

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



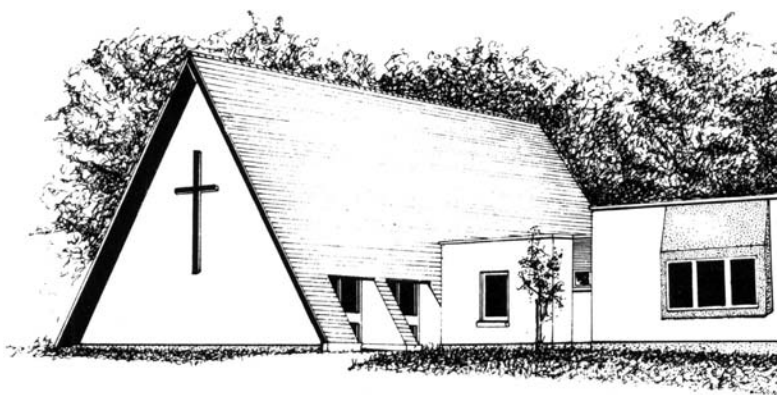
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 52

August/September 2010

**Rosyth  
Methodist Church**

Scottish Charity SC028559

**St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church**

Scottish Charity SC028426

**in partnership**

Our partnership is formally recognised as a Local Ecumenical Partnership,  
with a constitution and Covenant signed on 14 June 2000

**Minister:**

Rev Eric Potts 01383 851373

**Supernumerary Minister:**

Rev Malcolm Trew 01383 873171

**Senior Steward:**

Mary Kidd 01383 872332

**Pastoral Secretary:**

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

**Treasurer:**

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

**Rector:**

Rev Tim Bennison 01383 720532

**Curate:**

Rev Valerie Walker

**Associate Minister:**

Rev Ross Kennedy 01383 625887

**Vestry Secretary:**

Sandra Young 01383 415021

**Treasurer:**

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

**our regular pattern of worship**

**Sundays (except 4th)**

9.30am    Episcopalian Sung Eucharist  
(occasionally 9.15am – see diary pages for details)

11.00am    Methodist Morning Worship  
(including Sunday School)

**2nd Sundays:** for the Young Church

9.00am    Breakfast and “Sunday Funday”  
11.00am    All-age service

**4th Sundays:** Worship together

11.00am    Joint Communion Service  
6.00pm    “Sunday@Six”

Our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. The car park is behind the church, and limited local on-street parking is available, but there is lots more space in the parking area at the junction with Park Road.

# So, it's goodbye from me ...

A pastoral letter from the Reverend Eric Potts

... well, not entirely. I will still be around of course, but in a different role. At the end of August I will lay down my temporary task as minister at Rosyth. Deacon Sarah McDowall will take over from me. I would encourage as many as can to go to the special service to welcome Sarah, together with Belinda Letby, to the Circuit staff. It will be at Nicolson Square on Friday 3 September at 7.00pm. Our District Chair, Rev Lily Twist, will be the preacher. This should be a great occasion.

As we have tried to say at various times, deacons like Sarah have a rather different kind of ministry from the more traditional type of ministers like myself. It is not centred on the sacraments or on preaching, but rather on the broad theme of service – this includes pastoral care and also finding ways of reaching out into the big community outside the everyday life of the Church. I would expect this to be at the heart of Sarah's ministry with us. She will have a leadership function, of course, helping to guide the Church particularly in these tasks. We do not exist for ourselves, but in order to bring the love and life of Jesus to the world around us.

But, even though she does not preach, we will see Sarah sharing in the leadership of worship on maybe half the Sunday services. (She will be doing the same for Kirkcaldy too, of course) So we should all get to know her and value her quite quickly. I look forward to this. I know that you will all give her your support and, above all, your prayers.

Meanwhile I will have a new, voluntary task. I am going to be the Tutor for the Circuit's Local Preachers. You will understand that I personally regard the quality of our worship as of the very greatest importance. It will be a challenge and a privilege therefore to be able to work alongside those new

preachers as they undergo their training. I will try to help them grow in understanding of the faith and of the Bible, so that they are equipped to lead God's people in worship, learning and the growth of personal holiness.

Holiness ... that's one of those big words that we sometimes shy away from. Another such word is discipleship. Perhaps we think that we cannot hope to get anywhere near being holy, or being a real disciple. It is certainly a huge idea to contemplate. And yet this is the at the heart of what it means to be a Christian.

Too often we seem content to come to church on a Sunday, perhaps say our own prayers and sometimes read a Bible portion, and then to set that aside and live in the world in much the same way as many other people. Possibly that's one of the key reasons why the church has declined in recent years. Our faith seems sometimes as if it is only skin deep. And to try and live differently from the way the world expects, well, that might appear to be too much of a risk.

And yet I feel sure that, deep down inside, you and I are not content with this surface Christianity; that we really do want to be different, to live more closely with God. The glorious truth of the Gospel is that God is always with us, and the Spirit of God hovers over us and lives inside, just waiting for us to give Him the opportunity to bring a new fizz and sparkle to our faith and to our way of life.

Few people like change; and yet change is almost the definition of what it means to be alive. None of us stops changing until we are dead! We cannot avoid change, nor should we want to, even though it means taking risks – risks in order to gain holiness.

/continued overleaf

We all have another chance now, as things change in the church here in Rosyth and across the Circuit.

New opportunities open up before us: a new minister; a new kind of ministry; change across the Circuit too with the new shape of worship in Edinburgh city. A changing society – with financial hardship, yes, but a new government and possibly different ways of shaping both Scotland and the UK. And for us, the challenge, ever old and ever new, the challenge to take a risk, to break out of the routine, and to aim for holiness.

“Take up your cross” – that might mean simply that we should pull up the stake that is holding us back – and “Follow Me”, says Jesus. Let’s stop being satisfied with just listening to others tell us about Jesus. Let us actually do what the Master calls us to do, and follow him. Now.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

“In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.”

Ephesians 1.3–8

## **The Back to Church Sunday challenge**

“Back to Church Sunday is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism – that we should invite someone we already know to something we love; invite our friend to our church.”

At our joint Church Council/Vestry meeting on 20 April, both congregations agreed to take part together in Back to Church Sunday, which this year falls at Harvest Festival on 26 September. The materials have been ordered, so we are all set to go. Or are we?

Well, we don’t have a lot to do, but what we do must be from the heart. When I attended the seminar in Edinburgh, we recognised that the most difficult part of the process is not in identifying the friend or friends we would like to come with us to see what we do in worship today, but in actually *asking* that friend.

It was suggested that the easiest way to do this is to say “My minister (or my Rector) said I should ask you to come to church with me on Back to Church Sunday on 26 September”.

Maybe there are better ways of posing the question? We can think about that over the summer, especially after we receive the material in August. And Tim was involved in Back to Church Sunday at Holy Trinity last year – so he undoubtedly knows more about it, do’s and don’ts, than anyone else!

I realise some of us will imagine this is for the local community. It’s not, it’s an initiative to get people who may have been familiar with Church in the past to come back again. So already we have a head start. We won’t be advertising, we won’t have a banner slung across the front of the church – we will just be ourselves – and our friends

Alan Taylor

# Rev Eric Potts, BA

An appreciation by Mary Kidd

I seem to recall it was on 2 March 2008, Mothering Sunday, after a special service (Church Anniversary, All-age worship, Parade Service and a Baptism!), and during a lunch in the Hall, that our minister, Deborah Cornish, came over to where Malcolm, Frieda and I were sitting, and asked how we felt about another Supernumerary Minister coming to “live on our patch”. How could we reply with our mouths full?!

Of course, we were delighted – “the more the merrier”, etc. We knew nothing about him except that he was English, ‘retiring’ after his last circuit appointment in Lanarkshire, and coming to live in Dunfermline to be near his daughter and family. (We later learned that his son-in-law Martin Hamilton is a GP in the Primrose Surgery here in Rosyth)

His name first appears on the Circuit Preaching Plan – at Rosyth, of course – on 15 February 2009, some weeks after he and his wife Gillian had become familiar faces in our congregation. It was soon obvious he was to be what we call an ‘Active Supernumerary’, entering fully into the life of fellowship within our church.

Not long after that, we were informed that, after Deborah left to take up her new ministerial appointment in Ledbury, Eric would be taking over as our minister during this current Methodist year, after which we will welcome our new minister, Deacon Sarah McDowall. Summer is speeding by and now it’s only a matter of a few weeks before Eric ‘retires’ again.

As the only member of both the Methodist and St Margaret’s congregations, I think I can speak for all our readers when I say that we have all benefited from Eric’s ministry with us. He has said and done so much (in his writings and his teaching) to help us in our understanding of joint worship and communion within the Local Ecumenical Partnership, living and worshipping together. [Please refer to previous editions of ‘Contact’ if you want to remind yourselves of his words of wisdom]

Through the columns of this edition we say:

“Thank you, Eric, for all you have done and taught us during your precious time of ministry and service with us.

“Your becoming Circuit Tutor for the Local Preachers ‘on trial’ makes me wish I hadn’t been born too soon! Seriously, we are indeed heartened by the fact that we are not on this occasion saying ‘Goodbye’. On the contrary, we hope you will both enjoy many more years of ‘Active’ retirement with us at Rosyth, as well as around the Circuit.”

As the hymn puts it: “We’ll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that’s to come”.

**Ed:** Eric’s last service as our minister is the joint service at 11.00am on Sunday 22 August.

# Sarah McDowall – an introduction!

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

We're all getting excited by the prospect of welcoming a new minister in September, and we thought readers might like to know something about Sarah, to make it easier for everyone to understand a little about her background and the influences that have made her what she is. Do take this article as an icebreaker, and make sure you introduce yourself to her, and get to know her personally.

