

CONTACT

The Newsletter of Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

No 32 April 2006

Methodist

Minister

Rev Deborah Cornish, 22 Mortimer Court, Dalgety Bay (822556)

St Margaret's

Priest-in-Charge

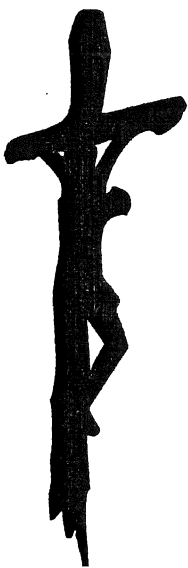
Revd Canon Dr David Campbell, The Rectory, 17 Ardeer Place, Dunfermline
(723901)

Church Telephone No 418752

Dear Friends

Its official! Spring is here, the clocks have sprung forward an hour, and the daffodils are beginning to flower and the birds are busy making their nests.

With Spring comes the promise of Easter, resurrection and its promise of new life and new beginnings. But we're not there yet. We are still in the season of Lent – a time of spiritual pilgrimage when Christians throughout history have found time to reflect on the life of Christ and the struggle of his followers.



The first disciples struggled with Jesus' talk of dying, it was all too difficult. This is the part of the Christian calendar that people today still struggle with, still ask questions of, 'Why did he have to die?' 'Could there not have been some other way?' There are plenty of Christians who will prefer to ignore the season of Lent, perhaps celebrating Palm Sunday with singing and praising, shouts of acclamation – then bury their hands in the sand as the Church revisits the Passion of Christ in the days that lead to Easter Day. Holy Week will be avoided, Good Friday is for other people but come Easter Day! Alleluias will once again be sung.

The Christian journey of faith consists of valleys and mountain tops, rough terrain and easy walking, of skipping and dancing, singing and shouting, but also crying, fear and uncertainty, but ultimately hope that the God in whom we move and breathe and have our being travels with us.

The early Church used the season of Lent to teach those new to the faith the story of God as known in and through Jesus Christ. On Easter Day these new Christians would be received into full membership of the Church, and everyone present would remember their own baptismal promises to follow and serve Christ in acts of worship, prayer, learning and caring.

During the days leading up to Easter there will be a number of opportunities to share in worship at Rosyth and reflect on the story of Christ, culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter Day itself. I look forward to sharing this journey with you, and together deepening our knowledge and love of God.

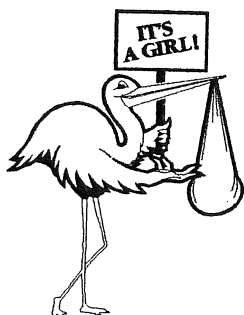
May you know the joy of Christ and the hope of his promise.



Deborah

Family News

Dena Anderson passed away quietly on the 1 March, having spent a number of weeks in Queen Margaret Hospital. Her funeral was held at the church on Monday 6 March. Please hold her family and friends in prayer over the coming weeks and months. Dena had played her part in the life both of St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodist churches at various times, and will be much missed.



The Pearson family - Helen, Stuart, Abigail and Robert - have had a new addition; Kathryn was born on 23 March. Congratulations to all of you, we obviously look forward to meeting Kathryn soon.

Congratulations to David Campbell whose colleagues have elected him a Canon in recognition of his service to the Diocese over a number of years including his work with young people for more than a decade. He is now a member of the senior clergy (6 in total) of the diocese who meet frequently with the Bishop to discuss issues ranging from strategic policy concerning the diocese as a whole and the cathedral in particular.

Quiz for NCH Funds

Thank you to all who took part in the Flowers: Garden and Wild quiz. It raised £325 for the National Children's Home which was a great result. Thirty two answer sheets were returned including two who scored 100. Very well done to the winner Mrs Weir of Dunfermline. Thank you to all who persuaded others to take part.

Mary Dempster

Our thanks also to Mary for organising this annual quiz. (Editor)

Church Gift Day and Anniversary

The Saturday morning was enjoyed by various members of the church family who came and shared their stories, reminisced over Martin's display of past and present members from days gone by, and in the process enjoyed a cup of tea and piece of cake.

