



Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

Oct/Nov 2020

Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church

Autumn - 2020



Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon

The next Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

Pray for the members of Preparatory Committee, the Electoral Synod, the House of Bishops and the Candidates themselves.

May they properly discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they search for our next Bishop.



Socially distanced communion

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View from the hill ...

Has it ever struck you, as you read the gospels, just how many times Jesus took himself and his disciples into liminal places – these places that are on the threshold between heaven and earth, or between endings and beginning, between what was and what is yet to come. These are dangerous, demanding and life-transforming spaces – risky locations in which thresholds are crossed and new lessons learnt.

Jesus didn't just end up in these places by chance – he seemed to actively seek them out. They included his crossing of the river Jordan (a raging torrent in Jesus' day) at the point where Joshua led the Jews into the Promised Land, leaving behind his job, family, ways of praying, friends, and community.

Jesus often goes into the desert – a place of few comforts and one of isolation, but also a place of creativity and vision.

He took his disciples to the beach at Tyre and Sidon to glimpse big horizons – to lead them out of their comfort zones into a place of being disturbed. The same can be said when he leads the disciples to the other side of lake Galilee – enemy territory, thought of as being dangerous, dirty and unclean. Similarly, Jesus leads his disciples through the no go area of Samaria when he didn't have to (it wasn't the most direct route to take!).

Why did Jesus do this?

Perhaps because Jesus was constantly seeking to challenge his disciples to see the bigger picture – to not let them get too comfortable and sure of their own opinion; to not let them reduce everything to a binary view of this being 'bad' and that being 'good'; this being 'wrong' and that being 'right'.

We live in an age where our media, politicians and others increasingly seek to encourage us to see things as binary issues. Such thinking leads to a very divided, tribalistic community that can forget that to be a community we actually need one another. Jesus never reduced the identity of a human being to one issue – just think of how he interacted with all those that others sought to avoid (foreigners; women; children; the sick) - and he made sure that those closest to him didn't do that either by constantly challenging their preconceived ideas and by challenging how they viewed others and the world.

Whenever and wherever we are called to 'take a side', remember Jesus' deliberate challenging of his disciples to see the bigger picture. There's always one to see!

Every blessing,

Our Regular Services during Covid-19

In Church

Sunday at 10:30 – Holy Communion (or Communion from Reserved Sacrament).
Thursday at 17:30 – Holy Communion
The church is open for private prayer on Thursday from 16:30-17:30.

@Home (online)

Tuesday at 09:30 – Morning Prayer
Wednesday at 20:00 – Compline
Thursday at 09:30 – Morning Prayer
Friday at 09:30 – Morning Prayer

On the 24th day of each month we gather (@ home) 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). We use an Ecumenical prayer vigil with texts supplied by Christian Aid.

For details on how to access the @Home online services please contact the Rector.



Online vestry meeting

The Congregational Annual Meeting:

scheduled for
**Sunday 29 November
 2020.**

It is almost certain that the meeting will have to be held online*.

The Rector, in consultation with the vestry, is examining the most suitable way to manage this so that the proceedings will be open to as many of the congregation as possible.

It is likely that such an online meeting will take place after the Service of the Word which commences at 16:00.

In order to be kept informed please watch the website, the FaceBook page or phone the Rector or Vestry Secretary.

* "Online" includes telephone access

Vestry Meeting

Vestry meetings begin and end with prayer: a short prayer given by a vestry member at the beginning and the Grace at the end. However, before getting down to church business, we spend a little time on some bible study using "Dwelling in the Word" currently based on 2 Corinthians 4, 1-12 and led by the Rector. This helps us focus on God's purpose for us here.

We review the minutes of the last meeting and follow up on any matters outstanding. The treasurer's report keeps us up to date with our financial state and adherence to our budget.

Matters relating to the fabric of the church building, the rectory and the grounds are reported and discussed as they arise.

The rector gives a report on local, diocesan and provincial issues, some of

which affect Holy Trinity directly and others which are information sharing.

Items of a more pastoral nature may also be raised by the rector or by vestry members, sometimes in response to issues identified by members of our church community.

With the restrictions placed on us at the moment, all vestry meetings are online using Zoom software. We have not met face-to-face since February. The rector chairs (hosts) the meeting and is always careful to allow everyone to contribute, he never uses his "mute all" option. We are looking forward to the time when we can get together again. However this time of pandemic crisis has shown that online meetings work and could be invaluable in the event of urgent decisions having to be made.

A view from the pew by Duncan McGillivray

The recent return to services and worship inside church has felt wonderful. The adjustments required to keep us safe have been a reasonable trade off for me and I thank God for this. Indeed thus far my biggest problems have been the trifling matter of fogged glasses and resisting the urge not to burst into song at the Gloria!

As someone who was initially captivated by the serenity and ambiance the first time I stepped inside Holy Trinity Church the Covid restrictions prohibiting visits meant that this special place was no longer my safe place, my refuge.

