

Rosyth
Methodist Church



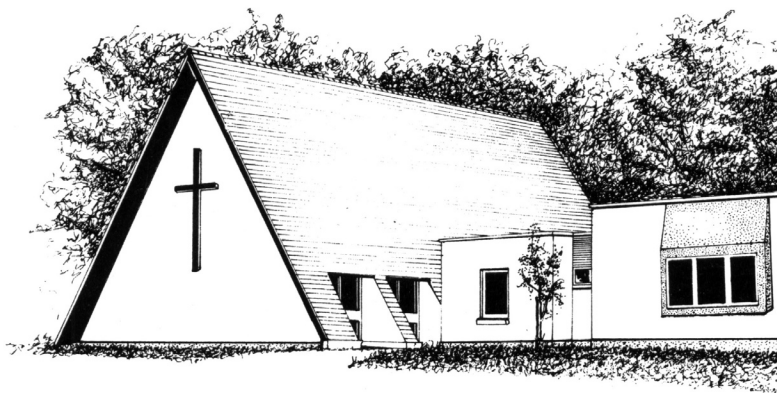
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 59

October/November 2011

**Rosyth
Methodist Church**

Scottish Charity SC028559

**St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church**

Scottish Charity SC028426

in partnership

Our partnership is formally recognised as a Local Ecumenical Partnership,
with a constitution and Covenant signed on 14 June 2000

Ministers:

Deacon Sarah McDowall
01383 611000

Rev Andrew Letby 0131 663 1545

Senior Steward:

Mary Kidd 01383 872332

Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

Treasurer:

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

Rector:

Rev Tim Bennison 01383 720532
07411 616163

Curate:

Rev Valerie Walker 07720 327766

Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

Treasurer:

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

our regular pattern of worship

Sundays (except 4th)

9.30am Episcopalians Sung Eucharist
(occasionally 9.15am – see diary pages for details)

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship
(including Sunday School)

2nd Sundays: for the Young Church

9.00am Breakfast and “Sunday Funday”

11.00am All-age service

4th Sundays: Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service

6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

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

From the Manse

There are of course many aspects of being a Christian and living a Christian life which are difficult, but I think if we were being honest we would say that one of the most difficult things we are called to do is to forgive. It is very hard to forgive someone who has hurt us at some time or perhaps it may be someone who has hurt others.

In September this year we came to the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States. As the world reflected on the attacks on the Twin Towers, I realised how difficult it was to forgive the attackers, even although in Scotland we were many thousands of miles away. Imagine how much more difficult it must be for those who lost family and friends in the tragedy.

I have always admired those people who have suffered very publicly, yet have still been able to forgive. I think for example of Gordon Wilson, whose daughter was killed in the Remembrance Day bomb attack at Enniskillen. An earlier example was Corrie Ten Boom, the Dutch holocaust survivor who helped many Jews escape the Nazis during World War Two. When, years after the war at a church meeting, she encountered one of the prison guards that had been so cruel to her and her sister during the war, she realised that she had to forgive him, but also realised that she

was unable to do so in her own strength. She was only able to forgive him with God's help but in doing so she also found healing for herself.

Sometimes we may feel that it would be easier not to forgive, but experience tells us that harbouring anger and resentment feels like carrying a great weight on our shoulders. We are reminded of this when we say the Lord's Prayer and in particular when we say "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us". A wonderful line reminding us of God's love for us, but also reminding us of the consequences of not forgiving others. It is only by forgiving that we will receive forgiveness.

Only God can give us the strength to forgive those who have carried out the most horrible acts to us and to others. Jesus, of course, knew that showing forgiveness was not easy. That was why he told the parable of the unforgiving servant. An exaggerated story of course, but Jesus was using the exaggeration to make the point that you can never show too much forgiveness, that even seventy times seven is still not enough!

Of course in life we will continue to come across people who we will need to forgive – sometimes we even have to learn how to forgive ourselves!

Deacon Sarah

What's in this issue ...

This issue has a decidedly sub-Saharan flavour, with a report on a visit to Tanzania (pp14–15) and items relating to the work of no fewer than *five* charities working in Africa (pp16, 35, 36 and back cover).

It also contains an extended article (pp28–34) on Malcolm Trew, celebrating 50 years both in the ministry and of marriage.

