

CONTACT

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

No 34 September 2006

Methodist
Minister

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Dear Friends

Where do the months go? The summer holidays we were anticipating and looking forward to are now, for most of us, a distant memory and a collection of photographs. Before you know it the holiday brochures for 2007 will be appearing on our doormats.

Just as time passes quickly, this is the beginning of my third year as a minister within the Edinburgh & Forth Circuit, the Harvest season is upon us again, and we start the second half of our 90th Anniversary celebrations.



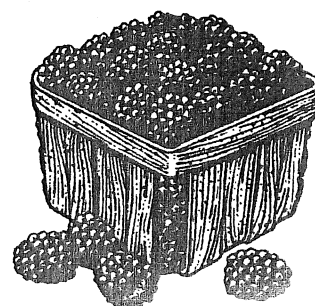
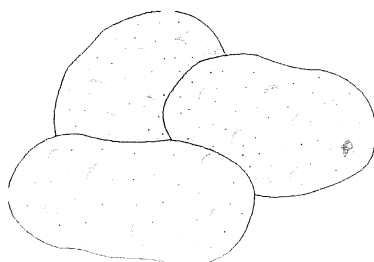
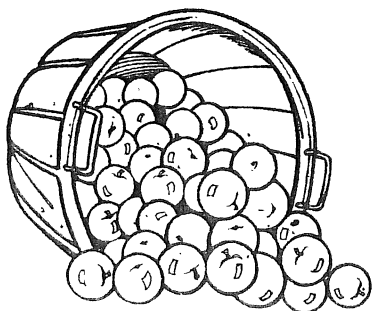
There is much to look forward to, and as two denominations we will try to discover ways we can together serve Christ in and around Rosyth. Sharing worship and fundraising for Christian Aid are already part of our regular commitment, but maybe we will be called to develop a new piece of work – who knows what God has in store for us?

Two things are certain:

Firstly, I look forward to seeing you at the various events planned, whether for worship, fellowship or business.

Secondly, and most importantly, the God we worship and serve is faithful, constant and ever present – Thanks be to God!

Deborah



Family News

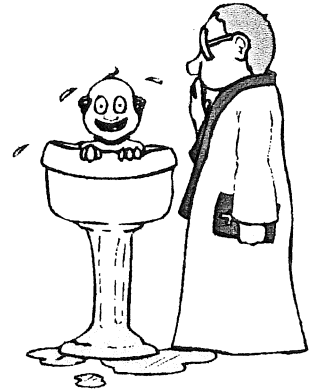
At the end of August we said 'good bye' to Mrs Troop who died at the age of 100. She was a truly remarkable lady, and I ask you to continue to hold her family in your prayers as they learn to adjust to life without her.

During the summer the following infants have been baptised:

June: Farren Louisa Whitehill
July: McKenzi-Lee George Harvey
Sept: Michael Robert Harris

We also look forward to the baptism of Rebecca Debbie Victoria Williamson on the 22 October and the wedding of Amanda and Brad during the afternoon of 11 November.

There are a number of significant birthdays and anniversaries (ending in "0") to mention.



Belated congratulations to June Baines who was 80 years old on 14 June.

Edward Salthouse celebrated his 10th birthday on 20 August and, as it was a Sunday, the congregation were able to sing Happy Birthday to him.

Martin Rogers was 60 years old on 3 September (and yes he does now have his bus pass).

Looking ahead, John and Rosemary Cowell will be celebrating their diamond wedding in October.

It has been great to see Jimmy and Olive Lawson in Church on a number of occasions over the past 2 months. The Songs of Praise event on 13 August was an extra event in our 90th Anniversary calendar largely prompted by the knowledge that Jimmy and Olive would be in the area at that time. The congregation for the event was swelled by a number of their friends who came along to share some time with them. Jimmy and Olive returned to Australia on 18 September.

Thanks

I would like to thank all those who sent me cards, flowers and gifts and to friends who visited during my recent spells in hospital - it was much appreciated.

Ruby Lucas

Overseas Mission. I would just like to say thank you to all who have contributed to Missions over the last 20 years while I have been Treasurer. Evelyn Kenny has now taken this over and all boxes etc should be passed to her. Thank you again for your support.

