

glö'ri-a



**The Magazine of Holy Trinity
Episcopal Church, Haddington
FEBRUARY, 2009**

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Dear Friends,

It was a great pleasure to have Advent, Christmas and Epiphany with you; the fact that the great crowds and fun of the Donkey service and the serene beauty of the Midnight Eucharist can take place so naturally within a few hours in the same place speaks eloquently of the strength of the Congregation. It is difficult to have to come down hard to the news that there is a serious financial crisis to face just at such a time. In a way it is appropriate. We sing every year that

He came down to earth from heaven, who is Lord and God of all,

And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.

Without thinking particularly that, at least from Christ's point of view, Christmas was rather a rude awakening! We tend to think of the season from our point of view rather than from his.

Let's do another reversal of the ordinary. At Epiphany, we thought about the gifts of the Wise Men. In this case, we ordinarily think of these, from the point of view of Jesus, the receiver. Let's think a little of what they mean for the giver, as they relate to us, his followers.

Gold in those days, and to some extent now, was the supreme material, physical object. It represented exchangeable value; all that people had could be expressed in it. In giving gold, they—and we—are giving of our material. We are giving something we could have spent on ourselves and showing that discipleship is part of our

everyday lives.

Frankincense represented the presence of the divine, the spiritual. In giving frankincense, we are giving of our inner selves, of our minds, of our time. This commitment is as important as that of the gold, and without it. The gold won't last very long!

It's always difficult to end with the myrrh, but that's the way the

Gospel has it. Christian discipleship does indeed have a lot to do with death. We should never forget that our baptism represented a form of death, and the joy of Christianity always involves sharing in suffering and working constantly to overcome it.

INTERREGNUM

Dear All,

'... it is likely to be into the New Year before there are any further developments.' - a quote from our last magazine. Well, there have certainly been further developments but, perhaps, not quite the ones we would have expected!

The series of meetings on our finances have taken place. Thanks to all who came along. Your contributions to the discussion have been noted and will inform the debate as we move on to the next stage. For those who were unable to attend, an outline of the figures and a covering letter from Peter Green, our Treasurer, can be found on the following pages. Further comments and suggestions welcome.

A decision has already been made to have a Stewardship Campaign; something we have not had for a number of years. With that in mind and on the recommendation of the Bishop, we have invited the Reverend Dean Fostekew, of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Edinburgh, to attend our next Vestry meeting. He has much experience in this area. We look forward to learning from him and sharing his ideas. .

In the meantime, life at Holy Trinity goes along much as usual, thanks to Bob, our Interim Pastor, the Team, Bishop Ken, Canon John Paul and many others. We are grateful to them all and delighted to hear that Bob will be with us for the foreseeable future. He really is beginning to feel like one of us.

It's a challenge! Let's rise to it!

Best wishes,

Davina

Church Lets

Applications for use of the Church, for reasons other than regular worship, should be made by applying, in writing, to The Secretary, Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Centre, Church Street, Haddington, EH41 3EX; by telephone on 01620 823268 or by e-mail to admin@holytrinitychurch-haddington.co.uk

Availability can be checked in the diary on the window ledge in the Church vestibule but please do not make an entry there. This will be done after the application has been processed.

Thank you Davina

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

As your Hon Treasurer and watchdog of your financial affairs it has been my unfortunate duty to flag up the fact that our funds are in a low state and that our income has fallen to the point at which we could no longer afford to employ a Rector. It is doubly galling that we had been discussing what kind of Rector we would like, the Bishop had potential candidates in mind and that we were all assuming that paying a full stipend was just a matter of course. We never mention money but sadly it has come to the fore. It is not a secret and we shall have to be more open about it. Look around – we are well off – the buildings are all in superb order and we have everything – but that has depended largely upon generous one-off donations which are not forecastable or dependable.

Budgets are available in church. They are based on 2007/8 expenditure, which was a normal year with a full time Rector resident in the Rectory. In short we can keep the Church door open but our “planned giving” which is the only reliable and budgetable income we have, has fallen quite markedly. In some ways it is not surprising because regular attenders will have noticed a drop in the numbers of fellow worshippers. We have lost a lot of members for a variety of reasons and actually recruited very few.

