

# Holy Trinity Dunfermline



'Sunflowers' by Celia Matthews

Used with the kind permission of the artist

## May & June 2016 Magazine

# **Holy Trinity Church, Dunfermline**

## **Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane**

Registered Charity No. SCO15181

<b>Bishop</b>	The Rt Rev'd David Chillingworth 28a Balhouse Street Perth PH1 5HJ 01738 643000		
<b>Rector</b>	Revd Alison Cozens 17 Ardeer Place Dunfermline 01383 732654		
<b>Honorary Priest</b>	Revd Ross Kennedy 12 Calaisburn Place Dunfermline KY11 4RD 01383 625887		
<b>Vestry Secretary</b>	<i>Vacancy</i>		
<b>People's Warden</b>	Linda Sherwood		01383 416558
<b>Rector's Warden</b>	Elaine Cromwell		01383 721663
<b>Services</b>	Sunday	Eucharist	8am (first Sunday of month only)
		Sung Eucharist	11am
		Young Church	11am
	Thursday	Eucharist	10.15am

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Vestry (Trustees of the Charity) or of the Scottish Episcopal Church

## Editor's blog

I love this time of year when the first signs of summer begin to emerge. Sunlight pouring through the window when you open the curtains, those dark mornings long since forgotten; the glorious aroma of freshly mown grass; cheerful birdsong and buzzing bees; weather that sometimes allows us to sit outdoors, teasing us with the prospect of picnics and camping trips to come.

During the Easter holidays Iain re-erected the greenhouse at our new home and we began to plant some seeds. It is with an almost childlike joy that we check on our seedlings each day, waiting on them to peek their tiny green shoots through the surface of the compost, or seeing how much they have grown since we last looked.

We've had a few disappointments. Several seeds don't seem to be germinating. One began to sprout only to die a day later. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it's been making me think of the parable of the sower.



Gardening is a relatively new venture for Iain and me, so we don't always know what we're doing! Perhaps the type of compost we used wasn't right or we didn't keep it moist enough. But even if that were true, it isn't reasonable for me to expect a 100% success rate. In Jesus' parable, which he uses to teach us about faith, some of the seeds don't grow or bear fruit for reasons beyond the farmer's control.

This is relevant for more than just my spring gardening issues. As a teacher of Religious and Moral Education, I try to make my subject as engaging as possible for pupils. But now and again pupils will say things like 'why do we have to do this subject?' or 'I'm not interested in what other people believe'. Frustrating as this can be, I am learning that there is only so much I can do to prevent it. I can plant the seeds of understanding, open-mindedness and critical thinking; I can nurture these seeds to the best of my ability; but I cannot guarantee that they will grow or bear fruit.

What keeps me going is the knowledge that when the seeds do grow the rewards are great. This year we're hoping for lots of delicious salads!

*Caroline Mitchell*

# Noticeboard



## **Weekly email**

An email is sent weekly on Sunday or Monday containing the information on the pew sheet and any additional notices the Rector announces at the Sunday service. Several people find it useful if for any reason they are unable to attend the Sunday service.

It is sent BCC in order that your email address is not revealed. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, whether you are new to the congregation or have recently gained access to an email address, or indeed are visiting and would like us to keep in touch, please inform Fay Cuthbertson via email at [fay.cuthbertson@btopenworld.com](mailto:fay.cuthbertson@btopenworld.com). It is also possible for a neighbour or friend to receive the weekly email on your behalf.

You can add yourself to this list or withdraw from it at any time. If you want further information about it, I would be happy to discuss it with you. My phone number is 01383 726243. If you have to leave a message I will get back to you as soon as possible.

*Fay Cuthbertson*



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 11am** – Bishop David Chillingworth is at Holy Trinity for our service of Confirmation

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 11am** – Visiting preacher: Professor Trevor Hart, Rector of St Andrews, St Andrews

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 11am** – Sea Sunday with the Rev'd Tim Tunley of the Mission to Seafarers

# Round-up

Dear Friends,

We are still looking for a new Vestry Secretary. If you have been swithering over coming forward please do not delay. Have a word with Alison, Pam Lynn or Jack Wardell and we will try to explain what is involved. This is a great opportunity for someone with enthusiasm to serve our church in this important position.



