

Rosyth
Methodist Church



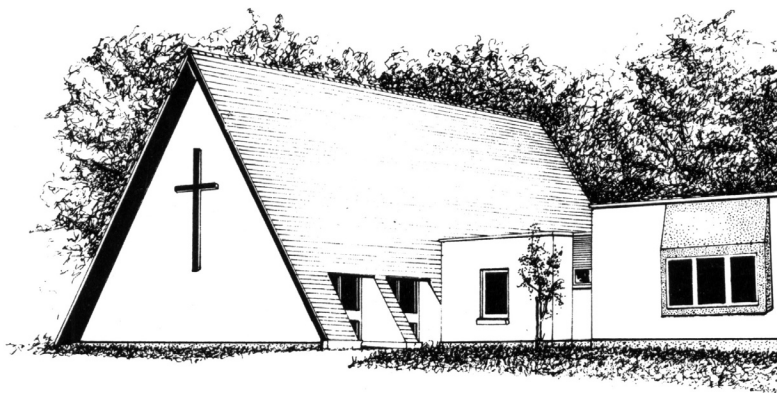
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 57

June/July 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.

You've done what?!

A discussion overheard ...

Tim: You've done what?! A donkey? I only left you there with the other ministers for ten minutes!

Valerie: Well, we were trying to plan Palm Sunday – and the donkey conveys so much of Jesus' message that I thought it would be good to have one. And it'll be a lot of fun. The kids will love it and it'll get everyone's attention!

Tim: Yeah! No doubt about that. But have you thought this through? And where on earth will you get a donkey from anyway?

Valerie: Well, the disciples found one for Jesus. I'll just make a few phone calls. I'm sure there's a donkey sanctuary somewhere in Scotland.

Tim: Yes, but it's a lot of organising isn't it? We've never done this before. What will people think? We could end up looking very, very stupid!

Valerie: Yes, that's true I suppose, but that's just a risk we'll have to take. Think about what Jesus did. He wasn't afraid of being ridiculed. If he was, he'd have ridden into Jerusalem on a great big horse like a normal leader.

Tim: Oh trust you to mention Jesus. Curates are just impossibly holy sometimes!

Valerie: But it's not just Jesus, it's us too. Surely we're called, as Christians, to reach out to people in the community and engage with them in a way that's meaningful and interesting; but we can only do that if we get their attention. They'll be pretty surprised to see a donkey walk past their front gate with lots of happy church people waving palms and pampas grass. You've got a lot of that in your garden.

Tim: Yeah, I suppose so! Maybe we could have a little service along the way somewhere.

Valerie: That's a good idea; and yes, I suppose there is a bit of risk involved. I was quite surprised when the Fife Police suggested that we have a police escort. They're obviously worried that people might cause trouble because we're a religious group.

Tim: I'm more worried about being kicked or bitten by the donkey!

Valerie: Don't worry, he'll be more interested in the carrots I've got. Anyway, Sydney's got his own insurance.

Tim: Sydney!!? Stupid name for a donkey!

Valerie: I suppose there are lots of risks that we can try to minimise, and then there's the weather which could ruin everything.

Tim: Yes, but that's what it's all about really isn't it. Recognising when something matters so much that you're prepared to stand up for it and take the risk. Look at what Jesus did – reaching out to crowds of people, challenging the religious norms in ways they weren't expecting. Making it relevant to everyone, religious or not and risking the consequences of his actions.

/continued overleaf

What's in this issue ...

This issue has been slightly reorganised, so you will find:

Report on Easter events (pp4–7)

Invitations (pp8–9)

Young people's section (pp10–11)

Fellowship News (pp12–15)

Diary for June/July (pp17–19)

From the Super's desk (pp20–21)

Conversation with the Editor (pp22–25)

Enjoy!

Holy Week in Rosyth

/from overleaf

Valerie: And when we go out with Sydney, I bet people will ask us what we're doing. And that will give us an opportunity to talk to people and for them to realise, maybe, the kind of people who go to church aren't so very different from themselves.

And on the day . . .

The weather was brilliant; the police were lovely; hordes of people came out to see us and it really felt as though we had connected with our local community.

It truly was an all-age event: from the kids in push-chairs holding newspaper palms to the ladies with pampas grass waving from their zimmer frames. And what an amazing sight, seeing all those children who would never normally go anywhere near a church, enthusiastically stroking the donkey, taking palm crosses and asking what it was all about.

Definitely a risk worth taking!

If you want to see more detail in the photographs, you will find on the back cover a link to a high-definition version of this newsletter.

We made the front page!

Our Palm Sunday walk from Rosyth Methodist Church through the park and back to the church, was a procession led by Sydney, and we also had a police escort.

This was a joyful and colourful occasion and enthusiastic children who joined in were given palms and flags. A number of motorists stopped to see what was going on, and were happy to be given palm crosses.

The story that the Dunfermline Press ran the following Thursday is printed on our back cover. Actors are against working with children or animals, because they steal the show, and that's certainly what happened to us!



Ready for the off!

Holy Week in Rosyth

“Walk with Jesus”

Alan Taylor followed the procession with his camera:



The Palm Sunday walk was blessed with warm sunshine. By contrast, on Good Friday morning the weather was quite cold, with mist from the Forth. So our 2 hour ‘pilgrimage’ round Rosyth was not very pleasant, although we enjoyed each other’s company, and the hot cup of coffee and hot cross buns we received when we finally reached Rosyth Methodist Church were especially welcome.



We stopped at 15 places en route, including the police station, a school and other community buildings, and at each point we heard an appropriate reading and prayer and sang a chorus or verse of a hymn.

The walk had been introduced in 2010 by the then Roman Catholic priest, and the thoughts we shared were based on the traditional Stations of the Cross, applied to the Rosyth context. The presentation had been updated for this year’s walk by Margaret Glancey, well-known and greatly respected throughout the Rosyth churches. Sadly Margaret died early on Good Friday morning itself, which made our walk a very poignant occasion. We will remember Margaret again next Good Friday.

At her Requiem Mass, Fr Peter Murray gave a very positive tribute about Margaret’s life and ecumenical work, and a short article about her appeared in the Dunfermline Press for 26 May.

Holy Week in Rosyth

Christ in the heart of Rosyth

The labyrinth was arranged by the Rosyth Ecumenical Group under the leadership of Deacon Morag Crawford of the Rosyth Church of Scotland.

It was held in the Parish Church Hall on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and the invitation was to take a thoughtful walk through the events of Holy Week. Stewards were on hand to answer or discuss any questions which might arise.

We hope that those who walked through this year were stimulated in thought, and our prayers are with them.

Jack Fowell

A labyrinth?

The concept was described on page 25 of the February 2010 issue and you can see photographs of the 2010 Rosyth installation on page 36 of the June 2010 issue.



But labyrinths can be much simpler, as was the one on the floor of St Ninian's Cathedral used during the Casting The Net Gathering. Jack Fowell reports on his experience walking that labyrinth on page 27.

Our new Paschal Candle

Our Joint Service for the Celebration of Easter was led by Rev Andrew and Deacon Sarah who began the service with the Lighting of the Paschal Candle, an ancient symbol of the Risen Lord. (See page 17 of Issue 50).



The new one which was dedicated that morning I gave in memory of my late husband, Jim. Thirty years have passed since we arrived in Scotland with our young children, Rebecca and Andrew. On St Patrick's Day, Jim took up his appointment of five years as Area Officer for the Sea Cadet Corps, for Scotland, Ireland and NE England, probably the happiest five years of our family life together as a Naval family. Andrew now lives in England, and Becky in Ireland, which leaves me deeply-rooted in lovely Limekilns, where I have lived for 25 years. I regard it as privilege to have dual membership of both St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodist congregations, another great family to belong to, and feel so encouraged as we move forward together in our Local Ecumenical Partnership. I have great cause to "praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come!"

Mary Kidd

Regarding the Easter Garden

or Ramblings of a Senior Steward!

Many of us who attended the afternoon service of hymns and meditation on Good Friday were quite moved as we reflected upon the ultimate painful sacrifice made by our Lord Jesus Christ, that all might be forgiven their sins. All our senses were in action as we passed the chalice to each other, heard the hammering of nails into wood, the tearing of the curtain; saw the cross, the crown of thorns, the sword, and the washing of hands. At the start of the service all these items had been in position on a table in the sanctuary, and were presented at the communion table by Sandra at the appropriate times during the narrative from St Mark's Gospel.

As we left quietly after the service, deep in thought, I couldn't help noticing the now empty table in front of me – it seemed to represent such a feeling of finality and emptiness.

Often trying to plan ahead, as a Senior Steward does, I thought "this is definitely not the 'End of Story!' Why not use this empty space to create something new for the next chapter?"

