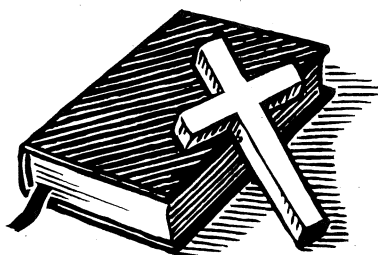


# CONTACT



Christmas 2008

The newsletter for Rosyth Methodist Church and St. Margarets.



## Ministers Message

Christmas is nearly upon us again. Town Centres are being lit up; Christmas trees are appearing in shops; everywhere you go, Christmas music is blaring out. It's time to party again!

Or is it?

Well, yes . . . except that, in the Church, before we get to Christmas, we have to endure Advent; which has a somewhat different feel to it.

Traditionally, the season of Advent serves as a dual reminder - of the Hebrews awaiting the birth of their Messiah at the time of the birth of Jesus; and of Christians in the present awaiting the second coming of Christ. In addition, we recall, in Advent, that Christ comes to us all the time - in the Word and Sacrament of Church, and also in the words and actions of those around us - in the beggar, prisoner and drug addict as well as in pious and holy people.

Typical themes for the four Sundays of Advent include the somewhat depressing heaven, hell, death and judgement, and the slightly more optimistic Patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist and Mary.

And, it has to be said that Advent is a rather strange time of year. It's a time, in the Episcopal Church, at least, for austerity - for quiet, for reflection, for waiting on God and for penitence - whereas in the world outside, it's party-time! And whilst those who don't go to church can probably quite easily avoid the quiet sombreness of Advent, those of us who do go to church have to find some way to reconcile the tension between the austerity of church during that period (no flowers, no alleluias, just generally no fun!) and the madness all around us! Perhaps for some it provides a welcome escape every now and then.

For myself, as I get older, I think I'm increasingly glad of Advent. It's a bit of a cliché to say that Christmas gets earlier every year - but it does seem to, and I, for one, find that more and more irritating. This year, I vowed that if I walked into any shop, pub, restaurant, or any other kind of establishment that was playing Christmas music, or had Christmas decorations up before, at least, the first day of December, I would just walk straight back out again! However, even I didn't expect my first taste of Christmas to be in September! But it was. I won't name and shame the shop concerned (although that's what it deserves) but suffice to say I was horrified to be confronted with a display of Christmas trees and tinsel, accompanied by a jolly rendition of *Jingle Bells* on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Surely that's a record!?

It's not that I want to spoil people's enjoyment of Christmas - but I must say, that, for me, being subjected to constant Christmas music in shops for several months definitely spoils my enjoyment of Christmas. By the time Christmas arrives, I'm in danger of being so bored of it all that I just want it to be over. What used to feel like a very special time is all too often now ruined by overexposure!

So, for me at least, Advent provides a welcome relief from all that madness - and then when Christmas really arrives, I can enjoy it!

So, with that in mind, let me wish you a quiet and austere Advent (for as long as you can stand it anyway!) and, when it comes, a happy and joyful Christmas time.

Tim

### Editorial

Thank you for your contribution to this edition of Contact. I hope I have included all your messages.

For me, this time of year is always a busy one with work. I work full time at the Jobcentreplus office in Dunfermline and part time at Carnegie Hall. Each job brings happiness or sorrow for those people I see. It's great to see the children all dressed up for the Pantomime, their expectations, laughing, singing and constant visits to the loo during the romantic bits. The not so nice bits are them being sick through eating too many sweeties and having to clear it up though! However, real life comes to the fore at the Jobcentre as the unemployment rate is rapidly rising and folk become desperate about how they will afford Christmas and we refer more people to get financial advice. My mission each Christmas is to try and get people to be more positive about their situations and look at the true meaning of Christmas and not just the gift giving, eating and drinking. I'm not sure if I ever get my point across, but it doesn't stop me trying! I feel that sometimes it's the same with prayer, but again it doesn't stop me doing it. Please spare a moment this Christmas in prayer for those folk who come through the Jobcentreplus office.

