

SPOTLIGHT ON DUNNOTTAR

Rev Rosslyn Duncan welcomed the congregation to the first service after Epiphany and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

In her address to the children, she told them that the Bible was a book full of autobiographies and biographies and explained to them what this meant. She said that in Sunday School they would be studying the Gospels, which are the most important biographies about Jesus and they would begin with the Gospel of Mark.

Rev Duncan said that her sermons for the beginning of the year would be based on the Gospel of Mark and today's was entitled "why baptism?"

She explained that baptism in the Church is one of the most important celebrations (along with Communion) conducted throughout the year and that the story of Jesus' baptism is found in all four Gospels.

Jesus was not baptised to get a name or get repentance. His baptism was a ceremony when he received the blessing of God. His baptism was the only time that God, the Father, God the Son and the God the Holy Spirit were all present.

Jesus became one of us living among us and he was baptised for all our sakes so that we would be forgiven for our sins, weaknesses and failures and get a new start and be washed clean. The baptism of Jesus was unique because "the heavens were torn apart and spirit descended like a dove." When a person is baptised they receive the blessing and grace of God.

Rev Duncan said that she planned to visit the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee during her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She said the Dead Sea was non functional and devoid of life due to the large concentration of salts and chemicals in it because there were no rivers running out of it. The Sea of Galilee, on the other hand, has fish and other creatures living there because there were rivers flowing into it and out of it. She said we should be like the Sea of Galilee in our daily lives, receiving God's blessing and passing on our love, care and help to others, not like the Dead Sea which does not sustain life. She distributed prayer cards and asked the congregation to pray for someone while holding the card and then pass on to the person afterwards.

Rev Duncan conducted the service at Edenholme on the Sunday afternoon.

The Guild met on Tuesday January 10th when Ann Chalmers spoke about her work with Clan.

The Friendship Coffee mornings began again on the 12th January.

The Kirk Session meets in the Upper Room on Wednesday 18th January

The January Communion service will be held on 29th January at 10.30 am in the Church and at 2.30 pm in St. Bridget's.

Advance notice of a Burns' Concert to be held in St. Bridget's Hall on 11th February at 7.30 pm. was given. Tickets priced £6 can be obtained from Allan Cairnduff, George Coutts or Forbes Bain.