

Rosyth
Methodist Church



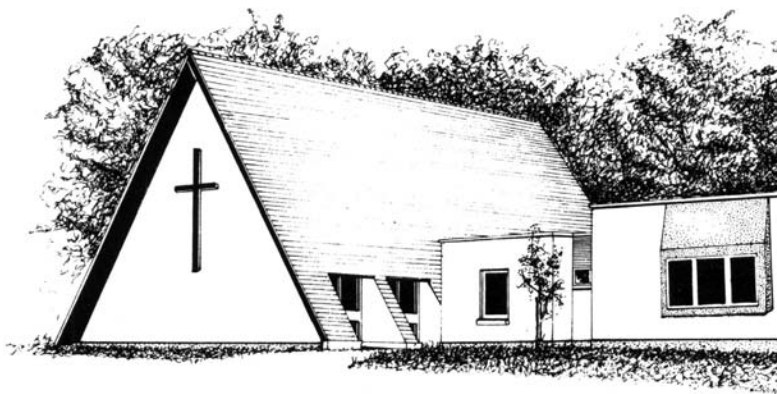
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 53

October/November 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

Ministers:

Deacon Sarah McDowall
01383 611000

Rev Andrew Letby 0131 663 1545

Supernumerary Ministers:

Rev Eric Potts 01383 851373

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 07720 327766

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 Episcopalians 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.

Music hath powers ...

A challenge from the Reverend Tim Bennison

I have devised a new theory! You may have already known it, but I have recently realised that there is a direct relationship between the type and volume of music one listens to in the car and the way in which one drives. Well, there is for me, anyway!

Eva Cassidy, for example, tends to evoke a gentle, generous style of driving whereas Guns N' Roses is more inclined to make me impatient and take more risks. Bach's Air on the G String leaves me feeling calm and relaxed with no sense of urgency whatsoever; whereas a symphonic poem, such as Strauss's *Metamorphosen* leaves me feeling ponderous, and not really sure where I'm going or what I'm doing!

The composer who has the greatest effect on my driving though, is Wagner. Wagner's music is frequently dramatic and sometimes almost overwhelming – and it's definitely served best at very high volume. I'm convinced that when *Lohengrin*, or *Die Meistersinger*, are on in the car at full volume, my speed increases by an average of at least 25mph! In fact, last year, I knocked nearly half an hour off a trip back from Aberdeen to Dunfermline simply because I was singing along at the top of my voice to *Tannhäuser* all the way back!

Whether or not my theory is really true (and even if it is, it certainly wouldn't stand up in a court of law if I were to get a speeding ticket!), there can be no doubt that music, in general, has the capacity to have a very powerful effect on us. It can elicit the most delicate of emotions, or it can arouse great passion and fortitude; it can be the vehicle through which we express our love or our anger; it can reduce us to tears, or it can drive us on into battle.

So it surely is no surprise that music of one kind or another has such an important place in so many of the significant moments both in the lives of us as individuals, but also in the lives of communities and nations.

And so, in the light of all of that, I sometimes get a little irritated when music is made to be less than it is. I learned a new saying a few years ago, one which describes something that's a little trite or superficial. It goes like this: "It was all right, but it was a bit *Classic FM*!" You probably know what I mean without my needing to explain. *Classic FM* is a wonderful radio station and has made classical music accessible to many who would never have listened to it before – but it also often has a rather uni-dimensional approach to the music it broadcasts that sometimes rather lacks depth. So something that is "a bit *Classic FM*" is something that lacks substance or real depth.

For *Classic FM*, the most important thing about classical music seems to be that it should be 'relaxing'! And, to prove it, the radio station has produced a number of CDs over the years, all based on that premise: "The Most Relaxing Classical Album Yet"; "Yet Another Relaxing Classical Album" and so on.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with all of this. *Classic FM* is a very successful radio station – and anyone who listens to *Classic FM* will know that I'm exaggerating hugely anyway. My point, I suppose, is that music is about far more than just relaxing. *Classic FM* has done a wonderful job of making music 'comfortable' to listen to – but sometimes, I'm not sure if I want to be comfortable.

/continued overleaf

A service of welcome – “The Journey”

/from overleaf

Sometimes I want to be challenged; sometimes I want the music to move me, to raise me to passion or anger, to set my heart racing, to make me think and to confront things in myself; or to invoke my emotions: to fill me with sadness, to reduce me to tears. Music is so much more than simply something to soothe us or for us to relax to.

Sometimes, people like church to be comfortable too. And it's great when it is! But, like music, church is about far more than that. And sometimes, like the music I've been describing, Church has to challenge us too. Sometimes the job of church is to pluck us out of our comfort zone, to force us to confront our assumptions or prejudices; or perhaps to motivate us and inspire us to action.

We all like to be comfortable, but sometimes, we need to be so much more than that!

Tim Bennison

On Friday 3 September the new deacons, Belinda Letby and Sarah McDowall, were welcomed into the life of the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit: Belinda, by her husband, Andrew, Circuit Superintendent; Sarah, by her husband, Archie, one of the Circuit Stewards. How proud and delighted both husbands were to be taking part in this eventful and unique occasion.

The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (CEMC) was vibrant on a glorious evening when a packed church witnessed the joyous and moving occasion. The theme of the service was “The journey”. This was reflected through the spoken word, the music (beautifully sung by the choir), the hymns, and intercessions. The Rev Lily Twist gave, as always, a thought-provoking sermon, which was followed by greetings on behalf of those who had travelled with Belinda and Sarah to this point in their journey of ministry.

Welcomes were also extended from Circuit members, ecumenical partners, faith groups and civic representatives who will work with them in the future as they fulfil the next stage in their journey – ministering, as Belinda will in Edinburgh, and as Sarah will in Rosyth and Kirkcaldy. Finally, Belinda and Sarah shared their stories and hopes for the future.

We offer our prayers and support to them both, particularly Sarah as she starts the next part of her journey, as deacon with us in Rosyth.

Ed: Everyone was delighted to see Deborah and John Cornish at CEMC, and again in Rosyth on the Sunday following to support Sarah at her first service.

join us in worship
FOR A **SERVICE OF WELCOME**



DEACON
**BELINDA
LETBY**



DEACON
**SARAH
MCDOWALL**

3 TUESDAY {7:00 PM}
SEPTEMBER

 **CITY OF EDINBURGH
METHODIST CHURCH**
NICOLSON SQUARE

led by
REV'D ANDREW LETBY



message by
REV'D LILY TWIST, DISTRICT CHAIR

Rev Eric Potts, BA



The presentation

After the Joint Service in August, Mary Kidd presented to Eric Potts, on behalf of the two congregations, a gift of book tokens. Having learned that he is an avid reader and lover of books it seemed the most appropriate gift which he will enjoy during his second retirement.

We thanked Eric for his ministry with us during the last year, since Deborah's departure. His preaching and teaching have helped us all in the understanding of each other within our ecumenical partnership. We're relieved that this was not a 'farewell gift'!

Eric has now taken on the role of Circuit Tutor for all the Local Preachers 'on note' and 'on trial' – not an easy task since there are now more of these than there have been for many years. We wish him well in this new appointment.

In response ...

I would like to say a warm thank you to all members and friends of both churches for the very generous gift presented to me on my retirement. I have already enjoyed spending part of the book token in Edinburgh!

It has been a pleasure and privilege to be minister at Rosyth, even for such a short time. I have always found it a great privilege to be allowed into people's lives at some of the most moving moments of their lives, and this year has been no exception.

I now commend you to the ministry of Sarah and look forward to new and good things happening in the years ahead.

With every blessing,

Eric Potts

The journey home

In order to attend the Service of Welcome, ten intrepid Methodist and Piskie 'seniors' ventured to Edinburgh by bus, and arrived by 5pm in time for the usual Methodist 'feast'. On the return journey, they were joined by veterans from other Rosyth churches who had also been invited to the service. The young bus driver's face was a picture as they all boarded the bus with their bus passes! – quite a change from the usual Friday night passengers! Our chief steward reluctantly refrained from leading hymn singing, but the whole occasion was too much for one retired minister, who slept through most of the journey home – blame his house move for his tiredness.

Fellowship News

10 years on: Congratulations to Martin and Sue Forman, who celebrated their 'tin' anniversary recently, and were the first St Margaret's couple to be married following the closure of the Naval Base Church. They were married by the Rev David Campbell on 16 September 2000 and, according to Sue, she cannot believe 10 years have passed already!



Engagement: Suzy Trevethan (Myra Tarr's elder daughter) has recently become engaged to Ben Hunt. Suzy worshipped at St Margaret's before she moved to work in London a few years ago. Suzy and Ben will be married in Suffolk (Ben's family's county) next August. We congratulate Suzy and wish her and Ben every happiness in the future.



Birth: Congratulations to St Margaret's former curate, the Rev Tembu Rongong, and his wife Helen on the birth of twin boys, Jem and Kiram, born on 19 August, brothers for Jadon. Tembu has been Rector of St James, Goldenacre for the past two years. Our prayers and best wishes go to the Rongong family on this happy occasion.



New job 1: Meanwhile, Stephen Tarr (Martin's son) has recently taken up an appointment teaching Mathematics at the Lilian Baylis Technology School, Kennington, South London. Stephen graduated in Civil Engineering (MEng) at the University of Nottingham and gained his teaching qualification at Southampton. We wish Stephen every success in his future career.



Our contributors have been writing away madly, so some Fellowship News items have been moved towards the back of this issue, where you will find reflections on the lives of Norah Lauder (pages 24–25), Ina Myles (page 26) and David Lawson (page 27), and an account of Gwyneth Kirby's recent Great North Run (page 35).

