

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

No 35 December 2006

Methodist
Minister

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

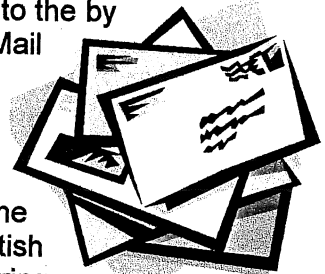
St Margaret's
Priest-in-Charge

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

Church Telephone No 418752

A Festive View from the Rectory

Today is November 7th and, just as I write, it has been announced to the by now customary great accompanying shock and horror in the Daily Mail and other places, that the Royal Mail is to remove all signs of Christ from their Christmas stamps for 2006. Well, people in Middle England and other places too will undoubtedly be lamenting the passing of yet another old and well-loved tradition – namely the association of Christmas with some kind of religious event! The removal of Christ from Christmas is nearly complete within British society and as ever we are easily tempted to stand idly by and wring our hands in anguish. As Christmas gives way to Winterval and other more supposedly PC names it can be depressing indeed for the Christian person. But for us, as those Christian people, Christmas is not just associated with some kind of religious event – it marks our celebration of THE religious event *par excellence* – the coming in flesh of God to earth. The Incarnation. But not this year and not ever I hope, will we stand wringing those hands in hopeless anguish or desperation.



This year our congregations are spearheading a simple, yet vitally important effort by all the churches to put the Christ child back into the Christmas celebrations of the people of Rosyth. We are doing just a little by way of claiming back the season, which for 2000 years has been ours (but which we took over from the Romans of course!) by both right and also by definition. And we are doing it simply by taking advantage of the fact that Christmas is a season when we can. On **Wednesday 20 December at 7.30 pm** we will be holding some great open-air carol singing at our church and then inviting the people who



join us inside for mince pies and something to drink. So simple and yet so vital that we use what vestiges of religious sentiment there is left in Scottish society in order to do what we can to advance the work of God in this place. It is a vital task. Join us please as we stand up for Jesus.

With all good wishes to you and yours for the forthcoming season – our season, whatever the Royal Mail may think and do!

David

Editorial

I expect this coming year to make increasing demands on my time in my role as Chairman of the Property Committee and I have been considering whether I can shed some of my other responsibilities. I have been compiling this magazine for 7 years now and perhaps now is the right time to hand over the reins to someone else.



Currently the magazine is produced 5 times a year and a fair amount of time is required to assemble and "type up" items and produce them in a form which is attractively laid out and illustrated. The magazine has to be photocopied, stapled and put in envelopes for the Contact distributors and there is also the task of maintaining the lists of people who receive Contact. If you are interested in taking on the role or would like further information, please speak to me or Deborah.

Martin Rogers

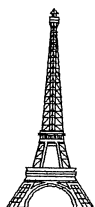
Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to Brad Smith & Amanda Currie who were married in our Church on Saturday 11 November. Amanda's family have been part of the Church for many years and Brad's dad was a brickie who helped to build the Church. He probably didn't think then that he would return 30 years later to watch his son getting married!

Congratulations to Deborah and John Cornish who celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on 13 November.

David Morman has been in the news recently as he has become one of the few people to have given 100 donations of blood and blood plasma. Well done David.

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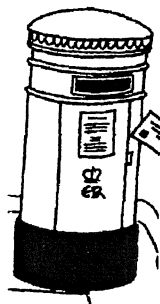
## Quiz

This year's festive quiz is on Capital Cities. It will be available at the beginning of December with proceeds in aid of the NCH. See Mary Dempster for your copy.



## Post Box

Most of you are familiar with the post box which appears in our Church crush hall at this time of year. It is a convenient means of exchanging cards with friends in the Church. A full address is not required but please ensure that surnames are included on the envelopes. The cards are sorted and laid out on tables in the lounge to be collected after the service. ***There is no delivery service so please do not put cards in the box for people who do not come to Church regularly.***



Our Explorer Scouts are taking part in the Fife Christmas Post and cards can be sent to most parts of Fife for 17p. There will be a collecting box in the Church until 14 December. See poster on notice board for further details.

