

Rosyth
Methodist Church



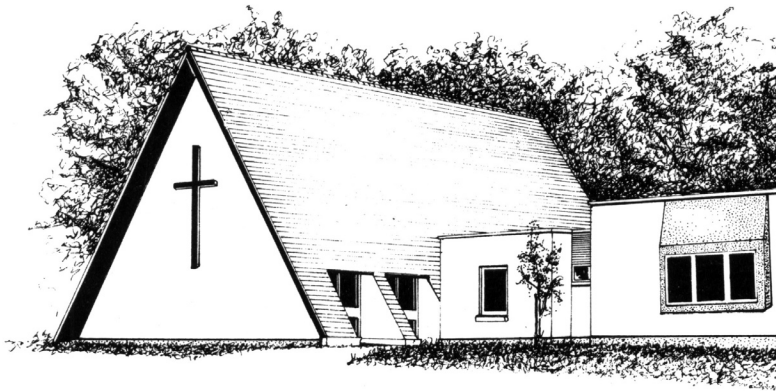
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 56

April/May 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 Episcopalian Sung Eucharist
(occasionally 9.15am – see diary pages for details)

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship
(including Sunday School)

2nd Sundays: for the Young Church

9.00am Breakfast and “Sunday Funday”

11.00am All-age service

4th Sundays: Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service

6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

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

The Easter message

A letter from the Manse

Dear friends,

As I was speeding towards Durham on the train one Wednesday, I had a thought that it wasn't that long since I wrote my letter for the Christmas 'Contact'! How time flies when you're having fun!

On my weekly journeys to Durham to do my probationer's studies, I have seen at first hand the changing of the seasons from the train window. What a difference a few months make from the cold and the snow! Less said about the snow the better. I have noticed how barren and lacking in colour the landscape has been. So it's now nice to see colour coming back, to see creation waking up with buds and flowers and to see lambs and other young animals in the fields. Wow! What a wonderful Creator we have! Amen! It's as we turn to God that we are aware that, as well as creation springing into new life, God gives us new life too.

"Thine be the glory,
risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won."

God sent his only Son into the world as a baby, but that baby grew up, worked as a carpenter, laid his tools down and started the ministry that God sent him to do. He spent three years not only telling people how much God loved them, but showing them too. We know that his ministry here on earth came to an end when he was betrayed and crucified. As you know the story didn't end there and, through the power of God, Jesus was raised to life on Easter Day nearly 2,000 years ago. We have a risen Saviour who has called us to have faith, to follow and to serve him by serving others. We are to be his hands and feet here on earth until he comes again.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom
for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year
of the Lord's favour."

We have a wonderful and true message to share. As a Deacon I have been appointed to take that message beyond the church walls to those who work and live on the margins. Will you join me in sharing God's love together?

My hope and prayer for each one of us is that this Easter time and always we feel the power and the love of the risen Lord as we seek to serve Him in Rosyth.

With love

Deacon Sarah

What's in this issue ...

See overleaf for a report on the Easter concert and coffee evening, and p6 for a reflection on "The best is yet to come!", the 'story-telling day' which was the start of our ecumenical response to 'Casting the Net'.

Further inside you will find invitations on pp26-28, challenges about working together on p17 and p30, reports from the Synods on pp24-25 and p29, and an invitation to air your views on p31, plus the usual items:

Fellowship News (pp12-14)

Conversation with the Editor (pp8-10)

Diary for April/May (pp18-21)

Enjoy!

Easter Concert and Coffee Evening



We hope you enjoyed the concert given on Monday 28 March by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides of our Church who are featured in this photograph by Martin Rogers.

Mandy Ward writes ...

The Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Easter show was a brilliant success, with a fantastic turnout from the sections, their families, friends and members of the church congregation. A big thank you to the girls, as a great deal of hard work and effort paid off. Well done, girls! Our appreciation also goes out to the volunteers from the church, for serving refreshments.

On a personal note, I have been involved in the Guide Association since 1953, when I was enrolled as a 7 year old Brownie. I continued through Guides until I was 14. I took 5 years out to pursue other interests, but returned aged 19 to run the Guide section as Guide Captain (Section Leader). I continued as captain until I got married and moved to Portsmouth.

After having four children and returning to Rosyth with my family in the 1970s, I decided to take up the position as Guide Lieutenant (Assistant Section Leader). In 1980 I regained the post of Captain, where I remained until now. With an estimated over 200 girls going through the section in this period I can honestly say that Guides have been a huge part of my life, with memories I will cherish forever.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the leaders I have worked with through the years, and a further thank you to my husband Dave for his support and understanding, as I could not have done it without him. Finally I would like to wish my successor Melissa Peel and her assistant Nicola Byrne all the very best of luck as they start a new chapter within the 6th Rosyth Methodist Guide Company. And I hope they receive the joy and fulfilment as leaders that I did within this wonderful movement.

Thank you very much.

What a pleasure!

Mandy Ward
(Former Guide Guider)

Thank you, Mandy



It was only fitting that the concert should include a presentation to Mandy Ward, in recognition of her many years of service to the Guide movement.

What a family!

Mandy and Dave Ward have worked among young people for many years in our Church. Apart from the Guiding and Scouting Movements, they have run a variety of Youth Clubs on Sunday evenings, and at other times during the week; more recently they have been involved with our Sunday Funday organisation. During these years they have involved all their family who, now grown up, are also involved and deeply committed.

We, as a church, will always be grateful to Mandy for her commitment and service, and say a hearty 'thank you'. At this time we pay a special tribute to her five decades of Guiding. She has taken compulsory retirement on her 65th birthday, which also happens to be Mothering Sunday. Mandy, we do celebrate you; we wish you a long and happy 'retirement' – and many happy returns of the day!

Malcolm Trew

The church was filled to bursting, with standing room only, despite the many extra seats that had been moved in. Thank you to all the parents and friends who supported the concert and coffee evening.

We asked one of the audience for her report ...

As you can see from the picture opposite, the Rainbows and Brownies created their own Easter Bonnets for their part in the Easter concert. We had wonderful singing and enthusiastic actions to the songs that the girls sang which included *Easter Parade*, *The sun has got its hat on* and *Peter Rabbit*.

The Guides then presented us with *The Trial*, a modern-day adaptation of the trial of Jesus, which was very well presented by the girls. Well done!

The evening continued with coffee and stalls, where there were gifts, home baking and a chocolate tombola. The total raised was £169.30

So a big thank you goes to all who took part, Mandy, leaders and helpers for an enjoyable evening.

On behalf of the Church can I say a huge 'thank you' to Mandy for her enthusiasm, commitment and care of the girls and leaders over the years. God's richest blessings be on you in the future. To Melissa and Nicola I pray for a strength and joy as you lead the company.

A good time was had by all.

Deacon Sarah

Fishing for stories

Rev Linda Bandelier reflects on the story-telling day

Whatever commands our time and energy is what we become. When we focus on our weaknesses, we become diminished. When we focus on our gifts and strengths, as God intends us to do, then we overcome our weaknesses and blossom with possibility. Thus are we able to offer our best to God.



Linda providing a musical 'Call to order'

I firmly believe in offering our best to God and making the most of who we are. This is the motivation underpinning the shape and focus of our story-telling day on 29 January. On that day members of Rosyth Methodist and St Margaret's began the day by each naming what had been their best memory of the church during the past year.

Then we moved on to envisioning the future by remembering the formative experiences of the past and imagining how these could shape life and ministry together. We shared these memories of the past as the foundation for the future. What would be the legacy and wishes that members sought for the congregation in 2025?

Some folk found this way of working challenging. But, as people began to share the best experiences of the past year, I could feel a shift in the energy in the room. How different and more affirming than the familiar downward spiral of moan and complaint. When people related the

formative church experiences that shaped who they are now, I saw them sit up, more alert, and I could see them speak in ways that were energized and animated.



Throughout the day, we took note of concerns and worries, so that they wouldn't be lost, but we kept firmly focused on appreciating and treasuring our strengths and gifts and the values that shaped and formed us at our best.

Towards the end of the day each person was invited to name the most important values and wishes for the church of 2025.



Andrew pinning one of our 'values and wishes' cards to the cross

Of the many experiences, values and wishes named, these three were top:

- 1 **Do** more together
- 2 **Be** a people who provide a place of welcome
- 3 **Connect** faith in a relevant and enduring way with the community around us.

Two weeks after our story sharing day, the ministry team met to review the results and to identify priorities. Out of these the ministry team seek support for the following priorities:

Observing our community and neighbourhoods. Who passes our door regularly and when? What kinds of services do folk living in Rosyth need on their doorstep? Where do people of different ages and backgrounds meet for friendship?

Identifying what we can do in partnership with other organisations and churches.

