

Holy Trinity Church newsletter

Easter 2018

'Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

The message of Easter, that is, the proclamation of the Risen Christ is not only a story about a one-time event that took place two thousand years ago in the Middle East. It is about so much more. It reveals the truth about all of life, indeed all of reality. It is simply this: that nothing ever dies but is rather transformed. Or as Christians would say, resurrected.

Most of us have grown up with an understanding of the Easter story as being primarily about the man Jesus of Nazareth. We believe, as we were probably taught, that just as it was the man Jesus who was betrayed, condemned to die, was crucified, then so too it was the man Jesus who was raised from the dead. Yes, it was Jesus who died but, he was raised as the Christ. Jesus has become the Risen One. In his life, death and resurrection Jesus the Christ has shown us the path of transformation that all of life, not just human life, will ultimately follow. Nothing will die but all will be transformed.

It was this belief that allowed John, the writer of the Fourth Gospel, to put on the lips of Jesus such words as, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'. For John, Jesus has become 'the Way, the Truth and the Life' because he was the Risen Christ. He is the Eternal Word, the Cosmic Christ in and through whom all things were created, and in whom all things exist.

The simple truth of what I am saying finds its echo all around us. Reflect on the rhythms of nature and the cycle of the seasons. Ponder on the seed dropped in the earth that dies only to allow new life to spring forth. Consider the miracle of a chrysalis from which the wonder of a butterfly emerges. All of these speak of the

life force that cannot be thwarted, of an energy that cannot be destroyed but is transformed.

This is why the message of Easter is such very good news. It is the triumph of light over darkness, of goodness over evil, and of love over hate. But more than that, it declares that all of life, all of creation, is moving towards a future that is hopeful, that is joyful, that is resurrection.

When we see the Easter story played out on such a vast canvass it invites us to see our faith too in such universal terms. The Jesus story can no longer be understood merely in personal terms; of how I can be saved and go to Heaven. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who became the Christ, is so much more than God's Plan B to save a fallen world. It reveals to us God's Plan A that has never changed; to resurrect all things in his Son, the Eternal Christ. God's unconditional love for creation has never altered. It has just been our inability, and at times refusal, to understand and rejoice in it that has been the problem.

So, let us all this Eastertide rejoice in the Christ who has revealed the height and depth and breadth of God's love. Let us with an unshakable confidence live out this message of love and hope to all whom we meet. May our loving witness be one in which all are included, where all barriers of fear and distrust are laid aside, and in which all are embraced in the loving arms of Christ.

May the joy of the Risen Lord fill your hearts this Easter.

Rev Kenneth

Priest-in-Charge

Lent Appeal

Please put donations to St Ninian's Stay and Play Group in an envelope marked "Lent Appeal" and place in the offering basket on Easter Sunday or any other Sunday in April.

Forthcoming Events

Summer Evening Services

Instead of Sing-a-longs this year, Revd. Kenneth plans to hold an informal Evening Service once a month during the summer months. These will include the use of technology to aid worship— screens, projector, laptop etc. (More information to follow.)

Trinity Sunday

Our special Sunday is on Sunday 27th May this year. There will be a lunch to follow the service in the hall. Details later.

Summer Fete

The Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 11th August in the afternoon. More details to follow, please add date to your diary.

Holy week Services

The Parish Church and Holy Trinity are holding some joint events and inviting each other to their own services during Holy Week. (See items on next page.)

Holy week services

Wednesday 28th March: 7pm Stations of the Cross led by Fiona and Linda at Holy Trinity.

Maundy Thursday 29th March

10am Holy Communion Revd. K. Gibson at Holy Trinity

7pm Holy Communion & Washing of Hands Revd. K. Gibson, Preacher: Rev Fiona Reynolds (a Joint Service with Monifieth Parish Church at Holy Trinity)

Good Friday 30th April 12 noon: Reflections on the Cross with Revd. K. Gibson at Holy Trinity.

7pm A service for Good Friday at Monifieth Parish Church

Easter Eve 7.30pm Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Service of Light to be held in the Gerrard Hall, Church Street.

Easter Day 10.30am Sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity.

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd Kenneth Gibson

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Services

Sunday Sung Eucharist 10.30am

Thursday Holy Communion 10am

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