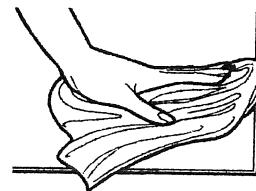
The amounts received to date for Gift Day are as follows with the 2 previous years for comparison.

		2004/05	2003/04
Personal donations	£2983	£2817	£2922
From organisations	380	1000	1171
	(to date)		

Of this year's figure from personal donations £220 has been specified for Property Fund.

There was a good congregation at our Church Anniversary service the following day which was conducted by the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan.

Dust Busters Since the last Contact the church has had a Spring Clean. Young and old, and those in between joined forces, bringing dusters, rubber gloves, and mops and buckets to transform the dark recesses of the building.



Prayer Group Continues to meet on the first Monday evening of each month, and prayer requests can be placed on the Prayer Tree in the church corridor or in the Minister's basket in the vestry. Thank you to those of who have shown an interest in becoming part of a Prayer Chain. This will be discussed when the group meet on the 3 April, and I will then be in touch with those of you who would like to be part of the prayer life of the church. This will include those who are housebound as well as active - prayer is something we all can and should do in Christ's name and for His sake.

District Day

A District Event was held on the premises on Saturday 25 March, which saw 90 people (plus children and babies) descend on us from around the District. The day was led by the District Team and Connexional Officers, Peter Pillinger and Jonathan Kerry. The subject was Fresh Expressions of Church.



You wouldn't believe what some churches are doing to encourage others to know the Lord Jesus. As the Edinburgh & Forth Circuit assesses its strategy for the future, including mission and outreach together with the way we use our buildings, this will be a subject that our churches will be looking at over the coming weeks and months. It was a fantastic day, and everyone left the building buzzing with ideas and beginning to think afresh about how we do church, and how we make it relevant for others.

Mothers and Toddlers Group

Well its been a busy time for the toddlers already this year. Due to the demand we are now running toddlers on a Wednesday morning as well as our usual Friday morning. However waiting lists for both sessions are still increasing every week. Anyone who wishes to put their name down on the waiting list for either or both sessions, please contact Helen on 419259.

Our plans for the next few months are our Easter party for the children and we have already booked our transport for the summer trip. We would like to thank the Church for allowing us the use of their hall for an extra morning a week. It allows more parents to bring their children along to have a few hours of fun and interact with other children.

Helen Gibb and Elaine Lambert



Dancing Group

We now have a children's dancing group meeting in the hall on a Thursday evening. The group is called Innovation School of Dance and teaches modern styles of dancing. It caters for children of 5 years and upwards. For further information, see the pink poster on the notice board in the kitchen.

The Diocesan Synod 2006

The year is 664 AD. The location is the bleak Yorkshire coast where many centuries later Count Dracula landed on English soil. Troublesome priests are around. The occasion is the **Synod of Whitby**, a seminal event in church history. Roman monks, who had been sent by Gregory the Great to convert the "English" to Christianity, found that missionaries from Ireland observed Easter at a different time from that appointed by the Roman church. After much controversy a synod was held to resolve the difficulty. The Venerable Bede describes the action:-

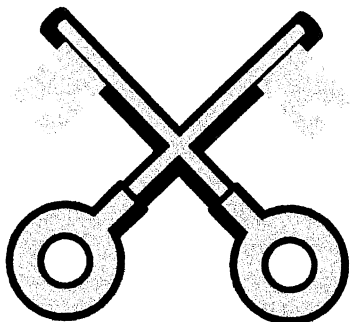
"Bishop Colman spoke for the Irish, and said: "The Easter I keep I received from my elders. All our forefathers kept it after the same manner, and it is the same which John the Evangelist is recorded to have observed."