The main regular tasks of a Vestry Secretary include:

- 1) Arranging Vestry meetings, including agreeing and circulating Agendas
- 2) Taking Minutes at Vestry meetings and circulating them to Vestry members and officials
- 3) Convening and taking minutes at the Annual Meeting
- 4) Attending to any relevant action points arising from the Vestry meeting

Further guidance on the main responsibilities of the Vestry Secretary can be found under Vestry Resources on the Scottish Episcopal Church website ([www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)).

*Jack Wardell*

## **Financial Report**

At the end of March the General Fund income was £35,556 and the expenditure £38,742, giving a deficit to date of £3,186.

The retiring collection for the Lenten Appeal was £175.

The Rector's Fund for the needy of the parish has a balance of £229.

*Peter Hutchings*

## Vestry Update

Topics recently discussed at Vestry meetings include:

- Planning for and review of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services
- Interim report from the Pipe Organ Working Group
- News from the Youth Fellowship including financial support to those going to Glen 2016
- Discussion about lay members of the Contact group assisting with home communions
- Financial and Property report



### 50/50 Club Winners

13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	1st	Barbara Croll	83	£100
	2nd	Malcolm & Yvonne Gosling	34	£82
	3rd	Jenny Stooke	15	£40.50
		Donation to Holy Trinity		£222.50
10 <sup>th</sup> April	1st	John Kennedy	78	£100
	2nd	Brenda Waterfield	81	£82
	3rd	Hannah Geldart	76	£40.50
		Donation to Holy Trinity		£222.50

Next draws: 8<sup>th</sup> May & 12<sup>th</sup> June

## Young Church

Have you noticed a change at Young Church? The Dorcas group have kindly offered use of their cupboard to store and display some of our resources and we have our new, bright mats for sitting on and listening to our Gospel or Bible reading. We've cleared out all the old toys and books and have new craft materials and equipment to help us as we work on Sundays. It's made a big difference – it's now much easier to access our bits and pieces and focus on our readings and prayers.

In recent weeks we have been learning about Christ's Passion, crucifixion and resurrection. We had great fun at our Good Friday Happening where we took part in lots of craft activities focused on understanding Jesus' journey to the cross and death. These included decorating our own last supper 'chalices', making wooden and Spanish tin crosses and filling Easter Story eggs. We had time for prayer and reflection in the church and came together at the end to share soup and bread – thank you to all the helpers on the day.

And talking of helpers.....leading Young Church is a great pleasure and privilege however should not be my sole preserve. It is important that we make sure that other people from the congregation can be involved in this meaningful ministry and therefore if you feel called in this direction and would like to help lead Young Church sessions please let Alison or myself know. We are hoping to arrange a meeting soon to 'sign up' new leaders who would share planning and leading the Young Church on an ongoing basis.

*Elaine Cromwell*



**Easter Story Eggs**  
Penny – 30 pieces of silver (Matt 26:15)  
Leather – Whip used to beat Christ (Mark 15:19)  
Nail – Used to place Christ on the cross (John 20:25)  
Cross – On which they laid Christ (John 19:24)  
Dice – Soldiers gambled for Jesus' robe (John 19:24)  
Cloth – Linen used to wrap Christ's body (Matt 27:59)  
Stone – Used to seal the tomb (Mark 16:4)  
Our victory....Mark 16: 4-6

## Bishop David's Vatican Visit

In April Bishop David visited the Vatican with his wife, Alison, and daughter, Anna. The following article is taken from Bishop David's blog (<http://www.bishopdavid.net/>):

"I used to allow myself to say that the Scottish Episcopal Church is unruly – and the Anglican Communion is certainly unruly. We swing from crisis to crisis and make huge shifts of policy 'on the wing'. The Vatican of course is different. Its timescales are different. Tomorrow will almost certainly be the same as today. In some ways, it has the feel of a medieval court where nuance and symbol are everything.