## Toy Service

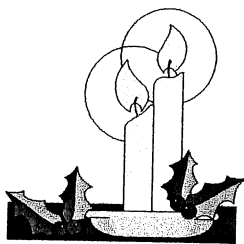
Our Christmas Toy Service will be held on Sunday 10 December and the gifts which are brought along will be going to needy children in Romania. These children will not have much in the way of toys and so we ask you to be as generous as possible.



## Christmas Greetings

May you know the real sense of Christ's love, joy and peace this Christmas time.

**Deborah, John & Alan Cornish**



I have been reading again my copy of the History of Christmas Cards. It is only a thin book but has in it some 96 illustrations of Christmas Cards throughout the years since the 1840s. Only one card - from about 1890 - has a Christian theme, a Nativity scene. So this card is sent to you with a Christmas wish - may the peace of the Lord be with you this Christmas and always.

**David Slater**

To all my friends at Rosyth, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New year.

**Dennis Cook**

## Gift Aiding

I have been the secretary for Gift Aiding for more years than I care to remember. As folks may know we have had several changes within the church in relation to official posts such as Howard Kirby taking over as treasurer from Ron Dempster, David Salthouse taking over as Senior Steward from Howard etc. Ron has now taken over the secretary's post for Gift Aiding and has taken on the role of church auditor as well again. I continue to be chairman of the finance committee and secretary to the church council.

May I take this opportunity to thank all Gift Aiders for their generous support over the years gone by and to ask you to support Ron in his new role as well in the years to come. For information the current statistics are as follows:

No. of Gift Aiders - 37

We have gained one donor and lost one during the year

Claimable total for tax year 2005/2006- £17,717 approx.

Last year's claimable total was - £14,784

Tax rebate this year is - £4,946 approx

Last year's tax rebate was - £4,117



If you are a tax payer and Gift Aid your giving to the church (all giving not just Sunday collections) for every pound you give the church, we can claim back a further 28p per pound from the tax man. Your giving then becomes £1.28. All you have to do is sign a form, no personal details are needed none whatsoever! So if you are currently not a Gift Aider please speak to Ron at church or give him a call on 01383-721252.

Regards

**John Cowie**

### From a 1980s Magazine

They've brought you up to date Lord, down at St Cecilia's.  
They've pensioned off the organ and they're praising with guitars.  
They've done it for the young ones, we want to draw them in  
But I do wish they could worship without making such a din.  
For I'm growing rather deaf Lord and when there's all that noise,  
It gets so very hard Lord to hear your loving voice.  
They've written brand new hymns Lord with tunes that I don't know,  
So I hardly ever sing Lord though I do love singing so.  
They're very "go ahead" Lord, they're doing "series three"!  
But the words are not so beautiful as the others used to be.  
They've modernised the Bible, the Lord's Prayer and the Creed  
When the old ones were so perfect that they filled my every need.  
My mind's not quite as agile as it was some years ago  
And I miss the age old beauty of the words I used to know.  
It's very clear to me Lord I've overstayed my time  
I don't take to change as kindly as I did when in my prime.  
But it can't be very long now before I'm called above  
And I know I'll find you there Lord and glory in Your love.  
But 'til then I'll stick it out here though it's not the same for me  
But while others call you 'You, Lord', do You mind if I say 'Thee'.  
*(Thanks to Iris lines for providing this).*



### Property Improvements

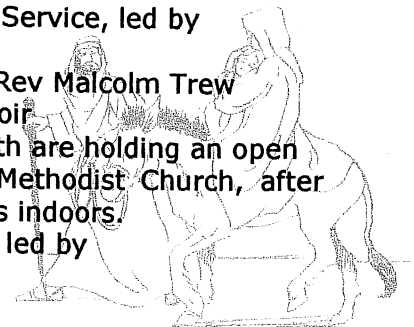
A lot of work will be going on in our premises over the next few months and perhaps up to the summer holidays. We are in discussions with a group who provide work experience for jobless people and it is hoped that they will be decorating the inside of the Church sanctuary and perhaps doing some outside work. Work on a new rear access through Room Number 1 and the creation of a disabled toilet out of part of the ladies toilet is scheduled for the Spring.