Evelyn Kenny agreed with me, and within minutes we were on our way to a well-known local Garden Centre to refresh with a cup of tea, and to make plans to create an Easter Garden on that table.

On the Saturday morning we met at church and arranged our interpretation of what the Garden of Resurrection might have looked like. It featured an empty cross – this was a cross made by Malcolm Trew in his early days of ministry to use in chaplaincy work – and flowers and plants to convey the message of sacrificial blood, resurrection and new life.



Thanks to John Jamieson
for providing this photograph

The stones used to set the scene of the tomb were fragments of our church font which Malcolm took to pieces a year ago (see page 27 of Issue 50, if you still have it). They had been stacked on my patio all throughout those very long, bitterly cold winter months. I always knew they would come in handy for something one day!

New life indeed! Some parents who had their children baptised in that font were invited to take pieces of the stone as a reminder of a christening. I have a piece to remind me of my granddaughter Aideen's baptism by our Rector, David Campbell, when she was 5 years old. St Margaret's people will remember that occasion because she ran away and hid behind the pulpit. (Strange, but true, the pulpit was then removed!)

Evelyn and I received many favourable comments during the four weeks when our garden was "open to visitors" and for that we thank you.

Ed: If you have web access, <http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk/archive.htm> has links to all our recent issues. The Issue 50 that Mary Kidd refers to is that for April 2010.

Invitations and requests

Valerie's ordination

It is good that so many people intend to be present at St John's Alloa on **Friday 3 June** at 7.00pm to support Valerie as she is ordained to the priesthood and everyone is warmly invited to attend. If you would like to come, please talk to Sandra Young by 31 May. Bishop David will officiate at the service and the preacher will be the Rev Canon Dr Alison Peden, Rector of Holy Trinity, Stirling and Provincial Director of Ordinands.

The choirs from St Margaret's and Holy Trinity, with a member of St John's, will be leading the praise, directed from the keyboard by Stuart Muir (Pastoral Musician to St Paul's Cathedral Dundee). Light refreshments are available afterwards.

St John's has an amazing bell tower and the Dunblane Cathedral Society of Change Ringers hope to ring a quarter-peal starting around 6.15pm. This should be a lovely sound to greet people as they arrive.

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. From Dunfermline, we suggest taking the first exit at the roundabout with the enormous silver sculptured hand supporting a woman and child, and following Greenside Street across two mini-roundabouts and past Tesco's, turning left after two more pedestrian crossings. Aiming your satnav at postcode FK10 1AN may not be fool-proof!

District Resourcing Day 2011

As previewed in the last edition of Contact, the Methodist Church in Scotland is running "Together in Mission", on the role of small groups in deepening discipleship. This event, led by Laurence Singlehurst, Director of Cell UK, is at Dundee Baptist Church from 10.30am to 3.45pm on **Saturday 11 June**.

Enjoy a Cream Tea ...

... on **Saturday 4 June** between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, and help the work of Action for Children as well as enjoying the hospitality of John and Jean Hall at their home: 6 The Willows, Cairneyhill, Dunfermline.

Tickets are £3, or you can pay on the day. Jean is grateful for your continued support for AfC, and looks forward to seeing you.

Let's Barbeque

Everyone – young and not so young – is invited to a FAMILY AFTERNOON and BBQ on **Sunday 26 June** from 3pm to 6pm at the Silver Sands, Aberdour.

Food will be provided, but bring your own seat and cold or hot drink! We haven't enjoyed a joint social event since last Harvest Supper, so why not join in this afternoon of fellowship and friendship and sunshine (hopefully!) in different surroundings? You will be made most welcome. The cost is £3 for adults, £2 for children and £9 for a family. Further details shortly – watch the weekly notices.

Praise Gathering

On **Saturday 18 June** at 7.30pm over 400 singers drawn from over 150 Scottish churches will lead the annual Praise Gathering evening in the Usher Hall Edinburgh. The praise will also feature a seven-piece band with special guests Brad Goodine and Ian White. Ian has been an established part of the Contemporary Christian Music scene in Scotland for over 25 years, largely through the success of his series of recordings of Psalms set to music.

It is too late to join the choir, but if you would like to attend this unique evening of praise, tickets, £15, are available online or from the Usher Hall (tel 0131 228 1155). More at www.praisegathering.org.uk

Invitations and requests

Concert in Dunfermline Abbey

We are invited to a concert in Dunfermline Abbey on **Sunday 5 June** at 7.30pm. The Abbey Choir and orchestra will perform “The Armed Man” (A Mass for Peace) by Karl Jenkins. With no fewer than three percussionists, it should be good!

Tickets, £7 and £5 for school pupils, are available from the Abbey Shop, Abbot House, or from any member of the Abbey Choir.

Hear our members sing!

Come along and enjoy an evening of light hearted songs and music with Dunfermline Choral Union on **Friday 10 June** at 7.30pm in the Vine Church, Garvock Hill, Dunfermline. Tickets £8 (£7 concession) are available from Gwyneth Kirby.

“*Totus Tuus*” is the title of the Scottish Chamber Choir’s concert on **Saturday 11 June** at 8pm at St Giles’ Cathedral, Edinburgh. Jacob Handl’s *Missa super Sancta Maria*, a Renaissance masterpiece, is framed by music in honour of Mary by contemporary composers from Eastern Europe, who have caught the ear of global audiences with the simple beauty of their sacred music. Tickets (£10, students £5, under-18s free) from Martin Tarr.

“Singing is our Forte” is the title of Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society’s Summer Concert on **Friday 24 June** at 7.30pm at the Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline. Following the success of “Be Our Guest!” last year, the 2011 concert will again feature Broadway and West End favourites, in a cabaret-style presentation devised and produced by Peter Macfarlane, with Willie Campbell as director of music. Tickets are £11 (£10 concession; £5 under-16) from Gwyneth Kirby or Jock Headden.

Scotland “Sings for Water”

On **Saturday 2 July**, three hundred singers will gather near St Giles’ Cathedral, Edinburgh to raise funds for WaterAid.

Singers will rehearse from 10.00am in Old St Paul’s Church, Market Street, and perform in Parliament Square, High Street, from 1.00pm to about 3.30pm.

Since “Sing for Water” was started in 2002 by composer Helen Chadwick, almost £500,000 has been raised to help transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation.

Everyone is welcome to join in, and you don’t need to be able to read music. But each participant will be asked to raise around £40 in sponsorship.

The registration fee of £5 gets you a pack with information, plus a learning CD and word sheets for the songs. Great fun and good music in a good cause!

Info at <http://tinyurl.com/6awd6j6>

Shadows of the Divine”

At the heart of this art exhibition is a selection of outstanding works on loan from the Methodist Church Art Collection, one of the most significant collections of modern religious art in the world.

“Shadows of the Divine” sets these original works alongside a display of a rare first edition of the 1611 King James Version of the Bible, combining historic words and artistic images in this 400th anniversary year of its publication. The exhibition explores how pictorial and literary creations can represent and even contribute to the search for peace.

You can visit this free exhibition in New College, University of Edinburgh, Mound Place, Edinburgh, Monday to Saturday between 10am and 5pm **until 11 June**.

Happenings in our Scout Group

A report from Martin Rogers

Our Explorer Scouts held a Gang Show at the beginning of April called "The Time Travelling Scout". It featured Tom who was given a clock for his birthday. This turned out to be a time-travelling machine that took him on a journey, meeting some weird and wonderful people. The scenes in the show were inspired by a number of time travelling films and television programmes including Dr Who, 10,000 BC, Highlander, Star Trek and Planet of the Apes. Over 20 Explorer Scouts from our Unit and others in Rosyth District were involved in planning and rehearsing the show, making costumes, stage props and scenery. A total of about 160 people enjoyed the two performances including the jelly and ice-cream served up as part of Tom's birthday celebrations.



The Gang Show cast

The camping and competition season has been under way since Easter. The Scouts and Explorer Scouts took part in the District St George's Day camp at Fordell towards the end of April with the Beavers and Cubs visiting on the Saturday. All the sections competed at the District Sports in early May. Unfortunately the numbers attending were affected by a clash with Dunfermline Athletic's last game of the season (when they were presented with the Championship trophy). Nonetheless, the Explorer Scouts managed to win their competition and regained the trophy which they lost last year.



Explorers with trophy

The Scout Troop took part in the annual District camping competition (The Totem) and came a very creditable third. Recently the Cubs visited the new Dunfermline Fire Station. They were shown the equipment carried on the fire engines and had a go at using the hoses.



Cubs with hoses!