So when Alison and Anna were unexpectedly beckoned forward to be greeted by Pope Francis, we wondered whether this was a way of giving symbolic effect to his recent exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, or maybe a sign of the



strength of relationships between Catholic and Anglican Churches. I could see how Archbishop David Moxon patiently builds friendship and trust – the kind of trust without which everyone will go through the motions but nothing will happen.

Of course that measured face of the Vatican isn't the whole story – because there are disconnects and dissonances all over the place. And then there is the extraordinary personal popularity of Pope Francis which simply bursts through the institutional frameworks of the church.

It's also clear that the church is on the move – moving towards Synods, interested in exploring things which are commonplace in the Anglican world. They have the problem of all movements which want to bring in a period of intentional change – how to keep control of the movement as it happens.

I did have one question in my back pocket – the question of whether the Catholic Church is prepared to work in ecumenical dialogue with the full range of Anglicanism, including those who commit to canonical change on same sex marriage. Of course I was never going to get a clear answer to such a question. All I can say is that I was received with a warmth and graciousness which astonished me – and I learned much. I hope to return in October for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Anglican Centre."



## Mother's Union



On Saturday 19th March, five branch members from Holy Trinity Dunfermline and St. Margaret's Rosyth went to St. Ninian's Cathedral in Perth for the annual Lady Day celebration.

The day began with coffee, followed by a most interesting talk by a charming lady called Patricia Roberts, who is a chaplain with the prison service. Previously she served at Cornton Vale, but now that it is closing and the inmates are being moved to Polmont, Patricia will be responsible for a much greater number of people; men as well as the women she already knows. Starting her career teaching chemistry at Falkirk High School, she described how she woke one morning feeling moved by the Holy Spirit that she was to strike out on a new path, though what that path might be she had no idea. She worked her notice, and found a job working as a housekeeper at the Roman Catholic seminary in Glasgow, where she was able to follow a course of study leading to pastoral work. Patricia's faith is radiant, and she has outstanding musical gifts. She plays guitar and harp, has a wonderful voice, and we were uplifted to hear her.

After lunch, we moved into the church itself for our Eucharist.

Seven MU branches of the diocese were represented, and their banners were carried round the cathedral during the Introit. They were blessed in turn as they were brought before Bishop David, who then called forward the five members to be commissioned as our new diocesan trustees. In his sermon, the Bishop spoke of the importance of the role of women in the church, both in the priesthood and in performing supportive lay functions. He held up the examples of Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, as strong women whose obedience to God we should not be afraid to emulate. He went on to describe the courageous women he met in his recent visit to Calcutta, facing up to unscrupulous men who exploit and abuse young girls. The MU has over four million members in eighty countries, and their vision is to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. It is by working together that family life can be strengthened and communities transformed.

At the end of a very moving service we all felt at peace and left with joy in our hearts.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April, we met in the church hall for our branch meeting, this time organised by Dorissia Forsyth and entitled “Memories”. We brought cakes and photographs of past events, and really enjoyed seeing old faces of those who may be gone, but are certainly not forgotten. There was much laughter during the telling of humorous anecdotes; the amusement augmented no doubt by the amount of wine imbibed!!

Dorissia is the parish poet, and she came up trumps as ever with the following:

### **LIFE LONG FELLOWSHIP**

So many things shape what we become;  
Minute to large influences add up to one sum.  
Many individuals have touched our paths,  
From the rectors who preached, to our folks who gave baths.

And those mothers must have shown us a lesson or two,  
And our teachers often taught us the false and the true.  
Even neighbours who helped listen to moans,  
Or relatives we'd only met on the phone.  
Without any we'd be somehow different today,  
If still present we're thankful for the roles that they play.

But it's hard to believe we touched someone the same,  
They may not have known you, or even your name,  
But believe that we're significant in this life,  
We help one another through lessons and strife.