Connecting with and **Supporting** existing services and programmes of our ecumenical colleagues.

On behalf of the congregations, the ministers have begun talking to community organisations to learn from their knowledge of the community and discover any opportunities there may be for joint working. Now that the weather is improving, everyone is invited to be involved in helping Rosyth Methodist and St Margaret's realise their dreams for 2025.

What's needed? Going back to basics!

Our first step is to really get to know the community and neighbourhoods around the building. Everyone of every age can help with this. Some will be needed to walk round designated areas noting the people, places and activities seen on the way. There will also be chance for some people to observe from the church or indeed home. Who passes the doorstep? Who needs a place of welcome? What does the community need? This simple, basic first step gives a solid picture of the community enabling the church to pray, serve and offer welcome for the community.

It is an exciting and positive step forward. I wish you every blessing, keep your ministry in my prayers and look forward to seeing God's new work sprouting and blossoming in Rosyth.

Blessings,

Linda Bandelier

Mining for stories ...



Why did Alan Taylor make this model?
See p11 to find out.

Valerie Walker – what lies behind the smile!

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

This latest in a series of articles on key players in our Local Ecumenical Partnership focuses on someone who has become very familiar to the St Margaret's congregation over the past year, and for whom Friday 3 June will be a significant milestone in her journey of service.

Valerie Walker shares her birthplace with William Wilberforce, but was born in Hull before John Prescott became one of that city's MPs! The only child of non-church-going parents, who were tolerant of her enthusiasms, at ten years old Valerie was encouraged by her godmother to attend St Peter's, Anlaby. There she had a "good experience of church", progressing through Sunday School to confirmation classes and a young people's group. She stayed throughout her teens, and developed a strong faith.

Valerie had her first ecumenical experience early: encouraged by her Sixth Form Physics teacher, she took part in Bible Study Groups in a shared Methodist/Anglican building! Later, when she moved to Leeds to train for nursing, she explored lots of different churches, before settling at the University Chaplaincy, where she joined the choir.

Having graduated as an early example of a BSc RGN, it wasn't long before Valerie pursued her interest in cancer nursing to the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, a world-leading cancer centre, where her responsibilities included research into pain and symptom control. During her time here (1980–1986) she attended Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), a large, vibrant Anglican church in the heart of London and home to the Alpha course, where she knew Nicky Gumbel before his ordination!

In 1984 Valerie married Martin, an old friend from Hull, and someone else who had come under the HTB influence. Unfortunately, this turned out to be a mistake, with the couple

pulling in different directions. Martin was unhappy in London, and Valerie moved to Yorkshire with him to try and save their marriage, but the end of 1986 saw them apart, and Valerie with no local support and no place to live, although she had a research post at Leeds General Infirmary. The only upside in what was otherwise an *annus horribilis* was that Valerie discovered a God of unconditional love rather than one of conditional acceptance.

But the Lord provided a temporary home with a colleague, and also a link through her old University Chaplain, Stuart Burns, to his church at Gipton, a poor parish in Leeds, which might have been rough and run down, but where Valerie was shown "a different way of doing church", and the people "shared what little they had with me".

In 1988, Valerie started ten years as a Breast Nurse Specialist at nearby Huddersfield Royal Infirmary: a new clinic, new consultants, and a really special place. But you can't escape your roots ... Valerie's father had moved to Hull from Huddersfield, and she quickly found out that people remembered her grandfather, Irvine Walker, as the policeman on traffic duty!

Whilst worshipping at Gipton, Valerie met the organist and choirmaster, Roger Quick, a professional musician working for the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, and this relationship blossomed into marriage in 1990: Ben was born in 1991; Olivia in 1993.



Roger began training for the ordained ministry in 1994, so they all moved to nearby Mirfield, where they “did their bit to make the monks more family-friendly”. Meanwhile, Valerie continued with her own calling to nursing (including taking an advanced diploma in counselling) with full-time help from Vanessa to provide stable care for the youngsters. [Readers may have noticed that Valerie is also Mrs Quick, but continues to use her maiden name, because that is how she was known in professional circles.]

In 1996, Roger was ordained and took up a curacy in Leeds, and Valerie became an Oncology Nurse Specialist at St James Hospital. However, 1997 became another *annus horribilis*: Roger was taken ill whilst abroad, and what proved to be ME kept him from following his vocation. It was also a turning point: as part of her own recovery, Valerie went on retreat to St Oswald’s Pastoral Centre near Whitby and, whilst reading *God of Surprises* by Gerard Hughes, felt a strong sense of a calling to ordained ministry. However, with a sick husband and small children, this went “on the back burner”. So her work continued, as did her studies, and in 2002 Valerie graduated with a Master’s degree in Health Sciences, with a view to becoming a Nurse Consultant.

In 2004, Roger was well enough to be appointed as Chaplain at Strathallan School, so the family moved to live in Forgandenny. Roger and the children were happy at school, but Valerie was unemployed for eight months, and for the first time in her life felt the loss of self identity and social life that this brings. This was coupled with the isolation of being in a village rather than a city, with no internet connection, no TV, no local friends, and the challenge of “What am I going to do today?” The Methodist Covenant prayer – “let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you” – has a real resonance for her!

Valerie’s period of being laid aside finished in May 2005, when she became a Breast Care Nurse with Tayside NHS, and later undertook research work at Dundee University. Having soon discovered the hard way that the Church of Scotland was not the same as the Church of England, she worshipped at her nearest Episcopalian church, which was St Ninian’s Cathedral. She loved the music there: as a youngster, Valerie had studied the violin, and played in the Hull Junior Philharmonic Orchestra, but violins aren’t well suited to solo performance, so she had taken up the saxophone in 2002, and still plays as time permits.

It was in the Cathedral on Maundy Thursday 2006, during the hand-washing ritual, that Valerie thought “I wish I was doing that”, followed by “I could be” and “There’s nothing to stop me”, at which point she “got her dream back out of its cupboard”. Asked why she wanted to leave nursing, she explained: “I wanted to care for the whole person”.

So 2007 saw the start of three years juggling her full-time job with study at TISEC: a three hour seminar every Wednesday, plus five residential weekends and one week of study each year. Valerie is pleased to

have given up the monthly essays, where she often asked herself: "What language is this in?" The biggest lesson, though, was humility – having to come to terms with no longer being an expert in her field.

Valerie was ordained in Perth last June, and appointed as a 'Diocesan Curate', with her time spent between Holy Trinity, St Margaret's and St John's, Alloa.



This is the only such post in the diocese, and reflects the problem throughout the Scottish Province that few if any churches can afford a full stipend for a curate, so it is difficult to provide training posts. One practical advantage is that it gives experience in different ways of running churches: for example, St John's operates a leadership team, rather than a traditional Vestry.



Valerie at St John the Evangelist, Alloa: the background is the mosaic reredos, with a votive candle stand to the right

Valerie's appointment was for two years, so she will be part of our church family until Summer 2012, when she will be looking for a post nearer her new home. In June, Roger leaves Strathallan to become Rector of Holy Trinity, Pitlochry, so for the next year Valerie will be staying in accommodation nearer Dunfermline for most of the week, in order to avoid excessive travelling.

So, what difference will 3 June make to Valerie? With the service, and its laying on of hands, she will become a priest, and be allowed to celebrate the eucharist, give absolution, and marry couples. A visible sign to the cognoscenti is that she will be wearing her stole around her neck, rather than slung across one shoulder and tied, ready for the symbolic drying of hands which is a deacon's duty. For the rest, she'll continue to offer her own blend of humility, vulnerability and openness, as she seeks to be open to God in different situations, and to get alongside people, to listen to them and to share their journey, and not to tell them what to do. After all, "it's not what you know, but who you are that matters". We pray for God's richest blessing on her ministry.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend Valerie's ordination service at St John's at 7.00pm on **Friday 3 June**. The church is at the north end of Broad Street, on the eastern side of the road, just before it becomes a dual carriageway. Ample on-street parking is available, but watch the one-way system in Alloa town centre! Those with satnav should aim for postcode FK10 1AN.

World Day of Prayer 2011

Lesley Yellowlees reports ...



Our church was the venue for this year's local service on 4 March, which the St Margaret's congregation hosted for the first time. We were very well supported by members from most churches in the area. The service, written by the Christian women of Chile, was entitled "How many loaves have you?"

The church was appropriately decorated: We had Chilean flags hanging from the beams, shepherds' crooks, pampas grass, flowers reflecting the colours in the Chilean flag, and a large poster of the colourful tapestry depicting the theme (Feb/Mar issue, p25). On the altar, we had a Bible, the cross, candles, water, earth, flowers, bread and a plate depicting the fishes from the parable. To remember the trapped miners, we displayed a mine shaft and coal in a scuttle – a slight deviation here as the Chilean miners were in a copper mine – but also to remember our local past history of mining in this area. Between the two artefacts, we had loaves of bread in a basket.

