

Holy Trinity Newsletter February

2015

From your Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends in Christ

All too often we use the Season of Lent in the same way as we approach New Year resolutions. We look for something that we might do to improve our lives in some way. We give up chocolate, alcohol, sweets etc. in the hope that by doing so we might become better people or better Christians. Sometimes we try to be more 'spiritual' and determine to pray more regularly, attend church more faithfully, attend a Lenten Study Group, give regularly to a chosen charity, and so on.

All of these are, indeed, worthy in themselves and I would encourage you to try and use the season of Lent as a time to begin to develop a more prayerful, spiritual and generous attitude towards life.

The God whom we worship, in whom we live and move and have our very being is the One who is continually calling us into a deeper knowledge and relationship. The gracious invitation to you during Lent is that you will be open, trusting and humble enough to allow God's love and presence room in your life so that you may grow in faith and love.

The disciplines of the Spiritual life do not in themselves achieve this, but rather serve to make us more open and available to God's grace. Try to resist seeing Lent as some kind of self-improvement exercise in which you determine to do something for yourself by doing something for God. Rather see it in terms of a time of refreshment and renewal in which God does something in and through you.

An image that I have found helpful in trying to understand this is that of sailors out at sea trying to set their sails so as to catch the prevailing wind. The sailors, regardless of their levels of skill and experience, can neither create nor make the wind blow. They can though set the sails of the boat to take advantage of the wind when it does blow. In a similar way the Spiritual Disciplines in themselves can achieve only very little, indeed only outward and transitory changes to your life. They do though make you more open and ready to catch the wind of God's Spirit as it blows through your life to renew and restore you and set your life on course to journeys as yet unimagined. It is this opportunity to allow God's Spirit to move in and through your life, to renew and reshape you, that is at the heart of Lent.

So yes, do give up chocolate or alcohol for Lent, we all eat and drink for too much in our society and it would be good for us to live more healthy lives. So yes, I would really encourage you to become more prayerful and reflective during Lent; join the Lenten Study Course, attend church every Sunday during Lent, create some times of quiet and study in your life. So yes, do give generously to the Lenten Appeal; by the standards of the majority of humanity we are all rich materially in our society. So yes, do these things and more if you want because that is the life that we are all called to live as Christians.

Remember, though, that in all these things it is God who wills and works within you. God calls you from the far country of your busy, noisy, frustrating and confusing life to that place of peace, joy and acceptance. God call you home, into the home of God's heart. So to paraphrase the famous words of JF Kennedy, think not what you can do for God but think rather in what God can do for you.

Every blessing

Kenneth

Services and events in February

Shrove Tuesday 17th February: 7.30pm Musical Evening in the hall with Pancakes -. Some years ago, we had an evening when people brought along some of their favourite music and explained why it meant so much to them. This year we will repeat this with the addition of pancakes at halftime! It can be anything: traditional Scottish songs, popular Hollywood, classical, jazz and so on. One request though. If your music is on LP or tape, please let me or John Manby know in advance so we can try to convert it to a CD which would be the easiest medium. MP 3 players for the techy minded of you will be fine too. Derek Buchan

Ash Wednesday 18th February: 10am Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

18th February: 7.30pm Lent Study Course in hall. This year we will use the course material supplied by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland entitled "Walking and praying with Christians of the Middle East". (This is a free course that can be downloaded from their website.) We will meet in the hall on six Wednesdays in Lent, all welcome.

Monday Group: meets at 2pm in the hall each week, crafts, dominoes, tea/coffee and biscuits. All welcome.

Little Angels Parent and Toddler Group: meets in the hall on Thursday mornings at 10am. Contact Joanna on 07715969808 for more information.

Vestry meeting: on Tuesday 24th February at 7.15pm.

Lent Appeal: This year's Lent Appeal is for "Training for Ministry", ordained and lay, in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Bishops wish to encourage vocations and the growing work of the new Scottish Episcopal Institute.

We can help to build the Church of the future by investing in the ordinands of today through the work of the Scottish Episcopal Institute. Please give what you can so that we can equip the Church for its mission. (More information available in the Brechin Bulletin.)

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