

Rosyth
Methodist Church



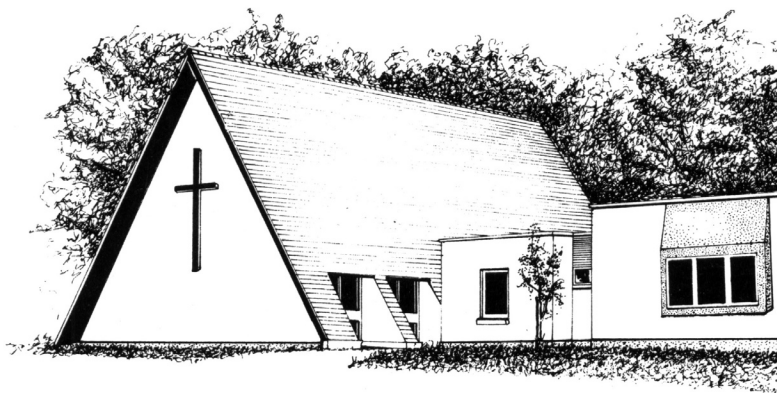
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 58

August/September 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

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Vestry Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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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 pattern of ministry

As four of our ministers contribute elsewhere, we decided to forgo the usual pastoral letter in favour of using this page to say something about the contents of this issue. It includes an unusual number of items relating to ministry in the widest sense which we hope will encourage you to think about today's pattern of ministry.

Some pages celebrate significant stages in what might be called the 'professional' ministry, where people have been set apart for specific service. So, we visit Alloa for Valerie's ordination, look back with both Sarah and Valerie on their first year with us, and hear about Ross Kennedy's 25/26 years in the ministry. [We only had room for a brief mention of the 50th anniversary of Malcolm Trew's ordination, but we'll be enlarging upon this greatly in our next issue]

There is also some historical perspective, with a look at a minister who made a difference two centuries ago, and Andrew Letby's response to Arthur Valle's reflection on his own ministry, which ended 30 years back.

Read these articles, and you will notice some differences, both between denominations and over time. For example, nowadays there is probably more celebration of the ordination as an *event*, contrasting with the low-key affair that Malcolm remembers.

But there is no difference in the immense challenge of the calling. We "expect great things" of those with a vocation, and they generally respond with commitment and enthusiasm, tackling a range of tasks that will take them well outside their comfort zone. They don't always get it right, and they learn hard lessons along the way, and there are disappointments. But there are compensating joys, especially when pastoring the real and varied people who make up their flock.

'Managing change' seems a modern concept, but having to live through and adapt to change is nothing new for ministers, and still this may even involve changing career and country. And working with small numbers of people is not new. Nor should it be depressing – look what just eleven men started!

What's in this issue ...

Health warning: This is an issue for dipping into rather than reading in one session!

Ministry in the widest sense:

Valerie's ordination (pp4–5, pp29–31)

Ross at 25! (pp6–7)

From the Super's desk (pp23–24)

Sarah reflects (pp25–26)

Ministry then and now (pp34–35)

Bill retiring ... (p36)

A lad o' pairts (pp32–33)

From our roving reporters:

Summer eating! (pp8–9)

Our sporting grandchildren (pp15–17)

Plus all the usual items:

Diary for August/September (pp20–22)

Invitations and requests (pp13–14, p26)

Young people's section (pp10–12)

Working together (p27)

From the Treasurers (p28)

Book review (p37)

Fellowship News (pp18–19)

Music corner (p38)

Enjoy!

Valerie's ordination

as reported by Sandra Young

A joyous welcome of a quarter-peal ringing from the tower of St John's by the Dunblane Cathedral Society of Change Ringers greeted us as we arrived for the ordination of Valerie Walker to the Priesthood by Bishop David on Friday 3 June. As if to accompany Valerie's usual smiling disposition, the weather too was glorious, with the late sun glinting through the windows of the beautifully decorated church, bedecked with early summer flowers and buzzing with excitement in anticipation of the eventful occasion.

Amongst those present in the full church to support Valerie were family and friends, diocesan clergy in their robes, strong representation from St Margaret's, together with some of our Methodist friends, and supporters from Holy Trinity Dunfermline, St John's and other churches in Alloa.

In her thought-provoking sermon (which you can read in full on pp29-31) Canon Alison Peden, emphasised that "joy" is what she associates with Valerie. Indeed joy was the theme throughout the service, reflected in the readings, hymns and by Valerie herself. Tim, our Rector, together with representatives from each of the three congregations – Marc Tempelhoff (St Margaret's), Elaine Cromwell (Holy Trinity), and Angela Theed, (St John's), presented Valerie to Bishop David, inviting him to ordain her to the Order of Presbyters. As is customary at an ordination, all the priests present laid their hands on Valerie's head. It must have been especially moving for her that these included her husband Roger, who also participated by leading the Prayers of the People.

Further evidence of joint support for Valerie was in the music sung. Most of it new to us, including the setting of the Eucharist and several of the hymns, was



ably led by the combined choir from all three churches under the musical direction from the keyboard of Stuart Muir (Pastoral Musician to St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee). The quality and variety of the music was truly impressive, if at times somewhat deafening for those of us sitting near to the large speakers.

After the Ordination part of the service Communion was celebrated. In order to accommodate the large gathering, there were stations at both the back and front of the church with Valerie and Tim administering at the front and Bishop David and Angela at the back. The service concluded appropriately with the hymn "You shall go out with joy" sung heartily. This was the point at which Roger picked up his accordion and helped drive the procession of clergy and choir through the church!

We were then treated to a feast of refreshments by St John's, to whom we extend our grateful thanks for the friendly welcome, the organisation and all the hard work to make the evening so successful and memorable.

We offer our prayers and support to Valerie and her family as she begins the next part of her journey, as priest and friend to St Margaret's.

A truly joyous occasion!

My first year in full time ministry

Thoughts from Valerie Walker

Ex-nursing colleagues occasionally ask if I miss the NHS, my employer for almost 30 years before being ordained deacon and entering full-time ministry in June 2010. I tell them that, like the proverbial egg, a curate's post is "good in parts".

The absence of a job description is confusing. How many hours should I be working? The bishop's commission to "teach God's truth and draw people to his reconciling love" could fill every waking moment. My mother's oft-remembered adage "idle hands are the devil's playthings" makes it easier to be busy rather than stopping to pray or meditate. But that's the breath of life we need if we're to live and love as God intends.

The steep learning curve of the past year has been exciting. It used to be really scary to stand in at the front of church for services, and I still get nervous before preaching. The night before my first funeral I processed up and down the hall with the dog, reciting the Nunc Dimittis, trying to get the timing right!

My daily travels from Perth to Dunfermline, Rosyth and Alloa have clocked around 1,300 miles each month. Now that I'm in a flat in Cairneyhill, and my family, and animals, have moved to a rectory in Pitlochry, the challenges are slightly different.

Ministry in Fife and Clackmannanshire has shown me different ways of saying the Peace, conducting Church Council/Vestry meetings, and the very essence of being church. I remember with fondness three harvest suppers, an outdoor nativity service in Rosyth (at an extremely chilly minus 12°C!), a Palm Sunday procession with Sydney and police escort, and various Taizé services.

But best of all was my ordination to the priesthood, and the overwhelming support of so many people who clearly agreed I should progress to the next stage of ministry. When I stand behind the altar to celebrate the Eucharist I often sense the unifying love of the congregation; the joy and pain of priestly ministry.

All new ministers need role models, and Tim and Ross have done that wonderfully. A training rector can have a life-long impact on the shape of the curate's ministry; Tim has guided, encouraged and cajoled me well!

The long illness of Eleanor, the priest attached to St John's Alloa, has given me leadership experience not usually afforded to a first-year deacon. It's not easy being stretched so much, but I think that's how we learn best. As St Benedict said "Until tension enters my life I feel no need to become more than what I am".

I look forward to another year of growing as a new priest.

"... hands held up, with five spaces between the joined fingers...to make a kind of lattice for God's light and presence to come through in the blessing."



Read the whole of the sermon that Alison Peden preached at Valerie's ordination on pp29-31.

Ross Kennedy

Report and photographs from the Holy Trinity magazine

Friends and family at Holy Trinity helped Ross Kennedy celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination with presentations and a reception after the Eucharist on Sunday 3 July.



One of the presentations



No party would be complete without a cake!

Afterwards Ross thanked everyone for their kindness and shared a few memories of his journey to his ordination and his early ministry. Having been sponsored and trained by the Scottish Episcopal Church at Coates Hall Theological College in Edinburgh his placement in the English Church was just a little bit strange. Ross offered no explanation though there was a hint of intrigue!

However Ross was undaunted and he considered himself as a gift from Scotland to the Anglicans of Northumberland on his placement at Hexham Abbey. Within a few weeks this thought dimmed somewhat and was extinguished on reading the history of the Abbey which included “Scots were the bane of many a border church or Priory and Hexham was no exception. Both William Wallace and Robert the Bruce paid less than friendly visits!”



John, Edith and Ross

Ed: Our thanks to Fay Cuthbertson and Jack Wardell for their words and photographs.

For your prayers

Sadly Ross's nephew passed away on 9 June and Ross took the funeral on 17 June in the crematorium.

Ross's sister Edith is also a concern to him. Not only is she mourning her son, and missing terribly her beautiful grandson who is now so far away, but she herself is far from well.

Ross reflects ...

The Anglican Church, like the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Communions has a threefold ministry of deacon, priest and bishop. The pattern is that first you are ordained a deacon and then – usually a year later – you are ordained a priest. I have just celebrated the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Yet I've always wondered why one's ordination as a deacon is never commemorated in the same way. Because for me, my deaconing in Newcastle Cathedral 26 years ago was a much more dramatic and life-changing event than was my priesting a year later.