Our contributors also introduce three ladies with a vocation (pp17, 18 and 23).

And there are all the usual items:

Book review (p38)

Diary for Sept–November (pp19–22)

Fellowship News (pp12–13)

From the Superintendent (pp24–25)

From the Treasurers (p35)

Invitations and requests (pp4–6)

Music corner (p37)

News from our groups (pp9–11)

Working together (pp7–8)

Invitations and requests

Harvest 2011

Giving the church a harvest theme

A big welcome awaits you at our joint Harvest Thanksgiving Communion at 11am on **Sunday 25 September**. All our ministers will be taking part and the choir will sing an anthem. The Sanctuary will be decorated with a reminder of the harvest season, including fresh produce.

A word from the Flower Secretary

Deuteronomy 26 v2: "Each of you must place in a basket the first part of each crop that you harvest and you must take it with you to the one place of worship". And v11: "Be grateful for the good things that the Lord your God has given you and your family".

I'm not expecting you to obey this Law to the letter, but I hope to be at church on the Saturday morning to receive your contributions of fresh flowers and/or fruit, maybe things you have grown at home in your garden, and to be able to arrange them in preparation for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Any offers of help in this task will also be gratefully accepted. After the service and the lunch, you are then free to claim your gift and deliver it to whoever you wish. Pastoral visitors may help you in your choice, so that we remember friends who cannot be with us.

There are also one or two gaps on the Flower Rota in the Crush Hall for the remaining Sundays of this year. As on previous occasions, please feel free to add your name to the list, maybe to donate money to the Flower Fund via our Treasurer, or to be available to arrange flowers for a particular Sunday. You may like to commemorate a special event in your life, or remember a person you have loved.

Mary Kidd

Join us for lunch

All are welcome to join us for our Bring-and-Share Harvest Lunch after the service. Jean Hall writes "Please indicate if you are attending on the lists in the Crush Hall and what savoury or sweet dish you will bring. To help with washing up and clearing away, we ask that you bring food ready plated for the buffet table. Please no cooking or heating up on the day and after the function take your serving dishes home".

We hope to have a happy family fellowship including games and fun for all so please come along and share the joyous occasion.

The Annual Appeal

Mary Dempster writes:

We are collecting again for the Blythswood Highland Food Bank. During 2010, 4,108 people in the Highlands were referred to the Food Bank and provided with emergency supplies of food, and in the first seven months of this year over 2,000 people around Inverness were helped.

So please remember these people when you are doing your weekly shop, and pop into your trolley some of these items:

long-life fruit juice, tea bags,
coffee, pasta or rice

There is a large box in the Crush Hall for the goods. On behalf of the Highland Food Bank, thank you for your help

From our web site What's on pages ...

... think too of the other sort of harvest, the one that Jesus was talking about in Matthew 9 when he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Invitations and requests

St Andrews West Area Council Annual Service 2011

This year Holy Trinity is hosting the annual St Andrews West Area Council Service, which will take place on **Sunday 2 October** at 11am. Our Bishop and Primus, +David, will be preaching and celebrating.

Members from the various churches represented in the Area Council are being invited. As well as Holy Trinity and St Margaret's, these comprise the Episcopal Churches in Kinross, Lochgelly, Glenrothes, Leven, Kirkcaldy, Burntisland, Aberdour and Inverkeithing.

The service will be a Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist. Young Church will be involved as well as a music group and a joint choir, incorporating instrumentalists, choirs and individual singers from all the churches. Activities for the children will take place partly within the service and partly separately in the hall. There will also be a crèche in the hall. After the service there will be the usual tea/coffee and biscuits in the hall.

If you would like to be involved in the musical activities please give your name to Sue Masson (susan.masson@btinternet.com; tel 01383 824887) who will contact you about music and rehearsals.

Do be sure to come along and welcome the Bishop and our Episcopal neighbours on this special occasion.

Margaret Dineley,
Lay Representative, Holy Trinity

Ed: There will be no 9.30am service at St Margaret's that day and you are encouraged to attend Holy Trinity.

Make it the World's Biggest Coffee Morning!

Evelyn Kenny is again holding a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at her home, Willow Lodge, Leys Park Road, Dunfermline, KY12 0AA from 10am to 12noon on **Friday 30 September**.



