



Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

December 2020

Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church

Advent - 2020



Holy Trinity Church, Dunoon

Vestry

At the Annual Meeting, Cathy Proctor was elected to the vestry, while Di Tennent, Christine McIntosh and Dinkie McEwen were re-elected to Lay Rep, Alternate Lay Rep and People's Warden respectively.

The Rector asked Val Taylor to continue as Rector's Warden

Maureen McKellar stepped down as treasurer but continues as Vestry Secretary.

Chris Brett is the new treasurer.

Inside this issue:

The Next Bishop	2
Sunday is for church	2
A Special Answer to Prayer	3
Drop in one afternoon	3
Extra Services	3
Events	4
Fundraising	4

View from the hill ...

What are we waiting for?

The other day I was told that the average British person eats 35,000 biscuits during their lifetime. (That's about ten a week for the statistically-minded!) The other thing I learnt was that two per cent of U.K. adults won't be giving any presents this Christmas. That's one in fifty of us, a higher proportion than I'd have guessed. For most of us the Christmas preparations are now well underway. Advent Sunday, 29th November, began the countdown to Christmas. Many people will open the first door of their Advent calendar on the 1st of December - the calendars reminding us that Advent is about waiting, about anticipation, about preparation - and about living in hope.

In recent weeks there has been a great deal of anxiety and many words spoken, about whether we are going to be able to spend time this Christmas with friends and loved ones, whether families are going to be able to have Christmas dinner together, whether it is the right thing to do to visit anyone as part of our Christmas celebrations this year.

But whether we are able to visit, or be visited by, friends or family, company IS coming this Christmas.....and during the Advent season, we prepare our hearts and minds and lives to receive that company - Emmanuel, God with us, in the person of a child in a manger. And just as we might prepare for our family coming to visit, Advent is a time for us to prepare to welcome and receive God's son. In fact, Advent is about two comings. First, and most obviously, it's about preparing for the coming of the Christ child, as we remember again how wonderful it is that God became one of us, that God took up residence with us, that Jesus came to show us what God is like. Somehow, we've got to allow our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations to point us beyond the immediate busyness to the bigness of what it means that Jesus came as one of us, for that is a huge and awesome truth.

*'He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly - lived on earth our saviour holy.'*

The second coming we remember during Advent is that Jesus is coming back, that he will return, that there'll be a time when he completes the work he began that first Good Friday, that first Easter Day; a time when what is temporary will give way to what is permanent, a time when there'll be no more tears, no more illness, no more hurricanes, no more war. We think too little about this, but it is a vital and significant part of our faith and our hope.

Advent encourages us to stand back and reflect, to think how we should live, given that Jesus will come back, that he'll return. This is the serious side of Advent that can, so easily, get lost in all the Christmas decorations needing to be put up, all the presents bought, and usually, all the food needing to be prepared (and eaten).

The link between Jesus' first and second comings is, in fact, a third coming! For, he comes to us individually; he comes to us now, if we'll receive him. Advent can help us to think about ourselves and our faith, help us to think about our relationship with the One who has come and who will come back. The best possible preparation for that future day is to know personally the One whose two comings we're preparing to celebrate!

*'And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads His children on - to the place where He is gone.'*

On behalf of myself and Sarah, I wish you a very merry, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

The Revd. David Railton, Rector



Advent Wreath

Compline during Advent

On Wednesdays 2nd to 23rd December inclusive, Compline will be preceded by Reflections on the Advent Antiphons led by Rev Canon Paddy Allen.

(Usual time of 8pm via Zoom)

The Advent Antiphons

The O Antiphons, also known as The great Os, are Magnificat antiphons used at Evening Prayer on the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions.

They are referred to as the "O Antiphons" because the title of each one begins with the vocative particle "O". Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture.

17 December

O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

18 December

O Adonai (O Lord)

19 December

O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

20 December

O Clavis David (O Key of David)

21 December

O Oriens (O Dayspring)

22 December

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)

23 December

O Emmanuel (O With Us is God)

The next Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

A number of people have asked about the process for electing a Bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church and what progress is being made. So, this is what happens.

It begins with the Primus issuing a mandate. This was done for Argyll and The Isles on 21 July 2020. Thereafter there is preliminary meeting of the Electoral Synod. This was held via Zoom on 22 August. That same day there was a meeting of the Preparatory Committee, also by Zoom, who made arrangements for placing an advert seeking nominations. Meanwhile the Diocesan Profile had been drafted.

The Preparatory Committee (chaired by the Primus and made up of Bishop Ian, 3 clergy and 3 laity from Argyll, and 3 members from other dioceses) met online on Saturday 19 September 2020 to consider nominations and to decide who should be invited to complete a questionnaire and send a CV.

The nominees were then reviewed by the College of Bishops prior to the Preparatory committee meeting to decide who to interview. The Preparatory Committee felt that it had to have agreement from the Electoral Synod that interviewing by Zoom was possible before it prepared a list of candidates.

The Electoral Synod met by Zoom on Monday 9 November and agreed that interviews could happen by Zoom. The Preparatory Committee must now interview the chosen candidates and decide who to put forward to the Electoral Synod. The interviews with the Preparatory Committee are scheduled for December. If the Preparatory Committee can produce between 3 and 5 candidates it considers suitable as a Bishop, the Electoral Synod Meetings will take place in January.

If the Preparatory Committee cannot produce between 3 and 5 candidates, the process begins again with a new mandate.