The process of recruiting a Rector is on hold. We are grateful that our Team has agreed to continue holding the fort a little longer than anticipated. There have been congregational consultations and by the time you read this there will have been a Special Vestry meeting with the Diocesan specialist on Stewardship.

The Vestry is to make a plan with a deadline date by which time we have to measure the increase in the total congregational commitment to giving and consequently decide how much of a Rector we can “buy” – half-time ? three-quarter time?, shared?, full time?. The deadline for re-assessment will probably be 31 May.

You will be told of the Vestry's plan during February but we have to cut costs and we have to find ways of raising assured forecastable income but trust you will re-appraise your preference and collective desire to have a Rector. How much does Holy Trinity mean to you?

Individual commitments are personal and confidential. Jean Blackadder has been guardian of the Planned Giving detail and has all the dealings with the Inland Revenue. Someone has to add up the promises and I would like to re-assure you that she remains the only person who will deal with the detail on the most confidential basis as she has for the last 15 years of exemplary commitment.

Finally I must emphasize that we know everyone has their limit; some will already be at theirs and we are grateful to you, but if you are feeling fortunate in today's economic climate, we know you will respond to the Vestry's plan of action. In the meantime I and the Vestry remain upbeat and optimistic.

Peter Green

PS

For those who have not been able to attend a congregational meeting nor seen our budget sheet, which is available from the church, the bottom line is :

Planned giving / expected receipt £35,000

Budgeted expenditure £66,000

Balance being Shortfall / Deficit-£31,000

A Book Review by Alison Cowe.

“LIVING THE LORD’S PRAYER”

With contributions from
Archbishop Rowan Williams and Sister Wendy Beckett

We are taken through this best known of Christian prayers, sentence by sentence, with much help from the insights of the two main contributors. Sometimes we even look at a single word - Rowan Williams says “Because the first word of the Lord’s prayer is OUR not MY, you’re always saying it, in some sense, with other Christians” . Then the word “Father” is not a comforting word for those who have suffered abuse or rejection but, says Sister Wendy, add “in Heaven” and we realise that God is not like an earthly father.

We go on to discuss the meaning of the Kingdom of God, whether our daily bread means the spiritual or the physical variety and why “forgive us our trespasses” must be followed by “as we forgive those who trespass against us”. A good sound-bite to remember is given for this last: “If you can’t forgive, you can’t receive forgiveness”. Lead us not into temptation could be better expressed, in a contemporary way as “Help us to cope with temptation”. “For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory” reminds us of to whom we pray and more. Then the final “Amen” unites us with the family of believers who share this prayer.

I use the word DISCUSS because this book is a discussion and would make an excellent basis for a study group. There is no sense of argument between the unknown writer(or group leader?) and the two contributors because they add to each others’ ideas and interpretations and as I read on I found myself joining in.

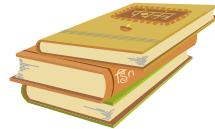
One thought prompted by this ‘discussion’ was that a prayer known by heart since childhood can lose its significance. However, I opened that day’s newspaper to find an article by Andrew Motion (Poet Laureate) on learning by heart rather than by rote and, immediately, I felt that he had joined my imaginary study group. He said: *By heart is a lovely expression - Learning by heart, as the beautiful phrase suggests, is a way of taking something into the centre of ourselves.*

Please read or share this book and explore that which you know by heart. The closing thoughts of both contributors express a feeling that the Our Father explains Christianity and I quote Rowan Williams “*If somebody said ‘Give me a summary of Christian faith on the back of an envelope’, the best thing would be to write the Lord’s Prayer.*”.

This pocket volume is published by permission of the BBC, as it is a written version of the Songs of Praise programme which bore the same name. My one real criticism is in the choice of photographs which illustrate the book, they are of that general “geographic” type found on computers and there are none of the Archbishop and Sister Wendy in conversation.

Books to Borrow!

At the back of the church Holy Trinity is developing some shelves of books, and possibly videos, for you to borrow. Any contributions that you would recommend are welcome.



The Librarian is Vicky Fletcher and it is thought that a book will be available to sign when an item is borrowed. More information to follow.