To help her host the event, Evelyn would welcome donations of baking and assistance on the day: if you are able to help, please contact her (tel: 432310).

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest fundraising event. They ask people across the UK – and sometimes further afield – to hold a coffee morning at which donations are made to the charity. Last year 43,000 people signed up to hold a coffee morning, raising over £8 million. And this year, for its 21st WBCM, Macmillan are trying all out to make it the biggest-ever. Please help them meet their goal by coming along to Evelyn's home with your friends!

Were you in our playgroup in its early years?

As you will see from page 10, the playgroup is planning to celebrate the fact that Brambles started 40 years ago. If you were one of the people who helped then, or were one of the children who enjoyed the experience, do please get in touch with Lauren Harris (01383 412592, or email laurenst3@aol.com) as soon as possible.

Invitations and requests

St Margaret's celebration

We celebrate our patron saint St Margaret with an Agape Meal on **Thursday 17 November** at 7.30pm in the Church Lounge. In the past, this has been a special evening of fellowship and a meal, interleaved with communion, when we serve each other the bread and wine. Further details will be announced later.

Congregational AGM

St Margaret's Annual General Meeting will take place on the morning of **Sunday 20 November**, at a time to be decided at the next Vestry meeting on 4 October. Please make a note of the date now and come along to this very important event and share your views on matters affecting the running of St Margaret's.

Faith Talk Lunches

We have been invited to come along on Tuesdays at noon to the United Reformed Church, Canmore Street, Dunfermline, to share in this initiative. No previous learning needed, just an open mind, a Bible and a packed lunch!

"Getting to grips with the Bible" takes place once a month:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 27 September | Looking at the library (a trip round the Bible) |
| 11 October | The story of Biblical times |
| 1 November | Language and literature in the Bible |

Ring 01383 733610 if you want to know more.

Ed: The minister of the Dunfermline URC, the Rev Kathryn Price, will be sharing with Sarah in our joint communion service on 23 October. See page 18 for an introduction to Kathryn.

Volunteering in Faith: Obligation or Joy?

Do you volunteer in a church setting or outwith the church and are interested in exploring this issue in relation to the "Big Society"?

A day conference on **Saturday 19 November** at St Mary's Centre, Kinnoull, Perth, organised by the Church in Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church, will provide an opportunity to explore this topic through keynote addresses and workshops.

The keynote Speaker is Ann Morisey, a freelance community theologian and lecturer, who has worked in the field of social responsibility for many years and directed the Commission that wrote the report "Faithful Cities". Ann has written two best selling books – "Beyond the Good Samaritan" and "Journeying Out."

Workshops: Valuing volunteers; training volunteers; recruiting and retaining volunteers; general volunteering; volunteering with the elderly; volunteering with young people; volunteering overseas.

Time: 9.30am (registration) – 4.00pm.

Cost: £5. Morning coffee, a buffet lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

Register by sending your name, address, email contact details to the Church Relations Officer, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE by 14 October and enclose a cheque for £5, made out to the Scottish Episcopal Church.



To find out why Stuart Fowell is pleased to be holding this little statuette, go to page 27.

Working together

Ecumenical Study Group

The group will meet on the first Mondays of October and November in St Columba's Church at 7.30pm. We will be looking at how we got our Bible. Do come along and join us.

Holiday Club

There will be a Holiday Club for Primary School children in St Columba's Church Rosyth **10-14 October** 2.00pm-3.45pm.

To register contact Morag Crawford on 0131 332 2253.

Advent Study

Advance notice is given of the Advent Study group which will probably start on **28 November** in St Columba's Church. Further information from Alan Taylor, Jack Fowell, or Morag Crawford.

Christmas Nativity event

7.00pm on **Tuesday 6 December** (weather permitting!) will see the switch-on of the Christmas lights, a Nativity event featuring Sydney the donkey, and carol singing at Rosyth Parish Church. If you are able to help by serving teas or stewarding, or have ideas for the event, see Alan Taylor, Valerie, Tim or Sarah, or contact Morag Crawford on 0131 332 2253.



No ... Sydney hasn't grown stripes! To work out who took this picture, go to page 14.

