

Holy Trinity Dunfermline



September
2009

**Holy Trinity Church, Dunfermline
with St Margaret's, Rosyth**
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane

Bishop

The Rt Revd David Chillingworth
28a Balhouse Street
Perth PH1 5HJ
01738 643000

Rector

Rev'd Tim Bennison
The Rectory, 17 Ardeer Place
Dunfermline KY11 4YX
01383 720532
mobile (07735 368483)
Email: rector@holytrinitychurch.org.uk

Retired Assistant Priest

The Revd Ross Kennedy
12 Calaisburn Place
Dunfermline KY11 4RD
01383 625887

Wardens

Rector's Warden	Jack Wardell
People's Warden	Ken Spink

Services:

Sunday: Eucharists at 8am & 11am
Young Church at 11am
Monday - Thursday
Morning Prayer at 8am
Thursday: Eucharist at 10.15am

The Young Church meets every Sunday (except School Holidays) in the Church Hall at 11am. Creche facilities for the very young are also provided.

Pebbles on the Shore

Random Reflections **from the Rector**

There is a big and very prominent poster stuck to the wall of one of the churches in Dunfermline which, though I fully appreciate and support the reason it's there, I find rather disturbing.

The poster asks a very simple question: 'Does God exist?'

Possible answers are: 'Yes'; 'No'; 'probably'

Every time I see that poster I can't help muttering under my breath (or, sometimes, if I'm in the car and on my own, actually shouting out loud): 'Don't answer! It's a trick question!'

Of course, it's not meant to be a trick question, but to my mind, it's a meaningless question, or at least one based on a faulty presupposition.

The same question arose in St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen, about 10 year ago at a service to celebrate Bruce Cameron's election as Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

In that service, some of the young people of the diocese staged a version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire with Bruce as the contestant. He was asked several questions about the Church and his faith which inevitably required him to 'Ask the Audience' or 'Phone a Friend' at various points. Finally he was asked: 'Does God exist?' Bruce



thought for a while, and then decided he would ask the audience.

And so, whilst the Who Wants to be a Millionaire music blared out in the background, members of the Cathedral congregation, including all the diocesan clergy, were asked to give their opinion as to whether or not God existed.

As you might expect, the answer was almost unanimously in favour of God's existence. Only one person had the courage to put his hand up and say that God did not exist - though the fact that he was the Provost of the Cathedral, made his opinion somewhat more noteworthy than it might otherwise have been.

In fact, most people thought he was joking, and laughed. But he wasn't joking. He was deadly serious and though I didn't have the courage to say so at the time, I agree with him. And, if I had a ladder and thought I could get away with it, I might climb up the wall of that Church in Dunfermline with the poster and paint a big red cross in the box next

to 'No'! And while I was up there, I would add another question to the poster. Next to 'Does God Exist?', I would add, 'Does God **not** exist?' 'Yes'; 'No'; 'Probably' and again put a cross in the 'No' box.

God neither exists nor not does not exist - and the arguments of those like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens who try to 'prove' that God does not exist are every bit as meaningless as the arguments of Christians who assert that God does exist.

You may well by now be wondering what on earth I'm talking about: How can a Christian Priest think God doesn't exist? Isn't that sheer hypocrisy?

Well, the observant among you will have noticed that I have not said I don't believe in God, I have simply said I don't believe God exists (and neither do I believe God does not exist). My point is that it is simply not appropriate to apply the category or concept of 'existence' to God. 'Existence' is very much a 'this-worldly' category. Existence refers to objects around us, to things we can see or hear; to things we can perceive or experience in the world and in the universe. I exist, an elephant exists; a dodo does not exist, a black hole probably exists. But none of this applies to God. God is not an 'object' in the material world to be investigated; to be proved or disproved; God can not be

the object of rational enquiry or scientific methodology - he just isn't that kind of thing. In fact he's not a 'thing' at all, though when we speak of his existence or non-existence; when we try to prove or disprove it, that's what we reduce him to: a thing; an object.