In the wars

Julie Denning is making excellent progress after her recent hip operation and is getting around. **Audrey Headden** will have her left knee replaced on 29 September in the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy. Audrey already had her right knee replaced 5 years ago!

We send best wishes to Julie and Audrey and remember them in our prayers.

Alan and Ruby Lucas are going through a frustrating and painful time just now. Alan is recovering from a bypass operation and has to be careful what he does, and poor Ruby fell on the stairs of her house and has broken an ankle very badly, and has to use a wheelchair. Please remember them in your prayers and maybe give them a phone sometime?

New job 2: We reported in last November's issue that Dr **Ceri Trevethan** (Myra Tarr's younger daughter), who was part of our congregation before moving to Aberdeen some years ago, had qualified as a clinical psychologist, and was working in London. Being 500 miles from home and partner Jim in Aberdeen was not easy, and we're pleased to report that Ceri now has a new job at Cornhill Hospital, only a short walk away from home!



Margaret Shaw

As we went to press, we heard of the sudden and unexpected death of Sue Forman's mother, Margaret, in the early hours of Thursday 23 September. We extend our condolences to Sue's father, Alistair, and to Sue and Martin, and assure them of our prayers.

From the Register

Sunday 22 August. **Thanksgiving** for the birth of Aiden O'Neill, son of Jacqueline and Terry. Aiden was born on 8 June 2010.

Monday 30 August. **Funeral** of David Lawson of Admiralty Road, Rosyth, husband of Margaret and father of Sandra Wilson.

Ron Armstrong

Ron was minister at Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline (1975–82), and then Scottish Representative of the Baptist Missionary Society for ten years until his retirement. Some of you may have come across him then, met him or his wife Rita after their final retirement move to Dunfermline in 2006, or been cared for by their daughter Helen Drysdale, who lives locally.

We are sad to report that Ron passed away peacefully on Monday 20 September after deteriorating rapidly following a recent diagnosis of aggressive cancer.

Our prayers are with Rita and the family at this time. A memorial service will be held at Viewfield Baptist Church at 2.00pm on Saturday 2 October.

Ed: Although we then lost touch for nearly 40 years, I first met Ron in 1966. How this impacted on my life you'll find out in our next issue ...

A little about Iris Lines ...

Iris was brought up in Portsmouth, where she met and married Alf Lines, and came to live in Rosyth when Alf was posted here. The Methodist Church was then in Parkgate and they both were engaged in different ways in helping the Church to flourish – Alf was a Local Preacher and Iris, as well as being a member of the Choir, was a Sunday School teacher. The Sunday School was so large that it had to hold some classes in the building next door, which happened to be the Masonic Lodge. One of the Outreach programs that the Sunday School staff took part in was to visit the home of every child in the Sunday School.

Their next move was to Malta for three years, then back to Rosyth for ten years. Iris joined the Women's Own and did her share by being President. She liked making up poetry for all occasions and was known in the group as "Their own resident poet". Iris was also a member of the Thursday Club, and when there was a fund-raising event she would provide home baking and help in any way she could.



They were then sent to Gibraltar for a time before coming back to Rosyth after Alf retired. Sadly Alf passed away after only a short time in their nice bungalow, but Iris managed to get into her present home in Calum MacDonald Court, which is convenient for seeing her son Rowland, daughter-in-law Paula and their family. Iris's daughter Marion visits too whenever she can from her home in Northampton. Although unable to attend Church, Iris supports it in any way she can, including sending Birthday Cards and Get Well wishes to her old friends in the Women's Own and remembering her Church in her prayers.

The Church should speak with a single voice
Telling all people to come and rejoice.
Instead of regretting the empty pews
The Voice should be telling the great Good News.
The Gospel of Grace, the living Word.
If only the Church was of one accord.
So many need God in these sin-sick days,
Who is to help them out of life's maze
Of drugs and crime, sorrow and pain?
Back to a sane way of life again.
Not burdened with sin, not chained to despair,
Re-awakened, alive, aware
That Jesus only, true joy gives.
That Jesus saves, that Jesus lives.
The world needs God so sorely today,
So, wake up Church without delay.
Don't bring Him shame by wavering
Together, now, show people your King.

Iris Lines

A little about Joyce Ward ...

Joyce was born in Broadstairs in Kent in 1914 and when she was two years old the family moved to Portsmouth where Iris joined the family – their house was bombed twice but thankfully they were alright. Joyce met and married Tom Ward and later had a son David. Sadly Tom died in 1982, so Joyce decided to move up to Rosyth to be near her family – David and his wife Mandy and their children. She lived in Norval Place for about nine years before deciding to move to sheltered accommodation at Calum MacDonald Court.



Like her sister Iris (see opposite), Joyce joined the Thursday Club and the Women's Own where she became the Secretary. She too baked and worked hard for the Church, supporting Coffee Mornings, Christmas Sales and any other fund-raising events. She also went on holidays with some of her friends from the Women's Own, and by all accounts they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Since moving into sheltered housing Joyce has taken an active part in the social events, and at the monthly Coffee Mornings she is at the door taking the money – at 95 she still hasn't retired and is still "young at heart"! Joyce has several hobbies: she enjoys doing quizzes (and is very good at them) and knitting lots of beautiful little ornaments for hanging on Christmas trees. These are very popular, and at Easter she produces lovely little yellow chickens filled with mini Easter eggs, which also get sold very quickly, so Joyce too still supports her Church in different ways.

The two sisters

Thanks to Ron and Mary Dempster for the photographs and articles on the two sisters. It was Mary who suggested that Iris write the poem. We understand that, some years ago, her son Rowland had a book of her poems or a diary published. Does anyone have a copy?

The Knots Prayer

Dear God

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, Dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen.

Author known to God

Greetings from Jimmy and Olive



Greetings to our number one church family in the Rosyth Methodist Church which we were able to visit on three Sundays during our six weeks in Scotland/England on our holiday from Brisbane, Australia. I say our number one church family as we had a second church family when we ran a Uniting Church Camp Park in Lake Tyers in Victoria for seven and a half years. Our number three church family is here in Capalaba where we have been members for fifteen years. Our UK visits have been mostly four years apart and, with the advancing years, we suspect this will have been our last one, as was the case with our previous visit! We are kept up-to-date by Olive's sister, Eileen, who sends us the joint church magazine regularly. [Ed: Olive's sister is Mrs Eileen Dally, who lives in Aberdour and is a regular attendee at church]

It was a great joy to catch up with old friends on our three visits and Olive, always the one for statistics, informs me we met with thirty in that category over the three church attendances.

We also made several visits to folk in the area in their homes. You will gather from this that our object in coming to our home country was to see people rather than places. Our daughter, Hazel, drove us to her home in Harpenden and on the way we deviated a little way to visit our dear friend, Bessie Sherwood, in a nursing home in Barnard Castle near Bishop Auckland. Bessie left Dunfermline in 1956, so few will remember her, but it was a pleasure to be able to spend time with her.

A very high point of our visit to Harpenden was the wedding of our first grandchild to take the plunge, Hazel and Wynn's son Michael. Michael and his bonnie bride, Laura, were married in the beautiful chapel of the former National Children's Homes Headquarters. We have many lovely memories of singing Christmas carols and collecting for the NCHO. Them were the days! The complex is now the headquarters of Youth with a Mission (YWAM).

It was good to be in the church on Deacon Sarah McDowall's first service and we wish Sarah and the church family every blessing as you continue along the pathway the Lord has set out for you. Our most sincere thanks to all the church family for the loving welcome we received. I've no doubt we will meet again – but it may be in the mansions the Lord has prepared for us. Olive joins me in sending love to you all.

In His Love, Jim (Jimmy) Lawson

One minute, please

What did our Lord say?

"Rejoice that your names are written in Heaven"

Luke 10:20

The Wednesday Fellowship

The Wednesday Fellowship began the second year of its existence on 8 September with a devotional afternoon led by Ross Kennedy.

It was good to be back again amongst the fellowship of our friends at the start of a new year, in our newly decorated, new floored church lounge. It was thrilling too to welcome four new members, from three congregations. When we are a 'full house' we may have to consider moving to a larger space!

So far, we've enjoyed listening to Eve Denning's choice of eight records to take with her on her Desert Island. You will see from the syllabus that there is lots ahead to look forward to and enjoy. Please do come and share with us if a particular Wednesday programme interests you. Both gentlemen and ladies are assured of a very warm welcome!

More information from Mary Kidd, Sandra Young and Mary Dempster

- 29 Sep Oberammergau
Lesley Yellowlees and Irene May
- 6 Oct Games Afternoon
- 13 Oct Mission to Seafarers
Commander Jim McRae, RN
- 20 Oct Call My Bluff
- 27 Oct An illustrated history of Rosyth
Martin Rogers and Sandy Masterton
- 3 Nov Microwave Cooking for One
Jean Hall
- 10 Nov Members' Afternoon
– "Past Times"
- 17 Nov Bring and Buy Sale
- 24 Nov to be arranged
- 1 Dec A Wreath for Christmas
Margaret Glancey
- 8 Dec Visit by Brambles Playgroup
and Christmas Quiz
- 15 Dec Christmas Lunch
at The Elgin Hotel, Charlestown

A story from Mary

A woman was asked by a colleague at work "What's it like to be a Christian?"

The colleague replied, "It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you."

"Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff."

"He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see!"



A positive celebration

Almost as old as the celebration of All Saints' Day (see page 18) is the tradition associated with All Hallow's Eve.

'Hallows' is the same as 'saints', both meaning 'holy ones', as in "Hallowed be thy name"; 'Eve' refers to the evening before. So 'Halloween' translates as "the evening before All Holy Ones' Day".

Today we generally call that festival Halloween and have many fun secular ways ('trick and treat', for example) of recognising it. However, it's important to remember that its celebration has a long, positive history in the Church.