We should shortly hear if a grant application we have made to Biffaward has been successful and, if so, we will be buying new chairs and notice boards, erecting a fence on the north side of the building, resurfacing the car park, updating our storage accommodation (new cupboards) and laying a new floor in the hall. If anyone has any expertise or contacts in any of these areas please speak to me as I would like to establish some small groups to progress these various items.

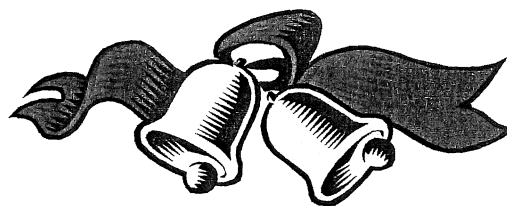
**Martin Rogers**

### Celebrating Christ's Birth Together - Our Christmas Services

- |              |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 10    | 11 am All Age Worship with Parade & Toy Service, led by Rev Deborah Cornish                                                                                                        |
| Tuesday 12   | 2 pm Service of Holy Communion, led by Rev Malcolm Trew                                                                                                                            |
| Sunday 17    | 6 pm Carol Service, with St Margaret's Choir                                                                                                                                       |
| Wednesday 20 | 7.30 pm - The Churches Together in Rosyth are holding an open air carol concert in the grounds of the Methodist Church, after which there will be tea/coffee & mince pies indoors. |
| Sunday 24    | 11 am Joint service with Holy Communion led by Rev Malcolm Trew                                                                                                                    |
| Monday 25    | 6 pm Nativity & Christingle service<br>10 am Christmas Day Family Service                                                                                                          |



## Dates for your Diary



### December

- Sun 3** *Worship led by Rev David Cooper*  
**Sun 10** *Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish (All Age Worship with Parade & Toy Service)*  
**Tues 12** *2 pm Holy Communion led by Rev Malcolm Trew*  
**Sun 17** *Worship led by Mrs Pauline Culshaw*  
*6 pm Candlelight Carol Service, with St Margaret's Choir*  
**Wed 20** *7.30 pm - The Churches Together in Rosyth open air carol concert in the grounds of the Methodist Church*  
**Sun 24** *Joint service led by Rev Malcolm Trew (Holy Communion)*  
*6 pm Nativity & Christingle service*  
**Sun 25** *10 am Christmas Day Family Service*  
**Sun 31** *Worship led by Mr Brian Curtis*

### 2006

#### January

- Sun 7** *Worship led by Rev Geoffrey Baines*  
**Sun 14** *Worship led by Mrs Mary Kidd (All Age Worship)*  
**Sun 21** *Worship led by Mr Ian Paterson*  
**Thur 25** *Church Council 7.30 pm*  
**Sun 28** *Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish (Covenant Service)*  
*Followed by Fresh Expressions - What Next?*  
*6 pm Evensong led by Marc Tempelhoff*

#### February

- Sun 4** *Worship led by Prof Morley Sewell*  
**Sun 11** *Worship led by Rev Jim Jones (All Age Worship)*  
**Mon 12** *Property Committee 7.30 pm*  
**Sun 18** *Worship led by members of Rosyth Church*  
**Wed 21** *7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist*  
**Sun 25** *Worship led by Rev Canon Dr David Campbell (Holy Communion)*  
*6 pm Evensong led by Myra Tarr*

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The next edition of Contact will be published on 18 February. This is our annual report issue. All contributions to Martin Rogers by 4 February please.