You see, I entered the Cathedral that June day in 1985 a layman, and I came out an ordained minister. The next day my ministry began in earnest, which necessitated a very steep learning curve for me. Within a matter of days and weeks I found myself officiating at funerals, baptisms and marriages, visiting the sick at home and in hospital, preaching sermons, and so on. The only aspect of ministry I was excluded from as a deacon was presiding at the Eucharist, and pronouncing the absolution and blessing. To be honest that was no great deal for me and I would have been quite happy to continue my ministry as a permanent deacon. (I even suggested it to my training Rector who didn't like the idea one bit – he hit the roof!)

In those early years of my ministry I remember being given two pieces of advice. The first was that if I wanted to 'get on' in the Church I should endeavour to sit on one of the Diocesan Committees. I took that advice but lasted only six months – I found it an utter waste of time and resigned. (God so loved the world that he did NOT send a committee!)

The second piece of advice was that while the worship of God takes place in church the work of God takes place in the homes of the people. Now that may sound somewhat simplistic, but nevertheless I believe there

is more than a grain of truth in it. But when I became a vicar of my own parish I found it increasingly difficult to put this into practice – more and more of my time was taken up with administration, managing the church plant, teaching in the church school, attending various meetings and so on. Too often I felt I was being busy but with the wrong things. I suddenly realised what a friend meant when he said, "For goodness sake don't ever become a busy priest". (So busy there is no time for people.)

Lessons I learned early on in my ministry convinced me of the importance of the pastoral aspect of my calling. Such as the time I called on one dear old soul. During one visit she fell asleep in her chair so I decided to take my leave. But when I got up to go she suddenly awoke and commented "Short visit, vicar!" I discovered that what she desperately wanted was simply a bit of company – someone to be there preferably her vicar – even when she was asleep in her chair.

Another lesson involved a family who, because they came to church every Sunday, I saw no need to visit them at home. But some time later I discovered, to my horror, there was every need to visit them for the man of the family was suffering from severe depression and was in fact suicidal. Shaking their hand at the church door was never going to be enough.

Over the past few years there have been great arguments about who can be ordained in Anglican Church. But perhaps the most pressing need of the church today is not so much more priests or bishops or even evangelists but rather more pastors. Because it may well be that the reason why fewer people attend church these days is that they no longer feel cared for – and who doesn't need to feel valued and cared for in this lonely world. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep".

Summer eating!

It certainly didn't live up to its reputation as "Flaming June", but two fellowship events during the month were blessed by days that at least stayed dry!

On **Saturday 4 June** some of those who came to what is becoming a summer tradition – cream teas in aid of Action for Children – managed to get out into John and Jean Hall's garden in Cairneyhill, although



others naturally gravitated to the kitchen!



Jean sends her thanks for everyone's support in making this a successful day, which raised over £270.



An expert explains how it's done

On **Sunday 26 June** both young and not so young were invited to Silver Sands, Aberdour for a Family Afternoon and Barbecue. Although the weather was far from promising, around thirty folk thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon.



It was encouraging that all parts of the church family were represented.



Some braved the grass; others held court in the Hall's gazebo!



Many more, of all ages, enjoyed using up



some energy to make room for the food,



expertly cooked by David and Stuart.



We love having articles with photographs, but do ask that, wherever possible, images are sent to us in their original electronic form (with as many bits as possible), as all these were. Regrettably, scanning hard copies of prints gives inferior results.

Of course, there were the attractions of the beach!



Some intrepid folk were even prepared to “get stuck in” by paddling, though they had to struggle to get back to the party ...



“Who toil along the climbing way ...”
... although some just gave up the struggle!



Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the event a success, and to our “beach location photographer”, Martin Rogers.

Happenings in our Scout Group

Stuart Fowell gives his final report as our Group Scout Leader

Expeditions to foreign lands and camping have been the main theme in the Scout Group over the past few months.

We are, of course, accustomed to seeing Cubs and Scouts gathering in the Church car park ready to be off on their latest camp or expedition but, for the first time ever, we took the Beavers off to Fordell Firs in June for a weekend camp. 10 young stalwarts between the ages of 6 and 8 (and two old ones of indeterminate vintage) packed their sleeping bags and their teddies for wild adventure under canvas. The weather was cold and windy but dry, and the Beavers had great fun exploring the woods, playing games and taking part in various make-and-do activities before returning home “tired but happy”.



Beaver scouts grass-sledging

The Cubs, too, were in camp that same weekend, so there was plenty of opportunity for these “old hands” to show the young ones how camping is done.



Cubs and Beavers in camp



Beaver Scouts in camp

The Explorers and Scouts embarked upon a trans-European tour, in which they visited 8 different countries and 10 cities, including Delft and Amsterdam, Munich, Vienna (for a bit of “culture”), Rome (for the history), the Vatican (the religious bit) and Paris (for Disneyland fun). We have yet to receive a full account of their sojourn but we will, no doubt, soon be regaled with all their stories and photos.

Perhaps most notable of all the expeditions, is that of one of our Explorers, Rhys Turner, who was selected to join a national Scout expedition to Malawi. Places on these expeditions are highly sought after and competition is high, so to get through the selection process is quite an achievement. He has spent four weeks working with Malawian children and helping with rural construction projects, and he will without a doubt have benefited hugely from this once in a lifetime experience.

International travel is within the grasp of young people these days and it is good to see Scouts taking full advantage of the possibilities. When I was a Scout (in the last century, would you believe?) we thought it admirable that our Senior Scouts organised an expedition to the rugged Cairngorms, and a visit to Ireland was a new travel experience for many of us. But, in the last five years or so, some of our Scouts have hiked through Poland and the Czech

Republic, carried out conservation work in Hungary, sailed across the Indian Ocean, and enjoyed Scouting ventures in Norway and Belgium. How times have changed – and Scouting with them!

In the last issue of Contact we said that I was intending to stand down as Group Scout Leader. After a period of some 20 years in the role, and with Scouting always having been part of my life, it wasn't a decision that came easily. But with a good team of leaders running the Sections, I felt that the time was right to make a change.

I look back on my time in the role with a great deal of satisfaction. Certainly, the job has brought its challenges and frustrations but, overwhelmingly, there have been very many good times. Whether it was hosting big events like Scout Group Reunions when some of our former Scouts who were in the Troop some sixty years ago came back to see us, or the presentation of Queen's Scout Awards to five of our Explorers, or Martin receiving his Silver Acorn Award from the Scout Association, or more simple pleasures like witnessing young Scouts being 'wowed' at seeing, for the first time, the sky so full of bright stars on a clear cold night in the highlands (you can't see them like that from Rosyth!), I have many fond memories from my time as GSL.

The greatest satisfaction, though, comes from having been part of the Scout Group leader team over recent years, and it wouldn't be right not to acknowledge the work of the Section Leaders, Martin, Terry, Alan and, latterly, David – and their Assistants – in all the Scout Group's achievements. Whether it be simple hikes and camps or expeditions abroad, all of the activities and successes have been due to their imagination and hard work. They not only plan and organise the expeditions,

but they also work hard with the young people to raise the substantial sums of money needed to make these expensive trips affordable. It has been a great pleasure to have been associated, at Group level, with them and the successes they have attained.

Looking to the future, we have been fortunate in finding a suitable successor for me in Nick Mathieson. Nick was a Scout and Young Leader in our Scout Troop some years ago. He is a teacher by profession and he lives with his wife Vivienne and their young family in Crossford. As he is well-known to the Section Leaders, I'm sure that it won't be long before he has settled in to his new role in the Group.

As the summer holidays draw to a close, the Scout Troop will be off camping for a week at Bonally on the south side of Edinburgh. Paul Ward will be running the camp and bringing his father, David, out of "retirement" to help with the programme. A good number of Scouts will be attending, and especially those who couldn't go on the European tour.

Also coming up in the near future is the Scout Group barbecue on **26 August** to which all are welcome: invitation on p13.

Finally, a reminder that we are still looking for more adult help with the Beavers on a Tuesday evening. If you think that we have a dynamic Scout Group (we do!), that the activities look fun (they are!), and that you'd like to work with young people, there couldn't be a better way to start than with the 6-8 year-olds in the Beavers. With that age-group the commitment required is pretty well only an hour a week (because Beaver leader David gets all their activities organised). If you're interested, just let me know. And, if you're not really sure, why not come along for a few weeks and see?

Ready for the next session

As I said in the last Contact, there will be no formal Sunday School during the school holidays because numbers fluctuate so much, and also I will be away for a number of Sundays. But any Sunday that I am at Church I will be very happy to take children out of the service for a less formal time, except for Sundays when there is All-Age Worship. We will restart Sunday School at the beginning of September.

Sunday Funday will restart on the second Sunday in September – breakfast at 9am as usual. It's hard to believe that we will be starting our 4th year! Looking back at the registers it's good to see how many youngsters have joined us over the last three years – some only once or twice, and some who have been at every Funday!

I'm sure you all know all about what goes on by now, but in case we have any new readers, Sunday Funday is for children up to the age of about 12, although there is no formal cut-off age. The morning starts with breakfast at 9.00, followed by lots of crafts (the messier the better!) and we finish with a story and song about 10.30. We meet once a month, on the second Sunday, and follow a different theme each time.

There are always lots of crafts the children can take home, but we also like to make something which can be displayed in the Church.

At the moment there is a very impressive banner, celebrating Pentecost, made by the children, hanging in the corridor leading into the Church.



If you know of any children – grandchildren, neighbours, children of friends – who might enjoy this experience, please let them know about Sunday Funday and invite them to give it a try. All we ask is that an adult stays with each child (or each family or group). All the adults seem to enjoy themselves as much as the children!

If you need to know any more, please give me a ring on 01383 624779.

I look forward to seeing lots of you in September.