Andrew Letby – an introduction!

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

Following last issue's article on Sarah McDowall, we thought it would be good to give readers an 'inside track' on Andrew Letby, still Circuit Superintendent (the nearest Methodists get to a bishop!), but now also one of the ministers at Rosyth. There are some interesting insights into how God prepares us for the future He plans for us, even if we don't realise it at the time.



As befits someone whose early years were spent literally within yards of the East Coast Main Line in Northumberland, Andrew arrived for our meeting by train. Did this reflect the fact that he and Belinda live within five minutes drive of Newcraighall station? Or rather a pressing need to spend the journey time working?!

Andrew was born in Rothbury but, until he was five, lived in Widdrington (north of Morpeth) where his father was then stationmaster. [He still can't get to sleep in totally quiet surroundings!]



Widdrington Station c.1963, from Robinson and Groundwater *British Railways – Past and Present – The North East*.

Andrew writes: "The figure in the middle is my Dad, and I think the one near the platform edge is my much older brother. I will be in the house in my cot!"

Andrew later went to the King Edward VI School in Morpeth the first year after it went comprehensive, and afterwards attended Cramlington High School, leaving with A-levels in English, Economics and Religious Studies.

Not only were Andrew's early years the time of transition from steam to diesel, but his father worked on Sundays supporting the East Coast upgrade project, so church attendance was a bit hit and miss. However, in the mid-1970s, his father's career changed course as a result of a breakdown, and his parents re-established church links near their new home. This "big busy Methodist Church" had a Youth Club, and the social life there led to friendships with the minister's family and to a conscious decision to accept Christ.

Very early on, Andrew felt a call to full-time ministry at some point, to the consternation of his careers teacher: "Are you sure you don't want to be a joiner? I've got a leaflet about that." However, the school took his request sufficiently seriously to send Andrew on a week-long course in Oxford attended by 30 young people interested in full-time ministry, and this experience was a key factor in keeping his call alive.

On one particularly life-changing day, he chose two sessions for his field visits with a small group: the first with a city centre chaplain ministering to local shops (but starting at the Randolph Hotel!); the second with an Oxford Prison chaplain.

Andrew started his training as a Local Preacher early, being 'on note' at the tender age of 16. However, pressures from his studies meant that he was 'on trial' until 22. His father, though "for ever a preacher", had been required to go through a training process in line with new church regulations, and both father and son were formally recognised at the same service.

Father and son become Methodist preachers

Mr Edward Letby and his son Andrew shared the experience of studying to become Methodist local preachers.

They set out together five years ago to achieve their ambition, and on Thursday both became fully-accredited local preachers at a recognition service at Sewerby Methodist Church.

At the same service Mrs Janet Lewis, wife of the Rev Brian Lewis, also became a fully-accredited preacher – it is the first time in eight years that the Bridlington circuit has welcomed new preachers on to the plan.

Mr Letby and his son (pictured here) will be preaching 500 miles apart, for though Mr Edward Letby (64) is attached to the Bridlington circuit, his 22-year-old son is in the Banbury circuit in Oxfordshire.

Father and son decided to become local preachers when they were members of Cramlington Methodist Church in Northumberland.

In the meantime the younger Mr Letby has graduated from university and now teaches theology in Banbury, and his father has retired from his station master's job in Northumberland and now lives at 35a St George's Avenue, Bridlington, with his wife, Muriel.

Andrew's mother thought that as 'ge' started out together it would be a good idea for us both to be recognised at the same service," said Mr Letby.

Mr Letby senior had to sit four preachers' examinations but his son's degree meant that he had to sit only the first.



Cutting from the Bridlington Free Press in 1985

Andrew intended to read English at University, but his grade in Religious Studies was not high enough. However, perversely, he was accepted to study Theology! His choice of Hull University probably reflected the fact that Andrew is the only member of his close family not to be born in that city. University provided lessons in life, and developed Andrew's confidence and

independence. He "preached the odd weekend", enjoyed group activities with the joint Methodist/URC Society, and was on the committee of the Anglican Society – denominational societies in our universities were still functioning in the early 1980s.

Andrew then trained to teach Religious Education, English and Special Needs at Westminster College, Oxford, a Methodist foundation.

His first post was at Banbury School, then the second largest comprehensive school in England, with nearly 2,000 pupils and four buildings on one site, and three other RE teachers. Here it was frustratingly difficult to face 300 different faces each week!

After two years he moved to the other extreme, where the challenge was to develop a small residential community: National Children's Homes (now Action for Children) ran a residential Further Education Unit at their school at Chipping Norton, where twelve staff offered 24/7 care to just nine 16–25-year-olds with severe disabilities. Andrew's role was to provide educational input, mostly at the basic literacy level, but the challenges of these "interesting times" included giving physical care and learning specialist communication skills: ask Andrew to explain Blissymbolics (or visit <http://www.blissymbolics.us/>).

Having decided to move away from a career as an ordinary teacher, Andrew's third year of very positive experience with NCH was mostly taken up with the interview processes involved, which "nearly killed it off for me". Feeling empty and exhausted at the end, when asked his expectations of theological college, he replied: "I just want you to rebuild me".

/continued overleaf

This rebuilding took place at Lincoln, where the Anglican Theological College took in a small number of Methodists. The experience left Andrew with a love of liturgy: when preaching at the 11.00 service at Rosyth, he often comes to the earlier Eucharist for “spiritual feeding”.

Andrew had asked for his first post to be north of Lincoln, to involve chaplaincy work in hospital or prison, and to be with more than one church. As Andrew put it: “Be careful what you ask for” – he was sent to Retford, only marginally north of Lincoln, but with eleven congregations to pastor, and with Rampton Secure Hospital on his patch!

Rampton was a high security psychiatric hospital, opened as an overflow facility for Broadmoor Hospital in Berkshire, with 500 patients and 1,500 staff, most of whom lived in Retford. As chaplain, Andrew drew a lot of inspiration from the work, both “getting alongside some very broken people, and being able to do something positive for them” and learning all about ministering to people in their place of work.

Andrew’s churches included one incredibly growing church with young people, and his “baptism of fire” involved two developing ecumenical partnerships, one of which is still very much alive and positive. His six years in Retford included personal change: Andrew had married Stephanie during his time at Chipping Norton, and they “lived under the bells” in Lincoln where their son Ben was born, but unfortunately their relationship did not survive full-time ministry. [Ben, now aged 20, is very independent, and studying linguistics at Newcastle] However, Andrew met Belinda when he led a membership class in Retford, and the rest is history!

Between Andrew’s local connections, and Belinda’s contacts through her work in the TSB, they knew everybody they met in the High Street. So, time for a move! A series of jobs for Methodist Industrial Chaplains was advertised, and Andrew was appointed as ‘District Industrial Chaplain’ to the Public Transport Network in Newcastle. The ‘District’ bit meant preaching at all the churches in the District, from Durham to Berwick; the PTN task involved Newcastle Airport, the Metro (where he met people who had worked with his father) and Stagecoach, who taught Andrew to drive a bus. One year (but too early for Gwyneth – see page 35) he even drove a Park’n’Ride support vehicle for the Great North Run.

This job grew and changed over nine years, with the focus becoming more on the Airport, but Andrew was also involved in developing the National Methodist strategy for industrial mission and for how workplace chaplains might be funded. In consequence he designed the post as “NE Economic Mission Enabler”, to which he transferred, but his two years there convinced him that he was not fitted for this particular management role – “the right job, but the wrong person”.

One day in 2008, while dealing with emails on the train (where else?!), Andrew read a message about six appointments that “must be filled”. Something “rang a bell”: the next day, his District Chair recommended he should explore one of these, which of course was his current appointment as our Circuit Superintendent. The Circuit covers the City of Edinburgh churches, East Lothian and Fife, with a Methodist-URC Local Ecumenical Partnership in Granton and a much bigger (four-Church) LEP in Livingston.

Andrew's staff originally consisted of one full-time minister (plus one assigned to Livingston), two part-time ministers, and a part-time administrator, to which September's service has added two full-time deacons. His job description divides his efforts between 50% on Circuit work and 50% serving specific churches, initially the East Lothian group (Cockenzie, Tranent and Dunbar), but now also the Fife churches (Rosyth and Kirkcaldy). [Belinda, of course, now focuses on her appointment in Edinburgh: the couple do meet, but frequently have to arrive in two cars!]



Andrew and Belinda with Belinda's parents
at the Service of Welcome

Andrew winds down at the end of what is always a long day, with a morning admin session and frequent evening engagements, with recorded episodes of Bargain Hunt and his potential "cash in the attic" will include a collection of the Royal Doulton china used in British Airways' first-class cabins. He celebrated his 40th birthday cycling from Lake Titicaca to Machu Pichu (8 days of tough mountain biking, with an average daily ride of 44 miles) in aid of the National Asthma Campaign. What will he do to celebrate his next significant milestone in 2012?!

Andrew's two years in the job have been accompanied by significant change, both for him personally and for the congregations in his care. Why are these changes happening? And indeed inevitable? The fact is that people are offering for service later in life, rather than straight from university– the average age of candidates is well into their 40s – and the ministers trained as 20-year-olds in the 1960s/1970s are now reaching retirement. The result is that the number of pastoral vacancies, that used typically to be 50–60, is poised to reach 300–400. So the key tasks are to develop a concept of team ministry of a type that is unusual within Methodism, and to build confidence within the local churches: "Congregations need to find a way of running their own lives in a confident and positive manner."

At Rosyth, Andrew sees the role of the team being to develop relationships between the building users and the church congregations, working towards the fringe and outwards into the community. Whilst this is made more difficult by the dispersed nature of the congregation, and there being no obvious focal point for the community, there is strength in the ecumenical relationships both within the LEP and with local Churches. From the congregations, Andrew and Sarah will be looking for our prayerful support, and "a willingness to try new things, without being too upset if they don't work".



