

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



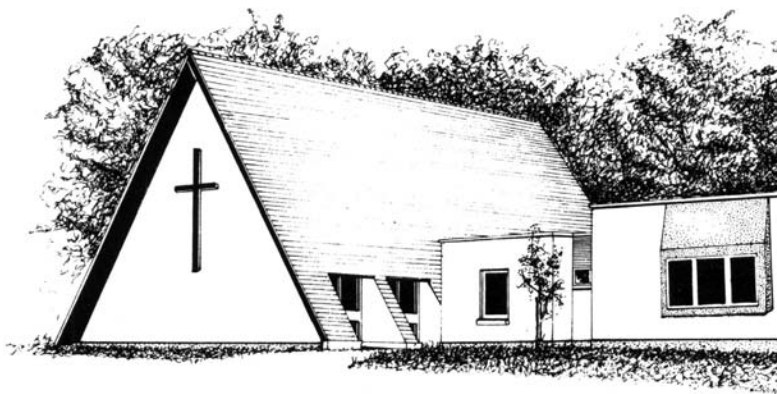
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 55

February/March 2011

**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

**Senior Steward:**

Mary Kidd 01383 872332

**Pastoral Secretary:**

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

**Treasurer:**

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

**Rector:**

Rev Tim Bennison 01383 720532  
07411 616163

**Curate:**

Rev Valerie Walker 07720 327766

**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.

# How do we experience God's love?

Thoughts from the Rectory

I found myself part of an interesting discussion the other day with a group of Christians from a somewhat different tradition to my own.

Members of the group were addressing the question of how one can find happiness or fulfilment in life. Several of them remarked that many of their friends and work colleagues seemed to be caught in an endless spiral of acquiring bigger and better material possessions. But this, the group agreed, wasn't the answer, and they thought that true happiness or fulfilment wouldn't come through earthly things, but only through knowing and receiving God's love. And so they concluded, interestingly, that, as Christians (and therefore, as people who did indeed know and receive God's love) they must be happier than their (non-Christian) friends and work colleagues.

Well, I don't know how they knew that, or even whether it's possible to compare 'degrees' of happiness or fulfilment; but the discussion left me with a rather different question: how, in fact, do we know, or receive, or experience God's love? Whilst the notion of God's love is extremely popular, and frequently spoken about and referred to, it suddenly occurred to me that it's not at all obvious how one receives it or experiences it. And this concern was heightened for me in the discussion when someone warned against (what they perceived to be) the danger of confusing human love with God's love.

So, the question I was left with was how do we actually know God's love (how is it mediated to us) in the reality of our felt experience, rather than simply knowing it in the abstract as some kind of intellectual truth? A second, but closely related question is, what does God's love feel like?

Therapists and psychologists tell us that, in human terms, the thing which is most likely to free someone to grow and to move towards the fulfilment of their potential is the experience of unconditional, accepting and affirming love in a relationship with someone else. And, in the model of counselling within which I work, 'unconditional positive regard', as it's rather less appealingly called, is thought to be one of the core conditions necessary in the therapeutic relationship for growth.

Christians often speak of God's love in similar terms: unconditional, affirming, accepting. Such a love frees people to be themselves and to become what they were meant to be; to find fulfilment and, possibly, happiness.

So, that's the kind of love we're talking about, but how do we receive it from God?

Well, I suppose that some people can look back to what we might call a 'mountain-top' experience or two when, perhaps, they feel overwhelmed by a sense of being loved or accepted which seems to come, unmediated, from God. Other times, we might get a more general awareness of God's presence and love for us perhaps in or through the wonder of nature or in the beauty of art or music.

But surely, for most of us, most of the time, we experience God's love in and through our normal human relationships and friendships. It's here, in these relationships, that we can truly know ourselves to be loved and affirmed and accepted in the concrete reality of our everyday life. It's here, in these human relationships that we can find the space and the confidence to grow into ourselves; to become who we were created to be; to find fulfilment.

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For me, attempts to separate, or distinguish between human love and God's love, rather miss the point. It's sometimes said that human love and relationships are flawed, and that only God can offer the perfect love and the perfect relationship. Certainly, human love can be inconsistent and incomplete, perhaps. In the end though, this love that we find in our everyday relationships is all that we have; and whilst it may seem, at times, less than perfect, it is

surely when, in those human relationships we know ourselves to be unconditionally loved, accepted and affirmed, that we experience also, the love of God.

Consequently, just as Jesus' disciples experienced God's love in and through their concrete and earthly relationship with him, a human being, so we too can experience God in the concreteness of our human relationships.

Tim Bennison

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## **Come wind, come weather ...**

### **Celebrating 40 years in our new building**



Late November and early January saw the most protracted period of snow and disruption for many years, and this had an effect on many planned activities.

The weather explains why the congregation that welcomed Linda Bandelier on Sunday 5 December for the anniversary service could all be crammed into this picture (except Stuart Pearson, the photographer, of course)!

Martin Rogers had spent an enormous time assembling a most interesting exhibition illustrating the early years of the fellowship, which we hope everyone enjoyed.

Linda's sermon was very challenging, and is well worth reading, even if you were there to hear it. If you weren't, then make reading the next three pages a priority, and let life begin at 40! [You might like to read Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12 beforehand]

# Life begins at 40 ...

Rev Linda Bandelier's sermon notes

I understand Rosyth is celebrating 40 years. 40 years in this building. But actually, I know you are really much older than this.

But 40 is a significant number. And I like that saying: "Life begins at 40". According to this figuring, I'm now 13.

I'd not really stopped to think about what it means for life to begin at 40 ... maybe I assumed the best was already past, that life just wound down after 40.

I now realise God had completely different plans for me, far beyond what I would ever have expected or sought for myself.

- In my 40th year I married Alan
- Because we were told we couldn't have children, we were astonished and heart-broken when I had my first miscarriage at 41
- Nellie was born 4 days after my 42nd birthday
- I began full-time ministry with the Methodist Church with a 3-year old
- Husband's freelance work hiatus for two years from 2003
- Alan diagnosed with cancer in 2007
- Two years later, when I'm 51, I become a widow. And now ...
- Life as a single mum – heading back to full-time freelance storytelling ministry in 9 months.

I would never have dreamed that so much would happen to me. God's plans for me are ambitious, and I'm certain there's more to come; much, much more. The time since has been a blessing: learning to be ever more and more attuned to God's direction in my life; depending on God.



Challenging as it may be at times, it is reassuring that God is active and working through me, and it stretches me to be more willing and responsive to God's intentions for using me.

So, today is an anniversary for Rosyth. There is a 40 in the picture – 40 years in this building.

But your story is much older ... actually since 1916, which

I calculate makes you 94. Many at such an age are tempted to think: "There's nothing left for me but to wait out my days". And maybe you as a church are tempted to think this.

I must have a word with you about your web page on the Circuit site. This is what I read ... Rosyth Methodist Church moved into its present building in 1970 and "expanded to its peak in 1985". You really must take that line out of your description. What are you saying? "We're a declining church, but you're welcome to join us"? This line assumes you believe God has no other plans for you. You just do not want that line on your web page. Take it off! You need to be ready for all that God still plans for you! It is *not* about the past.

God doesn't work like that. God uses the past as a foundation for building in the present in preparation for the amazing future he has planned.

And so, he sends us John the Baptist – at every stage and age of our life – to make us uncomfortable and to remind us "Prepare the way ... the Lord is coming". And the Old Testament lesson also reminds us that out of an old stump, new life grows and flourishes.

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Isaiah and John's words on Rosyth's anniversary will not allow us to rest on our past laurels and achievements, but compel us to prepare ... prepare ... prepare.

**BUT** 40 is a significant number in the Bible. So let's look at examples of life beginning at 40 here. Since we celebrate 40 years in this building, let us see where this number 40 actually connects us into this very theme of reflection, repentance, preparation and change in the Bible.

Here are the main examples that may be familiar:

- Floods in Genesis, when it rained for 40 days and nights
- Moses and the covenant renewed, after which Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mount Sinai
- 40 years wandering in preparation for the Promised Land
- Elijah's journey when hounded by Jezebel, after which God renewed and restored him
- Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert
- And, 40 days after Ascension – Pentecost

40 denotes an extended period of time – What happens during this time? – a time of struggle and testing. 40 denotes a period of preparation for some special action of the Lord; it is a time of grace.

What is the location of the 40? In the wilderness: an arid, dry location where death holds sway; a place to learn and relearn dependence on God's grace.

Anniversaries are always times for looking back, taking stock and moving into the future. So what do we make of our last 40 years at Rosyth? Has it been notable as a time of growing dependence on God and living attuned to God's purposes?

Or would John the Baptist rail at us for our complacency? Or a mixture of both?

What have we learned  
in this time and place?

Earlier this morning Sarah asked the children what they liked about church and what they wanted in the future.

Now it is your turn ... and there will be more time in the weeks and months to come to really delve into these questions as we reflect and prepare for God's future with us.

In the past 40 years, what have been the lessons learned? What do we believe we must carry forward? What must we leave behind? What have been our best experiences, and what needs God's forgiveness and grace?

How can the Israelites sojourn  
in the wilderness help us  
reflect on our past 40 years?

In the wilderness they struggled with temptations:

- 1 The first temptation was to settle down and stop the journey. They'd promised to go with God; grew weary of the constant demand to move on. They'd say: "We're happy with this oasis. We don't need to move on. This will do. We'll just stay here!"  
And for us in Rosyth? Have we become content with where we are and how we are, and resistant to the journey God calls us on?
- 2 Second temptation ... nostalgia – looking back to Egypt, when they were truly oppressed and wanted to escape – it became seen as time of well-being. Looking back to avoid the future.  
Do we look back at 1985 as the halcyon days, and avoid looking at the present and future as the place where God is at work, now?



