



February 2021

Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church, Dunoon
St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church, Rothesay

Lent - 2021



View from the hill ...

The Rector writes.....

There is a relatively early start to Lent this year as we mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, 17th Feb, just two weeks after the end of the Christmas season.

At this time of the year, we are usually encouraged to think about taking up a Lenten discipline of fasting or 'giving something up' for Lent. Instead, I want to offer you an alternative option of 'taking something up' for Lent, an exercise I came across in my reading recently, and I thought it was appropriate given that while we can't all meet together, we are permitted to take a walk.

It comes from the writer David Runcorn, who has written widely on spirituality. He recognises that there are, of course, moments when God is more real to us than at other times and there will be places where God meets us in special ways but he reminds us of the need to resist the idea that God is more 'here' and not 'there' – and encourages us not just to look at the world as it is but to see in it the possibilities for redemption and renewal. We are likely to meet God everywhere. He is no closer to us in the Church building than he is in the supermarket. He is no closer to us in worship than when we are at work. Do we imagine that God prefers natural beauty spots to the inner city or our factories?

So here is an exercise for Lent with thanks to the writer David Runcorn:

Take an Awareness Walk (or get someone to take you for a drive)

You might try this in two places - one by the seashore or in the country and one around the streets of a town or built up area.

As you travel pray for God's blessing and discernment. As you walk or drive use all your senses and so become aware of all that you see.

Begin to notice details in patterns and shapes, colours and contrasts and how things relate.

Touch and feel things as you go along if you can.

Try to stop thinking and simply just be.

Let any critical judgements drop away and instead be totally present to what is reaching you through your senses.

Slow down and take some time to gather your impressions.

In what ways do you become more aware of God's presence in the midst of all that is ordinary and all that you encounter?

Could you see God's creative goodness in the empty can or broken things that you came across?

Can you sense how everything is soaked in God's holiness and love?

I hope you have an 'extraordinary' Lent and meet God in new and exciting ways.

The Revd. David Railton, Rector



Compline during Lent

On Wednesdays 24 February to 31 March, inclusive, Compline will be preceded by a short Reflection .

(Usual time of 8pm via Zoom)

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The Rev's Day Off is Monday

Ash Wednesday 17 February 2021

Sadly, due to the current restrictions, we will not be able to have the usual Ash Wednesday service in church, but we will have a service online, at 7.30pm. This will be a short service to mark the start of our Lenten journey and will be followed by Compline at around 8.00pm.

There will be the opportunity during the service, to make a mark of the cross on your own forehead, using ash that is being sent out to you with this newsletter. You can mix the ash with a drop or two of olive oil if you wish.

Details of how to join the service will be emailed out in due course or contact the

**Rector
on 01369 702444.**

A Reflection on Lockdown

It goes without saying - but I'll say it - that one of the things we value most at St Paul's is friendship. Indeed I can tell that's also true of Holy Trinity from regularly worshipping with the Kent faces of our sister congregation on the Zoom screen.

In our case in Rothesay, our friendship is what I'd call a typically Scottish understated thing. No lovey air kissing even when you could - hugging kept for occasions of special joy or sorrow. Will there be more when we are together again? Perhaps like our hibernating fellow creatures, some of us may emerge by cautious degrees, because we will have been marked by this experience whatever has been our lot during this time.

On radio 4's Thought for the Day last month, Lucy Winkett, rector of St James Piccadilly, expressed eloquently one of the bewildering features of the pandemic experience. She pointed out that it is normal in times of trauma to feel 'utterly contradictory things all at the same time.' In the case of the Covid experience, 'fury and sympathy for decision makers, frustration and gratitude for law enforcers, sadness, guilt, relief, grief.

comfort - all in the same day, in the same hour even.' I was comforted by hearing this. How often have I interrupted my own complaining 'Of course, we're so lucky to live where we do'. Or felt the guilt of having had a narrow escape by virtue of age or career choice when I see those on the 'front line' with black shadows under their eyes. Being in an emotional washing machine is exhausting. Even St Paul with all his ringing certainty got a bit whiney from time to time!

We are reminded that the psalms hold and express all of this. Like a well known newspaper from the past whose strap line was 'All human life is there!' Not only that but the psalms have a rhythm throughout and within them of what has been called orientation - disorientation - reorientation. We've certainly been disorientated. Perhaps Lent is a good time to begin to allow God to reorientate us. In the words of an old revival hymn

'On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.'

Thank you friends for 'holding the Christ light' for me and with me through this journey.

AC

Choosing a bishop by Zoom

As you will all be aware by now, we have a Bishop-elect for Argyll and The Isles - Rev Canon Dr Keith Riglin - brought to us by the miracle of Zoom.