Andrew isn't the only person in this issue with a Northumberland train station connection – see page 35.

Manning the barricades

A harvest challenge from Colin Sedgwick

Peter was the proverbial pillar of his village church – a member virtually all his long life, he knew everybody associated with it and everything that went on. He was also well respected in the village. It was only a small church – if they got 20 on a Sunday morning they thought they were doing well – but there were real bonds of love.

The big difference was harvest. This was the one point in the year when the whole village turned out and the building was packed not only with melons and sheaves of corn and shiny apples, but with... people. Standing room only.

Surveying this scene, a fellow church member said to Peter, 'Isn't it great to see the chapel full of people!' Peter paused and thought. Then he said, very slowly, 'Yes, I suppose it is. But I can't deny that I prefer it when it's just us.'

'I prefer it when it's just us.'

I suspect that all of us can understand the feeling behind those words, perhaps even sympathise with them to some extent. But let's make no mistake, the attitude they express (good man though Peter certainly was) strikes the death knell of any church.

The New Testament gives us various pictures of the church. Perhaps you have a favourite...

The church is a *family*; we are children of God and therefore brothers and sisters of Jesus and of one another. We share our lives with one another, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep.

The church is an *army*; we are 'chosen to be soldiers in an alien land', clothed in the full armour of God, doing battle against the forces of evil and darkness.

The church is a *body*; we all have personal gifts and talents, so we aim to work together as differing limbs and organs so that the church as a whole might function healthily and effectively.

Other images also have their appeal. Augustine of Hippo liked to compare the church with a hospital, a place of healing for the spiritually sick. Sometimes when I have gone to a concert I have thought of the church as an orchestra, everybody blending together, where the man who tings the triangle a few times matters as much as the violinist who plays nearly every note.

Yes, various images can help us. But – and this is what I am leading up to – one image that is conspicuously lacking in both scripture and Christian thinking is the one exemplified by Peter: the church as a club: 'I prefer it when it's just us.'

There's nothing wrong with clubs. They are essentially groups of like-minded people who gather together to pursue a hobby or interest, be it flower-arranging or choral singing or stamp-collecting. Excellent. Indeed, I think it's a good thing if Christians belong to such organisations apart from their local church.

But once we turn our church into a club we are in serious trouble. Clubs have a certain exclusiveness, and necessarily so. If you are a teetotaler you probably aren't going to be made too welcome at the wine club; if you've got three left feet, then steer clear of the ballroom dancing society.

But there must be no exclusiveness in the church. The glory of Jesus' ministry was that he opened his arms to all, not least to the misfits and outcasts of society. No 'just us' mentality there! Even the original twelve apostles offer us a real diversity of human types – no wonder they sometimes squabbled.

This doesn't mean that 'anything goes' in the life of the church. Oh no. There are standards and principles, beliefs and practices, without which the church simply ceases to be a church, and those who are unable to identify with them may have to be on their way. But the doors of welcome are open to all who initially come.

When I was a very young minister we had (extraordinary, this, looking back) a sudden out-of-the-blue influx of Hell's Angels: studded leathers, dangly chains, the lot. Let's just say that they didn't quite fit into the polite middle-class atmosphere of the church.

But I was delighted at the way our members extended a welcome to them. (Mind you, they made it easy for us by coming across as pleasant young men, chatting to the old ladies and generally being affable: another stereotype bit the dust, as far as I was concerned.) I have to say that they didn't stay with us many weeks, but I don't think that was down to failure on the part of the church members. But they certainly spiced us up a bit while they were around.

Outsiders make club people feel threatened – 'Who are these strangers encroaching on our little world?' All right, we all like to feel comfortable and secure (I nearly used the word 'cosy'), and there's nothing wrong with that. Except when we want it in the church. In that setting it's a great big NO.

This article appeared in the 6 August 2010 issue of the Baptist Times, and is used by kind permission. The Rev Colin Sedgwick is pastor of Lindsay Park Baptist Church in Middlesex.

Colin is not the only minister promoting change. This extract is from the St Michael's, Twerton, blog for 10 August 2010:



"I now believe that God is wanting us to completely rethink what it means to be the church.

"For years 'church' has been a building, a service, a program provider or an institution. From here on we need to see it as a people on a mission. For years 'church' has been something we went to, attended or helped to make. From now on we need to see it as something we belong to and participate in. The change is from seeing church as a club to seeing it as a team. Just as a football club is something people organise, watch, contribute to and maintain and a football team is something you belong to and participate in, we need to see church as a team where everyone is involved in working towards a goal.

"What we need to do is turn this orange inside out. For years the juice has been kept and maintained on the inside of our church buildings, our church services and our church programs. From now on we need to open up the orange and get the juice on the outside – into people's lives, our workplaces and our neighbourhoods."

More at <http://stmichaelstwerton.com/the-futures-orange-2/>

For all the Saints ...

The next two months see us complete the long season of Trinity – 26 Sundays in all this year – and with it the end of the church's year.

In October, the church remembers **St Luke** (18 October), the “beloved physician” and companion of Paul on some of his missionary journeys. Luke's Gospel, which we have been reading this year, includes much of the account of Our Lord's birth, infancy and boyhood, and some of the most moving parables, such as those of the Good Samaritan, the lost sheep and the Prodigal Son.

Very little is known of the Apostles **Saints Simon and Jude** (28 October) who were followers of Christ. Simon was called ‘the Zealot’ to distinguish him from the other Simon (Saint Peter) and from Saint Simeon, the brother of Saint James the Less. Jude is often popularly referred to as the patron of lost causes, the one you ask for help when all else fails ...

November is the month of remembrance and we all have poignant memories of loved ones no longer with us.

Since the eighth century, Christians have celebrated **All Saints' Day** (1 November) to honour *all* the saints. These are not just the well-known saints and martyrs, but all those in the “cloud of witnesses” who proclaimed Jesus as Lord.

[This year, All Saints' Day falls on a Monday, so we have chosen to mark the occasion on the Sunday before, when we shall be joined by Bishop David, as you will see on page 23]

The day following All Saints' Day, celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate key, and allows us to remember with thanksgiving those who have passed on. Some are “ordinary people” whom we have known directly – those who gave

us life, or nurtured us in faith – and who we still remember with affection and gratitude; some are *extraordinary* people whose witness has transformed whole communities.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month has a resonance that survives, though nearly all those who fought then have now died. Part of the reason is that the Great War proved not to be the “war to end all wars”, but blood continues to be shed, and the number of poppy petals showering down at the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall continues to grow. On **Remembrance Sunday** (14 November) “we will remember them”, as we pray also for those who are still affected by the consequences of conflicts of all kinds.

Our own **St Margaret** (16 November) is also remembered (see page 22).

The last Sunday of the liturgical year ends with the **Feast of Christ the King**. The year that began with the hope of the coming of the Messiah ends with the proclamation of his universal sovereignty and the theme of judgment – the Advent theme, with which the cycle once more begins.



Cerezo Barredo reminds us that saints are ordinary people inspired by Christ and led by the Spirit

Diary for September/October 2010

Sunday 26 September

Harvest 11.00am “Back to Church Sunday”
Joint Communion Service Rev Andrew Letby
and Rev Tim Bennison

Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Note: no Sunday@Six

Wednesday 29 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Oberammergau Lesley Yellowlees and Irene May

Sunday 3 October

Trinity 18	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Service	Mr Laurence Wareing
		Worship Leader	Deacon Sarah McDowall
	7.00pm	Fellowship House Group at the Cochrane's, Dalgety Bay	
	for 7.30pm	(see page 23 for details, or phone 01383 820535)	
Monday 4 Oct	7.30pm	Ecumenical discussion group, St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane (see page 28 for details)	
Tuesday 5 Oct	3.45pm	Christmas Nativity Project meeting in Rosyth Parish Church (see page 37 for details)	
Wednesday 6 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship	Games Afternoon
Friday 8 Oct	7.30pm	Concert by the Dunedin Wind Band and Edinburgh Section of NYCOS, Methodist Central Hall, Tolcross (see page 38 for details)	

Sunday 10 October

Trinity 19	9.00am	'Sunday Funday' and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
	11.00am	All-age service	Mr Iain Hampson
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth (see article on page 23)	
Wednesday 13 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Mission to Seafarers – Commander Jim McRae RN	

Diary for October/November 2010

Sunday 17 October

St Luke	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr John Hunter
		Worship Leader	Deacon Sarah McDowall
	7.00pm	Fellowship House Group at the Cochrane's, Dalgety Bay	
	for 7.30pm	(see page 23 for details, or phone 01383 820535)	

Monday 18 Oct 7.30pm Property Committee in Church Lounge

Wednesday 20 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship Call My Bluff

Monday 18 Oct 2.00pm Children's Holiday Club, St Columba's Church,
to Friday 22 Oct to 3.45pm Torridon Lane (see page 28 for details)

Sunday 24 October

Trinity 21 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Geoffrey Baines
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

6.00pm Sunday@Six
A Bible Sunday celebration

Wednesday 27 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
An illustrated history of Rosyth
Martin Rogers and Sandy Masterton

Saturday 30 Oct 10.00am Casting the Net Liaison Officers meeting
at St Columba's Crieff

Sunday 31 October

All Saints 9.15am Sung Eucharist Celebrant and preacher
Bishop David

11.00am Morning Worship Mrs Hilary Henderson
Worship Leader Deacon Sarah McDowall

Monday 1 Nov 7.30pm Ecumenical discussion group, St Columba's Church,
Torridon Lane (see page 28 for details)

Wednesday 3 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Microwave Cooking for One Jean Hall

