

Holy Trinity Dunfermline



February 2011
Magazine

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

Bishop

The Rt Revd David Chillingworth
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Rector

Rev'd Tim Bennison
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Honorary Priest

The Revd Ross Kennedy
12 Calaisburn Place
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01383 625887

Wardens

Rector's Warden	Brendan Grimley
People's Warden	Ken Spink

Services:

Sunday: Eucharists at 8am & 11am
 Young Church at 11am
Thursday: Eucharist at 10.15am

Pebbles on the shore

I found myself part of an interesting discussion a few weeks ago with a group of Christians from a somewhat different tradition to my own.

Members of the group were addressing the question of how one can find happiness or fulfilment in life. Several of them remarked that many of their friends and work colleagues seemed to be caught in an endless spiral of acquiring bigger and better material possessions. This though, the group agreed, wasn't the answer and they thought that true happiness or fulfilment wouldn't come through earthly things, but only through knowing and receiving God's love. And so they concluded, interestingly, that, as Christians (and therefore, as people who did indeed know and receive God's love) they must be happier than their (non-Christian) friends and work colleagues.

Well, I don't know how they knew that, or even whether it's possible to compare 'degrees' of happiness or fulfilment; but the discussion left me with a rather different question: how, in fact, *do we know, or receive, or experience God's love?* Whilst the notion of God's love is extremely popular, and frequently spoken about and referred to, it suddenly occurred to me that it's not at all obvious how one receives it or



experiences it. And this concern was heightened for me in the discussion when someone warned against (what they perceived to be) the danger of confusing human love with God's love.

So, the question I was left with was how do we actually *know* God's love (how is it mediated to us) in the reality of our *felt experience*, rather than simply knowing it in the abstract as some kind of intellectual truth? A second, but closely related question is, what does God's love feel like?

Therapists and psychologists tell us that, in human terms, the thing which is most likely to free someone to grow and to move towards the fulfilment of their potential is the experience of unconditional, accepting and affirming love in a relationship with someone else. And, in the model of counselling within which I work, 'unconditional positive regard', as it's rather

less appealingly called, is thought to be one of the core conditions necessary, in the therapeutic relationship, for growth.

Christians often speak of God's love in similar terms: unconditional, affirming, accepting. Such a love frees people to be themselves and to become what they were meant to be; to find fulfilment and, possibly, happiness.

So, that's the kind of love we're talking about, but how do we receive it from God?

Well, I suppose that some people can look back to what we might call a 'mountain-top' experience or two when, perhaps, they feel overwhelmed by a sense of being loved or accepted which seems to come, unmediated, from God. Other times, we might get a more general awareness of God's presence and love for us perhaps in or through the wonder of nature or in the beauty of art or music.

But surely, for most of us, most of the time, we experience God's love in and through our normal human relationships and friendships. It's here, in these relationships, that we can truly know ourselves to be loved and affirmed and accepted in the concrete reality of our everyday life. It's here, in these human relationships that we can find the space and the confidence to grow into ourselves; to become who we were created to be; to find fulfilment.

For me, attempts to separate, or distinguish between human love and God's love, rather miss the point. It's sometimes said that human love and relationships are flawed, and that only God can offer the perfect love and the perfect relationship. Certainly, human love can be inconsistent and incomplete, perhaps. In the end though, this love that we find in our everyday relationships is all that we have; and whilst it may seem, at times, less than perfect, it is surely when, in those human relationships we know ourselves to be unconditionally loved, accepted and affirmed, that we experience also, the love of God.

Consequently, just as Jesus' disciples experienced God's love in and through their concrete and earthly relationship with him, a human being; so we too can experience God in the concreteness of our human relationships.

Tim

Young Church News

Throughout Advent the children enjoyed adding to their Jesse tree and listening to the daily readings.

They joined with the choir to present “ A New Nowell”. They were involved in singing, narrating, and dressing up portraying the various parts of the Nativity. Baby Chloe had the starring role of Baby Jesus. Our children are very young yet seemed to rise to the occasion on the day. Unfortunately due to the bad weather they did not perform a Nativity the following week at the carol service.

There were lots of visiting children at the Christingle service who, after taking gifts to Baby Jesus, joined together to form a human

Christingle. The light of Christ was then sent symbolically to the four corners of the world.

