

Holy Trinity Newsletter Lent 2017

From your Priest-in-Charge

Journeying with Jesus

The Season of Lent is often approached in two ways. The first is to give up something for Lent. We are all familiar with the idea of giving up chocolate, alcohol or coffee as a Lenten discipline. There can be little doubt that giving up on some of the things that are essentially luxuries is good and right in and of themselves, and often can do us some good as well. The discipline of denying ourselves something for a greater good has much to commend it.

The second approach, and one that is growing in popularity in recent times, is that of doing something for Lent. Many people give to a charity, such as our own Lenten Appeal for the Stay and Play initiative at St. Ninian's in Dundee. Others follow the line of doing a kind or helpful action each day of Lent. The decision to set aside a specific time daily for prayer and study, attending a Lent Study course, or just making the effort to attend church each Sunday through Lent are all to be encouraged as they are all beneficial to us and, hopefully, others. This approach is especially attractive to those who feel that they must do something actively for it to really be of value. The danger in this lies in the often disguised truth that we are really doing it for ourselves. So beware!!

I want to suggest a third option to approaching Lent; one that does not replace the other two but goes alongside them. This is the approach that can be described simply as 'letting go.' In the first two approaches we are 'giving up' and 'going without', while in the second we are 'doing something' for God or for others. This third way not only has the possibility of breathing new life into the other two but draws us into

the heart of what Lent is essentially about: becoming more honest, integrated and Christ-like people.

So what can we let go of? We could begin with our small, often limiting, understandings of God. We could let go of anything that may in some way diminish God's all-embracing love and compassion that enfolds everything and everyone. This includes the deserving and particularly those whom we declare to be 'undeserving.'

We could let go of all those past hurts, pains and disappointments that keep us from moving on and growing as Christians. The key here is that of forgiveness and compassion towards others and ourselves.

We could, as Jesus had to do in his wilderness experience, let go of our need to always be in control (power), the need to always be thought well of by others (prestige) and the need to draw our sense of well-being from mere things and worldly securities (possessions).

Lent is the invitation and opportunity to Journey with Jesus through His Temptations and onwards to the Cross and to the glory of Easter Resurrection. To do this we must be prepared to let go of all that hinders us and weighs us down on the journey. We must be willing to become empty, so that God may fill us with life. We must be less that God may become more. We must learn to wait before God with open hearts so that Grace, Love and life may touch us in the deepest places of our lives. We must long to be renewed from the inside out. Now that's what I would call having a good Lent! What do you think?

May God bless you through this Season of Lent and draw you ever closer to the source of Love, Grace and Compassion.

Rev Ken

Forthcoming Events

Lent Course

Rev Ken will lead a Lent Course on Wednesday evenings based on The Beatitudes. First meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th March. All welcome.

Lent Appeal

As Rev Ken has indicated in his message, this year our appeal is in aid of the Stay and Play project at St Ninian's Mid Craigie.

Please give generously to this very worthwhile cause. Gift bags will be available in the church to be returned on Easter Day.

Dates for your diary

Shrove Tuesday 28th February: Pancake Party and Musical Evening in the church hall at 7.30pm. Please come along and bring your favourite piece of music (CD or iPod).

Ash Wednesday 1st March: Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 7.30pm

Friday 3rd March: World Day of Prayer at Monifieth Parish Church (St Rule's building) at 7pm.

Saturday 11th March: Diocesan Synod 9.30-3.30pm at the Diocesan Centre in St John's church Dundee. All welcome, bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 26th March: Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30. Bring your mother or your granny to church, bring your children.

Sunday 9th April: Palm Sunday Service at 10.30am. Come and hear the Palm Sunday liturgy and receive a palm cross.

Holy Week Services

Wednesday 12th April: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm

Thursday 13th April: Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7.30pm

Friday 14th April: Good Friday 12-1pm Prayers before the Cross.

Sunday 16th April: Easter Sunday Sung Eucharist at 10.30am.

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Ministry Team

Priest-in-Charge

Rev'd. Ken Gibson tel. 01382 535920

Mobile: 07825554419

Lay Readers

Mr. Bill McFawns

Mrs Linda Walls tel. 01382 533107

(If you require a visit or wish to talk with any member of the Ministry Team then please contact them using the numbers above.)

Baptisms & Weddings

Please contact Rev'd Ken Gibson in the first instance

Services

Sunday 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursday 10am Holy Communion