Norah Lauder

In my opinion Rosyth Methodist and our friends in St Margaret's well and truly obey the John Wesley Rule - Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can as long as ever you can. During my period of illness, they remembered me in their thoughts and prayers. Then when I was able to come back to Church my welcome by one and all was truly a warm Christian one that made me feel better so I thank you all. It well and truly makes me feel closer to our Jesus who is our helper and guide in our faith. He shows us the way and makes us stronger when weak. Thanks again.

Eileen Wright

To mark my 60th Birthday, I chartered the Maid of the Forth for an evening cruise. In lieu of birthday presents I suggested contributions to the Church Property Improvements Fund and the sum of £370 was donated. My grateful thanks to all who contributed and to those who sent me birthday cards.

Martin Rogers

St Andrews West Area Council Praise Service

The great day finally arrived, when all the Episcopal Churches in the St Andrews West Area met together for Holy Communion in the St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy, on 3 September. There were over 250 in the congregation, from all 11 charges: Aberdour, Burntisland, Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Kinross, Kirkcaldy, Leven, Lochgelly and Rosyth. And each church brought its own Paschal Candle, in fine array behind the Bishop's Throne, lit at the start of the service - and backed by a wonderful cross from Taizé.

The scene was therefore set as the massed choirs sang "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!" and the Bishop and Clergy processed to their places. Each congregation was welcomed in turn - to great acclamation - and with many feelings of goodwill, one of the aims of the service! Then, to the singing of "We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord", the young people built a cairn of stones from each church in front of the Altar, symbolising our coming together, and marking the place where we joined in worship. The rector of Kinross, Marion Keston, spoke of the symbolism of cairns to the young people, highlighting that great feeling of reaching a cairn on the top of a mountain, in itself symbolising the efforts of many towards one aim.



The service followed along the familiar lines of the Eucharist, beloved by so many, heightened by beautiful singing from the choir, and ably lead by our new curate, Tembu Rongong - whose amazing voice added to the glory of our worship. The lessons and gospel, from Jeremiah, Ephesians and Matthew, were read by members of the congregation, and our own Trish Heywood, Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union, lead the Intercessions.

In his sermon, Bishop David spoke of the wonderful thing we have done in coming together in this manner, in this old industrial area of Fife, a land of new opportunity and challenge. A land of growth, of new homes, and therefore an area for mission. He said that we often know what we need to do, but then say that it is beyond us. Jeremiah said that the people of Israel were of a similar mind, but that God would enable them to get off their knees. Then why not us?

The offertory hymn was that old favourite of mine "Lord, the light of your love is shining Shine, Jesus, Shine", leading to our Eucharist, when 5 stations were necessary to enable all to make their communion. During communion, the choir sang Stainer's "God so loved the World", followed by music from Taizé, that great Christian community in France. As everyone milled around - order in chaos - there really was an amazing feeling of being one people, in God's service, worshipping together, praising the Lord.

Finally, it all had to come to an end as we sang our Recessional Hymn "Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!", a very fitting end to a wonderful service, one which we must repeat again soon!

Alan Taylor Lay Representative

Christian Aid

The Rosyth Christian Aid Committee raised £4355 in the past year, a very satisfying result, The Beetle Drive and supper held in our Church on 23 September was the first event of the new year and the Committee are grateful for the continued support from the Methodist and St Margaret's congregations.

Deborah's Ordination

Yes Deborah is now ordained to be a "Minister of the Word and Sacraments in the universal Church." The Ordination Service was held on 25 June at Murrayfield Parish Church of Scotland during the time the Methodist Conference met in Edinburgh. This was one of 8 venues for Ordination Services throughout the City - Central Hall and Nicolson Square Churches being two of the others. Each Service was conducted by the President or a former President of Conference. The service at Murrayfield was led by Rev Graham Carter, the newly elected President for this coming year, assisted by the Vice President of Conference, Deacon Myrtle Poxon. The preacher was Dr Jocelyn Bryan from the Wesley Study Centre, Durham. Deborah was well supported by her family and friends from Saltash and from Rosyth, Kirkcaldy and Granton. Many of the stewards were drawn from the Rosyth and Kirkcaldy congregations and with David Campbell also assisting with the communion it must have seemed almost like a home from home for Deborah. The act of ordination requires the laying on of hands and three people take part in this - the President, a representative of the World Church (in this case Rev Dong-Hwan Kim from Korea) and an Assisting Minister chosen by the ordinand (in Deborah's case, Rev Ian Souter.) It was a very special occasion for Deborah and her fellow ordinands and indeed for all of those who shared in the service.