At best, a god which 'existed' could be nothing more than a 'being' like us. Even if he were the 'supreme being' he would still be a 'being' like us. And surely, for Christians, God is somewhat more than that. So, the question: 'Does God exist?' simply isn't the right question. Better questions might include: 'What does the word 'God' mean to you?' 'Do you believe and trust in God?' 'Will you choose to be loyal to God?'

Tim

Decorating the Church for Harvest



Volunteers are invited to help with the decoration of the church on Saturday 3rd October commencing at 10am. All skill and experience levels are welcome; just bring your enthusiasm and sense of fun. Please let Gill know if you can come along and help.



Fundraising and Social Planning Group - Update



Our Group has had a further meeting to help plan a programme for the forthcoming winter period and details are set out below.

Proposed Programme :-

29th September – “Blood Brothers“ musical – (tickets fully subscribed)

2nd October Harvest Supper

November Town Fireworks/Hot Chocolate

14th November Guild Coffee Morning

Dec/Jan Social Walk (between Christmas and New Year)

January Murder Mystery Evening

February Pancake Party

(Please also remember the Car Treasure Hunt and barbecue – 30th August)

Other ideas which we may explore further are forming a Book Club – interested parties please give their names to John Kennedy/ Linda Sherwood – and we will be looking at the possibility of arranging a Spring dance / Tea dance.

The HT 50/50 Club is progressing well and after three draws the fund has raised £425 for Holy Trinity. We now have 53 members contributing to 62 subscriptions which, at this level will raise an annual contribution for our Church of £1860. We are always looking for more members so if you haven't yet joined your contribution towards helping the finances of Holy Trinity will be very welcome.

We are always interested in your ideas/comments so please feel free to speak to members of the Group, i.e Linda Sherwood, Sheona Wedge, Jenny Stooke, Helen Welsh, Jack Wardell, Pam Grimley, & John Kennedy.

Glenalmond 2009

This year at Glenalmond was to be my last as a delegate. I can now look back on five years of memories, friendships even relationships that have grown. It is impossible to convey how much that week has meant to me over the years.

This year there were 6 of us from our Youth Fellowship; Sarah, Sabine, Ellen, Stuart, Sally and myself. Jenny Stooke and Heather Combe were also there as leaders. The camp also welcomed two boys from the Swedish church who had paid for them to fly across and stay with us at Glenalmond. They quickly fitted in and proved to be very popular delegates.

We started as usual with our first worship, a communion service where all the crosses from all 7 dioceses are brought together and built up into one big cross. This symbolic act every year marks the start of our week. The theme of the week is usually exploring our own faith but this year we looked at how our faith makes us look at the world and its problems. The Millennium Redevelopment goals area all supposed to be completed by 2015 but by 2009 this seems to have been left. It now looks like a tall order to pick up the pieces and get the job done on time.

We had our usual ceilidh, quiz, disco and the G Factor where everyone could show off their skills and talents. We also had a 1980's style Film Night where the theatre was turned into a cinema and the leaders brought round popcorn and made sure there wasn't too much close hugging!

Each day there was Morning and Evening Prayer. I am proud to say that I never missed an eight o'clock morning Eucharist in my 5 years, a boast not many others can make. (Teenagers don't do mornings!) Our group worships were as usual amazing, thought provoking and memorable particularly when you are asked to dress up like a woman!

I think this year has to be one of the best. We were smaller in number and this meant that rather than staying within our age groups we mixed with and got to know everyone.

Although farewells are always difficult and for those like myself who are leaving for the last time it is always with the knowledge that a "Glen meet up " is only a week or so away. Recently many of us met

in Edinburgh and then returned to my house for a “sleepover”. Through friendships at Glenalmond we continue to network and meet up at college or university and parties and ceilidhs organised throughout the year. Although I am now too old to go to Glenalmond I now join the PYN (the Provincial Youth Network) for 18-25 year olds and a week in Mull has been planned for September.

I have to say thank you to everyone at Glenalmond who plans, organises and runs it, but also to the vestry who are happy to provide financial help to enable us to enjoy this amazing week and create friends and memories for life.