Then Wilfrid spoke for the Roman practice: "The Easter which we observe, we saw celebrated at Rome, where the blessed apostles, Peter and Paul, lived, taught, suffered, and were buried - we saw the same in Italy and in France, when we travelled through those countries on pilgrimage. I found that Easter was celebrated at one and the same time in Africa, Asia, Egypt, Greece, and all the world, wherever the Church of Christ is spread abroad, except only among these and their accomplices in obstinacy, I mean the Picts and the Britons, who foolishly, in these two remote islands of the world, and only in part even of them, oppose all the rest of the universe."



Wilfrid continued: "You sin if, having heard the decree of the apostolic see, of the universal Church, the same confirmed by Holy Writ, you refuse to follow them. Though your fathers were holy, do you think that their small number, in a corner of the remotest island, is to be preferred before the universal Church of Christ? And though that Columba of yours was a holy man, powerful in miracles, should he be preferred before the most blessed prince of the apostles, to whom our Lord said, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven?"

When Wilfrid had spoken, the king said to the Irish bishop, "Is it true, Colman, that these words were spoken to Peter by our Lord?" He answered, "It is true, O king!" Then said he, "Can you show any such power given to your Columba?" Colman answered, "None." Then, added the king, "Do you both agree that these words were principally directed to Peter, and that the keys of heaven were given to him by our Lord?" They both answered, "We do". Then the king concluded "And I also say unto you, that Peter is the doorkeeper, whom I will not contradict, lest when I come to the gates of the Kingdom of Heaven there should be none to open them." The king having said this, all present, both great and small gave their assent and, renouncing the more imperfect institution, resolved to conform to that which they found to be better."



Would that all synods were so! Debate conducted, arguments put forward, minds convinced, opinions changed. The time for momentous change comes but rarely to these sceptred isles, not so remote now as in Gregory the Great's time. Indeed England - the home of the senior primate of the Anglican Communion - might well do with another Synod of Whitby!

But I digress, because my message is what happened in Perth at *our* **Diocesan Synod** on 11 March - the first anniversary of Bishop David's consecration in 2005 - attended by David, Lesley and myself from St Margaret's. The day started with **Holy Eucharist** in the Cathedral, during which Synod was instituted. Bishop David welcomed folk new to synod and various guests from other churches. As always, we remembered those who have gone on to glory during the year, notable among whom was Canon Ron Leigh, familiar to many of us.

The first formal item was the **Adjustment to the Roll of Members**, which has reduced from 48 priests to 47. Several folk have retired and there have been one or two new appointments. Canon Bob Fyffe leaves us on appointment as Secretary General of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, while Kelvin Holdsworth has been appointed as Provost of Glasgow Cathedral. This is probably the first wave of major retirements forecast a couple of years ago. But of note is the upcoming curacy of Tembu Rongong at Holy Trinity Dunfermline.

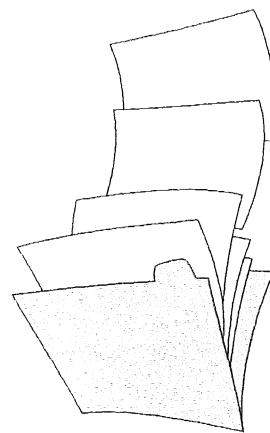
The **Bishop's Address** is invariably awaited with bated breath, more so this year as we did not have a sermon during the Eucharist. The following points were made:-

- David summarised his year by saying that it was a steep but short learning curve, during which he had been made to feel very much at home in small but committed communities, full of spirituality, keen to grow and to integrate new ways, both locally and nationally.
- David noted 3 major events, all of some significance to us in Scotland. The first is Lambeth 2008, highlighted because of the problems facing the Anglican Communion - can we find resolution, or are we on a slippery slope? Next, the G8 Conference at Gleneagles which brought together major world leaders - but do they engage in problem-solving? Finally, does the 10th Anniversary of Dunblane give us opportunities for engagement?
- The main substance of David's address was the Review of the Diocese which he initiated shortly after his consecration. The main question to be answered, the basic challenge to be addressed, is "how do we engage with the more fluid, secular society that is Scotland today?" That's where growth and outreach lies.