There's hope and there's friendship with others who care;  
We're never alone in these lives that we share.  
So let fellowship grow among women and men,  
And be blessed with gladness again and again.

*Adrienne Lyon*

# *From the Pulpit*

## **Easter Sermon 2016**

Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us,  
back to life again.  
Fields of our hearts,  
that dead and bare have been,  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springeth green.



These words we have just sung in our Gradual Hymn help us to make sense of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Love, that strange emotion, fills us with joy and takes us by surprise.

Love is come again.

The love of the Lord Jesus drove the women to anoint the body on the first day of the week; the love of the Lord Jesus sent Peter running to the tombstone to see what had happened to his Master; the love of the Lord Jesus compels people to acts of sacrificial giving, in care for the poor and in preaching the Gospel; the love of the Lord Jesus has brought you here this morning, to sing his praise and share the joy of this Easter morning.

For we are a resurrection people! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself and, through the suffering of the Cross, the way to God is open again.

Many of us have travelled the forty days of lent by reading Luke's Gospel together. One of the teenagers said to me that they would be giving up Facebook for Lent. Perhaps some of you have given up your favourite food. What did I give up? I gave up blackcurrant jam on my porridge in the morning. A real sacrifice I tell you, though I suspect some of you are thinking I shouldn't really be having jam on my porridge (NB Thank you to the kind people who heard this and gave me a lovely jar of Cairnie's blackcurrant jam for me to enjoy in Eastertide!).

At other times and in other places Christians have literally walked the road to Jerusalem, the city of destiny, the city of peace. A walk of love and of sacrifice

and, sometimes, of penance. As we walk the journey of our lives, we all have choices; choices for good or evil, choices which make us who we are today.

One of my favourite poems by Robert Frost sums this up nicely:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.



I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

To follow the way of Christ makes all the difference. Our lives will never be the same. Love is come again when we recognise that we have not walked the journey of life alone. God in Christ walks with us each step of the way, whatever choices we make. And how do we know that God is with us? Because God has promised to be with us until the end of time.

Knowing this means that we can enter with compassion into the sorrow of the world. This week, when we reflect on the terrible events in Brussels or the death of the Muslim shopkeeper in Glasgow, we can be people of hope in a time of despair; of trust in a time of doubt. Like Christ we can enter into the pain of the world and bring some healing, for Love is come again!

In order to enter into the pain of the world, we need to acknowledge our own need of God and of the comfort of the Holy Spirit, who reminds us that Jesus loves us and gave his life for us on the Cross.

In the Rectory there is a painting by my dear friend Celia Matthews. Peter, my husband, chose it.

It is a painting of sunflowers – except some of these sunflowers are tall and proud and in full bloom, but others in the painting are drooping and weary and closed up. Peter said to me that he liked the painting because the sunflowers were not perfect. Somehow the sunflowers which were drooping and weary gave him permission to feel the same and not to feel bad about it.

It **is** okay sometimes to feel sad and weary. That does not take away from the deeper joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Joy does not always have to be fizzing and bubbling over. Sometimes joy is a deep well of trust and hope.

In the path we choose we can see God moving – with hindsight. Some people talk about co-incidence. As followers of Jesus Christ, we can talk about providence. God moves in our lives, in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.

So this Easter Sunday is an opportunity for a new start. The new life Christ offers us presents us with a choice; we can choose life, not death! Remember what encounter or conversation first brought you to Christ. And remember what encounter or conversation first brought you to this church community of Holy Trinity Dunfermline.

Holy Trinity church community has had times in its past when there has been grieving and pain, but now is a time, I believe, that Love has come again and the fields of our hearts can be brought back to life again.

As we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, we pray that we may know the power of his love in our lives.

Let us pray:

God of glory, by the resurrection of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell.