Andrew Wedge

PS As soon as the DVD of our week is available we will be happy to let anyone see it.



Samaritan's Light Lunch

Saturday 12th September

11:30—1.30pm

Holy Trinity Church Hall

For a donation of £4 enjoy a bowl of home made soup, some bread followed by cake and tea or coffee. Do come along and bring your friends.

There will be stalls, a tombola and a raffle, for which any contributions will be welcome.

Tickets are available from Frances Jack

August 2009

Peter Hutchings

At the end of July the income was £ 44,052 and the expenditure £ 47,007.

The Rector's Fund is for the needy of the parish. The current total to hand is £469



The retiring collection for Seafarers was £ 251.60 and for Help the Aged £ 169.85

Liturgical Corner Part 2

The Eucharistic Vestments

The Alb

The Alb (from the Latin *albus* meaning 'white') is the simplest of vestments, and the foundation of the whole system. It derives from the tunic, the commonest garment of ancient times, a simple covering for the body with sleeves for the arms. Originally it reached only to the knees, but later, especially in the East, it was extended to the ankles. The tunic was usually made of wool, for warmth, but its derivation, the alb, is traditionally made of white linen, though many are made from man-made fabric nowadays. The alb is worn by all orders of clergy under the Eucharistic vestments, or under the cope. It can also be worn by others (including lay-people) who assist with the service (e.g., servers, etc)

The Girdle

The girdle is not a separate vestment, but an adjunct to the alb, being used to fasten it round the waist. It is usually a cord of white linen or hemp with tassels; but there are other forms, such as a band of coloured silk.

The Stole

The stole was originally a napkin or towel that servants carried on the left shoulder. As the deacon's duty was to cleanse the church's sacred vessels they naturally adopted this practice. Eventually the stole came to be folded into a long narrow strip of linen. Deacons still wear them over the left shoulder. Priests wear them over both shoulders - originally as scarves and not for cleansing.

The Maniple

The maniple (from the Latin *manipulus* which means 'folded together') was originally a handkerchief, worn over the left arm (or kept in the left hand) to wipe the face and hands. Like the stole it then developed into an ornamental vestment used symbolically during the celebration of the Eucharist to show acceptance of suffering. It ceased use in the Roman Catholic Church after the second Vatican Council in 1962, but is still to be found quite often in the Anglican Church, though it is not normally worn at Holy Trinity.

The Chasuble

The chasuble comes from the commonest over-garment of Roman times - a circular piece of cloth with a hole in the middle like a poncho. Giving rise to capes and cloaks, it was worn by clergy in and out of church. As a distinctive vestment it developed into bell-shaped, Gothic and fiddleback forms. It often incorporates strips of embroidery (orphreys) in the shape of a cross. It is the distinctive Eucharistic vestment worn in the Western Church only by the celebrant.

Tim Bennison

Rector

HOLY TRINITY WIVES GROUP

Monday, 7th September at 7.30 pm – first meeting for the Wives Group. All variety of ladies are warmly welcomed to attend this service to dedicate us for the new season and pick up a copy of the programme of speakers and events.

The **Harvest Supper on Friday 2nd October** will be “rivalling the Edinburgh Festival for talent and variety and any Food Festival for some excellent cuisine” (in writer’s opinion). Hot tickets available from our first meeting and Sundays thereafter. Our first speaker will be **Helen Welsh on Monday, 5th October** giving a talk on her Russian expedition – date for diary, open to all the congregation!



Pamela Grimley,
Secretary

THANK YOU

Douglas and I would like to thank our friends at Holy Trinity for the wonderful support given to both of us during Douglas’s stay in Hospital. Your visits, flowers, cards and prayers have been very much appreciated.



Doreen and Douglas Esnol.