As you will detect immediately from her voice, Sarah comes from the West Coast, and was brought up with her elder brother in Ayr, where her mother still lives. Her father, a member of the Salvation Army, died when Sarah was only six, so Sarah's links were with the Church of Scotland, where her mother worshipped.

However, Sarah's Church experience didn't start well . . . after two sessions of Sunday School, she didn't like it, perhaps because she was shy as a child, and told her mother: "I don't like it ... don't send me there again"! However, Sarah did receive some Christian teaching from family as she was growing up.

Sarah's mother had been a nanny in Germany when she met her Army husband, and Sarah is good with children, so it wasn't surprising that she chose this as her first job when she left school at 18. A year or so after, one of Sarah's friends wished to get married in the local church, and in those days it was necessary to be in formal Church of Scotland membership, for which an essential preparation was to have attended 13 weeks of classes. After the first of these, Sarah started asking her friend questions . . . when her friend couldn't answer the questions, Sarah was told: "You need to come!" Which of course was the route by which Sarah came to personal faith.

The church wasn't unfamiliar territory, because Sarah had previously made friends at the Church Badminton Club. After her commitment to Christ, the Church encouraged her to deepen her faith and to use her talents by joining her local house group, and she was soon roped in to help with the Youth Club and Boys Brigade, and to teach in the Sunday School. Outside the Church, Sarah worked for PHAB, a charity aiming to enable youngsters and adults to meet on equal terms whether able-bodied or with a physical handicap. [Ed: more about PHAB at <http://www.phab.org.uk/>]

Sarah's leadership potential was quickly realised, and she was asked to become an Elder at the tender age of 22. People were always asking "Why don't you become a minister?" but, although she wanted to share her faith, Sarah had never felt called to preach. It wasn't until a conversation with her minister that she realised that there were other patterns of ministry: "A deaconess? What's one of them?"!

Supported by minister, Kirk Session and Presbytery, Sarah explored that other pattern of full-time ministry through three years of deacon training at St Colm's College, Edinburgh. Her first appointment as a Deacon was at Menzieshill, Dundee, and lasted for 13 years, working with two very different ministers. Since June 2003, Sarah has served at St Columba's Parish Church, Glenrothes, a post that she leaves in August, her last service being on our publication date, 1 August. Sarah has been involved in leading worship (prayer, meditation, children's talks) and giving pastoral care, including taking both weddings and funerals. Her outreach work included summer mission (holiday clubs), working with the mums and grandmas at toddler groups, and school chaplaincies.

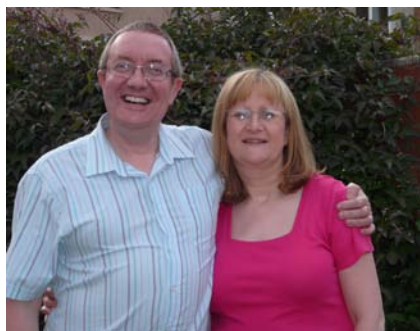


2003 was a significant year for Sarah. Not only did she move job and move house, but she married Archie (a Chartered Accountant working for the Church of Scotland, but a life-long Methodist, whom she had met through mutual friends) and inherited two step-daughters, Claire (now 20) and Lisa then aged 9. After two honeymoons, everything in the garden looked rosy, but tragically, just afterwards, Lisa was diagnosed with incurable cancer and died only ten weeks after their wedding. Not an experience without scars, but one that helps Sarah identify with those with pastoral needs.

2008 was another significant year, during the last six months of which Sarah was continually “nudged” by God towards joining the Methodist Diaconal Order (MDO), although she tried to ignore the promptings. The crunch point was in January 2009, when Sarah and Archie were at Kirkcaldy Methodist Church at a service led by Mary Kidd. Mary read to the children the Children’s Bible version of the calling of Samuel. That “came like a torpedo”, and Sarah’s response was “I hear You loud and clear!”

After that, it was just a matter of applying and being accepted! The process culminated in October 2009 in a series of interviews at Westminster Central Hall, including Sarah having to make a presentation and be grilled by the “transferring panel” of 7–8 people, followed by an anxious wait. In this case, joy came by mobile phone, rather than the post!

Most planned ministerial moves having already been arranged by that time, the “stationing process” might have resulted in Sarah (supported by a very willing husband) being sent anywhere from Shetland to Cornwall. In the event, they were both surprised and delighted for Sarah to be allocated for the next five years to work in our Edinburgh and Forth Circuit.



Sarah’s work won’t be markedly different from that she undertook with the Church of Scotland, but she sees the MDO as being operated in a better way for her. There is a bigger team, and much more meeting together and mutual support. You also get “stationed” rather than having to apply for jobs, which gives globe-trotting potential!

What will Sarah be doing at Rosyth and Kirkcaldy? Well the detail will have to wait until a later issue of Contact: Sarah’s short-term plan is to settle in and get to know people, building on what is already being done, and working alongside us to encourage and develop the work. After that, she will be working with Andrew Letby and the leadership team to grow our witness.

Sarah says that “the last two years have been an interesting journey”, and she’s both excited and optimistic about the future, and naturally a bit apprehensive about the impending change. But it’s part of God’s plan for her, which gives her every confidence. Sarah doesn’t start until September, but we can start now, by praying for her and Archie as they settle into their new home and adjust to those changes, and we can continue to pray for God’s blessing on this new ministry.

**Ed:** Details of Sarah’s Welcome Service are on page 26.

# Welcome to Valerie!

We were delighted at St Margaret's to welcome, at the beginning of July, our new Curate, Valerie Walker. Valerie was ordained deacon at the Cathedral in Perth on 27 June and will be sharing in our ministry here in Rosyth, and at Holy Trinity, over the next two years.

Valerie's curacy is, in fact, a bit of an experiment and, rather than being a Curate solely at one individual congregation, she is a 'Diocesan Curate'. This means that as well as working with us here at Rosyth and at Holy Trinity she will also be involved with St John's, Alloa and be expected to participate in some diocesan work from time to time. One of the reasons for this is to make sure that she gets a breadth and diversity of experience which she might not get if she remained only in one place.

In practice, this means that Valerie will spend a couple of days a week at Rosyth and Dunfermline, and a couple of days in Alloa. On Sundays she will alternate between the two locations and so should be with us roughly every other Sunday.

Clearly, in dividing her time between three different congregations and whatever the diocese asks her to do, Valerie has not set herself up for the easiest of times. However, she brings energy, enthusiasm and determination with her and I'm sure that that, along with our care and support, will equip her well to cope with her different roles.

I know that Valerie is excited about this new phase in her life and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know people both in the Methodist and Episcopal congregations here in Rosyth.

What follows are some of Valerie's own reflections on the experience of preparing for ordination and of being ordained.

Tim Bennison



## A bit of a change

The announcement that I was leaving nursing to become ordained often evoked the response "That's a bit of a change". This understatement doesn't begin to describe the roller-coaster adventure that ministerial training and ordination have been. I was warned that training involved an esoteric process of formation, whereby I would be changed into a creature better suited for God's authorised ministry. My feelings were mixed; metamorphosis may sound appealing to a chrysalis, but what if I turned into something I didn't want to become? Like a slug instead of a butterfly. Change we can't control can be truly scary.

Three years of hard graft at the Theological Institute of the SEC (TISEC), including twenty four essays and several sermons, were somehow dovetailed into my NHS commitments, leaving little time for reflection on any change that might be happening.

But on the last Sunday of June, at my ordination in St Ninian's Cathedral, I sensed a transformation. I can't describe the wonder of seeing so many smiling faces from different parts of my life, from churches and hospitals across the years and miles, and realising that the love that had carried me to that place would continue to support me in the future.



A conjunction of sacred and secular, old and new, past and future made it a life-changing kairos moment; a bit like getting married or giving birth.

My new curacy feels a bit like a honeymoon at the moment; I even enjoy the morning drive down the M90 to Fife! Common sense tells me these feelings won't last for ever and that things will soon change again. But I believe that the love of Christ we show to each other provides what we need to cope with our uncertainties. We may not be able to control life's changes, but God helps us grow through them into something better than we could ever imagine.

Valerie Walker

As we were going to press, we heard that **Norah Lauder**, a well-loved and longstanding Methodist member, and regular in her church attendance until as recently as 4 July, passed away at Queen Margaret Hospital late on Sunday night, 25 July. We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

Rev Eric Potts will be conducting Norah's funeral on Monday 2 August at 2.45 at Dunfermline Crematorium. We hope to include a tribute and photograph in our next issue.

## "Casting the Net" News



Karen Gaskell, Convenor of the Casting the Net Action Group (now renamed the Congregational Development Group) gave a presentation at St Margaret's Vestry meeting on 1 June. Karen outlined the CTN process leading up to the preparation of a local Mission Action Plan, and in return heard of the unique partnership between our two churches and what we have done together over the past 10 years.

Following this meeting, both Vestry and Methodist Council have agreed to meet jointly with Bishop David, hopefully in October after Deacon Sarah is in post, to take the process to the next stage. We look forward to this challenge and finding new ways to enhance our partnership.

We are delighted to learn that Susannah Silver has been appointed as Casting the Net Officer to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of James Petticrew. Susannah brings many relevant skills to this post – her experience as a Project Manager, and her abilities as a graphic designer. Before she moved recently to Milton Keynes to work for the Open University, she was deeply involved with Casting the Net in all its aspects. Susannah joins the CTN team in early October.

Unfortunately, **The Big Sing**, which we are all looking forward to, and hoped would be in September, has been postponed until Susannah is in post, so it won't be until later in the year.

# Moving on!

## Our new minister

Sarah and Archie McDowall will be moving to the new manse in Crossgates during August, preparatory to Sarah starting work with us in September.

Their new address will be:

10 Bruce Road  
Crossgates  
COWDENBEATH  
Fife KY4 8AZ

You won't find it on Google Maps yet, but it's off Springhill Brae.