Gwyneth

Web site changes

If you read our back covers, you will know that there are always links from which you can download the current issue. But did you realise that there is also an archive page at <http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk/archive.htm>, where you can look back at earlier issues, currently for the past two years, but hopefully eventually for rather longer.

Every month, the “What’s on now” page changes, not just changing the service details, but also with a “Thought for the month”. We’d encourage you to keep looking, and to add your comments!

We’d also like comments on the RMC web site at <http://www.rosythmethodist.org.uk>, which has finally been upgraded from its “Under construction” status.

Invitations and requests

Harvest 2011

Join us for lunch

It's a bit early to be thinking about harvest in the middle of the summer, but please keep **Sunday 25 September** free. Instead of the usual Harvest Supper, the joint Vestry and Council meeting decided to have a lunch. This will follow the joint Harvest Festival Service and will take the form of a bring-and-share lunch in the Church Hall, starting at 1pm. Details of what people are invited to bring will soon be on the noticeboard and you are encouraged to support this day of worship, food and friendship.

Giving the church a harvest theme

The meeting also agreed that as well as the annual Harvest Appeal for the Highland Food Bank, it would be nice to have the Sanctuary decorated with reminders of the harvest season. This will include fresh produce – fruit and vegetables – which will either be auctioned after lunch or given to a worthy local cause. Again, details will be announced nearer the time.

The Annual Appeal

Mary Dempster writes:

Once again we will be collecting for the Highland Food Bank, as well as some fresh produce which will be sold after the service. The items we are requested to collect are:

Long-life fruit juice;
tea; coffee; pasta/rice

During the month of April, the members of the Wednesday Fellowship collected other goods which the Highland Food Bank had requested, as they were running short of supplies. We were delighted with the amount collected, and have received a letter from the Project Coordinator thanking the Fellowship for the goods and also for the cash donation.

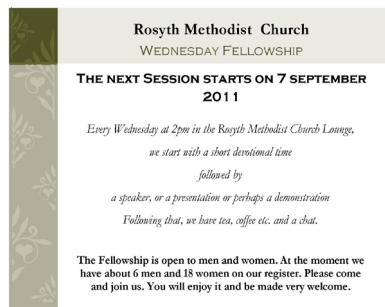
In her letter, she reports that an average of nine people per day come to the Inverness Centre looking for help. So far this year they have helped just over 1,700 adults and children, so whatever we manage to collect will be very worthwhile.

Scout Group barbecue

This will be held as a fund-raising event (to help cover the considerable costs we incurred in the past year) on **Friday 26 August** at Silver Sands, Aberdour. It will start at 6.30pm and all are welcome.

If you fancy strolling by the seaside on a fine summer's evening (or, perhaps, huddled in our new marquee in the rain) do come along and join us – we will be very pleased to see anyone from the church congregations.

Wednesday Fellowship

An invitation card for the Wednesday Fellowship at Rosyth Methodist Church. The card has a light beige background with a vertical green decorative strip on the left side. The text is centered and includes the church name, session start date, time, and a list of activities.

Rosyth Methodist Church
WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

THE NEXT SESSION STARTS ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

*Every Wednesday at 2pm in the Rosyth Methodist Church Lounge,
we start with a short devotional time*

followed by

a speaker, or a presentation or perhaps a demonstration

Following that, we have tea, coffee etc. and a chat.

The Fellowship is open to men and women. At the moment we have about 6 men and 18 women on our register. Please come and join us. You will enjoy it and be made very welcome.

Don't forget that the next session starts on 7 September. Do pick up these invitation cards and pass them on. Meetings are open to all men and women who are free on Wednesday afternoons, whatever their age.

Invitations and requests

The Book that Changed the World

To mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, will set aside an hour from 2 till 3pm **every day** (except Sundays) **throughout August** to read aloud from the New Testament. This will be at the High Altar and all are welcome to sit and listen and to come and go as they wish during this time. Sounds a good way to unwind amid the busyness of Edinburgh during the Festival season.

ECG event

An invitation from Deacon Sarah:

For each of the last four years Archie and I have gone to the "Equipping, Calling and Going" event which, although largely Methodist in influence, is also ecumenical. It was born when a previous Methodist gathering "Easter People" came to an end after twenty years.

There is a week of teaching, worship, Bible study, seminars and fringe events for all adults, teenagers and children. Next year it runs from 10–15 April in Scarborough.

If you would like a taster of what is involved, there is a day event in Gateshead on **Saturday 5 November** which will include different styles of worship, challenging seminars, thought-provoking Bible study, teaching and preaching. If you would like more details then please have a word with me. It would be good if a group of us could perhaps go together.

More information on the event at the "Equipping, Calling and Going" web site at <http://www.ecgevent.org.uk>.

Welcome Service

All are invited to join the Circuit in worship for a service to welcome Deacon Sue Langdale, on **Thursday 1 September** at 7.00pm at Tranent Parish Church, Church Street, Tranent. The service will be led by the Rev Andrew Letby.

Sue is an experienced minister, currently serving in the Barnsley Circuit and this new diaconal appointment will focus on East Lothian and Midlothian, thus allowing the local ministry across the circuit to be led by diaconal ministers. Further details of the event will be announced later, but please remember Sue in your prayers as she prepares to start a new chapter in her life.

RagBag

Thank you to those who have already donated to RagBag. The collection point is the reception area inside the back door of the church and you can pick up empty bags to fill with clothes for recycling. There is also a box for old mobile phones and used ink cartridges.

This is an ongoing initiative with proceeds being shared between Brambles and the church, so please continue to support it.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"If anyone has ears to hear let him hear.
Consider carefully what you hear."

Mark 4:23,24a

Our sporting grandchildren - 1



David Slater has a family to be proud of: his daughter Karen and her husband Paul, their son Matthew and daughter Helen; his other daughter Janet and her husband Peter, and their son Andrew and daughter Heather.

All four adults were very keen on going sailing before they had children, so it was only natural that they taught their children to enjoy it too.

Many years ago Karen and Paul won the European Championship. During the last week in July a very proud Grandad will be at Matthew's Graduation. Helen has just finished her first year at Brighton University. They both help as sailing instructors for young children, which is great.

Andrew (aged 25) goes all over the world sailing and is one of four lads in the Olympic Sailing Squad. As 80 boats are competing, each country is only allowed to enter one boat in each class. One of the other lads is the Olympic Gold Medallist Ben Ainsley, so it will be tough for Andrew to qualify, although at present he is in third place in the world rankings. His class of boat is called a "Finn" and, as he has two boats, he is glad to have sponsorship from Skandia as well receiving ropes from another company. Good luck to Andrew Mills: we will definitely be watching the sailing in 2012.

Heather too is doing her bit for the Olympic Games. No, she is not competing; she is working for Lord Coe in the administration. She enjoys her work and has helped design the cover for the Olympic brochure. Her hobby is sailboarding and she has won several cups. What is sailboarding? Well it is "a surface water sport that combines elements of surfing and sailing": in other words, she uses a surf board with a sail attached. We learn a lot doing this work!

Mary Dempster



Matthew and Helen



Andrew getting the boat ready

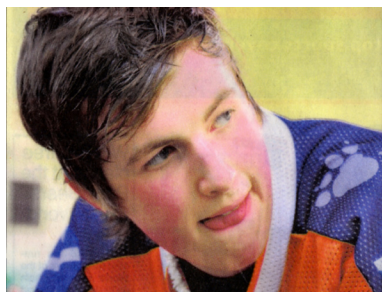


Heather with the Olympic torch

Our sporting grandchildren - 2

Mary Dempster has also reported on Alan and Ruby Lucas's grandchildren:

Ben Lucas at 16 years has had quite a successful career already at his favourite sport, inline roller hockey. The game is similar to ice hockey but is played indoors on wooden floors, with wooden sticks, a lighter puck and of course all the gear like ice hockey players wear to protect the body and especially the head. Ben started playing at 7 years of age. He has played for Benarty Blackhawks and the Burntisland Bullets, and now plays for the Torbain Tigers. Ben is also in the Scotland team, and has represented Great Britain in the GB inline roller hockey championships.



In a Europe-wide tournament, the Tigers were the youngest side competing against teams from England, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland and France, and only lost out to the Swiss team in the final.

In England, where there are now purpose-built arenas, the sport has taken off: unfortunately, in Scotland, teams have to practice wherever a hall is available!

Ben is no longer the only one in the Lucas home playing inline roller hockey. His young sister watching him play decided to have a go too, so Eilidh is also a Scotland player and has been picked for a UK Dream Team. The Tigers under-12s finished 4th in the UK tables. In every game the referee in charge picks their outstanding player of the

match and the votes are counted at the end of the season to make up the Dream Team players. Eilidh was delighted to be selected.



So watch this space in the future to see how Ben and Eilidh are doing.

Other members of the Lucas grandchildren are the twins Scott and Thomas, who are doing well in the Dunfermline Knights Cricket Team. Ever since Scott watched Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff and the England team win the "Ashes" by beating Australia, he decided to learn the game. He enjoys every aspect of cricket and would like to become a good all-rounder, that is batsman, bowler and fieldsman. His aim is to be chosen to play for the Knights first team. Well done, boys.



Our sporting grandchildren - 3



Jordan Davidson is the grandson of Mary Innes. Mary has had a long connection with the church, working with Brambles Playgroup from 1982 until 2008 (which included the transition to all-day running in 1985), and is currently the church's official cleaner. The report below comes from Jordan's mother Lesley.

When Jordan was just 1½, he got his first bat from his uncle, and by the time he was 5 he loved his cricket!

When he was young, Jordan would ask his dad to bowl to him, and would keep on asking, even though it was bedtime. By the age of 6, Jordan was practising in the nets with his dad at Broomhall Cricket Club; by 8 he had enrolled at Dunfermline Knights Cricket Club, where he still plays today.