**OR** do we avoid the temptation of stopping, and the temptation of nostalgia, and look around ... seeing the needs of the world around us ... the people and situations that continue to beckon us out, and to be continually inviting others in? Do we look around for the future that's yet to be discovered?

What else can we learn  
from the Israelites?

While they were in the wilderness, what happened to them? Why didn't God take them straight from Egypt to the promised land?

They had much to learn about their relationship with God.

- Learn to worship God.

They needed to learn again what God wanted from their worship. Break the old habits and learn to focus on God.

And what about us? Have we learned to worship God better in the past 40 years? Do our expressions of worship reflect an ever-growing and maturing relationship with God?

- Learn a new way of living.

God wanted them to learn that what he expected of them was radically different than that to which they'd become accustomed. Often victims become oppressors when they have freedom, and God had other purposes in mind for the Israelites. God wanted them to learn extravagant caring for the oppressed and outsider, and radical hospitality and loving of those on the fringes

What lessons are we learning? Do we need to learn to live in this way that God requires of all of us?

Are we avoiding the temptations and learning the lessons needed to journey into the future with God?

John the Baptist challenges us to prepare. Prepare for the future and all that God has planned.

Isaiah says: "look for the green shoots from the stump". When we are awake God's promises grow in us and through us.

Does life begins at 40? It never stops beginning with God. Life begins at 40 and another 40 and more to grow!



## Wonderful God

We are told by those who know  
That every single flake of snow  
Is each one differently designed.  
The wonder of it fills the mind.  
And has it ever dawned on you,  
That each of us is different too.  
The wonder of each different face  
Millions in the human race.  
Every one has their own features  
All made different, all God's creatures.  
Wonderful things in every place,  
Stars, and planets, in outer space.  
Our minds cannot contain the thought,  
The wonder that our God has wrought.  
The brain! the senses! – in awe bend low,  
And worship Him who made it so.

Iris Lines

# Come wind, come weather ...

Carry on regardless!

## Fellowship Dinner

The Feast of the Epiphany, Thursday 6 January. The evening was crisp and frosty, but the atmosphere inside Taurasi's was warm and friendly. In fact, an ideal occasion, having taken down our Christmas decorations at home, to round off the season in celebratory mood at our annual Christmas meal.



With such a large menu to choose from, nineteen cheery people were well-catered for and we enjoyed the tasty food, good company and an evening of merriment together.

If there is another Dinner next year, it would be a good idea to sit beside someone that you don't know too well and make a new friend.



This social evening is a good way to get to know your church family, both Methodist and St Margaret's. So take a note for next year to keep looking at the Church coming events so that you do not miss this enjoyable occasion.

Our thanks go to David Slater and Dennis Cook for once again organising an excellent evening.

## Nine Lessons and Carols ... and collections!

Unfortunately, the severe weather meant we had to cancel our Advent Meditation on 28 November, when the snow first set in.

However, despite heavy snow falling earlier that afternoon, our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols went ahead on 19 December. About 20 hearty people braved the elements and were uplifted by the traditional candlelit service of lessons and hymns and carols – old and new – sung by a small joint choir. Then, refreshed by most welcome hot drinks and mince pies, all set out again into the bleak mid-winter!

Two cheques were sent to CHAS on behalf of both congregations as a result of the retiring collection taken at the service, together totalling £174.00. As most of the collection was gift-aided, CHAS will eventually receive £218.85.

More carols had been sung the previous day when shoppers at Tesco, Duloch Park listened to members of the Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society and gave £551 for the Whitefield Day Hospital at Queen Margaret Hospital. Thank you to those who sang and gave.



# Follow the star ...

Community Nativity Project report by Alan Taylor



Snow, snow, snow. Snow everywhere. Deep and crisp and even. Maybe it was like this in Bethlehem when Jesus was born – as it does snow in the Holy Land, though some scholars would suggest that Jesus was born during the summer.

But what has this got to do with the Community Nativity Project? A lot, as it turned out, because the primary schools in particular were closed on account of the Arctic conditions in early December and hence were unable to complete the figures and stained glass windows in time for the nativity scene to open on 6 December – not that it could have then anyway, as no-one would have made it to the grounds of the Parish Church that night.

Finding an alternative date was difficult, as most suggestions were not possible for everyone, not least the schools who had put so much into the preparations. However, 16 December was chosen and, despite a horrendous weather forecast of more snow, the switching-on of the lights by Kate Whitely, depute Head at Kings Road, went ahead.



There must have been about 150 people there, in very cold weather, with choirs from the schools, Rosyth Concert Band, many parents and teachers, and visitors from the Rosyth churches, all joining in. The figures were great, as was the stable constructed by Carnegie College, the imaginative stained glass windows, lit from behind, and the illuminated Christmas tree, all made for a wonderful scene. The readings – principally by the ministers of the Rosyth churches – and the singing by the schools and the folk gathered there were just great. Then everyone was ready to retreat indoors, for tea and mince pies – donated by Co-operative Funeralcare – and general goodwill all round.

But what of our own church? Well, we had a banner made for the gable end directing folk to follow the star. But those few of us who gathered to walk to the Parish Church decided that discretion was the better part of valour – and went by car!!

The organisers of this project were grateful for substantial funding from Celebrating Fife 2010, whose banner hung from the parish church hall. And the dark mornings and evenings were cheered by the illuminated scene throughout the Christmas season, hopefully sending folk on their way with a glad heart.

# Fellowship News

## In the wars

Please remember **John Cowie** and his family in your prayers as John is waiting to have a heart bypass operation, which is scheduled for 2 February.

Until two months ago, when he resigned through ill health, John was Chairman of the Methodist Finance Committee and, for a number of years, Church Council Secretary. Prayers are also needed for **Ruby Lucas** as she awaits another operation on her damaged ankle.

Remember too, **Eric and Gillian Potts**, whose little granddaughter, Rosie, is poorly and needs our prayers, and not forgetting Rosie's parents.

Commiserations to **Martin Forman**, victim of the unexpected return of the heavy snow on 8 January. Martin chipped a bone in his ankle and tore a couple of ligaments. However, he found later that he had also broken a second bone and is now in plaster up to the knee for six weeks.

## Belated Happy 70th!

The celebratory lunch for Rev Ross Kennedy finally took place on Sunday 9 January, when an enjoyable afternoon was had by 16 of us. Our grateful thanks to Myra and Martin Tarr for organising and hosting the happy and memorable occasion.

## Memorial Book

The Church Memorial Book is now due for an update. Anyone who has information for this should let Dennis Cook or David Slater know by the end of March. The details required are given name, surname, nickname if required, date of death and age.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Cathy Cusator on the birth of Alwyn Iain Cusator on 7 December, which was a nice birthday present for his great-grandma, Mary Reddie. Best wishes to the happy parents, Iain and Linda.

## Birthday congratulations!

Some of our Church Family have reached magnificent milestones and are about to begin another decade:

Joan Sowerby was 80 on 20 January  
(see page 13 for a report)

Iris Lines was 90 on 28 January

Ron Dempster will be 80 on 6 February

Frieda Trew will be 80 on 11 March

God's blessings on them all.

## The meaning of ASAP

Ever wonder about the abbreviation ASAP? Generally, we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But, as you hurry and scurry –  
ASAP – Always Say A Prayer.

In the midst of family chaos,  
"Quality time" is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest –  
ASAP – Always Say A Prayer.

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather –  
ASAP – Always Say A Prayer.

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He'll respond to all your needs –  
ASAP – Always Say A Prayer.

# The Wednesday Fellowship

Mary Kidd writes ...

Be assured of a warm welcome on Wednesday afternoons in the Church lounge, among the fellowship of friends.

The spring syllabus is now available. You will note we have some interesting speakers lined up to talk about things you might like to know more about. How about the 'digital changeover', the Street Pastors in Dunfermline, or finding out more about that favourite hymn of yours?

Our Christmas Lunch, postponed in December, is now booked for 13 April, but I can't promise you roast turkey and all the trimmings.

Even if you can only manage the occasional Wednesday, please do feel free to come and be a part of what has become the highlight of the week for our members. We hope to see you there!

## Do you know this man?!



You might think you know all there is to know about Jack Fowell, but you'll be amazed at the story which he tells on page 14, the latest in our series of conversations with the editor.

## Spring programme

- 9 February Opening Session  
Tea, chat and  
Brambles visit
- 16 February Guest Speaker  
Rev Valerie Walker
- 23 February Blythwood  
Mrs Tooth
- 2 March 'Hymnformation'
- 9 March Daffodil Tea  
Fund-raising event
- 16 March East Fife Group Diabetes UK  
Ian Sloan
- 23 March Digital TV change-over  
Colin Scott
- 30 March Guest Speaker  
Rev Eileen Thompson
- 6 April Games Afternoon
- 13 April Lunch at the Elgin Hotel
- 20 April Holy Week Communion  
Rev Andrew Letby
- 27 April Desert Island Discs  
Rev Malcolm Trew
- 4 May Dunfermline Street Pastors  
Moss Barclay
- 11 May Guest Speaker  
Mrs Erica Lock
- 18 May Guest Speaker  
Bill Tulloch
- 25 May AGM, Tea and  
Close of Session

## Meetings resume on 7 September

Remember that we're always on the lookout for material that lies within the general scope of Fellowship News, and ***please*** don't assume that somebody else will tell us!

# Audrie Pollard

Audrie was born in Farnborough in 1929. When she was 3 years old her father died, so her mother thought it would be best if she, Audrie and Norah returned to Rosyth where her family lived. They stayed with Audrie's grandparents, and her grandmother looked after the girls whilst her mother went out to work. Audrie said that her grandmother also looked after other grandchildren as they were in the same position. So Pinkerton Place, Rosyth became her home.



