

Holy Trinity Newsletter December 2014

A Christmas message from our soon to be Priest-in-Charge

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth Peace”

The battle of the Christmas advertisements seems to have risen to a new level this year. It appears that the top spot has been snatched from John Lewis’ by a new kid on the block, Sainburys.

Despite a few complaints, the Sainburys’ advertisement, based on the much remembered Christmas Truce of 1914, has stolen the show and swept all competition away. Why is this?

Given the significance of this year’s Centenary Remembrances of the ‘Great War’ it would appear that this particular advertisement has touched something that runs very deep in the British collective memory. The poignancy of that event, when the combatants on both the British and German sides laid aside their enmity, for however brief a moment, speaks to us of what might have been. If only the unofficial truce had held along the whole Western Front then how much carnage and destruction could have been avoided.

The power of that event, now so long ago, reminds us all that even in the midst of the chaos of human existence simple acts of human courage, compassion and dignity can transform even the bleakest landscape.

But perhaps the most significant aspect of the Christmas Truce of 1914, and herein lies the genius of the advertisement, is that it speaks to all of us of that deep longing for Peace in our world: Peace between nations; among peoples; in our often fractured and divided communities; within our families and, indeed, within ourselves. It is this, perhaps rarely spoken, hope for Peace that is being addressed.

This, though, is but an echo of the timeless message that we hear and proclaim each and every Christmas? The message that in Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, God has both declared to us, and provided for us, the means of gaining that Peace which we so long for. Just as the Divine and the Human meet in Jesus, so too, in him, are all divisions broken down.

In a few weeks time, Sainburys' advertisement, along with all the other adornments of Christmas will be packed away until next year. The message of Christmas, of God with us, of Emmanuel, the God who journeys with us through all of the year is not packed up and set aside. Sainburys' advertisement may only be for Christmas, but Jesus is for everyday of the year.

May the Peace of Him who is the Prince of Peace be with you this Christmas and remain with you always.

Rev'd Kenneth Gibson



Licensing of Rev'd. Kenneth Gibson as Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity Monifieth 3pm Sunday 21st December

Please come to the service and welcome Ken, as Bishop Nigel licenses him as our new Priest-in-Charge. There will be light refreshments to follow this service so please add your name to the list at the back of the church to help us with numbers for catering.

Epiphany Service and Party

There will be an Evening Service on Sunday 4th January at 6.30pm to mark the end of our Christmas celebrations. This will be followed by a party in the hall.

Christmas Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning was well attended despite the wet weather and we raised £400 for church funds. Thanks to all who contributed.

Dates of Services and Events in December

Sunday 7th December: 10.30am Sung Eucharist - celebrant Rev'd. Ken Gibson.

Monday 8th December: 2pm Monday Group in hall.

Thursday 11th December: 10am Holy Communion - celebrant Canon Bill McAusland.

Sunday 14th December: 10.30am Sung Eucharist - celebrant Canon Bill McAusland.

Monday 15th December: 2pm Monday Group in hall.

Thursday 18th December: 10am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament - Bill McFawns,

Friday 19th December: 9.30am Flowers and decorating of church,- if you wish to donate to the flowers please do so by 14th December.

Sunday 21st December: 3pm Licensing of Rev'd Ken Gibson as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity - celebrant Bishop Nigel, light refreshments to follow. (Please note only service on that day.)

Sunday 28th December: 10.30am Sung Eucharist - celebrant Rev'd Ken Gibson.

Christmas Services

Wednesday 24th : 10.30pm Christmas Eve

Eucharist-

celebrant Rev'd Ken Gibson.

Thursday 25th: 10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist -

Celebrant Rev'd Ken Gibson.

Pastoral Care:

If you are unable to attend church and would like to receive Home Communion, please contact a member of the Ministry Team listed below. We are always happy to bring the church to you if you are unable to come.

If you require pastoral care, hospital visits or have any other enquiries please contact a member of the Ministry Team - Canon Bill McAusland 01382 737721, Revd. Ken Gibson 01382 535920, Bill McFawns (Lay Reader) 01382 370367, Linda Walls (Lay Reader) 01382 533107.

www.holytrinitymonifieth.org

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