Fill your Church with faith and hope, for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Alison Cozens, Rector*

# Feature

## Glen' 16 – SEC Youth Week

Glenalmond Youth Week takes place again this summer from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July, in the beautiful surroundings of the school originally established to provide teaching for young men destined for the ministry of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Since then it has become a boarding school, and every summer it still opens its doors to the youth of our church.

Glenalmond means far more to the SEC than its history alone. The word has come to symbolise hope, youth, vibrancy and future. It seems the majority of Synod members under 30 have passed through its doors!



So what is it that keeps bringing people back? Glenalmond isn't about telling young people what to think; it simply helps them explore their own faith. It's also fun! There are ceilidhs, games, quizzes, murder mysteries, art, ambles and discos; these all contribute to the fellowship and openness of the camp, which is how faith is nurtured and developed.

Seven members of our Youth Fellowship (YF), young people from Holy Trinity Dunfermline and St Peter's Kirkcaldy, have already signed up for Glen 16. If it wasn't for Glen, we wouldn't have such a thriving YF or such a good partnership with our Fife neighbours; it was through Glen that the two small groups

of young adults first met. One of the worst feelings as a Christian in an often faith-less society is that of being alone. Glen brings together young people from all over Scotland and beyond to create a network that lasts a life time. Indeed I am now Godfather to the children of two of my fellow delegates!

I thank you all for your continued support of Glenalmond. If you or anyone you know is interested in coming along or helping out, please get in touch. I will be returning this year to help lead our young adults and their peers in a journey that this year... will be out of this world!

*Andrew Wedge*

# Up and Coming



## **The Gathering 2016: Growing Disciples**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 10am – 4pm**  
**St Ninian's Cathedral**

It's that time again! Join us for this year's Diocesan Gathering: Growing Disciples. With a wide variety of workshops, we will explore many different ways in which we might grow as disciples, and grow by making disciples.

Workshop themes will include:

- Nurturing discipleship in children
- Music and discipleship
- Learning from our brother and sister disciples from India

The Gathering is always a family-friendly event. There will be a programme for children and youth and, for the first time, an amazing opportunity to explore Christian mountain biking!

More details will follow soon, with booking forms available from mid-May. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Rev Thomas Brauer, Diocesan Missioner, on 01738 443173 or [missioner@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:missioner@standrews.anglican.org).







## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME EASTER TO SUMMER 2016

17th Apr	I would walk 500 miles	<i>Pitlochry</i>	<i>1300h</i>
24th Apr	To be or not to be	<i>STMs Rosyth</i>	<i>1800h</i>
1st May	Pub Quiz without the Pub	<i>HTC</i>	<i>1815h</i>
8th May	Sweet Dreams	<i>HTC</i>	<i>1815h</i>
15th May	Traveling through History	<i>TBC</i>	<i>1300h</i>
22nd May	Sandy Lands	<i>Aberdour</i>	<i>1815h</i>
28th May	What's it all about?	<i>HTC</i>	<i>0900h</i>
5th Jun	Going on a Bear Hunt	<i>HTC</i>	<i>1815h</i>
12th Jun	Glenbombing	<i>Portobello</i>	<i>0900h</i>
18th Jun	Gathering near a Pool	<i>Perth</i>	<i>0900h</i>
25th - 26th Jun	Altar-ing you're sleeping	<i>HTC</i>	<i>1815h</i>
24th - 30th July	Glenalmond	<i>Glen 16</i>	<i>All Week!</i>

**YF is for young adults half way through P7 and upwards.** For application forms or if you want to know more about the youth group and our regular events come and join us or head to our website:

<http://holytrinitychurch.org.uk>



Feel free to contact our Youth Leader Andrew Wedge:

**Mob:** 07846187354 **Email:** [wedge-pars@hotmail.com](mailto:wedge-pars@hotmail.com)



## May and June Retiring Collections



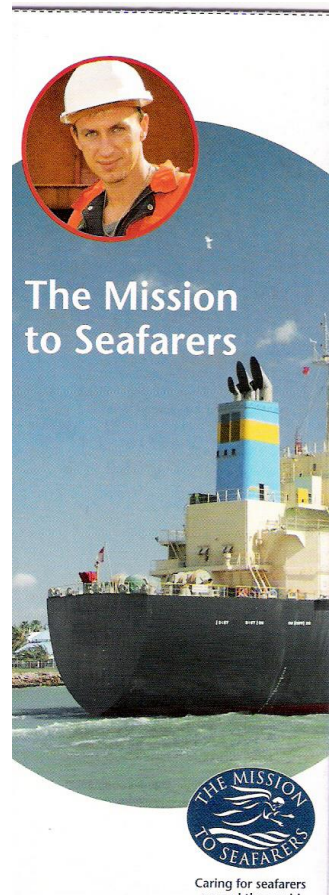
### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May

The May Retiring Collection will be for Samaritans of Dunfermline. Samaritans are always available to talk and listen to people feeling distress or despair. Just ring us on our Freephone number 116123, email us or text us and we will offer you emotional support through the bad times. Please give generously to this worthwhile charity.

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June – The Mission to Seafarers

Once again we will be celebrating Sea Sunday at the end of June. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Mission to Seafarers at the eleven o'clock service and our old friend, the Revd. Tim Tunley, Chaplain to the Mission for Scotland, will come to tell us something of the work of the Mission.

Nowadays the merchant seafarers in most ships are from low-pay countries, such as the Philippines and Indonesia. Almost all the ships are registered in countries which are only interested in getting the registration fees and do not enforce fair standards of pay or good working conditions. The men and women in the crews are away from their homes and families for long periods. When they have personal, family or welfare problems they have no one to turn to for advice or help, except for the Mission to Seafarers. To provide this help to those who bring our food, oil and other imports to us, and to those who look after us when we go on cruise holidays, requires funding and this is entirely dependent on donations such as ours, so please be generous.



## Wives Group

All are welcome to come along to any or all of these events

### **Monday 2nd May - Norway!**

Come along and sample food from this Scandinavian country.

Sample something different, and enjoy yourself! Adrienne Lyon has a wonderful evening planned for us. 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

### **Monday 16th May - Afternoon trip to Falkirk Wheel / Kelpies**

We are off on our annual afternoon trip, this year we are going to enjoy a trip on the barge at the Falkirk Wheel followed by lunch. There is a restaurant where we can either have hot food or a snack. A group booking has been made for the 11.50 am sailing of the barge. We will then pay a visit to see the Kelpies. These are impressive places to visit and will make for an enjoyable afternoon. There is a lovely cafe at the Kelpies where you can enjoy a welcome cuppa if you would like. There are lots of us ladies with cars who will be only too pleased to offer transport. If you would like to come, please just let us know.

### **Monday 6th June - SUMMER LUNCH**

We are going to the GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL this year. There will be a full 3 course menu including coffee/tea afterwards. **Because this is a very lovely venue we would like to invite husbands and partners to join us. We would be very pleased to welcome anyone interested in joining us for lunch.** We gather at 12 noon ready to sit down at 12.30. Please let Pam, Linda, Doreen or myself know by the beginning of June so we can keep the hotel informed as to numbers.

Please come along and experience the warmth and friendliness of our small group. No commitment necessary, just come along to any of our get-togethers that you fancy. Partners always welcome!

*Yvonne Gosling*

# Saint in the Spotlight

## St Helena, 21<sup>st</sup> May

The saint selected for this issue of the magazine was suggested by the Rector whose mother, Caroline, was born on the island of St Helena.

We know for certain that St Helena was a real person and that she had considerable influence on the early church in the latter part of the third and early part of the fourth centuries. However, there are also a lot of unsubstantiated stories and improbable legends about her.

It is not known where St Helena was born, but the most likely place is Drepanum in Asia Minor, the name of which was changed to Helenopolis by her son, the Emperor Constantine, in about 248 AD. One medieval historian, Geoffrey of Monmouth, actually claims that she was born in Britain, the daughter of the British King Coel (Old King Cole), but this is now discounted.