Audrie and Norah on a happy occasion

Audrie attended Park Road Primary School, and it wasn't until she was about to sit her 11 plus exam that the teacher sent for her mother and told her that she ought to go to Inverkeithing Primary School where they had a Remedial Class, as she said that Audrie was backward. Her mother was very upset and took Audrie to the optician to have her eyes tested, when it was discovered that she was almost blind. What a difference spectacles made to her life! She went to the Dunfermline High School where she studied Commercial Subjects, but felt that they were the wrong subjects for her as she did not really like them and she was too slow with the shorthand.

So at 16 Audrie left school and sat the Civil Service Examination, which she passed, and was sent to Stanmore in Middlesex to work in the Ministry of Education. She enjoyed that and shared accommodation, which was a wooden hut, with girls of her own age. They had lots of fun together and she remembers that they gave her a party for her 21st birthday. Her next move was to Curzon Street, London, where she became secretary to the Junior Branch of the Civil Service Trade Union. She also attended the Trade Unions Congress, which she found interesting. One of the things Audrie enjoyed was staying up all night so that she got a good view of the Queen's Coronation even although it was raining.

During her time in London, she was a regular attendee at the Westminster Methodist Central Hall. After London she moved to Newcastle. Wherever Audrie stayed she would join a choir and also help with the local Brownie Packs.

Audrie then decided to apply to the Special Recruitment Scheme and was accepted to study for teaching. She came back to Rosyth to study for her Highers, which she passed. She went to Edinburgh Further Education College, where she studied History, Maths, Latin and other subjects, then on to University to study English and History, and finally to Moray House for teacher training. It was at University that Audrie became interested in politics, especially the Labour party, where she did her bit at canvassing round the doors at election time. Back home in Rosyth, she taught in different schools but stayed longest teaching in the Remedial Classes.

Audrie's great interests were the Guides and Brownies and going to Art Classes. She sold a number of her paintings and latterly she went on holiday to learn more about the subject, especially portraiture (a portrait of our twin grandchildren by Audrie hangs in our house and I am very fond of it). >>>

# Joan Sowerby

Joan's 80th birthday was celebrated at Lister House with the help of her family and the Care Home staff, who very kindly had decorated Joan's room and the corridor leading to the lounge with banners, posters and balloons. The staff and Audrey provided a delicious buffet lunch (including some mouth-watering meringues). The birthday cake had a picture of Joan when she about 2 years old – it was a pity it had to be cut up – it tasted as good as it looked.



When we arrived Joan was in great form, greeting everyone with a smile and asking "How did you know about this?" The guests included Joan's brother-in-law David, her nephew Ian and his wife Linda, about a dozen of her old friends from the church, a neighbour from Crossford, and one of her friends from the Dunfermline Quilters.

Also at the celebration were a friend who has known Joan for many years and his wife, and two friends from Tranent, one of whom, Janet Fairgrieve, actually worked in the Children's Home with Joan.



Joan with her nephew Ian Roper

Janet also provided a DVD of the Frodsham Children's Home which had been made for advertising purposes, and the house that was shown with the children was Joan's, so we saw a very young Miss Sowerby. Joan was so pleased when Janet Murray brought her granddaughter Katie with her and gave her a special welcome. We were all so glad that Joan enjoyed her very special day.

Mary Dempster

<<< In the late 80s, after her mother died, Audrie went to live with her sister, Norah. She was to become Secretary and also President of the Women's Own Group, Secretary to the Thursday Club, and Brownie Leader. Audrie ran the Sunday School for many years, and was treasurer for Home Missions, a role she only recently gave up.

Now she looks after the Every Day with Jesus books and enjoys taking part in the study group when we discuss what we have been reading about that month. Audrie also

enjoys the Wednesday Fellowship, which is turning out to be the place to be on a Wednesday afternoon – somewhere you can have a devotional time, an interesting speaker to listen to, and then "the cup of tea and a chat".

I may say that I have always enjoyed Audrie's company as she has a great sense of humour, and I hope that we shall have many more laughs together in the years to come.

Mary Dempster



# Jack Fowell – setting his mind to it!

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

This issue, we hear from one of our elder statesmen, well-known to everyone for his unflinching cheerfulness and enthusiasm, and a worker for the Methodist cause at Rosyth since ‘time immemorial’!

In this interview, Jack reveals some of the influences that have shaped his life and belief, demonstrates how early encouragement can lead to a life of service, tells why he still has an interest in the fortunes and misfortunes of Plymouth Argyle FC, and illustrates how God’s plans always work out for the best, even though we can’t always see it at the time.

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Jack Fowell was born of English parents in Rosyth in 1923, but the family left Backmarch Crescent three years later, when his father was transferred to work in Devonport Dockyard. So Jack spent his formative years in Plymouth, which accounts for his rich Devon burr.

His first memory, aged 4, is of being in Peverell Methodist Church, with his father in the choir ranged behind the preacher. The next year found Jack starting school, in the beginners’ class that met in the same church hall as his Sunday School!

Father was a keen supporter of Plymouth Argyle, and took Jack with him to almost every match at their nearby ground. In 1933, the upstairs flat in the family home was rented to Jimmy ‘Goal-a-match’ Cookson, who had transferred from West Bromwich Albion, and for home games Jack earned sixpence a week as his bag boy, enjoying a free seat at Home Park.

The family moved to St Budeaux, then on the outskirts of Plymouth, and again close to a Methodist church, where he was involved with the Sunday School. By age 13 he was assistant to the school secretary, involved with the all-important registration (remember those attendance prizes?!), and later became a helper and then a teacher. Jack remembers fondly one particular teacher, Ivy Gray, the wife of a naval officer, who encouraged many youngsters – “They’re not too young to help!”

By the outbreak of war, Jack had left school, wanting to become a motor engineer, and tied to a five-year apprenticeship. He was still living at home in 1941, when his father came home with the news that “they’re asking for volunteers to transfer to Rosyth”. “Where is this place?” was the youngsters’ response, and the fact that it was 500+ miles away from where they lived was “unbelievable”.



The Fowell family in 1940

In fact, Jack was the first of his family to move North. The garage where he worked had been bombed, and this enabled his father to negotiate to transfer the apprenticeship to John Goodall in Dunfermline. In May 1941, he left parents and sister behind and lodged with his aunt and uncle in Harley Street until the others joined him the following year. He remembers the furniture being jam-packed into one of their homes in Dollytown!



Jack arrived in Dunfermline only a few months after the Air Training Corps was formed, and Jack was one of the earliest members of 1145 Squadron, meeting then in Abbot House. His garage foreman was the officer in charge of non-aircrew recruits and, on the completion of his apprenticeship, Jack was inspired to volunteer for the RAF, although he didn't need to do so, being in a reserved occupation, and working mostly on engines for the Dockyard.

While he says now: "I don't know what possessed me to think of the Air Force", it might have been the appeal of being an aircraft engineer. However, his Edinburgh recruiting officer, having no requirement for such engineers, asked "What are you like on fractions?" and assigned Jack for training as a wireless mechanic on the basis of an affirmative reply!

Jack was not a success in things electronic, so was sent "for general duties" to Borough Green, Kent, where fortunately the CO said "We're crying out for motor engineers", and transferred him to a motor transport unit being sent overseas. Jack then served in Palestine for 16 months, spending two Christmas Eves in Nativity Square, Bethlehem.

Although the war in Europe was over, Palestine was not a safe place to be during the birth pangs of the Jewish state. Jack remembers seeing, from his base on Mount Carmel overlooking Haifa, coastal craft coming in crammed with Jews and just running onto the beach.

Jack describes his growth to faith as being "gradual, with reinforcements", rather than a Damascus road experience, and a key reinforcement was as a result of an order to go on a 'moral leadership' course in Jerusalem. It remains a mystery to Jack why he alone of all those in Middle East Command had been selected. Their week of

morning study and afternoon trips ended with a service, during which he felt a distinct touch of somebody on his shoulder, and the question "Why are you here?" Jack hasn't forgotten that experience to this day, and it has made all the difference to his faith.

Before leaving Dunfermline Jack had worshipped at the Parkgate church, and met Marjory Blight, a Plymouth girl whose father had also moved to work in the Dockyard. They exchanged letters, but romance didn't bloom until Marjory was posted by the WRAC to Southend whilst Jack was at Borough Green, and they were able to use weekend passes to stay with a mutual friend in London. The couple were engaged before Jack left for Palestine, and married in 1947 following his discharge.



In the RAF . . . a postcard for home

Jack returned to Dunfermline to work in the Dockyard with his father and uncle, and settled in Rosyth with Marjory, eventually making their home in Kings Road. Their two sons, Stuart and Ian, and their wives Lindsey and Susan, will be well-known to many members.

Retirement found Jack still at the Dockyard, and “being kept in order” by Marjory (who had the advantage of being twelve months older) until her death in 1992.

Jack had been one of two boys invited to join the church choir at age 11, and has sung on and off ever since, first as member of the Dockyard G&S Society, and more recently with Dunfermline Choral Union and Glenrothes Choral Society.

Also, having first played football at junior school, he played for his RAF unit and was still playing when at the Dockyard, where one season his team won the meal-time league.



Jack in Palestine: “And some there be that play on stony ground!”

There are many other examples of Jack acting out his maxim: “If I set my mind to something, I’ll stick with it.” He served for 50 years in our Sunday School, and taught some of the current Church members; with the National Trust of Scotland he spent ten years as the first chairman of the West Fife Members’ Centre, and 25 years as a volunteer guide at Falkland Palace and Culross. Jack also saw the transition to a new church in 1970, having worshipped at the old church for nearly 30 years ... some stickability!

“Practically all my church life I’ve been involved in meetings of some sort” ... Jack was one of those in the Leaders’ Meeting and the Trustees’ Meeting, and on the Church Council into which these evolved, and was Senior Steward for six years.