Jordan started with the Colts U11 team and was selected at the age of 12 for his first U13 District tournament at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh, a competition for teams from all over Scotland. Jordan scored 79 not out in his first match, and by the end of the week was awarded Player of the Festival.

Jordan, playing for Fife Juniors and the Districts, was then picked for the Academy, and by 14 had been selected to play and train for Scotland.

Then came the great news that he was off to South Africa for 19 days to play and train.

Jordan is a regular for the second team at Dunfermline, but recently has been called up for the first eleven, which he helped to victory in the Twenty/Twenty Five Cup final at Freuchie, with a score of 34.

So far Jordan has hit at least four centuries for club and Fife, and the Dunfermline Press has described him as "the next Freddie Flintoff".



Jordan with the winning Fife Cup team
Jordan is the first from the left in the back row

Couch potatoes!

This is what some grandparents get up to while the grandchildren are exercising their sporting talents!

To find out who this couple are, go to page 19 ...



Fellowship News

For your prayers

Thelma Couch has passed on the sad news of the recent death of **Joyce Kingston**. Older members of the congregation may remember Joyce, her husband Eric and family, who attended our Church in the 1960s. Amongst other things, Joyce was the Brownie Leader and a Sunday School teacher.

Andrew and Valerie Clark

Andrew and Valerie Clark (née Sparling) were married on Friday 10 June at Atholl Palace. And here is the proof!



Valerie writes: "We had the perfect wedding day: God richly blessed us and even brought out the sun for us. Thank you to everyone for your kind wishes, prayers, cards and gifts: we are both truly grateful."

Roger Quick

Valerie Walker's husband Roger, formerly a professional musician and more recently Chaplain and Head of Religious Education at Strathallan School, was instituted as Rector of the linked charge of Holy Trinity Pitlochry and St Adamnan's Kilmaveonaig by Bishop David on Friday 1 July. We wish him well in his new post.

Diamond Days

Here's a wee story 'bout Jock and Audrey
For years they lived a life less ordinary.
With itchy feet they moved about -
First to Yorkshire, then down South.
With three lovely kids 'twas family first
With trips to the country all were versed.

Now Jock you'll know an upright man:
The organised sort, with a nice clear plan,
And Audrey doesn't let in water -
I know because I've met her daughter.
Occasionally they might beg to differ
But you know Audrey's not a quitter.

So what's the secret? you might ask.
If sixty years you'd like to last.
Their love, of course, is without question
And patience too, with some religion.
Yet the answer to a peaceful life
Is men are wrong and women right

As recited at the celebration!

Eventually things get read ...

What interesting things you see and read about in the doctor's waiting room!
I picked up the National Trust Magazine for the Spring of 2010 and was enjoying reading various articles when I turned over a page and just about shouted out "Oh my goodness, a lady that I know!" The photograph was quite big and I thought a very nice good photo of her and I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article about her.

Who was this friend? Have you guessed? Yes, it was our friend **Evelyn Kenny**! No, I did *not* steal the magazine; I asked permission to take it away! Perhaps you too will find such an article in a magazine left in a waiting-room.

Mary Dempster

Jock and Audrey Headden

July is always a special month for the Headden family, with Jock's birthday on the 5th, Jock and Audrey's Wedding Anniversary on the 7th, and son Mike and Audrey's birthdays on 22nd and 23rd. But July 2011 was extra special and marked the Diamond Anniversary of their wedding.

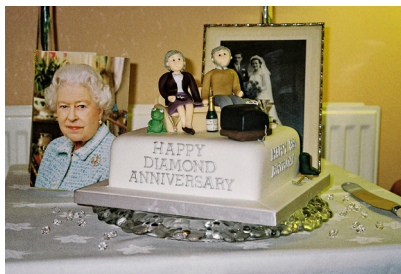
Jock writes:

In 2001 we marked our Golden Anniversary with a big dinner, entertaining some eighty-odd guests. That was a bit much for us this time, so we hosted a dinner party for family members – children, grandchildren and my sister (who had been a bridesmaid at our wedding in 1951) – and one or two others.

Although our actual Anniversary was on the 7th, we held the dinner the following Saturday at Davaar House Hotel, Dunfermline, a favourite place of ours for evening meals and Christmas lunches. New friends were introduced and old friendships renewed as we gathered in the hotel lounge for drinks, canapés and chat. This was followed by a welcome and toast to the happy couple given by our son Mike (with a reply by me) before we repaired to the dining room to enjoy a splendid meal.



After the meal, we returned to the hotel lounge for coffee and a piece of the celebration cake, given by our daughter Sandra. This was most unusual and beautiful: on top was a three-dimensional model of both of us watching television, surrounded by things representing our leisure pursuits, such as crosswords and books.



As many of you will know, Jock has been a member of the Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society for many years. The following message from Chairman George Alexander appeared on the Society's web site on 7 July 2011.

With the 40th Anniversary Mikado, Jock Headden has decided to call time on his stage career. Jock is one of our valued and long-standing members, a stalwart of the basses. His final costumed performance was in Mikado in Pitlochry Festival Theatre in March, which is fitting in that he considers that to be the highlight of all his Gilbert and Sullivan appearances. Jock took part in the concerts in June, but will now spend more time with his wife, Audrey.

This is a special season for him and for them both. Jock celebrated his 85th birthday on Tuesday, and today Jock and Audrey celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We convey to them our warm congratulations!

We'll miss Jock at rehearsals and on stage, though he has promised to come and visit from time to time. And we send Jock and Audrey our best wishes for health and happiness in all that lies ahead.

Tell out my soul ...

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

This is the first verse of one of the most widely-known and frequently-sung hymns written by Timothy Dudley Smith. A splendid poetic rendering of the song of Mary, which we know as the Magnificat (Luke 1: 46–55), this hymn was written in 1961 when Bishop Timothy was struck by the opening words of the account in the New English Bible, and saw in them the first line of a poem. The rest of the hymn is also based on the NEB text.

One of our leading hymn-writers, and Bishop of Thetford from 1981 until his retirement in 1991, Bishop Timothy has published about 300 hymn texts, many to well-known tunes. On 14 May this year, at a special service in Peterborough Cathedral, he received an honorary Fellowship from the Royal School of Church Music for his outstanding contribution to church music.

The church celebrates Mary the mother of Jesus (the Virgin Mary, as she is commonly called) on a number of days throughout the year, two of which fall during this period, on 15 August and 8 September (her birth).

Only the barest outline of Mary's life is recorded in the New Testament. Living in Nazareth, Mary was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who announced to her that she would become the mother of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, although she was already betrothed to Joseph. When she went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was bearing John the Baptist, she was acknowledged by her as the mother of God, and Mary responded in her well-loved words of acceptance and humble service.

Mary married Joseph and accompanied him to Bethlehem (his ancestral town), where Jesus was born and was visited by the wise men from the East. Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, where Simeon rejoiced and Mary received word of sorrows to come later. Warned to flee, Joseph and Mary went to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod. They remained there until Herod died and then returned to Nazareth.

Nothing is known of Mary's life during the next years except for a visit to Jerusalem, when Mary and Joseph had to go back for the young Jesus, who was in the Temple with the learned elders. John's Gospel says that Mary was present when Jesus performed his first recorded miracle, turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

Mary stood at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified on Calvary and there she was given into John's care. She was also with the disciples in the days before the Pentecost, and it is believed that she was present at the resurrection and Ascension. No scriptural reference concerns Mary's last years on earth.

Because of her unique role in bringing the Son of God into the world, Mary is honoured as one of the greatest saints. Many churches are dedicated to her including our own Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Diary for July/August 2011

Sunday 31 July

Trinity 6	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
	11.00am	Morning Worship Mrs Hilary Henderson Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

Sunday 7 August

Transfiguration	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev Andrew Letby and Deacon Sarah McDowall
Monday 8 Aug	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
Tuesday 9 Aug	7.30pm	Prayer in Unity meeting in Gillespie Church Hall (see page 27 for details)

Sunday 14 August

Trinity 8	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Valerie Walker and Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	All-age service Mrs Sheila Lee David Salthouse (Worship Leader)
		Note: No Sunday 'Funday' during School Holidays
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House
	8.00pm	Rossini – <i>Petite Messe Solennelle</i> The Scottish Chamber Choir Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh (see page 38 for details)

Sunday 21 August

Trinity 9	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship Mr Brian Curtis and Deacon Sarah McDowall
Thursday 25 Aug	6.30pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Church Room 3
Friday 26 Aug	6.30pm	Scout Group barbecue at Silver Sands, Aberdour (see page 13 for details)

Sunday 28 August

Trinity 10	11.00am	Joint Communion Service Rev Andrew Letby Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader) Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six with an African flavour (see page 38 for details)

Diary for September 2011

Thursday 1 Sep 7.00pm Welcome service for Deacon Sue Langdale
in Tranent Parish Church (see page 14 for details)

Sunday 4 September

Trinity 11 9.30am Sung Eucharist
11.00am Morning Worship

Monday 5 Sep 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's.

Wednesday 7 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship Opening meeting and Service

Sunday 11 September

Trinity 12 9.00am 'Sunday Funday' and Breakfast
(see page 12 for further information)
9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Valerie Walker
11.00am All-age service
3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House

Tuesday 13 Sep 7.30pm Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting
in Dunbar

Wednesday 14 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship

Thursday 15 Sep 6.30pm Circuit meeting at CEMC Leith (tea available at 5.30pm)

Sunday 18 September

Trinity 13 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
11.00am Morning Service

Tuesday 20 7.30pm Joint Council/Vestry meeting followed by Church
Council meeting in Church Lounge

Wednesday 21 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship

Sunday 25 September

Harvest 11.00am Joint Family Communion Service
Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker
1.00pm Bring-and-share Harvest lunch
(see page 13 for details)

Note: no Sunday@Six

Wednesday 29 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship

From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby writes ...