Thursday 4 Nov 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting
at St Paul's Church, Kinross

Diary for November 2010

Sunday 7 November

Trinity 23	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Mary Kidd
	7.00pm	Fellowship House Group at the Cochrane's, Dalgety Bay	
	for 7.30pm	(see page 23 for details, or phone 01383 820535)	
Wednesday 10 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship	
		Members' Afternoon	Past Times
Saturday 13 Nov	8.00pm	The Scottish Chamber Choir 'French Classics'	
		St Giles Cathedral, High Street, Edinburgh	
		(see page 38 for details)	

Sunday 14 November

Remembrance	9.00am	'Sunday Funday' and Breakfast	
	9.15am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
	10.50am	Parade and All-age service	Mr Lyn Smalridge
		Worship Leader	Deacon Sarah McDowall
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth	
Tuesday 16 Nov			
St Margaret	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist	
	7.30pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Church Room 3	

Wednesday 17 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship	Bring & Buy Sale
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Sunday 21 November

Christ the King	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	10.45am	St Margaret's Annual General Meeting of the congregation in Church Room 3	
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ms Rosemary Phiri
	7.00pm	Fellowship House Group at the Cochrane's, Dalgety Bay	
	for 7.30pm	(see page 23 for details, or phone 01383 820535)	
Wednesday 24 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Programme to be advised	

Sunday 28 November

Advent Sunday	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Ross Kennedy
		Worship Leader	Deacon Sarah McDowall
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six Advent Service	

Saint Margaret of Scotland

At 6.30pm on Tuesday 16 November, the anniversary of her death in 1093, the church will be remembering our patron St Margaret at a Sung Eucharist, which all are warmly invited to attend.

Margaret was the daughter of Edward, an Anglo-Saxon prince and Agatha, a German princess. She spent her childhood at the Hungarian and English royal courts, where she enjoyed the luxuries of court life, but also received a religious education and had wanted to become a nun.

Fleeing with her family from the Norman conquerors, they were heading back to the continent from Northumbria, when their ship was blown off course and they took refuge in Scotland. We know that the boat sheltered in the Firth of Forth and Margaret supposedly landed at St Margaret's Hope, North Queensferry.

The Scottish King, Malcolm III, known as Malcolm Canmore (or 'big head') offered his protection to the royal family. Margaret probably already knew him from the English court and he was very protective towards her. She initially refused his proposals of marriage, preferring, according to one account, a life of piety as a virgin. Malcolm, however, was a persistent king, and the couple married in Dunfermline in 1069.

So began her association with Dunfermline. Following her marriage, Margaret became a mother of eight, also a mother to her people; an educator, a social reformer and a spiritual inspiration. She was also renowned for her moderating and good influence on her husband. To Malcolm she could do no wrong, and he lovingly supported her in all her work.

Their union was exceptionally happy and fruitful for both themselves and the Scottish nation. Margaret brought with her some of the finer points of current European manners, ceremony and culture to the

Scottish Court, which highly improved its civilised reputation.

Margaret was also very pious and cared especially for the poor and orphans. It was this piety that caused considerable damage to her health with repeated fasting and abstinence. In 1093, as she lay on her deathbed after a long illness, she was told that her husband and eldest son had been ambushed and treacherously killed at the Battle of Alnwick in Northumbria. She died shortly after in Edinburgh Castle, aged just forty-seven.

Dunfermline still echoes to Margaret's footsteps. She became a saint, and her influence and story can still be traced in many places around the town including Dunfermline Abbey (built by her son King David 1 in 1128), St Margaret's Cave and St Margaret's Shrine. Margaret is also remembered across the world in the names of children, schools, hospitals and churches, including our own St Margaret's.



This wooden sculpture of St Margaret and her children was carved in Orkney and transported to Rosyth on board HMS Orkney in about 1986/7. After its time in St Margaret's Rosyth, it went to the Naval Church at Faslane, and is now in the chapel of St Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil.

Invitations and requests

Visit of Bishop David

We welcome our Bishop, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, to St Margaret's on Sunday 31 October. Bishop David will preside and preach at the Sung Eucharist to celebrate All Saints. The service will start at 9.15am so that Bishop David can enjoy a coffee and mingle with us after the service before he goes to Holy Trinity Dunfermline for their 11.00am service.

Please come to support Bishop David on his annual visit to us.

Congregational AGM

St Margaret's Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 21 November at 10.45am (after Sung Eucharist) in Room 3. The Vestry agreed to this change to give us more time for discussion, as last year we ran out of time! Please come along to this very important event and share your views on matters affecting the running of St Margaret's.

Fellowship House Group

The House Fellowship, which meets at the home of David and Gill Cochrane in Dalgety Bay, meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and will recommence on Sunday 3 October at 7 for 7.30pm. We usually start with informal chat over a cuppa, followed by lively discussion – and some disagreement!

We will continue with "Time to Talk of God". Once we have concluded that study, it is planned to consider "Casting the Net" – a mission-oriented initiative, intended to help the church grow but seeking to be more holistic in its approach, involving more people and more aspects of church life in thinking, planning and action. For this we intend to use Susan Hope's book "Mission-shaped Spirituality" as a focal point.

Orchardhead House

About ten years ago a group of people, made up from both our churches, decided to go to the Orchardhead Residential Home in Rosyth to sing Christmas Carols for and with the residents. From that occasion has grown a regular monthly half-hour service of hymns, prayers and a short talk for the residents who wish to join us.

Orchardhead is a lovely house with a caring staff who support the small group from our churches who go there on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3.00pm, and we are known as "The Church"!

The number of folk who attend varies depending on whether the residents are well enough to gather together or whether they have visitors, but we have about 12 regular residents each month – some have served their churches for many years but can no longer go to church, and they are always very pleased to see us. We ask that this group of residents are remembered in your prayers.

It is our hope that this contact with Orchardhead will be maintained and grow, but this depends on whether a response is made to the call of God. Why not join us when we visit Orchardhead and add your support to this worthwhile form of outreach? You will be made most welcome.

Jack Fowell

"The Hub" Cafe

Come along to Rosyth Parish Church Hall on Wednesdays from 12noon until 2.00pm, and enjoy a lunchtime snack of good healthy food at reasonable prices! All in aid of Parish Church funds.

Norah Lauder

adapted from the address given by Rev Eric Potts

Norah was born 79 years ago in Farnborough, Hampshire, the younger sister of Audrie. The family then moved to Fife when they were still young girls. Norah was still a child when the second world war began.

Norah soon showed her independent spirit, taking a job picking potatoes in order to save up for a bicycle. She and her friend Vera used their bikes to travel all round the district.

From an early stage her family were linked to the Methodist Church (not then in the present building of course), and she developed an interest in the Brownies and Guides, eventually becoming Brown Owl. She was a faithful and long term member of the Church. She served as Communion Steward, and as a Flower Arranger, and was a regular member of the Women's Own, now the Wednesday Fellowship.

I first got to know Norah a couple of years ago when my wife and I started to worship at Rosyth. I recall one morning being told off, politely but firmly, because I was unknowingly sitting in Norah's seat! Of course I soon realised why it was important for that particular chair to be available for her – because of the difficulties she had after her first stroke. But health problems rarely stopped Norah from being in Church, especially as there were usually friends willing to bring her.

Most Sundays we would have a chat with her over coffee after service, and she was always easy to talk to. And at Communion, she was always willing to struggle out of

her seat to come forward to the communion rail; I think the only time she remained in her place, and had the communion brought to her, would be the very last Sunday she was in Church. She was a good friend to



many in the Church, and just a short while before that final stroke, she got to the "House cooling" at Malcolm Trew's, and to the cream tea afternoon at Jean Hall's, supporting "Action for Children". She was a very determined person.

But, going back in time ... when she was 23 Norah married Andrew, who was an Engineer in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. She spent some time with him on board ship, travelling to Singapore and Australia. She enjoyed travelling to other places too and stayed for a short while in Malta. She and Andrew produced two children, Malcolm and Margaret (good historical Dunfermline names!) , and through them she had six grandchildren and, so far, one great grandchild. When Norah and Audrie's mother died, Norah invited Audrie to share the house with her, an arrangement which lasted quite some time.

I understand too that Norah was a keen bridge player, and some of her bridge friends were present at the funeral service because of that shared interest.

Her life's work, though, was teaching. She taught at Camdean, Blairhall and Kelty Primary schools. Many of her former pupils would still recognise her when they met, despite the fact that she had retired many years ago.

Norah

As I have said, Norah was an independent and strong minded person. At times this could make her quite difficult to deal with, and the effects of the stroke will not have helped. But at the same time she was a braw fighter and a very generous person. There are many people who will miss her, and remember her with great affection. It was another stroke that finally brought her life to an end. But we need to think of her not as someone handicapped by illness, but as a strong and fine person, and we also need to understand that, within the love and grace of God, Norah is now whole and complete again, the person God made her to be. We give thanks for her life, and entrust her to God.

Eric Potts

At Norah's funeral at Dunfermline Crematorium on Monday 2 August, the large congregation joined in two of Norah's favourite hymns: "The Lord's My Shepherd" and "Mine eyes have seen the glory", and donated £288.17 for MRDF in her memory.



Norah and Audrie at a family wedding

I knew Norah for over twenty years and admired her greatly, as in all that time she was in pain, but when you asked her how she was it was always "I'm fine". She was very supportive of her family and enjoyed bringing some of her grandchildren to the Church and Sunday School. She took them swimming and also on holidays.

Norah had several positions to help in the smooth running of the Church – first of all she did flower arranging and also made up the rota for the arrangers – she was Secretary of World Missions for many years, handing out the boxes and then counting the money from them. Norah also held Coffee Mornings for additional funds: she would approach people by asking if they would help by baking or by manning a stall. It all seemed so disorganized but on the day everything would turn out fine! She also helped at Christmas Sales by making marmalade and baking cakes.