- David went on to say that the disposition of clergy – not quite *flying* clergy – and the balance between clergy and laity, and a year of stewardship, will all be key elements of the way ahead. He saw this as “change as we go”, with the occasional concerted effort, and – for this purpose – he intends to set up a working party of clergy and laity. We can’t afford to delay, and in particular we can’t afford to lose the clarity of the *outsider* – himself. We should have modest visions, but be vigorous in our commitment.
- David’s final point was a few thoughts on our link with the Diocese of Pelotas in Brazil. He is committed to links, but asks if the link with Pelotas has run its course. Can it be revived or renewed? The link is currently under review, and clergy and lay reps have had the opportunity to comment.

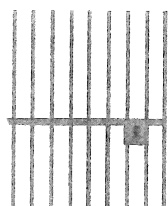
The main business of synod is the **Receiving of Reports** from various boards and their pendant committees. The following points are worth highlighting:-

- Regarding finances, and even though the diocese and most charges are a bit strapped for cash, quota is being reduced from 16% to 15½%. This is to promote a message of moving to a position of efficiency, of what we hope to achieve, the start of something bigger.
- Alterations to church buildings is returned to every year. The message is that the rules are mandatory, non-negotiable, subject to Historic Scotland approval and in accord with Canon 35. Just as well we don’t have any church buildings at St Margaret’s!
- On the Mission and Ministry Board front, 2 committees which are not task-oriented – the Social Responsibility and the Education committees – see a wind of change blowing. Will the diocesan review offer a solution? Will new structures lead to greater efficiency? Will former good practice be lost in the spindrift?



The **Report from the Diocesan Child Protection Officer** invariably generates some emotion, this year producing a suggestion that the requirements of this protocol might be going a bit too far. Bishop David, however, stated that to follow the requirements to the letter was a question of good management, that it must be done right, and that it offered *protection for adults* as much as for children

Elections to Various Responsibilities produced 2 notable appointments:- Canon Val Nellist to the Provincial Board for Episcopal Elections, and the election by his peers of our own David Campbell to be a Canon of St Ninian’s Cathedral.



The **Mothers’ Union** always amazes by its involvement in our world, ranging from the MUPPET group at Perth Prison – which Charmian Paterson briefed us on some years ago – through work with female prisoners at Cornton Vale, to the invaluable work done through the Contact Centre in Kirkcaldy. Display boards on the subject of domestic violence are in preparation for display in each church, and we were told that NO SMOKING notices will be required from 26 March!!

The one really emotive issue this year came during **Business Notified to Synod**. The very important subject of St Serf’s Retirement Home at Tayport was raised by Canon Bob Gillies, who is Chaplain of the Home. A major renovation programme costing some £600K has been completed, funded to a degree by a loan from General Synod Office. But now that the work has been completed, a further period of uncertainty is entered during which 3 options are being floated: maintain the status quo; hand over to a social responsibility landlord; or close the home and sell the property. Needless to say, the final option has raised an uproar around the province at various levels – and it is almost scandalous that such should be contemplated. Thankfully, Bob was able to report one good thing to come out of the refurbishment programme, caused by

relocating some residents to Lane Home in Newport. Weekly services were held at Lane Home while the St Serf's folk were there, but the long-term residents have asked for these services to continue – and this is happening.

Synod had its moments, but overall it was a happy occasion with no great points of contention, and one or two highlights. Alison, Bishop David's wife, helped to serve us all with lunch. There were not too many troublesome priests around – even from Ireland – and ever mindful of the weather, we all got home in time to watch Ireland thrash Scotland!! (*a hard fought game with Ireland gaining a narrow victory - Editor*)

