



Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

December 2019/January 2020



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**



Inside this issue:

- Vestry News **2**
- Experience Christmas **2**
- The Primus responds to the General Election **2**
- Christmas Fair Report **3**
- Advent Evensong **3**
- Other Activities **3**
- Our Regular Services **3**
- Advent Carol **4**
- Fundraising **4**

Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church

View from the hill ...

Dear Friends,

I was in a shop the other day when I was asked by the woman at the counter, "Are you looking forward to Christmas?" Well, I do generally look forward to Christmas and all that the Christmas story means, but it is also a very busy time for a priest....and as I thought about what to answer I realised that I wasn't sure what to say or what I felt..... and in the end I said, "Well, I'm a church minister, so I suppose I just take a big gulp and then get on and enjoy it." I expect most of you are in the same boat as the Christmas machine grinds faster and faster and sweeps us all up inside it, before dropping us, exhausted, on the other side in January.

And then it's new year, sales, grey days and adverts for holidays as we head off towards the Spring.

So, I was wondering what we can take with us through the busy-ness of Christmas and on into a new year, something to hang on to through both seasons? For Christians surely it's the knowledge of a God who wants to walk with us through it all, a God who is quietly there in the maelstrom of Christmas - after all, God's son is the reason for Christmas - and a God who knows what lies ahead in 2020, even before we have entered it. This is our God who wants to guide us safely through the year, and a God who wants to keep us standing on the firm founda-

Christmas 2019/Epiphany 2020

tion of God's love whatever the storms and uncertainties of life today.

Without knowing God in it all, ahead of me and beside me and behind me, I would be far more anxious about the future. But God with us through Jesus Christ helps me to look at the next month and the new year much more confidently and with hope - and with a building sense of anticipation and a realisation that yes, I am looking forward to Christmas.

A Merry Christmas to you, and a peaceful 2020.

Revd. David Railton, Rector

A Brief word on the Epiphany

You decorated, perhaps travelled, ate, open gifts, and ate some more. You rang in the new year with a long list of resolutions and maybe a cup of good cheer. Now what?

Well on the 6th January it is The Epiphany or Twelfth night, which many people think of only as the deadline for taking down Christmas decorations, but it's actually a significant part of Christian history.

The word "epiphany" simply means a revelation or manifestation and the Feast of the Epiphany is a Christian

celebration of the revelation of the birth of Jesus to the wider world. This is embodied most in the story of the wise men visiting a newborn Jesus with gifts of gold (to symbolise his royal birth), frankincense (to represent his divine birth) and myrrh (to recognise his mortality). Their visit is significant because the wise men, or Magi, were Gentiles who came from foreign lands. Indeed, their recognition of a new born king and their pilgrimage to visit the Christ child reminds us that



Christ was born not just for some, but for all of humanity, Jews and Gentiles alike. DR

(We will be marking Epiphany at morning service on Sunday 5 January 2020)

Extra Services over the Christmas Period (Sundays at 10:00 as usual)			
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



The Christmas Altar

Aumbry

A niche or cabinet, usually near the altar of a church, for keeping Consecrated Bread and Wine (the Reserved Sacrament) and holy oil or other sacramental materials.

Note: - A Tabernacle is a similar cabinet but is on, or part of, the altar.

Vestry News

The last meeting of the Vestry was 21st November 2019.

We again began the meeting using Dwelling in the Word – a short time of Bible Study led by the Rector. This helps us focus on God’s purpose for us in this place.

The November meeting is always dedicated to looking at the Annual Accounts in some detail before the Annual Meeting held, this year, on 1st December.

Before the Accounts session we talked through a few of the ongoing topics. The Vestry is looking into the design and cost of vestments with a view to having a set or sets in memory of Rev

Canon Hugh Lee and Mr Maurice Smith. A small Group was agreed to carry out initial research.

A small group has also been put together to plan the Land Project to enable it to be taken to the next stage. Permission has been received from Bishop Kevin and the Diocese.

We agreed to hire the Interloch minibus for the Carol Concert.

We are still investigating additional heat, probably a gas fire, for the Rectory lounge.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

MM

Experience Christmas 2019

Some of us had the enormous privilege to take Experience Christmas into Dunoon Grammar School on the 17th December when we had the opportunity to share the Christmas story with nearly 100 S1 pupils. This was the 9th Experience Christmas we had done. It is an Ecumenical event organised by Holy Trinity with representation from most of the local churches.

This year we were in the Assembly room rather than one of the gyms. This meant it was both warmer and carpeted. We build 5 stations and the young people go around these. They do the Announcement (takes place in Mary’s kitchen), the Promise (takes place in the den of the Magi), the Journey (Joseph and Mary make from Nazareth to Bethlehem) and the Message (takes place on the shepherd’s

hillside) and then they get together to visit the Gift station where they hear the Christmas story.

It is truly humbling to be part of this although we can be asked interesting questions. Our Rector was asked in his session if he believed in God! There was no hesitation in his answer!

MM

The Primus responds to the General Election Result

December 13, 2019

Responding to the result of the UK Parliament General Election held on 12 December the Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church said:

“I congratulate all those who were elected yesterday in the UK General Election and all those who stood but who were not elected.

“This morning the people of these Islands awoke to a very different political landscape and as we look at the political map the difference between Scotland and the rest of the UK is clear.

“As the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church I am very aware of the work undertaken by Scottish Parliamentarians, which has encouraged us to be a welcoming, diverse and tolerant country but

our church plays a part in the life of the UK and therefore today I believe we have a commission to make a request of all those politicians who are heading for Westminster:-

Please remember that you are called to work not only for those who elected you but also for the marginalised and often disenfranchised of our society – those who struggle with homelessness, children living in poverty, those excluded from their communities by race, religion or gender.