M P McK

Sunday is for church by Ann Narraway

I'm a cradle Christian. Every Sunday in my childhood I took myself off to church (on my own as my family didn't attend).

Sunday was for church.

When I came to live in Dunoon, I continued this practice but gradually became more and more involved as the years passed and I took on various duties - Warden, Treasurer, Flower Arranger, Sacristan, Server and so on. The duties spilled over into the week, but always -

Sunday was for church.

Then came 2020 and everything fell apart - no church, no socialising and everyone isolated in their homes. But you can't keep a good Piskie down! David organised "Zoom" services to keep us together. I was a bit dubious at first as I didn't see how it would work, especially as I was only on the phone. But from the beginning I was pleasantly surprised. The services were still familiar and even though I couldn't see

the rest of the congregation, I recognised voices and could picture them there. There were some advantages too - we were often joined by people from the Rothesay congregation and friends and family from all over Scotland - and beyond. Our congregations on Sundays were very numerous at times. And one big advantage of only being on the phone was that no one could see me. So I could sit with a cup of coffee and even - on one occasion - still be in my pyjamas! But still -

Sunday was for church.

We are gradually getting back to our full round of services and social events and I keep in touch with friends by phone and we have longer talks than we used to at church! I don't know how long it will be before we get back to 'normal', but the Episcopal flag is still bravely flying and still -

Sunday is for church

Ann Narraway

A Special Answer to Prayer

Ros and I had what feels like a special answer to prayer recently. We are both Directors and Trustees of a Retreat Centre, Whitcheater Christian Centre, which is just outside Hawick. Like most Retreat Centres, it has had very few guests staying this year, and hence very little regular income. Financial reserves are running low. I was down there at the end of October, and had a meeting with the Wardens, in which we were having to plan for a possible closure of the Centre in January. That would involve making all four of the Warden team redundant, and three of them potentially homeless. We were praying for a way through the crisis which didn't involve redundancy. As usual, I didn't have much faith!

The Chancellor's sudden and unexpected extension of the furlough scheme until March has provided a potential way through, at least until the Spring. Not only that, but the scheme is very flexible, allowing part-time working without leaving the scheme. So we can go on providing Retreat opportunities over the winter, COVID rules permitting, and there is clearly a need for them.

So we are feeling very grateful, and would like to share this encouragement via the Newsletter.

Chris Brett

Drop in one afternoon and join the chat

December afternoons can be dark and dismal at the best of times, but during this pandemic socialising seems that much harder and it feels like it will be a long time before we can all meet up again in a social setting.

David, our Rector, has very kindly offered to set up a drop in session on Friday afternoons, via Zoom, during December and January, you can join digitally or by telephone.

We will be present on Zoom each Friday afternoon, from 3.30 until 4.30 p.m. Make yourself a cuppa, grab something to eat, sit down, put your feet up and drop in to see who else is present. You can drop in for as long as you like, anything from 5 minutes to 45 minutes, we will be there for an hour. We can talk about anything from films recently viewed, books just read or favourites from long ago, good walks, holiday memories or, whatever comes to mind.

If you would like to drop in please pass your contact details to David; an email address or telephone number will suffice. Because of data protection law it is necessary that the Rector holds the contact details rather than anyone else.

If you have any questions please contact David or Pauline. Pauline's telephone number is 704731.

We are looking forward to seeing you one Friday afternoon, Stay Safe and Take Care Everyone.

Pauline Revill on behalf of the Events Team
November 2020



Hope
Four Bible Studies for Advent

The Advent Course for 2020 will take place on Zoom. This course was written in the year of COVID, with all its uncertainties and worries, so 'hope' seemed a good theme to examine in the approach to Christmas, which is all about Hope!

- We will meet online at 7:30pm
- Thursday 3rd December
- Thursday 10th December
- Tuesday 15th December
- Tuesday 22nd December

You will need to sign up to receive the Zoom link.

You can sign up by contacting the Rector on
rector@holyltrinitydunoon.co.uk or
01369 702444



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.

Extra Services over the Christmas Period (Sundays at 10:30 as usual)			
Sunday	20 December	16:00	Advent Service - in Church*
Thursday	24 December	23:30	Midnight Communion - in Church*
Friday	25 December	10:30	Christmas Morning - Zoom
* Advance Booking required - contact the Rector			

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

Holy Trinity Book Group is next meeting on
Thursday
7th January 2021 at 8:00 pm

We will be discussing:



Close to Where the Heart Gives Out
by Malcolm Alexander

Mum and Dad
by Joanna Trollope



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

[DiTennent on dinahmt16@icloud.com](mailto:DiTennent@dinahmt16@icloud.com) or [Maureen McKellar on 01369 703058](mailto:MaureenMcKellar@icloud.com)
for further details.

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

ADVENT services at Holy Trinity, Dunoon

Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Sunday	Wednesday
DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC
02	09	16	20	23
- online -	- online -	- online -	- in church -	- online -
8.00pm	8.00pm	8.00pm	4.00pm	8.00pm
Meditation on the Advent Antiphons followed by Compline	Meditation on the Advent Antiphons followed by Compline	Meditation on the Advent Antiphons followed by Compline	ADVENT SERVICE: from darkness to light A service of music and readings for Advent. Numbers are limited, please contact the Rector to reserve a place.	Meditation on the Advent Antiphons followed by Compline

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, Chris Brett, or from Alan Mole.