



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

No 37 April 2007

Methodist

Minister

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

St Margaret's

Priest-in-Charge

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A View from the Rectory

My dear church family

It is, for the Christian person, the day of all days. Yes, we love Christmas, we love Pentecost. Some of us even love Advent and Lent, those great seasons of preparation and focus. But for the Christian person Easter, April 8th 2007 AD, is **the** season which is at the beginning, middle and end of our faith. It has been the belief of the Christians since Paul that if Jesus had not been raised from the dead then his and our faith was and is in vain. In other words, it would be a sham. A hollow empty memorial of someone who lived a good life for a time, who carried out miracles, who taught with authority, who made a difference to those on the margins of his peasant community but who ultimately was shown to be a failure.

A failure because he did not do what his people considered that he should do. And what they thought that he should have done was this – that he should have inaugurated a new kingdom – a new set of values, a new way of living, that was unbothered by the Roman lords and masters, and that in fact overcame their rule over Judaea. Instead he lay cold and dead in a borrowed tomb. Instead his disciples were scattered. Instead one of them had possibly killed himself, another had certainly denied him and many of the rest were in what may have been fear and desperation. Hopes shattered. No future. Three wasted years of following the Galilean's shadow. And for what? To be the very broken men and women they had now become.



And yet we believe, without empirically verifiable proof, but made apparent to us through the eyes of faith and the traditions of the scriptures and the church, that there was no failure here. Jesus was cold and dead and yet three days later he was announced and seen as alive by the women who followed him everywhere and also by his closest disciples.



Friends, there is something truly extraordinary and inexplicable here. A man raised from death to life. Gloom scattered, joy unending. A new revitalised heart for mission among the followers and the very beginnings of a new religion. This was to be a religion which majored not on death but on a following of the crucified and risen one. It was to be a religion which would seek to show to the

world what an abundant way of living could be like. It was to be a religion that would focus heavily on the extravagant love of God and that would demand that all its followers would make that love so very widely known. Yes, we are Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Deborah joins me in wishing you and yours a very happy Easter.

David

Family News

Proud mum Susan Hitchon reports that her daughter Katie and her drama group, Take 3, have recently been competing in the Scottish Community Drama Association's annual competition. They have won the Fife Division and the East of Scotland Division Awards and will now compete in the Scotland Championships in Plockton in June. Congratulations to Katie and her group on this achievement and our best wishes for further success in June.



Thanks

May Hopper would like to thank all her friends in the congregation for their support following the trauma of the break in at her home. She is very grateful for all the kind thoughts, cards and flowers. It is good to see May back to her old self again.



I have been most heartened and uplifted by the prayers, get-well cards, visits to the hospital and my home, telephone enquiries, flowers, cakes and all the good wishes from my dear friends in both congregations following my recent double knee replacement operation in the Victoria Hospital. Thank you all very much.

Alan Taylor

Church Gift Day and Anniversary

The amounts received to date for Gift Day are as follows with the previous year's figures for comparison. The figure for personal donations exceeds the target of £3000 and we are grateful to all who helped make this possible.

	2007	2006
Personal donations	£3239	£2983
From organisations	£925	£980
	(to date)	

Dr Jeremy Bradshaw was the preacher on our Anniversary Sunday which was an enjoyable occasion. Clearly he had put a lot of thought into the service which reflected the Anniversary theme looking at the past and present and what the future might hold.

Reports from Organisations

These reports missed the deadline for the last issue of Contact.

Parahandies Disabled Club

The Parahandies Club meets each Monday. Membership numbers are up slightly over last year. Despite overall small numbers, a varied programme of visits and activities is being organised. This year the programme will include a Summer day trip (venue yet to be decided) as well as a visit to Lochore Meadows and various other lunch venues.