The Beavers and Cubs are now looking forward to a sleepover and camp at Fordell at the beginning of June. A sleepover is a new venture for our Beaver Colony so no doubt there will be great excitement among their members and perhaps some apprehension on the part of the leaders! We are awaiting delivery of a new marquee for the Group and hopefully it will have its first outing that weekend.

Stuart Fowell is relinquishing the post of Beaver Leader which he took on some 14 years ago on a temporary basis until a >>>

More about our young people

Brambles

Lesley Hynd writes:

There has been a lot going on at Brambles of late. We are now registered as an Eco-school and there is a recycle box in the reception area for old mobile phones and ink cartridges. The latest news is that an indoor RagBag collection point has just been delivered: clothes for recycling will be collected periodically and money paid for the value of the contents. It has been agreed with the church through Sarah McDowall that the proceeds from this fund-raising venture will be shared with the church, so it will benefit both our charities.

We will soon be looking to develop the garden area to extend the children's outdoor learning. Members of the church community will be very welcome to participate in this. I will keep you updated as developments take place.

>>> new Beaver Leader was found! David Sinclair who has been helping with the Colony for a few years now has agreed to assume this mantle. Stuart is also resigning from the post of Group Scout Leader but more of that in the next edition of Contact.



Stuart Fowell and David Sinclair

With the summer holidays approaching the older Scouts and Explorer Scouts are looking forward to their European tour visiting 5 countries. The Scouts have a summer camp arranged at the Edinburgh Scouts campsite at Bonaly.

Sunday School

Gwyneth Kirby writes:

We will be taking a break from Sunday School during the school summer holidays since so many of our young people will be away. But, on any Sunday that I am in church, I will be happy to take any children who happen to be there out of the service, if they want. What we do will depend on the number and ages of the children, but will be less formal and planned than our usual Sunday mornings!

This will not apply on All-Age Worship Sundays, because whoever is leading worship on those days will be hoping to see some children!

Normal service will be resumed on the first Sunday after the children go back to school.

Sunday Funday

Our last Funday before the summer holidays will be on Sunday 12 June, starting with breakfast at 9.00 and finishing at about 10.30. This is Pentecost Sunday so no prizes for guessing what our theme will be! There will be lots of flames, wind and doves involved!

It would be lovely to have lots of children involved in this experience so those of you who come regularly, why not invite a friend to come along with you? If you have youngsters in your family we would love to see you – ideally children up to about 12 but there are no definite age limits.

After the summer break, Sunday Funday will start again on the second Sunday in September. See you there!

Gwyneth Kirby

The Wednesday Fellowship

Personal thoughts from Erica Lock

As a new member of St Margaret's congregation I came to Wednesday Fellowship more by accident than design. A friend needed a lift to the meetings – why sit in the car, or potter about? – why not take part?

I found at the very first meeting that the Fellowship lived up to the meanings of its name – a meeting of like-minded people, with shared aims and interests, but above all friendship and companionship offered to members of both our congregations in the building, and to other denominations in the area.

Meetings follow the pattern of “a hymn, a prayer, a story” and a cuppa. The “stories” cover a wide range of topics of interest and entertainment. We have met a group of Fife Health Board workers who have visited and worked in Haiti, pre and post the earthquake, taking health and immunisation programmes, and providing care, nourishment, clothing and friendship to young and old, that is ongoing. More recently, Dunfermline Street Pastors fascinated us with the work they carry out in Dunfermline every Saturday and some Friday nights, in all weathers, to help, listen and be there for people after the clubs and pubs close. Working closely with the Police and Fife Council, they aim to make Dunfermline a safer, friendlier place through the wee small hours of the weekend.

Also of interest to us all was the information on the change from analogue TV to digital on 1 June, to be carried out in two stages from the transmitters, and with our own remote controls! The mind still boggles.

On the lighter note we have heard a member and guest offer their “Desert Island Discs” choice, enjoyed a well-researched version of “Call My Bluff”, and followed the track of the Fordell Railway, closed in 1946 and retraced both in 1977 and again recently by our good friend Bill Tulloch and his neighbour Peter.

The Christmas Lunch, delayed by bad weather, was finally enjoyed at The Elgin Hotel on 13 April. A cookery demonstration, the work of Blythswood Care and their trip to Oberammergau by two Group members were other highlights.

Mary Kidd, Mary Dempster and Sandra Young work hard to offer a varied programme each week. This is greatly appreciated by those who attend.

As a “new girl” (and, by the way, gentlemen attend too) I must thank the Fellowship for the friendship and sense of belonging that the group members have given me and I look forward to the new Autumn programme.

Meetings resume on 7 September

The pictures below were taken at the “Christmas Lunch”



Fellowship News

In the wars

June Baines had a nasty fall and broke her right wrist, which is very inconvenient for her. She has been to Church, and hopefully she will be getting the plaster off soon.

Malcolm Trew suffered a stroke on 19 April and, at the time of writing, is still in Ward 6 at Queen Margaret Hospital, making a good recovery and hoping to be back home during the next few weeks.

He has asked us to thank all those who have sent cards of good wishes for his recovery, and greetings at Easter, and to us all for remembering him and Frieda in our prayers. Such warmth and friendship have contributed to his recovery. He's enjoying time to write his memoirs (at last!), listening to music, and receiving visitors: no minutes are taken, but the meetings always conclude with a prayer! *Deo gratias!*

For your prayers

As we were going to press we heard of the passing of **Stuart Pearson's** father. We would like to assure Stuart and Helen and their family of our prayerful support at this time.

Positive news

We are glad to say that **Rosemary Cowell** has been able to come to the Wednesday Fellowship communion and subsequent meetings.

Members of our Church Family were delighted to see **John Cowie** in the congregation on Easter Sunday. He was looking well, but of course is still recuperating.

Our thoughts are with **Valerie Walker** as she prepares for her ordination to the priesthood on 3 June (see page 8) and we pray for God's richest blessing on her continuing ministry.

Valerie will celebrate her first Eucharist at St Margaret's on 19 June, Trinity Sunday. Please support her on this joyous and memorable occasion.

We think of **Jock and Audrey Headden** as they look ahead to their diamond wedding anniversary, which they celebrate on 7 July. July is a special month for them, as Jock reaches his 85th birthday on the 5th and Audrey also has a birthday later in the month.

Wednesday Fellowship AGM

At the AGM on 25 May, Mary Kidd was re-elected President and Mary Dempster Treasurer. Sandra Young was re-elected Vice-President, and volunteered to become Secretary. Allison Brown was re-elected Pianist and Tea Convenor, with Erica Lock assisting with the teas.

Despite missing about a month's meetings due to the bad weather in December, the Wednesday Fellowship exceeded last year's

receipts from the weekly collection and raffles, the Bring and Buy afternoon and Daffodil Tea. As well as donating £250 to the Anniversary Appeal in March, members agreed to donate £25 to the Methodist Church Flower Fund and £60 to each of these charities: Mission to Seafarers Scotland, Dunfermline Street Pastors, Haiti Help, Diabetes UK, and Blythswood Care. Grateful thanks for their generosity.

Fellowship News

With this ring ...

Valerie Sparling, one of our stewards, becomes Mrs Valerie Clark, when she marries Andrew Clark on Friday 10 June. They are getting married at Atholl Palace in Pitlochry, surrounded by their family and a few close friends.

Valerie and Andrew met at night school when they were both studying for a BA in Management at Abertay University. Andrew was one year ahead of Valerie and they got to know each other studying together along with some others in their class. Their first date was a blind date set up by Pam, one of their class mates – they went to a ceilidh in aid of a cancer charity – and, as they say, the rest is history.

Andrew proposed to Valerie at the No 10 hotel in Edinburgh on Boxing Day. It was all very unexpected, and all very romantic: Andrew got down on one knee and proposed using a hula hoop! Yes – an actual hula hoop from a packet of crisps. Valerie's first reaction was to burst out laughing, which obviously wasn't the reaction Andrew was hoping for, but she did say yes and the next day they went shopping for a more conventional ring.

Here is a picture of the ring they chose together.



Since then they have been busy organising the wedding, picking the venue, the all-important dress, the rings, etc. All the planning is now done and they are just waiting for the big day to arrive. After the wedding on the Friday they are heading off early on the Sunday to Boa Vista in the Cape Verde Islands for a nice relaxing honeymoon.

They recently had their pre-wedding photo shoot and below is their chosen engagement photo.



They would appreciate your prayers for their wedding and future together.

This is another church couple. They're at the same venue, and both were "doing their own thing", but in different activities that were both available "For everybody over 5". If that mystifies you, go to our article on the CTN Gathering on page 26.