## Greetings from Walhampton!



The St Margaret's congregation in particular will recognise this relaxed couple as Virginia and John Osborne, seen here enjoying the pleasures of the New Forest near their new home. They send love and greetings to all their friends in Rosyth.

Virginia sings in the choir at St Thomas's in nearby Lymington, and they both enjoy reading Contact. They would be delighted to welcome those who find themselves in the area (phone 01590 689433), so you can even deliver their copy by hand!

## Malcolm's party



He must have been a beautiful baby!

These are two of the many pictures which featured in the big red book (actually a PowerPoint presentation – you know Malcolm!) which was shown to visitors to his Open House Cooling party on what was one of the hottest days of the year, so far!

It was a lovely occasion for friends from all three congregations to come and wish him well as he moves from his enormous bungalow and garden, to a 'wee hoose' over the hill in Limekilns where the neighbours and the natives are friendly.

It meant a lot to know how much his friends have supported him, and Frieda, over the years. Malcolm wishes to thank Gwyneth, Jean and Irene who worked hard behind the scenes and in the kitchen, to make the occasion a feast. We do enjoy our 'feasts' at Rosyth; we're so fortunate to have such excellent caterers!

After the party the packing began in earnest!

Since the party, Malcolm has moved to:

16 North Loanhead  
Limekilns  
DUNFERMLINE  
Fife KY11 3LA  
Tel: 01383 873171

# Fellowship News

## Happy Birthday!

The Reverend Ross Kennedy, a dear friend to both congregations, has enhanced our worship during the last few years since he returned to his native Dunfermline.



Ross will be celebrating his “three score years and ten” towards the end of September and we remember him as he reaches this milestone. Happy Birthday, Ross from us all. We wish you every blessing for the future.

## Action For Children

Thanks to everyone who attended the cream tea on Saturday 3 July in aid of Action for Children (formerly NCH). A grand total of £280 was raised.



Thanks to all the helpers, including Lewis and Anna, who sold plants they had grown. We were lucky with the weather and were able to enjoy the garden.

Jean Hall

## Congratulations!



Archie and Sarah McDowall's daughter **Claire** was married in Poulton-le-Fylde on 24 July. The lucky man in this photograph is Aaron Sharples, who serves with the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, and was in Afghanistan as recently as May this year. The couple are setting up their 'home base' in Burton-in-Kendal, and we wish them every happiness in their new life together.

Tim Bennison's younger daughter, **Laura**, graduated on 22 June. Laura has been studying English (and, earlier on, some Geography and Philosophy) at St Andrews University for the last four years and her graduation is the reward for all her hard work.



St Andrews was Laura's first choice of university and she has thoroughly enjoyed her time there which, as well as her studies, involved a very full social life. In particular, she was a very active member of the University Celtic Society. This involved her in a great deal of Scottish Country dancing and took her around Scotland and to other parts of the UK.

Laura is now taking stock of her future and, after a year out, is considering doing a Masters in creative writing.

## Teamwork the key

As we reported in our February issue, our friends **David and Thelma Couch** were each awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List for their work in raising thousands of pounds for charity. Tuesday 13 July was their big day, when Her Majesty the Queen invited them to the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the investiture held in the Great Gallery. We have reproduced below the relevant part of the article which appeared in the following day's edition of *The Courier*. The full article included no fewer than seven of the official photographs of happy recipients under the title "Teamwork the key at investitures".

**THE SUN SHONE** to crown a golden day for men and women from all over Scotland honoured by the Queen yesterday.

In a traditional ceremony at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, her majesty honoured people from all over Fife, Perthshire, Tayside and Angus for their work in their communities.

Included was a Fife couple who have been in step all their married life—and even received their MBEs together.

Thelma and David Couch have raised thousands of pounds for a variety of charities, mainly through dance.

Having both been keen amateur dancers, they have run sequence dance clubs in Fife for years.

The couple, who moved from Plymouth to Rosyth in 1961 when Mr Couch was transferred to Rosyth dockyard, arrange many fund-raisers each year and have donated thousands of pounds to charity, most notably CHAS.

Indeed, yesterday they were heading back to Fife where they were holding a tea dance—again in aid of CHAS—to which their

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"You cannot do these things without the support from family."

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loyal team of dancers were all invited.

Usually recipients are presented to the Queen individually, but due to the couple receiving the same award they met her majesty together, in front of family who had travelled to Edinburgh from London and Amsterdam.

Mrs Couch raised a royal smile when she explained her hobbies were dancing and baking.

Mr Couch said, "We have been doing it now for 20 years and we really enjoy it.

"And it's a team effort—that's why we're having the dance and all the people who have helped are invited."

*The Courier* is published in Dundee, but the Fife edition is a great source of local news. You can obtain a back copy of the original 14 July 2010 paper by phoning the D C Thomson Subscriptions Department on 01382 223131.

# Thelma and David's MBE Day

from daughter Lorraine and family

Mum and Dad, Mum and Dad where have you been?  
We've been over to Holyrood to see the Queen.  
Her Majesty seemed very much amazed  
At all the charity money we have raised;  
Dances, raffles, selling cakes and jam,  
With all your friends giving a helping hand.  
We're all very proud and extremely pleased  
Now Her Majesty has presented your MBEs.



the official photograph!

Mum and Dad completed their day by celebrating with many of their very supportive family, dancing and other friends at Dunfermline's Garvock House Hotel, once more holding a dance for charity mainly organised by granddaughters Shona and Heather, also club members Nancy and Isabel, with a luncheon and buffet to keep them all going.

You may know that Mum and Dad have been running the Rosyth Dance Club for a number of years now, and during that time have raised several thousands of pounds for a number of charities which are close to their hearts.

Since they took over, the club has gone from strength to strength, which is totally due to their commitment, dedication and love of dancing which has made it such a success.

So much so that it seems to be more than just a Dance Club with the regular outings, parties and dancing holidays which they organise.

They were both shocked but delighted when quite unexpectedly the letters dropped through their letterbox informing them that they had both been nominated to receive MBEs for services to charity. My sister Cilla and I had to keep it secret until publicised on 1 January 2010.

We are sure that when they started raising money for charity all those years ago, doing the thing that they love most, they never dreamt that it would culminate in meeting the Queen and receiving this well-deserved reward.



## Also at Holyrood ...



Iain was also nominated by Graham Bennett, in his capacity as President of the Rosyth Scout District in Fife, so Iain and his wife Lynne were able to escort Cathy.



Congratulations to Cathy Cusator and her son Iain who were invited to attend the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Park in Edinburgh. Cathy's invitation was a personal nomination from Graham Bennett, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Fife, for her 20 years as Secretary of the Executive Committee for the 13th Scout Group which meets in the Methodist Church in Rosyth. Although she is no longer holding that position, she has been District Badge Secretary for the last ten years. Cathy has now been involved in the Scout Movement for 30 years, which is a great achievement, and this started when her son joined the Cubs and she felt that she wanted to help in some way.



Iain joined the Methodist Cubs in 1982, followed by the Scouts, and Venture Scouts, and is now a Leader of the Explorer Scouts, so he too has served for 20 years. Thankfully it was a lovely warm day for the Garden Party and, although they had to wait 45 minutes to get through the security at the gate, the ladies enjoyed seeing all the fashions, and it was all worthwhile when they reached the hospitality tent, and saw the delicious sandwiches and cakes spread out before them.

Cathy and Iain, your family and the Church Family are very proud of you.

Ron and Mary Dempster



# Our American visitors

... and we had the weather for it!



In our last issue we were looking forward to visits by some American visitors doing the rounds of the Circuit. Now we are looking back in thankfulness to God for the ministry of Ken and Casey, Bronwen and Lis.

We were delighted that they experienced 'Sunday Funday' on 13 June and led the All-age service that followed, and then returned on 20 June for an unusual Sunday@Six celebration, which started in the Church Car Park ...

We knew from the outset that the team had musical gifts, and they duly shared their passion with us



as well as encouraging us all to sing music both familiar and unfamiliar.



... but ended with challenging questions:



Our advertisement had challenged folk to be inspired by God's call to witness to Christ today, by sharing in an evening of fellowship, worship and music led by our American visitors ... and to enjoy the barbecue, join in the worship, listen to the music, and exchange ideas.

And it pretty well did "what it said on the tin"! Grateful thanks to Mandy and her helpers for organising the delicious food.

## A message from the team



Back row: Bronwen Dunn; Eric Potts; Ken Weatherford  
Front row: Lis Beal; Casey Weatherford; Andrew Lethby

Our group was so blessed by our time in Scotland. The first thing we noticed was the overwhelming hospitality extended by all the communities we visited within the circuit. There was always a kind word, a welcoming smile, and of course a cup of tea. Having all visited many churches for different reasons (youth ministry, music, etc.) we've all experienced warm and not so warm welcomes, and we can say that the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit surpassed any welcome that we've had before! We were always received so kindly and intentionally everywhere we visited. The Edinburgh and Forth Circuit truly has a gift for hospitality and we were blessed to experience it. We so hope that the kindness that was extended to us is felt by more and more people all the time – those who visit and also those in the communities around you.

We also felt and heard about changes that have taken and are taking place within the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit. Our hearts go out to you and our prayers are with you as you make decisions within your churches,

and we also want to share how encouraged we were by some of the conversations we were allowed to listen in on. The desire to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life and activities of the church was so refreshing! It was a great reminder of what the church should really be about. It also felt incredibly unifying – knowing that your churches and our churches, though we may have oceans and cultures and histories between us, are living for the same God, and are being moved by the same Holy Spirit. We found this to be a beautiful picture of how huge and present and personal our God is.

