

Holy Trinity Church Newsletter

August 2021

Dear All,

First of all, a big thank you to everyone for the warm welcome you have given both of us, even though social gathering restrictions were unfortunately still in place for my licensing. Colleen and I look forward to getting to know you and hearing what God has been doing in your lives.

All of us have been affected by COVID in some form or another, whether through direct illness or just having our freedoms curtailed. Living under the constant anxiety of whether we or our loved ones would get it next, how it would affect us, and what would be the long-term effects of the illness. As things open up so we need to be mindful of what we have been through and need to take stock. We will need to be gentle with one another as we slowly discover what will be our 'new' normal. Some of us may want to bounce back faster than others, while the more cautious will take longer. Just because we can now open everything up doesn't mean we have to do it, so instead our plan will be to re-introduce things slowly. This will be our strategy as we go forward, small gentle re-introductions of things, as we evaluate what we can re-introduce, when to do it, and what may have to be postponed for the future.

For those wanting pastoral support, the team are now able to once again begin visiting, so please get in touch with Linda or myself and we will arrange for someone to visit you.

Blessings in Christ

Rev Martin

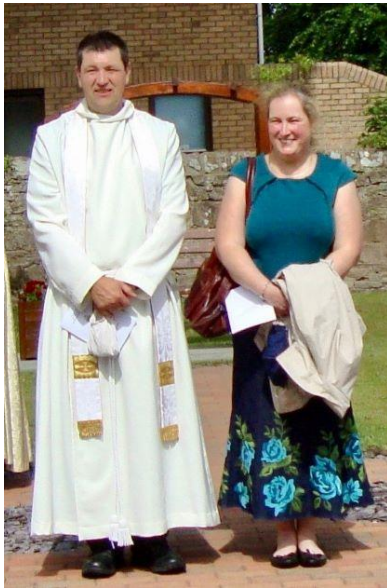
Services

Sunday 10.30am: Eucharist in church

**Wednesday 8pm: Night Prayer
via Zoom**

Scottish Charity No. SC008095

Rev Martin's Installation Service at Holy Trinity



Martin and Colleen

Congregation and guests enjoying the sunshine



News from eSwatini

The Diocese of Swaziland Elective Assembly met last week to elect a new bishop. After many rounds of voting the candidates remained deadlocked with neither getting the 2/3 majority needed for election. The process in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa now calls on the provincial bishops to meet and decide on the appointment of the next bishop.

This will be a time of considerable anxiety in the diocese so we will share election results as soon as we receive any news.

Please keep our friends in eSwatini in your prayers. The civil unrest continues and Covid19 and food shortages are seriously affecting the population.

The lifting of Covid restrictions on 9 August.

Some changes in church-

The two Chairs and prayer desks (Priest's and Lay Reader's) will come back to their normal positions (they've been in the Chancel during lockdown).

The blue ribbon blocking off certain rows and seats will be removed as will the markers on seats showing those that can be occupied.

The seats which used to be in the Chancel (currently stored in the Hall) will gradually reappear.

The need for face coverings in the building remains and the procedures for using hand sanitisers on entry, leaving the building plus pre and post communion are unchanged. While the 1 metre distancing rule has also gone, the Vestry encourages everyone to remain careful and to be respectful of everyone else's space. Based on recent Sunday attendances, there is ample seating for all with sufficient distancing. (No need for seat booking.) The Usher on duty will continue to direct the flow of people for Communion.

While post service refreshments are now allowable (with conditions), we are not going to restart these right away but will monitor the situation over the next while. There is no compulsion to do everything straight away. Step by step will be our guideline.

If you have any questions or concerns, do please get in touch with Rev Martin or anyone on the Vestry who will be happy to help.

Pastoral Care

If you require pastoral care then please contact our Priest Rev Martin Allwood on 01241 851920, email revmartinallwood@gmail.com, Linda Walls 01382 533107, email linda@fswalls.org, and Fiona Buchan 01241 857464, email fionabeetle@yahoo.com are also available.

If you know of anyone in need of a visit at home or in hospital please let us know.