Hope Builders - Poverty Housing - Let's Nail It

The Methodist Prayer Handbook is a vital tool for being better informed both about the needs and joys of Global Methodism and around the British Districts. For those who already use the handbook you will have noticed that The Scotland District is the focus of prayer on the 30th day of each month and one of the concerns that the district is taking seriously is that of Habitat for Humanity. As part of my professional development as Advocacy Officer for Scotland I need to go and build somewhere.

The decision has been made that this should take place 4-18 November in Tanzania. This will enable me to speak from personal experience of building and being involved with Global Village teams when speaking to various groups. In addition to the building experience, the fund raising aspect is also part of the professional development and I am responsible for raising some of the cost of this exercise. On **14 October from 4 pm 'til late** there will be **Open House** at 33 Lady Road, Edinburgh EH16 5PA when everyone is invited to come and have some refreshments, meet with friends, make new ones and purchase something from the bring and buy stall. (Gifts for this will be gratefully received). Donations to Habitat for Humanity Build in Tanzania can also be made at this event or sent to me, cheques being made out to Habitat for Humanity.



Many thanks

Janice M Clark

Church Finances

Our Church financial year ended on 31 August and the bad news is that we had a deficit of over £2000. The good news is that this deficit was only because we did not receive the expected Tax Refund in respect of Gift Aid. If this had been received before the end of August as it normally is, we would have had a surplus of over £1800.

Our expenditure in the present financial year will increase significantly. The amount we pay to the Circuit to meet the cost of ministers' salaries etc (known as the Circuit Assessment) has increased by £2600. The other major factor is our fuel bills. Over the last year we have been cushioned from the worst effects of the significant price increases because we were on a 3 year fixed price contract for electricity. That has now come to an end and we will be paying a lot more for electricity in the coming year. This is coupled with a substantial underpayment on our gas bill last year which will have to be paid off this year. The Church's budget for 2006/07 provides for an increase of £1000 in the money received through collections and Gift Day contributions. Please do your bit to help make this happen! Even then a deficit of around £1500 is forecast. (This does not take into account the delayed Tax Refund for 2005/06.)

As most of you will be aware **Ron Dempster** is standing down as Church Treasurer having served 6 years in the post. All who have had dealings with Ron will be aware of the meticulous and conscientious way he has carried out his responsibilities. In some ways the Treasurer's job can be compared to an iceberg with only a small part of the work being visible and an awful lot hidden under the surface. Probably only Mary really appreciates the amount of time which Ron has put into the job. So from everyone in the Church heartfelt and grateful thanks to Ron for all he has done to keep our finances in good order. Being a glutton for punishment Ron has been taking on other responsibilities to fill the gap in his leisure time. He will be taking on responsibility for Gift Aid Work from John Cowie and will also be auditing the books of the Church organisations in future. Between them, Ron and Mary are now looking after the weekly newsletter.

Provisional Financial Report for the Year Ending 31 August 2006

CHURCH ACCOUNT

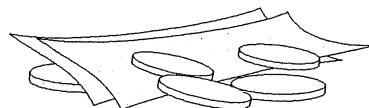
Receipts

Collections & donations	18114
Gift Day (individuals)	2883
Tax refunds (Gift Aid)	(-157)
Bank interest	<u>925</u>
	21765

Payments

Circuit assessment	23239
Connexional funds	150
Tax refund disbursements	0
Printing/stationery	628
Other	<u>761</u>
	24778

Deficit for the year of £3013



PROPERTY ACCOUNT

Receipts

St Margaret's	2100
Playgroup/Parahandies	2431
Sundry	1145
Gift Day (organisations)	<u>980</u>
	6656

Payments

Insurance Premium	1241
Gas/electricity/water	1462
Caretaking/cleaning	637
Repairs & maintenance	1880
Furniture & equipment	233
Telephone	<u>309</u>
	5762

Surplus for the year of £894

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### Property Improvements

Last year we submitted two grant applications under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme to enable us to fund a number of improvements to our Church property. Unfortunately both were turned down. One of the bodies, Biffaward, encouraged us to resubmit the application if we could meet their concerns on three issues they raised.