Susan Hitchon

## POEM

And is it true? And is it true,  
this most tremendous tale of all,  
seen in stained glass window's hue,  
a baby in an oxen's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
become a child on earth like me?

No love that in a family dwells,  
no carolling in frosty air,  
nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
can with this simple truth compare -  
that God was man in Palestine  
and lives today in Bread and Wine.

*John Betjeman.*

## News from St Margaret's.

**Farewell.** Revd Tembu Rongong, who has been our curate since July 2006 was installed as Rector of St Philip and St James, Goldenacre on 6 November. Tembu's last Sunday with us was on 20<sup>th</sup> October and we bade Helen and him farewell at a lunch party hosted by Sue and Adrian Masson. We were joined by David and Sue Salthouse, representing the Methodists. We thank Tembu for his work with us during the Interregnum and we shall miss having him around. We hold Tembu, Helen and Jadon in our thoughts and prayers as they start a challenging ministry in Edinburgh.

**Christmas festivities.** The choir are busy rehearsing for the Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21 December at 6pm. Do come and help them celebrate the run-up to Christmas.

Come and join in the annual joint Carol Singing outside the Rosyth Tesco Store on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. This will be followed by mince pies etc in the Crush Hall.

**Ecumenical News.** The National Sponsoring Body for ACTS (Action of Churches together in Scotland) held their autumn meeting in the Church on 10 September. Revd Deborah Cornish led a short worship and Alan Taylor and Howard Kirby gave presentations on our partnership – how it came about, what we have achieved and how we hope to develop it. Gwyneth Kirby and her band of helpers provided a delicious lunch. Thanks to all who shared in giving our usual friendly hospitality.

Deborah and Howard, Revd Tim Bennison and Alan represented us at the Local Ecumenical Partnership Gathering in Paisley on Saturday 1 November, when they heard of the work of 4 LEPs from 4 different corners of Scotland – Rannoch, Dumfries, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Dumfries experience was very interesting, as the LEP is based on the SEC church in the town where the Assistant Priest is a Methodist minister! How integrated is that? But not so strange, as a former Methodist congregation now have a new home to focus upon.

## Dates for the Diary (*Susan can you please amalgamate them with the Methodists*) December

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm Carol Singing outside Rosyth Tesco, followed by Mince pies etc in the Crush Hall  
 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 6pm Service of Lesson and Carols led by St Margaret's choir

### January

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany  
 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> (no Evensong)

### February

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm Evensong  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday  
 7.30pm Sung Eucharist

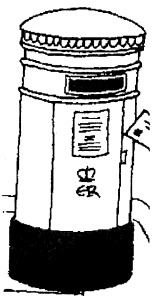
### Jack and the Cardinal

When the Cardinal came to Jack's house for tea..... well, not quite but he did come to Jack's street. In October, Cardinal O'Brien was in Rosyth to dedicate a stained glass window in St John and St Columba's RC Church. This was in memory of Canon Father Boyle who was the priest there from 1962 to 1993. He took the opportunity to visit Boyle Drive which is also named in honour of Canon Boyle. This is where Jack now lives and he was invited to meet the Cardinal.



### 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 20p. There will be a collecting box in the Church until 14 December. See poster for further details.

### Property Points

It is a while since I contributed an item on Property so I thought I would share some thoughts with you. Most of you will have noticed that a section of fencing has been erected across the gap between the Church and Elder Lea. This is to discourage people from taking a short cut through the Church grounds and also from using the window bays as drinking dens. This may be followed at some time in the future with

further fencing along the boundary to create an outside play area for the Playgroup and other groups.

We are gearing up towards a makeover of room 3. The plan is to remove the large wardrobe belonging to St Margaret's and also the piano and clear the way for some additional cupboards in that room.

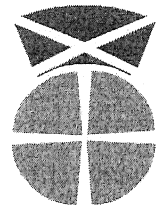
Malcolm Trew and Dennis Cook have been progressing a plan to have 2 new lecterns at the front of the Church. Malcolm outlined the proposal to the congregation after a recent Sunday morning service and the order for the lecterns should be placed shortly.