As it became increasingly clear that face to face meetings were out of the question, and that if Argyll and The Isles was to elect a bishop anytime soon it would have to be over Zoom, our little corner of the Anglican Communion became the first diocese to have a virtual election.

This was unprecedented but if any diocese was going to make a go of it, Argyll and The Isles was a good candidate. After all, we're used to overcoming the problems of remoteness - folk from the islands frequently have to change their plans at the last minute due to the weather. A global pandemic was certainly not going to stand in our way.

First the Preparatory Committee Zoomed the field down to three candidates. The names were announced before Christmas and the next stage seemed very far away.

But the date of the first Zoom drew near and I felt the weight of responsibility bear down on me as Holy Trinity's representative. I realised how important a figurehead the bishop actually is and what a difficult task lay before us.

The first Zoom session was scheduled to last the best part of a Saturday and while a meeting in person in Oban would have involved some travelling, some socialising, going out for a meal and possibly some wine, a day spent staring at a computer offered no such compensations. Well, maybe the wine (afterwards).

(Continued on page 3)

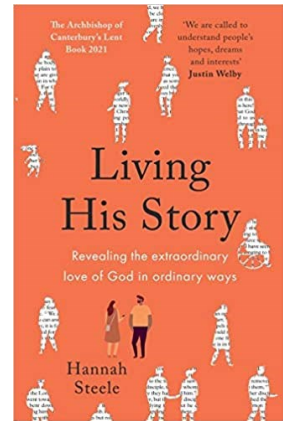
But the time flew past. We started with a virtual Eucharist, followed by a short period of prayer. Then each candidate gave a talk about their vision and their suitability. Afterwards, while they went off to 'relax' and we tottered off to get a sandwich and a cup of tea, we were invited to email in questions we wanted to ask them. These were expertly fielded by the diocesan administrator and collated by the Primus so that each candidate would be asked the same series of questions. It must have been a gruelling process for the candidates. I was in awe of how well they all answered and very pleased to have a week to think about my choice.

Each of the candidates - Margi Campbell, provost of Oban Cathedral and Dean of

the Diocese, our own rector, David Railton, and Canon Keith who although not from the diocese has been at every Diocesan Synod I've attended as a well-respected adviser - I could see in a pointy hat quite easily and would make a very good figurehead for Argyll and The Isles.

The voting day was the following Saturday and after the Eucharist, a reading of the Canons and an initial general discussion we were divided into breakout rooms for each of the houses, Clergy and Laity, for more detailed discussion. Then the voting was done using Google Forms. It was amazingly quick and efficient, despite several dodgy Internet signals and a few technophobes among us. It seems old dogs really can learn new tricks. D.T.

Lent Group 2021 (Online)



The Lent Group for 2021 will take place on Zoom.

We will be using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021 - "Living His Story" by Hannah Steele. It would be helpful if you had a copy if you are joining in the discussions

We will meet online at 3:30pm
Thursday 18th February
Thursday 25th February
Thursday 4th March
Thursday 18th March
Thursday 25th March

You will need to sign up to receive the Zoom link.
You can sign up by contacting the Rector on
rector@holytrinitydunoon.co.uk or
01369 702444

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter Sunday, begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, and traditionally emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The Ash Wednesday service, with the Imposition of Ashes, focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed over through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

The imposition of ashes on the foreheads of Christians to mark the beginning of Lent can be traced at least to the 10th century. In earlier centuries, ashes were

used to mark those who had been separated from the church because of serious sins and were seeking to be re-admitted to the fellowship of the church. In effect, they were redoing the process of final preparation for church membership along with those doing it for the first time. They were sprinkled with ashes and given rough garments to wear as a sign of sorrow for their sins and their commitment to seek renewal in Christian life through this season.

Since the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a general rite for all in the church.

In the Ash Wednesday service on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

As the ashes (traditionally made by burning the Palm crosses of the previous year) are placed, or imposed, on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, and "Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

DR



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Holy Trinity & St Paul's are 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.

Contact the Vestry Secretary:
 St Paul's - 01700 831362
 Holy Trinity - 01369 703058

www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk

Identify the person, place or object from the clue - no prizes, just self-satisfaction. (Answers in next newsletter)

Who was -	No of Letters	Who was -	No of Letters
Son of Seth, father of Kenan (Genesis)	4	Birthplace of Saul, later St Paul	6
Famous OT sister and prophet	6	Charitable or helpful person, from the parable	9
Trees associated with Lebanon	4	Trees associated with Lebanon	6
Pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel	4	Grandmother of Timothy	4
Brother of Moses, given miraculous rod	5	Commander of Deborah's army	5

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" or "St Paul's 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.