We can't say enough how much we enjoyed spending time in your midst. The opportunity to brush up against a kind community with such a deep and influential history was a chance in a lifetime, and we have all been deeply moved by our time with you and inspired by your love, for us and even more for God and his people. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and may the grace and peace of our Lord always be with you.

**Ed:** You can find a more informal account of the team's time with the Circuit in their blog at <http://forthcircuitmission.wordpress.com>

## May the Angels

the poem shared by Lis Beal  
during our celebration together



May the Angels in their beauty bless you.  
May they turn towards you streams of blessing.

May the Angel of Awakening stir your heart  
to come alive to the eternal within you,  
to all the invitations that quietly surround you.

May the Angel of Healing turn your wounds  
into sources of refreshment.

May the Angel of the Imagination enable you  
to stand on the true thresholds;  
at ease with your ambivalence  
and drawn in new directions  
through the glow of your contradictions.

May the Angel of Compassion open your eyes  
to the unseen suffering around you.

May the Angel of Wildness disturb the places  
where your life is domesticated and safe,  
take you to the territories of true otherness  
where all that is awkward in you  
can fall into its own rhythm.

May the Angel of Eros introduce you  
to the beauty of your senses  
to celebrate your inheritance  
as a temple of the holy spirit.

May the Angel of Justice disturb you  
to take the side of the poor and the wronged.

May the Angel of Encouragement confirm you  
in worth and self-respect,  
that you may live with the dignity  
that presides in your soul.

May the Angel of Death arrive only  
when your life is complete  
and you have brought every given gift  
to the threshold where its infinity can shine.

May all the Angels be your sheltering  
and joyful guardians.

**Ed:** We are grateful to Andrew Letby and Eric Potts for facilitating the Rosyth elements of the team's visit in such a positive and open way, and for encouraging us to take risks!

## Feasts to be remembered ...

We are still working our way through the Trinity season, and August and September cover Trinity 9 to 17 which include some important feast days in the church calendar.

The Transfiguration of the Lord (6 August) is an event reported by all three of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew; Mark; Luke). After revealing to his disciples that he would be put to death in Jerusalem, Jesus, along with Peter, James and John, went up to Mount Tabor in Galilee, where Jesus became radiant, spoke with Moses and Elijah, and was called “Son” by God.

The church remembers the apostles Saint Bartholomew (24 August) and Saint Matthew (21 September). Bartholomew is listed among the twelve apostles in the first three Gospels, appears as one of the witnesses of Christ’s ascension, and is always mentioned together with Philip. Saint Matthew, the author of the first Gospel, was the son of Alpheus, and before his conversion was a tax collector – a “publican” as older versions of the Bible put it. As a disciple, he followed Jesus and was one of the witnesses of the resurrection and the ascension.

On the Feast of Michael and All Angels (29 September), popularly called Michaelmas, we give thanks for the many ways in which we are reminded that God’s loving care watches over us, and that the richness and variety of God’s creation far exceeds our knowledge of it. We read in Revelation 12:7-12 of the battle in heaven and the defeat of Satan by Michael and his angels. Because it falls near the equinox, Michaelmas is associated in the northern hemisphere with the beginning of autumn.

The Celtic saint Ninian (16 September) is acknowledged as Scotland’s first saint, the year 397AD celebrated as the beginning of his mission to his people. We know very little about him as no contemporary written reference has been found. Tradition holds that Ninian was a Briton who had studied in Rome and established an Episcopal See at the *Candida Casa* (Latin for “White House”) in Whithorn; that he named the See for Saint Martin of Tours; that he converted the southern Picts to Christianity; and that he is buried at Whithorn. Variations of the story add that he had actually met Saint Martin, that his father was a Christian king, and that he was buried in a stone sarcophagus near the altar of his church.

The feast of Saint Ninian will be in the news on 16 September, when Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Edinburgh at the start of a state visit to the UK as the guest of Her Majesty the Queen (whom he will meet at her Palace of Holyroodhouse) and the UK Government. Thousands of people are expected to line the route as the Pope leaves the Palace around 12.30pm and makes his way to the Morningside residence of Cardinal Keith O’Brien via Princes Street. Children from Scottish schools named after Saint Ninian will play a prominent role in a pageant in the Pope’s honour.



St Ninian in the stained glass  
in St Ninian’s, Inverness

# Diary for August/September 2010

## Sunday 1 August

Trinity 9	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr John Hunter

## Sunday 8 August

Trinity 10	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	All-age service	Mr Lyn Smalridge
		Note: No 'Sunday Funday' during School Holidays	

## Sunday 15 August

Trinity 11	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Mary Kidd
	8.00pm	Scottish Chamber Choir 'Classical Rejoicing' St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh (see page 29 for details)	

## Sunday 22 August

Trinity 12	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Eric Potts
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six	
		Evensong with a difference, arranged by Sue Masson	
Tuesday 24 Aug	6.30pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Church Room 3	
Friday 27 Aug	7.00pm	Choir Practice	

## Sunday 29 August

Trinity 13	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev John Knox
Friday 3 Sep	5.00pm	Buffet tea served at CEMC Nicolson Square Edinburgh followed at	
	7.00pm	Service of welcome for Deacons Belinda Letby and Sarah McDowall. Preacher Rev Lily Twist (see page 26 for details).	



# Diary for September 2010

## Sunday 5 September

Trinity 14	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	

Wednesday 8 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Opening meeting and Service
	7.30pm	Local Preachers Meeting at the Church

Thursday 9 Sep	7.30pm	Methodist Church Finance Committee at John Cowie's home
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Friday 10 Sep	7.00pm	Choir Practice
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## Sunday 12 September

Trinity 15	9.00am	'Sunday Funday' and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Ross Kennedy
	11.00am	All-age service	
	6.00pm	St Andrews West Area Council Annual Praise Service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline Watch future weekly notices for details	

Tuesday 14 Sep	7.30pm	Joint Council/Vestry meeting followed by Church Council meeting in Church Lounge.
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Wednesday 15 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship
	6.30pm	Circuit Meeting at the Salvation Army Building in Tranent

Friday 17 Sep	7.00pm	Choir Practice
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## Sunday 19 September

Trinity 16	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Ross Kennedy
	11.00am	Morning Service	

Wednesday 22 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship
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Thursday 23 Sep		
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Friday 24 Sep	7.00pm	Choir Practice
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Saturday 25 Sep		Harvest Supper in Church Hall (see opposite – don't forget to sign up in advance)
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# Diary for September 2010

## Sunday 26 September

Harvest	11.00am	“Back to Church Sunday” Joint Communion Service (see BTCS challenge on page 4) Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	Rev Andrew Letby
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**Note: no Sunday@Six**

Wednesday 30 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship

## The Harvest Supper

Harvest is a time when we reflect on our good fortune in living in a country where there is very little absolute poverty, and where few of us have ever gone hungry or thirsty.

This year we hope to have a Developing World theme to the Harvest Supper which will be on **Saturday 25 September** at 6.30/7.00pm.

We plan to have some Quizzes/Games related to Fair Trade and the meal will have as many fairly traded ingredients as possible.

Please keep the date free and buy your ticket as soon as they are available (beginning of September). We need to know numbers in advance so that we can avoid waste!

## The Harvest appeal

This year we will again be supporting the Highland Food Bank, part of the work of Blythwood Care, a charitable organisation which delivers “Christian care for body and soul”.

Highland Food Bank provides immediate, short-term practical help for individuals and families in the Highlands who for various reasons are facing financial crisis and are unable to buy food for themselves. The food is donated by members of the community via collections at supermarkets and by churches who are given a 'shopping list' of non-perishable food items and asked if they could donate one or more from the list.

Last year, we had a wonderful number of packages. As yet, we do not know what items are required, but there will be notices in the Crush Hall, with a large box for collecting the donations. Please continue to give your generous support to this very worthy cause.

# Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

## The Harvest Festival in Britain

Our word harvest comes from the Anglo-Saxon *hærfest*, meaning Autumn, but derived from a root meaning 'gather' or 'pluck', from which it came to refer more generally to the season for reaping and gathering cultivated products.

The practice of giving thanks for the harvest goes back to the earliest times, when offerings were made of the first-fruits of the crop, and a celebratory supper to which the whole community was invited was held at the end of the harvest period.

Lammas ('loaf mass') was a 'first fruits' festival that used to be celebrated on 1 August. Loaves made from the new crop were used as the communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest. Lammas fairs are still held in early August, and the one at St Andrews (5–10 August this year) is said to be one of Scotland's oldest medieval markets.

By the 16th century a number of customs were firmly established around the gathering of the final harvest. These included the reapers accompanying a fully-laden cart, a tradition of shouting "Hooky, hooky", and one of the foremost reapers dressing extravagantly, acting as 'lord' of the harvest and asking for money from the onlookers.

Early settlers took the end of the harvest idea to North America, probably the most famous celebration being the Thanksgiving held by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621.

The modern 'tradition' of celebrating in church can be traced to September 1843, when Robert Hawker, the newly-arrived rector of Morwenstow in Cornwall, put up a notice in his church for a special thanksgiving service: "Let us gather together in the chancel of our church, and there receive, in the bread of the new corn, that blessed sacrament which was ordained to

strengthen and refresh our souls." Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain, and there has been a shift in emphasis in many celebrations. Increasingly churches have linked harvest with an awareness of and concern for supporting social care projects in developing countries and within the UK. We have adopted this practice recently and this year our harvest collection of goods will again go to the Highland Food Bank.

Until the 20th century most farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called a harvest supper, to which all who had helped were invited. This was sometimes known as a "mell supper", the mell being the last patch of wheat standing in the field. Some churches still hold a Harvest Supper, and this year ours has a Developing World theme. (see page 21)



The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the "Harvest Moon". In some traditions, Harvest Festivals were held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon.

