

# Holy Trinity Monifieth Christmas Newsletter 2017

## “And the Word became flesh”

It was in the 13th century that the Spiritual genius St. Francis of Assisi began to establish the celebration of Christmas as one of the pre-eminent festivals of Christianity. In the succeeding 1200 years Christmas barely got a mention. From the time of the early Franciscans the celebration of Christmas as we know it today began to take shape and develop. For us all those centuries later what then can we learn and understand from the celebration of the Incarnation.

Many scholars believe that the first Incarnation is to found in the very Creation of the Universe, or multiverse some say, itself. For the Word that became flesh in Jesus was the same Word that was with God before time and space existed. This Word that was enfleshed in Jesus was the same Word in and through which all things were created. The ‘Big Bang’ over 13.4 billion years ago was the first outpouring of Divine love and grace. As St. Paul says ‘since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities have been clearly seen.’ (Rom. 1:20)

The second Incarnation is, of course, found in Jesus, the Word made flesh. In this one particular human life God has shown us God’s human face. To look at Jesus, we Christians declare, is to see God. The eternal Word has been revealed in and through the human life of Jesus.

All of this is the result of the eternal outflowing of God’s love and grace. This is the invisible quality of God, to love and to give unconditionally. It was this insight that led St Francis and others to grasp the significance of Incarnation. God who is Spirit reveals itself in and through the material and physical, generally through the created world and, specifically, through Jesus.

Our celebration of Christmas begins with the baby in the manger but it must not remain there. What we are truly celebrating and making room

for is the Eternal Word who is forever revealing itself in and through the material and physical world. What we are really celebrating is that the Word became flesh and dwells among us. That is, a continuous and on-going dwelling.

This means many things for our lives but here are just three. The first is that the world is a good place. God loves it with all its faults and failings. It is God's gift us, an act of grace, and we have to love and care for it too.

Secondly, it means that we humans are good in God's eyes, despite all our faults and failings. God has poured out his love upon us and blesses us often despite ourselves. Furthermore, all that makes us human is good also: our emotions, our bodies, our thoughts, our sexuality.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, the Incarnation gives lie to the belief that somehow God is distant or separate from us, that the spiritual and the physical are, somehow, mutually exclusive realms. The Word made flesh is God's resounding yes to all of creation. It is God's way of reminding us that if we take the time, if we wait, if we look with seeing eyes then we will behold this glory shining through our everyday worlds. In other words, the problem of salvation, of God's apparent separateness, was sorted out from the very beginning. From before time began God has chosen us to be his children. Is that not something worth celebrating!!

Jesus was born 2000 years ago but the Eternal Christ is forever being born anew. This is who we wait for during Advent, it is Him that we seek at Christmas, it is the Word who dwells among us that we make room for in our lives each and every day. Remember Christ, the Eternal Word, is not just for Christmas.

May the Peace of Him who is the Prince of Peace fill your hearts and homes this Christmastide.

Reverend Kenneth  
Priest-in-Charge

## **Advent appeal**

The Advent Appeal this year is in aid of the Bethany Christian Trust, which is a Scottish charity that helps the homeless and those in danger of losing their homes.

Please return contributions at the Epiphany service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January or at any service until the end of January.

If you didn't receive a bag at the Advent service, please put any contributions in an envelope marked Advent Appeal.

## **Burns Night Ceilidh**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January:** Burns' Night Ceilidh (postponed from December 1<sup>st</sup>) 7.30pm in aid of education in Swaziland. £5.00 includes light refreshments. All most welcome.

## **Christmas Services**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am** Sung Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30pm Christmas Eve:** Christmas Eucharist with carols.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am Sung Eucharist for **Christmas Day**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January: 10.30am** Sung Eucharist for **Epiphany**  
6.30pm **Evening Epiphany** Service with party and quiz to follow in hall.

## **Ministry Team**

### **Priest-in-Charge**

**Rev'd Kenneth Gibson**

tel 01382 535920 or 07825554419

### **Lay Readers**

**Linda Walls** tel 01382 533107

**Bill McFawns** tel 01382 796749

## **Services**

**Sunday Sung Eucharist 10.30am**

**Thursday Holy Communion 10am**