Recently the Young Church celebrated at their annual Epiphany party. It was lovely to see the older children starting to “look after” the younger children and ensure that everyone could join in the fun. Thanks to our chef James, everyone had lots to eat but managed to leave a little for the YF to finish off. Rumour has it that they enjoyed fried jam sandwiches and ice cream.



Christmas Baubles – Members of the congregation have raised £25 for Church funds by buying a bauble to send their Christmas Greetings. Thank you to all who contributed.

DORCAS GROUP

We have had an excellent year of crafting, stitching and knitting* Thanks to everyone who gave us special orders for our cards. We find these a nice challenge as we ask if the recipient has any hobbies etc. so we can make a "theme" card. The Easter chicks did very well again and, of course, our scarves are on-going. The Sales Table after church on a Sunday is very popular - do pay us a visit. All this has enabled us to give £1,000.00 towards the Boiler Fund - there is still a little left for the next Church Project. Our Group is small and friendly -we meet in the Church Hall every Thursday from 12noon - 4pm (we do not close over the Summer) do drop in and see us to enjoy a cup of tea and our fellowship.



BAKING STALL



The Baking Stall continues to flourish - thanks to all the Groups who take their turn and all those who contribute and buy. £200 went to the Boiler Fund - there is a little left to go towards the next Church Project. This stall operates on the first Sunday of every month (except July and August) and any baking items (duly wrapped, please) would be gratefully received. Many thanks to everybody

WEBB IVORY

Webb Ivory is on the decline now as the price of their cards etc. has gone down, therefore, there is very little profit for quite a lot of work. In saying that, I have still been able to give £100 to Church Funds. I shall still have catalogues if anyone is interested and will continue in a small way. Thank you to all who support this through the year by buying Birthday and Christmas cards and gifts Your support is much appreciated - THANK YOU



Sheila Hawkins



THANK YOU

Many thanks to all those who attended Douglas's Funeral Service, for all your letters, cards, flowers and prayers.

It was comforting to know that I was being upheld in prayer by so many friends. My faith, family and friends certainly sustained me during these last two years.

Doreen Esnol

January 2011

At the end of December the income was £17,815 and the expenditure £ 18,632

The Rector's Fund is for the needy of the parish. The current total to hand is £ 471

Peter Hutchings



SCOUTPOST 2010



Many thanks to all those who dropped in cards for the Scout Delivery Service this year. Because of the conditions overall numbers were down over the whole piece, but Holy Trinity still managed to donate £63.37 towards funds. The overall

total this year was just under £3000. Delivery took somewhat longer than usual due to the conditions and a number of our volunteers ended up on the deck, including me, but thankfully there have been no serious injuries. That is two years now when there have been poor delivery conditions so hopefully next year, we deserve a mild time for our effort.



Phil Smithard

Christmas in Aberdeen – Sierra Leone

This was not the first Christmas in a hot country for me as you all will know but this one was certainly the hottest temperature wise!! Imagine sitting in a cathedral fanning yourself and mopping your face and there were plenty of fans running full speed, I know cos I was sat close to one. A little different to the weather at home! There wasn't a midnight service to go to and if there was I don't think I would have been brave enough to go into town for it. Tried travelling back to Aberdeen after dark one Sunday and would not care to repeat the experience too often.

Anyway back to Christmas Day. We planned to have Christmas Dinner at the Centre at about 2.30 and I had been given roast potatoes and a pudding as my contribution. I really enjoyed making cheese-cake on Christmas Eve listening to the lessons and carols from Kings College and I had the potatoes all peeled before I went to bed. That was a wise move since church started at 9.00 am and I was still there at 12.30 and had at least a 45min journey back. Had to send



texts during the service to get someone else to cook the potatoes!! During the service we sang 6 psalms – all to different chants and just about every Christmas carol there is in Ancient & Modern! The choir also sang an anthem. Not any old thing but “For unto us a child is born” from the Messiah and they sang it extremely well. It is an all male voice choir with 4 part harmony and they sing an anthem every week. Last week it was “Jesu, joy of man’s desiring”.

Then there was a little bit of fund raising during the service as well entitled The

St
Georges
Cathedral
Freetown
Sierra
Leone



Birthday Competition. Each month was called out in turn and when it was your birth month you went up and put money in the plate. Each month had a separate plate and the totals were given out at the end of the service. That was apart from the usual offertory. They raised over 7000GBP or 45,000,000 Leons and there were probably only about 250 total in the congregation!! My month was 3rd highest in the contribution stakes.

