

Holy Trinity Newsletter March 2015

From your Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends in Christ

Richard Foster began his insightful book on the spiritual life *Celebration of Discipline* by stating that “Superficiality is the curse of our age.” He added that “the doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem.” What was true in 1989 when he wrote is manifestly still true today. The remedy, if it may be called that, is still the same: to move beyond living in the shallow waters of the surface and move into the deep places of the spiritual life.

It is this call to move into the “inner caverns of the spiritual realm” that we are being called to in these days. It is not a new call but one that echoes down the centuries. In every age the life of God’s people has been renewed and re-invigorated when ordinary men and women have taken seriously this call to launch out into the deep. It is an act of faith, an act of Prayer. It is trusting that God wills to bless us in the here and now of our daily existence.

The big problem about prayer is that although it is something that we think we ‘ought’ to do, we tend to be very unwilling to talk about it. We claim that it is a ‘personal and private’ activity and that it should not be discussed in public. Perhaps this attitude serves to hide a lack of understanding and appreciation about what is meant by Prayer. Maybe we are just content to let others, who know better, get on with Praying. Possibly we think that we are just not cut out for that kind of thing.

I strongly believe that Prayer is indeed a personal thing but that it is not a private thing. It is a shared activity and attitude of heart and

mind that we are all called to take part in. Neither is it a rarefied activity, the preserve of the 'spiritual elite.' Nothing could be further from the truth. True Prayer is simply the means by which we immerse ourselves in the grace and love of God. It should be as natural to us and essential to our spiritual well-being as breathing is to our physical. I wonder if many are trying to live out our faith holding our spiritual breath, so to speak.

To help to begin take some deeper breaths in the life of the spirit I am proposing a number of ways forward. The first is to invite you to honestly consider how you would answer the question 'how is your prayer life?' It may well be something I ask when I am visiting around the congregation. The second is to re-invigorate our Congregation Intercessions List by bringing it up to date and asking the present Intercessors if they are willing to continue in this task and inviting others who may wish to become an Intercessor. Finally, the offer of holding Prayer Workshops at which the many issues surrounding Prayer can be explored and practised. These will likely be held on a monthly basis between late April and September. More details will follow in due course.

I conclude that I am not one of those who see Prayer as the development of a 'holy huddle' too spiritually minded to be of any earthly use. To my mind true Prayer not only brings us into a deeper awareness and relationship with God but also connects us with the needs of the world much more sharply. It heightens our awareness of the needs of those around us and draws us into meeting those needs through loving action.

Yours in Christ

Kenneth

A message from Swaziland

Dear Holy Trinity friends,

I thought I'd share with you an email I received recently from Canon Orma in Swaziland along with a short update on our work there. Your commitment to our Starfish Projects, over the last seven years, has helped in so many ways.

Phindile, who was living in a destitute family when I met her in 2007, is now a well educated and self confident young woman, who has completed her studies and has an HND in Accounts with an extra diploma in Sage Accounting. She has worked extremely hard and her achievement is remarkable. Unfortunately, she has not found a job yet in an bank or finance company, but she keeps looking. At present, she is still working in the supermarket in Mbabane - currently in their kitchen. It's far from ideal, but she is able to rent a room close to her work and can support herself. We continue to hope that she will be able to get a foot on the career ladder soon. I hope she will take part in a graduation ceremony in March '15 and have provided funds for the costs involved and for something nice to wear on such a special day.

Mthobisi is working hard at school and still interested in agriculture and horticulture. In time, we hope that there might be an opening for him in the School of Agriculture at the University, if he can do well in his school studies. His very elderly 'go-go' (who is actually a great aunt and the only adult member left alive in his immediate family) is still able to care for Mthobisi and his younger sister , as well as another couple of young cousins. She is an amazingly resilient lady and despite being well over 80 and tiny in stature, she manages to keep her young family safe and in good order. She is delighted to have groceries from us regularly, because she is hardly able to work to earn any money now. She used to do some cleaning and laundry for other families in her community, in exchange for food or a little money.

The Ladies Sewing Group, which I began 6 years ago, is busy and the group is now producing clothes of a highly professional standard. On my last visit, they showed us school uniform track suits they had made for some of the church schools and, without any exaggeration, they would not have looked out of place hanging in Marks & Spencer or John Lewis. They have learned from hard experience not to allow customers to take goods before they

have been paid in full and they are now busy with regular orders for school uniforms and items for other clients. They deserve their success - they have worked so hard over these years to develop their own skills and to establish their micro-business. On this last visit, I took a large suitcase full of sewing resources for them.

In addition to specific projects such as these, we continue to support the work of the Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) and the Home Based Care (HBC) teams in several parishes across Swaziland,

All of these things have come as a direct result of your continuing belief in our Starfish Projects and commitment to be good Companions. I thank you very much for your support and have been asked to pass to you thanks, love and prayers from your Swazi Companions. Pat Millar.

Ministry Team
Priest-in-Charge

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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

Scottish Charity no. SC009085