For many years Norah was a Communion Steward, until she felt she was unable to carry the elements down the aisle safely. Although she had great difficulty getting up from her chair and needed help she still managed to walk to the communion rail.

Norah was a member of the Thursday Club and the Women's Own, now the Wednesday Fellowship. One of Norah's great loves was playing bridge, which she did as often as possible and enjoyed going on bridge holidays. Speaking to Norah's sister Audrie, I learnt that Norah had also been Church Council Secretary, Brownie Leader and helped with the Guides. Over the years she was quick to disagree with me when I suggested doing something a different way, but I enjoyed Norah's company, and I will miss her.

Mary (and Audrie)

Jacobina Myles



This lady is my Mum, better known to all her friends as Ina. Ina started her life in St Monans, then in 1927, at the age of 4, moved to Pittenweem, where her mother and father had a wee grocer's shop in their front room. Ina went to Pittenweem Primary School, then on to Waid Academy, but her schooling at Waid was short-lived as she was given a note from the doctor to allow her to leave at the age of 12 as her mother was very ill, so Ina had to take over looking after the shop.

At a much later date, when her mother had made a full recovery, Ina worked in Adamson the bakers. From there she joined the Land Army and was stationed in Pitcorthie House just outside Colinsburgh. She worked on various farms in the area. It was hard manual work, but she enjoyed it, being out in the fresh country air. The job she disliked the most was grooming the horses. Can you blame her? The size of those great big heavy Clydesdale horses! They didn't get much brushing when Ina was on grooming duty!

The last farm she worked on was Milton Farm in Anstruther and, when the Land Army was disbanded, she stayed on there because she had fallen in love with the farmer's son.

They married in 1947 and had their first child (Margaret) in 1951. Three years later, they had a son Sandy. Life was hard on the farm, bringing up young children and making 'pieces' (sandwiches) and tea to send out to the fields for the workers. Then they all came into the farmhouse and had a three-course lunch, sometimes 16 hungry men round the table.

That life continued until they retired. Then they moved to Milton Crescent, which overlooked the farm. Ina's husband died in 1992, and she lived alone until seven years ago, when she broke her hip and was unable to live on her own. So she came to live with us, and I cared for her for the last seven years. She settled in fine, and came to church when she was able. Ina and PHEME Hutchison were good friends – they came from the same wee corner of Fife – and Ina visited PHEME regularly.

Ina's funeral on 20 August at Anstruther Church was very well attended, and by many friends she made here in Rosyth. So may I take this opportunity of saying a most sincere thank you to all the church family here in Rosyth for their prayers and expressions of sympathy and support during the time of bereavement.

Margaret, Hazel and David Parry

David Lawson – my Dad



My Dad, David Lawson was born in Windygates Fife, on 4 July 1925 (American Independence Day). He started work at the age of 15 years working as an Apprentice Shipwright in Rosyth Dockyard. He later went on to be a draughtsman but spent all of his working life in the Dockyard.

In 1949 he married my Mum, Margaret and they set up home in Rosyth where they lived for all 61 years of their married life and had four daughters.

My Dad was involved in many hobbies and pastimes. He was, until about two years ago, extremely active on the Committee of Rosyth Civil Service Sports Club and held the position of Chairman for 16 years. He was a keen bowler and was successful in numerous competitive tournaments over the years. His garden was also another of his passions and many friends, neighbours and relatives have been the recipients of his vegetable garden produce.

But my Dad's greatest pleasure in life was his family, he adored "his girls" (this was the expression he used to describe his four daughters and my Mum). As the eldest of his four daughters, I have tremendous family memories of holidays we had with our parents and more recently the wonderful

family celebrations when Mum and Dad celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May 2009.

Sadly later in 2009 Dad was diagnosed with lung cancer and was unable to get out into the garden he so loved or do many of the more active things he enjoyed. You can imagine how frustrating that was for an individual who enjoyed life to the full.

My Dad passed away on 21 August. For such a close family the loss of our Dad was heart-wrenching but we take comfort in knowing that he is no longer in pain. Eric Potts was a great help to us as a family and delivered a heartfelt eulogy emphasising the point that I and my three sisters were unanimously agreed on – that we are what we are today because of my Dad. He instilled in us strong family values which hopefully we are also passing on to our children and grandchildren.

I would like to express our thanks to members of the congregation for their prayers, messages of sympathy and attendance at the Crematorium, but mostly, I thank the Lord for the life of a very special man, my Dad, David Lawson.

Sandra Wilson

Working together

“Casting the Net” News



Now that Deacon Sarah is with us, we are hoping Bishop David will meet the Vestry and Council shortly to discuss how we can take the “Casting the Net” (CTN) initiative forward to the next stage – Mission Action Planning.

In the meantime some prescribed preparatory work (suggested by the CTN Action Group) will be considered. This has been discussed at the recent Vestry meeting and highlighted at the joint Vestry/Council meeting on 14 September and will cover:

- Community walks by individuals around the church location to get a general picture of what goes on around us (for example: community life; housing; schools).
- Interviews with members of the local community (including a minister from another church) and political people.
- Reading the book “Mission-Shaped Spirituality” by Susan Hope, individually, or through a five-sessions study group.

Already the ecumenical discussion group is looking at the book (see next column) and the Fellowship House Group has also included it as possible future material (see page 23). If anyone would like to borrow a copy to read, please talk to Alan Taylor.

Children’s holiday club

A holiday club for children of Primary School age will be held in St Columba’s Church, Torridon Lane from 2.00–3.45pm from Monday 18 to Friday 22 October.

The next networking meeting for CTN liaison officers will be in Crieff on Saturday 30 October, when we have a chance to share stories of what congregations are doing as part of the CTN process.

Advance notice for your diary

The Gathering in May 2010 was a significant event in the development of CTN as it brought together a large number of people from all over the Diocese, who were able to try out all kinds of opportunities and experiences, which will become part of the growing provision of resources for congregations. Another Gathering is planned for **Saturday 21 May 2011** in St Ninian’s Cathedral Perth. This is likely to be an all-day event (10.00am–4.00pm).

Ecumenical discussion group

The ecumenical discussion group has restarted its monthly meetings at St Columba’s Church, Torridon Lane. Towards the end of November, we will become the “Advent Study Group” on dates to be announced later. Meanwhile, we are looking at the Episcopal material on Mission-Shaped Spirituality, a topic that is of particular relevance for us, as the material we are studying will also be used when our congregations embark jointly on Casting the Net sometime next year.

The next two meetings will be Mondays 4 October and 1 November at 7.30pm, and we look forward to welcoming new members to the group. Why not come along? For more information please speak to Alan Taylor or Jack Fowell.

The Calcutta link

Over recent years the Diocese of St Andrews has enjoyed companion links with the Diocese of Pelotas in Brazil, and nearer home, the Diocese of Meath and Kildare in Ireland. It is now time to move on, and Bishop David has been pursuing a possible partnership link with the Diocese of Calcutta in Northern India.

In June, the Bishop of Calcutta, Ashoke Biswas and his chaplain, Nigel Pope, visited our Diocese. Canon Val Nellist, Rector of Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing and also Convenor of the Diocesan Overseas Committee, hosted a visit which included a meal to which Mary Kidd and Malcolm Trew were invited. Mary writes ...

"It's not every day one receives an invitation to meet the Bishop of Calcutta! It came as a very pleasant surprise for Malcolm and me to be invited to an informal ecumenical gathering at the home of Val and Bob Nellist, on a sunny warm evening in June. If you have read the latest edition of 'Casting the Net', you will know about Val hosting a three-day visit from the Bishop of Calcutta, Ashoke Biswas, and his chaplain, Nigel Pope. The purpose of the Bishop's visit was to pursue the possibility of a partnership link between our Diocese of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane and a diocese in the Church of North India.

"This is a united church that was formed 40 years ago when several denominations including Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist and Methodist churches in North India came together to form one church, retaining elements of each in their structures and worship. So there will be possibilities for further ecumenical developments here in Scotland.

"In the spring of next year, our Bishop David Chillingworth will go to Kolkata (the city's current name) to make the formal linkage agreement. This will involve sharing prayer support, possibilities for mutual service by exchange of volunteers, youth and school exchanges, and training opportunities for clergy and laity. Kolkata is home to the prestigious Bishop's Theological College, and the Diocese of Calcutta is responsible for both primary and secondary schools. They also undertake a range of outreach projects caring for those living with AIDS.



"It was very interesting to talk to the visitors, and other ecumenical friends, over a very enjoyable meal, and to share their enthusiasm for the possibilities of this partnership. They are assured of the prayers of we two local Methodists!"

Mary Kidd

Missing book review

We are sorry that there was no room to include our review of "Mission-Shaped Spirituality" by Susan Hope. That review will appear in the next edition, but we would love to include some of *your* comments.

Our Church Building

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



View from Queensferry Road on 24 September 1970

By September 1970, the building was taking shape, and there was growing excitement as the opening date approached. Sufficient money had been raised through fundraising, donations and grants to cover the cost of the new building, but there was no allowance for new furnishings. The Trust produced a shopping list of new items required (something like a modern day wedding gifts list) and invited organisations and individuals in the Church to donate the cost of these items. This seemed to work quite successfully although, sadly, no record was kept of the donors, which has raised problems for us when changes were proposed to the furnishings. So, if you know of any donations made at the time please let me know.

One item from the old Church which found a place in the new was the Hammond organ. This had been bought in 1962 after many years of fundraising. The pulpit and font came from the West Parish Church in Cowdenbeath, the pulpit being stripped back to the original wood to provide a lighter shade.