Free your spirit/ stoke your inner fire:

An ecumenical gathering
for spiritual growth

Looking for a different way to spend part of your Saturday? Looking for something spiritually fulfilling taking place within a warm and friendly environment? Then look no further! Free your questing spirit and join us on **Saturday 12 November** at Rosyth Methodist Church. We'll meet for tea/coffee at 10.30am ready to start at 11.00am.

The introductory session invites you to start stoking your inner fire by taking part in a form of imaginative prayer from Scripture. Following this you can choose between two workshops, one on Lectio Divina and the other on Centring Prayer.

The lunch break gives you an opportunity to relax in company and feed the physical body, having just fed the soul. We will provide tea, coffee and soup, but do bring sandwiches etc. if you want.

After lunch, you will again have a choice between two workshops, this time one on Christian Meditation and the other on Praying with Pictures. The afternoon will conclude with an informal Wild Goose Eucharist, finishing around 3.00pm.

Puzzled by unfamiliar terminology? Well, don't stay out in the cold! Come into the warmth of Rosyth Methodist Church in company with members of other churches in the Rosyth and Dunfermline area, and all will be revealed.

The Spirituality Group,
Holy Trinity Church

Working together

Developing Local Partnerships

The National Sponsoring Body (NSB) for Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) exists to provide a means whereby those involved in LEPs in Scotland can share their stories and learn from each other. The NSB has recently decided to work in a different way in the future, with a much greater emphasis on networking LEPs. Instead of having a full day business meeting, the NSB has decided to hold a morning conference session and then its business meeting in the afternoon. The morning session is open to people from LEPs or folk interested in developing partnerships locally and will be held in an LEP.

The first of these will take place on **Thursday 29 September** at Augustine United Church George IV Bridge, Edinburgh from 10.30am and concluding with lunch at 12.30pm. Augustine is part of 'The Local Church' LEP.

The theme for the morning is 'Developing Local Partnerships'. The NSB hopes that this will be an opportunity to share experience and insights. One of the things which may emerge from the morning is a 'top tips' resource sheet, which can then be made more widely available.

The programme (full details on the notice-boards in the Crush Hall) includes:

A presentation by 'The Local Church' LEP
Discussion groups (with choices of these topics):

- Developing local ministry teams
- Developing congregation to congregation relationships
- Developing relationships through mission/outreach
- Developing relationships through worship
- Working together with children and young people
- How local relationships can be supported by denominations

There is no charge for the morning and lunch.

It would be good if a few people from our LEP could attend, as we are sure to benefit from some of the topics with the development of our own partnership.

To help with the catering arrangements will you please let Sandra Young know by 22 September if you wish to attend.

Prayer-in-Unity

Prayer-in-Unity has just celebrated the seventh anniversary of the first meeting of a "gang of four" from Viewfield Baptist, St Margaret's Catholic Church, St Margaret's Touch, and Holy Trinity. Since then, ecumenical prayer has brought together Christians from ten different traditions, all seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Meetings are held every month, usually on the second Tuesday, the meetings moving around Dunfermline and West Fife, with members making a major drive each time to attract people from the locality.

Prayer-in-Unity pray for revival through the gospel, for penitence, and for the blessing of the area and the nation. After each meeting, they circulate prayer themes to be taken up by local churches over the following month.

All are welcome to join in the prayers – aloud or in silence – and to let the group know in advance of any specific topics for prayer. The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 11 October** in St Leonards Parish Church. Further information from Rob Jones (07789 172394) or John Macdonald (johndwmacdonald@gmail.com).

Scouts' summer

Early in July, a party of seventeen Scouts, Explorer Scouts and leaders departed for their trans-European tour from Rotterdam through Germany, Italy and France. The Scouts had loads of opportunity to practise languages, experience new cultures and take responsibility for travelling around Europe by bus, tram, train and ferry. They stayed in a variety of accommodation, sometimes in Scout hostels such as a converted gunpowder packing house located beside a canal in Holland, and sometimes in air-conditioned compartments on a long-distance train.