Alan Taylor Lay Representative

~~~~~

## Methodist Church in Great Britain working with Sia'atoutai Theological College

Here is some news from Marlene Wilkinson, a Mission Partner now working at the Theological College in Tonga. A full up-date from her can be found on the Mission notice board in the crush hall.

Tonga Link Letter No. 1. (March 2006)  
E-mail: marlenewilkinson2003@yahoo.com

### What have my first impressions been?

**Heat and high humidity** – I really struggled with this for the first three weeks, and could barely get anything done. Someone told me that this is the hottest for three years. Fortunately, things have cooled off a little at the moment, especially at night, which at least allows for some reasonable sleep. From about 11 am to 5 pm is still pretty unbearable though, except when the rain storms come, which cool things off but add to the humidity. Everything becomes so damp, and I was even drying out the matches with the hair-drier!

**Coconuts** everywhere. I love the milk from young coconuts

**Bells** – I live very close to the College bells, and they ring very often and for very long (it seems!), starting at 6 am, except for Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, when they start at 5 am. They ring to wake up the campus, to announce worship (1 hour, and half an hour before, and then at the time of the start), to start each class, and numerous other times to call the students to 'work', choir practice, and things I haven't yet discovered!



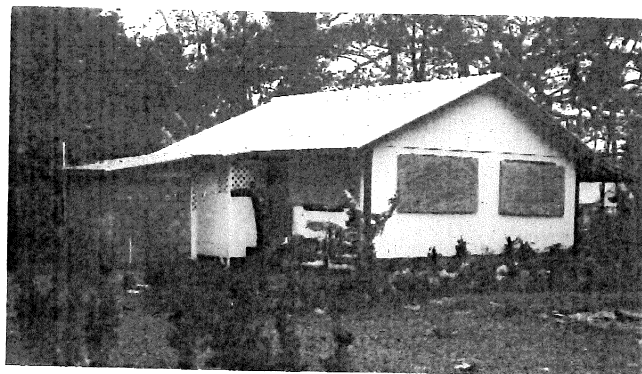
**Worship** –several services. Each morning in the week at either 8 am or 6 am lunch time on Fridays, three services on Sunday. The students gather long before the services start, and sing amazingly. Here is a photo of the College Chapel, with its roof shaped like an upturned canoe.

of Tongatapu. (Tonga consists of about 170 islands, though not all are inhabited). I have been taken into Nuku'alofa (the capital of Tonga, and about a 10 minute drive away) a few times for shopping, and have been driven along the coast line there, but that, of course, is not where the best beaches are. It is awesome, though, to see the sea there and realise how very far you need to go before encountering a major land mass.

## Sia'atoutai Theological College

The students arrived back on 1 Feb, and classes started on 6. I am teaching 4 courses (in English) – 1<sup>st</sup> year B.D. 'New Testament introduction', 1<sup>st</sup> year Diploma 'Canon of the New Testament', first and second Year B.D. 'Greek', and 2<sup>nd</sup> year B.D. 'New Testament Epistles'. There are about 160 students (which is amazing given that the population of the country is only about 100,000). The College is of the main Christian denomination here in Tonga - the Free Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Student life is divided into three main 'parts' – worship, academic work, and physical work (which involves keeping the campus tidy – which is no small task, as it covers quite a big area – and growing fruit and vegetables for the College in the 'bush'). All students and most of the staff live on campus, some with their families, so we have a total campus population of around 600 people. I, too, live on campus, and have a small, but adequate, house with a little bit of a garden. Here is a photo of the back of the house when the windows were boarded up for the hurricane. One of the students is assigned as my 'house-girl', and she comes to help clean etc.



Tonga is close to the **International Date Line**, and is one of the first group of islands to greet the 'new day'. This struck me particularly on my first Sunday here at worship in the College Chapel – Tonga 'begins' the Sunday Christian Worship which then, little by little, is picked up around the world by the world-wide body of Christians. The worship then 'passes' to my Christian friends in turn, in Australia, East Asia, India, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America, and finally reaches my friends in the Canadian Rockies. It makes the part of the hymn "*hour by hour fresh lips are making your wondrous doings heard on high*" seem very real.

**Prayer requests:** Marlene has asked us to pray for:

- understanding and sharing, for mutual growth, between the church in Tonga and the Link Churches.
- the work and witness of the Christian Church in Tonga.
- the work of the Sia'atoutai Theological College, the staff, students and families
- the Royal family and government of Tonga, and for all its people