What next ...?

This was the title given to a special meeting of the Methodist District Policy Committee. Neither the title of the meeting or the name of the committee promised much excitement for a long meeting on a Saturday in July.

But ... the day may prove to be of enormous long-term significance. For 15 months I have been part of a small working group with the equally uninspiring name, the District Development Team (which took on the decidedly alarming acronym – DDT).

Our task was to look at ways in which we could enable Methodist people in Scotland to restructure a substantial hierarchy in a way which would encourage them to thrive, rather than be broken by the burden of administration and structures.

The basic statistics are alarming: the membership of the Methodist church has been declining by 50% every ten years for several decades, and stands now at just over 2,500 across the whole of Scotland. The availability of ordained ministers is becoming increasingly stretched, many of our buildings are reaching the end of their useful life and will require massive injections of cash to make them fit for purpose, the average age of our members is climbing, and we are dispersed across the country, meaning that many Methodists are well beyond regular reach of a Methodist congregation.

All of this is well known, and the symptoms are certainly not unique to Methodists (though I would argue our relative size means the issues are far more critical for us than other denominations at this time).

On the other hand I can see some wonderful things happening across our churches and communities, which give me reason to hope, and which have inspired the DDT to work to find ways of allowing the new initiatives to thrive and be repeated in other places. For some examples of the work already happening have a look at the video clips now available on our District web site at <http://tinyurl.com/3tw8qwn>.

The task of the day was to create the conditions in which these good news stories could thrive and be replicated across the District. Our day of conferring about 'What next ...?' also took into consideration the report of the Methodist General Secretary to the recent gathering of Methodism's governing body – Conference. Again it would be easy to overlook such a report, assuming it to be a nothing more than a roundup of financial and legal issues. Nothing could be further from the truth, the report in fact set out a challenging and exciting vision for the future of the church. It would be impossible to do it justice by offering a short summary here, but the full text is available on the Methodist web site at <http://tinyurl.com/42gs3lf>.

Themes addressed include the evolving nature of ordained ministry, the use of our buildings and other property, releasing assets to fund mission, the strengthening of small group meetings and a radical overhaul of our circuit and district structures.

The Scotland DDT also tackled many of these issues and our proposals include the establishment of an Order of Methodists which could grow to look less like a

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denomination than a Wesleyan expression of the Christian faith held together by a much looser hierarchy. Congregations and groups across Scotland would be encouraged and resourced to establish patterns of meeting, service and worship which fit with our dispersed nature. Circuits as we know them might well disappear, with the structure of the church being built around three regions covering the whole of Scotland. Within these we would need to find new and less time consuming (not to mention less resource sapping) ways of doing business and keeping in touch.

All of this will need to be supported by a great deal of planning and prayer. It won't happen overnight, but it is evident to many of us that God is calling us toward an exciting future of mission and service.

A welcome return

Many folk at Rosyth will remember Ken and Casey Weatherford who came to the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit last summer with two other friends from the United States. During their stay with us Ken and Casey clearly sensed a call to return and spend a longer time sharing in ministry with us.

At the end of June they arrived to take up an 18-month contract with the Circuit, during which they will develop new forms of worship alongside those already in place in the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church. It's still early days, but we look forward to great anticipation to what will result. Whilst their role is very much in Edinburgh itself, we hope that there will be much that we can learn in other areas of the Circuit.

Andrew Letby

110, not out!

Two preachers from the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit of the Methodist Church have between them celebrated 110 years of preaching.



Rev Malcolm Trew is celebrating 50 years since his ordination to the Ministry in 1961, during the Bradford Methodist Conference.

On Aldersgate Sunday (22 May), at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Dr Margaret Batty was presented with a Certificate to recognise 60 years as a Local Preacher.

Dr Batty is the author of 'Scotland's Methodists', a major work on the history of Methodism in Scotland, published last year.

As the photograph suggests, they are both "proud to be Methodists!"

Mary Kidd



Ken and Casey on their June 2010 visit to Rosyth

Sarah reflects ...

Some thoughts on her time with us from Deacon Sarah

As I approach the end of my first year as your minister it seems appropriate to reflect on the journey we are making together and to look ahead to the direction that journey may take in the future.

My work here is of course based on the Circuit profile which was submitted to the Methodist Diaconal Order and, as I reflect on that profile, I see some areas where we are making good progress and others where there is still some way to go. Given that we are only one year into a five-year appointment, that is probably exactly where we would expect to be at this stage!

I remember when I first visited the Circuit to discuss the appointment that two main key needs had been identified by the Fife congregations.

The first of these was that your minister should be an enabler and encourager of your pastoral carers. I am very proud, as we all should be, of the pastoral visitors that we have in Rosyth, and we are all very appreciative of all the work which they do. During the last year I have been privileged to share in peoples' lives in many different ways and it has been good to get to know, not only those of you who are able to attend church regularly, but also those who are perhaps unable to come to worship as often as they would like.

The second key need was a desire to develop links in the local communities surrounding the two church buildings. Such links do of course take time to develop, so it is encouraging that already I am involved in school chaplaincy, leading worship in the Resource Centre and have been able to develop stronger links with the Brambles playgroup which meets each week on our premises.

One of my happiest moments was when one of the playgroup leaders introduced me to the parents as "their minister". What a joy to be seen as the minister to those on the fringes of the church, as well as to those who attend worship each week!

There have of course also been disappointments, and some of you may know that I had several conversations with the Job Centre and the Citizen's Advice Bureau in the hope that we might be able to offer our premises to those organisations and thus serve the local community better. Sadly, because of funding issues within those bodies, that door remains closed, possibly temporarily, but who knows what opportunities there may be in the future?

I realise that this is a new style of ministry for Rosyth and it is a privilege to be stationed in the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit at a time when new ways of working are being developed, not only in Fife, but across the whole Circuit. I am very much looking forward to Deacon Sue Langdale joining the Circuit staff in September as the minister in East Lothian. We have also recently seen the return of Ken and Casey Weatherford to assist us in developing new styles of worship, initially in Edinburgh, but then in other parts of the Circuit too.

We also have a Venture FX worker coming to minister in Edinburgh and to develop exciting work with young people in the city. Venture FX is the pioneering ministry scheme within the Methodist Church, and there are only a few such appointments throughout the Connexion, so again it is exciting to be part of a Circuit which has been chosen to be involved in this work.

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It is of course not just within Fife or only within this Circuit where Methodism is changing. This year's Methodist Conference spoke again and again of finding new ways of working and of Methodism being a movement and not an institution.

The Methodist Church has always taken seriously the need to make the good news of Jesus Christ known to all people and especially those who don't easily connect with the church. My hope for Rosyth is that we (you and I together) can be part of that vision and mission

Ed: For those who missed the previous articles regarding Sarah's ministry, both web sites have archive pages with links to the following issues:

February 2010 p21

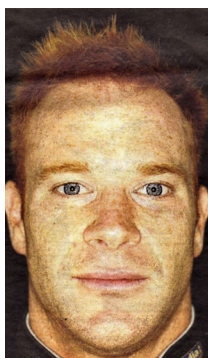
"What to expect in September"

June 2010 p24

"Future Ministry in Fife"

August 2010 pp6-7

"Sarah McDowall – an introduction!"



Whose "mugshot" is this? And why might you have seen it in *The Times* on 4 June?

Go to page 15 for a clue.

Editorial team wanted!

Compiling, editing and producing our newsletter is thankfully no longer an extra task for the minister (contrast Issue 1), but is shared between the partners, with each constituent church taking a two-year stint. This helps give a balanced perspective and ensures the flow of fresh ideas.

At the end of 2011, having completed twelve issues of *Contact*, Sandra Young and Martin Tarr will lay down their keyboards, and the Methodist Church Council is looking for a team to take over. You don't need to keep the same format as the current newsletter, and are free to do your own thing, provided that each issue is available both in print and electronically for the web site.

The main effort for the editorial team comes only once every two months, and there are many willing contributors. Prerequisites are not being afraid of a computer and being prepared to work hard to stimulate both contributors and the readership! And having an ear to the ground and an eye for detail are both helpful.

Ask Sandra or Martin to find out more about what's involved, and express your interest or willingness to get involved to Andrew or Sarah. Remember that this task is best tackled by a small team, rather than being a solo effort, and that team members can be recruited from anywhere: after all, Martin is a fourth-generation Baptist!

We'd encourage you to think seriously about these vacancies. And, if writing isn't you strong point, do you know anyone for whom this might be just the area of service they are looking for?

Working together

Rosyth Churches

The next meeting of the Ecumenical Study Group will take place on Monday 8 August when Morag Crawford will relate her experiences in Tanzania during a world meeting of Presbyterian Deacons in Dar es Salaam. She travelled out in mid-July, and has spent two weeks in the country.

Prayer in Unity

The purpose of Prayer in Unity is to pray for the people of the Dunfermline area and the spreading of the Gospel. It is supported by a number of local churches, and meetings are open to all Christians.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 August in the Gillespie Church Hall the entrance of which is located on the South side of the Gillespie Memorial Church in the centre of Dunfermline north of the bus station.

The September meeting is planned for North Queensferry. Enquiries by phone to John Macdonald 0771 362 1892 or by email to Frank Moyes (Frankmoyes2@aol.com).

Scottish Churches House

At a Members' Meeting of Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) held on 15 June 2011, the Members unanimously voted in favour of the following resolution from the series of options presented to them.

"To retain Leighton House to include office space for ACTS staff, other potential offices for a variety of denominational partners or other organisations with aims in line with those of ACTS and the member denominations, and some small non-residential meeting facilities; to lease and/or sell the remaining buildings."