And they discovered lots of new things. For example, what Dunfermline has in common with Den Haag in Holland – they both have buildings funded by Andrew Carnegie. They took a boat trip on Europe's largest subterranean lake, 100m underground, and they sped along at over 200km/hr on one of Europe's fastest trains. They visited Vienna before travelling on to Rome – the home of pizza, pasta, and history galore – where they endured temperatures approaching 40 centigrade! At the Colosseum, the Scouts could only imagine the battles that once took place in the arena, but no doubt they were left in awe at the sight of an arena the equivalent size of the modern-day Old Trafford. In Vatican City, they visited the vast museums to see the collection of paintings, murals and statues and the awe-inspiring detail of the Sistine Chapel. Then, overloaded with "culture", they did what Scouts do – head for a pizza or pasta-feast courtesy of a back-street vendor, and go for a walk through the ancient city. Then, in Paris, they saw the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower, strolled down the Champs-Élysées, and visited the Louvre. "Cheval" sandwich was on the menu for lunch (or salad for the fainter-hearted!). A good trip by all accounts, and a great experience for them all.

By contrast, mud and wet canvas was the hallmark of the Scouts' Summer Camp this year, as the twenty Scouts and leaders who attended suffered far less congenial weather than their colleagues had on the Continent.



At Bonaly on the slopes of the Pentland Hills it was, like most places in Scotland, very wet indeed. Constant rain mid-week made normal camping increasingly onerous and, as a result, the intrepid band found respite for a few hours in Livingston town centre and swimming pool. But, as the weather eased, they returned to continue to demonstrate their traditional camping prowess back in camp. Thanks to all the leaders who braved the elements to give the Scouts what can best be described as a character-developing opportunity!

Stuart Fowell

We're hoping in our next issue to have a report from Rhys Turner on his trip to Malawi. Meantime we report on someone else's summer on pages 14–15, and continue the African theme on pages 35 and 36. *Semper aliquid novum!*



Ready for the next session

Sunday Funday New term plans

At our June meeting we were using the topic of Pentecost, and among other things made a banner depicting the Power of the Spirit. [Ed: this appeared on p12 of our last issue] We intend to follow that theme in the next few months with the “Fruits of the Spirit”.

September: We have been looking at ‘Love’ as in the Good Samaritan, and our banner depicts the world as a crown of thorns, inside which we see the present needs of the people in famine areas making their way to the camps and feeding stations. Indeed, these are our neighbours now.

October falls during half-term, so please note that we are not meeting that Sunday.

November: We plan to look at ‘Peace’, a timely coincidence with Remembrance Sunday.

December: Our theme will be ‘Joy’ – Christmas “Joy to the world”.

Please pray for the work of this group – helping youngsters to see their place in the world and to understand more about the stories in the Bible. We are thankful to all who help with the group faithfully throughout the year. Think of us on the second Sunday of each month, as we meet at 9.00am for breakfast, followed by stories, songs and crafts, and encourage more to join us.

Evelyn Kenny

Brambles Playgroup

Lauren Harris, who has recently taken on the chairperson role, writes:

We are currently trying to find our feet as the new committee and have lots of exciting ideas underway (fingers crossed it goes according to plan!!).

We would like to thank the church for its continued support, and for the help at the car boot sale that was held over the summer holidays. At the moment we do not have any definite dates for future events, but we are planning to have a fete ASAP.

We are also planning to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the playgroup opening. The date was actually earlier this year, but we don’t want it to go by un-noticed and it’s a great fundraising opportunity! We are hoping to hold the celebration around 29 October but the date is still to be confirmed.

If there is anyone out there that was in the playgroup all those years ago, it would be great if they could get in touch.

Even simple play takes a lot of equipment, as the Brambles helpers will be well aware! And in developing countries items for children, both for formal education and for play, are much less available.

Which is why we were asked to help The Mango Tree (page 36) and are being asked to collect items for Samaritan’s Purse. Please take time to read the item on the 2011 Shoebox Appeal that appears on our back cover, and come to Wednesday Fellowship on **26 October** to listen to Gillian Hall.



Wednesday Fellowship

Starting afresh

The Fellowship started on a high on Wednesday 7 September when some 20 people came along to listen to a very interesting talk by Dennis Cook. He told us all about the town of his birth, Letchworth, the First Garden City in the UK. Dennis described the town so well that we could see it in our imagination, and by the end of his talk we felt that we ought to book up a holiday to see it for ourselves! Everyone appeared to enjoy being back, and able to chat to each other after the summer break.



Our syllabus is very interesting and varied, as you will see from the list above. If any of these topics appeal to you, then do come along to the Church Lounge at 2.00pm for 2.15pm on a Wednesday – you will be very welcome.

