

Holy Trinity Church Monifieth Newsletter

September 2015

From your Priest-in-charge

“The Sound of Silence”

One of the challenges of congregational worship is that of trying to create and shape a form of worship that allows the varied expectations and needs of those gathered to find expression and fulfilment. The end product will, inevitably, be the result of compromise. There are, though, some ways in which the experience of worship can be enriched for those who attend. What follows are my suggestions for, in some measure, achieving this.

There is, firstly, the use and place of silence in worship. The Scriptures tell us to ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ Stillness requires silence. When can we be silent in Church? I would suggest three points for this in our service. Before the service begins: this could be a time for quiet prayer and reflection, a time to read through the readings and Collect set for the day, a time to simply sit or kneel in silence before God. So let’s keep the five minutes before the beginning of the service as a time of quiet.

Another point should be just before we join in the Confession. This is the time to reflect on our own failures to love as we ought but also to remember before God the failures of our world. When we seek forgiveness it is not just for ourselves, by definition that would be wholly selfish and me-centred, we also seek forgiveness for those who ‘do not know what they are doing.’ It is the priestly function of

the whole people of God to intercede for the world. We surely require some silence to reflect on this.

The third point is surely as we receive Communion and return to our seats afterwards. As the central focus of our worship we need to take the time to reflect and give thanks for what we have just received. As an aid to this I think that we should remain seated during the singing of the Communion Hymn. At the moment some people stand while others remain seated. Let's just decide to remain seated.

We live in a world in which we are constantly bombarded by noise and sound. Many find it difficult to find a place that can be for them an oasis of calm and stillness. Many of us find it actually very difficult to be still and quiet, assailed as we are by the muchness and manyness of life. I would like to think that we can provide at least some respite from all of this in our church worship.

I am fully aware that we all like to talk, share and catch-up with others on a Sunday morning. Some of us may think that what we have to say is so important that it cannot wait. By and large it can wait. Perhaps our guide should be 'First listen to God, then speak to God, then speak to others.' Anyway, I always find that the best place to talk is after the service when we gather for fellowship in the hall.

Next month I will be sharing some of my thoughts on the 'use and abuse of the Peace.'

Yours in Christ

Kenneth

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 19th September: Charity Lunch postponed until further notice due to our hall not meeting current Health and Safety Regulations for such an event
(Details of future date and venue to be announced.)

Thursday 10th September: 11.am – The Big Polish!! Come along and grab some wax and a duster!

Sunday 27th September: Harvest Lunch – Harvest gifts and donations will be given to St Salvador’s Food Cupboard

Friday 27th November: St Andrew’s Ceilidh – Look out your dancing pumps and get ready for a twirl!!

Saturday 5th December: Christmas Fayre

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Website

The weekly pewsheet is now being featured in the news section of the website.

Do check this out for the notices, if you have missed a week at church.

www.holytrinitymonifieth.org

Ministry Team

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd. Ken Gibson tel. 01382 535920

Mobile: 07825554419

Lay Readers

Mr. Bill McFawns tel. 01382 370367

Mrs Linda Walls tel. 01382 533107

If you require a visit or wish to talk with any member of the Ministry Team then please contact them using the numbers above.

Baptisms & Weddings

Please contact Rev'd Ken Gibson in the first instance

Services

Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursday 10am Holy Communion

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Monday Group: meets for fellowship at 2pm in the church hall.

Little Angels Parent and Toddler Group: starts again at 10am on Thursday 3rd September in the church hall.