

# Holy Trinity Church News

## Advent 2017

### Wakey! Wakey!

If you are anything like me you will find it difficult to get out of bed on these cold dark mornings. It takes two alarms to drag me from sleep and out of bed at this time of year. There is always the temptation to just stay put, warm and comfortable. In some respect it is a metaphor for our Spiritual lives. We all like to stay warm and comfortable in our secure places. There is a very human tendency to retreat to the known and familiar in life. What is true in the ordinary things of life are also so, perhaps even more so, when it comes to our Spiritual life. It is here, above all, that we need regular alarm clocks, wake-up calls, to drag us out of cosy dreams and comforts and remind of us of what is truly important and needs attending to on our part.

The somewhat short Season of Advent is intended to be such an alarm clock. Do not make the mistake in thinking that Advent is a mere preparation for Christmas. To do so just puts it on par with the shopping and consumer frenzy that engulfs many at this time of year. Advent is indeed a time of preparation and anticipation but does so in a way that goes far beyond the tinsel and wrapping paper. It addresses our hearts and minds to reflect on the extent to which they are prepared to be open and receptive to God's grace and love. It challenges our lives and the choices we make daily to consider how they reflect and further the ways of God's Kingdom.

Each Sunday in Advent can act as a wake-up call to remind us of what we are really preparing for: to have hearts and minds open to receive the Saviour who comes to us as the baby in the manger: not just on Christmas Day but each and every moment of our lives. The problem is that most of us most of the time are rarely truly present in each and every moment. We are either living in the past, with all its regrets, hurts and failures or worrying about the future with its imagined possibilities, many out with our control.

Advent may be the time to let go of the past and let it be forgiven and healed. It may be the time to set aside our fears for the future, it is in God's hand. Advent invites us to live in that present moment with Immanuel, God-with-us. The only truly worthwhile and lasting preparation that we can do is make that space in our hearts and lives in which we can truly be present with the One who is always present with us. Most of us most of the time simply miss that. Advent can be a time of real transformation if we make the space. Remember transformed people transform lives.

At the very least we should allow our worship on each Advent Sunday to be a time in which we can draw aside from the 'muchness and manyness' of life and take the opportunity to refocus on God. In the end of the day that is what is most important to us, is it not?

May Advent be time of blessing and peace.

Rev. Kenneth  
Priest-in-Charge

## Forthcoming Events

**Sunday 3rd December:** Evening Service for the First Sunday of Advent at 6.30pm. Launch of our Advent Appeal in aid of the Bethany Christian Trust with tea and coffee to follow in the church.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Coffee Morning 10-12 noon.

Tea/coffee and mince pies in the hall, tombola, raffle, crafts and chocolate tombola in the church.

Come along and enjoy some early festive cheer.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January:** Burns' Night Ceilidh (postponed from December 1<sup>st</sup>) 7.30pm in aid of education in Swaziland. £5.00 includes light refreshments. All most welcome.

## Christmas Services

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am** Sung Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30pm Christmas Eve:** Christmas Eucharist with carols.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December:** 10.30am Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day.

## **Ministry Team**

### **Priest-in-Charge**

**Rev'd Kenneth Gibson**

tel 01382 535920 or 07825554419

### **Lay Readers**

**Linda Walls** tel 01382 533107

**Bill McFawns** tel 01382 796749

## **Services**

**Sunday Sung Eucharist 10.30am**

**Thursday Holy Communion 10am**