In the photograph above, the Fellowship were singing a 'Senior version' of "Jesus Loves Me", found by Ron and Mary:

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

*Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.*

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

Yes, Jesus loves me ...

Our Autumn plans

- 21 Sep Our own Harvest Thanksgiving
- 28 Sep Deacon Morag Crawford – Visit to Tanzania (see article on page 14)
- 5 Oct Games Afternoon
- 12 Oct Lou Davidson – Latest visit to Haiti
- 19 Oct Ethel Douglas – Desert Island Discs
- 26 Oct Gillian Hall – Samaritan's Purse
- 2 Nov Bring and Buy Sale
- 9 Nov Remembrance – Past Times
- 16 Nov St Margaret's Day celebration
- 23 Nov Jack Fowell – Box of Matches
- 30 Nov St Andrew's Day Special
with Bill Tulloch and Mary Kidd
- 7 Dec Gill Wardell – Flowers for Christmas
- 14 Dec Christmas Lunch at the Elgin Hotel

Meetings resume on 8 February 2012

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

Yes, Jesus loves me ...

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

Yes, Jesus loves me ...

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

Yes, Jesus loves me ...

Congratulations and best wishes

Congratulations to **John and Deborah Cornish**, who have just become grandparents to Chloe, a daughter to David and Laura. We have no doubt that Alan will be a very attentive uncle!



We are pleased to say that **John Cowie** is continuing to improve in health every day. He is now starting back to work on a phased return basis and is still seeing his GP each month. He is attending a further 12 week cardiac rehabilitation programme as well. His family is well, and we wish them all God's blessing and give thanks for John's recovery.

Our best wishes and every blessing for the future go to **Pauline Fisher** who recently celebrated a significant milestone – her 70th birthday.

Congratulations to **Jack Fowell** who has become a great-grandad to Elizabeth and Michael's daughter Natalie Mary. Our best wishes go to the new grandparents Ian and Susan.

We were very pleased to hear that **Olive McNee**'s daughter Heather has made her a granny . . . Lewis James was born on 13 August.

Myra Tarr's elder daughter, Suzy, was married in Suffolk at St Mary's, Homersfield, on 13 August, and the sun shone!



Suzy (still a Trevethan!) and Ben Hunt are starting their new life together in the Essex village of Kelvedon.

Not to be outdone, Suzy's younger sister Ceri, who has just started a new job at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, has announced her engagement to Jim Urquhart.

The St Margaret's congregation will know both girls, as they worshipped with us when they were at home.

Congratulations to **Alan and Bridget Taylor** who became grandparents again on 11 August, when their daughter Jennifer gave birth to a second son, Findlay Lewis Knox. Findlay is the spitting image of his elder brother Ewan at birth.

We are always pleased to receive letters and articles on topics of interest to our readership, especially items of fellowship news, though regrettably we may have to modify or adapt them to fit the space available.

From our readers ...

Thank you

Sometimes the Church can make you despair, when it gets side-tracked by petty things and forgets its calling. But on other occasions you can be filled with joy at its ability to show an openness to the Holy Spirit. One such time was a recent Sunday morning.

The Plan said that the service would be led by Rev Andrew Letby, and would be a communion service. But at short notice Andrew had to withdraw from taking the service. Instead we had a service led by Evelyn Kenny and Rev Valerie Walker. So we had a Methodist lay Worship Leader, who is not trained as a preacher, but who gave a moving and stirring personal testimony; and an Episcopal priest celebrating the Eucharist according to the Methodist liturgy. These things are not all that unusual now, of course – and that is part of the wonder. Not all that long ago they would have been thought impossible – especially since both officiants are female!

The result was an excellent act of worship and another sign of hope that the Church is able to grow in faith and respond to God's calling. Thank you very much to both Valerie and Evelyn.

Rev Eric Potts

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Everything is possible for him who believes."

Mark 9:23

Just for a while



On 19 July our dear friend Joyce Kingston passed away aged 86, and we wanted to pay this tribute to her, as we know that there are a few in the congregation who will remember Joyce, Eric and their family.

Joyce was a very loving wife to Eric and mother to Anne, Sheila and Fiona, and it was a privilege and pleasure to share such a friendship from our first meeting her in Rosyth on our arrival in 1961.