Ten people from local churches took part in the service and those in the congregation were motivated to join in an activity in response to the theme and identify some gifts they have to offer. The most common

included: time for others (visiting, caring and sharing, listening, hospitality) prayer, music and crafts. Our invited speaker, the Rev Ross Kennedy, gave an inspiring and thoughtful address on the parable of the loaves and fishes. Everyone was invited to accept a small cube of bread as they left the church, mindful that sharing bread is a sign of solidarity and hope in Christ.

Most people remained afterwards for refreshments. It was lovely to experience a reunion with friends and fellow worshippers and many commented on their enjoyment of the service. We were very grateful to the Methodist Church for their participation on the day.

A cheque for £319.60 has been sent to the Scottish Committee of the World Day of Prayer.

Next year's service, written by Christian women of Malaysia, is entitled "Let Justice Prevail" and will be held in Inverkeithing Baptist Church on Friday 3 March 2012.

Our sincere thanks to Lesley Yellowlees, whose commitment, inspiration and tireless work ensured that the occasion was a success.

Fellowship News

In the wars

We are glad to say that **Rosemary Cowell** came home two/three weeks ago. Mary and Ron visited last week and were pleased that Rosemary was looking well and was bright and cheerful. The only downside is that she hasn't yet found her "walking legs", but John is determined that the walking will come gradually. Rosemary has carers come in 4/5 times daily, so that is a help to her and to John. If anyone would like to visit, the best time is between 2 and 4pm, but it may be better to phone first.

John Cowie had his heart bypass operation at the beginning of February. Ron visited John on 29 March, and was very pleased to see him looking well. His post-op examinations have all given satisfactory results, and his recovery is progressing steadily, although he has to take things easy. John thanks everyone for their kind support.

It is good to see **Martin Forman** getting around as normal again after a long spell on crutches and we trust he will soon make a full recovery.

Alas, our friend **Mary Kidd** has been in the wars, having tripped and cut her leg quite deeply: it is taking frustratingly long to heal. An abscess on a tooth doesn't help either, but neither stop her doing everything that she does for her Church Family as well as for others. Get better soon, Mary!

Ruby Lucas has had a nasty time after her operation six weeks ago as she has had no fewer than five different plasters, and of course she was not allowed to put her foot on the ground. However, that has changed as she had the plaster removed and now has a 'boot' which lets her get around more easily. We were pleased to see Ruby and Alan at the joint service, and wish her a full recovery this time.

We were all shocked when we heard of **Marc Tempelhoff's** sudden heart attack, and equally delighted to welcome him back to church the following week at the World Day of Prayer Service. Marc, who is feeling better each day, cannot wait to get back to work at the beginning of April.

New vestments

Our grateful thanks to the member of the St Margaret's congregation who wishes to remain anonymous, who generously donated a new chasuble and stole in memory of Marjory Lloyd.

To complete the set of green vestments, Jock and Audrey Headden gave a burse, veil and maniple in memory of their son, Mark.

The new items were dedicated by Rev Tim Bennison at the Eucharist on Sunday 6 February.

For your prayers

Prayers are requested for Wendy Armour, her husband and especially her daughter Fiona Day and her two children following the sudden death of Fiona's husband, Derek. Derek was only 44 years old and the popular landlord of The Crown bar in Newmills.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Why are you so afraid?
Do you still have no faith?"

Mark 4:40

Birthday people!

Ron's 80th

Mary Dempster writes: Ron thoroughly enjoyed his birthday (6 February). First of all we went to Ron's favourite restaurant, the Eastern Buffet at the Leisure Park, where we were joined by most of our family although two were missing – our son-in-law Gordon, who was working on a North Sea oil rig, and our granddaughter Katrina who was working in an hotel in Austria and will not be back until the end of this month. However, we welcomed Serena, our grandson Iain's girlfriend. After the meal we went back to Cypress Grove where Ron cut the first of his birthday cakes.



Ron with daughter Judith

On the Sunday, which was actually Ron's birthday, friends from our Church Family joined us for sandwiches etc and another birthday cake! Then the following Sunday he had another cake for our friends in St Margaret's who had missed out the previous week. So he did very well for cakes! Ron thanks everyone who sent him a card and also the gifts he received – he was overwhelmed that so many remembered him.

Iris's 90th

Iris Lines celebrated her 90th birthday on 28 January. Her daughter Marion and son-in-law Derek, along with her son Rowland and daughter-in-law Paula, arranged the celebration. As Marion lives in Northampton the venue was in Rosyth at Rowland and Paula's home.

Invitations were sent out stating that it was an 'Open House' party so folks could come and go as they pleased. When Ron and Mary arrived, Iris was sitting smiling and chatting to all her friends – she never expected all this, but she was enjoying every minute of it!



Some of her grandchildren were there helping and also her great grandchildren. At one point her granddaughter Angela was singing along with Iris, which was lovely to hear. Friends from near and far, neighbours, members of her Church Family, and of course her older sister Joyce was there sitting beside her all afternoon, which was so nice. We all wish Iris and her family happiness and good health in the years ahead.

Thanks to Ron and Mary Dempster for once again being our 'roving reporters'. Their contributions appear both on these pages and elsewhere in Contact. But *please* remember that we're always on the lookout for material that lies within the general scope of Fellowship News, and *don't* assume that Ron/Mary or somebody else will tell us!

Frieda's 80th birthday

My dear Frieda was 80 on 11 March. Frieda received 32 cards, many of them from our church friends, and many were beautifully hand crafted. We shared this happy event with her fellow residents at Roselea House, Cowdenbeath, and two friends from our church. Then two days later, we shared a meal together with our daughter Anita, her husband and three of our grandchildren.

Frieda had a heart attack on 18 June 2006 and two doctors at the hospital each independently asked me if she suffered from dementia.

Suddenly the penny dropped. Six weeks later, Alzheimer's was confirmed and I knew that our lives would never be the same again. Now I could understand why Frieda had been so reluctant to move away from the 'safety' of Rosyth when I retired seven years earlier.

We were wonderfully supported by carers from Fife Social Services, first in our home; and when I was admitted to hospital, Frieda went into respite care at the Jean Mackie Centre. Due to my failing health, the decision to move her to a more permanent Care Home was effectively taken out of my hands in September 2008.

I am profoundly grateful that Frieda is so well cared for. People often ask after her. My reply is always the same. Although like everyone else she has good and bad days, she has so little memory now that she cannot worry about the past, or be anxious for the future. She lives each moment in the present tense. She has a child-like trust in those who care for her. Physically



she is in very good shape. She is much slimmer now, and always on the "go". She never sits down, apart from meals, and spends all day exploring her 'home'. It's difficult to get her to sit still when her hair is being cut!

She retains her great love for music and when she hears something with a marked rhythm, she 'conducts' or dances with a blissful smile on her face. She loves being taken out in our car for a short ride, and points out everything that catches her eye. I'm amazed at the speed with which she devours ice-cream! Simple

pleasures - an indication of her inner peace? The one thing that upsets her is having her photo taken - but she's always been camera shy. She is well settled in Roselea House. But what goes on in her mind? God only knows - and she is safe in His hands.

I suspect that Frieda's recognition of people is now limited to those who care for her in Roselea House, alongside our good friend, Irene King, and me. Irene has visited Frieda nearly every week since her Alzheimer's was diagnosed and is so helpful in many practical ways. I do not know how I would have managed without her.

We celebrate our Golden Wedding this coming August. That will inevitably be a low-key affair. I am glad for this opportunity to thank our friends at Rosyth for their ongoing friendship, and

"We'll praise Him for all that is past
and trust Him for all that's to come."

Malcolm

The Wednesday Fellowship

The Wednesday Fellowship has enjoyed such a variety of speakers this session. We've learned how to cope with diabetes, the digital TV changeover ("Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy" was the hymn we sang!), more about our favourite hymns, and the Blythwood Trust which our church supports, especially before Christmas with our Shoebox Appeal. More recently we held our Daffodil Tea and Bring and Buy sale, our annual effort in March for the Church Anniversary Appeal; on this occasion we raised £70.

In the future we look forward to our belated Christmas lunch at the Elgin Hotel in Charlestown. Sorry, but turkey and the trimmings are not on the menu!

The following week we celebrate our annual Holy Communion during Holy Week, with our minister, Rev Andrew Letby; then being on a Desert Island with Malcolm Trew and his favourite choice of music. So, lots to look forward to in the way of devotion, food to enjoy, food for thought, fun, friendship, fellowship, and the feeling of belonging to one happy family! No wonder we all love it!