Recently we received notification that there was a proposal to erect a Vodafone mast and cabinets on the pavement in Queensferry Road almost directly in front of the large cross. We objected to the planning application as did the Community Council and 2 other local residents and I am pleased to say that the application was refused.

Martin

Rogers

### **District Newsletter November 2008**



Hallo everybody,

The 'Seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness' have given way to '.....no flowers, no leaves, no birds, - November.'!

In these later months of 2008 it could be a good time for reflection and appraisal, - 'Where have we come from?' 'Where are we now?' 'Where are we going?'

The answers will be different for each Church, each Circuit and each person. Things change with the passing months. Within the District we have seen changes, particularly in staffing. The District Team has sought to recognise new challenges and opportunities, and to discern what God would have us do.

There is an initiative called 'Fresh Expressions' that is developing within the Christian Church. This seeks to help to bridge the gap between our usual Sunday Worship and the experiences of the everyday, and try to help those who desire an understanding of Christian life, but find attendance at a Church Service, daunting and hard to understand.

As we develop some of the initiatives of Fresh Expressions through various activities, such as 'Messy Church' for children, and Café Church for the community, let us pray that God will give us wisdom, energy, and the necessary skills to do work that he can own and which will give him the glory.

In the Connexion there has been major re-organisation and this is affecting some of our work in the District. We are eligible for some extra staffing and this has the potential for increased support and encouragement for the work in each Circuit.

Ecumenically we seek to grow in understanding of Christians who Worship in ways that are different to ours. Would our togetherness in Christ not be taken forward, if on one Sunday all Christians worshipped at their nearest Christian place of Worship, regardless of the name on the door. If the saving in petrol money was suitably channelled, many would become aware that sometimes good things happen for them. A water pump, a classroom, farm implements etc. It's just a thought.

May God guide us in our thinking about what is 'His Will,' so that His Will will 'be done on earth as it is in Heaven.'

With loving thoughts to all,

Janet.

Through the pages of Contact I would like to wish all my friends, in both congregations, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Dennis Cook

### Dates for the Diary

#### December:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>    | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>11am Worship including the baptism of Sean Nicol,<br>led by Rev Deborah Cornish                        |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>11am All Age Worship, led by Jeremy Bradshaw   |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> | 6.30pm Carols outside Tesco Store in Rosyth,<br>followed by coffee & minced pies at the Methodist Church                        |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>   | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>11am Worship, led by Rev Andrew Letby, Superintendent of the<br>Circuit<br>6pm Candlelit Carol Service |
| Christmas Eve             | 6pm Nativity & Christingle service  |
| Christmas Day             | 10am Worship for all the family – bring one of your gifts to show<br>others   |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>   | 11am Service of Holy Communion, led by Rev Deborah Cornish  |

#### January:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>11am Worship led by Morley Sewell  |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>11am All Age Worship led by Will Carroll   |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>11am Worship led by Rev John Knox  |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>  | 9am Sunday Funday to include breakfast and messy church<br>11am Covenant Service to include Holy Communion,<br>led by Revds Tim Bennison & Deborah Cornish<br>this will be followed by lunch and an opportunity for the two<br>congregations to discuss 'where we go from here'<br>6pm Evensong |
| Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 7.30pm Church Council   |

#### February:

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>            9.30am Sung Eucharist  
                         11am Worship led by Rev Peter Clark
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>            9.30am Sung Eucharist  
                         11am All Age Worship led by Rev Ian Paterson
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>          9.30am Sung Eucharist  
                         11am Worship led by Rev Eric Potts
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup>          An Evening with the Rev Steve Wild, Chair of the Cornwall District,  
                         and one time Connexional Evangelism Enabler – more details to  
                         follow
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>          9am Sunday Funday to include breakfast and messy church  
                         11am Service of Holy Communion to include the baptism of Oliver  
                         Burbury, led by Rev Deborah Cornish  
                         6pm Evensong

Christmas Greetings – we would like to everyone a Joyous Christmas and a Peace-filled New Year.

Deborah, John & Alan Cornish