Prayer quote from Mother Mary Clare

The one who prays stands at the point of intersection where the love of God and the tensions and sufferings we inflict on one another meet and are held to the healing power of God.

CANDLEMAS: our next all age worship

The feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called

Candlemas, is our next celebration in our new series of 'all age' worship. It marks the turning point between Christmas and Epiphany when we look back to the birth of Jesus, and the beginning of Lent when we look forward to his passion, death and resurrection. It is a celebration of light in darkness, of Jesus as Light of the world.

There are stories from around the world of different ways in which people celebrate Candlemas:

The Celts in general, and the Irish in particular, have a different name for Candlemas — Imbolc. At this time lambs are born and the name Imbolc means in the (Ewes) belly.

In Scotland this spring festival is also known as La'Fhe'ill Brighde, in Ireland it is called La Fheile Bride, and in Wales as Gwyl Ffraed. When Christian influences sought to play down pagan influences, without completely alienating the population, they created Saints Days such as St. Brigid's Day on the 1st of February.

In France, Candlemas is known as La Chandeleur. Crepes are served with the evening meal. One superstition is that if the cook can flip the crepe while holding a coin in the other hand, the household is assured of prosperity in the coming year.

Snowdrops 'Candlemas bells' are another symbol, piercing the dark soil and sometimes snow in

honour of the blessed virgin Mary. We shall see if they do their duty this year.



A letter to the Vestry from Peter Christie

Dear Martin,

As you know, I have been playing the organ at Holy Trinity once a month for some time now. Sadly, I have come to a point with other pressures - principally at work - mean that I really have to give up at least some of my playing commitments if I'm not going to end up having to give it up altogether. Accordingly, and with much regret, I am writing to say that I will be unable to continue my place on the organist rota. I would hope, however, that I would still be able to help out on an occasional basis where possible. I will also continue to attend the 8.30 Eucharist when I can!

I have greatly enjoyed working with both Father Andrew and (especially) Father Paul, and I wish you every success in your current search for a new Rector. I am also grateful for the warm welcome and kind words which the congregation afforded me, and it has been a privilege to participate in the worship over the years.

With best wishes

Cost of Gloria

We ask for contributions, where possible, toward the cost of Gloria: please put your contribution in the brown envelope provided and either put it in the plate on Sunday or in the box at the back of the church, or send it to the Treasurer. If you have ideas about what you would like to see in Gloria those contributions also would be gratefully received.

GLORIA IS OUR FAMILY MAGAZINE.

Jim McAndie received this letter from
Colin O'Flaherty, Regimes Officer at HM Prison,
Edinburgh

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very prosperous New Year and to thank you for your continued support for the Christmas Gift Scheme.

The Christmas gifts collection for prisoners' children has again been very successful. One hundred and fifty children received gifts directly from the gift collection. With an average of four gifts per child that works out at approximately six hundred gifts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all personally on behalf of the children that received Christmas presents through the Christmas Gift Scheme 2008. Christmas day was made all the more special for these children due to your congregation's kindness and generosity.

As in previous years I will be donating the small amount of surplus toys to various good causes. Countless numbers of children will continue to benefit from your kindness and generosity throughout the year. On their behalf I would also like to thank you.

Colin O'Flaherty.

LENT 2009

Our Bishop will be joining us on the first Sunday in Lent at the 10.00am Eucharist, our 'Lenten all age worship'. His Lenten Appeal this year is for "Mary's Meals" (abroad) and for 'Faith in Older People'.

Gloria hopes to carry more information about these in March, and leaflets will be available in church as soon as they are received.

The team plans to offer a series of Lenten groups, morning and evening, in which we will experience different ways of praying and then share our responses. A list will be available for folk to indicate their interest, and further information will be available, probably via the pew leaflet.