Now Jack is happy to be in the background, though “if people want to use me, I’ll do my best to be useful”, and he runs the monthly service at Orchardhead (with Sheila Lee) and is a regular contributor to Contact.

Asked about his views on church life today, Jack is reluctant to criticise, but would welcome more reverence during services: “This is a place where we don’t do that sort of thing”. And he would like preaching to be more focussed on God’s Word, feeling that the social aspects of the gospel have more place in political debate.

He also feels that we need to encourage younger people to become involved, so that they project a better image of today’s church – with older people everywhere, what is the mental picture that our visitors take away? “There has come a time, when the church has got to put its best face forward.”

# Your Church needs you!

This is a special article for Methodist members and supporters, written by David Cochrane, Ron Dempster and Howard Kirby. **Please read it now** as it is very important to us all.

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## How things are financially at the moment

Times are hard and getting harder, for those in work or out of work, for pensioners, firms and charities. Your church is not exempt from this, and the evidence is now showing.

We are not paying our way, because we are simply not taking in enough money to cover our expenses.

This year ending 31 August we are expecting to have a deficit of around £4,000.

Our yearly Gift Day (now called the Anniversary Appeal) is on Sunday 6 March. There are envelopes for that in this edition of Contact. You are invited to put your gifts in the collection plate then or on the following Sundays in March, or to hand your gifts to the Duty Steward.

## The financial future of our church

Church members are in general very supportive of special appeals, but contributions to our general funds have been falling.

Last year, 2009/10, the shortfall was £2,000. In 2008/09 there was a surplus of £3,750, but a steady downward trend in collections, gifts and so on is apparent.

## What is needed, and what you can do

Our current expenditure for the year is  
£39,000

We get in from the Playgroup and other organisations, including St Margaret's share of costs

£7,700

Leaving **£31,300**

to be met by congregational giving and donations

We had 71 members last year, so that is equivalent to £440 per member per year.

This will obviously increase each year like everything else, so, if you want to help your church to pay its way, please think about the church's plight when deciding what to give for the Anniversary Appeal.

If you haven't given in the past, do please think about making a start now.

**The deficit which we are facing is not a one-off problem, but is an on-going situation.**

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Many thanks for taking time to read this. Deficits use up our limited reserves and therefore cannot go on indefinitely, so let us enable our church to pay its way and take action now if we can. If you have any queries, please contact Howard Kirby (Church Treasurer) Tel: 624779 or Ron Dempster (Gift-Aid Secretary) Tel: 721252.

## Some Lenten traditions

The glorious Epiphany season continues throughout February and early March, when the mood changes to the sobriety of Lent.

Shrove Tuesday (8 March) is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday and is the final day before the start of Lent. The name 'shrove' comes from the old word 'shrive' which means to confess. It is a day of penitence to clean the soul, and a day of celebration being the last chance to feast before Lent begins. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last throughout Lent without going off. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour. Shrove Tuesday is sometimes called Pancake Day, after the recipe still traditionally eaten by many on this day.

Ash Wednesday (9 March) marks the beginning of Lent – six and a half weeks of repentance, fasting and abstinence in preparation for the most important Christian festival of Easter (24 April). Ash Wednesday derives its name from the old practice to begin Lent by being marked in ash on the forehead with the sign of the cross. Often, the ashes used are made by burning the palm crosses that were blessed on the previous Palm Sunday.

Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion. It used to be a time for fasting or going without food as Jesus had done. Now Christian churches that observe Lent use it as a time for prayer, study and penance. Not many people today fast, although some do on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Nowadays many people give up a favourite thing they enjoy for Lent and often give money to charity.

Mothering Sunday (3 April) is kept on the fourth Sunday of Lent, and used to be known as Refreshment Sunday because on that day the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed. Now children give their mothers gifts and cards as a way of saying "thank you" for their hard work, and prayers for mothers are said in church.

In Tudor times, girls who worked in domestic service were given the day off work to visit their mothers. They often took a simnel cake as a present – hence its association with Mothering Sunday. It is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, on top of which are eleven balls of marzipan, one for each disciple, except Judas.

The name probably comes from the Latin word *simila* which means a fine wheat flour usually used for baking a cake, but there is a legend that a man called Simon and his wife Nell argued over whether the cake for Mothering Sunday should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after both of them – Sim-Nell!

### Count your blessings in Lent

Lent is a opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for all the good things in our lives. The Christian Aid "Count Your Blessings" campaign leaflet is a guide to Lent with simple daily actions and reflections that will make Lent meaningful both for you and for people living in poverty around the world.

There are many innovative and challenging ideas in the leaflet which is now available for download at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/cyb-main-resource.pdf>. Or you will be able to collect a printed copy from the Crush Hall early in March.



# Diary for January/February 2011

## Sunday 30 January

Candlemas	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Mary Kidd

Tuesday 1 Feb      6.30pm Vestry Meeting at Myra Tarr's home

Saturday 5 Feb      10.00am Holy Trinity, Haddington  
to 4.00pm celebrating the King James Bible 400 Anniversary  
(see article on page 29)

## Sunday 6 February

Epiphany 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev John Knox and Deacon Sarah McDowall
	7.00pm	House Fellowship at the home of David and Gill Cochrane, Dalgety Bay (see article on page 27)

Monday 7 Feb      7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group  
at St Columba's, Torridon Lane, Rosyth

Tuesday 8 Feb      2.15pm Christian Aid meeting in Rosyth Parish Church  
(see article on page 28)

Wednesday 9 Feb    2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship Opening Session  
Tea, chat and visit of Brambles Playgroup

## Sunday 13 February

Epiphany 6	9.00am	Breakfast and "Sunday Funday"	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	All-age service	Mr Lyn Smalridge
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House	

Monday 14 Feb      6.00pm Annual Chaplaincy Lecture  
James Watt Centre, Heriot Watt University  
Dr Ard Louis – "God, Science and Stephen Hawking"  
(see invitation on page 26)

Wednesday 16 Feb   2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship  
My faith journey – Rev Valerie Walker

Saturday 19 Feb      10.00am "Meet with Matthew" Workshop  
to 12.30pm St Luke's Episcopal Church, Glenrothes  
(see invitation on page 26)

# Diary for February/March 2011

## Sunday 20 February

Epiphany 7	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev Malcolm Trew
Monday 21 Feb	7.30pm	Property Committee Meeting in Church Lounge
Wednesday 23 Feb	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Blythswood Care – Mrs Tooth

## Sunday 27 February

Epiphany 8	11.00am	Joint Communion Service Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	Rev Lily Twist
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six led by Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker	Taizé Service (see page 38)
Tuesday 1 Mar	6.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Carmondean, Livingston	
Wednesday 2 Mar	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship 'Hymnformation'	
Friday 4 Mar	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer, hosted by St Margaret's in Rosyth Methodist Church (see article on page 24)	
Saturday 5 Mar	10.00am to 3.15pm	St Mary's, Newport-on-Tay Workshop on Pastoral Visiting (see page 27 for details)	

## Sunday 6 March

Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
Church Anniversary -95 years of Methodism in Rosyth	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev Professor Frank Whaling
Monday 7 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba's (see page 28 for details)

## Wednesday 9 March

Ash Wednesday	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship – Daffodil Tea (fund-raising)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion and imposition of ashes Rev Tim Bennison
Saturday 12 Mar	9.30am	Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth



# Diary for March/April 2011

## Sunday 13 March

Lent 1	9.00am	Breakfast and "Sunday Funday"	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennsion
	11.00am	All-age service	Ms Cilla McKenna
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House	

Monday 14 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba's

Wednesday 16 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship  
East Fife Group Diabetes UK – Ian Sloan

## Sunday 20 March

Lent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker	
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr John Hunter

Monday 21 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba's

Wednesday 23 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship  
Digital TV Change-over – Colin Scott

Friday 25 Mar and Saturday 26 Mar

10.00am District Spring Synod at  
to 3.00pm Rosyth Methodist Church

## Sunday 27 March

Lent 3	11.00am	Joint Communion Service Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	Rev Ross Kennedy
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six Service led by the Dalgety Bay House Fellowship	Evening worship

Monday 28 Mar 6.00pm Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Easter Concert  
(an open invitation on page 34)

7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba's

Wednesday 30 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship  
Living in India – Rev Eileen Thompson

Thursday 31 Mar 2.00pm Christian Aid Daffodil Tea  
to 4.00pm in Rosyth Parish Church

## Sunday 3 April

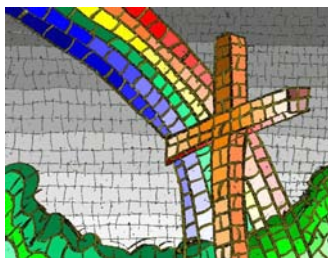
Lent 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
Mothering Sunday	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoffrey Baines

# From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby writes ...

On the front cover of the service sheet for the annual Covenant Service I included an image of a rainbow. The reference of course takes us right back to Genesis and the symbol God's promise to Noah as the floodwaters subside, that there will be a new start. The rainbow has always been used symbolically to represent the diversity of nature and of people and nations. It offers a profound picture of the variety of life on earth, an inclusive symbol which reminds us of the value of everyone and everything.

One of the strengths of the Methodist way of linking congregations into 'circuits' is that this encourages variety and diversity. That diversity is seen in the styles of worship brought by preachers and worship leaders from across the circuit, in the way our churches are structured and in the activities each congregation is involved in.



As I travel around the diverse Edinburgh and Forth Circuit I am often saddened to hear "We don't do it that way here", or "That's not our style, our people don't like it." You may even have made such remarks yourself!