We have a climate crisis deepening daily across this wonderful planet. Governments must take this seriously – please remember that without the planet all your other conversations are as nothing.

Please be assured that we will continue to pray for you all as our newly elected members but we will also continue to remind you that true civilisation must have at its heart love, generosity and care.”



A View from the Back of the Hall

Our **Christmas Coffee Morning** this year went like a fair!

Most of us were at the hall by 8 a.m. to set up and to be ready in time for 10 o'clock having been unable to set up on Friday evening.

Long before 10.00 there was quite a buzz going on, and, I suspect, a few early birds managed to gain access in anticipation of all the bargains to be had and the plethora of Christmas Goodies. Back of house staff and stall holders alike grabbed the opportunity to take a turn around the stalls returning to their posts with armfuls of marmalade, cakes, tombola prizes, handmade cards, books, jewellery, kits to knit their own highland cows and many more wonderful items too numerous to name. Some even chanced their arm at "Guess the Weight of the Cake"!

In the kitchen, pots of coffee were ready and kettles primed to make tea. The tables were laid with crockery, plates of tasty cakes, scones and the Rector's shortbread and twinkling lights provided a festive touch. This year a selection of cheerful music was to be heard throughout the morning.

An initial lull (back of house) while the early birds

browsed the stalls allowed the kitchen crew to be primed with one of Pat and Colin's quizzes. Not to buck the trend however, this was the trigger for the tea room to leap into action. Certainly one helper never set pen to paper. Many pots of coffee were poured and refreshed; the small tea pots proved unequal to the task necessitating a more institutional looking tea pot be put to use to meet demand. Serving plates from the tables required constant recharging, more chairs were needed and the noise level increased dramatically.

Back of house staff barely had time to draw breath, washing and drying up became a new endurance sport and very soon it was time to pack everything away and clean up the hall.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning was a great success. There was a very happy atmosphere, with a great deal of chatting, catching up and plenty of laughter. The success is thanks to everyone who took part on the day, gave donations for the stalls and the tea room and to all those who supported this event. In fact, this was truly a Holy Trinity Team Effort.

Thank you.

PR



Advent Evensong

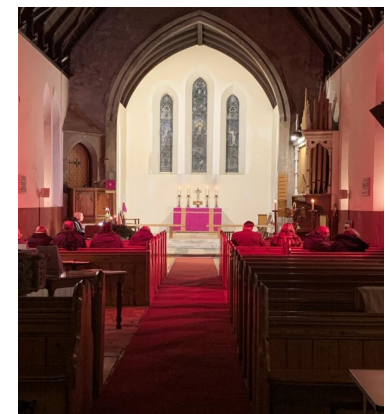
At Holy Trinity we have been marking Advent as the time of preparation for Christmas. Our Advent candle ring is lit on each of the four Sundays in preparation for lighting the central white candle at Christmas. Last week we had a lovely candle-lit service of sung Evensong interspersed with Advent hymns.

We look forward to a fully decorated church for our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm followed by refreshments. As usual we are providing a shuttle mini bus from the West Bay car park to avoid the parking congestion at Holy Trinity.

We welcome the birth of the Christ Child with a service beginning at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve in candle-light with incense. On Christmas Day there is a family celebration at 10.30 am. Please come and join us to sing all your favourite carols and to celebrate the birth of the Baby born in the manger. We wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

More details on our website:
www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk

(As submitted to the Dunoon Observer) MM



Other Activities

The **Drop in Coffee Group** next meets on Thursday 9th January in Walkers Café 10:30-11:30.

This is a change from the regular 1st Thursday of the month because of the New Year holidays,

The next **Book Group** meeting is on Tuesday 14 January at 45 Hill Street. The books they will be discussing are 'The Professor' by Charlotte Brontë and 'The Mists of Avalon' by Marion Zimmer Bradley. The latter is carried forward from

the last meeting as a number of readers had not finished reading it.

The **Events Team** will meet early in the New Year to plan the next round of Fundraising Events.

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.

The Posada at the Rectory



Taking inspiration from the Las Posadas festival celebrated across Latin America, Posada (meaning shelter or lodging) is about reflecting, as a church, family or community, on the journey undertaken by Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem.

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

New Year Resolutions

One of the resolutions that you might be considering is reviewing your giving to Holy Trinity. Did you know that it is possible to give more to the church at no extra cost to you - provided that you shop online.

easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity fundraising site. It's simple to use, and it's free.

How? Just visit your favourite retailers through the easyfundraising website (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>) and then shop as normal. Once you've made a purchase their retailers will then make a small donation to our cause to say "thank you".

Using easyfundraising means that we will have a steady stream of donations coming throughout the year. It's an effortless way of raising funds consistently alongside all our other fundraising initiatives. Once signed up, you will raise a donation for us every time you shop online via easyfundraising - whether you're doing your weekly grocery shop, buying car insurance, booking a holiday or even switching energy provider.

Amazon Smile

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You need to sign up with AmazonSmile and designate "Holy Trinity Episcopal Church" as the charity that you wish to support.

Further information from the treasurer, Maureen McKellar, or from Alan Mole.

Advent lullaby

When the world grows cold
and our souls are dark with yearning
when the days are short
and we long for hope to come
it is then that we wait for the child the angel promised
for the child that will be born is the Prince of Peace.

When the angel came
and her life was changed for ever
when the journey came
that would take her far from home
then the star and the heavens told the world of Mary's baby
for the child that she adored was the son of God.

When our world is dark
with the lies and fears and hunger
when we long for truth
and the love that shapes us all
it is then that we sing of the paradox that guides us
for the child that we await is the Lord of all.

C.M.M. 2019