Trinity Centre Film Club Thursday
5th February 2009

1.30 pm Trinity centre

The Painted Veil

Tea, biscuits and gossip to follow

Sunday Readings

February 1st Candlemas: to be arranged

February 8th Isaiah 40 21-31, 1 Corinthians 9 16-23,
Mark 1 29-39

February 15th 2 Kings 5, 1-14, 1 Corinthians 9 24-27,
Mark 1 40-45,

February 22nd Deuteronomy 5 12-15, 2 Corinthians 4
5-12, Mark 2 23-36; or
2 Kings 2 1-12, 2 Corinthians 4 3-6
Mark 9 2-9

Glass Pots/Jars

I have an enormous quantity of these suitable for jam, marmalade, chutney etc. Free delivery to anyone interested, or you can come and make your choice. Any left over will be put out for recycling so make your order a.s.a.p.

John Paul - tel: 810547

What Ought We as Christians to Know?

A series of talks and discussion about

God, Humanity and the Church

With

The Rt. Rev. Brian Smith

Tuesdays 24 Feb, 3 March, 10 March

7.30 - 9.00pm

General Synod Office, 21 Grosvenor Crescent,

EH12 5EE

**To book please phone 0131 5387033, or email Elspeth
Strachan**

Daily Eucharistic Readings

February 2 Presentation of the Lord, Luke 2 22-40

3 Mark 5 21-43

4 Mark 6 1-6

5 Mark 6 7-13

6 Mark 6 14-29

7 Mark 6 30-34

9 Mark 6 53-56

10 Mark 7 1-13

11 Mark 7 14-23

12 Mark 7 24-30

13 Mark 7 31-37

14 Mark 8 1-10

16 Mark 8 11-13

17 Mark 8 14-21

18 Mark 8 22-26

19 Mark 8 27-33

20 Mark 8 34-91

21 Mark 9 2-13

23 Mark 9 14-29

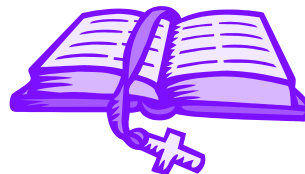
24 Mark 9 30-37

25 Matthew 6 1-6, 16-21 Ash Wednesday

26 Luke 9 18-25

27 Matthew 9 14-17

28 Luke 5 27-32



WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES

Sundays Eucharist 8.30am
Family Eucharist 10.00am
Eucharist 11.45am*
**(First Sunday of the month only)*
Evening Prayer 6.00pm

Wednesdays Eucharist 10.00am

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DEADLINES... You can greatly assist the production process by submitting information and articles as soon as possible and not waiting for the deadline.

The deadline for the March issue

is Sunday 15th February

Please send all material to Sari:

s.salvesen@btinternet.com

Tea and Coffee

Feb. 1st	Margaret Fairbairn	Julian Tennent
8th	Diana Dee	Cindy Sykes
15th	Jean Blackadder	Alison Brown
22nd	Ena Briggs	Alison Cowe

SIDESPERSIONS

Feb. 1st	Margaret Fairbairn	
8th	Jean Blackadder	Effie Bowman
15th	Jeremy Willing	Eileen Banks
22nd	Julian Tennent	Jim McAndie

READERS

Feb. 1st	Candlemas			
	Christopher Stephens	Astrid Ritchie	Alison Cowe	
8th	Wendy Wilkinson	Felicity Mackenzie	John Elcock	
15th	Sandy Wilkinson	Jeremy Willing	Judith Wilkinson	
22nd	Vicky Fletcher	Jim McAndie	Julian Tennent	

FLOWERS

Feb. 7th	Margaret and Christine Glass
14th	Margaret and Christine Glass
21st	Margaret and Christine Glass
28th	Lent, No flowers

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 1st We celebrate Candlemas.

3rd Trinity Centre Management Committee.

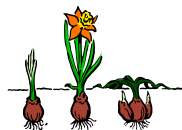
6th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession

**6th-8th Team Retreat. We welcome Tom Coupar to
preside at the 10.00am Eucharist.**

**24th Shrove Tuesday. Service of light 6.30pm
followed by Pancake party in the Day Centre.**

**25th Ash Wednesday. Eucharist with imposition
of Ashes 10.00am and 7.30pm.**

March 1st Bishop Brian leads our worship.



BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

Lent Starts on February 25th. The Bishop is appealing for Lent offerings to go to two projects:

At home: Faith in older people

Abroad: Mary's Meals.

Leaflets and further information will be available later in February and in March Gloria.