I have lots of personal preferences for how things should be done, but I also try to see the value in the unfamiliar. In a sense when a service, or an activity (or dare I say a way of celebrating Holy Communion) feels a little uncomfortable, perhaps, rather than grumbling, we should ask ourselves "What new insight into God's abundant love is this offering me?" The Edinburgh and Forth Circuit is overflowing with talent, creativity and deep spirituality – we are not always good at sharing it though.

We are a 'rainbow' people – I pray we can learn to appreciate more and more the beautiful colours that make up that symbol of God's love for everyone.

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## Coming back soon



On **27 February** we welcome Rev Lily Twist, Chair of the Scotland District, who will be officiating at our joint communion service. It is always a pleasure to have Lily with us and this will be her second visit in two months. She surprised us by taking our joint service on 19 December (we were expecting Rev Andrew Letby) and we were also delighted to welcome Colin, Lily's husband, who was visiting our church for the first time. We hope as many of you as possible will attend on 27 February.

# District Synod – Volunteers needed!

A plea from Gwyneth Kirby

We have been asked to act as hosts for both sessions of the District Synod on **25 and 26 March**. Because two long days are involved, with particularly large numbers on the Saturday (at least 100), we will be using caterers to provide soup and sandwiches, but, as usual, we will need lots of home baking. It would be lovely if all you bakers out there would volunteer to bake some goodies ... anything you enjoy cooking would go down well!

We also need volunteers for both days, to set and clear tables, serve tea and coffee, and, of course, wash up. If you feel able

to help, even for just a short part of one day, please let me know. If we have lots of volunteers, then nobody will have to spend two days with their hands in the sink! And gentlemen, this is not exclusively for the ladies – you are just as capable of doing these jobs!

This is not a request from “The Catering Committee”, because no such committee exists, so **please** come along and help, and/or get your pinnies on and do some baking.

Thank you.

## News from the Circuit

A United Reformed Church minister, Rev Helen Mee has been invited to serve at **Granton United Church**. Granton enjoys a rotation of ministry between the Methodist Church and the URC. Helen’s appointment is to a 25% time role in Granton, which she will undertake alongside her full-time role as Chaplain at Monklands Hospital in Airdrie. Helen lives in Edinburgh.

The September Circuit meeting agreed to the opening of a **new diaconal appointment** focusing on East Lothian and Midlothian. The Methodist Diaconal Order were excited by the potential for this new role and an experienced minister was matched with our circuit. We are pleased that Deacon Sue Langdale will join the circuit team in the summer. Sue is currently serving in the Barnsley Circuit. This is the final bit of the jigsaw which sees the local ministry across the circuit led by diaconal ministers, allowing Geoffrey Baines and me to offer our different but complementary ministries across the whole circuit.

Finally I am pleased to report that the circuit submitted a **successful bid** to part of the pioneering ‘ventureFX’ programme of the Methodist Church. The details of this pioneering work will now need to be developed, and it is likely to begin in the summer of 2011. The project will focus on developing communities of friendship and faith for younger people living and working in the city of Edinburgh.

The Project Selection Panel made the following comment in its letter confirming our selection: “The panel was impressed by the vision represented by the application and by the potential of the work which could be explored through a ventureFX pioneering project. The strong and supportive leadership team is a very positive dimension, and the clear vision for reaching young adults in the city centre came across very strongly.”

Andrew Letby

# World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 4 March is the date for the World Day of Prayer service for 2011. Women, men, old and young from around the world are invited to share in this service which will take place as from sunrise in the Togo Islands until it sets over Alaska 36 hours later. People in over 180 countries make time to come together to sing, think and pray around a common theme every year at this time.

Bearing in mind the horrific earthquake which occurred just off the coast of Chile on 27 February last year, and the event of the miners trapped underground and news of their eventual release which captured the hearts of people all over the world, it is highly appropriate that the world-wide service has been written by Christian women of Chile.

Buildings, bridges and roads were destroyed in many parts of Chile at that time, and yet the resilience of the people looking ahead to a restored nation is echoed in the service which they have written. Taking as its theme 'How many loaves have you?' the service of 2011 looks at those in countries where food and possessions are in abundance, and sets that against places where the people are poor and starving.

Services will be held in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, universities, shopping centres and prisons. There is an afternoon service here at St Margaret's at 2.00pm, when you, like people throughout the world, will be asked to consider the question "How many loaves have you?"

**Will you be there?**

## It doesn't happen by magic!

As St Margaret's congregation is hosting on this occasion, we are looking for volunteers – men and women – from both congregations to act as stewards, possibly donate food (for example, sandwiches, scones and/or cakes), serve tea and coffee and wash up afterwards. If you are able to help in any way, **please** contact Lesley Yellowlees (01383 414188) or Mary Kidd (01383 872332).



Bread ovens at Lota

The full slide show is available at <http://www.wdpscotland.org.uk/Materials.html>

When the Chilean women ask, "How many loaves have you?" they are saying, "There is enough for all; it only has to be shared justly. When people sit together around a table at which no-one is discriminated against ... then nobody will go hungry at this table."

The bread ovens of Lota are a positive example of this. After the last coal mine closed in 1997, what had been a mining centre became one of the poorest areas in the country, with one-third of the inhabitants below the poverty line. Women took the initiative by starting to use the former community ovens again, in this way getting themselves and their families out of poverty.

## “How many loaves have you?”



At the request of the WDP Committee of Chile, an embroiderer from Copiulemu, Norma Ulloa, enthusiastically created a colourful tapestry to depict the theme of WDP 2011, “How Many Loaves Have You?” The original piece is made of wool woven on sackcloth. It measures 60 by 40 centimeters and took over a month to be completed.

Before she started working for the WDP theme, Norma Ulloa tried to imagine what Jesus’ life was like in his time, she read the Bible, and she thought a great deal. Then she began to put different images on the cloth. Her idea focused around prayer and bread. She said of her work: “The upper part depicts Christ praying and healing. On the left he is praying and the apostles have fallen asleep. On the right is the healing of a lame person, others are surrounding the scene and there are children among them. The lower part is related to bread. First there is the wheat, because that is what bread is made of. In the centre Christ is multiplying the loaves and the fish. There are loaves and fish in the baskets, and he is surrounded by many people. Finally there is the threshing with mares, a rural motif common in village life.” Thinking of Christ while producing this work, Norma felt deep emotion and joy, and as she progressed she found it got better and better.

Norma Ulloa died of heart failure shortly after the February earthquake in Chile, which struck the areas surrounding Concepción with great force. She was 77 years old.



# Invitations and requests

## Homelessness Action

Poverty & Homelessness Action Week runs this year from 29 January to 6 February, and **30 January** has been designated as Homelessness Sunday.

Members of our congregations and their friends are asked to give a minimum donation of £1 for their cup of tea or coffee after the morning services. Funds raised will be used to support the development of projects to help homeless people.

In addition, there is to be a retiring collection for Scottish Churches Housing Action after the Methodist service at 11.00am.

As the Action Week web site reminds us, the 2011 census will try to list all of the people who live in the country, but the chances are that there are many it won't include, such as the 'hidden homeless' and destitute asylum-seekers.

God's own son was born into poverty in a stable, in the year of a great census. Scripture tells us that in God's kingdom "the last shall be the first". Does the way we live bear witness to this truth? Are we living in true solidarity with people who are poor, homeless and excluded?

More at [www.actionweek.org.uk](http://www.actionweek.org.uk)

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## One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*Matthew 28:20*

## Gospel Workshop Opportunity

The Ministry and Education Action Group oversee learning events for congregations across the Diocese. As this year's Gospel readings are mainly drawn from St Matthew, the group has been holding workshops to explore the main themes and their meaning to us. The last of these workshops is on **Saturday 19 February** at St Luke's Glenrothes from 10am till 12.30pm, and will be led by Rev Tim Bennison and Beatrice Cowan. Please do come along. It is open to all.

## Chaplaincy Lecture

"God, Science and Stephen Hawking" is the topic chosen by Dr Ard Louis, who will be giving the Annual Chaplaincy Lecture on **Monday 14 February** at 6.00pm in the James Watt Centre, Heriot-Watt University.

Stephen Hawking's latest book *The Grand Design* claims that the universe created itself, so there is no need to believe in God as creator. But do the laws of physics really imply that God is irrelevant? Will science answer the big questions of life, or is it more rational to look to other sources of meaning?

As there are refreshments afterwards, it would be helpful in estimating numbers if those who intend coming could contact Tillie in advance on 0131 451 4508, or email [m.boulogne@hw.ac.uk](mailto:m.boulogne@hw.ac.uk).

**Ed:** Dr Louis is a Royal Society University Research Fellow and a Reader in Theoretical Physics at the University of Oxford. He is the International Secretary for Christians in Science and an associate of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion based at St Edmunds College, Cambridge.



## Brambles Lunch Club

**Volunteers are needed** to help from 11.15am to 12.45pm on Wednesday and Friday (possibly also Thursday) to help the children open lunch boxes, wash hands, etc.

For further details please contact Lesley Hynd (play leader) on 07758 877284 or 01383 418752.

## Interested in pastoral visiting?

On **5 March**, St Mary's, Newport-on-Tay is hosting a workshop on pastoral visiting, aimed at those who wish to learn more about 'pastoral ministry' and designed to build your confidence in pastoral visiting and increase your understanding of its role in Christian witness.

The programme runs from 10.00am to 3.15pm and will include:

- Tips on effective listening and reducing stigma around suicide
- Theological and spiritual considerations
- Listening and observing
- Visiting the elderly (memory loss and dementia)

Revs Denise Herbert, Isabel Dowlen and Paddy Allen, who are trained nurses and educators, will be facilitating groups and speaking, and other sessions will be led by speakers from NHS Fife Mental Health.

