

Holy Trinity Church Monifieth Newsletter

October 2015

From your Priest-in-charge

“Peace be with you”

When the ‘Sharing of the Peace’ was introduced into our Liturgy over 40 years ago, it was done to re-instate something that was actually an ancient part of Christian worship. As with most ‘innovations’ it was not new at all but a seeking after a lost tradition. Indeed, if we followed the practice of the early church we should greet one another with a ‘kiss of peace’. Given our British reserve we tend to make do with a hand shake or a hug at the most.

What does it all signify though? Let’s be clear about what sharing the peace is not about. It is not a saying hello to one another or an opportunity to catch up on a bit of news. Neither should it be seen as an occasion to get round everyone present in a flurry of hand shaking. I wonder if our practice of having the ‘Peace’ at the beginning of our service tends to over-emphasise the ‘greeting’ aspect of it.

What though does it signify? It is, firstly, an outward and visible sign and symbol of the Unity of the Body of Christ. It is making real and tangible the Unity that is ours in Christ. The Scriptures tell us that for those who are in Christ there

is no male or female, slave or free: there are no divisions. Sharing the Peace is a Sacred and Sacramental way of demonstrating this.

It is, secondly, a timely reminder to us all that Worship, while it is a personal experience, is something that is experienced ultimately in Community. When we try and define Worship purely in a personal and private way we diminish it and lose the corporate dimension that lies at its heart. Sharing the Peace one with the other reminds and re-enforces for us the truth that we come before God, not merely as a collection of individuals but, as God's People, a Community of Faith.

Lastly, Sharing the Peace, as a gift that we offer to one another, draws us beyond ourselves and invites us to reach out and acknowledge Christ in another person. It has been said that in the Peace it is as if the Christ in me meets the Christ in another person.

For these reasons alone, and there are many others, I believe that 'Sharing the Peace' is a profoundly Sacred and Sacramental moment that should be at the heart of our Worship. It speaks of the Peace that is ours in Christ and of our call to share that Peace with those around us.

Peace be with you

Rev'd Ken

Forthcoming events

Wednesday 14 October: Links Afternoon - 2pm -4pm: at All Soul's Invergowrie, music by the Ferryport Fiddlers. Please let Keith or Theresia know if attending.

Saturday 24th October: Prayer Workshop - 10.30-12.30 in hall. All welcome.

Sunday 25th October: Traidcraft sale – after morning service.

Events at St Paul's Cathedral Dundee:

30th October—1st November

Flower Festival featuring displays from congregations around the Diocese.

31st October at 2.00pm

Festival Eucharist – Come and Celebrate!

Celebrant: **The Bishop of Brechin**

Preacher: **The Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones**, (former Primus)

Friday 27th November: St Andrew's Ceilidh at Holy Trinity—look out your dancing pumps and get ready for a twirl!!

Sunday 29th November: AGM to be held after morning worship.(Further details to follow.)

Saturday 5th December: Christmas Fayre

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: Thursdays at 10am in the church hall. £2.00 per family, includes tea/coffee, juice and biscuits.