Citizen of the Year Award

Morag Crawford's tribute to a quiet gentlemen with many friends in Rosyth

"Award – why me?" was Sandy Masterton's response when told he had been nominated for the Citizen of the Year award. It is his unassuming attitude, passion, compassion and interest in people and Rosyth which make Sandy Masterton an appropriate person to receive the Award.

He has a passion for all he becomes involved in, whether it be the Garden City Association, Rosyth Castle, the Holiday Club for the children run by the Parish Church, helping to look after the church buildings, or being part of the Waterfront Development Group.

It is his compassion and interest in people which endears him to young and old alike, be they the toddlers, the children at the Holiday Club who say, "Can I be in Sandy's group", or older folk who ask Sandy to do a wee job for them or give them a lift to the hospital or wherever they need to go. He can humour the youths who hang around the buildings.

His passion and enthusiasm for the Rosyth Garden City Association, gathering pictures and stories about life in Rosyth, has encouraged others to share their stories of life in the Garden City.



Morag Crawford presenting the award to Sandy Masterton: Mike Shirkie, Chairman of Rosyth Community Council is on the right.

Thanks to John Shaw for providing this photo

Involved in the Garden City Association since its inception, he is currently Vice-Chair and Acting Secretary. A prime mover in the exhibitions held each year in the Parish Church, he has encouraged members of the community to become involved as volunteers. He and Martin Rogers promote Rosyth and

the work of the group throughout the year through their talks and slide presentations to various groups the length and breadth of West Fife. A recent project of Sandy's has been to identify and archive records of war graves around the world of Rosyth people killed in World War 2.

Sandy is also passionate about Rosyth's Castle and Doocot and does much to promote its history at the Fife Open Doors event held each year, getting work parties together to clear walkways and tidy the castle for visitors.

The list could go on of him being ever ready to go the extra mile. He would be the first to acknowledge the involvement of others in all he does, but many others have only become involved through his enthusiasm, passion, interest and hard work. He has enabled others to see and share the heritage of Rosyth Garden City and he himself is a worthy citizen of it.

Sandy Masterton and our own Martin Rogers were the mainstay of Rosyth Garden City Association's 2011 exhibition held in the Parish Church during May on the theme "Back in the Days of ...", when our four local primary schools displayed the result of their researches. As always, a high standard of work, and some interesting insights into the old days. One example can be seen on page 33.

John the Baptist

June begins with Ascension Day 40 days after Easter, followed on the 50th day by Pentecost. The Sunday after Pentecost is the festival of the Trinity, which celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity – the three “persons” of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

During the early weeks following Trinity Sunday, the church remembers several important people, including John the Baptist, whose birth falls on Midsummer’s Day, 24 June. Whilst the usual festival date for a saint was his death day – John was said to have suffered martyrdom on 29 August, and that day is remembered in some places – we celebrate the births of both John and the Virgin Mary.

We are looking forward to another birth, about six months after, and John’s feast day has been described as “a segment of Advent in the season of Ordinary Time”.

By early tradition, Midsummer Day was set apart as his festival, as John was supposed to have prophesied of Jesus: “It is right that he should grow greater while I grow less” and this was seen symbolically in the shortening of days!

What do we know of John? His mother, Elizabeth, was the Virgin Mary’s cousin and his father, Zechariah, a priest of the Jerusalem Temple. They had longed for a child, but were growing old, when an angel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple and promised that Elizabeth would bear his son, who would prepare the people for the Lord.

To prepare for the coming of Jesus, John went to live in the desert on locusts and wild honey. He wore clothing of camel hair and a leather belt. Many Jews came to listen to him and were baptized by him in the river Jordan. Crowds flocked to listen to him because he was accepted as an official prophet and, as such, commanded a hearing, and so John became a popular preacher.

His message was a call to repentance as a way to forgiveness and he also told them about Jesus, who was coming “to baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire”. When Jesus came, he persuaded John to baptize him in the river, even though John was reluctant to do this, arguing “I need to be baptized by you”.

Mark’s gospel (Chapter 6) gives a vivid account of John’s arrest and execution, with the horrific story of Salome, the daughter of Herodias, who danced at the birthday of King Herod. When Herod promised her anything, she asked him, at her mother’s suggestion, for the head of John the Baptist on a dish. Herod gave in and John was beheaded in prison. Mark tells this story to emphasise the cost of discipleship, which requires great commitment and real courage. Although John’s death did not result from the confession of faith in Christ, he is usually classed among Christian martyrs.

In art, he is portrayed pointing to a lamb (Agnus Dei). When he saw Jesus walking by, he said: “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”.

There are many Scottish connections with John the Baptist. One is Perth, which has always had links with him, and the town was often referred to during the medieval period as “St John’s toun”, in reference to the main church dedicated to St John the Baptist. Two other central churches also bear his name, and the old town seal depicted John in a camel-hair tunic holding the Agnus Dei.



Diary for May/June 2011

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
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Thursday 2 June

Ascension Day	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
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Friday 3 June	7.00pm	Ordination to the priesthood of Rev Valerie Walker at St John's, Alloa (see page 8 for details)
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Saturday 4 June	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Cream Tea at the home of Jean and John Hall, 6 The Willows, Cairneyhill, in aid of Action for Children (see page 8 for details)
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Sunday 5 June

Easter 7	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ms Nicola Hilmy-Jones David Salthouse (Worship Leader)
	7.30pm	Abbey Choir and Orchestra, Dunfermline Abbey	"The Armed Man" by Karl Jenkins (see page 9 for details)

Monday 6 June	6.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Rosyth. Tea available from 5.30pm
	7.00pm	Property Committee meeting
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's (see page 28 for details)

Tuesday 7 June	6.30pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting
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Thursday 9 June	7.30pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at CEMC Nicolson Square
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Thursday 9 June to Saturday 11 June		Scottish Episcopal Church General Synod at Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh Visitors are welcome to sit in the public gallery
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Friday 10 June	7.30pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Summer Concert, Vine Church, Dunfermline (see page 9 for details)
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Diary for June/July 2011

Saturday 11 June 10.30am Methodist Resourcing Day, Dundee Baptist Church
to 3.45pm (see page 8 for details)

8.00pm *Totus Tuus*: The Scottish Chamber Choir,
St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh (see page 9 for details)

Sunday 12 June

Day of Pentecost	9.00am	Sunday 'Funday' and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	All-age service	
		Rev Eric Potts and Deacon Sarah McDowall	
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House	

Saturday 18 Jun 7.30pm Praise Gathering 2010 in Usher Hall, Edinburgh
(see page 8 for details)

Sunday 19 June

Trinity Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Valerie Walker and Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev Linda Bandelier Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

Friday 24 Jun	7.00pm	St Andrews West Area Council Annual BBQ Warroch House, Dalqueish, near Kinross, home of Nan Kennedy
	7.30pm	"Singing is our Forte", Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Carnegie Hall (see page 9 for details)

Sunday 26 June

Trinity 1 11.00am Joint Communion Service
Rev Alan Whitson and Deacon Sarah McDowall
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

3.00pm Family Afternoon and BBQ, Silver Sands, Aberdour
to 6.00pm (see page 8 for details)

Note: No Sunday@Six

Saturday 2 July 10.00am Scotland sings for Water
and 1.00pm (see page 9 for details)

Sunday 3 July

Trinity 2 9.30am Sung Eucharist
 11.00am Morning Worship Professor John Sawkins

Diary for July 2011

Monday 4 July 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
(see page 28 for details)

Sunday 10 July

Sea Sunday 9.30am Sung Eucharist
11.00am All-age service
Mr Lyn Smalridge and Deacon Sarah McDowall
Note: No Sunday 'Funday' during School Holidays
3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House

Sunday 17 July

Trinity 4 9.30am Sung Eucharist
11.00am Morning Worship Ms Rosemary Phiri
Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

Sunday 24 July

Trinity 5 11.00am Joint Communion Service Episcopal Service
Deacon Sarah McDowall
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
Note: No Sunday@Six

Sunday 31 July

Trinity 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist
11.00am Morning Worship Mrs Hilary Henderson
Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)



Why will the bells be pealing here from 6.15pm on Friday 3 June? See page 8 for the answer!



What will the church family be doing here on Sunday 26 June? See page 8 for an invitation to join in.

From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby wrote the following letter to accompany the latest Preaching Plan

Dear friends

Across the circuit we enjoyed a great variety of worship during Holy Week and Easter. The services not only caught the mood of each day during our commemoration of that roller-coaster week in Jerusalem, but also highlighted the breadth and richness of our Methodist tradition, embracing a wide variety of worship styles. Within the context of a week when I was privileged to lead worship ranging from near silent times of meditation to the joyful exuberance of Easter Sunday communion, one very new experience stands out for me. On Holy Saturday I jointly led an Easter Vigil at CEMC with colleagues Linda and Belinda. This extended service late in the evening was characterised by a re-telling of the story of salvation traced through the Old Testament and then wonderful music and powerful visual imagery led us into a celebration of the resurrection and the first communion of Easter. It was a great example of how we can benefit from embracing a wide range of spiritual traditions and not being afraid to try something different.