Readings and Readers

6 th September Pentecost 14	<i>Isaiah</i> 35:4-7a	<i>James 2:1-10,</i> 14-17	<i>Mark 7:24-</i> 37	
13 th September Pentecost 15	<i>Isaiah</i> 50:4-9a	<i>James 3:1-12</i>	<i>Mark 8:27-</i> 38	
20 th September St Matthew	<i>Proverbs</i> 6:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:1-6	Matthew 9:9-13	
27 th September Pentecost 17	<i>Numbers</i> 11:4-6, 10- 16, 24-29	<i>James 5:13-20</i>	<i>Mark 9:38-</i> 50	
4 th October Harvest Sunday	<i>Genesis</i> 2:18-24	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4,</i> 2:5-12	<i>Mark 10:2-</i> 16	All Age

Rotas

Sep 6	8am 11am	Andrew Wedge All Age Sabine Forsyth Monica Terry & Linda Sherwood Fay Cuthbertson & Jenny Stooke TBA if required	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices Flowers
13	8am 11am	Rod Key John Macdonald Andrew Wedge Helen Dalgity & Winnie Miller Mr & Mrs S Ballinger TBA if required	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices Flowers
20	8am 11am	Phil Smithard Margaret Dineley Rod Key Mr & Mrs G Philp Mr & Mrs R Key TBA if required	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices Flowers
27	8am 11am	TBA Linda Brownlie TBA Mr & Mrs R Hawkins Mr & Mrs M Gosling TBA if required	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices Flowers
Oct 4	8am 11am	TBA All Age Service TBA All Age Service All Age Service TBA if required	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices Flowers

Young Church News

The Young Church started back on 23rd August after their Summer break. Thanks to all who volunteered or were "persuaded" to take their turn we were able to provide a creche facility throughout the Summer. I know those who took advantage of it were very grateful.

This term we are trying out some new Scripture Union resources which hopefully will provide materials for the wide age group we have within the Young Church. We are also hoping to maintain a creche rota to allow some of the parents the opportunity to spend more time in Church. If anyone is interested in helping out with this please let me know.

Sheona Wedge

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Those of you who heard Robin Underhill at the service on the last Sunday of June will have heard how much the knitted garments are appreciated by the seafarers who receive them and it was good that we were able to send him off with such a large bag of the garments to help replenish the shelves in the store.

I was asked to thank all of you who had contributed and ask you to continue to 'keep the needles clicking'. Indeed I have already received the start of what I hope is going to be our next large parcel.

I thought that you would be interested to know that since this time last year we have sent off:-

34 hats, 35 scarves, 10 balaclavas, 15 pairs of mitts.

This is a tremendous amount for a small band of knitters. If anyone else would like the patterns please just ask. The scarf and hat are very easy and just the thing to knit while watching television! I have some wool I can provide too.

Thank you so much to all the knitters who have worked away this year and a big thank you also to everyone who has searched in cupboards, attics and charity shops to keep us supplied with double knitting and four ply wool.

Fay Cuthbertson

Who's Who at HOLY TRINITY

Secretary	Fay Cuthbertson	726243
Treasurer	Peter Hutchings	728534
Lay Rep.	Brendan Grimley	851473
Vestry:	George Philp	725860
	Sheona Wedge	720278
	John Kennedy	511981
	Malcolm Gosling	-
	Linda Sherwood	416558
Child Protect. Coord	Helen Welsh	411120
People's Warden	Ken Spink	735732
Rector's Warden	Jack Wardell	722948
Musical Director	Roger Weatherhogg	(work) 01592 583473
Servers	Phil Smithard	722416
Sacristan	Frances Jack	721683
Flowers	Gill Wardell	722948
Cleaner	Brenda Waterfield	734309
Young Church	Sheona Wedge	720278
Youth Fellowship	Jenny Stooke	-
Dorcas Group	Sheila Hawkins	725955
Mother's Union	Dorissia Forsyth	-
	Fiona Barcroft	-
Wives Group	Doreen Esnol	621054
	Pamela Grimley	851473
Women's Guild	Edith Slack	724552
Hall Telephone	-	432490
Traidcraft	Linda Sherwood	416558
	Michelle Fearnley	412255
Sunday Coffee	Doreen Esnol	621054
	Fay Spink	735732
Hall Booking	Ken Spink	735732

**Next Copy Deadline
20 September 2009**