Mary Kidd



Ethel Douglas, our oldest member

Spring programme

- 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



At the Daffodil Tea



Go on, give them to the lady, Jock ...
you might then get offered a cup of tea!

Some Holy Week traditions

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter



Sunday. The Palm Cross is used to remember the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. In many churches, members of the congregation hold small crosses made of palm leaf,

both to remember the palm leaves which the people of Jerusalem waved when Jesus arrived, and to remember the cross on which he died. Some Christians display the crosses from that service in their homes during the year as a symbol of their faith. The crosses are burned at the start of Lent the next year to provide the ash for Ash Wednesday.

The name 'Maundy' is derived from the Latin word "mandatum", meaning a commandment. Jesus Christ, at the Last Supper, commanded: "And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). **Maundy Thursday** is remembered as the day of the last supper and when Jesus washed the feet of all his disciples. Many Christians commemorate the last supper in a special Eucharist and in some churches, they may wash each other's feet. After the service the altar is stripped. On the night of Maundy Thursday Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In England, the custom of washing feet by the monarch was carried out until 1689. Today, the Queen follows a very traditional role of giving Maundy Money, which dates from the reign of Edward I. The Queen attends a Royal Maundy service, this year in Westminster Abbey, and the 85 men and 85 women (the Queen's age) who will receive the coins are retired pensioners of

all denominations, recommended by clergy and ministers in recognition of service to the Church and to the community. Maundy coins are specially minted for the occasion and are legal tender, although most will be treasured rather than spent: the ones on the right were handed out by Charles II!



Each recipient will receive a white purse containing 85p in Maundy coins and a red purse containing a £5 coin and 50p piece.

On **Good Friday**, Christians remember the day when Jesus was crucified on a cross. The name may be derived from 'God's Friday' in the same way that good-bye is derived from 'God be with you'. It is 'good' because the barrier of sin was broken. Some Christians fast on Good Friday. This helps them remember the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the day of crucifixion. Others take part in a procession of witness, carrying a cross through the streets and then into church. Many churches hold a special service especially around 3 o'clock about the time of day when Jesus died.

It is traditional to eat warm 'hot cross buns' with their combination of spicy, sweet and fruity flavours on Good Friday. The pastry cross on top of the buns symbolises and reminds Christians of the cross that Jesus was killed on.

Holy Saturday is also known as Easter Eve. Many churches hold a service on this eve of Easter Day, at the end of which the Paschal candle is lit. In our own church the candle is blessed and lit on Easter Sunday. The Paschal candle remains lit at each service throughout Easter until after the Gospel on the Feast of the Ascension.

Christians in many places gather together on **Easter Sunday** for a Sunrise Service. This service takes place on a hill side so everyone can see the sun rise. Some churches have an Easter Garden, in which a stone is placed across the mouth of a tomb before Easter, then rolled away on Easter morning.

The most common Easter gift is now a chocolate egg, but the first eggs given at Easter were birds eggs, often painted in bright colours to give them further meaning



as a gift. Such eggs are still common in Eastern Europe. This 'pysanka' is decorated with a traditional Ukrainian folk design.

For Christians, Easter Sunday not only marks the culmination of Holy Week, but is also the high point of the whole church year, because it celebrates the resurrection of our Lord.

Ecumenical Events in Rosyth during Holy Week

As well as our church services (see pp18–19 for details) we are invited to join in a series of ecumenical events happening in Rosyth. Why not take time to join in them and share and reflect on the events to remember the last week of our Lord's life on earth?

Palm Sunday with donkey!

This is an exciting innovation organised by the Fraternal (the Rosyth ministers). It starts from the Methodist Church at 2.30pm and proceeds to the park, returning via Parkgate Centre. There will be a real donkey leading the procession. Children are encouraged to make palms and bring them to wave. Come along and bring the family too.

Good Friday "Walk with Jesus" around Rosyth

All are welcome to join in this walk and witness as we remember the holiest of days in the church's calendar. We meet at 10am at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane, where we start the walk and proceed through the streets of Rosyth, stopping on the way for reflection. We will finish at the Methodist Church. For those who would like to take part, but are unable to walk the journey, there will be an alternative PowerPoint show in the Methodist Church from 10am.

Christ in the heart of Rosyth

For space to unwind and think, in particular about our relationships with ourselves, one another, our planet and God there is a Labyrinth in the Parish Church on Maundy Thursday from 10.30am to 4pm and Good Friday from 10am to 4pm. It is designed for young and old and provides a mixture of visuals, of contemplative words, symbols and media to help guide the traveller. People walk it slowly as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise or as a form of pilgrimage. Those of us who walked the Labyrinth last year found it moving and thought provoking. Do join in this unique experience.

A plea from Morag

Anyone interested in helping to set up the Labyrinth or help stewarding should contact Morag Crawford on 0131 332 2253 or by email at morag.crawford.dcs@blueyonder.co.uk.

Diary for April 2011

Sunday 3 April

Lent 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
Mothering Sunday	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Geoffrey Baines
Monday 4 April	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba's (see p30 for details)	
Wednesday 6 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship	Games Afternoon
	7.00pm	City of Edinburgh Methodist Church: Network/Methodist Women in Britain fundraising dinner (see p26 for details)	
Monday 4 Apr to Friday 8 April	2.00pm to 3.45pm	Children's Holiday Club, St Columba's (see p27 for details)	
Saturday 9 April	3.00pm	Classical Guitar Recital by Ben Kearsley at Holy Trinity Dunfermline (see p34 for further information)	

Sunday 10 April

Lent 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy and Rev Valerie Walker	
	11.00am	All-age service Mrs Hilary Henderson and Deacon Sarah McDowall	
		Note: no “Sunday Funday” because of school holidays	
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House	
	7.00pm	Local Preachers Recognition Service for Mrs Hilary Henderson, Knightsridge, Livingston	
Monday 11 Apr	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba’s	
Wednesday 13 Apr	1.00pm	Wednesday Fellowship	Lunch at the Elgin Hotel

Holy Week

Other events will take place at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline during Holy Week. For details see their web site at <http://www.holytrinitychurch.org.uk/whatson.html>

Sunday 17 April

Palm Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist and Blessing of Palms Rev Tim Bennison	
	11.00am	Morning Worship and Blessing of Palms Rev Andrew Letby followed by General Church Meeting and soup and sandwich lunch (see invitation on p31)	
	2.30pm	Palm Sunday event in Rosyth (see article on p17)	

Diary for April/May 2011

Monday 18 April 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group, St Columba's. PowerPoint reflection on the events on the Journey to the Cross.

Wednesday 20 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship –
Holy Week Communion led by Rev Andrew Letby
An opportunity to meet the Fellowship and enjoy
mid-week communion. All welcome.

Maundy Thursday 10.30am Rosyth Parish Church Labyrinth
to 4.00pm (see p17 for details)

7.00pm Liturgy of the Last Supper
Joint service with St Margaret's and Methodist Church
at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

7.00pm St Columba's, Passover Celebration and Communion

Good Friday 10.00am Rosyth Parish Church Labyrinth
to 12noon (see p17 for details)

10.00am "Walk with Jesus" around Rosyth
Begins at St Columba's and finishes at
at the Methodist Church (see p17 for details)

3.00pm Good Friday Meditation Deacon Sarah McDowall

7.00pm St Columba's, Good Friday Reflections

Sunday 24 April

Easter Sunday 11.00am Joint Communion Service
Rev Andrew Letby and Deacon Sarah McDowall
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Note: no Sunday@Six

Wednesday 27 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Desert Island Discs with Rev Malcolm Trew

Sunday 1 May

Easter 2 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Malcolm Trew

Tuesday 3 May 7.00pm Rev Helen Jenkins Testimony Service,
Knightsridge, Livingston
(see p26 if you wish to attend)

Wednesday 4 May 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship –
Dunfermline Street Pastors Moss Barclay

Diary for May 2011

Sunday 8 May

Easter 3	9.00am	Breakfast and "Sunday Funday"	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker	
	11.00am	All-age service	Mr Iain Hampson
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House	
Monday 9 May to Saturday 14 May		Rosyth Garden City Association annual exhibition in the Parish Church	
Tuesday 10 May	7.30pm	St Andrews West Area Council Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	
	7.30pm	Woodmill Singers Summer Concert, Carnegie Hall (see p34 for details)	
Wednesday 11 May	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Reminiscences of a Health Visitor	Mrs Erica Lock
Saturday 14 May	10.30am to 4.00pm	"Shaping the Journey": Ecumenical Workshop at Dunblane Cathedral Church Halls (see p27 for details)	