Either side of Easter, nearly 100 people across the circuit participated in the 'Creating Safer Space' training. This has reminded us that a key part of our welcome to all people is to ensure that our buildings and activities are safe places for all people.

One important issue flagged up was the use of various forms of electronic communication and in particular social networking media, especially when working with young people. These issues are also very current in the news. The Methodist Connexion offers the following advice to all who work with our children and young people. This guidance is for the protection and support of everyone involved, not

least group leaders. These guidelines are developed from wide consultation and experience.

- Do not make any relationship with a child (other than family members) through a social networking site.
- Maintain a log of all electronic contact with individuals or groups, including messaging and texting.
- If using e-technology as a group activity, ensure that an adult worker knows and understands what is happening within the group.

All churches in the Circuit received copies of the 'Singing the Faith' sampler. This introduction to the new Methodist Hymn Book has been used a number of times and, though limited in its scope, the sampler has at least given a glimpse of the variety of music to be included. The full edition will be published later in the year and as you will see in the sampler there are special prices available for advance orders. I ask that each church think seriously about purchasing copies of the book (and/or the electronic version) as it will further enhance the variety of worship around the circuit.

A key theme in the life of the Methodist Church is the nature of 'Discipleship' The Scotland District is responding to this in several ways. During the week beginning with Pentecost Sunday worship and study materials are being made available across the District. More details coming soon.

We are pleased to welcome four new Worship Leaders to the 'Plan'. Having just completed their training they are eager to be put to work, and their availability (along with that of the existing worship leaders) is indicated on the Plan.

Thank you everybody

During the course of this 'Plan' there will be a number of significant changes to our circuit staff team. Having wished Alan Whitson well for his retirement at Christmas we will formally bid farewell to Linda Bandelier at the end of August. Like Alan, Linda is not actually leaving Edinburgh and so we will continue to benefit from the ministry of both, just in different ways. Linda is intending to develop her ministry of story-telling and Alan will take up the vacant role of Local Preachers Secretary alongside continuing his active preaching ministry.

In late June we welcome Ken and Casey Weatherford back to the Circuit. During their stay with us last summer they sensed the call of God to spend longer with us, developing new opportunities for worship and encouraging the music ministry across the circuit. They will be with us for 18 months.

Finally we have two great reasons to celebrate with Helen Jenkins. Firstly as she is to be ordained in Chester Cathedral on 3 July, and then as we wish her (and Colin) well as she begins maternity leave in August. We look forward to hearing news of their first child towards the end of that month.

So from diversity in worship to a varied range of comments about life in the Circuit, God is not allowing us to become complacent. As we approach Pentecost we are reminded that the Spirit is both a comfort and an irritant, always challenging us with new perspectives and opportunities. It is my prayer that we do not become so fixed in our ways that we miss out the excitement and refreshment that lies before us.

Andrew

We received this letter, dated 6 April, from our friend Rev Lily Twist, Chair of the Methodist Synod in Scotland

To all involved in hosting Synod at Rosyth Methodist Church

Many thanks for your warm welcome and hospitality given to members of Ministerial and Representative Synod. The appreciation is all the greater because of our quick return after just two years making you feel victims of your own success! As previously, we were so well treated in terms of pleasant accommodation, practical support and wonderful refreshments served so attractively. A great deal of care was shown in every aspect which added to the smooth running of the days.

Please convey my personal thanks to all concerned for their endeavours. I hope that everyone who helped realises how much you contributed to enabling us all to work well in the business and to enjoy the fellowship during our time together. We are truly grateful.

Wishing you every blessing in your continuing service,

Yours sincerely,

Lily



Why are "the two Marys" smiling?
See page 12 for a clue!

The many hats of Evelyn Kenny

“Over the years I’ve worn many hats. Now I know why I’m shrinking!”

These notes on a conversation with the Editor form the latest in a series of articles on key players in our Local Ecumenical Partnership. In this issue we focus on another of our members with strong connections to the North-East of England. In fact, Friday 3 June will see Evelyn at Valerie Walker’s ordination, not just to support Valerie, but also to renew contacts with her husband’s family: his late father baptised Alison in Pudsey.

Although Evelyn has lived for most of her life in England, she was born in Glasgow, and claims to be half-English, half-Scottish, having two Scottish grandmothers who were actually sisters. It’s not surprising that one of Evelyn’s interests is in tracing her roots on both sides of the border.

Chapelton is a suburb of north-east Leeds, in West Yorkshire. In 1945, when two-year-old Evelyn arrived from Glasgow, she belonged to the only Christian, non-Catholic family in what was then a Jewish enclave. As she grew up – the eldest of four, with a brother and two sisters – she also took responsibility for the three cousins next door.

Following the example of her grandmothers, Evelyn naturally made herself at home in her local Methodist church, both on Sundays and throughout the week, and progressed through Sunday School (remember those Bible study exams?!) to youth club and choir, and from Brownies to Guides.



Looking after the street’s youngsters in 1956

Chapelton was just starting the move that eventually made it the centre of the city’s British African-Caribbean community, and Evelyn lived through that change. She remembers the first West Indian family that arrived, at a time when such new arrivals still felt inferior to the indigenous population, and needed reassurance: “Lydia’s mother realised that my own family went to Sunday School, and asked my mother if she could ask her children to take Lydia to Sunday School with them. My mother said no: she would tell her children to take Lydia with them!”

Her mother’s influence was calm and loving, but Evelyn had a chaotic relationship with her father, whose “best friends were Johnnie Walker and Joshua Tetley”, and for whom ‘Brown Brew’ wasn’t tea! Unsurprisingly, God was the regular, safe father in her teens, and Evelyn became a member of Roscoe Methodist Church in 1960. [Evelyn is pleased to say that Roscoe is now a lively, thriving church and the spiritual heart of Chapelton]



Sewing machine at the ready ...
there were no power sockets, so the
machine was fed from the light fitting!

In 1961, Evelyn moved to Bramley, west of Leeds, and later became a member at St Andrew's, Pudsey, where she belonged to the choir and a banner-making group, and became a much-loved Brown Owl. [Now, everyone will have heard of Pudsey Bear, the mascot for BBC Children in Need, but, believe it or not, Pudsey is a real place, yet another community between Leeds and Bradford!]



Brown Owl gets married!

Evelyn was of course involved in the church youth group, which saw many people pairing up, and in retrospect her first marriage to Brian in 1966 seemed to have been inevitable.

But the following year their son Andrew was born very prematurely, and died just four days afterwards. As was then so common, the hospital dealt with this tragedy by leaving a seriously-ill Evelyn among the other nursing mothers, and by taking over the burial duties, so there was no funeral and no opportunity to grieve. It took 40 years, and the help of the internet, for Evelyn to find her son's grave, and at last feel settled. She recalls Dr Lesley Griffiths making the point at an ordination service she attended, that we should expect life not to be trouble-free: "When you get to the pearly gates, Peter will ask you 'Where are your wounds?'".

Unsurprisingly, Evelyn's marriage wasn't strong enough to cope with this great loss, and the couple were divorced. Through work she met, and in 1973 married, her boss! Philip was considerably older, with two teenage daughters, and Evelyn now has a step-son-in-law and two post-graduate step-grandsons.

Evelyn and Philip had a daughter Alison, though the confinement was again problematic, so Alison is an only child. Evelyn rejoices that Alison has a real faith, which is a delight to see, and that her husband Kenny is pursuing a call to ministry in the Church of Scotland, whilst working as an accountant/finance officer in George Street, oiling the wheels of that denomination. Evelyn is also blessed with three wonderful grandchildren in Edinburgh, and now lives near enough to see them often.

Evelyn describes herself as a "very visual, tactile person", and this is reflected by some of her leisure activities, such as making banners and costumes for carnival floats, and by her choice of employment – she spent 22 years as a teacher of "soft crafts" (embroidery; soft furnishings; fashion; dress-making) both in Further Education classes in the evenings and at a Day Centre for adults with special needs.



A 'Technicolor Dream': Evelyn's costumes take First Prize at the 1995 Pudsey Show

Her visual sensitivity also helps explain the spiritual impact of what she describes as two “darkened room” experiences. The first of these was in 1985 when, along with many other church people, she went to her local cinema to see a film about the life of Christ. She “could smell the dust and the horror” and came to a realisation that it was for her that Jesus died. So church became more than just a habit.

