

# Holy Trinity Newsletter July 2015

From your Priest-in Charge

The events in Tunisia and elsewhere over the past weeks are a stark reminder to us all of the darkness that resides in human beings. As has been noted by many observers, this darkness seems to be heightened whenever religion is included in the mix. Religious faith is a powerful force and is the source of much that is creative, wholesome and up building. It is also the case that it can be harnessed to that which is destructive and evil. There is nothing quite as frightening as religion gone wrong.

What lies behind much of the destructive acts perpetrated in the name of 'faith' is the pervasive attitude that sees the world, and those who inhabit it, in dualistic terms. By this I mean the dividing and categorising of people into those who are acceptable and those who are not; those who are worthy and those who are not. This is done in a number of ways: the obvious category of religious adherence, and the endless sub-divisions contained therein; the pure and the impure, those whose behaviour and lifestyles are deemed appropriate or otherwise; segregation by race, colour, gender, sexuality, economic circumstances, and so on ad infinitum.

Mature religious faith is the antidote to this dualistic fracturing of human kind that seems to have been going on for millennia. It calls us to view and understand all of life, and all contained within it, in terms of its underlying unity and harmony. In Christian terms it is spoken of in terms of an awareness of the mystery that we call God who is, 'in all and through all.' This is the truth that the mystics and saints have always known. It is a truth that is open and ever expanding, always provisional and never dogmatic, universal yet never exclusive.

Any religious understanding that makes absolute claims to know the 'truth', be it in practice or belief, is by definition dualistic and therefore immature. This holds true as much for Christianity as it does for any other system. You do not have to journey very far back into the history of our faith to see the dark fruits of our exclusive and absolute claims to truth!

In Pauline language we are called to grow up 'into the full stature of Christ'. It is a call to maturity and risky faith; acknowledging that God is present and at work in many and various ways in and through creation, ways which may surprise and confound our limited understanding and experience, leading and prodding us ever forward into the mystery that is God.

Every blessing

Kenneth

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**Summer Sing-alongs** - Derek returns with his much enjoyed summer evening praise services in July and August.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm.

Come along and request some of your favourite hymns.



**Monday Group:** The Monday Group will continue to meet at 2pm in the hall during the summer months.

**Little Angels :** The Parent and Toddler Group will be on holiday during the summer.

**Traidcraft Sale:** There will be a Traidcraft Sale after the 11am service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Summer Barbecue:** The Barbecue will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm. (Put the date in your diary now!)

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**Plant Sale and Coffee Morning:** This was a great success despite the overcast weather and the resurfacing of the road outside the church. We raised £550 for church funds. Thanks to all who contributed to this endeavour.

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Are you signed up to help Holy Trinity raise money yet? You can do it at no cost to yourself, when you shop on line? Just follow the simple steps to register or accept an invitation to join online from a member of Holy Trinity.

**Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church**  
**High Street Monifieth**

**Ministry Team**

**Priest-in-Charge**

Rev'd. Ken Gibson tel. 01382 535920

**Lay Readers**

Mr. Bill McFawns tel. 01382 370367

Mrs Linda Walls tel. 01382 533107

**Services**

**Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist**

**Thursday 10am Holy Communion**

Scottish Charity no. SC009085