Sunday 15 May

Easter 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship Ms Rosemary Phiri and Deacon Sarah McDowall	
Sunday 15 May to Saturday 21 May		Christian Aid Week	
Wednesday 18 May	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship	Mr Bill Tulloch
	6.45pm	The Sutherland Trust Spring Lecture, Debating Hall Teviot Building, University of Edinburgh given by Professor David Fergusson (see p28 for details)	
Thursday 19 May	7.00pm	Rosyth Schools Children's Concert for Christian Aid at the Parish Church (see p30 for details)	
Saturday 21 May	10.00am to 4.00pm	"Casting the Net" All-Age Gathering St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth (see p27 for details)	

Sunday 22 May

Easter 5	11.00am	Joint Communion Service Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
----------	---------	--	--

Diary for May/June 2011

Sunday 22 May 13.00pm Church of Scotland event in Princes Street Gardens
to 18.00pm (see p28 for details)

6.00pm Sunday@Six: A musical event

Tuesday 26 May to 7.00pm The Kingdom Singers Annual Concert,
Thursday 28 May Carnegie Hall Annexe (see p34 for details)

Wednesday 25 May 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship – AGM, Tea and Close of Session

Note: Meetings resume on Wednesday 7 September

Sunday 29 May

Easter 6 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison

11.00am Morning Worship
Rev John Knox and Deacon Sarah McDowall

Tuesday 31 May 7.30pm Joint Vestry and Council Meeting
followed by Council Meeting

Thursday 2 June

Ascension Day 7.30pm Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison

Friday 3 June 7.00pm Ordination to the priesthood of Rev Valerie Walker
at St John's, Alloa (see p10 for details)

Paschal Candle 2011

This year's candle has been given by Mary Kidd in memory of Jim, and to commemorate 30 years of living in this area since she and Jim came here on posting with the Royal Navy. The design is quite striking, featuring a chalice above open hands, with a dove above that, and a Celtic cross in the background. That form of cross is very appropriate because their daughter, Rebecca, and her family now live in the heart of Ireland.

The Paschal Candle will be blessed by Andrew Letby at our joint service on Easter Day. It signifies the Light of Christ, as do the candles on the communion table, and it is from the Paschal Candle that the candle for the newly-baptised is lit, again signifying the gift of the Light of Christ.

"A gift of Easter"

Do you know someone who knows something about the Easter story, and maybe would like to know a bit more? A small booklet has been made available by the Methodist Publishing House, and copies will be available at church at Easter. If you can't wait, the material is also downloadable as a PowerPoint presentation from www.methodist.org.uk/powerpoint.



95 years of Methodism in Rosyth

A sermon preached by the Reverend Professor Frank Whaling

It is an honour to preach here on the 95th Anniversary of this church. I have preached here many times, and it is always a pleasure to take services in this place.

Our lessons today speak about important mountain-top experiences reported in the Bible. The first happened to Moses on Mount Sinai who went up and stayed for 40 days on top of the mountain. It was an extraordinary event, and it was repeated by Jesus in a different way when he fasted for 40 days in the wilderness during the first Lent. When Moses came down, he was bearing tablets that would provide some of the materials for what we now call the Old Testament. He was a changed man.

The second mountain-top experience was that of Jesus himself. He took his three closest disciples Peter, James and John up a mountain. He too had an amazing experience. His disciples saw him transfigured in an extraordinary light. His transfiguration was, for him and for them, a unique happening. When he came down, like Moses he had undergone an unrepeatable experience. He too was changed.

A third mountain-top event would come to Jesus in a different way when he preached his immortal Sermon on the Mount. If there were time, reference could be made to other similar mountain events of importance in the Bible.

There is a sense, a real sense, in which our 95th Church Anniversary is in itself a precious 'mountain-top' kind of event on level ground and we come together now to celebrate it.

Our minds go back to 1916, in the middle of the First World War, when the Rosyth Methodist congregation first met, and to the time 55 years later when it came together in this church building where we meet today.

Some of us have roots going back to, or almost going back to, 1916. Others began their Christian lives here, then moved elsewhere. Others came from elsewhere and settled down here. Others came in from outside the church and began their Christian discipleship here. Throughout all these years sermons have been preached, hymns have been sung, prayers have been offered, and the sacraments of baptism and holy communion have been dispensed. Ministers, lay preachers, and church members have played their full part in a great endeavour. We inherit a great succession and we thank God for that today as we, so to speak, experience our own 'mountain top' here in this place. We are part of the whole mission of the whole church in the whole world. We are a small cog in a very large wheel, but every cog is important, and I want for a few minutes to map our place within the whole history of the Christian church as part of our reflection upon our anniversary.

The church began with the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and its early history was one of persecution. The death of martyrs such as St Peter and St Paul became the seed of the early church, and it grew in the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Eastern Europe. Then complacency and worldly wisdom set in. Early reformers, including monks such as St Antony and St Benedict, revived the church through renewal movements beginning in the Egyptian desert, and the church began to spread around Europe. With the collapse of the Roman Empire, barbarian hordes flooded into parts of Europe and the Christian cause was deeply affected. However missionaries such as St Boniface, who was trained in Crediton in Devon, went over into Europe and spent their lives in preaching the gospel. St Boniface was martyred, but not before

he had felled the symbolic pagan tree at Geismar in what is now Germany and pagan rulers began to convert and bring their subjects into the Christian fold.

The church spread around Europe and eventually into Russia and Scandinavia but again became complacent. Again monks such as St Francis of Assisi and St Dominic opened up the gospel to the poor and to the citizens of larger towns that were beginning to rise, and the church began to grow and prosper again and to spread even further around Europe. Once again worldly wisdom and money raised their heads again and led to the Protestant Reformation that opened up the gospel to ordinary people and replaced Latin in favour of the new languages of English, French, German and so on.

There was a Counter-Reformation in the Roman Catholic Church, part of which involved taking the Christian message to new parts of the world including South and Central America by the Spanish, and India, China and for a short while Japan by the Portuguese. The Gospel was spreading outside Europe.

Again a certain complacency and worldly wisdom arose within the wider church including the Protestants. At the time of the French Revolution the French revolutionaries set up a statue of the 'goddess of reason' in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and they worshipped it. However Thomas Coke, a disciple of John Wesley, went over to Paris and preached to the revolutionaries, and he barely escaped with his life. Wesley sent him over to the young United States as one of the two leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Christian Gospel advanced in North America which became a mainly Protestant continent.

In the nineteenth century, missionary movements out of Europe and America spread into various parts of Africa and Asia, and the

Christian Gospel so to speak began to escape its mainly European captivity and to spread around the world. In the twentieth century influential atheistic movements threatened the Gospel including the Marxist atheism of Russia, the Maoist atheism of China, and the Nazism of Germany. They eventually collapsed and Bishop Stephen Neill in his famous book on missions made the point that the Christian Church was present in every country of the world with the exceptions of Tibet, Afghanistan and Nepal. In fact there are small numbers of Christians in those places as well, so it is true to say that there are Christians of one sort or another throughout every part of the world. It is estimated that of the 6.6 billion people in the world today around 2.2 billion are Christians, and the Church is growing like wildfire in southern America, southern Africa, China, Korea, the South Sea islands and elsewhere. A key factor in this growth is that Africans, Koreans, Chinese and people of other nationalities are now leading and running their own churches, and they are no longer run by missionaries.

As we rejoice in our anniversary today, we are part of the great story of the total rise and growth of the Christian Church. We are a cog in the Scottish Methodist Church, which is a cog in the British Methodist Church, which is a cog in the worldwide Methodist community, which is a cog in the worldwide Protestant Churches, which are cogs of the total Christian community around the world. We are a small cog in a worldwide movement of deep significance under God. And the best of all is that God is with us. Let us today dedicate ourselves to God in Christ anew. Let us thank God for our part in the whole mission of the whole church in the whole world. Let us rededicate this church and our own lives personally to God, and to Him be the glory.

From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby writes ...

A small group for Fife

When I was first asked to consider moving to the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit, I read with interest the information which the circuit leadership had prepared. That information contained several references to the distinctiveness of the Methodist Church in Scotland. When I visited the circuit I asked several people what was distinctive. I did not receive any satisfactory answers that day (but decided to come nonetheless!). Once I arrived I soon began to understand what was different from my experience of Methodism churches just the other side of the border in northern England. On another occasion I might reflect more on that. But the most important distinction was soon very obvious. The Methodist people of Scotland often find themselves at a distance from a Sunday congregation, but many still want to retain links with the tradition that has nurtured their Christian faith.

The consequence is that we need to work very hard to keep people connected. In Fife Sarah and I are working to draw together people who normally feel disconnected from our local church life into a monthly fellowship and study group. Each time we meet we will talk and reflect together, share in some worship and once a quarter celebrate Holy Communion together. Dates and venues will be available soon, meanwhile if you are one of those people who might want to be part of the group or would like to suggest someone please let Sarah know.