# Ready for the new session!

## The Wednesday Fellowship

At present the Fellowship is enjoying its Summer break after its first full year of operation. All members will agree that we have had some very interesting Wednesday afternoons which will be remembered for a long time. Some of these have already been reported on in recent issues of 'Contact'.

At the AGM at the end of May we were delighted to appoint Sandra Young as our Vice-President, and to re-appoint Mary Dempster as our excellent Treasurer. [See page 35 for Mary's report on last session's giving to charity]

Much discussion was held at the meeting to decide to which charities and causes we should donate the funds which we have accumulated through the year. Thanks were expressed to everyone who had played any part in the fellowship. Some members have made new friends; for some 'old' friendships have been re-kindled!

Several members hinted that we ought to keep meeting during the summer months and have a longer break in the winter when occasionally we have had to cancel a meeting at short notice because of snow, and icy pavements. This is something the Committee will consider when it meets in August to prepare the 2010/11 session.

Some members are "at a loose end" on Wednesday afternoons and long for 8 September when we meet again. As Mary implies in her report, we are always delighted to welcome new members.

We certainly look forward to meeting in the newly-decorated Church Lounge. Through 'Contact' the Fellowship thanks Mandy and Dave Ward and family, and the Guides and Brownies who have been responsible for the 'transformation'!

Mary Kidd

## Sunday@Six

Sue Masson has provided this preview of her plans for the period up to the end of the year:

**22 August:** An "updated evensong" with more modern hymns and maybe a few instruments for accompaniment.

26 September: no service on the Sunday because of the Harvest Supper on the previous evening (see page 21).

**31 October:** West Gallery Music Day. Note the change in date to the 5th Sunday! Sue wants to invite as many musicians and choirs as possible: Holy Trinity, other Rosyth churches, the ABI group (Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing churches), and Rosyth Concert Band members.

We are planning to start at 1.30 for rehearsals from 2.00–5.00, followed by tea at 5.00 and a short service at 6.00. More details in the next issue of Contact.

**28 November:** Some form of Advent service – again, watch this space!

26 December: no service.

## Organisations

During August/September our many organisations will be starting for the new session. At the time of going to press we didn't have information such as dates for starting/enrolment, so please make use of the contact list on page 39 to get in touch.

# Ready for the new session!

## Sunday Funday

In September we will be starting our third year of Sunday Funday – otherwise known as Messy Church! On the second Sunday of every month children of all ages start arriving at about 9 o'clock to tuck into a large breakfast – often quite a prolonged affair because the children really enjoy chatting to each other.

This is followed by a time of craft activities – the messier the better – with lots of things for the children to take home in their Sunday Funday carrier bags. We finish with a story time and usually learn a new song as well.

Each session follows a theme. In the past we have looked at topics like Harvest, Love, Colours, Joshua and Esther, but each session stands alone so you don't need to be there every month.

### So who comes along?

We welcome children of any age, but Sunday Funday is designed particularly for children from pre school age to about 11 or 12. Older children are welcome to come along if they enjoy the activities. We ask that the children are accompanied by an adult. This helps children who are unfamiliar with the leaders to feel more comfortable and they also get more out of the activities.

It doesn't matter if the children have never had any experience of Church or Sunday School – this is a new "Church" experience and open to all. Some families like to stay on after Sunday Funday and share in the family-style worship that takes place afterwards but this is entirely up to you, and we realise that some smaller children will be ready for home by the end of the Sunday Funday session.

### Do you think your children would like to give it a try?

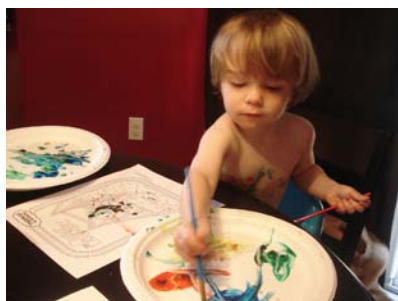
Just turn up for the next session on 12 September at 9.00am (we finish by 10.30), or give me a ring (01383 624779) to ask for more information.

### Think this sounds like fun, but don't have any children to bring?

We are always looking for helpers, either on a regular basis or occasional helpers, to help prepare breakfast or to help with craft activities – no experience necessary but enthusiasm a great asset! Just give me a ring.

We hope to see you on 12 September, or the second Sunday of each month if you can't make that date.

Gwyneth Kirby



## Fun, Messy Sunday

From the "Adventures of William and Emmie", as recorded in Katie Robberson's blog for 2 November 2008:

"William got to experiment with finger paints this morning. It didn't take him long to realize how much fun it was to paint himself."

On the web at <http://tinyurl.com/363cxrv>

## Sunday School

Most people reading this will have had some experience of Sunday School as children, and some of you may be surprised that Sunday Schools still exist! Yes, we still have a Sunday School at Rosyth, and all children – of all ages – are welcome to come along, whether or not their parents attend the Church.

We have a small group of children, of very mixed ages, who meet every Sunday morning. We start off in Church at 11.00am as part of the Church Service, then go into another part of the building for our own activities. We always start off with a couple of games to let off a bit of steam before settling down to a short “lesson”, which always includes some form of craft activity or puzzles. Having a very mixed age group can be very challenging but it works rather like a big family – the older children are always very good at helping the younger ones.

We also have six laptop computers and a printer, with a variety of Christian games for the children to use, either as part of the “lesson” or as an alternative activity.

The themes we study in Sunday School are linked to the themes being followed in the Church Services, and the children usually have a take-home sheet so that parents know what they have been learning about. Sunday School finishes (officially!) when the Church Service finishes, but many of the children stay on finishing crafts or playing on the computers long after the service is over. Sometimes the only way to get them home is to unplug the laptops!

If you think your children would like to come along to Sunday School, just bring them along any Sunday morning about 10.50, even if you don’t want to stay to the service yourself, or give me a ring (01383 624779) for more information.

Gwyneth Kirby

### Getting it wright!

A visitor to a class of seven year-olds was struck by the sad, worldly-worn expression on the face of one little girl apparently labouring over a poem. Stopping by her desk he read her work:

Yesterday, yesterday, yesterday  
Happiness, happiness, happiness  
Today, today, today  
Trouble, trouble, trouble  
Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow  
Sorrow, sorrow, sorrow

Very much moved by what she had written he asked what had inspired her to write like that. She looked at him blankly and then replied that she wasn’t writing a poem, but that these were her spelling corrections!

from an old magazine from  
Christ Church, Virginia Water



# Invitations and requests

## Circuit Welcome

A Service of Welcome for our new Deacons Belinda Letby and Sarah McDowall will be held at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square on Friday 3 September. Everybody is welcome!

Andrew Letby writes: "This will be a very special occasion for the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit as we welcome our new ministers who will be offering a new and distinctive form of ministry in our churches and the communities which we serve."

A buffet tea will be provided from 5.00pm in the Robertson Hall below the church, and the service will start at 7.00pm. The preacher will be Rev Lily Twist, Chair of the Scotland District.

If a sufficient number of people wish to attend, it might be feasible to arrange transport and travel together, bearing in mind that it will be a busy Friday afternoon in Edinburgh, with the International Festival and many visitors to the city.

If you plan to attend this special event to welcome Sarah at the start of her ministry with us in Fife, and to wish Belinda well in her work with the City of Edinburgh church, and would like to share transport, please add your name as soon as possible to the list on the Crush Hall notice-board.

The cost of travel will depend on how many sign up – more details will appear in the weekly bulletin if it is decided to arrange transport.

## Our Book Club



Richard and Judy, the BBC and Oprah Winfrey have all done it and, guess what? We do it too! From Autumn to Spring, we meet in front of a cosy fire for fellowship and refreshments to have our very own book club.

We have 66 books to choose from, covering every aspect of life here and hereafter: from adventure, romance, history, genealogy, travel, biography, law, war, poetry, letters, theology to the greatest love story ever told!

Come and join us to get to know each other better as we consider together God's Word in The Good Book. Our next topic is Women of the New Testament.

The group is held fortnightly, on Fridays at 7.15, on dates to be announced soon. Transport can be arranged. For more information, please talk to Jack Fowell or Evelyn Kenny.

## One minute, please

What did our Lord say?

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

*Revelation 3:20*



## Fair Trade

Thanks to all of you who support the monthly Traidcraft Stall. I am sure we all appreciate the importance of Christians doing all we can to promote social justice. But we don't always realise that buying fairly traded goods regularly is a way in which we can help. To do this we need to develop the habit of looking out for the Fair Trade logo and trying if possible to resist the temptation to buy a cheaper brand.

In recent years the big supermarkets have begun to sell fairly-traded products and we need to encourage them to do so, but their own brand goods, although welcome, probably do not do as much good as purchases of Cafédirect or Traidcraft products.



Let me explain: Traidcraft is a non-profit making organisation (founded in 1979 ) which has made tremendous progress in helping producers in the Developing Countries to run small businesses and to assure them of a steady and fair price for their goods. Traidcraft also have a charity called Traidcraft Exchange which is the UK's only development charity specialising in making trade work for the poor.

Do look at the website [Traidcraft.co.uk](http://Traidcraft.co.uk) or ask me for a catalogue. You can order through me and save the postage!

Myra Tarr

## Are you a good listener?

"It feels good being listened to, and to be at ease listening to others."

"Learning to Listen" is a course run by Acorn Christian Healing at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh on 24/25 September and 1/2 October: from 7.00–9.30pm on the Fridays and 9.30am–12.30pm on the Saturdays. The sessions build on each other, so it is important to attend every one.

The course costs £40 and is open to all, though it is probably not appropriate for those who have been recently bereaved or are currently under extreme stress.

The sessions are practical and the group will be asked to explore some of their own concerns and experiences in twos or threes. The course will look at a way of listening to ourselves, to others and to God.