It is almost certain that St Helena was from a humble background, for there are several references to her as having been a "*stabularia*" – a

stable woman or innkeeper. If so, she managed to move up in the world when she became the wife or concubine of Constantius Chlorus.



At that time Constantius was vying against a rival, Maxentius, to be acknowledged as Emperor. The supporters of Constantius referred to Helena as Empress and wife of Constantius, while those of Maxentius called her a concubine. What is certain is that Helena gave birth to the future Emperor,

Constantine the Great, around the year 272 AD in Naissus in Serbia.

When Constantius triumphed over his rival and became Emperor, he divorced Helena to marry a woman of a higher social standing, who was more suitable to his status as Emperor. Helena and her son Constantine were sent to the court of Diocletian, where she lived in obscurity and remained unmarried.

In 306 AD, following the death of his father, Constantine was proclaimed Emperor, and he reinstated his mother as a dowager Empress. She spent the rest of her life furthering the cause of Christianity and founding churches in various places in the Roman Empire, including the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and a church on the Mount of Olives.

Between 326 and 328 AD St Helena travelled in the Holy Land, during which time she was instrumental in having a temple of Jupiter built, under the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. This was on the site of the Jewish Temple following the destruction of Jerusalem by his legions. Helena also persuaded her son, Constantine, to commission

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the site where the alleged True Cross was discovered.

This of course brings us to the most important event in her life – the finding of the True Cross. St Helena's visit to the Holy Land was to fulfil her desire to find the Cross. The legend is that she arranged a search to discover the Cross and pointed out to the Roman authorities where they should dig – and sure enough they found not one but three crosses, two being assumed to be those of the two thieves crucified with Our Lord. It is a wonder that one of them did not have the INRI notice still attached.

To test which was the True Cross Helena brought a seriously ill woman to the site and had her touch the three crosses in turn. When she touched the first two nothing happened, but when she touched the third she was immediately cured. St. Helena proclaimed the third cross to be the True Cross and went back to Rome bearing a big piece of it. It can still be seen today in her palace, which has now become the Basilica of the Holy Cross.

The finding of the True Cross gave rise to other unsubstantiated claims that St Helena had found two of the nails used at the Crucifixion and the tunic worn by Jesus.

That St Helena had found the True Cross can only be considered as doubtful. Without accusing the Saint of falsifying the claim, it would have been a great temptation for minor Roman authorities in Jerusalem to ensure that the Emperor's Mother, who wielded considerable power, got what she wanted – namely a cross. In the Medieval Church it was widely taken to be true, but even some of the early Christian writers, including St Ambrose, expressed doubts.

St Helena eventually died with her son, Constantine the Great, at her side and was buried in the Mausoleum of St Helena at Rome. Her sarcophagus is now on display

at the Pio-Clementine Vatican Museum.

St Helena is venerated in the Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, where her feast day is celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> May, and in the Roman Catholic Church, where it is celebrated on 18 August.

She has under her patronage archaeologists, converts, difficult marriages and divorcees, empresses and of course the British Dependency of St. Helena.