Ed: We'll keep you posted on how this group develops. Note the common theme in this article and those by Howard and Mary on the opposite page.

Ministerial Synod

The Methodist Church in Scotland is focussed around Synods which draw together representative from across the country. There are two sessions of Synod, one for a wide range of representatives from the churches, the other for Ministers only. Over the weekend of 25 and 26 March these meetings were held in Rosyth.

Synod has particular significance for ministers at the beginning and end of their 'careers'. So it was Synod that gave the final affirmation needed to send one of our probationer ministers, Rev Helen Jenkins, forward for Ordination at the Methodist Conference. The Methodist Church holds all its ordinations at the Annual Conference, which can be at some distance from the places where ministers are stationed. Helen will be ordained in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on 3 July this year. We will, however, have the opportunity to celebrate with Helen more locally as she is invited to tell us of her story and call to ministry at a 'Testimony Service', which will be held in the Knightsridge Worship Centre in Livingston on 3 May at 7pm.

At the same meeting we gave permission to one of ministers to 'sit down' (which is our quaint Methodist terminology for retiring). Rev Alan Whitson has served the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit, particularly in Edinburgh City Centre, but has been a familiar face across the Circuit.

Thank you

The influx of Methodists from all over Scotland meant a considerable catering challenge. We are grateful to everyone who helped, but especial thanks are due to Gwyneth Kirby and Jean Hall for their excellent planning and incredibly hard work.

District Synod

And, oh! those sandwiches!

Mary Kidd writes:

Last weekend was quite an experience for Evelyn Kenny and me, because we were involved with the preparation, and with the catering for the ministers on the Friday. It made me realise that not only is it hard work, but that there is also a sense of fellowship and friendship that goes on behind the scenes.

The following day we were 'on the other side' as representatives to Synod; more delicious soup and sandwiches – and cakes to die for! It was interesting, and certainly challenging, to be involved in the seriousness of the day's business. Reports were given on the work and development of the Acorn Centre at Leith, the future development of the ministry of the Scottish Churches House at Dunblane, as it seeks to maintain a visible, ecumenical presence in Scotland, to name but two items on a busy agenda.

In the afternoon, there was much group discussion about how present structures could hinder evangelism, and what 'being church' means. Our church has to be real and relevant to those outside: "The church is the only society which exists for those who are not members of it!" We talked about our strengths – Methodism is essentially a movement with 'roots' in small fellowship groups. We talked about developing the Methodist Church in Scotland – that it was never meant to be a big denomination. It should be a discipleship, disciple-making movement, and the way we go about things now is sapping energy and preventing us from being more effective in our calling. The wind of change is blowing through the land! Serious issues, yes, and all to be carefully and prayerfully considered. I came away with 'information overload' but with more sandwiches and cakes and a feeling of being challenged to 'get on with it!' As you do!

"Discipleship ... and the people called Methodists"

The title is that of a personal account by Martyn Atkins (General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain) that delegates to the Spring Synod of the Scotland District were all encouraged to read before the meeting in Rosyth. What struck me most was that I had never previously been made aware that Methodism was, in its roots, a discipleship movement. Basically, initially gatherings, called 'societies', were geared towards enabling better Christian discipleship, an aim shared when they later became divided into smaller groups, called 'classes', of about 12 people, or even smaller groups, called 'bands'. These were not independent, freestanding groups, but interconnected in a number of distinctive ways (for which Methodism retains the distinctive spelling 'connexion').

Why were delegates being asked to read this account? Because, whereas the desire to be a Christian disciple shaped the early structure of Methodism, many in Methodism today feel that it is no longer best structured and shaped to enable Christian discipleship. Whilst many churches, in Methodism and elsewhere, might have some house groups or cells, their occurrence and aims might reflect just the interests of those that take part, rather than a considered strategy for enabling discipleship; and they might not even be well connected with the local congregation. Reflecting on such things may have profound implications for the way in which the shape of the church evolves over the next few years, whether at local, Circuit or District level. Hence the relevance of the document to the thinking now taking place on the ways in which the District should develop. How too should we react at local level?

Howard Kirby

Invitations and requests

Rosyth Garden City exhibition

Rosyth Garden City Association's annual exhibition will be in the Parish Church from **Monday 9 May to Saturday 14 May**. Their 2011 theme is "Back in the Days of ..."

"Churches Vote"

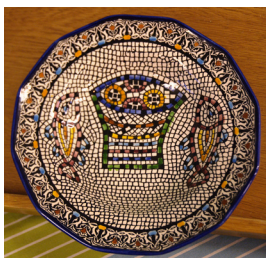
Are you interested in Christian perspectives on the issues facing the electorate when voting in the Scottish Parliament elections on 5 May?

In a significant new collaboration, the website www.churchesvote.org has been launched, to help people to be informed about voting, to explore the issues, and to find out what each party is saying.

The site reflects the belief of Church Leaders and representatives of Christian organisations across Scotland that candidates and voters alike should be challenged to remember that elections are community events in which "my" vote is not only for me but also an opportunity for each of us to express the needs of the whole community.

See their statement at www.churchesvote.org/church-leaders-statement, and explore other aspects of the site.

Five loaves and two fishes ...



Why was this plate on our communion table? See p11 to find out.

Recorder needed

Rev Malcolm Trew has been designated to undertake voice coaching in the Circuit for those interested. To perform this role, he is looking to borrow a tape recorder (with microphone) from someone for around 6 months. If you are able to help, please contact Malcolm (tel 01383 873171).

Fundraising Dinner

Wednesday 6 April at 7.00 for 7.15pm: Network/Methodist Women in Britain are holding a fundraising dinner at CEMC, Nicolson Square.

Do join in a evening of fun, food, fellowship and fundraising, learn more of the literacy and empowerment project for PLWHA in Sierra Leone, and get an update on the girls' education project in D R Congo. All are welcome. Tickets available from Mary Kidd (872332).

Local Preachers' Recognition

The Local Preachers Recognition Service for Mrs Hilary Henderson will be held at Knightsridge, Livingston at 7.00pm on **Sunday 10 April**.

Rev Helen Jenkins' Testimony Service will be held at Knightsridge, Livingston at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 3 May**. A light tea will be served at 6.00pm. To allow for catering, please let Jo Wight in the Circuit Office know, by Friday 22 April, if you plan to attend the tea.

For *both* services, if anyone needs a lift or can offer lifts to other people, please contact Jo (0131 667 1465) as soon as possible and she will try to make sure those that want to go are able to.

Invitations and requests

Shaping the Journey

The Methodist, Scottish Episcopal and United Reformed Churches are delivering in partnership three Saturday workshops designed to support adult learning in Christian contexts. The first one was held on 2 April and the remaining two are on **14 May** and **27 August**.

As the workshops can be taken singly, if you missed the first one and would like to go on 14 May you are welcome to do so. The contents cover a mixture of theory and practical activities and will give participants an opportunity to reflect on their own practice and experience.

Helen Wareing, the National Learning and Development Officer, Methodist Church in Scotland and David Liddle from the SEC will lead the workshop on 14 May, which runs from 10.30am (coffee from 10am) till 4.00pm in Dunblane Cathedral Church Halls.

Closing date for registering is 29 April and the fee per workshop is £10, including lunch and the cost of material. For further details, including an outline of the event, please see the notices on the Notice Board.

Holiday Club

A Holiday Club for primary school children is being run at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane, on **4-8 April** from 2.00pm until 3.45 pm daily. The cost is £3.50 for the week or 75p per day. There will be games, craft, video and activities.

For details or to register please contact Morag Crawford DSC on 0131 332 2253 or 07970 982563. Numbers will be limited, so prior booking is advisable.

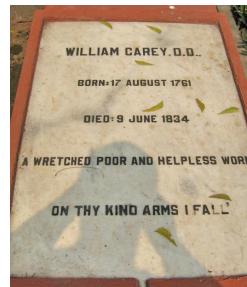
CTN Gathering

Please put the second Casting The Net (CTN) Gathering in your diary. This event will be held in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth from 9.30am till 3.30pm on **Saturday 21 May**, and this year's theme is the 5th Mark of Mission: "Use prayer, word and sacrament to experience God's will". The day promises to be one of fun, with practical and enjoyable workshops suitable for all ages, which should uplift and inspire everyone to take a new experience back to their home congregations.

There is a lot going on, such as musical workshops (instruments and singing), prayer through art, drama, messy play and godly play, bread making, and walk the labyrinth. Lunch will be provided (donations welcome). Full details will be available shortly, but look at the poster on the noticeboard for further information.

The CTN Officer has invited members of congregations to help out with the Gathering on the day, for example by stewarding, distributing refreshments and clearing up. We already have a volunteer from St Margaret's: if anyone else is interested please let Sandra Young know by 2 May.

Seen by Bishop David ...