Listening to ourselves:

- Learning to quieten ourselves before God
- Discovering influences in our early life
- Exploring our own thoughts

Listening to others:

- An awareness of good listening
- The skills of active listening
- An understanding of how such skills can be effective in everyday life at home, at work and at Church

Listening to God:

- Experiencing different ways of praying: with the Bible, through meditation
- Reflection and silence.

If this interests you, please see Mary Kidd for further details and an Application Form.

# Invitations and requests

## “Integrating Life and Faith”

This is a course to explore the role of Christians as citizens in society and the way in which, inspired by the gospel, they can make a difference.

The course will be held at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh, is free of charge, and consists of four weekend modules (Saturday and Sunday 9.30am–5.00pm) on the following dates: 2/3 October, 27/28 November, 22/23 January 2011 and 19/20 March. Contact the Craighead Institute on 0141 332 2733, or e-mail [craiginst@aol.com](mailto:craiginst@aol.com).

## Festival of Spirituality and Peace 2010

“Treat others as you would like to be treated” (the ‘Golden Rule’) is the strapline on the [www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk](http://www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk) web site that gives details of this year’s programme.

Remembering the original purpose of the Edinburgh International Festival, which was to build peace in post-war Europe, this festival is dedicated to building peace in the post 9/11 world, gathering the wisdom of people of all faiths and none.

Between 7–30 August there are over 90 events in Edinburgh on the broad theme “The Golden Rule and Inter-Faith in the 21st Century”, with 68 conversationalists and speakers, and some 220 performers.



## Sponsors needed

Hi, my name is Dave Rankin. I’m presently living in Fife, and attend Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline.



For years, folks have been telling me to go take a hike, so I’ve decided to take the hint! I will be walking – all being well – from Land’s End to John O’Groats, starting on 1 September.

In the past, I have worked in the offshore oil industry, owned a car breaking business, been a property builder and developer, studied as a mature student, and been a pastor – all very arduous tasks! However, I think this may be my hardest challenge, so far.

I’m hoping to raise money for two charities:

Prospects: a Christian charity for folk with learning disabilities

Operation Smile UK: a charity that repairs children’s cleft lips and palates

If you would like to sponsor me, my “JustGiving” links are:

[www.justgiving.com/Dave-Rankin-Prospects](http://www.justgiving.com/Dave-Rankin-Prospects)

[www.justgiving.com/Dave-Rankin-OperationSmile](http://www.justgiving.com/Dave-Rankin-OperationSmile)

I know things are very difficult in this economic climate, but the sad thing is, that it is usually the weakest and most vulnerable in society, who suffer the most. Thanks and take care.

**Ed:** You can contact my friend Dave at [daverankin@msn.com](mailto:daverankin@msn.com).

# Music corner

## Classical rejoicing!

Do come to this concert by the Scottish Chamber Choir on **Sunday 15 August** at 8.00pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh

Handel: Chandos Anthem "Let God arise" and the Utrecht Te Deum

Mozart: Missa Brevis in C ("Organ solo Mass") (K259)

We are bringing our 2009–10 season to a close with music that amply demonstrates the joy and exuberance of youth, and will enhance your Festival experience. The Choir will be joined by a team of five soloists and the St Giles' Chamber Ensemble.

Our two Handel works date from soon after his arrival in England. The Te Deum to celebrate the Peace of Utrecht, first performed in July 1713, made enough impact to earn Handel a £200 a year pension from Queen Anne. Not bad for a young man of 28! "Let God arise" was one of twelve anthems written for Henry Brydges, Duke of Chandos, and contains both reminders of the early vigour of *Dixit Dominus* and foretastes of his later oratorios, with a splendidly sonorous Alleluja finale.

Mozart's "Organ solo" Mass is the last of nine masses in C major written for the Archbishop of Salzburg between 1773 and 1776. This charming setting derives its nickname from the *Benedictus*, and has one of the shortest-ever settings of the *Credo* at just 84 bars in length! If you don't already know it, you will just love this wee gem from the pen of an astonishingly mature 20-year-old.

Tickets from Martin Tarr are a bargain at £12 (under-18s free).

## Hymns of the lukewarm church

- A comfy mattress is our God
- Above average is Thy faithfulness
- Alas! And did my Saviour plead
- Amazing grace, how interesting the sound
- Be Thou my hobby
- Crown Him with many hats
- Go tell it on the speed bump
- How good Thou art
- I am standing in the vicinity of the Word of God
- I need thee every year or so
- I will make an effort not to forget Thee
- I am fairly certain that my Redeemer lives
- I surrender some
- Pillow of Ages, fluffed for me
- Take my life and let me be
- When peace like a trickle
- When the saints go sneaking in

from the magazine of  
Upper Holloway Baptist Church

## Filling the odd corner

We deliberately don't fill every last bit of every page, but we sometimes find we have room for material, whether images



We're bringing oil to American shores.

or words, that will raise a smile, or cause us to stop and think. Your inputs are always welcome.

# Leading questions to think and pray about

a challenge from Andrew Letby

## **The Edinburgh and Forth Circuit Mission Statement**

The Circuit aims to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ by:

**Worship:** whilst maintaining all that is good in traditional worship, to adopt a new and radical approach to contemporary forms of worship.

**Learning and Caring:** to nurture our members and their families, those using our premises and services, and to continue to build good relationships with people of other faiths.

**Service:** to encourage people to use their talents and skills to serve others.

**Evangelism:** to become more able to bring others to know God. To use all available resources to teach ourselves and others how to reach outwards.

At the recent Methodist Church Council meeting I copied the Circuit Mission Statement at the head of the agenda. I did so to help us reflect on our true purpose as we conducted our business. The Mission Statement is based on a very significant document widely distributed across the whole of UK Methodism nearly 10 years ago, known as 'Our Calling'.

'Our Calling' identified four key areas of Christian life which should define who we are and how we seek to be God's faithful in the world. Each of these was accompanied by reflective questions which encouraged Methodists to consider how they might respond. The Edinburgh and Forth Circuit used these questions to work out the mission statement. The various areas and questions are expanded below. Perhaps we should take a moment from time to time to

think about how we would answer these with regard to the life of our own church and our own personal discipleship.

## **WORSHIP**

**The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love**

- What helps us to centre our worship on God?
- Where and when do we feel the presence of God? How can these experiences enrich services of worship?
- What motivates us to study the Bible?
- What helps us to express awe and wonder, thankfulness and praise, and love towards God? How can we use resources from the worldwide Church?
- What would help our worship to make sense to people who come only occasionally?
- Can we improve the comfort and decor of our surroundings and the welcome for people with disabilities?
- Is our worship much the same all the time? Should we explore styles and traditions of worship from other denominations and other parts of the world?

What are our plans and targets for improving our worship over the next year?

## **LEARNING AND CARING**

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care**

- What church activities help us most to deepen our faith in God?
- How effective are our small groups, in linking faith to everyday life?

- How do we learn about the challenges of Christian life today from churches elsewhere in Britain and the wider world?
- Are there peripheral activities we should stop, to make time for our training and learning needs?
- What activities make it easy for others to join us? What links do we have with groups using our premises?
- What do we expect from our pastors? What do we expect from one another by way of support and care? Do we notice or care about those who drift away or leave?

**What are our plans and targets for developing our life together over the next year?**

## **SERVICE**

**The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice**

- How do we discover the needs in our community and respond to them?
- Who is involved in service to the community through charities or community groups? Are there opportunities for more of us to become involved? How do we give attention to the moral issues raised by daily work?
- Do we share with one another our concerns about things which do not seem right, or cause trouble in our community, or appear unjust? How do we challenge injustice in other parts of the world?
- Are we making the best use of our premises and our money for service to the community?

Are we wasting resources? Are we spending our time and resources in ways which are consistent with our beliefs and values?

- How does the life of our community, and our involvement in it, feature in the prayers of the church?

**What are our plans and targets for improving our community involvement over the next year?**

## **EVANGELISM**

**The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ**

- How do we develop friendly attitudes towards everyone we meet?
- Do we have a clear message? Are the words we use straightforward and meaningful to those outside the Church?
- What attracts others to the Christian faith? Are there initiatives we could take to present our convictions? Can we do this with Christians of other denominations? Where should the focus be — on church premises, or in the community?
- How can we learn about effective witness from Christians in other cultures?
- What can we do to make our premises more welcoming?
- Should we consider planting a new congregation in this locality?

**What are our plans and targets for making more followers of Jesus Christ over the next year?**

# Our Church Building

the second in a series of articles by Martin Rogers  
celebrating 40 years of the present church building

In the last edition of Contact, I wrote about the stonelaying ceremony for our Church which took place in May 1970. The building of the Church progressed steadily after that and the Church Trust turned their attention to the furnishings. Our minister at the time was Rev Roger Tate who, by Methodist Church standards, would probably be considered 'High Church'. I remember him saying something along the lines that if members of the congregation could gain spiritual uplift from what they saw in the sanctuary, he wouldn't mind if they didn't listen to his sermon! I wasn't a member of the Trust but I believe that Roger was the driving force behind the decision to commission the large mural in the Church and some of the sanctuary furniture (more of the furniture in the next article).



Derek Seymour working on the mural

The artist who painted the mural was a Devon man, Derek Seymour. He served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and whilst at Rosyth, met his wife-to-be and settled in Rosyth. He was a teacher at St Columba's High School and later at Robert Henryson School. I interviewed Derek before the Church was opened and, in his name, wrote a contribution on the mural for the dedication brochure. I have used this as the basis for this article.