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Casting the Net News

Following a successful meeting of Casting the Net Liaison Officers at St Columba's Crieff last October, the CTN team has started to plan the programme for the next one this Autumn. Last year, everybody appreciated the chance to meet together and to share experiences. As so much has happened over the past twelve months, with most of the churches in the Diocese having embarked on CTN, this should be another worthwhile day. Hopefully, we will get the opportunity to share progress on our joint initiatives as a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Will there be a 2012 Gathering?

Susannah Silver, the CTN officer, has thanked everyone who has sent in a Gathering evaluation sheet. She reported that the answers are being collated and the results make fascinating reading, with plenty of pointers on how to improve for next year and lots of positive comments. The CTN Coordinating Group recently met to discuss what they will do for next year in the light of the feedback, and will be selecting the date for next year's Gathering in August, so watch this space.

The Members also expressed their desire to engage in a visioning process concerning the future of ACTS.

The decision of the ACTS trustees (10 January 2011) to cease the current business operation on 15 July 2011 stands.

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

From our Treasurers ...

Alan Taylor writes:

SEC Provincial Fund

As a result of one of the three retiring collections we have each year, St Margaret's was able to send £87.50, including Gift Aid, to John Stuart, Secretary General of the General Synod Office. His letter of thanks, on St Margaret's Noticeboard, highlights the vital work the Fund undertakes, disbursing about £5,000 each year to support the needy of all faiths and none, where other sources of money are not available.

Giving to others

Following its request for suggestions, St Margaret's Vestry has decided to give £200 to each of the following charities: Marie Curie Nurses, Help for Heroes, Mission to Seafarers Scotland, the Oasis Ecumenical Project in the Kingsgate, Dunfermline, and the National Trust for Scotland Arduaine Gardens project. [The actual cheques will be issued once the much-delayed tax refund has been received!]

Room 3

St Margaret's has offered to redecorate Room 3, and hopefully this will have started by the time you get this issue of Contact.

You may also notice that there are now *six* identical cupboards in Room 3, the most recent being for St Margaret's church records and choir materials.



For whom was this an "offering"?

See page 6 for the answer ...

Howard Kirby writes:

Simplifying giving

Many of our Methodist members and supporters make their giving to the church as regular as possible by belonging to the "envelope scheme". The idea is that, with a dated envelope for each Sunday of the year, it is easy to put aside something every week, so avoiding any gaps if you are away.

However, for those with a bank account, there is an even easier method, namely asking your bank to set up a standing order to ensure a fixed sum is paid into the Church account at regular intervals. This is usually once a month, but other intervals are possible.

At its June meeting, the Church Council strongly endorsed this method of giving, so we invite any who wish to change to a standing order to contact Jack Fowell (Envelope Recorder), Ron Dempster (Gift Aid Officer) or myself, and we will be pleased to advise you of the church account details. The change from envelope to standing order can be made at any time.

Of course we would also be pleased to receive enquiries by any who are not in the envelope scheme, but who now wish to give regularly, whether using the envelopes or by standing order. An additional advantage of giving in this way is that, if you pay UK tax and complete a simple form, then the basic tax you have paid on your donation can be reclaimed from the HM Revenue & Customs, and every £10 you give is worth £12.50 to the church.

Thank you

A big thank you to an anonymous donor who recently provided a cash donation of £100 towards improvements to the sound system.

Alison Peden's sermon

Given at the ordination of Valerie Walker at St John's, Alloa on 3 June 2011

The readings were Philippians 4:4-9 and John 15: 9-17

Well, Valerie, I hope your joy is almost complete (John 15:11). It's absolutely right that the readings this evening should highlight joy: "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4) and "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)

Joy is what I associate with Valerie, and it has carried her through, from the first stirrings of vocation, to this glorious point, where she hears God saying to her: "You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

And amidst all the joy, all the tremendous sense of the rightness of Valerie's vocation, and the gifts she has been given being aligned with priestly ministry, there is the weight of expectation: "go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."

Yes, but how? And what if I fear I can't and won't bear fruit?

The expectations are huge, and you will have been experiencing them already in your curacy, Valerie. We Episcopalians expect you to be able to conduct liturgy with perfect gestures and the canonically appropriate rites, with exactly the right words on every occasion. We expect you to appeal to the elderly and the very young, and of course to teenagers, and also working folk and the newly-retired. We expect you to be available at any hour in church, and also at home, at Diocesan meetings, clergy meetings, ecumenical meetings ... We expect you to have read all the relevant books on mission and to have created a comprehensive and effective strategy that will double the size of the congregation in not less than 3 years.

We expect you to be spiritually at concert-pitch, mentally razor-sharp, physically to have a constitution of iron and not to need anything so feeble as rest and relaxation.

We expect you, however, to have the time to be up-to-date on contemporary culture and soap-operas, and know the likely impact of global politics and economics on the religious and ethical life of the nation. Meanwhile, we expect you to remember everyone's names, and the names of their children and grandchildren, and their birthdays and ailments and general likes and dislikes.

Not. Definitely not.

Because all you are asked by God (not us) to do is abide in Christ, and to bear the fruit that comes from living a Christ-shaped life. It's as easy as ABC.

And ABC is exactly what you are called to do as a priest.

A: Absolution. B: Blessing C: Consecration.

In the Church, we ordain people as representatives of the baptised people of God, to enact in the liturgy the very life of Christ, to point to how that life of Christ is to be lived by all of us. Our church authorises ordained priests to carry out these roles: absolution, blessing and consecration, as signs of Christ's life among us.

Absolution

St Paul summed up the Incarnation in 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself"; and "he has given us the ministry of reconciliation".

Christ reconciled the world by his death, bringing forgiveness and peace with God.

But he also reconciled and healed throughout his life, declaring God's forgiveness, extending love which led to repentance; raising women and men from despair and bitterness and isolation and healing their wounds of body and soul.

As priest, Valerie, you too will be authorised to declare God's forgiveness in the liturgy; and it will be a healing ministry. But behind it will lie the absolution you reveal and minister in your life: the love you will give which will draw people back to God; the work you will do to help reconcile people to each other; the forgiveness you will live out day by day and hour by hour in your own life, and at great cost.

And this will bear fruit: in repentance and changed lives, in deep healing and true love for one another. It will be another small step in Christ's reconciling the world to God.

Blessing

The second way in which the priest reveals and reminds us of the life of Christ is in pronouncing God's blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you ..." as Aaron and his sons blessed the Israelites. So what is blessing? Blessing is pronouncing God's favour, God's good-will. It makes a link between God and the people, a channel for the blessings of God to flow to us.

If you go to the Jewish cemetery in Prague, you can see the tombstones of the Cohen families, who were of the priestly line. They are identified by hands held up, with five spaces between the joined fingers. It was to make a kind of lattice for God's light and presence to come through in the blessing.

And in a way, that is how you could describe the Incarnation: God letting light and blessing come through to the world in Christ. As Christ lived and taught and healed and prayed and died, he let God's

blessing through to us, as a channel; he became a blessing himself, transparent to God, opening up the new life and kingdom of God, raising the weak and lowly, calling us God's children and his friends.

So in the liturgy, the priest enacts Christ's blessing of the world: and lets a bit of the glory of the risen and ascended Christ into the world, a measure of the hope and truth and excellence and justice that Paul speaks of in the passage from Philippians that we heard.

And behind your blessings, Valerie, will lie all that you do in your life to be a blessing to others: all the care and kindness, all the fierce fighting for what is right and passion for justice.

And this too, will bear fruit: in lives that are lifted up and given meaning and dignity; as the kingdom of God is brought a little closer.



Consecration

And finally we come to consecration. As priest, Valerie, you will be authorised to consecrate bread and wine, to set it apart as holy and filled with God's presence in Christ. You will be enacting Christ's life: not just when he himself consecrated bread and wine to be his body and his life-blood, but his whole life, which revealed the holiness of the world, and the way it becomes filled with divine power.

The expectations are huge!

Five loaves and two fish became food for 5000, like the manna in the wilderness demonstrating God's presence among the crowd. Water in the well became living water springing up for eternal life. Oil from an alabaster phial became a holy anointing for burial. A wooden cross became the throne of salvation. The Mount of Olives became the doorway to heaven as Jesus ascended to the Father.

The Orthodox Church has a tradition that at Christ's baptism, all the rivers in the world ran with holy water. They say that when the priest consecrates bread and wine, it looks forward to the time when all bread and all wine will be holy and consecrated and full of God. The sacraments are just a foretaste of that wonderful transfiguration of the world into God.

As priest, Valerie, you will consecrate bread and wine, as Christ did, but behind this, too, will lie: the way you reveal the inner holiness of all things; the time you spend up to your arms in the sheer stuff of the world, finding within it the incarnate God, and consecrating your life and the lives of those you serve.

And this too, will bear fruit: the fruit of reverence for the world around us, and the utter joy you communicate that God is in all, and is all in all.

So absolution, blessing and consecration will bring your life as a priest together with Christ's own life and the life of the world, and the lives of those whom you serve.

You cannot 'do' it: you can only live it. And the only one who can teach you is Christ, for, to adapt what Paul said in Philippians 4:9:

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in Christ, and the God of peace will be with you. This is our prayer for you tonight.

Alison's sermon gently pokes fun at what we frequently expect a minister to be able to do, and brings us back to the need for that ministry to be grounded in a right relationship with Christ.

Even though we will probably accept her argument with our *heads*, that doesn't stop our *hearts* wanting the minister to be Super(wo)man, and hoping in particular that the minister will pick up the tasks that we don't want to do – after all they're paid to be full-time! – and will somehow cover up for our shortcomings and lack of commitment and vision. It was Carey (pp32–33) who took as his theme: "Expect great things *from* God, attempt great things *for* God". The challenge was to face up to what God was asking, and those who responded to it weren't only ministers!