Cost £5 (soup provided; please bring your own sandwiches). Places are limited, so please apply by 25 February: you can download an application form at [www.standrewsanglican.org](http://www.standrewsanglican.org)

## House Fellowship, Dalgety Bay

Some members of the Rosyth Methodist congregation have been meeting regularly for nearly two years for fellowship, generating lively debate and interesting exchange of views.

The first get-together of 2011 took time to review where we have reached. We agreed that change is not a bad thing, and proposed rotating the meeting around our various homes. This might help members, from both congregations, to 'drop in' for a taster session.

We propose meeting on a weekday evening, rather than Sunday, with the date and venue being decided during the previous meeting. The next meeting on **Sunday 6 February** will be in Dalgety Bay at the home of **David and Gill Cochrane**. Thereafter advance information on the venue and topic for discussion will be included in the Joint Church Notices.

## Deepen your discipleship

Take a look at the latest St Andrews Diocesan Spirituality Group programme of retreats, quiet days and faith accompaniment. Quiet Days are usually on Saturdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm, cost £6, and lunch is provided. For this session, the subject of the days will be based on journeys – biblical journeys and our own journeys – actual and spiritual.

Programme dates are:

19 Feb	24 Barossa Place, Perth
19 March	St Mary's, Newport-on-Tay
2 April	St John, Pittenweem
16 April	24 Barossa Place, Perth
May (tbc)	Strathmiglo
4 June	St Andrew's, Strathgry

Booking/details from Rev Celia Matthews  
c/o The Diocesan Office (01738 443173;  
[office@standrewsanglican.org](mailto:office@standrewsanglican.org))

# Working together

## Ecumenical Study Group

During Lent, the Ecumenical Study Group will meet each week at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane, South Rosyth, starting on **Monday 7 March** at 7.30pm. The material to be used has not yet been decided, but as usual it will be relevant, modern and thought-provoking.

Most of the churches in Rosyth are represented, so do come and meet new friends, renew old acquaintances, take part in the study material and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. You will be most welcome.

What about a day study group? Morag Crawford, Deacon, Church of Scotland has been asked about this and is interested to organise a daytime group. Anyone who would like to be part of it please give their name to Jack Fowell or Alan Taylor now stating which day(s) of the week would be possible and whether morning or afternoon.

## Quiz

As many of you know, Mary has taxed our brains over the years with her quiz competitions. The proceeds of her next one will go to Christian Aid and she would welcome suggestions of a theme. Ideas please to Mary Dempster by the end of February.

## The Hub Café

A reminder that the café is still open for appetising cooked food or snacks on Wednesdays from 12noon to 2.00pm in Rosyth Parish Church Hall. Please support this worthy cause, the proceeds going towards the church restoration fund.

## Christian Aid 2011

Morag Crawford has put out a plea for more people to become involved in Christian Aid in Rosyth, especially those with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8 February**, 2.15pm at the Parish Church and if you are interested or have ideas please come along. Possible ideas include another Christian Aid concert involving the schools.

Mary Dempster has been on the committee for many years and we are grateful to her for her sterling work. Mary would be delighted if others from both churches could join her on the committee.

Morag is also looking for collectors for the week itself (15–21 May). Please try to help with this important means of fund raising. Contact Morag on 0131 332 2253 or email [morag.crawford@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:morag.crawford@blueyonder.co.uk)

## He is there

In times of testing  
When hope becomes despair  
He is there  
Bringing dawn to the darkest night.  
In times of struggle  
When strength is nearly gone  
He is there  
Renewing power to our helpless love  
He is there  
At that moment's vulnerability  
He is there  
When life seems at an end  
He is there  
When love and hate are mingled  
God is there  
Bringing peace, bringing love, bringing joy.

Helen Short

Ed: Helen is Secretary of Viewfield Baptist Church, and often contributes her poems during worship there.

## **“Casting the Net” News**



### **The best is yet to come!**

As you will read on page 34, St Margaret's have started to work in partnership with Rosyth Methodist Church to take “Casting the Net” forward and to devise our own plan, which will be different from other churches in the Diocese.

On 29 January we will be sharing our stories of what has gone well in the past and we are excited about how we can build a better future in our partnership and also ecumenically in Rosyth. We hope to share our hopes and aspirations with you shortly.

Ed: The next issue will contain a full report on what went on at “The best is yet to come!”, the ‘story-telling day’ facilitated by Linda Bandelier which is the start of our ecumenical response to ‘Casting the Net’.

### **CTN Gathering 21 May**

Please put the second CTN Gathering in your diary and pray that the team will come up with an equally enjoyable and uplifting programme as last year's successful day. This year's theme is the 5th Mark of Mission: “Use prayer, word and sacrament to experience God's will”. Susannah Silver, the Casting the Net Officer, would love to hear of ideas for it and also if any of the congregations would be able to help out in the preparation or on the day.

## **King James Bible at 400**

Simon Schama (the well-known historian) said of the King James Bible “It's not so much what it says, as how it says it”. This set the tone of the day of readings of the King James Bible from BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 9 January, and some of you may have listened to all or parts of the seven-hour marathon.

Each tranche was linked by thoughts from a famous name (including Dr Schama and Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury). The readings were easy to understand, although the language of the King James version is not always easy to read. However, with gifted actors reading, the language came to life and we were treated to dramatic, absorbing stories, read to perfection. Many of the passages were familiar to us from childhood and others reminded us of the poetry of the Bible, set to music by well-known choral composers, and still sung by many choirs today. It was compulsive listening and a great start to the 400th celebration.

On **Saturday 5 February** from 10.00am till 4.00pm at Holy Trinity Church, Haddington, the Diocese of Edinburgh is holding a conference, which is open to all. The cost is £7.50 (including coffee and tea, but bring your own lunch). If anyone is interested in going or would like further information visit [www.edinburgh.anglican.org](http://www.edinburgh.anglican.org). or contact Elspeth Strachan, Adventure in Faith, on 0131 538 7033 or by email to [adventures@dioceseofedinburgh](mailto:adventures@dioceseofedinburgh).

For details of other events throughout the year, visit the King James Bible Trust web site [www.kingjamesbibletrust.org](http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org).

# News from our groups

## Sunday Funday

After defeating the weather and celebrating “all things Christmassy” in December, we are now turning our thoughts to some of the miracles performed by Jesus.

In January we learned how Jesus was able to calm a storm when his friends thought they were all going to drown. We were able to make our own storm with the wind chimes, rain-makers and thunderclaps that we created! And there were plenty of boats around too – even edible ones made out of apples and cheese, with green jelly sea.



On the second Sunday in February we will be hearing how Jesus fed a huge number of people with a small amount of food, and in March we will follow a group who took their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing. What will we be making? You will have to come along to find out!

It's lovely to see the same children back each month to have fun and learn more about God. But we would love to see lots more children join them. If you know of any children (under 12) who would enjoy Sunday Funday, why not invite them to come and join us? I usually have posters and fliers available – perhaps you know a good place to put up a poster, or could use a flier as an invitation.

>>>

## Parahandies Disabled Club

Peter Merckel writes ...

The Club has had some difficulties with local authority sponsored transport, which hopefully have been resolved for this year at least. We also did not meet during last December as the weather was difficult.

However, on a happier note, the Club did manage to attend the pantomime Aladdin at the Adam Smith Theatre, and very good it was too. We also had a thrice-deferred Christmas meal at the Elgin.

Last week (17 January) the Club held its AGM, so we have a full committee, albeit after some arm twisting, and by the end of the month we should have developed a programme at least for the first part of the year. And next week sees the Club celebrating the Immortal Bard, with a Burns Supper with all the trimmings.

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>>> This activity is too good to keep to ourselves. Please help us to share it with as many children as possible.



And, if you feel you don't know enough about Sunday Funday, come along and see for yourself what goes on. Ask the children what they enjoy about it, then pass on the Good News.

Gwyneth Kirby

# The Scout Group

Stuart Fowell writes ...

I'm writing this as I look out of my window on to a foggy and frosty morning in January knowing that 14 of our Scouts and their leaders are taking a minibus out into the countryside for a day of outdoor training, navigation exercises, archery – and a lot of fun! At the other extreme, they are also planning to go in the height of summer on a Grand Tour of Europe. They will travel by boat, train and bus to visit Amsterdam, Munich, Vienna, Rome, The Vatican, and Paris, stopping off to see many local places of interest on the way.

Such is the range of activities that the Scout Group has to offer young people in Rosyth.

No surprise then, that the Scout Group is continuing to grow with 70 young people between 6 and 18 years of age (and 15 adult leaders) attending our regular meetings on Tuesday and Friday evenings. At our Group Open Night and AGM in November we put on a slide and movie show of our activities and adventures through the year. Three people thought it all looked so much fun that they volunteered to join our leader team and are now going through formal induction.



Amongst our notable achievements this year, we were delighted when Linda Adam was presented with the Scout Association's Award for Merit for her many years of good service to Scouting through her support to the Group Executive and as a Beaver Leader.

And congratulations went to Scout Leader Alan Connery as the most recent of our leaders to gain his Wood Badge, which is the highest award for leader training.

## Beaver Scouts

The Beavers have great fun learning to do things by themselves. Perhaps the highlights in the Colony's programme this year have been the Great Bug Hunt in woodland



near the Church, making rubber-powered boats and sailing them in a pond, making (or rather eating) pancakes, and of course our annual bridge-building competition in which the Beavers test a bridge to its (safe) limit by all standing on it at once.

We tried hard to win the Beaver Sports but could take only second place this year, and we had a lot of fun at the Beaver Challenge competition which tested our physical and sensory skills.

## Cub Scouts

The Cubs do more outdoor activities than the Beavers, and they introduce the boys and girls to camping. They held a hike over the Forth Road Bridge and had a day's outing to Port Laing, and they have attended camps at Fordell Firs and at Lochearnhead.

