering the possibility of new vestments in memory of Canon Hugh Lee and Maurice Smith.

As we have just entered the new financial year, the Vestry was given a brief overview of last year. The next Vestry meeting will be spent considering the accounts in full prior to the Annual Meeting on 1st December.

Under Mission the Rector talked about the Advent

Study Group he proposed for Thursdays during Advent. Everyone thought the Harvest Supper was excellent, thanks being expressed to all who worked so hard to make it happen. The proceeds of the Harvest service were welcomed by the Foodbank.

We talked about forthcoming services, particularly the visit by Bishop Kevin on 17th November. Our Rector reported that he was going to Stornoway for the Institution of their new Rector at the beginning of November.

We had our usual discussions on fabric. The next step in the Land Project is to seek formal approval from Bishop Kevin and the Diocese before producing a Canon 35 Application and seeking

external funding. The cost of the whole project is likely to be £250,000 to £300,000 but this will be done in stages.

The project to put a sink and units at the back of church with the water connected also requires a Canon 35 Application with the usual congregation consultation. This will be done shortly.

The Vestry also discussed a more permanent solution to the water coming in the Rectory roof and the addition of more effective heating in the Rectory lounge.

There was discussion on the forthcoming Annual Meeting. There are two vacancies for members.

The next meeting is 21st November to discuss the Annual Accounts.

M McKellar

Advent Study course 2019 - God with us

The course is based on the Sunday lectionary readings, which this year are from the Gospel of Matthew. The sessions are titled 'As it was in the days of Noah', 'John the Baptizer', 'Are you the One' and 'Joseph's Story'. Each session looks at an aspect of the Advent season, with bible readings and questions to prompt discussion. This is a good opportunity to come together to learn from each

other and to deepen our understanding. Here is a prayer from the course:

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be

the song we sing, and the melody of our lives.



In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.

Harvest Supper

On Friday 18 October, over 60 church members, friends and visitors were entertained at our annual Harvest Supper celebration.

Food was provided by members of the congregation.

Rector, David, opened the proceedings with grace and Colin Sibley acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Entertainment from Michael Smith-Tennent,

Louisa Grant, Ann Narraway, Jennifer Woodward, Duncan McGillivray and Colin Sibley included Music, Song, Poetry, and monologues. Laughter was very evident during much the evening.

The event finished with the customary singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

Many thanks to everyone who contributed food, helped set up and clear away and to the entertainers.



Harvest Festival

Sunday 20 October was our Harvest Festival service. The church was beautifully decorated by members of our flower arrangers team.

Appropriate readings and hymns were used

and thanks were given for the labours of those who work so that we have food to eat.



Special Service for All Souls



On Sunday 3 November at 4pm, our Rector, David, led us in a special service for All Souls. A quiet and thoughtful service in commemoration of the faithful departed when names to be remembered were read out and candles were lit. As the daylight faded the church glowed in candlelight in memory of those who have gone before us.

Other Activities

The **Drop in Coffee Group** meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. Walkers Café 10:30-11:30.

The next **Book Group** meeting is on Tuesday 19 November at 45 Hill Street. The book they are reading is 'The Mists of Avalon' by Marion Zimmer Bradley.

The **Christmas Fair** is on Saturday 23 November, 10:00 to 12:00 in the High Kirk Hall, Hanover Street.

There are stalls with Home Baking, Books, Jewellery and Gifts and Crafts. Other attractions are Tombola and a Christmas Hamper Raffle. Light refreshments (Teas,

Coffees and baked goods) are included in the £2.50 ticket price. Children go free.



Our Regular 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.



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**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

Planned Special Services

| Day | Date | Time | Service |
|-----------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10 November | 10:30 | Remembrance Sunday |
| Wednesday | 27 November | 19:30 | Compline |
| Wednesday | 4 December | 19:30 | Compline |
| Sunday | 8 December | 16:00 | Advent Evensong |
| Wednesday | 11 December | 19:30 | Compline |
| Wednesday | 18 December | 19:30 | Compline |
| Sunday | 22 December | 16:00 | Christmas Carol Service |
| Tuesday | 24 December | 10:00 | Prayer for Israel and Palestine |
| Tuesday | 24 December | 23:30 | Midnight Mass of the Nativity |
| Wednesday | 25 December | 10:30 | Christmas Morning |
| Wednesday | 1 January | 19:30 | Compline |