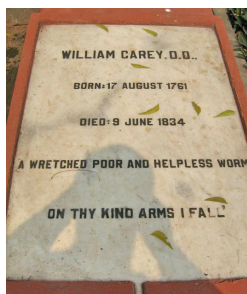
We have several proofs in this issue of the aphorism that "Methodist ministers never retire", but we should not expect *anyone*, lay or clergy, to continue work for ever, without considering afresh how their life-long discipleship should best be translated into continuing participation in church life. Paul Sheppy has wise words to say about this on page 36.

There are also dangers in younger people having to wait for "dead men's shoes". Given the current national debate on retirement age, this is not just the Church's challenge! But what is different is the 'pension' that is offered:

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21 KJV)

A lad o' pairs!

In our April/May issue we included this photograph, and asked whether our readers knew anything about the man?



The answer is that the tablet seen by Bishop David in Serampore is in memory of William Carey, often referred to as “the father of modern missions”. Although born 250 years ago this year – churches have been invited to celebrate ‘Carey Sunday’ on 21 August – the work he started continues, and there are aspects of his story which still have things to say to us, though the world has changed much since, not least in our ability to get instant information from distant parts, if not to communicate with other cultures on the deep level that Carey managed.

When the first of Edmund and Elizabeth Carey’s five children was born in their poor weaver’s cottage on 17 August 1761, in the tiny Northamptonshire village of Paulerspury, there was no reason to suppose William would go on to change the world!

Not fit enough for field labour, Carey was apprenticed to a shoemaker, a trade he followed until he was 28. From school he showed an interest in nature and a gift for languages, learning first Latin, and then Greek, Hebrew, Dutch and French, all from books that he borrowed or starved himself to be able to afford.

Edmund was parish clerk, and William was brought up in the Church of England, but a fellow apprentice, John Warr, was what we would nowadays call a Nonconformist,

and had an enormous influence, encouraging Godly living, prayer and church attendance.

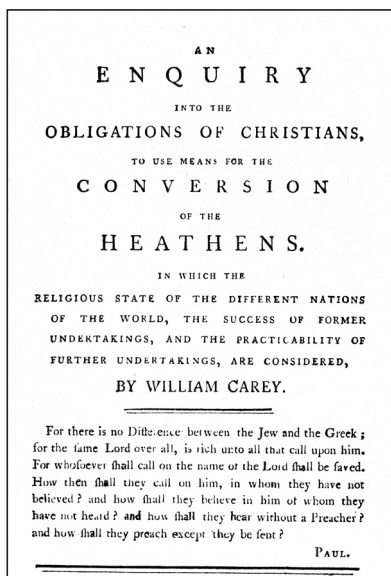
In 1783, Carey was baptised in the River Nene by the Rev John Ryland, and his later studies led him to be a convinced Baptist. Having begun preaching, by 1785 he felt a call to ministry, and became a member at Olney Baptist Church for two years, so that the church and its minister, John Sutcliff, might test his gift. It was Sutcliff, preaching at the Northamptonshire Baptist Association (NBA) meeting in 1784, who had proposed monthly prayer meetings to pray for revival.

By this time, Carey had married Dorothy Plackett, and become the schoolmaster at Moulton, near Northampton. He became pastor there, with John Sutcliff and Andrew Fuller preaching at his ordination on 1 August 1787. [Among Baptists, ordination is still linked to a suitable trained person being called to serve his/her first church, and as well as being approved by the wider community]

Among his NBA colleagues Carey constantly raised the issue of “Whether the command given to the apostles to teach all the nations was not binding on all succeeding ministers to the end of the world.” His fellow ministers gave him no encouragement, but he would not give up the idea, and “talked with them one by one, till he had made some impression”.

At Easter 1791, Carey demanded action that day “relative to the formation of a Society for the propagation of the Gospel among the heathen”, but his colleagues remained cautious, urging him instead to revise and print the manuscript he had prepared on the subject, which became the famous ‘Enquiry’ (see opposite).

That, and Carey’s famous ‘Deathless Sermon’ to the NBA in Nottingham in 1792, based on Isaiah 54:2–3, and with a call to “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God”, set in train the formation of the Society that is now BMS World Mission.



Translating vision into action, 1793 found Carey and his family on a Danish boat, sailing for India with a doctor, John Thomas. He never came back.

His intention being to reach the population of India with the Gospel, he had to get the message into a version the people could understand, so he set about translating the Bible into local languages – from scratch!

Funds were scarce, and for six years Carey managed an indigo factory to support the family, whilst at the same time working on a Bengali New Testament. His son Peter died of dysentery during this period, and his wife had a breakdown from which she never recovered. Life was tough!

In 1800, Carey moved to the Danish colony of Serampore where, with Joshua Marshman and William Ward, his most fruitful work was done. Carey himself produced the first Bengali Bible, and eventually translated the whole Bible into six languages, and at least one book of the scriptures into another 29, many of which had never before been printed. For this, he has been described

as one of the greatest linguists of all time. By his death in 1834, the mission's printing press had produced all or part of the Bible in 44 languages and dialects.

This wasn't all: they founded Serampore College, which still provides first-class education; they campaigned against the Hindu practice of burning widows alive on their husband's funeral pyre; they made a crucial break with the caste system for their converts; and they promoted agricultural, social and medical reform. Carey was also highly regarded as a botanist, studying and cataloguing the local flora and fauna.

Carey's contribution to spreading the Gospel has been described as "one of the towering achievements of Christian mission".

What were his keys to Carey's success? The story suggests:

- a thirst for learning
- a willingness to use his talents
- a passion for evangelism
- preparation through prayer and, above all,
- perseverance

His life started very humbly, but he said of himself: "I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything." Wasn't he a lad o' pairs!



The Carey Window at Moulton Baptist Church

The Ministry, then and now – Part 2

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 appeared in our last edition, was a comment from our oldest retired minister (in the circuit): this is a response to Arthur Valle's reflections by Andrew Letby.

As Arthur was retiring in 1979 I had just gone 'on-trial' as a Local Preacher, and entered Theological College in 1989 to begin training for ordained ministry. Looking back at ordained ministry in the Methodist Church at that time I can recognise much of what Arthur described. I suspect though in the years since change has come at a faster pace than ever before (reflecting the changes we see in all areas of our lives). The following thoughts were triggered by Arthur's recollections and pick up some of his themes.

Worship

When I was training as a Local Preacher it was still pretty much unheard of for anyone else to share in the leading of worship (certainly in the mining and farming communities where I plied my trade in the early days). I can't remember even the readings being done by anyone else. The advent of readers and Worship Leaders does, I believe, enrich worship. The sheer quantity and variety of music which is now available to enhance worship has made the task of preparing worship far more complex. Similarly the availability of theologically meaningful, well written liturgical material has opened new horizons.

Congregations though, still often measure their worship by the 'quality' of preaching – which often seems to have more to do with being the 'right' length than containing solid theological teaching! I am concerned that the desire to be 'talked to' reflects congregations who do not really want to engage. It is rare these days to sit and listen to one person speaking for 20 minutes without interruption and I begin to realise that people often take

in little of what is said. The move to more reflective and conversational styles of worship is increasing and leads to congregation and 'preacher' being mutually challenged.

I remember well as a young child the practice of the service ending and then a short service of Holy Communion following for the few who chose to remain. By the time I took an active interest in the life of the church this had changed and the integration of communion into the main liturgy had thankfully become the accepted way. Alongside this of course we remodelled our churches often moving the pulpit to the side and the (much larger) communion table took central place. We don't always realise just how much our theological thinking shifts over time, and how those shifts change how we do things. A better understanding of how our understanding of God and faith in everyday life shape our need for and the style of our buildings is something I earnestly pray for.

Arthur spoke of the formality of dress amongst ministers in his experience. Whilst it is quite true that many preachers now choose to dress in a more casual style, there has always been and will continue to be a variety of practice. It is equally true that the style of dress seen in our congregations has changed considerably over the years.

Family life

The traditional Methodist itinerant system has come under considerable strain in recent times. To a large extent this has shown the Methodist Church paying a little more attention to family life, in particular working spouses and the education of children.

The average stay for a minister today is around eight years, which in my experience is a good marker. Beyond that I think it would be difficult to discover the new challenges and opportunities which keep us enthused. The sharing of ideas and practice around the Connexion is also very important.

On the other hand I would not want to go back to regular three-yearly moves, that is not nearly enough time to achieve anything. (My appointments before coming to Edinburgh were for six, nine and two years)

Administration

Ministers have probably always grumbled about the administrative role that is an inevitable part of our work. What has probably changed is the variety and complexity of those tasks. In recent times I have had to learn a great deal about issues such as safeguarding, immigration, various aspects of finance not to mention the skills needed to negotiate the new online Property Consents Scheme! The sheer volume of paperwork and requests for information mean that working without administrative support in a circuit of this size is unthinkable.

Circuit life

Reading Arthur's account of his experience I get the sense that every minister was expected to be a 'Jack of all trades'. Consequently ministers were lauded for their strong points and soundly criticised for falling short in those things which were not their gifts. I hope that we are increasingly recognising the unique strengths (and weaknesses) of individual ministers and realising that by working in cooperative teams we will achieve more. That sometimes raises the question, 'who is our minister?' – and consequent

misunderstandings when the answer is 'that depends on what sort of ministry you want.' But, surely we all do better when we work to our strengths.

The other crucial changes in ordained ministry over the last 30 years are seen in the gender balance and the renewed Methodist Diaconal Order. The number of female candidates for ministry has recently exceeded the number of men, and it would now feel like a strange and incomplete church if we did not have ministers of both genders complementing one another in style and gifting. The rapid growth in the Diaconal Order in recent years (male and female) has reminded us that our mission and ministry must have many dimensions and must look in at the life of congregations and out at the challenges and opportunities in our communities.