At the beginning of this year the Church Council decided to continue to seek grants for an amended and slightly reduced package of measures. One of the concerns raised by Biffaward was the absence of community involvement in our plans and it was to meet this concern that we prepared and issued a questionnaire to homes in the local area and to users of the premises. Having carried out that exercise we have now re-submitted our application to Biffaward. This may be in time to be considered at their Trustees meeting in December but it is possible that it will have to wait until March of next year. This application covers the resurfacing of the car park, provision of fencing on the Elder Lea side of the property to form an outside play area, replacement of notice boards, new flooring in the hall and new cupboard accommodation.

The other Landfill Tax application related to the creation of a new back access to the premises through the room next to the kitchen, the creation of a uni-sex toilet for disabled users out of part of the ladies toilet and the complete refurbishment of the ladies and gents toilets. The Church Council decided to drop the idea of refurbishing the toilets and to seek grants for the creation of the new rear access and the toilet for disabled users. This is estimated to cost just over £10000. Applications for grants towards this were made to 3 bodies. As reported in the last Contact the Rosyth Gothenburg Trust awarded us £1000 towards the cost. An application to the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust was turned down but the third application to Awards for All was successful and they awarded us a grant of £7500. Publicity for this grant may appear in the newspapers in a few weeks time. So we have the bulk of the finance in place and the balance will be met by the money in the Property Improvements Fund. Applications for planning permission and a building warrant have been submitted. It is planned to carry out this work in the Spring.

The creation of a new rear access will enable us to close off the existing access through the kitchen and draw up plans for a refurbished kitchen as another phase of our property improvements.

When the Property Improvements Fund was launched the target was £12000 which was to be in addition to monies received through grants. So how are we doing?. The total raised to date is about £5000 of which about half was raised from the special events being held this year to mark the Church's 90th Anniversary. Tax refunds of £330 are expected relating to the personal donations which have been made and St Margaret's have pledged to make a donation. So we can say that we are about half way there. About £1000 of this money has already been spent on new carpet tiles and the fees for planning permission and a building warrant. It is hoped soon to have a visual indicator in the crush hall to show the progress towards the target. Please support the Fund if you can.



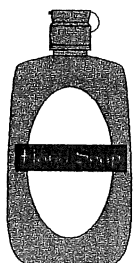
Earlier I mentioned the money raised through the 90th Anniversary events and I think it only right that we record our grateful thanks to all those who have helped in the organisation of the events and those who have supported them. The bulk of the work has been undertaken by a small group of ladies and our particular thanks go to them. The 90th Anniversary programme of events is continuing so please support the following events.

October 28  
November 11

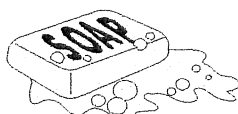
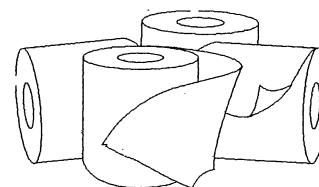
Tramps Supper  
Christmas Fair and Silent Auction

**Martin Rogers**

## Harvest Festival



As part of our Harvest thanksgiving we are again collecting items for Euro-Save. They take the goods to various European countries particularly Croatia where they do most of their work among the poorer communities in the rural areas. As last year, the main items for collection will be toiletries and a box has been placed in the crush hall for donations.