## Duty Rota for May / June

DATE	WELCOME	BREAD & WINE	COLLECTION	SERVERS	READERS	INTERCESSIONS
1 May	Jack Wardell Ivor Curran	Wendy Stephen Janice Mohr	Doreen Esnol Helen Dalgity	Andrew Wedge Isobel Thomson	Sarah Hunt Ivor Curran	Brian Smith
8 May	Andy & Dorothy Nicholl	Dorothy Nicholl Doreen Esnol	John & Brenda Waterfield	Peter Cozens Brendan Grimley Andy Nicholl	Andy Nicholl Gill Wardell	Isobel Thomson
15 May	Iain & Caroline Mitchell	Iain & Caroline Mitchell	George and Agnes Philip	Rebecca Fleming Linda Brownlie Muriel McKenzie	Caroline Mitchell Iain Mitchell	Malcolm Gosling
22 May	Malcolm & Yvonne Gosling	Frances Jack Yvonne Gosling	Peter & Jean Crabb	Rebecca Cromwell, Sarah Cromwell, Eve Gilchrist, Pam Lynn	Chris Huckle TBA	Doreen Esnol
29 May	Eve Gilchrist Pam Lynn	Eve Gilchrist Pam Lynn	Monica Terry Ivy Stewart	Peter Cozens Andrew Wedge Isobel Thomson	Brian Smith Eve Gilchrist	Rebecca Cromwell
5 June	Adrienne Lyon Julie Combe	Adrienne Lyon Julie Combe	Doreen Esnol Helen Dalgity	Rod Key Brendan Grimley Pam Lynn	Adrienne Lyon Karen MacDonald	Andy Nicholl
12 June	Andy & Dorothy Nicholl	Andy & Dorothy Nicholl	Eve Gilchrist Eileen Donaldson	Rebecca Fleming Rod Key Linda Brownlie	Eve Gilchrist Andy Nicholl	Pamela Grimley
19 June	Janice & Klaus Mohr	Janice Mohr Wendy Stephen	Barbara Key Sheila Hawkins	TBA	Dorissia Forsyth Rodney Key	Dorissia Forsyth
26 June	Stephen & Hilary Ballinger	Stephen & Hilary Ballinger	Muriel McKenzie Frances Jack	TBA	Muriel McKenzie Stephen Ballinger	Brian Smith

## Readings for May / June

1 May	Acts 16: 9-15	Revelation 21: 10-22	John 14: 23-29
8 May	Acts 16: 16-34	Revelation 22: 12-21	John 17: 20-26
15 May	Acts 2: 1-21	Romans 8: 14-17	John 14: 8-17
22 May	Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31	Romans 5: 1-5	John 16: 12-15
29 May	1 Kings 8: 22-23, 41-43	Galatians 1: 1-12	Luke 7: 1-10
5 June	1 Kings 17: 17-24	Galatians 1: 11-24	Luke 7:11-17
12 June	2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:10, 13-15	Galatians 2: 15-21	Luke 7:36 – 8:3
19 June	Isaiah 65: 1-9	Galatians 3: 23-29	Luke 8: 26-39
26 June	1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21	Galatians 5: 1, 13-25	Luke 9: 51-62



**Next Copy Deadline**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Please send articles and photos to Caroline at  
[carolinesking@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinesking@hotmail.com)

# Who's Who at HOLY TRINITY

Secretary	<i>Vacany</i>	
Treasurer	Peter Hutchings	728534
Lay Rep	Linda Brownlie	410501
Vestry:	Pam Lynn	881874
	Andrew Wedge	07846 187354
	Jack Wardell	722948
	Brendan Grimley	851473
PVG Co-ordinator	Andrew Morris	07743 750796
	Andy Nicholl	07876 315430
	Caroline Mitchell	07913 741276
Musical Director	Roger Weatherhogg	07787 420537
Servers	Phil Smithard	722416
Sacristan	Frances Jack	721683
Flowers	Gill Wardell	722948
Cleaner	Brenda Waterfield	734309
Young Church	Elaine Cromwell	721663
Youth Fellowship	Andrew Wedge	07846 187354
Dorcas Group	Sheila Hawkins	725955
Mothers' Union	Barbara Key	738821
Wives Group	Pam Grimley	851473
	Yvonne Gosling	851605
Women's Guild	Winnie Miller	725157
HT 50/50 Club	James Geldart	734997
	Linda Sherwood	416558
	Doreen Esnol	621054
	John Kennedy	740910
Sunday Coffee	Doreen Esnol	621054
	Helen Dalgity	726350
Hall Booking	Linda Sherwood	416558

## *giftaid it*

If you are a Tax Payer making donations to the church and you are not already registered for Gift Aid, please speak to **Rod Key** or a member of Vestry who will help you. Alternatively simply fill in one of the yellow gift aid envelopes that are available in the vestibule and on the pews.