

Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

Candlemas 2019

‘Quinquennial Charge Review’

Every five years each charge in the Diocese of Brechin has the opportunity to take part in a Charge Review. Part of this takes the form of completing a check list to ensure sure that all procedures required by our Code of Canons are in place. This task falls mainly on the Vestry who as Trustees are charged with maintaining the fabric of our building, ensuring Financial viability and fulfilling regulations relating to Data Protection, Protection of Vulnerable Groups, Health & Safety along with supporting clergy and Lay ministers in the worshipping life of the congregation and with wider Mission and Ministry.

Important as the above is, the much more exciting and challenging part of the review is that of reviewing the life of our church over the past five years and considering where it may be in five years’ time. This process takes in every aspect of our church’s life: it looks at worship, finance, buildings, mission, outreach, and pastoral care both within the congregation and to the wider community. We are asked to consider the values and ethos that are at the heart of our church community here at Holy Trinity Monifieth. It is a chance to consider prayerfully the ways in which we will develop over the next five years. This part of the process involves every one of us at Holy Trinity, not just the Vestry and not just your priest and ministry team.

I shall outline later the questions that the Diocesan Review Team have given us to guide our thinking. I would ask each one of you to give some quality time to this exercise and to respond to myself either by e-mail or by good old-fashioned pen and paper. But first some initial guidance.

I would ask that you do not use this exercise to publicise or push your own personal wish-list. Try and take a larger more expansive view of the role of our church in the context in which it is placed. If you long to

see our church grow both numerically and spiritually, and I assume that you all do, then realise that for that to happen a number of things must be accepted as givens. Firstly, most change and growth are organic and slow. It usually comes when a church concentrates on what it does well. No congregation, especially small ones, can do everything. We cannot get bogged down in thinking about what we ought to be doing. Rather we have to do what we do well, even better.

Secondly, all growth involves change. It is the universal law. The church like everything else is governed by Darwin's law: that which adapts best to its environment survives and thrives, that which doesn't dies. It is called evolution. Let there be no harking back to the 'good old days'. They were only good for their time and their time is now past.

Thirdly, the church does not exist as some entity apart from you who are reading this. You are the church, not the Diocese, the Vestry, clergy etc. The church is not some institution existing to serve our individual needs and desires. It is a community bound together by the Spirit through our relationship in Christ and with one another. You are the church and as you reflect on our recent past and our future do so as one who has a vital and important part to play. Ask yourself how you could bring about what you hope and long for at Holy Trinity. Be the answer to your own prayers.

Lastly, do not settle for the 'it will see me out' approach. The church is in the words of William Temple, 'the only organisation that exists for the benefit of non-members.' It is not ours at its heart. We may belong to the church, part of the Body of Christ, but it does not belong to us. Our duty and privilege is to serve it as best we can in order that it may be of benefit to others as yet unknown to us. In other words, think about what we can leave for the next generation. By that I mean not just the younger generation but rather those who are still to become part of our community, regardless of their age. Remember in God's eyes we are always children.

On the next page you will find the questions that you are to consider. I ask that you do so prayerfully mindful of what I have said above.

- What is your analysis of your vision and purpose as a charge?
It should cover your worship, fellowship, mission, congregational life, fabric and finance.
- What are the values that shape your charge?
- How has the charge developed in the 5 years since the last review?
- What challenges do you anticipate for your charge in the coming five years?

- What opportunities do you anticipate for your charge in the coming five years?
- How do you propose to meet these?
- What resources do you anticipate you will need to help you meet these?
- what help would you like from the diocese?

I would be grateful if you could send your reflections to me by e-mail or letter by **14 February** that they can be considered and sent to the Review Team by the 6 March.

Every Blessing

Rev Kenneth