I hope too we are learning to see that the 'ministry' is something we all share and the increased leadership roles held by lay people (paid and voluntary) are opening new possibilities and unlocking new skills and enthusiasms.

In all this I look with admiration at previous generations of ministers whose lives were lived very differently. They were of course seeking to be the best they could be for God in their time and place. I equally admire my present friends and colleagues in ministry who also strive to be the best servants of the Gospel in an ever-changing environment.

Bill is retiring – and that is final

A friend of mine has reached pensionable age and decided to retire. He has ministered in churches that most would regard as thriving and has seen growth in numbers and in depth of common life and in outward vision. He has led two ministry teams and is what is commonly described as a good minister – I certainly think he is.

He is still full of visionary ideas, he still preaches well, he is still greatly loved by those he serves, and not a few have asked why he is stopping. Another minister at a similar stage of life and with a similar record will not countenance retirement. He thinks that he has many a mile left in him and wants to keep going.

My friend Bill (not his real name – so apologies to any Bill out there) thinks differently. He feels the need to stop, to take time out and to think. He believes that another generation can take on the task that he has discharged for 40 years, and that he must begin to ask what new thing God has for him.

My friend, you see, is tired. Ministry may have been his gift and his life, but it has not been without loss and pain. His family have moved when it seemed right to take a new church, but the moving has meant friendships bruised and roots pulled up. He has gone to a new church and discovered that while the deacons said everyone wanted to reach out into the neighbourhood, few were ready for the disruption and effort that this sort of change demands.

The energy that loving people into a new mindset demands has drained him. Retreats and sabbaticals have helped, but the call on his reserves has been immense over the years and he feels the need to stop.

Already, he is being asked to do things: moderate a church in its pastoral vacancy, lead a visit to the Holy Land, start a home-study bible group, help a local ministers group plan their next Lent course.

I asked Bill if he was really retiring. He grinned. I told him it was not a laughing matter. If he really wants to be still and find God, then he should say so clearly – and if Christian people cannot hear that, too bad.

God may have much for Bill to do, but first Bill needs time to hear again that still, small voice.

This article by Paul Sheppy appeared in the “The Final Word” section of the 15 July 2011 issue of the Baptist Times, and is used by permission.

More memories of yesteryear

As we mentioned in our last issue, two photos that were displayed in the 2011 Rosyth exhibition had special resonance for Jock and Audrey Headden.

The one below is of the St Andrew and St George Youth Fellowship preparing for a concert. Most, if not all, were also members of the Church Choir choir, and Jock remembers that they were gipsies for some of that show!



Something completely different ...

A book review by Margaret Dineley

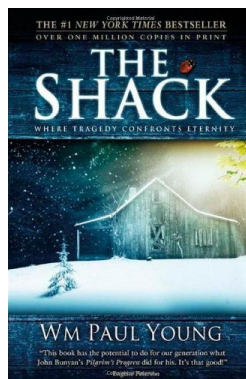
Now for something completely different. You, the reader, will either be somewhat shocked or deeply moved – there will be no half measures. The book is a novel, at times totally and even horrifyingly real, at other times seemingly a work of fantasy. But then it all depends on how you, the reader, interpret it.

Initially the tale centres round the life of an American family. It is not appropriate to say ‘normal’ or ‘abnormal’ as that would lead to the question of what is normal. However, fairly unexceptionable events occur, then horrific tragedy bursts onto the scene and the central figure, Mark, descends into what the author calls ‘The Great Sadness.’ A few years later Mark receives an inexplicable note signed by ‘Papa’, the name his wife uses for God. It is an invitation to The Shack, the location of the confirmation of the earlier family tragedy. Is it from God? Is it a hoax? Will it lead to further danger?

Without communicating his mission to the family, Mark goes to The Shack and there follows a fantastic (or fantastical?) weekend with God, God as three persons. It is a time of immense love and a path towards healing and the ability to forgive. Many passages are beautiful, some are funny, but it will have a profound effect on you, the reader, in some way. Whatever your views on the outpourings of this author’s imagination and experience of life, there is a huge amount of warmth and compassion shining through his words. The final incident in the book may well lead you to further questioning about the weekend at The Shack. Did it really happen? Was there a God-given time warp involved? Or was it merely the fevered dreams or hallucinations of an injured man?

You, the reader, may put this book down with relief, grateful you have finished it, feeling irritated, shocked or even scornful. You may relegate it to the darkest recesses of your bookshelves – or even the charity shop. But, on the other hand, many of you will feel quite the opposite. Mark’s life was deeply changed by his experience and you, the reader, may well find it so powerful and moving that you feel God stirring within you – and some of you will never see the world of Creation in quite the same light again. In a world of pain, stress and personal disaster it projects a very positive image of God and his purpose. Too often we turn away from God and try to tackle our lives with only a cursory nod in his (or her?) direction. The author wants us to ‘re turn’ to God, letting his spirit right into the very centre of our lives at all times. So I encourage you to give ‘The Shack’ a chance. You may well find yourself in the latter group and want to re-read it and to share your feelings with others.

Margaret Dineley,
Holy Trinity, Dunfermline



William P Young, The Shack
(Windblown Media, Los Angeles,
California, 2007).

ISBN: 978-0-9647292-3-0

Music Corner

Sunday@Six

The Sunday@Six service on **28 August** will have an African theme. One of Sue Masson's colleagues at school is a director of a charity called "The Mango Tree" which provides care and education for orphans in Tanzania and Kenya. Their mission statement says:

"The aim of the Mango Tree is to provide effective and sustainable programmes in African communities that improve the well being of orphans and vulnerable children and nurture them to become self reliant adults."

When children are orphaned, beyond the immediate needs of food, clothes and medicines, it is education that will ultimately make a difference to them. Primary school is free in Tanzania, but pupils have to buy the uniform to be able to attend – the Mango Tree provides the basic kits they need. Secondary education costs just £45 per year but this is out of the reach of the orphans. The charity helps as many children as they can and then gives student loans to allow the best to go to university or college.

The Mango Tree targets areas that can sustain more tailors, carpenters, tinsmiths, masons etc and provides equipment or small loans to get their protégés started on the road to self-sufficiency.

Dunfermline "Songs of Praise"

Many of our congregations took part in the recordings made in Dunfermline Abbey in April, when we were promised that the resulting BBC Songs of Praise programmes would be part of the August schedule.

Unfortunately we are still waiting for news of the transmission dates, so please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin, and of course the *Radio Times*!

They believe that a local problem needs a local solution and they are working in 116 villages in Tanzania and have 251 village workers in Kenya all focussing on the orphans with greatest need.

As of September last year they were helping children in the following places:

- 648 pre school;
- 409 nursery school
- 7,533 primary school
- 2,376 secondary school
- 97 vocational training
- 194 college and university

They also provide thousands of mosquito nets, desks and text books, wind-up torches, shelter, food, medical operations, hiv testing and counselling, all with only 39 staff and virtually no costs for the admin in the UK.

If you would like any further information their website is www.themangotree.org.

Sue hopes you will come and join us on 28 August to hear more about this amazing charity.

Scottish Chamber Choir

At 8.00pm on **Sunday 14 August**, the Choir are performing Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* in the Canongate Kirk, in its original scoring for choir, solo voices, harmonium and piano.

Enjoy the wide-ranging drama of Rossini's last great work, which he described as "the last mortal sin of my old age". The Mass is a serious reflection on faith, which moves from tightly-woven counterpoint to glorious melody. With eloquent writing for solo voices, this richly-textured work has an emotional impact far greater than its title suggests.

Tickets £12 (concessions £10; under-16s free) from Martin Tarr or on-line at www.edfringe.com.

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 *via*
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

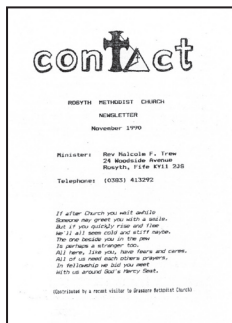
Rainbows
Susan Warren 01383 414355
Assistant, Lyn Lennie

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

From our very first issue ...



The current run of Newsletters started during Malcolm Trew's ministry. In November 1990, thinking that 'Newsletter' seemed a bit bland, Malcolm decided to experiment with the title 'Contact' – the name suggesting its purpose. The title has stood the test of time and 21 years on it is still 'Contact'.

Five issues earlier in 1990 – when there were planned to be eight issues a year – the church pastoral visitors started delivering Contact to your door. This is still the recognised method of distribution to this day. We hope that all who regularly receive the publication feel contact with the church is present, rather than past, and that you can find something of interest in each edition.

Also noteworthy in the first edition was that Malcolm was looking to find a modern typewriter for the church which would produce sharper images for copying. How technology has moved on, with Contact now also available electronically!

Whilst much change and progress in the life of the church has happened over the years, there are still some common threads:

- Many of the people referred to are still active in the church – Ron and Mary Dempster, Dennis Cook (sadly not Jean), Cathy Cusator and of course, Malcolm, whilst Iris Lines, although no longer able to attend, still takes a keen interest in all that is going on and contributes the occasional poem.
- A page devoted to the various charities supported shows a main one being the Church Benevolent Fund, with two contributions during the year to the National Children's Home (now Action for Children).
- House Groups and the Wednesday Fellowship (the successor to the Women's Own and the Retirement Fellowship), and the Scout and Guide units are still to the fore.

You can read a scanned copy of the first Contact at <http://tinyurl.com/42awnty>.

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue, with photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/3bb84os>. 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/4yt7f9o>.

To our contributors

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this issue, especially our roving reporters, Ron and Mary Dempster. We do appreciate all the inputs that help us compile what we try to make an interesting and informative newsletter. Please keep material coming!

The **next issue** of Contact will be published on Sunday 18 September. Contributions please by **Sunday 11 September** 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). Note that our publication date is earlier than usual, so get writing soon!