~~~~~

Holy Week



- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Tuesday 11 April | 2 pm Service of Holy Communion |
| Thursday 13 April | 3 pm Anniversary & Fundraising Group meet |
| Friday 14 April | 7 pm Paschal Meal – Tickets £5 each. Please see flip chart in crush hall for ways to help and ordering of tickets |
| Sunday 16 April | 2.30 pm Good Friday reflections |
| | 9.30 am Sung Eucharist for Easter Day |
| | 11 am Family Service – Easter Gardens & Egg Hunt |

Network News

District Day is on Wednesday 3 May and will be held at Scottish Churches House Dunblane. For more information see the notice board in the crush hall under Women's Meetings. Maureen Anderson of Abbeyhill Church extends an invitation to her Commissioning Service as Women's Network President in Scotland. This will be held on 9 September in Granton United Church at 2 pm. It would be nice if there were some of our members there to support Maureen. I would recommend reading the Network News on the stand in the crush hall as it contains some very interesting items.

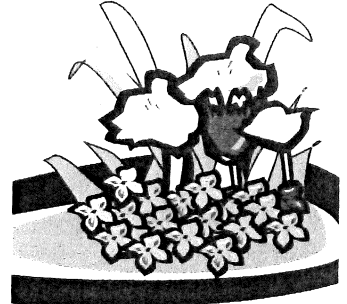
Mary Dempster



90th Anniversary Display and Flower Festival

Over the weekend Friday 19 to Sunday 21 May we are putting on a display of the history of Rosyth Methodist Church and a Flower Festival. Martin Rogers will be arranging the historical display drawing material from our Church archives. However, for one of the displays on "People", he would like to feature as many people as possible who have attended the Church over the years - including our present congregation. Do you have a photograph you can contribute (black and white or colour, new or old)? These can be returned after the event. Please see Martin if you can help.

The Flower Display is on the theme of Hymns and Songs. A number of outside groups and individual are being invited to take part. If you are a dab hand at flower arranging why not have a go yourself. There will also be a need for people to be on hand to welcome visitors and steward the event. If you wish to provide a display or can help with stewarding, please see Gwyneth Kirby.

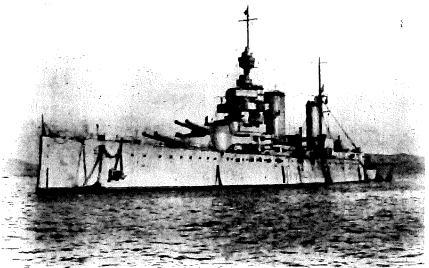


Rosyth Garden City Association

The Association's annual exhibition will be held from Saturday 27 May to Saturday 3 June in Rosyth Parish Church. The display will be focussing on the period 1900-1930 and in particular, some notable 90th Anniversaries of events which took place in 1916 - the Dockyard becoming operational, the Battle of Jutland and the



occupation of the first house in Rosyth Garden City. We are looking for the loan of any artefacts from this period such as clothing, household equipment, games and toys. There will be a knitting corner where children can try their hand and we need some short plastic knitting needles which the children can use. There is a need for a number of people to steward the event and if you can help you are invited to attend a meeting to be held in the Parish Church on Tuesday 11 April at 2 pm or please speak to me.



Martin Rogers

Deborah's Ordination

Rev Deborah Cornish is to be ordained on Sunday 25 June during the time the Methodist Conference is meeting in Edinburgh. The ordination of ministers will take place at a number of different venues in the City and Deborah's (along with 8 of her colleagues') will be at Murrayfield Parish Church. This will be an all ticket event and only a small number of places will be available to Rosyth Church. Please see Howard Kirby if you would like to attend. Before that (on Sunday 28 May) Deborah's testimonial service will be held in our Church. This is open to all but it will be a Circuit service and the Church is likely to be full to capacity. Please remember Deborah in your prayers as she approaches her ordination - a very special time for her.

