

# Holy Trinity Christmas Newsletter

## “Guess who just moved into our street?”

I love that phrase used by Eugene Peterson in his take on ‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.’ Petersen suggests it is as if ‘God had just moved into our neighbourhood.’ It is all very familiar, homely and ‘down to earth.’ That is why it’s such a wonderful translation.

If God has moved into our neighbourhood then it means that God, in Jesus, has become as we are. God has entered into our lives and experiences as a human being. This life of Jesus is lived with all the joys and sorrows, limitations and weaknesses that we all live our lives with. In other words, it is familiar. Whatever you are going through in your own life at this moment know that because of Jesus, the Word made flesh, God not only knows about your life but has experienced and understood it. God has made the same journey.

If God has moved into our neighbourhood then God is not only familiar but also available and present. One of the great lies that afflicts our human existence is that God is not present or accessible to us mere mortals. The truth is rather that God is always present and available, as near to us as our neighbours. Sadly, as with many of our modern neighbourhoods, we no longer know our neighbours or God in any meaningful sense. We live our lives in tragic isolation cut off from one another. We suffer loneliness like no previous generation, the consequence of lives that are too busy and hectic to care and connect with those around us. All too often our lack of real connection with others is reflected in any real connection, or awareness of God, in our lives. Yet, just like our neighbours, God is right next to us. All we have to do is make the time and space to re-connect. Being neighbourly is what I think being homely is all about. God is our neighbour why not pop in for a chat and get re-acquainted.

If God has moved into our neighbourhood then it surely means that our neck of the woods can't be such a bad place to live after all. Our lives, our concerns, our struggles, our joys, our sorrows are all important and deserving of God's attention. In other words, the day to day ordinariness of our lives has eternal significance. How we live our day to day lives is of prime importance and consequence to God. There is nothing in our lives that does not fall within the realm of God's care and concern. Similarly, we cannot separate our lives into what we think of as spiritual and temporal (unspiritual). It is now all of one piece. Spirituality, prayer, worship or whatever word you use to describe your relationship with God, if it is to be authentic and reflect our understanding of God, has to be 'down to earth: rooted in the realities of our daily lives.

If God has moved into our neighbourhood then it was primarily to show us how much we are loved. God became our neighbour that we might become better more loving neighbours. This, my dear friends, is why we celebrate Christmas. This is why we rejoice in the story of the Child born in the manger. This is why we gather to sing those familiar carols and hear again that ancient tale of the one who the 'Word made flesh' and 'who came and dwelt among us' and became our neighbour that we might become his also.

May the joy of this Christmastide fill your hearts and homes and neighbourhoods with peace and love.

Rev Kenneth

Priest-in-Charge

## **Advent Appeal**

The Advent Appeal this year is in aid of Bethany Christian Trust, a charity based in Edinburgh, that helps homeless people throughout Scotland.

Please bring any contributions to our Evening Epiphany Service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January or on any Sunday in January.



## **Acoustic Evening**

We had a very enjoyable evening of music at Holy Trinity on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December performed by Rev. Ken, Catherine, Maggie and Rosie.

It was well attended by members of the congregation, their families and friends and others from the Diocese.

With the proceeds from the admission and raffle we were able to give Angus Foodbank £262, and a hamper of Christmas Food.

Thanks to all concerned.

# **Christmas Services**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 10.30am Sung Eucharist**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December:  
Christmas Eve 10.30pm Carols and Holy  
Communion**

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

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January:  
10.30am Sung Eucharist  
6.30pm Epiphany Service with Party to follow in the  
hall.**

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**Priest-in-Charge  
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