Saddened as I was I realise it was a small sacrifice to make given the difficulties the pandemic has placed on some. I had moved on a little at least from my initial need for the beautiful and contemplative space and realised that a church is more than a building, that the Christian fellowship, my faith and opportunities for communal prayer and worship are more than bricks and mortar. The initial wave of Covid-19 and

associated Lockdown had clearly demonstrated this to me. That these needs could be met in other ways, principally through online worship via Zoom but also in how we live and by adapting and speaking to God at different times and places have been a revelation. In spite of this however I still missed our Church services terribly. The ritual of communal church worship and the fellowship of my church family having become an integral part of my life that I missed as much as the family and friends prohibited by lockdown.

The gradual and carefully planned route back to church worship has represented a move back towards some new type of normal. Marshalled by the vestry and church wardens we observe social distance, practice additional hand sanitising and wear our face coverings as we sit spaced apart on the pews. The continuing limitations, that have been measured and sensible, a reasonable price to pay for a return of sorts to our worship on the hill in our special and sacred wee church. For those of us who

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feel comfortable enough to return the intimacy, peace and beauty of Holy Trinity has been restored back into our lives albeit with limitations. I have been fortunate enough to feel in a position to safely re-enter the church and hope and pray that despite current setbacks we will all be able to come together again in this special place. In the meantime we are blessed with the continued online worship that has been managed and presented so wonderfully. Thanks to God for helping us find a way forward in these worrisome times.

Online Worship - the future

The Holy Trinity Vestry and worship leaders met on 15th October to consider future online worship now that services in church have restarted.

1. How have the online services gone so far? They have been an excellent response to the lock-down. Choosing Zoom, rather than e.g. Facebook, has been good. Zoom allows interactions among the congregation, and they can read the readings and responses. People have joined in from all over the world, and also while shielding at home. We are most grateful to David, Christine, John, Alan and others for the great work they have done, and continue to do.

2. Are recordings of online services available to view later? Yes. They are all available on the church website and some on Facebook or YouTube. Some people access these recordings who don't attend the "live" online services. People can give to the Church online using the "donate" button.

3. Should we continue online services now services in church have restarted? Yes, as long as people attend services online who don't attend church in person. Lay people can help with this, rather than the Rector trying to run everything. The worship leaders are happy to help. Others are encouraged to try their hand at it as well. Anything that goes wrong can be edited out of the recorded version!

4. Can we do more online? David has already run Bible Studies on Zoom. Further Bible Studies are planned, with more opportunities for discussion in small groups. One idea is online discussions of the Lectionary readings in the following week, to discuss the sermon and other ideas arising from the passages. Another Zoom quiz is scheduled for 6th November.

5. Can we invite others to services? Yes! Many people are seeking help from the Churches in these uncertain times. We can all invite family and friends to services in Church and online. They do not need to be Episcopalians or regular worshippers elsewhere. We can forward Zoom invitations to them, or we can give them David's email address and phone number, to ask to be put on the contact list. We should not post Zoom details on the internet, since there have been instances of people joining Zoom services in order to disrupt them

5. What is planned for Advent? An Advent study course is planned, and a series of meditations on the Advent Antiphons, which will precede the Wednesday Compline services. We hope that some form of Advent Carol Service will take place in Church. If we cannot sing, then recorded carols could be used.

6. What about Christmas? This will depend on restrictions in place then. Probably we will have a midnight mass in Church, and a short Christmas morning service on Zoom.

Those present at the meeting were enthusiastic about what has been achieved online so far, and excited about the possibilities for the future.

CB

November the month of Remembering.

All Saints Day
(1 November)

All Souls Day
(2 November)

Guy Fawkes Night
(5 November)



Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday
(11 & 12 November)



St Andrew's Day
(30 November)



Zoom

"Zoom" is an internet-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats - and it lets you record those sessions to view later.

When people are talking about Zoom, you'll usually hear the following phrases: Zoom Meeting and Screen Sharing. A Zoom Meeting refers to a video conferencing meeting that's hosted using Zoom. You can join these meetings via a webcam or phone. Meanwhile Screen Sharing is the ability of the meeting host to let the attendees see what the host sees but on their own screen.

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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

Holy Trinity Book Group is next meeting on

Thursday
19th November
2020 at 8:00 pm

We will be discussing:

Broken Heart
by Tim Weaver

A Song for the Dark Times
by Ian Rankin

All Welcome, Please Join Us!

As we're still unable to meet in person it'll be a Whereby session as usual at 8pm.

Contact

Di Tennent on dinahmt16@icloud.com or Maureen McKellar on 01369 703058 for further details.

Holy Trinity, Scottish Episcopal Church, Dunoon, Scottish Charity Number SC008066

The events team are always on the lookout for ideas for events. This is never more important than during this period of Covid-19 restrictions when social interaction is so limited.

Ideas for fundraising for the church are wanted too.

Please let Pauline Revill and/or David Raitlon have your suggestions.

Holy Trinity & St Paul's
online QUIZ
Fri 6th Nov 7.30pm
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PICTURE QUIZ BREAKOUT ROOMS
Sign up with a donation of around £5 through www.justgiving.com/holytrinitydunoon (please indicate that it is for the quiz) or pay the Rector or Treasurer. Details of how to join will then be sent.
email: rector@holytrinitydunoon.co.uk or phone: 01369 702444

Fundraising

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.

JustGiving

JustGiving is a global online social platform for giving. Donations to Holy Trinity may be made by clicking on the button the church website. The Rector includes a JustGiving donation button on his emails.

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