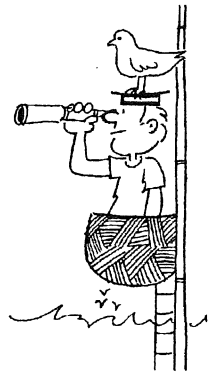


## Church Parades and All Age Worship

Attendances by our uniformed organisations at Church Parades has been at a low level for some time now. There was a discussion about this among the leaders and Deborah to see what might be done to improve the situation. The outcome was a decision to limit the number of Church Parades per year to three linking in with significant festivals - Harvest, Christmas and Easter. In the week or so prior to the Christmas and Easter Parades, people from the Church would go along to the organisations and take a part in the programme by leading an activity suitable to the age group of the children and young people. The organisations, for their part, would try to arrange an activity after the Parade Services to encourage a larger attendance. The Parades will normally be held on the second Sunday in the month as at present but this may be changed on occasions - to avoid school holidays, for example. In the months when there is no Church Parade, All Age Worship will be held on the second Sunday of the month.

## Explorer Scout Sets Sail

Shannon McWilliam, one of our Explorer Scouts, has been selected to be part of a small team sailing aboard the legendary Gypsy Moth IV. Sir Francis Chichester first sailed the ship round the world 40 years ago and now the ship is to repeat that original journey but with young people at the helm. Shannon will be joining the ship for the leg from Thailand to Sri Lanka from 2-19 January. Well done to Shannon.



## Smiling

Ruby Lucas contributed these verses which she copied from the ambulance wall when being transferred from Ninewells Hospital to Kirkcaldy Victoria.



Smiling is infectious  
you catch it like the Flu.  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When they smiled I realised  
I'd passed it on to them.

I thought about my smile and then  
I realised it's worth.  
A single smile like mine could  
travel right round the earth!

If you feel a smile begin  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick  
and get the world "infected".

## Computer - Him or Her?

In some languages such as French and Spanish, nouns are designated as masculine or feminine. Is a computer more masculine or feminine? Here are 4 reasons put forward by a group of men (as to why it should be feminine) and a group of women (as to why it should be masculine).

### For feminine

- No one but their creator understands their internal logic
- The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to anyone else
- Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay on accessories for it.

### **For masculine**

- In order to do anything with them you have to turn them on
- They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves
- They are supposed to help you solve problems but half the time they ARE the problem
- As soon as you commit to one you realise that if you had waited a little longer you could have had a better model

(Adapted from an item in the Civil Service Pensioner)

## **Dates for your Diary**



### **October**

|             |           |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish</b>                                                                                                                                 |
| Mon         | 2         | Prayer group at the Manse 7-8 pm                                                                                                                                          |
| Fri         | 6         | Pastoral Visitors meeting                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>Worship led by Mrs Pauline Culshaw (All Age Worship)</b>                                                                                                               |
| Mon         | 9         | Property Committee                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Tues</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>2 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Deborah Cornish</b><br><b>7.15 pm Service to celebrate the work of NCH the children's charity,</b><br><b>at Central Hall</b> |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>Worship led by Ms Cilla McKenna</b>                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>22</b> | <b>Worship led by Revs Deborah Cornish and David Campbell (Holy Communion). Followed by lunch and the showing of a DVD on Fresh Expressions</b><br><b>No Evensong</b>     |
| Sat         | 28        | Tramps Supper                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>29</b> | <b>Worship led by Rev Peter Clark (World Mission)</b>                                                                                                                     |
| Mon         | 30        | Leadership Team meeting                                                                                                                                                   |

### **November**

|            |           |                                                                                                        |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>Worship led by Mr Martin Bethell</b>                                                                |
| Tues       | 7         | Scout Group Open Night 6.30 pm                                                                         |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>Worship led by Mr Malcolm Wylie. (Remembrance Sunday/All Age Worship)</b>                           |
| <b>Thu</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>7.30 pm St Margaret's Day Agape and Supper</b>                                                      |
| Sat        | 18        | Christmas Fair and Silent Auction                                                                      |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>9.15 am AGM of St Margaret's congregation</b><br><b>Worship led by Dr Jeremy Bradshaw</b>           |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish (Holy Communion)</b><br><b>6.00 Evensong led by Sandra Young</b> |

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The next edition of Contact will be published on 26 November. Any contributions to Martin Rogers by 19 November please.