Do you know anything about this man?
Answer next time!

Invitations and requests

District Resourcing Day 2011

As part of 'Deepening Discipleship Week' (11–19 June) the Methodist Church in Scotland is running "Together in Mission", on the role of small groups in deepening discipleship. Led by Laurence Singlehurst, Director of Cell UK, the event is at Dundee Baptist Church from 10.30am–3.45pm on **Saturday 11 June**.

"The day will focus on how we gain support and encouragement for our mission through meeting together in small groups – a long-held tradition in Methodism rooted in bands, classes and the more recent 'cell' movement. The day will also offer opportunities to meet with other people from across the district and share worship, fellowship and ideas."

There are two main sessions:

- 1 Exploring 'Cell'
- 2 How 'Cell' church could support our mission in Scotland

This event is free and includes refreshments and lunch, but you need to book by 21 May. Leaflet and booking form on the web at www.methodistchurchinscotland.org.uk, or look for details later on the Crush Hall notice board and in the weekly notices.

No Edinburgh Easter Play

If you are expecting to see this annual event, you will be disappointed, as the Trustees have decided there won't be a play in Princes Street Gardens this year. The 2010 production made a £6,000 loss (since met by a donor), but there are no reserves to cover ongoing deficits.

The Trustees are considering the future, but are agreed that the original vision, to tell the story of Easter in dramatic form to a professional standard in the public space that is Princes Street Gardens, remains.

Sutherland Trust Lecture

The Sutherland Trust Spring Lecture will take place at the Debating Hall in the Teviot Building at the University of Edinburgh on **Wednesday 18 May** at 6:45pm. Professor David Fergusson (Professor of Divinity at University of Edinburgh, and Principal of New College) will be the speaker.

This lecture explores the influence of Scottish philosophy and theology on approaches to counselling, psychotherapy and pastoral care. It will give particular attention to the continuing relevance in today's practice of the holistic and relational accounts of the person that were developing in the mid-20th century.

Tickets cost £17.00 (£12.00 concessions), including canapés and wine, and are available from the Queens Hall Box Office on 0131 668 2019 or online at www.thequeenshall.net.

Roll away the stone

On **Sunday 22 May** from 1.00pm to 6.00pm during this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Church will take over a large area of Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh for a time of Celebration, Inspiration and Discovery.

The afternoon will begin with reflections around a huge cross in the garden near the Ross Bandstand. Meantime, at the Bandstand itself, in the picturesque avenue and fountain areas, and in St Cuthbert's Church at the west end of the Gardens there will be space for worship, praise and singing amongst a whole range of other things to see and do, such as storytelling, Easter play scenes, comedy, puppets, bands. Details at www.rollawaythestone.org.uk

From St Margaret's Lay Rep

Alan Taylor writes ...

Bishop's Lent Appeal

This year's appeal is for the Arunima AIDS Hospice in Calcutta which is run by the Anglican Diocese of Calcutta. Bishop David visited there in February when he and Canon Bob Harley – a former RN Chaplain – continued the process of establishing a Companionship Link with our Diocese. David writes:

"I found this an inspiring project. We were greeted by a singing group of children and teenagers. Other areas of the Hospice had accommodation for adults. It was a bright and positive place in which the values of Christian healing were practised as a daily necessity and discipline. I have seen and experienced a lot in my time – but I found it a 'lump in the throat' sort of place."

We have yet to decide how we will collect for this cause – as collecting boxes seem to be out of favour – but we will most likely use retiring collections.



Children of the Arunima Hospice – a children's HIV/Aids Hospice – singing and dancing

Ed: There are many more photos from Bishop David's Indian visit on the Diocesan Facebook page. We've printed two of them on p27 and p30.

Diocesan Synod

Synod this year, at the Cathedral in Perth, was relatively low-key. There were no contentious issues, even our clergy roll remained the same at 40 stipendiary priests, and Quota (what each congregation gives to the Diocese to support its work) remains at 15%. Bishop David is upbeat, as he sees continuing development of the Casting the Net initiative. He feels comfortable with the quality of the people working around him, so much so that he finds himself operating in "nodding and waving mode" – though I am sure he doesn't really believe that! His work as Primus, along with many other commitments including broadcasting and responsibilities within the worldwide Anglican Communion, engage him fully. Yet he still finds time to go on retreat – the last time in early March to a Benedictine Monastery at Rostrevor in County Down. And our new companion link with the Diocese of Calcutta is almost forged.

Finance

St Margaret's finances continue to perform in line with budget. It is likely that we will not need to use the authority given by Vestry for this year only to operate to a reduced average balance in bank of £4,000 – largely to allow us to increase our giving to Rosyth Methodist Church by a substantial amount – as congregational income has increased in line with a request to review giving, and we have had a number of donations, all of which will allow us to reclaim more income tax than previously thought.

Working together

Ecumenical Study Group

The subject for study this Lent is Prayer. Instead of a bought-in booklet on some theme – sometimes not what we want – we are using a home-grown product, seeking to make our study more personal and appropriate to each one of us. The last of the Lent Studies on 18 April will be a PowerPoint reflection on the Journey to the Cross.

The Ecumenical Study Group continues to meet on Monday evenings throughout the year at St Columba's as it was decided there was little support either for changing to any other time, or for having a daytime group.

Scottish Churches House

It was with a sad heart that we learned earlier this year that Scottish Churches House in Dunblane – part of the Action of Churches Together in Scotland organisation – will cease operations on 15 July, as running and maintenance costs far outweigh available funding. ACTS, however, is hoping to lease the property for a peppercorn rent to a company who will maintain the house on a care and maintenance basis, presumably in the hope that the economic climate will eventually allow its return to use as a residential, ecumenical retreat and conference centre.



Painting of the Last Supper by Indian artist Madhvi Parekh (taken during Bishop David's visit)

Christian Aid 2011

On **Wednesday 23 March**, the Hub Café in Rosyth Parish Church kindly donated their takings to Christian Aid. At this "Souper Soup Day" they served a variety of soups from all over the world – and beyond, as "Celestial Soup" was on the menu! 42 people enjoyed the event and appreciated the amount of work that went into it. And over £260 was raised for Christian Aid!

On **Thursday 19 May** at 7.00pm the children from Rosyth Schools are holding a concert in the Parish Church Hall supporting Christian Aid. The one they held last year was very good indeed, so put it in your diaries now: tickets will be available soon – adults £3, non-performing children £1. The event is by ticket only, so do not wait to pay at the door.

Can you help

As always, Morag is looking for collectors for the week itself (15–21 May). Contact Morag on 0131 332 2253 or email morag.crawford@blueyonder.co.uk

Making the church beautiful ...



Why did Mary Kidd choose flowers in the colours of the Chilean flag?
See p11 to find out.

Some practicalities ...

A chance to air your views!

After the 11am Methodist service on Sunday 17 April, there will be an opportunity not only to elect the church stewards and church council members to serve for the following twelve months, but also to air your views about what your church is doing and how it goes about it.

This will be our **General Church Meeting**, and its purpose includes fellowship and mutual counsel respecting the condition of our local church (including its financial affairs). It is open not only to church members, but also to all others on our community roll, such as recipients of Contact. Newcomers to the church are particularly welcome.

The fellowship aspect will be helped on this occasion by soup and sandwiches being available after the service, but be sure you have added your name to the list on the notice board in the crush hall!

Do play an active part in making nominations (but ensure that those nominated have agreed!) and in ensuring at the meeting that those elected represent the diversities present in the church, including where possible younger members and newcomers.

Church payphone

In an earlier issue of Contact Martin Rogers explained that the Church payphone cost about £160 a year, with very little income from calls to help meet this cost. It was proposed to dispense with the payphone subject to any views received from individuals or organisations.

No adverse comments were received on this proposal, and arrangements have now been made to cancel the line rental. Please note that, as from 31 March, **the payphone is no longer operational**.

Playing your part

For the first three Sundays in April, a list of nominees to Church Council, their nominators and seconders, will be on the noticeboard in the Crush Hall. But do please think about other ways, not involving Church Council or being a Steward, in which *you* could volunteer time and effort to help the church. For example, there are specific responsibilities in the financial area, helping the Treasurer's function, but which don't involve taking on Howard's mantle. If you can help in any way, please see any of the office-bearers.

Anniversary Appeal update

Thank you to all who have responded to the Anniversary Appeal. So far, a total of £2,691 has been raised by individuals and groups, compared with £3,970 at the same stage last year. However donations are still coming in.

Ed: If you have mislaid the Gift Aid envelope inserted in the previous issue of Contact, others are available on the table in the Crush Hall.