Property Improvement Fund

As explained in the last Contact we will be re-submitting one of our applications for grant under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. To meet one of the concerns expressed by the grant body (Biffaward) we will be distributing a leaflet about the Church to over 500 households in the surrounding area. This will draw attention to the activities which go on in our Church and seek their thoughts on the facilities which are lacking in Rosyth. Volunteers will be required to deliver the leaflets so please help if you can.

Advent Tells us Christ is Near
(A poem by Arabella Katherine Hankey (1834-1911))

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1.
Advent tells us Christ is near;
Christmas tells us Christ is here!
In Epiphany we trace
All the glory of his grace.</p> <p>2.
Those three Sundays before Lent
Will prepare us to repent;
That in Lent we may begin
Earnestly to mourn for sin.</p> <p>3.
Holy Week and Easter then,
Tell who died and rose again;
O that happy Easter Day!
'Christ is risen indeed' we say.</p> | <p>4.
Yes and Christ ascended too,
To prepare a place for you;
So we give him special praise,
After those great forty days.</p> <p>5.
Then, he sent the Holy Ghost,
On the day of Pentecost,
With us ever to abide;
Well may we keep Whitsuntide.</p> <p>6.
Last of all, we humbly sing
Glory to our God and King,
Glory to the One in Three,
On the Feast of Trinity.</p> |
|---|--|

Promise Auction and Tea Dance

As part of our 90th Anniversary fundraising efforts we are holding a Tea Dance with Ken Jackson on Saturday 17 June during which we will hold an auction of promises. We do hope this will be an enjoyable and fruitful way of contributing to our Property Improvement Fund.



The idea is that friends and members will promise to offer some skill or service eg gardening, dressmaking, ironing, baking, car cleaning, card making, day out, tickets for an event, a meal out. Hopefully other friends and members will be generous in purchasing these services and thus boost our funds. A list of promises will be available during the months of May and June and this can be added to until the time of the auction. If you are unable to come to the auction you will be able to put in a sealed bid for any of the items.



If you are able to offer a promise for the auction please complete and return the slip below in the style of the examples below.

Examples

Jean Hall	4 cakes
Evelyn Kenny	car trip to a local National Trust property
Jean Hall	cooking a meal for 4 in her home

Promise Contributions

Name	Promise
------	---------

Please return this slip to Evelyn Kenny or Jean Hall

Dates for your Diary



April

- Tues 4 Joint Church Council/Vestry meeting 7.30 pm
 Wed 5 Christian Aid Daffodil Tea at Parish Church 2-4 pm (Tickets £1)
 Continuing Congregational Development meeting 7.30 pm
Sun 9 *Palm Sunday. Worship led by Dr Anne Pennington*
Tues 11 *2 pm Service of Holy Communion (Rev Deborah Cornish)*
 3 pm 90th Anniversary/Fundraising Committee
 Thur 13 7 pm Paschal Meal
 Fri 14 2.30 pm Good Friday Reflections
Sun 16 *9.30 am Sung Eucharist for Easter Day Celebrant and Preacher Revd Canon*
Easter Day *Dr David Campbell*
11 am Family Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish (Easter Gardens and Egg Hunt)
Sun 23 *Worship led by Rev David Campbell (Holy Communion)*
6 pm Taize Service conducted by Revd Canon Dr David Campbell
Sun 30 *Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish. This will include the baptism of Rory Alfie Forbes and will be followed by the Annual Church Meeting*

May

- Sun 7 *Worship led by Rev David Cooper***
Sun 14 *Worship led by Mr Lyn Smalridge (Family Service)*
Communion Service conducted by Rev Deborah Cornish
 Fri 19 - Sun 21 Historical Display and Flower Festival in our Church
Sun 21 *Worship led by Ms Cilla McKenna*
Thur 25 *7.30 pm Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day*
Sun 28 *There will be no 11 am or 6 pm Services*
Circuit Service at Rosyth at 5.30 pm

~~~~~

The next edition of Contact will be published on 18 June. All contributions to Martin Rogers by 11 June please.