The remaining items of furniture were designed by Mr Tom Doyle of Markinch, senior art master at St Columba's High School in Dunfermline. His designs for the communion table, lectern and two wooden flower pedestals were constructed by the craftsmen in the Lord Roberts Workshop in Dundee.

The design of the communion table was intended to convey the idea of Christ's hands upholding the board. Mr Doyle designed and constructed the cross on the communion table which is built up in facets of steel plates anchored by a stainless steel rod so giving the whole structure movement. This symbolised the need for the work of Christ to be seen as applicable to the many facets of our changing social structure.



Mr Doyle also constructed the wooden cover for the font which incorporates a fish, one of the earliest Christian symbols.



The new pulpit fall, made by Mrs Cameron of Dunfermline, was designed by Mr Derek Seymour, the man who painted the mural, and this continued the fish theme.



Over the years, various changes have been made to the chancel furniture and the layout of the chancel. The Hammond organ was replaced in 1985 by a Viscount Domus organ and this in turn was replaced in 1997 by the present Allen organ. In 1999, new pulpit and lectern falls were donated in memory of Chris Slater. The pulpit was removed in 2005. Two new lecterns were introduced last year with the existing lectern being remodelled to provide smaller table-top lecterns in the Church and in Room 4. The font was replaced this year with a new wooden moveable one which incorporates the bowl and cover from the previous one. New furniture has been introduced at the back of the Church in the form of a welcome table, the cabinet for the audio system and memorial book, and the book cases for the hymn books and bibles. The table, cabinet and font all reflect the design of the communion table.

... to be continued

Christian Aid

The total amount raised in Rosyth this year was £3,205.28, of which the house-to-house collection contributed £932, despite the fact that we only covered a very small area of the town, because of the lack of collectors.

Although it is getting more and more difficult to think of new ideas, the "Rosyth's got talent" concert did very well in raising £490, so it is hoped to have something of the same this coming year.

Anyone who would like to join the committee would be very welcome indeed: I am sure there are folk in our congregations who have lots of ideas for raising money! Thanks again for your support.

Mary Dempster

Church payphone

The Church payphone costs us about £160 a year, with very little income from calls to help meet this cost. As the phone is owned by the Church, we also have to meet the cost of repairs should any faults develop. With mobile phones being so popular these days the chances are that at least one member in each of the organisations meeting on the premises will have a mobile phone in case of emergency.

Bearing these factors in mind, it is proposed to remove the Church payphone. However, before coming to a final decision, we would invite views from members of the congregations or organisations.

Martin Rogers

HRK: Colin Sedgewick's article (page 17), urging us not to treat the church as a club, calls to mind what Archbishop William Temple is reputed to have said, over sixty years ago: "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members".

Having a heart for the needs of others

Encouragement from Sheila Lee

“Bear ye one another’s burdens”

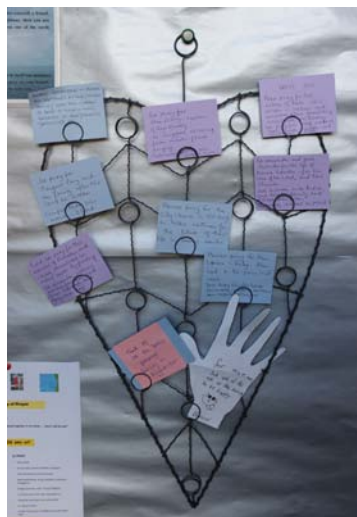
(Galatians 6:2)

You may have wondered why a ‘card-holding metal heart’ materialised outside the sanctuary last year. It was the eventual result of one of those frequently-repeated conversations that you have with friends and church family.

As part of a small, faithful group who were keeping the church open one day a week for prayer, Evelyn Kenny often found herself entirely alone, with every opportunity to obey the exhortations of scripture to pray for God’s people and their needs. I, on the other hand, had the privilege of leading services around the Circuit, with the opportunity to publicly bring the needs of others before God.

The question that often arose for both of us was: “How do we know what people’s needs are, so that we can pray more specifically in support of others?” Different ideas were batted back and forth in the house-group and on other occasions, but no solution was ever settled on.

Then, one late summer afternoon, when on an indulgent jaunt round the beautiful coastal fishing villages, we had the same conversation just before poking around in a tiny craft shop, and there it was, on the wall on the way out – a ‘heart’ that the owner had dotted with reminder cards. What better symbol of a prayerful concern for our church family and their friends and families?



I should like to thank all those who, as a result, prayed for my niece, Rev May Logan, who was diagnosed with malignant melanoma the same week that she took up a position in a new church. May it encourage you to know she is well on the way to recovery and happily busy in God’s vineyard.

May I encourage you to use the prayer heart, both to present your own prayer requests and to pray meaningfully for others.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the saints.”

(Ephesians 6:18)

Ed: Note that the prayer board is available to everyone, and often includes prayers from folk who aren’t members of the two fellowships. Do encourage everyone to make use of it.

Finance corner

Retiring collections at St Margaret's

Traditionally we have usually had just one retiring collection per year at St Margaret's – at the Advent Carol Service, for CHAS. For the past 2/3 years we have also used a retiring collection as a means of contributing to the Bishop's Lent Appeal - not as satisfying as using Lent Boxes, I feel, which seem to have gone out of favour. The response tends to be commensurate with the cause – unknown cause, poor response, and vice versa.

Vestry has agreed we should have another retiring collection, in response to a decision at General Synod in 2007 when every SEC congregation was asked to observe the last Sunday in June to collect for the Provincial Community Fund. This fund offers small immediate grants to those of all faiths and none who cannot get help from other sources, and is a form of Outreach.

Fifty one grants totalling £6,607 were made in 2009, enabling the purchase of beds and bedding, carpeting, clothing, cookers and other essential items. The grants are made on the recommendation of priests or official organisations such as the Bethany Christian Trust and Social Work departments, and are processed expeditiously so that help can be offered quickly to those in the most desperate need.

However, income last year from just 49 congregations totalled £4,670, which meant that limited reserves had to be tapped. We are all asked to give generously to this most worthy cause. Generous souls can give now if they wish, but a retiring collection will also be arranged for a Sunday in June next year.

Alan Taylor

A couple of pleas from the Methodist Treasurer!

Plea No 1: The church needs help! Our income for routine church and property expenditure fell short of what was needed in 2009/10 by over £1,000. For 2010/11 we are currently expecting it to fall short by over £4,000. (Both estimates assume that the tax refund due for 2009/10 was received then, though in fact it is late)

Further information on this will be available separately: meantime we invite those of you who can consider reviewing the amount you give to the church, to do so, and encourage any who do not currently use church envelopes or give directly via a bank to consider doing so; and of course to gift-aid all giving wherever possible.

Plea No 2: The Treasurer needs help! The Treasurer's job has become more demanding in recent times, and the Finance Committee and Church Council have discussed ways of making it easier (for both the current Treasurer and an eventual successor!) by delegating some of the tasks. One person has already volunteered to help file the paperwork.

Here, my plea is to separate out the recording (i.e. the book-keeping) tasks from the reporting tasks: the recording of the amounts received on a Sunday is a straightforward matter on a computer, and can be done at home from the paper records supplied by the Stewards. Any volunteers for that? Knowledge of book-keeping is not needed, but some "beginners' level" familiarity with spreadsheets is desirable!

Howard Kirby

What we gave to Charities in 2009-10

Howard R Kirby (Hon Treasurer)

A total of over £4,742 was paid to charities through the Methodist church accounts for the financial year ending 31st August. This comprised not only the usual charities that we support, but also special appeals following the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Cumbria, to which St Margaret's congregation and others also generously contributed, and also funds raised for MRDF at Norah Lauder's funeral.

The charities supported are shown in the table below. This distinguishes between donations or collections made by individuals specifically for the named charity and corporate decisions made by the church and by the Wednesday Fellowship.

The "Church" column includes the donations to charities decided upon by the Tea-bar helpers, and one decided upon by the Church Council when setting the annual budget.

The retiring collections contribute only a relatively small amount to the above figures, except at Christmas, Easter, and during Christian Aid Week or for special appeals. (By contrast, in the 3 months June-August, just £2 was raised by that route) For this reason there will be some changes in how retiring collections are featured. Meantime, the normal pattern will continue until Christmas, with JMA featured in October; LWPT in November and AfC in December.

For	Offerings	Church	Wednesday Fellowship	Total
Action for Children (AfC)	£275	£61		£335
CHAS	£55	£10	£50	£115
Christian Aid	£489	£54	£50	£593
Cumbrian Flood Relief*	£67		£60	£127
Gideon International Bible Society			£50	£50
Junior Mission for All (JMA)	£365	£58		£423
Lemon Aid*	£841	£90		£931
Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust (LWPT)	£20	£20		£40
MHA	£23	£55		£79
Mission in Britain	£352		£25	£377
Mission to Seafarers			£50	£50
Methodist Relief & Development Fund (MRDF)	£334	£7		£341
Support of Presbyters & Deacons		£150		£150
Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA)	£53	£38		£91
Scottish Bible Society		£20		£20
World Mission	£995		£25	£1,020
Grand Total	£3,869	£563	£310	£4,742

*The amounts reported for these special appeals include donations by St Margaret's congregation, who also contribute through Wednesday Fellowship.

The Great North Run

as experienced by Gwyneth Kirby

I'd love to be able to say that I really enjoyed taking part in this annual half-marathon from the centre of Newcastle, over the Tyne Bridge and down to South Shields, but in spite of all my hard training, I still found it incredibly hard on the day! The start was really unbelievable. Standing there as one of over 50,000 runners was such an emotional experience, especially when I thought of the thousands of pounds being raised for so many different charities. It took almost twenty minutes to get across the start line, by which time so much nervous energy had been burnt up that it's not surprising the run was so hard.