Special collections

Throughout January, Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA) was the theme for the Methodist retiring collection, and on "Homelessness Sunday" (31 January) members of both congregations were invited to contribute £1 for their cup of coffee/tea: £52.35 was raised on that day alone. Together with earlier contributions (and the 2009/10 share of tax recovery) the total sent to SCHA this quarter is £117.45.

In February, the Mission in Britain Fund was the theme, and £55.49 was raised then. Together with other donations in January and March, the total sent to the Mission in Britain Fund this quarter is £135.49.

What happens when you run away from Church!

Frequently, history is stranger than fiction and none more so than in the tale of Alexander Selkirk, the real-life Robinson Crusoe.

Alexander Selkirk was born in Lower Largo in 1676, the son of a shoemaker and tanner. He always had a knack for getting into trouble, and at 19 was involved in a family fight for which he was called before the Kirk Session. To escape punishment he went to sea, where he hoped to make his fortune as a buccaneer off the coast of South America.

At sea, Selkirk discovered a skill for navigation, and within a few years he was Sailing Master on the 90-ton privateer the *Cinque Ports*, which headed for the Pacific Ocean to prey on Spanish and Portuguese ships off the coast of South America. The expedition was a disaster. The ship's captain was a tyrant and after several naval battles the ship was in bad shape. In October 1704, fearful the vessel he was on would sink, Selkirk asked to be put ashore on Más a Tierra, an uninhabited speck of land 400 miles off the coast of Chile. He took with him a few clothes, bedding, a musket, some tools, a bible and tobacco. He spent the next four years and four months there alone with only rats, goats and cats for company. He was finally rescued in 1709 by *The Duke*, another privateer, whose pilot recognised Selkirk from his time on the *Cinque Ports*.

Selkirk re-embarked on his career as a privateer and within a year he was Master of *The Duke*. In 1712 he returned to Scotland and surprised his family as they worshipped at the Kirk in Largo. They had long given him up for dead. But, if Selkirk returned to Lower Largo a rich man, it didn't make him a contented one. He seemed to have missed the solitude of his island, and made his home in a cave in his parent's garden, where he lived a reclusive life.

In 1713 he published an account of his adventures. These were fictionalised six years later by Daniel Defoe in "Robinson Crusoe", still one of the oldest and most famous adventure stories in English literature.

However, Selkirk could never really readjust to life on the land, and in 1720, he joined the Royal Navy, only to die of fever off the coast of Africa in 1721.

He is commemorated with a bronze statue and plaque outside a house on the site of Selkirk's original home on Lower Largo's Main Street.



In 1966, Más a Tierra's name was changed to Robinson Crusoe Island. Earlier this year the island was struck by a tsunami that swept away the island's only school.

Ed: The exhibition "Famous Fifers – Local Lives", which includes Alexander Selkirk, runs at Methil Heritage Centre until 23 April. For further details and opening times visit www.fifedirect.org.uk/museums.

For your bookshelf ...

We all pray in church. We may all pray at home. But, as prayer is basically relating to God, do we always feel 'connected?' Do we sometimes wonder if we are talking to ourselves? Do we listen for God speaking to us?

In a very accessible little volume called *How to Pray*, John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford at time of writing, is addressing these questions and helping us to understand and to work towards feeling God's presence when we pray. In our fast-moving, often hectic, society, we can feel obliged to fill every moment with 'useful' activity. If we are not able to do so, we may well worry about this inability. Often we fail to slow down and reflect. This is what John Pritchard encourages us to do in the first section of his work. There is a delightful little quotation in this early part of the book, a re-writing of the 23rd psalm by Toki Miyashina entitled "Psalm 23 for busy people". To quote the first few lines "The Lord is my Pace-Setter, I shall not rush: He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals; he provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity."

There are five sections to the book, each dealing with a different aspect of prayer. The second section takes us through the day with God, helping us to see how we can relate to Him from when we wake till when we retire to bed. Section three introduces us to various ways of praying through the Bible, using Ignatian, Benedictine, Franciscan or Celtic methods.

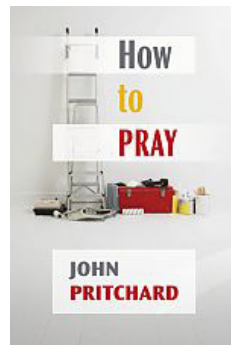
The fourth part looks at how our personalities and interests can be harnessed to help us sense the presence of God, for example using the arts and music or silence or our imagination. John Pritchard also stresses the value of sacred times and sacred places. Finally he looks at praying in bad times, whether times of

personal trauma or times when we feel somewhat adrift in our faith, and he urges us to persevere, to make the whole of our life a prayer.

I found this to be a delightful and inspiring little book, filling me with hope and the inexpressible love of God. Interspersed with Bishop John's sound, practical and invaluable words of guidance are quotations, anecdotes and even a few appropriate cartoons. I would like to end this review with the Bishop's quotation of a prayer of St. Benedict, which I found particularly helpful:

"O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
intelligence to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Margaret Dineley,
Holy Trinity, Dunfermline



How to Pray was published by SPCK in 2002 (£9.99; ISBN 0281064304), and has just been reprinted with this new cover design.

Music Corner

Sunday@Six

Those who attended Sunday@Six in February were most appreciative of the thoughtful Taizé service led by Tim and Valerie. We went into a Church Lounge that had been transformed into a candle-lit area ideally suited to this style of reflective worship. Many thanks to Elaine Cromwell from Holy Trinity for organising this.

In March, Malcolm and friends led a Methodist Evening Service based on the 1999 rite, at which there was an opportunity to reflect on the different approaches to worship in other denominations.

There will be no Sunday@Six in April (Easter Day), but Sue Masson is organising a musical event on **22 May**. Do come to this and bring your friends.

Classical Guitar Concert

The internationally-renowned concert guitarist Ben Kearsley will present a concert of classical guitar music at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline at 3pm on **Saturday 9 April**.

Edinburgh-born Ben studied classical guitar at Birmingham Conservatoire, and now teaches at Edinburgh University. He tours and releases albums in his 'spare time' – his 2011 tour will see him travelling throughout the UK until end-October!

Based on past experience this promises to be a memorable event. All are welcome.

Dunfermline "Songs of Praise"

Two BBC Songs of Praise programmes, due to be screened in August, are being recorded at Dunfermline Abbey. The recordings are on **Friday 15 April** from 7.00–10.30pm and on **Saturday 16 April** from 5.00–8.30pm, with a rehearsal on Saturday 2 April.

If you are interested, you need to talk to Mary Kidd very soon!

Hear our members sing!

The **Woodmill Singers** are performing their usual blend of popular music at their Summer Concert at 7.30pm on **10 May** in the Carnegie Hall. Tickets (£8) are available from Eve and Julie Denning, Myra Tarr and Marc Tempelhoff.

The **Kingdom Singers** are performing their Annual Concert at the Annex, Carnegie Hall on **26, 27 and 28 May** at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Ann Duly or Marc Tempelhoff, priced £6 (£4 for associate members). This promises to be an evening of songs for everyone with songs from the Shows, Scots songs and religious ones, featuring the choir and soloists.

Old Time Music Hall Show

£762 was raised towards the Parish Church renovation fund as a result of the evening's entertainment on 17 March. Many thanks to those who attended or bought tickets in support of our friends.

Tricolor and tapestry ...



Why was a flag in front of the organ?
See p11 to find out.

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@btinternet.com

Beaver Scouts
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936
stuart.fowell@btinternet.com

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
Assistant, Lyn Lennie

Brownies
Suzy Knight 01383 416087
Assistant, Vicky Cooper

Guides
Melissa Peel
Assistant, 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 of the Cross



Scenes from the Passion of Christ by Hans Memling

This work by a fifteenth-century artist, now in a Turin gallery, combines most of the familiar scenes from the Passion story into a single painting. The story of Jesus' last hours begins in the top left corner with his entry into Jerusalem, then winds its way through town into the Garden of Gethsemane (bottom left). In the middle we see Jesus brought before Pilate and the scourging, and then we leave the city and end with the Crucifixion on the mount behind.

But Memling didn't stop there, adding Christ's resurrection and three of his appearances to the many witnesses that his death wasn't the end that his enemies had expected, but that he had indeed risen from the dead.

If you have internet access, go to <http://tinyurl.com/49oy6c4> to get a web page with more detail, and be able to follow the elements of the story. Better still, join us for our services during April, when we will be experiencing all the highs and lows of Christ's final days on earth, from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, through the agony of betrayal and crucifixion, to the glories of Easter morning.

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue, with photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/6yuo76>. If you don't mind a 6M download, and would like to zoom in on photographs, a higher-definition version is also available at <http://tinyurl.com/6737fe8>.

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 29 May. Contributions please by **Sunday 22 May** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; 01383 723989), preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk. Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young (sandrayoung39@btinternet.com or 01383 415021).