Christmas dinner was good with roast lamb for the farmer's daughter from New Zealand, roast ham for the South African and turkey for all the rest of us. We invited any friends we wanted so there was about 25 all together at the table and in true tradition we all ate far too much. We had a Christmas tree with lights and a secret Santa as well and fortunately there were no labouring women to provide the noises off!!

We didn't go to the beach as half of Freetown was there and the racket was pretty bad, typical African fashion with each person's music trying to drown out the next door one!!

That went on most of the night as well so I was glad to be on night duty so I wasn't too bothered about getting a good night's sleep!! The Salonians sure know how to party and for a predominately Moslem society they fairly enjoy Christmas.

Love from Linda

Prayer Group for the Season of Lent.

As part of your journey of preparation for Easter you are invited to join a Prayer Group meeting weekly in the Church Hall on Tuesday afternoons. Starting on Tuesday 15 March and concluding on Tuesday 12 April the meetings will take place between 2.30pm and 4pm.

During the meetings we will explore different forms of prayer in as informal and relaxed a setting as we can create in the hall. Each session should last for about an hour, after which we will have tea/coffee and biscuits - in other words some social time together.

If you have not been to a Prayer Group before and are anxious that it might be a bit intimidating then squash these anxieties right now. We are all in a steep learning curve about our relationship with God and no-one will be asked to voice their thoughts if it takes them out of their comfort zone.

Although this particular series of meetings is to take place weekly the Prayer Group plans to continue after Easter at a less frequent interval. There will be a chance for you to talk about what you would like from this group and where meetings will take place in future.

In early February you will find an invitation slip in your Pews Sheet. If you are interested please fill it in with some contact detail, either a phone number or an e-mail address, and hand it to one of us or one of the clerical team. This will enable us to contact each of you personally before the first meeting. If you are unable to attend each week please don't worry - you are very welcome to come whenever you are able. There will be notices up in the church building, but if you do not receive a slip or you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak to one of us, either at church or on the telephone. If you would like to be involved in a prayer group but cannot make the time allocated during Lent then do get in touch with us and you will hopefully be able to join in after Easter.

Loving God, Be a bright flame before us,
A guiding star above us, A smooth path beneath us,
And a kindly shepherd behind us, Today and for evermore.
(Adapted from the prayer of St. Columba).

Margaret Dineley—624377.

Doreen EsnoI - 621054.

Contact Scheme- update

You will be aware that our new Contact Scheme was launched at the end of October last year. Hopefully by now everyone knows who their own Church Contact is, and has heard from them.



Most of the Church Contacts met in mid January to review the first few weeks of the scheme, and we all agreed it had been a difficult time because of the severe weather. However we had been in touch with most people and the scheme was off to a good start. Comments from members of the congregation include a thanks for the care shown over this time and a wish that this had happened earlier, and another member felt it was lovely having someone to talk to when they were stuck inside due to the snow.

Plans are underway to extend the scheme to the YF – both current and “golden oldie” members- and a special get together is currently being planned. Please speak with Jenny Stooke for further information.

It is YOUR scheme – a way of keeping in touch with what's going on at HT, and improving communication within the church, and we would welcome your thoughts and comments. We hope this new scheme will help us all to be a more caring and supportive church community.

If you're not sure who your Contact is, or haven't heard from them yet, please get in touch with Hilary Bennison or Fay Cuthbertson. Likewise, if don't have a church contact and would like one please let us know!

Decorating the Church for Christmas

Gill Wardell would like to thank everyone who helped in person, or in contributions, toward preparation and decoration of the Church for Christmas



Dates For Your Diary.

Members of the congregation are invited to the following events taking place in our Diocese.



Saturday 19 February.

St. Luke's, Glenrothes, 10am to 12 noon. Workshop on the Gospel of St. Matthew, from which this year's Gospel readings are principally drawn. Organised by the Diocesan Ministry and Education Action Group in conjunction with the St. Andrews West Area Council it will be led by the Rev. Tim Bennison and Beatrice Cowan.

Saturday 5 March.