On this occasion, mention should be made of the helper ladies who tirelessly cook the dinner every week, thanks to Marion, Audrie, Mary, Mary & Dorothy, also to Dave for his help with the washing up. The Club meets each Monday at 10.15 am for tea/coffee and a natter, lunch is usually at about 12 noon, with a finish at about 2.00 pm. Anyone that would like to join the club would be made most welcome. Further information is available from me.

Peter Merckel

1 Mortimer Court, Dalgety Bay. Telephone 822940.

6th A Rosyth Brownies (Monday night)

The Monday Brownies are doing very well. We have 23 girls meeting every week and a constant feed from Rainbows. Most of our girls are continuing on to be Guides. Along with our Christmas party, pancake and Easter celebrations, we enjoyed the Carnegie Hall panto (Snow White). We have a lot of enthusiastic Brownies which means many badges being awarded. We also do lots of

craft projects, some of which are quite messy like bird feeders (great fun). Many thanks to our parent helpers who come along on a rota basis and to Snowy Owl (Vicky) who comes every week - the Brownies couldn't run without her help.

Suzy Knight (Brown Owl)

6th A Rosyth Rainbows (Wednesday night)

I have been the leader of this group for the last three and a half years and, in that time, I have seen a lot of new Rainbows and a lot of Rainbows going up to Brownies. We do a lot of games and activities including a theme night on Hawaii when the girls made their own flowers and skirts. Our Hallowe'en Party was a good night for catching a sugared doughnut and dooking for apples. For Valentine's Day we decorated biscuits with hearts. We chose China as our country for Thinking Day. The girls learned a bit about China, they made fans and lanterns, ate Chinese food and dressed up in Chinese costume. We planned something for Mothers Day and are arranging a Fund Raising activity. I could not do this without the support of my 2 helpers - Hazel Rogers and my daughter Melissa. I would like to thank them both and also the parents for their support with our activities. We have had another good year - thank you.

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Sign for Friendship

Susan Warren, Rainbow Leader

Guide Report

Our Guides are growing in numbers and we get a good number of girls joining from the Monday and Wednesday Brownie Packs. The programmes used are very varied and the girls are very independent with making up their own week to week programmes. Anyone with a talent or a talk which would benefit the girls is welcome to come along on a Monday evening between 6.30 and 8.30 pm to share with us. We have done an intensive first aid course, been to the pantomime and are starting a fund raising project which not only helps the Guides funds but also children with leukaemia. We are still looking for helpers.



Mandy Ward

Queen's Scout Presentations

On 28 March, four of our Explorer Scouts, were presented with the Queen's Scout Award by the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Margaret Dean. This is the highest award in the Scout Movement and the 4 recipients, Laura McLuskey, Shannon McWilliam, Christopher Dewar and Michaela Monese can be justly proud of their achievement. It is also a credit to our Explorer Scout Leader, Terry O'Neill, who provides a very full and varied programme for the Explorer Scouts thus giving them the opportunity to gain this award. The only other occasion when members of our Scout Group received this Award (King's

Scout in those days) was in the 1940s. The presentations were made as part of a Fife Area Presentation event and, fittingly, it was our Group who hosted the event. Laura and Shannon were also presented with Explorer Belts following their journey through Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic last year. Our congratulations to them all.



(Photo by Helen Morton)

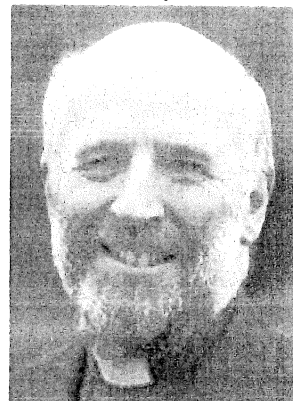
New Accounting Requirements

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator has announced that all accounts maintained by charities must be kept in Pounds and Euros. This is preparing the way for closer ties with Europe if Scotland separates from the United Kingdom after the forthcoming election. This takes effect from **1 April**. Details of exchange rates etc are given on the back page of this issue of Contact.

