

Holy Trinity Newsletter Trinity 2017

From your Priest-in-Charge

‘God in Three Persons’

Karl Rahner, the Catholic Theologian stated that, “Christians are, in their practical life, almost mere monotheists and that if the doctrine of the Trinity was dropped as being false, the major part of Christian literature could well remain virtually unchanged.”

The Trinity as a tenet of belief is something that most of us were just advised to accept. Don't try to understand it, just believe and get on with life. We can all recall illustrations involving a three-leaf shamrock and ice, water and vapour as ways of aiding understanding. Helpful perhaps, but making little difference to our everyday lives. As members of a church dedicated to the Holy Trinity we should at least make some attempt to understand.

If you look at the carving on the front of our altar you will see there a depiction of three leaves, based perhaps on a Celtic design. I have often reflected on how I could breathe new life into these familiar symbols. What if, I wondered, the three leaves were not meant to be the primary focus, as in the three persons of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) but rather on what is taking place between them. That is, it is the relationship between the three that it all important.

An illustration may help us here. Think of a water wheel, perpetually in motion being driven by the emptying of one bucket into another and so on. Indeed, it is only by the action of being emptied that allows each bucket to be refilled. Each bucket is, therefore, wholly dependent on the others. It is a simple yet profound image of inter-dependence based on mutual self-emptying. For the individual buckets on the wheel independence and self-sufficiency are impossible. Each is totally dependent on the others and they on them.

What has this got to do with the Trinity? Quite simply that the very essence or being of God is relationship. Not as a secondary thing but as the first and essential thing. If this is true then we must stop using the word God as if it were a noun and use it as a verb, a doing word. God is therefore active and God is first and foremost relationship. Or to put it simply, 'In the beginning was the Relationship'.

This has profound consequences for our lives as Christians. It means that we worship a God whose power and greatness is essentially revealed in self-giving love. The Divine self-emptying between the Father, Son and Spirit has overflowed into what we call Creation. We believe that in the man Jesus this out-flowing was revealed particularly in a human being and that we are all called to enter into this on-going flow of self-emptying love.

I would say that the crucial thing is not to believe in the Trinity but rather to live within the Trinity. We are invited to become part of that endless flow of love. We are called to discover this flow of love in the relationships that we have one with the other. As we empty ourselves in loving service to others so we enter into God's love. As we take time to still our hearts and minds so we come to discover the source of that love within ourselves.

I finish with this prayer on the Holy Trinity taken from Richard Rohr's book 'The Divine Dance':

God for us, we call you Father.

God alongside us, we call you Son.

God within us, we call you Holy Spirit.

You are the eternal mystery that enables, enfolds and enlivens all things, even us, even me.

Every name falls short of your goodness and greatness.

We can only see who you are in what is.

We ask for such a perfect seeing –

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

Amen.

Rev. Kenneth Gibson

Lent Course Appeal

The appeal raised £180 for St Ninian's Play and Stay Group. Thanks to all who contributed.

Forthcoming Events

Summer Fete and Plant Sale Saturday 3rd June

The Summer Fete is being held earlier this year in the hope that more people can attend before the holiday period begins.

If you can help please tell Dorothy.

It starts at 2pm so please come along and bring family and friends.

Andrew's plants are always popular and there will be face painting for the children. Crafts, cake and candy, books, bric-a-brac, raffle, tombola and the usual refreshments.

£2.00 admission for adults, children 50p.

Bishop's Farewell Lunch

Bishop Nigel will preach and celebrate at the 10.30am service at Holy Trinity on Sunday 18th June.

There will be a buffet lunch to follow in the hall, donation £2.50. If you can attend please let Dorothy know by Sunday 11th June. Sign up in the church or mob. 07949758226 or email dorothymcfawns@sky.com

Bishop's Retiral Service in Cathedral Sunday 25th June at 4pm all welcome.

Ministry Team

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd. Ken Gibson tel. 01382 535920

Mobile: 07825554419

Lay Readers

Mr. Bill McFawns

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**