Most parts of the route were lined with spectators encouraging the runners, some offering chocolates, jelly babies and ice pops to keep us going. Even the little boys using water bottles as water pistols were helpful!

When I finally reached the last mile, having run up the last of many hills, I thought it would be easy. But no – my legs really didn't want to go any further. That's when pride came in useful. There were so many spectators along this part of the route, urging us on, that I was determined to keep running rather than give in to the desperate urge to walk. I was so relieved to see the finishing

line. Claire, Alison (our two daughters) and I crossed the finishing line holding hands, just as we had started 13.1 miles earlier. I was so grateful that, although much faster and more experienced runners than me, they stayed with me every step of the way, encouraging me when I felt weary, urging me to drink when I was obviously dehydrated and force-feeding me with carbohydrate gel when I'd used up all my energy.

Finishing the course was another emotional experience. I felt so proud that I had really completed what I set out to do just over a year ago. Why did I do it? I really have no idea, other than always having been inspired by watching such events on television and wishing I could do something like that. Will I do it again? No way! I said before I ran that I just wanted to run one half-marathon to prove to myself that I could do it, and Sunday's experience has definitely not changed my mind.

It was not an entirely wasted run, either. Thanks to the generosity of our friends and family we have raised nearly £700 in sponsorship for Scope, the charity that enables disabled people to do the kind of things most of us take for granted. If anyone would like to add to our total, we will keep the fund open for a couple of weeks.



Alison, Gwyneth and Claire
in Alnmouth Station car park after the run

Pakistan Appeal

from the Methodist Relief & Development Fund web site

As millions of people return to what is left of their homes, MRDF supporters have donated thousands of pounds towards emergency relief and long-term rehabilitation work.

Survivors of the worst natural disaster in Pakistan's history face the task of rebuilding their lives as they return home after the floods. A fifth of Pakistan – an area the size of Italy – is still covered in water, and millions of acres of crops have been destroyed.

In the aftermath of the floods, which left 1,600 dead and six million homeless, cases of pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria have been reported. Meanwhile, Pakistan's prime minister, Yousuf Raza Gillani, has warned that 3.1 million children are at risk of contracting water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

Thousands of people and hundreds of churches have responded to our emergency appeal for Pakistan – we have received over £300,000, and more donations are coming in. These gifts will help our emergency partner, Action by Churches Together International, to give vital assistance to some of the most vulnerable people, mainly in the badly-affected Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Province. Donations to our appeal are already helping to provide food packages, clean water, winterised tents and mosquito nets to some of the survivors. With so many people at risk of disease, our partner has also set up three mobile health clinics.



A woman uses palm leaves to dust her tent while taking refuge in a makeshift relief camp in Sindh Province, Pakistan.

©Reuters/Akhtar Soomro,
courtesy of www.alertnet.org

There are fears that over 200,000 cattle have died in the floods and 10 million more are at risk. Gifts to our appeal are also helping people to rebuild their lives by funding construction training centres and offering cash grant schemes to help people re-establish agricultural livelihoods.

Simeon Mitchell, MRDF's Fundraising Director, said: "People have been moved by the news stories and images from Pakistan and they have responded quickly and generously. We are receiving thousands of pounds every day and this money will help to bring some hope to people in the face of such devastation."

We are very grateful to everyone who has supported our Pakistan emergency appeal. Our partners will be assisting those affected by the floods in the long-term, helping them to rebuild their homes and businesses.

You can give direct to MRDF via the "Donate now" button on their web site (<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/pages/home.php>), or simply by putting your gift in the offering. If you choose the latter, please mark your envelope "Pakistan Appeal", and make sure we have your name/address if you pay tax and we can reclaim that tax through Gift Aid.

Community Nativity Project

Project update by Alan Taylor

This coming Christmas season, the Rosyth churches, working together in partnership with various groups in the community, will put on a Nativity Scene using *life-size* wooden figures in the grounds of the Parish Church on Queensferry Road,

The project has been greeted with enthusiasm by the community, and funding to finance the purchase of Christmas tree lights and the materials required has been obtained from Celebrating Fife 2010, the Locality Manager and – hopefully – from a further source, together making this project both feasible and affordable.

That's the easy bit. At an initial project meeting on 7 September, the four Rosyth Primary Schools – Camdean, Kings Road, Park Road and St John's – together with Carnegie College, pledged their support. The schools will design all of the traditional figures, which Carnegie will cut out before the models are handed back to the schools to be painted. Carnegie will help with the construction of the stable and with the lighting, which will include the large conifer on the grass at the side of the church. And the church windows on the side nearest the scene will be "converted" to stained glass windows by the schools, and back-lit to enhance the overall effect.

It is hoped that the other churches, all of which are represented on the project committee, will have scenes such as the shepherds in the fields and the wise men travelling to Bethlehem depicted on their external walls, with perhaps the youth organisations at those churches creating these scenes, probably on large boards or banners that can be fixed to the walls.

Monday 6 December is set for the launch of the event when it is planned that the schools will "march" to the parish church, there will be music and carols, and the lights will be switched on. There will be an opportunity throughout the season for prayers and wishes to be hung from the Christmas tree.

So that's the plan. And with some drive and determination that is what will happen!!

Ed: At the joint Vestry/Council meeting on 14 September it was agreed that we should produce something for our gable end, and that Evelyn would create a small working group to look at this.

Invitation from Morag Crawford:

If you have skills in cutting wood or painting profiles, helping with publicity, or have any ideas to contribute to the event, then come along to the next meeting to be held in the Parish Church at 3.45pm on Tuesday 5 October.



a life-size nativity scene being moved
to a new home in Northern Ohio
(<http://tinyurl.com/35nwe89>)

Music corner

Sunday@Six

Please note that the West Gallery Music Day planned for 31 October has had to be postponed until next Spring, as it clashes with other events in the area.

In consequence, Sunday@Six in October will revert to its normal 4th Sunday date of **24 October**, at which we will be celebrating Bible Sunday.

Christmas concert

On **Monday 13 December** the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are having a Christmas concert. We had a very successful one last year with a full church of people.

Please put this date in your diaries for your first Christmas event. More information to follow.

Mandy Ward

Major move

There was a young Scottish lad named Angus who decided to try life in Australia. He found an apartment in a small block and settled in. After a week or two, his mother called from Aberdeen to see how her son was doing in his new life. "I'm fine," Angus said, "But there are some really strange people living here in Australia. One woman cries all day long, another lies on her floor moaning, and there is a guy next door to me who bangs his head on the wall all the time."

"Well, ma wee laddie," says his mother, "I suggest you don't associate with people like that."

"Oh," says Angus, "I don't, Mum, I don't. No, I just stay inside ma apartment all day and night, playing me bagpipes."

Last Night at ... Central Hall

On **Friday 8 October** at 7.30pm you are invited to Methodist Central Hall, Tollcross for a concert in aid of the Edinburgh and Lothians Samaritans and Leith Acorn Centre YMCA. This is the last concert to be held at the Central Hall before it is sold!

The artists are the Dunedin Wind Band and the Edinburgh section of the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

The **Dunedin Wind Band** was founded in 2006 as a relaxed, fun, friendly band for wind players of all ages and abilities. From small beginnings the band has grown to about 35 playing members.

The **National Youth Choir of Scotland** was established in 1996 to provide opportunities for young people, teachers and choir directors to support and develop choral singing across Scotland. There is now a network of twelve Area Choirs across Scotland, including the Edinburgh section.

Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions), family £25, and are available from Janet Murray or at the door on the night.

Scottish Chamber Choir

Under their new director Roddy Bryce, the choir returns to St Giles' Cathedral at 8.00pm on **Saturday 13 November**. Their "French Classics" programme, which ends with the ever-popular Fauré *Requiem* includes Duruflé's *Quatre Motets*, Vierne's *Messe solennelle* and Poulenc's *Litanies à la Vierge noir*. Tickets (from Martin Tarr, or at the door) are £10.00, with under-16s free and students £5.00.

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

Do it early for Christmas!

Christmas greetings

As last year, our December/January issue will provide you with an opportunity to broadcast your greetings to readers, in exchange for a donation to a charity of your choice. Copy must reach the Editor by **Sunday 14 November**.



Shoebox Appeal 2010

We plan to take part in the Shoe Box Appeal for Christmas organised by Blythswood Care, so please start filling your shoe box now! For details, look out for the poster that will appear shortly in the Crush Hall, or speak to Mary Dempster.

After checking your box, Blythswood Care will add Bible materials appropriate to the age of the recipient.

For Christmas delivery, your shoebox needs to be at Church at the very latest by **Sunday 14 November**.

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue of Contact, and zoom in to look at text or photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/39ldcpb>.

The "What's on now" page at <http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk/whatson.htm> gives information on the Episcopal services for the current month, including readings. It also has a "Thought for the Month" which challenges the webmaster! The September page (archived at <http://tinyurl.com/2uz52en>) was based on an idea by Ken Bailey, which sparked the following comment from Sandra Young:

"Ken Bailey was for some time Canon Theologian to the Episcopal Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Ian (my brother) knows him well and would invite Ken to give 'talks' when he visited Qatar. I had the privilege to meet and hear him a few years ago when he spoke about his favourite parables – the coins, the lost sheep and the prodigal son. It was an unforgettable experience."

If you have suitable seasonal thoughts to share in this way on our web site (and the parallel Holy Trinity, Dunfermline web site), do please have a word with Martin Tarr.

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. Special thanks to our roving reporters Ron and Mary Dempster. 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.

The **next issue** of Contact will be published on Advent Sunday, 28 November. Contributions please by **Sunday 21 November** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; 01383 723989), preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk. Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young (sandrayoung39@btinternet.com or 01383 415021).