For the second year running, the Cubs won their 5-a-side football competition and, like their younger friends, they too took second place in the District Scout Sports event.





Cubs hiking over the Forth Road Bridge

## Scouts

The Scouts maintain a regular programme of outdoor events and take part in several competitions in camping, indoor Scouting activities, safety and first aid. The two big events in the Scouts calendar this year were the summer camp near Wemyss and the Scout Group's Activity Camp at Lochearnhead.



Scouts camp at Wemyss Firs

## Explorer Scouts

The Explorer Scouts have sustained an imaginative programme. Ever with an eye for environmental conservation, they started out with a visit to Craigleith Island to help the Scottish Seabird Centre improve the habitat for puffins, and were later helping to build bridges and pathways in the Lake District for the National Trust. They held a "homeless" camp which brought home to them the plight of the many homeless people in Scotland, and attended a series of interactive workshops about world poverty, hunger and Fairtrade.

But it's not all hard work; they have great fun target shooting, climbing, karting, cycling, and gorge-walking (if you haven't sampled such enjoyment, this involves clambering up rivers and waterfalls and then, if you're unlucky, sliding down them on "the parts that nature provided for the purpose").



Cycle expedition – Explorer Scouts

Two of our Explorer Scouts took part in a national Public Relations exercise for the Scout Association, appearing on BBC Radio Scotland and the Scout Scotland Pathfinder magazine, and one was selected to participate in the launch by Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill MSP, of the Scottish Government's £500,000 "Cashback for Communities" fund, which uses funds recovered from criminal activity to help volunteer-led youth groups in local communities. It's good that our Scouts are asked to do this kind of thing.

As a result of all this activity, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have gained a good number of Activity badges and Challenge badges through the year. Their efforts have culminated in five Chief Scout's Bronze Awards, five Silver Awards, and five Gold Awards being gained respectively by Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts, and the Queen's Scout Award being gained by Explorer Scout Stuart Hamilton.



# Our Church Building

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

The articles I have previously written in Contact were leading up to the 40th Anniversary of the opening of our Church building on 5 December. There is another impending anniversary – that of the opening of the extension to the Church – and this final article completes the story.

The initial plans for our new building had envisaged a much larger suite of premises. Although we were raising a considerable amount of money ourselves, the project relied heavily on a grant from the Rank Trust. The Property Department in Manchester made it clear that the Trust could not provide the money which was required for the original scheme and that it would have to be curtailed. Consequently, when the new building was opened, it was already very fully used and it was difficult to find suitable accommodation for the five departments of the Sunday School.

It was not feasible to embark on another building plan immediately, and it was not until 1979 that plans were drawn up for an extension to the building to provide three new rooms and the Crush Hall area. The cost was £42,000 – more than the cost of the original building – that was inflation for you!



Visit of Rev Dr Kenneth Greet: Rev Barrie Cash is on the left and Rev H Hadow Tennant (Chairman of Scotland District) in the centre

Work began at the end of 1980 and was completed shortly before we had a visit from the then President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, who preached at our Anniversary services in early March 1981. Anne Cash, the wife of our minister, formally opened the extension on 29 March, so come March it will be 30 years since the extension was opened.



Cutting the cake to mark the formal opening of the church extension: Anne Cash and John Cowie (Senior Steward)

Two years after it was opened, funding was obtained from the Manpower Services Commission to run a Voluntary Help Centre in our Church. This employed two people who had their office in Room 3 and it ran for two years. It was through the activities of the Voluntary Help Centre that the Parahandies Club came into being at the end of 1983. Another new project was the serving of snack lunches which, at its peak, operated three days a week.

These articles have been about our Church building but of course, as a Church (or Society as we used to be called) we have been around a lot longer. In March we will be celebrating our 95th Anniversary and, in five years time, our Centenary – a good excuse for another series of articles!

## Easter Concert and Coffee Evening

Many of you will have enjoyed the 2009 concert given by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides of our Church, and were disappointed that the concert on 13 December had to be cancelled because of the bad weather.

However, you will be pleased to hear that all are invited to a different concert on **Monday 28 March** at 6.00pm. Once again all three groups will be singing, and the Guides will perform a play.

Refreshments, for which there is a nominal charge, will be served by members of the Church, and both before and after the concert there will be an opportunity for you to do a bit of shopping at the stalls.

As well as asking you to support both performers and stall-holders by coming along, do please consider helping practically, as we need both helpers and supplies for the stalls. Home baking for the refreshments would also be very welcome.

If you can help in any way, please speak to Gwyneth Kirby, Jean Hall or Mary Dempster beforehand and they will pass on your offers of help to the appropriate people. Even if you can't come along on the evening, they will be pleased to accept your gifts for the stalls!

Look forward to seeing you there. If you missed the concert in 2009, don't miss it this year!

## St Margaret's AGM

St Margaret's AGM took place on 21 November and a copy of the minutes is on the notice-board in the Crush Hall. For general information, the main points highlighted are:

- Tim thanked the congregation for the ways in which everyone contributes to our own church life and with the Methodist congregation and for the strength of togetherness that exudes.
- We will work in partnership with our Methodist partners to take the Diocesan initiative "Casting the Net" (CTN) forward as an ecumenical response and to devise our own plan, which will be different from other churches. By focusing on "what has gone well in the past and how do we do more of it", we hope to build a better future in our partnership and also ecumenically in Rosyth.

(Note: This started with the story-telling day on 29 January)

- Our finances for the year 2009/10 worked out in line with expectations. The budget for 2010/11 includes an increased contribution to Rosyth Methodist Church to meet the aspiration to give them at least as much as Holy Trinity (£3,600 per year). However, we are not adopting the policy of keeping the amounts equal.
- To meet St Margaret's contribution (£500 a year) towards the curate's cost, members of the congregation are invited to enter into an individual monthly contribution, by standing order (gift-aided) with Holy Trinity's bank.
- For Bishop David's next visit, and because of our planned involvement with the Methodists in CTN, we intend to invite him to a joint service.
- On 4 March, we are hosting the local World Day of Prayer in the church at 2.00pm. and are looking for helpers for the occasion (see page 24).

## George Herbert remembered



*Geo. Herbert.*

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
“My God and King!”

The heavens are not too high,  
his praise may thither fly,

the earth is not too low,  
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
“My God and King!”

Let all the world in every corner sing,  
“My God and King!”

The church with psalms must shout,  
no door can keep them out;  
but, above all, the heart

must bear the longest part.

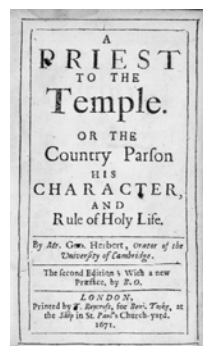
Let all the world in every corner sing,  
“My God and King!”

This well-known hymn, often also sung as an anthem at special services of thanksgiving, was written nearly 400 years ago as a poem by George Herbert.

George Herbert (3 April 1593 – 1 March 1633) was a Welsh poet, orator and Anglican priest. He was born into an aristocratic and wealthy family and educated at Westminster School. As a student at Trinity College, Cambridge he excelled in languages and music. He became the Public Orator of the University, responsible for giving speeches of welcome (in Latin) to famous visitors. Here, he quickly came to the notice of influential patrons including the king, James I/VI (whose version of the Bible in 1611 we commemorate this year).

Herbert, who had originally gone to college intending to become a priest, was tempted instead by the prospect of a career at Court. He served in parliament representing Montgomeryshire for two years, and it seemed likely that the King would make him an ambassador. However, after the death of King James in 1625, Herbert gave up his secular ambitions and his interest in ordained ministry was renewed.

In 1630, aged 36, Herbert took holy orders in the Church of England and became parish priest of Bemerton, a rural parish near Salisbury. Here, in his writings and life, he was the model of a country priest, diligently visiting his parishioners and bringing them the sacraments when they were ill, and providing food and clothing for those in need. He wrote a book *The Country Parson*, offering practical advice to clergy. He also helped to rebuild the local church out of his own funds.



Sadly, Herbert died of tuberculosis three years later aged 39, on 1 March 1633. His anniversary is commemorated two days earlier on 27 February. There is a window in Westminster Abbey in his honour and a statue in a niche on the West Front of Salisbury Cathedral.

From a young age, Herbert wrote religious poetry and is chiefly remembered for his book of poems, *The Temple*, published a year after his death. Some are musical in their effect and have been turned into inspiring hymns, such as “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing”, “King of Glory, King of Peace and “Teach me, my God and King”. It is their human quality, as well as the faith in them, that appeals to people today.

# Insights into churches and church life

## Scotland's Methodists

Dr Margaret Batty has recently researched and published a book entitled *Scotland's Methodists 1750–2000*. Its 304 pages provide a definitive history of the origins and evolution of Methodism in Scotland, through the breakaway 'Connexions' of the nineteenth century to wartime and ecumenical activity in the twentieth century.

In the broad context of Christian activity in Scotland, Dr Batty looks at the activity of lay Local Preachers and Sunday School teachers, men and women who broke new ground as they shared the gospel in light of their workaday experience.

The book brings to light many otherwise unknown local characters, telling a human story, which shows how personal aspirations and disappointments fitted into the larger picture.

*Scotland's Methodists* is based on extensive original archival research, and makes a strong and distinctive contribution to the history of religion in Scotland. But it will appeal to Methodists across Scotland and not only to academic historians and students of religion.

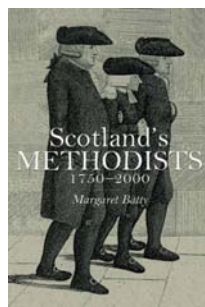
**Margaret Batty**, with her husband Harry (a Methodist minister), lived and worked in British Guiana and subsequently in the Thirsk and Reeth Methodist Circuits in Yorkshire, where she taught French and Latin in various secondary schools. She was Editor of *Scottish Methodism*, the journal of the Scottish Branch of the Wesley Historical Society, from 1996 to 2000. Now retired, she lives in Edinburgh.