St. Mary's, Newport on Tay. 10am to 3.15pm. Pastoral Visiting Workshop. Led by the Reverends Denise Herbert, Paddy Allen and Isabel Dowlen, all trained nurses and educators, with input from speakers from NHS Fife Mental Health. Cost - £5 (soup provided, but please bring your own sandwiches). Places are limited, so please apply by February 25 - application forms can be downloaded from www.standrewsaiiglicaii.org. Any interested party is invited but this may be of particular interest to members of the Contact Group.

Wednesday 23 March.

St. Paul's, Kinross. 7pm to 9pm. Bishop David's Road Show. This is a Lenten study led by the Bishop and aimed at all members of congregations within our Area Council.

If you wish further details, have any queries or either need or could offer transport please contact

Margaret Dineley (624377 or margaret.dineley@googlemail.com).



HT Burns Supper 2011

A full house of 61 patrons enjoyed the latest HT Burns Supper held in the Church Hall on Saturday 29th January in celebration of the 252nd anniversary of the birth of Scotland's Bard. The supper itself was provided by the HT choir led by Gill with chorists and other helpers providing food and service.

Ron Hawkins chaired the evening with Sassenach gusto whilst Sheona Wedge, John Kennedy, Helen Welsh, Andrew Wedge, Frances Jack, Karen Macdonald, the choir and Roger, and Jack Wardell all contributed to the Burns programme. Sheona's Immortal Memory was well researched and delivered with aplomb though perhaps with too many school home truths—nits an a' that! John's Toast to the Lasses may have been near the sensors axe on occasions but finished in a poetic flourish and Helen's reply was suitably insincere and understated!

Andrew Wedge was a star in his first ever "Address to the Haggis" with Poesie Nancy (aka Frances) looking on. Songs from Val Leslie and Helen, the ladies of the choir, 3 merry men (Brendan, Jack and John) and all the company were complimented as ever by Jack's recitations.

With a seamless programme steered by Ron the full house audience were treated to a hugely enjoyable evening which has also contributed about £500 to church funds.

Thank you to all for the generous support.

Rotas

Feb 6	8am 11am	Phil Smithard John Macdonald Rod Key Mr & Mrs G Philp Mr & Mrs P Hand Fay Cuthbertson	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices
13	8am 11am	Phil Smithard Andy Young Sabine Forsyth Fay Cuthbertson & Jenny Stooke Mr & Mrs J Waterfield Ron Hawkins & Brendan Grimley	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices
20	8am 11am	Phil Smithard Karen Macdonald Andrew Wedge Mr & Mrs K Spink Doreen EsnoI & Frances Jack Isobel Thomson	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices
27	8am 11am	Phil Smithard Brendan Grimley Ellen Fearnley Catherine Duncan & Grace Soanes Mr & Mrs R Hawkins Muriel McKenzie & Fay Cuthbertson	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices
Mar 6	8am 11am	Phil Smithard All Age—YC Rod Key YC YC Ron Hawkins	Server Intercessions Server Collection Bread & Wine Chalices

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

Readings and Readers

6 th February Epiphany 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20	
13 th February Epiphany 6	Sirach 15: 15- 20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37	
20 th February Epiphany 7	Leviticus 19:1- 2, 9-18	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16- 23	Matthew 5:38-48	
27 th Febru- ary Epiphany 8	Isaiah 49:8-16a	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Matthew 6:24-34	
6 th March Sunday be- fore Lent	Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26- 28	Romans 1:16- 17, 3:22b-28	Matthew 7:21-29	



**Next Copy Deadline
23 February 2011**

Who's Who at HOLY TRINITY

Secretary	Fay Cuthbertson	726243
Treasurer	Peter Hutchings	728534
Lay Rep.	Margaret Dineley	624377
Vestry:	Sheona Wedge	720278
	Malcolm Gosling	851605
	Linda Sherwood	416558
	Jenny Stooke	-
	Pam Pryde	739039
	Polly St Aubyn	-
People's Warden	Ken Spink	735732
Rector's Warden	Brendan Grimley	851473
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	Isobel Thomson	624322
	Fiona Barcroft	-
Wives Group	Muriel McKenzie	727115
	Yvonne Gosling	851605
Women's Guild	Edith Slack	724552
HT 50/50 Club	John Kennedy	511981
	Pam Pride	739039
	Doreen Esnol	621054
	George Philp	725860
Traidcraft	Linda Sherwood	416558
	Michelle Fearnley	412255
Sunday Coffee	Doreen Esnol	621054
	Fay Spink	735732
Hall Booking	Ken Spink	735732