Early Christian Byzantine artists endeavoured to enhance the majesty of Christ by painting him bigger than the humans surrounding him. In the Church mural Derek attempted to carry this to the ultimate with the 14 foot high head of Christ dwarfing the greatest technical achievements of man in the Rosyth area (the Forth Bridges and the Dockyard). The depicting of the lower section of the mural in a semi-abstract manner is in contrast to the more realistic treatment of the head of Christ, further helping to separate the real from the heavenly. The eyes are the most impressive guide to character and all features in the mural lead to the eyes. Christ's head is painted so that it will draw no one particular feeling or sentiment from the viewer. It must be almost expressionless, letting the onlooker extract his or her own mood or feeling from the face. The elongation of the head adds regality to the portrait and the choice of blue for a basic colour adds depth and a quality of mystery.

Modern methods of wall painting have, in general, not proved very durable and the method used in painting our mural is the same as the best of the many methods that were used by artists in the 15th Century which have stood the test of time. A layer of cement was first put on the wall and allowed to dry out completely. A fresco base was then added consisting of a lime-free plaster painted with a water pigment mixture. The painting was carried out when the plaster was only partly dried and this allowed the pigment to sink into the plaster layer. The final stage was completed with eggs and pigment, with water added for purposes of consistency only. A small amount of fine marble dust was added to give a matt finish.



## The Church Library

In all, 3½ pounds of ground pigments and 19 dozen eggs were used and the whole project including preliminary work took about 300 hours to complete.

The mural attracted a lot of interest at the time with articles in local newspapers and an interview with Derek on the radio. It is not everyone's cup of tea but one thing for sure is that you can't ignore it!



Rev Roger Tate stands in front  
of the completed mural

The symbol of the fish was used in the furnishings, appearing on the pulpit fall and in a wood carving on the font. Derek incorporated some abstract depictions of fish in the mural ... How many can you find?

... to be continued

In a corner of the Crush Hall is an old, glass-fronted bookcase that belonged to Sister Anne Whytehead, a retired Wesleyan deaconess who was active in our church for many years until Alzheimer's was diagnosed in 1990. Her only relative was her niece in Elgin, so I began to look after Anne's affairs, settled her in Bandrum Nursing Home, and arranged for her house in Elder Place to be returned to the council.

Her bookcase and some selected books were moved to our church. These formed the basis for a small church library, and from time to time I have removed some books and added a few books of my own, and from other people, including the late Dr Gordon Murray who took over pastoral care for Anne until her death in August 2000.

A small notebook records a total of ten people who regularly borrowed books from it over the years. The first entry is by Chris Slater, and the last is by Doreen Mackie, but some pages from the notebook are obviously missing. Later I asked Jack Fowell to "keep an eye on it". This he has faithfully done by writing short reviews for Contact. Many of the books in the bookcase are 'heavy going' and some are now quite dated, so Contact readers are invited to donate suitable books that they have enjoyed and found helpful in understanding the Christian way of living. In this way we hope to improve the stock of good books and get rid of unwanted ones.

Malcolm Trew

**Ed:** see back cover for Jack's latest contribution and for a link to our first guest review.

# Property Matters

a report from Martin Rogers, Chairman of the Property Committee

## Fire alarm/emergency lighting

Those who have been on the Church premises in the last month or so will have noticed some further changes.

Our fire alarm and emergency lighting systems have now been installed. The emergency lighting system provides some basic lighting in the event of a power cut or a fuse blowing in any part of the building. The fire alarm system consists of a series of smoke detectors in the ceilings of most of the rooms and corridors which will detect smoke and automatically set off the fire alarm. The exception is the detector in the kitchen which is a heat detector, so burning the toast shouldn't set off the alarm!

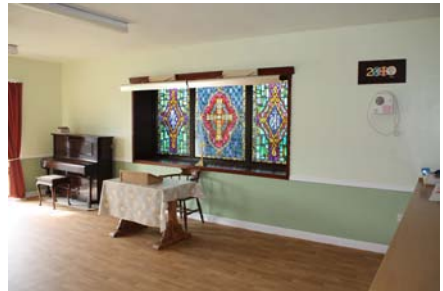
Beside each exit is a "break glass" point and, if someone discovers a fire before the alarm sounds, this should be activated to warn other users in the building. In most cases the smoke detectors double up as the fire alarms and will emit a fairly high-pitched noise and show a strobe-type flashing red light.

Once organisations start meeting again after the summer break, I will demonstrate the alarm system to them. We will also be revising our notices advising what to do in the event of a fire. We will need to arrange a practice fire evacuation after one of our services so that members of the congregation can experience it.

The bookcase (page 33) is now looking rather shabby, and it would be wonderful if someone would remove the doors and associated mechanism and paint it, thus giving it a new lease of life and brightening up that corner of the Crush Hall. Please contact Malcolm Trew if you feel you could undertake this task.

## Church Lounge

Those who have ventured into Room 4 (with the stained glass windows) will have seen a major transformation. We were struggling to keep the carpet tiles clean and decided to replace the tiles with wood effect vinyl flooring which will be much easier to keep clean. The walls have been redecorated in shades of green which is the dominant colour in the stained glass windows and of most of the chairs.



Our thanks to Mandy, Dave and Paul Ward who took this on as a family project, and to the Guides, who met the cost of the paint. Through her contacts, Mandy was able to get a good deal on the vinyl flooring and obtain some 'new' curtains for the room at no cost.

## Piano seeks good home

In my article in the last edition of Contact, I mentioned that we were disposing of the piano in Room 3. We had one enquiry about it but transport costs proved prohibitive. If you know of anyone who might be interested in a piano please contact me or Myra Tarr.

# Financial matters

## Many a mickle ...

The Wednesday Fellowship is a happy band of ladies and gentlemen who enjoy our weekly meetings, and we thought that people would like to know how just a few folks could manage to give quite a lot of money over the year to various charities:

- Cumbrian Flood Relief Fund £60
- Church Christmas Coffee Morning £60
- Seafarers £50
- Home Missions £25
- World Missions £25
- Baptismal Font Fund £70
- CHAS £50
- Christian Aid £50
- Gideon International Bible Society £50

As you can see, we did very well but, if a few more people joined us on a Wednesday, we would be able to donate even more – think about it.

Mary Dempster

## Font Fund full!

Donations for the font fund have reached within £75 of the target of £650, a gap that will be more than filled thanks to tax recovered from the Gift-Aided donations.

## Christian Aid

Whilst not the final total, Mary Dempster advises that so far this year Rosyth has raised £1,959.

## St Margaret's giving

While general congregational giving is still down on budget, our Gift Aid tax refund came in in June, which allowed us to send a cheque for £250 to each of the following charities: CHAS, Children 1st (formerly SSPCC), Scottish Bible Society and HomeStart Dunfermline. Well done!

Alan Taylor

## Methodist Gift Aid

This is just to report briefly on the result of the church's gift-aiding during the Tax Year to 5 April 2010.

We gave through collections and donations to the church, specific church funds (for example the Font Fund), and external charities, a total of £21,000.

This will bring a total tax recovery of £5,900 and, after crediting the special funds and charities as well as paying the Methodist HQ costs, will leave the sum of £5,000 for the general church fund. Well done to all our gift-aiders!

If you don't already help the church in this way, please consider becoming a Gift-Aider if you pay tax ) and contact Howard Kirby or Ron Dempster who will be able to discuss this with you, in confidence of course.

Ron Dempster (Gift Aid Secretary)

## Retiring collections and tea-bar

The retiring collections in June (for MHA) and July (for the Scottish Bible Society) at the 11am service were £0 and £0. Fortunately, those running the tea-bar in three of those weeks chose to steer their takings to these charities, so providing £6 (for MHA) and £20.05 (for SBS) respectively.

Not for the first time, the way in which retiring collections are organised is called into question. Perhaps the tea-bar rather than the back of the church should be the focal point for such offerings. What do you think?

Forthcoming retiring collections are for the Benevolence Fund in August and the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) in September.

Howard Kirby

## Unexpected links ...

Alan Taylor reports on an NTS West Fife Branch visit

A bright sunny morning in mid-June found Evelyn Kenny, Olive Lee, Bridget and myself at Arniston House, where Lady Henrietta Dundas and her husband John were waiting to show us around their home.



Built in the mid-18th century in the Palladian style, to replace the earlier Arniston Tower House, this incorporated the original basement and two ground floor rooms of what had been the family home since 1571. William Adam, a landscape designer as well as an architect, removed a wall surrounding the grounds to open up magnificent vistas across the Firth of Forth to Fife, and south to the Moorfoot Hills.

Lady Henrietta's wonderful tour explained in fascinating detail the history of the Dundas family, for many centuries eminent in Scottish law and politics. Robert Dundas, who commissioned the present house in 1726, was Solicitor General for Scotland, then Lord Advocate, and finally Lord President of the Court of Session, achievements and honours some of which were to fall on his descendants. The family portraits by contemporary Scottish artists such as Henry Raeburn and Alexander Nasmyth are on display, particularly in the Picture Room at the top of the house, previously the School Room.

Having left an estate whose lands had once been owned by the Knights Templar, we came to Roslin, to visit Rosslyn Chapel – that place of mystery, of Knights Templar, even of the Holy Grail if Dan Brown is to be believed.

Major work to dry out and conserve the structure is nearing an end, the canopy above the building is being taken down, and a new Visitor Centre is being built.



Only when you enter the chapel do you see its true magnificence. It's indescribable, the stone carvings are so complex and ornate, and none of them are the same. And everything said about the Apprentice Pillar is true – little wonder the Master Mason was so jealous that he killed his apprentice, for which he paid with his own life!



Rosslyn was originally a private family chapel, although local Scottish Episcopalians were allowed to worship there. Then came "The Da Vinci Code" and a beautiful private place became a place for tourists to flock to. We might object to such invasions, but is that not also a means of outreach? Can the same not be said about films such as "The Robe" and the re-enactment of Christ's passion at Dundas Castle in South Queensferry – yes, the same family as at Arniston! God indeed moves in a mysterious way – and that is something in which we can put our trust.