But in 1989, when Philip was only 62, illness came out of the blue, and he died after ten weeks in intensive care, and when Alison was barely 14. Evelyn’s revitalised faith remained firm, and she stayed committed and active in the life of the church.

By the early 1990s Evelyn was much involved in mission activities, initially agreeing to be “behind the scenes” (catering; hosting; organising), until the leadership saw her potential for being used to address groups. Being recently widowed, and still young (47), God enabled Evelyn to speak to people from her personal experience. It was then that she understood that: “When God asks you to step out in His name, He enables you to succeed, even to planting seeds in people’s lives. We just have to trust Him.”



The 1991 ‘U-turn’ mission: some of the vintage members of the team ready for action!

Evelyn’s photo-album from this period shows a variety of activities, both using her practical skills, and working to spread the Gospel through mission. And this wasn’t just with the local church: for example, she went on a mission to California as part of a

national team aiming to develop ecumenical and community links. She also worked for a charity that sponsored Christian books for libraries in places like prisons and hospitals. “It was just a buzzing life!”



Exercising the “gift of the gab”: on exhibition duty, promoting Christian books for libraries

Once Alison had qualified as a radiographer and gone to London, Evelyn was still fit enough and young enough to pursue more Church life, and she had the precious gift of freedom, from financial worries, from time pressures, and from family obligations. Now, from its inception, Evelyn had been attending “Easter People”, a time of “teaching, celebration, fellowship and fun” aimed at “personal renewal and growth of Christian faith in the lives of individuals, and renewal in the Methodist Church”, run by the late Rob Frost, and April 1998 saw her at Blackpool, having carried on across the Pennines regardless of the appalling weather! So it was all part of God’s plan when Dr Donald English, a speaker in the Winter Gardens, provided her second “darkened room” experience when he asked the question: “Is your life a proper response to God?” Evelyn felt that he was speaking just to her.

Evelyn’s recent work had been dominated by paperwork and property, having been Property Secretary during two building schemes. Now, in response to God’s leading, she applied for the first job she saw in the

Methodist Recorder, and within two months had sold her home in Pudsey, installed her elderly uncle in a nursing home, bought a home in Pulham Market, a village in East Anglia just north of the Norfolk/Suffolk border, and taken up a post as a Methodist Lay Worker in the Long Stratton Methodist Church in Norfolk.

The position was developed to assist a probationer minister who had pastoral charge of five churches. Evelyn's job was to be involved in the church and community for a nominal 16 hours a week, but of course this was spread throughout the week, and Evelyn did far more than she was paid to do! She would lead worship (but not preach!), take Junior School Assemblies, lead Bible study, visit a day centre and sheltered housing, and undertake pastoral visiting. Twice she even took funerals!



Long Stratton Manna Club

A children's evening group was developed. This was called the "Manna Club", as the church was on Manor Road – "Quite clever, we thought!" The hardest part of the task was persuading the church family that Monday at 6.30pm was an equally valid time to have "Sunday School" as was the Sunday morning they had grown used to. Rev Joanna and Evelyn felt really encouraged when the secretary told them that 180 children had passed through the club in five years. Seed sowing of a different sort in a rural area!

The appointment in Long Stratton was for three years, but Evelyn stayed a further three years as a volunteer. However, Alison moved from London to Scotland, and Evelyn wanted to be near enough to maintain contact with her grandchildren. So she also moved North, and lived in West Kilbride for a year before an internet search succeeded in finding just the right property in Dunfermline. Oh, the joys of owning a listed building! It's very helpful that her list of interests outside the church includes gardening, antiques and historic houses ...

Immediately on arriving, Evelyn sought out the local Methodist Church, but initially kept a low profile. This didn't last! Evelyn is a Home Group Bible Study member, is responsible for Junior Mission for All, helps with Sunday Funday, and serves as Synod Representative, Circuit Steward and Worship Leader. She sees her role in the local church as helping to share the Good News through working with groups in church and outside in the community.

Evelyn is still passionate about reading the Bible, and having the Bible available on the pews, and is keen to include more modern and varied music in worship. She would like to see the members of the Rosyth partnership gaining more understanding of each other's theological positions, and working out practical ways in which we could become better integrated. For example, we could share more social activities, work together in community outreach, and in welcome and follow-up, and possibly run an Alpha course.

Evelyn says that "being part of the Body of Christ has been, and continues to be, a great adventure. My life is blessed, fulfilled and busy. Like Peter, I often say the wrong things, but hopefully only when it doesn't matter too much! The church family at Rosyth is caring, as I experienced during a spell of illness last November. I'm thankful for that."

The Casting The Net Gathering

held at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on Saturday 21 May

The theme for this year's CTN 'Gathering' was the fifth Diocesan Mark of Mission: "Use prayer, word and sacrament to experience God's will".

This was a day of practical and enjoyable workshops suitable for all ages to inspire everyone. People had the opportunity to make unleavened bread, pray and meditate through relaxation and yoga-style activities, praise the Lord through improvising music with voice and the most unusual instruments, and reflect and discuss questions of faith within the Scottish Episcopal tradition.

The two most popular activities were walking the Cathedral's very own indoor labyrinth and becoming a Benedictine monk for an hour. This involved polishing the Cathedral's woodwork – it's never looked so gleaming. We also enjoyed looking at the Marks of Mission exhibition of posters from congregations around the Diocese.

The day finished with a Eucharist, celebrated with testimony from participants, with music made in the workshops, and with bread baked that day.

That's the official view, adapted from the Diocesan web site, and it's an accurate report of what happened. However, because the Gathering offered a number of different workshops, everyone will have different perspectives on the day. Jack Fowell shares his thoughts on the page opposite.

Your editor spent much of the first session taking photographs, so had the privilege of taking a peek at *all* the workshops, as well as participating in two of them.

One thing that stood out was the way in which everyone was prepared to try new things, with old and young sharing experiences.

Nowhere was this more in evidence than in the "Sacrament of Sound" workshops led by Roger Quick (page 14) and Richard Evans.



There was harmony too in the kitchen, under the direction of Susannah Silver.



And the Word as "The Breath of Life" was ably demonstrated by Dom Ind, with exercise mats in the nave!



Altogether an unforgettable experience. Now to put Brendan Grimley's Benedictine ideas into practice ... will I really be able to get rid of my task focus?!

A Methodist's view

of an Episcopalian Event
by Jack Fowell

I was 'gathered' at 8am by Alan Taylor and transported to Perth and found a hive of activity at the Cathedral – people collecting badges and the paper-work necessary for the day's events. This was to be a day of Workshops – each an hour's duration, which one had pre-selected before the event. There was a choice of eleven subjects. Alan and I chose the same workshops – myself thinking that I would, at least, know someone! We chose to 'Walk the labyrinth' 10 to 11am, 'Benedictine Hour' 11.30am to 12.30pm and 'Round the Lord's Table' 1.45 to 2.45pm.

The Labyrinth was laid out in medieval style on the Cathedral floor (see page 6). The facilitator spoke briefly of the history of the labyrinth and then invited those who wished to walk it to take off their shoes to preserve as much silence as possible. It was easy – just follow the narrow path to the centre and out again! I found it very difficult because there were other people on the same path at the same time. How much like life this is, I thought, as some were going in a different direction to me, but all were either going to the centre or coming from it.

Ed: You'll notice that Jack mentioned church cleaning. Can you believe it, that at 88 Jack is *still* on the cleaning rota! If this is a challenge to you to offer your services, please talk to Myra Tarr.

We apologise to anyone who remembers the promise in the last issue to say something about William Carey. This has been held over for lack of space.

The Benedictine hour was interesting as the facilitator took us through a day in the life of a Benedictine monk – one of Prayer, Work and Study, all in as much silence as possible. We really did some work in polishing the Cathedral choir stalls – I shall have a different view of church cleaning from now on!



'Round the Lord's Table' was a discussion led by Bishop David at which the group discussed the various ways in which the Eucharist is conducted. Personally, I wondered whether we are in danger of making the Lord's Supper too elaborate.



The sessions were separated by coffee at 11 to 11.30am and lunch from 12.30 to 1.45pm and the day ended when we all sat in a large circle to take the closing Eucharist, while sitting and reflecting on it all. What a wonderful day it was, and my thanks to Alan for the transport.

Working together

Ecumenical Study Group

The St Columba Group continues its monthly meetings between Lent and Advent. Generally speaking, we meet at St Columba's Church in South Rosyth on the first Monday of each month, starting at 7.30pm. We are continuing to look at prayer, based on the Casting the Net study material, *Mission-Shaped Spirituality*. All are most welcome.