Summary of Diocesan Synod 2007

The Diocesan Synod was held at St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on Saturday 3rd March 2007. Betty Terry and I attended as Alan Taylor was indisposed. It began with Holy Communion and the Synod meeting followed after coffee.

The Bishop was in the chair and, after apologies, welcomes and remembrances, the Bishop gave his address. He began by saying that Synod was always linked with his consecration in 2005. It was a new start for him and for the Diocese. He felt things were moving on since then and most people are facing new challenges. He was sad to receive the Chancellor, Lord Jauncey's, resignation due to ill-health, but delighted that Mr Bill Anderson had accepted the post. He thanked Randal McAlister for his service as Dean of the Cathedral and welcomed Canon Bob Gillies as his successor. The Diocesan Review was encouraging and a summary is now available. It tells it how it is and realism of the church situation is essential. He said that he was no longer the "new kid on the block" and the buck now stops with him



Churches are declining and we have to show how we might move from decline to growth. We need to be not just welcoming but to reach out actively and engage with parents and children. The fundamental thing is God's will for His church and our need for that discernment. Some people think it is all about ideas and vision. We have to take vision and make it actual. What it means in the everyday life of the congregation and the ministry of the clergy and the congregation is working together at all times. There is also the relentless factor – we choose in faith what we want to do and stick to it. There is a sort of contract of leadership – it comes from both clergy and laity. It withers if rejected.

The Bishop spoke of our future link with Pelotas in Brazil. He felt that the time was right for a natural end to that link. He was about to explore the link with Meath & Kildare and bring it into better shape. He hopes to identify other links before the Lambeth Conference in 2008. The bishop went on to ask us to consider the continuing difficulties of the Anglican Communion. There are entrenched conflicts where people think "if I am losing you must be winning". We must work harder to understand and empathise. He went on to say that he was deeply concerned about conflict nearer home. He had had letters from clergy and laity which he should not have had. He was unhappy that conflicts were not being resolved within vestry meetings. Communication failures were serious in some cases. We must beware of too much informality and lack of consultation.

He concluded by saying that we must commit to the business of the church, but it must also be the business of God and His kingdom. The rest of Synod business was concluded with little controversy and ended shortly after lunch.

Lesley Yellowlees.

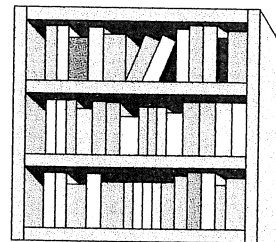
Gift Aid

Six of our Church family have recently agreed to gift aid their collections and donations to the Church. Their gift aid agreements also allow their giving to charities supported through the Church to be gift aided too. I feel that there are still more members of our Church family who could gift aid their giving but are perhaps unsure of exactly what is involved. Also, some may think that because they pay only a small amount of tax it is not worthwhile doing anything about it. For every 28p of tax you pay, you can gift aid £1. So, if you pay say £100 of tax in a tax year, you can donate a total of £354 through gift aiding in the Church or to other charities. If you would like to find out more about this, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss the matter, in confidence, with you. My phone number is 721252. Last tax year (2005/06) the Church was able to recover £4900 of tax and this is very much needed to keep us from being "in the red" financially. Many thanks again to our new gift aiders for supporting the Church in this way and thanks also to those who are already giving through our gift aid scheme.

Ron Dempster, Gift Aid Secretary

The Bookcase No 1

Have you seen it - the bookcase? No its not a film or a TV programme, it is a piece of furniture sitting in the crush hall of our Church - just where the letter box is at the front door. It holds a number of books which can be borrowed but it would be prudent to keep a record of who has borrowed them and when they are returned - see Jack Fowell for this. Among the books there are 2 by Cliff Richard - the well known Pop Artist entitled "You, Me and Jesus" and "Jesus, You and Me" in which Cliff sets out his thoughts on some biblical passages. Also, "World on the Run" by Michael Green who was Rector of St Albans Church Oxford, when he wrote the book. It deals with the Christian view of today's society and is very well worth reading if you like a book that raises questions in the mind. **More in the next issue of Contact**