## Churches in our Diocese

**Margaret Lye**, a member of the congregation of St Ninian's Cathedral Perth, has just completed her book on the churches of our diocese and their history.

*A Guide to Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane* covers the 49 Episcopal Churches in the Diocese, including St Margaret's, and mainly describes their architecture and furniture: there is very little on the congregations.

Bishop David writes "I am very grateful to Margaret for what has been for her a 'labour of love' – but a very substantial one!"



*Scotland's Methodists 1750–2000* by Margaret Batty (ISBN 9781906566265) is a conventional hardback book costing £30: see <http://tinyurl.com/5vztxbz>

*A Guide to Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane* by Margaret Lye can be printed to order as a paperback (166 pages) at £27.88 + postage, but is also available as a download at £3.97: see <http://tinyurl.com/6xxsa9xr>

"Of making many books there is no end" (*Ecclesiastes 12:12*, in the Authorised Version)  
We are always pleased to hear of books that readers have bought and enjoyed, or even just heard about and would like to know more.

# “The Meaning of Jesus”

a book review by Margaret Dineley (of Holy Trinity, Dunfermline)

This work by Marcus Borg and Tom Wright is an intriguing and stimulating debate between two theologians whose friendship grew out of a fascination with the study of Jesus within his historical context.

Their backgrounds are quite different: Marcus Borg was raised within a traditional and conventional Mid-West Lutheran church, Tom Wright in a traditional and conventional Anglican one in the north of England. Both deeply committed to a vigorous practice of the Christian faith, they have passed through varying spiritual journeys, though each studied, at different times, at Oxford University, under the late professor George B. Caird. Although sharing some basic viewpoints, their approaches and interpretations frequently diverge.

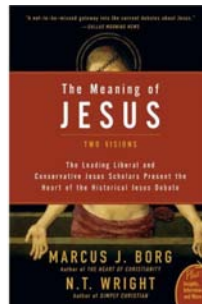
The subject of the meaning of Jesus is studied under several headings, a discourse on each being undertaken by both authors. Starting with ‘How do we know about Jesus?’ and passing through such topics as his actions and teachings, his death and resurrection, birth stories and the second coming, the work concludes with an overview of the effects of Jesus and the Gospels on Christian life today.

Borg’s points are always made succinctly and clearly, whereas Wright sometimes seems more obscure, as if he were addressing academic theologians rather than the average lay person. However, both authors make sound, thoughtful observations which produce much food for thought. It would be unwise to tackle the book imagining that one of the two writers will consistently furnish interpretations with which you as reader will naturally agree. My own inclination is to consider that the viewpoints expressed by Borg generally reflect my current spiritual leanings, but I frequently found myself drawn to points made by Wright.

A major area of agreement between the two theologians is that the two poles of Christian living are worship and mission, both inextricably linked, and that within this context are four essential areas of Christian experience – spirituality, theology, politics and healing.

On the other hand their foundational categories for interpreting the Gospels differ dramatically. Borg envisages a cross-cultural context, which sees Jesus as a spirit person, healer, wisdom teacher, social prophet and movement initiator, whereas Wright views Jesus within categories native to the Jewish tradition, such as Jesus as the messiah and prophet of the kingdom of God and the need for the real return from exile. What does all that mean? Are the Gospels purely historically factual or can some of the truths be seen in a metaphorical light? Reading this work will help you to come to some decisions about what is meaningful to yourself – and this will be different for each reader.

I will leave you with a thought which is meaningful to me. The Christian life is not about believing, but about a relationship with God as revealed in Jesus Christ - through the tradition that remembers and celebrates him, ‘the living Christ comes to us and transforms our lives, even today.’ (Borg).



*The Meaning of Jesus,*  
Marcus J. Borg and  
N.T. Wright

First published 1999;  
second revised edition  
2007, paperback,  
ISBN 0061285544



## Sunday@Six

Myra Tarr led Prayer Book Evensong on 23 January to a small but appreciative congregation. She used the theme of ‘The Bible’, mentioning some of the different versions, including the King James one. Myra illustrated how its text is still used today, people often not realising when quoting the words and phrases where they come from. She also referred to many familiar choral works taken from biblical passages, such as Handel’s Messiah.

We continue the theme of meditation on **27 February** with a Taizé service. If you aren’t familiar with this type of service, Taizé is a little French village in the south of Burgundy. Over 60 years ago, Brother Roger founded a community there, devoted to prayer and living a parable of reconciliation within the church and the human family. Made up of people from all the continents and major denominations, the community gather together to pray three times a day, seven days a week, throughout the year.

The community has become an important site for Christian pilgrimage and over 100,000 young people from around the world come to Taizé each year.

Prayer is at the heart of the Taizé experience, and singing and silence play a large part in the worship. The singing of distinctive and much-repeated prayer chants during candlelit prayer services is one of its trademarks. Taizé music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture, repeated or sung in canon. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer. So do join us for a Taizé experience on 27 February.

Our worship on **27 March** will be led by members of the Dalgety Bay House Fellowship (see also page 27), who led us a year ago in a thought-provoking informal discussion.

Sunday@Six is informal and different, and you will be sure of a warm welcome, so do please come and worship with us.

## Invitations from musical members

### Gilbert & Sullivan

February wouldn’t be February without a quality show at the Carnegie Hall, where the Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society take the stage from Wednesday 23 February to Saturday 26 February.

*The Mikado* is the Society’s 40th anniversary production with Ann Duly, Gwyneth Kirby and Mary Kidd wielding their fans/parasols, Jock Headden as a “Gentleman of Japan”, and Martin Tarr as the “tremendous swell” Pooh-Bah. All will be pleased to sell you tickets. Or talk to Mary Dempster, who is arranging a party (with transport) for the Saturday matinée.

### Dunfermline Choral Union

This year’s main concert, on **Saturday 5 March** at 7.30pm in the Vine Church, Garvock Hill, Dunfermline, is a performance of Verdi’s *Requiem* with orchestra and soloists Christina Dunwoody, Frances McCafferty, Harry Nicol and Ivor Klayman, under the direction of Mandy Miller.

Tickets from Mary Kidd, Gwyneth Kirby and Myra Tarr are £10 (£8 concessions).

### Scottish Chamber Choir

“German Romantics” is the title for the choir’s next St Giles’ concert at 7.30pm on **Saturday 12 March**, featuring music by Rheinberger, Brahms and Bruckner. Details from Martin Tarr.



# 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.rogers13@talktalk.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  
Sarah Worling (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.rogers13@talktalk.net

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

Explorer Scouts  
Terry O'Neill 01383 842695  
terryoneill2003@yahoo.co.uk

## Guide Unit

Rainbows  
Susan Warren 01383 414355  
Young Leader, Melissa Peel

Brownies  
Suzy Knight 01383 416087

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

Assistant Guider, Susan Warren  
Young Leader, Nicola Byrne:

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

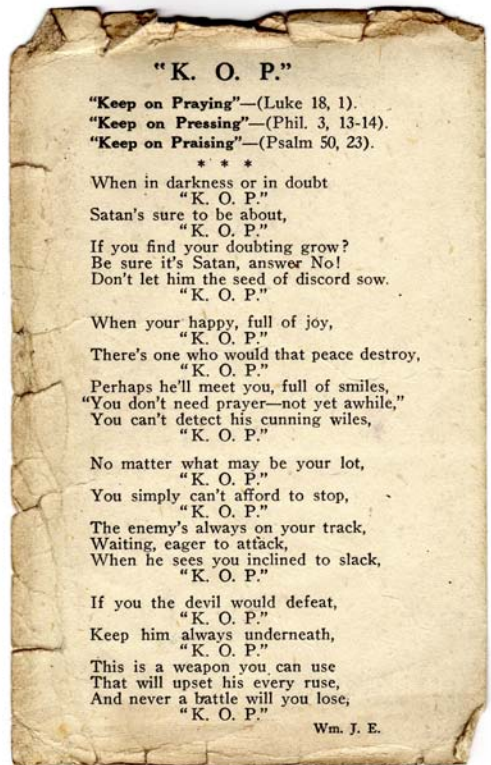
# The way things used to be

Our busy world is full of acronyms and buzz-words, 'text-speak', and contractions used in e-mails that mean something to the initiated, but little to the 'ordinary mortal'. And they are often dangerous, because the same abbreviation can mean *different* things to different people. IMO can be 'In my opinion', or 'In Memory Of', or 'International Money Order', or many others. [If you are that sad, you can find a list at <http://www.acronymfinder.com/>]

But the idea isn't necessarily non-spiritual, as you may recall from the alternative definition of ASAP on page 10.

Nor is the idea new, as you will see from the card opposite, which suggests three ways of interpreting KOP other than the current 'Kit Of Parts' or 'Keep On Playing'. Its exhortation to 'Keep on Praying', 'Keep on Pressing', and 'Keep on Praising', with Biblical texts in support, is well worth putting into your personal list of abbreviations!

BTW (email-ese for 'By The Way'), both items came from Ron Dempster: "I must have got (the card) in the 1940s when attending the Baptist Church in Broughty Ferry – maybe the Bible Class." You can't beat a good old 'un, even when its getting worn and brown, and torn at the edges!



## 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/6bmve7l>.

## To our contributors

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

The **next issue** of Contact will be published on Sunday 3 April. Contributions please by **Sunday 27 March** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; 01383 723989), preferably by email to [martin@mtarr.co.uk](mailto:martin@mtarr.co.uk). Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young ([sandrayoung39@btinternet.com](mailto:sandrayoung39@btinternet.com) or 01383 415021).