Alan Taylor

Scottish Churches House

Action of Churches Together in Scotland have issued the following statement:

At a members' meeting of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), held on 11 May 2011, the Members supported the following resolution:

"That the trustees defer acceptance of any bid for the future occupation or use of Scottish Churches House until there has been opportunity for further consultation with the member churches of ACTS regarding the future of Scottish Churches House (SCH)."

It was agreed to hold a special members meeting on 15 June 2011. The decision of the trustees (10 January 2011) to cease the current business operation of SCH on 15 July 2011 stands.

ACTS trustees thank all those who are continuing to pray for Scottish Churches House and for the future of the ecumenical movement in Scotland.

Sponsoring "The 4 Ks"

The response so far to the efforts described opposite is £50 being sent to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children from John and Jean Hall, and £50 from Katie and Andy Cameron for the "Cash for Kids" appeal for a cancer unit for teenagers.

Christian Aid 2011

The Daffodil Tea was held in Rosyth Parish Church Hall on 31 March. Unfortunately the weather let us down, as it was very stormy, with sudden rain showers, which kept people from coming. However our faithful ladies came to support us, and we raised about £180.

St. Columba's held a Hunger Lunch last Sunday and made around £190, which was very good indeed. On Thursday 19 May "Rosyth has got Talent 2" was held in the Parish Hall when the Primary Schools in Rosyth gave a very enjoyable concert. All the children were so enthusiastic and obviously enjoyed performing to a full house of relatives and many others. The concert income is currently £650/£700, with more to come, and the organisers are very pleased and surprised!

Mary Dempster

More money from exercise



You may remember reading in a previous issue of Contact about a member of Viewfield Baptist Church who walked from Land's End to

John O'Groats. Not to be outdone, this May another member, David Reid from Dalgety Bay, travelled the same route, but on his bicycle! His solo ride was to raise funds for Barnabas Aid, which supports Christians where they are in a minority and suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/5spz99> to see how the trip went: donations can be made online at Everyclick.com – click on "Fundraising," and enter David Reid.

The Hairy Haggis Relay

Gwyneth Kirby reports from the track-side!

The Kirbys have been running again – this time joined by Katie Cameron (hence the team name “The 4 Ks”) in The Hairy Haggis Relay, which for the uninitiated, means dividing the marathon course of 26.2 miles between four runners (very unequally!). This gives runners who can’t imagine running the whole distance the experience of taking part in a marathon, with all the fun and excitement, not to mention the rain, hail, wind and cold!

May is supposed to be the ideal time for a marathon in Edinburgh, they say, but someone got it wrong this year. Katie must have wondered what she had let herself in for as we waited for shuttle buses at half-past eight on a Sunday morning, to take us to our relay take-over points. The first runner, Alison, wasn’t even due to set off till 10. Katie was the first to arrive at her take-over point and immediately texted Mum and Dad to say she had been deposited in the middle of a field with hundreds of other people. No sign of the promised shelter, and hours to wait in the rain! How she must have regretted that moment of weakness one Sunday morning when, distracted by trying to serve coffee, she agreed to become the fourth member of The 4 Ks. Jean had told me that Katie had started running, so I didn’t waste the opportunity to persuade her what fun it would be! Did I forget to mention the hard work?

Over the last few months Katie has been out running every week, sometimes on her own (even accompanied by Jean on her bike one day when I was unable to run) and once a week we have been out running together – a new experience for me because I usually run on my own – gradually increasing our distance, until Katie had run further than she needed to do on the big day. She has been very hard on herself, and was



Alison K, Gwyn K, Katie C, and Claire K

determined that she would not do any walking on the day. She even gave up the opportunity to run the shortest leg because she didn’t want to run the last leg. Thank you, Katie. How did you know you would have the wind behind you on Sunday and I would have to run the whole of my section into the strongest wind I’ve ever run into!

So, our mission has been accomplished. We finished the race in 4 hrs 4 mins – 16 minutes faster than our entry time, in spite of the wind – and we ran every step of the way. We finished in the top third of the Ladies Teams and the top half of all the teams, so I think we did extremely well, since our team included a senior and a beginner!

Why did we do it? You will have to ask Katie for her reason, but I did it because I enjoy being outside and I like to challenge myself. We didn’t ask for sponsors this year, because I was so generously sponsored for The Great North Run last September, but a few people have said they would like to make a donation to a charity on our behalf. That would be great if you felt you wanted to do that, and others would benefit from our efforts.

What’s next? Watch this space!

PS: Thank you Jean and John for your Thursday baby-sitting stints to allow us to run together. The long coffee breaks have been great!

Pause for thought

by Howard Kirby

Instead of reporting as I have done in recent months what the deficit is likely to be at the end of the year, and how we really need to increase our regular giving if we are to have sufficient to meet our routine costs, I thought it might be an idea to step back from thinking about meeting our costs.

As a charity, our giving should be to help fulfil the purposes of that charity, not simply to meet the costs of running the place. Now, our charity's primary purposes are

described as supporting the advancement of the Christian faith, and the relief of poverty or distress.

Much of that support comes from members making donations to other charities that have similar aims. But what is our own charity doing *directly* in such matters? Should not our giving as a whole be such that the question we are faced with is not "How can we make ends meet?" but "To what end shall we put all this income?"

The Methodist General Church Meeting

reported by Mary Kidd, Senior Steward

Our General Church Meeting was held on Palm Sunday, following the morning service, and chaired by our Ministers, Rev Andrew Letby, and Deacon Sarah.

During the course of a shared buffet lunch, we were given the opportunity to share our thoughts about our Worship/Learning and Caring/Service and Evangelism. We were also invited to submit our personal ideas about priorities for Rosyth Methodist Church. All this to be digested!

The following people were elected unanimously as members of the Church Council: David Morman, Mandy Ward, Evelyn Kenny, Gwyneth and Howard Kirby, Jean Hall, Ron Dempster, Janet Murray, Helen Pearson, and Jack Fowell. In addition, Stuart Pearson was co-opted to the Council.

We had six nominees for election as Church Stewards: after a year with only five, this was welcome news! Those duly elected were David Morman, Malcolm Trew, Mandy Ward, Sheila Lee, Valerie Sparling and myself. But two days later Malcolm was admitted to Queen Margaret Hospital having suffered a stroke. Then Valerie shared with us the news

that she is getting married in Pitlochry very soon and will be back with us in July with wedding cake. So, in the meantime, there are only four Stewards! We do wish Valerie and Andrew every happiness in their life together, and hope the sun shines on their very special day!

At the close of the meeting Andrew Letby thanked everyone who had agreed to serve, and to those who had served in the life of the church during the last 12 months. He appreciated the work that had gone into the different roles; he said everyone had a part to play, some by holding office, and others through prayerful support.

Our first meeting as the Church Council for this year will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 31 May. The first part of the meeting will be a joint meeting with St Margaret's Vestry.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"But what about you?"

"Who do you say I am?"

Luke 9:20

From the St Margaret's Treasurer

Alan Taylor writes ...

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2011

This year's appeal – for the Arunima Hospice in Calcutta, run by the Anglican Diocese of Calcutta – raised £130.20. With tax recovered under Gift Aid, this increased the total from St Margaret's to £165.13. Well done!

SEC Provincial Fund

As advised at St Margaret's AGM in November, we have agreed to support the SEC Provincial Fund with a retiring collection in June, at the request of the General Synod Office. This fund is for immediate relief from the effects of poverty, for all faiths and none, where money is not available from more traditional sources. Payments are made from the fund on the recommendation of priests in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Please give generously. Gift Aid envelopes will be available.

Gift Aid Tax Refunds

Those up to date in these matters will know that the Fiscal Year ended 5 April 2011 was the last year in which tax refunds were made at the familiar 22% level, which increased all such gifts by 28p in the pound. Gifts from and including this year will be refunded at 20%, which means that we can reclaim 25p in the pound. A small, but nevertheless significant reduction.

Giving to Others

So far, members of St Margaret's have suggested we consider giving to Marie Curie Nurses, Help for Heroes, Mission to Seafarers Scotland and Oasis. We can still take suggestions from the congregations, as our Gift Aid tax refund this year – from which we normally make our donations – has been delayed by HMRC while a new registration form is processed. We have been told by HMRC that this will take at least a month, so I don't expect to raise any cheques until mid-July.

St Margaret's choir

Myra Tarr writes: During Lent we contributed two anthems to St Margaret's worship, Purcell's "Thou knowest, Lord" and a West Gallery setting of "When I survey", and we celebrated Easter morning at our joint service with Robert Stoodley's "Jesus my Saviour". Thank you to all our choir members who rehearse so regularly. The choir has been invited to sing at Valerie's ordination, which will give them an opportunity to perform some different music under the direction of Stuart Muir, from Dundee Cathedral.