Holy Week



Thursday 5 April

7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Sung Eucharist Rev Canon Dr David Campbell

Friday 6 April

7.30 pm Good Friday Reflections Rev Deborah Cornish

Sunday 8 April

11 am All Age Worship Rev Deborah Cornish

Services are also being held at St Columba's Church near the Dockyard from Monday 2 April to Friday 6 April at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Network News

The annual Social Meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 May at Nicolson Square Church at 7 pm. Everyone is asked to bring some finger buffet food to share and also something for the Bring and Buy Stall (proceeds to District Network Funds). There will be a discussion and display of Janice Clark and Deirdre Homer's visit to the Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women in South Korea last year. Having heard something of Janice's talk of her trip, I can recommend an interesting evening. For the past few years there has been no one at the Social Meeting from Rosyth so hopefully one or two ladies might go this time and give their support. Anyone interested please contact me.

Mary Dempster

Rosyth Garden City Association

The Association's annual exhibition will be held from Wednesday 25 April to Wednesday 2 May in Rosyth Parish Church. This year the exhibition has a theme of Hobbies, Recreation and Leisure over the last 90 years or so and we would be very grateful for the loan of any items which could be used in the exhibition relating to this theme. Items could include sports equipment, toys, magazines and comics, photographs, theatre and concert programmes etc. There is a need for a number of people to steward the event and run the cafe and if you are interested in helping please speak to me. Over 2000 people visited last year's exhibition including 1000 children in organised school parties. Even if you can't help, please do come and visit the exhibition. There is no charge for admittance. Opening times will be given in the publicity leaflet which will be available after the Easter holidays.



Martin Rogers

Ceilidh

Our next fund raising event will be a Ceilidh to be held in the Gladyer Inn, Rosyth on Friday 18 May. At this event we will also be supporting CHAS in Kinross so a good turn out would be appreciated. Tickets will be available soon.

The Fund Raising Group

Property Improvements

It is almost 2 years ago since our Property Improvements Fund was established and, to date, the only visible result of our efforts is the new carpet tiles laid throughout the building at the beginning of last year. However, a lot of work has been going on in the background to obtain grants and the necessary permissions to carry out some parts of the work. Hopefully before the summer, work will be getting under way on creating a new back access and a disabled toilet for which the funds are in hand. Within the last few days we have heard that we have been successful with a grant application to the Scottish Relief and Extension Fund. They have given us a grant of £3900 which, with the money in hand in the Fund, will enable us to have the car park resurfaced, put down new flooring in the hall and toilets and refurbish the kitchen. Inevitably this will cause some disruption to the use of the premises but we will try to keep this to a minimum. It will be well worth it in the end!

Martin Rogers

Dates for your Diary



April

- Thur 5** **7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Sung Eucharist led by Revd Canon Dr David Campbell**
- Fri 6** **7.30 pm Good Friday Reflections led by Rev Deborah Cornish**
- Sun 8** **All age worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish**
3 pm Service at Orchardhead
- Tues 10** **2 pm Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Deborah Cornish**
- Sun 15** **Worship led by Rev Suzanna Bates**
- Tues 17** **7.30 pm Joint Church Council/Vestry**
- Sun 22** **Worship led by Rev David Campbell (Holy Communion)**
6 pm Taize Service led by Revd Canon Dr David Campbell
- Sun 29** **Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish. This will be followed by the Annual Church Meeting**

May

- Sun 6** **Worship led by Ms Nicola Jones**
- Sun 13** **All age worship led by Mr John Cornish**
- Fri 18** **Ceilidh at Gladyer Inn**
- Sun 20** **Worship led by Mrs Janice Clark**
- Sun 27** **Worship led by Rev Deborah Cornish (Holy Communion)**
6 pm Evensong for Pentecost

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## New Accounting Requirements

Don't panic. Look again at the date the new requirements supposedly take effect.