# Rest for the weary!

## Ready for Retirement?

Or even a short holiday in the hills?

Not long ago Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) opened a beautiful retirement village in South Lanarkshire, just off the M74. It is set in 50 acres of landscaped gardens and lochans. In addition to more traditional residential care facilities, there are also apartments for sale from £122,000, and studio apartments from £75,000. Either can be bought for half-price on a shared ownership basis, and MHA also offers valuable assistance in selling your own home. There is also accommodation to rent.

The village, called 'Auchlochan', has a minibus to take people to the shops and WRVS volunteers are available to help folk get to hospital appointments. MHA is not just for Methodists, of course, but for anyone who values the quality of care that is offered in a Christian environment.

Auchlochan holds occasional 'sales events' when anyone is welcome to come and have a look round. The next one is on 29 September. Visitors will be welcome at around 10.30am, 2.00pm or 4.00pm. The address is New Trows Road, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, ML11 0JS.

You can even book in there for a holiday, either B&B from £27.50 a night, or a self-catering apartment for three nights or more. For more information, phone 01555 893592, or email [enquiries@mha.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mha.org.uk).



## Rest and refreshment

An island retreat

Bishops House is the Episcopal retreat house on Iona, capable of housing up to twenty-three guests in ten twin and three single rooms. It provides a unique venue for parish groups, reflective holidays and individual pilgrims, overlooking the sound of Iona and only a short walk from Iona Abbey. Founded in 1894 by Bishop Alexander Chinnery Haldane, it still offers a place of prayer, eucharist and study as he wished.

Bishops House now also offers winter self-catering opportunities on Iona from November till February. You can have the house to yourself and enjoy the quiet and beauty of winter on Iona.

There are often last-minute deals for groups and individuals. More details at [www.island-retreats.org/iona.html](http://www.island-retreats.org/iona.html), plus an emailing list for news and last minute deals.



Iona  
iona  
the wheel  
of the gull  
the sparkling  
of the waves  
the changing  
of the colours  
the sadness  
of the goodbyes  
iona  
iona

Dan Ross

**Ed:** We're not going commercial – these ideas came from Eric Potts and Sandra Young respectively!



# **“The Heart of Christianity” by Marcus J Borg**

a book review by Margaret Dineley

Marcus J Borg was Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University until his retirement in 2007, and is the author of a number of books on the Christian faith that have received wide acclaim for their thoughtfulness, appropriateness to our times and accessibility to the non-academic reader.

In this 2003 book, sub-titled “Rediscovering a Life of Faith”, Borg promotes a compassionate form of Christianity, and revisits the basic tenets of faith in the context of contemporary culture. In an easy-to-read work he communicates with each one of us, reminding us that the “heart of Christianity speaks directly to the human heart as a lived, living and loving faith” – an important message in this secular age.

Borg describes two ways of looking at Christianity. Firstly, he talks of the ‘earlier paradigm’, the way most Christians in Western culture have seen their faith for the past few centuries. Secondly, he introduces the reader to the ‘emerging paradigm’ that has been developing for over a hundred years and is becoming increasingly adopted within main-line denominations.

What does he mean by these two paradigms? Basically the ‘earlier paradigm’ views Christianity as “grounded in divine authority”, seeing the Bible as a “divine product with divine authority” and interpreting it in a literal-factual way, its function being to reveal doctrine and morals. Within this conceptual framework the Christian life is seen as emphasising “an after-life and what to believe or do to be saved”.

The ‘emerging paradigm’, on the other hand, sees the Bible as “a human response to God”, interpreting it as historical and metaphorical (looking at its meanings), its function being to search out these meanings and to “mediate the sacred”.

Significantly, the ‘emerging paradigm’ claims that the Christian life should focus on “transformation in this life through relationship with God”.

Whilst the book principally advocates this ‘emerging paradigm’, there is no compulsion to accept it as the only way to regard Christianity, and readers are invited to accept or reject various aspects as they wish.

Borg recognises that the Christian faith is no longer the central pillar of Western society, so Christians are frequently on society’s margins and are being challenged to look at their faith again. Starting by questioning what it means to be Christian today, Borg asks the reader to look at the heart of Christianity in a time of change, and goes on to look more deeply at topics such as faith, the Bible, God, Jesus, the Kingdom of God, ‘thin places’ and sin and salvation. His key metaphor throughout the book is the word ‘heart’, a word with various nuances of meaning, from that which is most central, the core or the essence, to more organic interpretations suggesting something “alive, pulsating, the source of life”.

These descriptions have hopefully both mystified and intrigued those who have not read this or any other work by Borg. Probably some of you will wonder why they should read this book, being perfectly happy with their current faith and understanding of Christianity. However, I do urge you to read it for yourself and trust that you will be as stimulated and excited by it as we were in our Study and Growth Group at Holy Trinity. We did not always agree with Borg or with each other, but we were made to think, and I feel that, as a result, we became more open and honest with each other about our attitudes to faith.

[Margaret Dineley is Lay Rep and CTN Liaison Officer at Holy Trinity]



# Contact points

This list supplements the list of formal contacts given on the inside cover, and is for the activities and organisations run by the Methodist Church Council and St Margaret's Vestry, and by affiliated but independent organisations.

## Church activities

Methodist Gift Aid enquiries to  
Ron Dempster 01383 721252  
ronmary.dempster@tiscali.co.uk

Property matters and letting enquiries to  
Martin Rogers 01383 415458  
martin.rogers@ukgateway.net

Rosyth Methodist Toddler Group  
Elaine Lambert 01383 417071  
elaine.lambert1@sky.com

St Margaret's Choir  
Myra Tarr 01383 723989  
myra@mtarr.co.uk

St Margaret's Gift Aid enquiries to  
Marc Tempelhoff 01383 410151  
marct@talktalk.net

Sunday School and Sunday Funday  
Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779  
gmkirby@hotmail.com

Traidcraft  
Myra Tarr 01383 723989  
myra@mtarr.co.uk

Wednesday Fellowship  
Mary Kidd 01383 872332  
cmarykidd@btinternet.com

## Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup  
Lesley Hynd  
(play leader) 07758 877284  
Becca Murphy  
Tracy Stephens (chair)  
bramblesplaygroup@hotmail.com

Parahandies Disabled Club  
Peter Merckel  
(secretary) 01383 822940  
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

## Scout Group

Group Scout Leader  
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936  
stuart.fowell@ukonline.co.uk

Beaver Scouts  
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936  
stuart.fowell@ukonline.co.uk

Cub Scouts  
Martin Rogers 01383 415458  
martin.rogers@ukgateway.net

Scouts  
Alan Connery 01383 731391  
alan.connery@virgin.net

Explorer Scouts  
Terry O'Neill 01363 842695  
terryoneill2003@yahoo.co.uk

## Guide Unit

Rainbows  
Susan Warren 01383 414355  
Young Leader, Melissa Peel

Brownies  
Suzy Knight 01383 416087

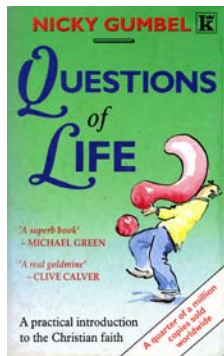
Guides  
Mandy Ward 01383 414944  
thewards\_197@talktalk.net

Assistant Guider, Susan Warren  
Young Leader, Nicola Byrne:

Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk

# The Bookcase: No.16

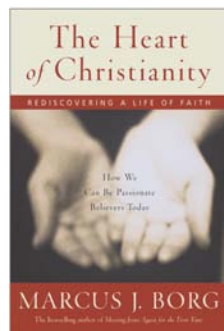
our regular feature from Jack Fowell



“Questions of Life” is the title of a book written by the Rev Nicky Gumbel, who is on the staff of Holy Trinity, Brompton. Nicky has had great results from Alpha Courses and, in writing this little book, he has concentrated on answering questions about the Christian life that have been raised by beginners on the Christian Way. That said, it is still worth reading as a refresher course for our own Christian thinking.

This is the last of Jack’s articles: a big thank you to Jack for his faithful ministry. What happens next? On page 33 you’ll find an article by Malcolm Trew giving the history of the bookcase, and outlining our plan to revive its use.

The first of our guest contributions appears on page 38, and is a review of Marcus Borg’s book “The Heart of Christianity”. If you like the book, you’ll be interested to hear that Marcus Borg is coming to Edinburgh this September. The Conference is being held at St John’s Church, Princes Street, from 10–12 September. Unfortunately the Friday session is already fully booked, but there are still some tickets left for the Saturday. If you are interested, you should contact Adrian or Christine Alker ([adrian.christine@googlemail.com](mailto:adrian.christine@googlemail.com) or 01937 583513). If you are unable to get a ticket for the Saturday lectures, or are unavailable on that day, you could hear Borg preaching at the morning service at St John’s on Sunday 12 September at 10.30am.



## To our contributors

Thank you for all the inputs that are so helpful to us in our task of creating an interesting and informative newsletter. Please keep the ideas coming! We love having articles with photographs, but suggest 350–400 words + two images as the easiest fit onto a page.

## On the web

There isn’t enough space in Contact for all the information and photos, so soon you will be able to access more photos and items such as the Agape service sheet on a new Archive page on our website. You can also view or download Contact, and zoom in to look at text or photos in colour; at <http://tinyurl.com/378p7lb>.

St Margaret’s web site is at <http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk/>; the parallel web site for Rosyth Methodist Church is currently under development.

The **next issue** of Contact will be published on Back to Church Sunday, 26 September. Contributions please by **Sunday 19 September** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; 01383 723989), preferably by email to [martin@mtarr.co.uk](mailto:martin@mtarr.co.uk). Note that this is *earlier* than usual! Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young ([sandrayoung39@btinternet.com](mailto:sandrayoung39@btinternet.com) or 01383 415021).