What was Sue apparently giving the 'thumbs-up' to?

See page 34 for the answer ...

The Ministry, then and now – Part 1

Reflections by Arthur Valle

Andrew Letby has shared two items, based on a conversation conducted during evening worship, that were originally used in the City of Edinburgh Methodist newsletter. The first, which appears below, is a comment from our oldest retired minister (in the circuit): in our next edition we will print Andrew's response.

These recollections go back to my childhood and the whole of my active ministry, from say about 1925 (ordination in 1944) to retirement in 1979.

In general, the role of a minister was much more narrowly understood than it is to day. A minister expected – and was expected – to function within three main spheres:-

- 1 Preaching.** He would be required to preach morning and evening every Sunday.
- 2 Pastoral Care and Visiting.** Regular routine visiting was expected (though not always received). In the earlier days many ministers did not have cars. Bicycles were often used.
- 3 Administration.** The minister was expected to do whatever admin was necessary in the time left over from (1) and (2). Ministers did not have secretaries (except in the big central missions). There were no computers, and not all ministers had telephones in my earlier days.

It was not expected that a minister would seek to get involved in outside organisations like schools, community groups, or industry. Some occasionally did, and this was usually acceptable. But we were called to the ministry of word and sacrament, and that was it. The thinking was that the minister was there to equip the laity for Christian witness in these spheres, to do the outreach as we would say today.

Worship

The minister was in sole charge of the service. It was even unusual for anybody else to read a lesson. The order of service was pretty rigid. It nearly always consisted of five hymns, and the sermon came between the fourth and the last hymn.

Sermons were expected to last for 20 minutes, and anything longer was frowned on. A sermon always began with the announcement of a text, which the preacher would expound. The lectionary, though it existed, was little used. Extra-biblical material was almost unknown. Sermons, I think, aimed at being more persuasive, calling the people more clearly to conviction and conversion.

Holy Communion

There was always a benediction after the fifth hymn, and those who wished to leave (often a considerable majority) would then do so. During my ministry what was called "the full Communion service" (with no break) began to be held, perhaps once a quarter.

Pulpit Dress

This has always varied. Many were content with lounge suits and dog collars. There were also those in gowns and/or cassock and bands. Some churches kept a gown in the vestry which all preachers (ministerial or lay) were invited to wear.

In general, there was a greater feeling of dignity and reverence before and during our services. We may have lost something in

the swing against this, with it all becoming so informal and casual. Has the sense of the numinous been lost?

Marriage

Probationers could not marry until they had been ordained. This caused a lot of heart-burning and some resignations. A marriage break-up would be treated very seriously. The matter would be examined at the ministerial synod, and would probably lead to the minister being expelled. Co-habitation of unmarried partners was unthinkable, and gay relationships were unheard of.

I think that Methodism generally was a more unified and in many ways a more rigid organisation. Teetotalism was expected, not only of ministers, but of all our members, though it was never a condition of membership. Candidates for the ministry were all asked whether they were total abstainers,

The Itinerant System

I can remember when this was still pretty rigid, and a minister was obliged to move on after three years unless there were very exceptional circumstances. This began to break down after Methodist Union in 1932, but it lingered on in modified form.. In stationing, little consideration was given to the jobs of working wives (for wives didn't work) or to the schooling of children. There were no women ministers until nearly the end of my working life.

Youth Work

Sunday Schools were the important thing under this heading. They were usually held in the afternoon. The minister was expected to look in as often as he could. Some churches had a smaller group of children in the morning, and they would

usually go out after the third hymn which was normally a children's hymn Youth clubs became a common feature after the war.

Trustees and Leaders

Every church had two governing bodies, the Trustees and the Leaders' Meeting. The trustees were responsible for the property and the Leaders' Meeting was in charge of the spiritual affairs of the church (which meant all its day to day activities).

I would like to make it clear that I'm not deploring the many changes that I have seen. I'm sure some are good and others not so good. Some perhaps were inevitable. I try not to be a grumpy old man, and have always avoided saying that "we never did it like that".

More then and now

Two photos that were displayed in the 2011 Rosyth exhibition (page 15) had special resonance for Audrey Headden (née Hicks). The one below is of family and friends and was taken at her sister Joan's 21st birthday party in 1949, held in the Masonic Hall in Admiralty Road. Didn't they do things differently then!



Which of these people can you identify?
Hint: You'll find Jock and Audrey kept safely apart on opposite ends of the front row.

Sunday@Six

On 22 May Sue Masson organised an afternoon of music making for singers and instrumentalists using music from the West Gallery tradition.

We practised no fewer than ten hymns, metrical psalms and short anthems, representing the different seasons of the church year.



On the left, the singers ...

The pieces were originally written for amateur musicians who played in church week by week, in the days before the Victorians introduced organs into churches other than cathedrals.

So there was nothing bland about it, with lots of rhythm, and the music was great fun to sing and play. Seven instrumentalists and eleven singers from different churches in the area engaged in what turned out to be a very enjoyable three hours of music-making.

Then, between rehearsal and performance, we were fortified by cakes, made by the indefatigable Sue!

Most of the settings had *lots* of verses, often with instrumental introductions and interludes but Sue took pity on the small Sunday@Six congregation – for the longer items we just sang a couple of verses!



... on the right, the band ...

with Sue in the middle to bring harmony!

The music was, interspersed with prayers and poems, all carefully chosen by Sue, and those who joined us for worship were most appreciative.

Our thanks to Sue for all her hard work and enthusiasm in making this an evening's worship with a difference, and also to the instrumentalists and singers who clearly also enjoyed their time together, and "made a joyful noise unto the Lord".

Note that there will be no Sunday@Six in June or July. But on 26 June you are invited to a Family Afternoon and BBQ at Silver Sands, Aberdour (see page 8). After our traditional summer break in July, "normal service" will be resumed on 26 August!

Dunfermline "Songs of Praise"

Many of our congregations took part in the recordings made in Dunfermline Abbey on 15/16 April, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, even if they had to wear exactly the same outfits two nights running!

We await news of the dates for transmission of the two resulting BBC Songs of Praise programmes, which should be part of the August schedule.

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
David Sinclair 01383 410255
davidgraeme31@yahoo.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
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



● **STAR OF THE SHOW:** Sydney with Sheena McConnell, Ferrie and Madeline Wright Davies.
Photo: Ted Milton

Sydney the donkey brings Palm Sunday to life!

SYDNEY the donkey hogged the limelight at the weekend as Rosyth churches marked a fun-filled reenactment of Palm Sunday.

St Margaret's Episcopal Church, Rosyth Methodist Church, Rosyth Baptist Church and Rosyth Parish Church got together to organise the hour-long donkey procession on Sunday, which started at Rosyth Methodist Church car park and wound round the local streets.

Members of the congregations waved palm branches in the reenactment of the Bible story

and handed out palm crosses and pampas stalks as they walked down to Rosyth public park.

At the park, they stood in a circle, sang songs and had a reading from the Bible about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, before making their way back to the car park.

The Reverend Valerie Walker, curate of St Margaret's, said, "Early in the year we were planning what we might do at Easter and one of us suggested having a donkey to make the occasion more real.

"I got in touch with the Donkey Sanctuary (charity) and

they put me in touch with Sheena McConnell, from Falkland, who owns Sydney.

"She was very happy to help and she wanted to get Sydney socialised a bit more and brought him down in a trailer. "When we told the police, they said, 'A donkey? Everybody will come out to look at it!' and that's what happened!

"The police were with us, which was brilliant, and provided an escort. As we walked down the street, people were coming out and waving, lots of kids joined in and wanted to

know what was going on, and lots of people came over to touch the donkey.

"It was a really good Sunday, everybody said it was a really good idea and we're hoping to do it again next year."

Back in the car park and after a well-deserved grazing, Sydney obliged in giving rides to the kids. The Rev Walker laughed, "He was very well-behaved. The next question is what to do for the Nativity and whether he wants to be in that. He enjoyed himself so much, he could come back to audition!"

Rosyth in print

We were delighted that this report made the front page of the Maundy Thursday issue of the Dunfermline Press. Thank you to everyone involved, especially to Valerie for organising Sydney's presence, and for getting her comments into print.

There's more of Sydney's story inside ... and more about the other things that happened in Rosyth over Easter.

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue, with photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/3oa5jh8>. If you don't mind a large download, and would like to zoom in on photographs, a higher-definition version is also available at <http://tinyurl.com/3te8u8q>.

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 31 July. Contributions please by **Sunday 24 July** 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).