Although Joyce was involved with the Girl Guides and Brownies, Rosyth Operatic Society and our Women's Own among other things, she always had time to be a very caring and supportive friend, not only to our family, but also to many others with whom she was associated.

With our two daughters, Priscilla and Lorraine, we shared many happy times with her family and helped each other in the difficult days. Joyce and Eric moved back to Plymouth some years ago and were sadly missed by us and others who knew them.

Joyce's life-style was truly Christian, and her absence from us is just for a while because we have the "sure and certain" hope of meeting her again. Jesus Christ his Son said "Do not marvel at this" – John 5:28, 29 and Acts 24:15.

Thelma and David Couch

Morag's summer

A report by Morag Crawford DCS on the Diakonia Region Africa Europe Conference held 21–26 July 2011 at the Lutheran Uhuru Hotel and Conference Centre Moshi, Tanzania

World Diakonia began with a group meeting in Switzerland in 1946 to discuss ways to unite those involved in Diaconal ministry in a Europe fractured by war. The first World Diakonia Conference was held in 1947. As numbers grew it was divided into regions, Europe being the region with the largest numbers. In 1994 the inauguration of Diakonia Region Africa Europe (DRAE) took place in Scotland at Stirling. At that Conference we set ourselves the target to bring one African to the Conference and succeeded in bringing six. This year in Tanzania more than two-thirds of the 121 attending the Conference were African. Five deacons from the Church of Scotland travelled to Tanzania for the conference.

How does one describe the atmosphere – I can only attempt to give a flavour of the colour, the welcome, the visits.

Arriving at Dar es Salaam in the early morning, the five Scots got our first impression of Tanzania, as we changed money and discovered the vast number of Tanzanian shillings to the dollar!

On leaving Customs at Kilimanjaro we saw the smiling face of Sister Elly Urrio, who is the lead sister at Ushirika wa Neema mother house. She greeted us with the word 'karibu' – welcome – a word we were to hear often.

First impressions on the journey were of a parched and rather dry land with some greenery, wayside traders, Masai herdsmen, and women carrying loads on their heads. We were later to discover the joys of shopping in Moshi, bargaining and resisting appeals to 'come to my shop' or buy – whatever.

Old and New Friends

We renewed the first of friendships at lunch when we met the President of DRAE Jackie Fowler (Methodist deacon from UK) and a member of the executive.



The meal with DRAE President Jackie Fowler (in the centre) and Sister Elly Urrio (on Jackie's right)

We were astonished to find chips on the menu and were even more amazed when we later experienced cold chips in a picnic box! We were to discover that sometimes you got running water, sometimes electricity, sometimes neither, sometimes both. Over the next two days we greeted old and new friends, from Finland, Germany, Norway, Rwanda, Zambia, Kenya and the Cameroons to name just some of the countries represented.

Colour and Joy

Buses took us to the opening of the conference which was a joyous, colourful celebration. All were given a garland of bougainvillea on arrival.



Greeted with garlands: Morag Crawford (right) and Pat Munro, another Church of Scotland deacon

The church was decorated with drapes, a brass band played as the procession came in, there was an African choir and the joyous singing and dancing of a group of handicapped children from one of the schools run by the diocese.



The choir of handicapped children

Handicapped children are considered a curse and are hidden by their families and are not educated. The school attempts to do that.

The theme “Help beyond the Mountain” was outlined in the opening addresses and the challenge was given as to what that meant for diaconal ministry in sub-Saharan Africa. We heard how the Northern Diocese is active in projects promoting hygiene, health education, home and family life, care of the environment. Keynote addresses were given challenging us on attitude to disability, the economic effect on sub-Saharan Africa, and the ecological effect on creation and our response to it.

Visits were made to Faraja Diaconic Centre where deacons are trained and which is also a school for handicapped children. The school provides boarding facilities for 80 children, as well as providing the professional medical services needed.

Worship services were in the Lutheran tradition, and were of 2½hrs and 3½hrs duration, in Swahili. We had a taste of Tanzanian culture both in traditional tribal music and food prepared by the women – even experiencing the mystery and delicacy of Kilimanjaro Banana.

We made a safari trip to the Tarangire National park from the conference, followed by a four-day trip to Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti National Parks, where it was wonderful to see so many animals in their natural habitat. It was all a very thought-provoking and amazing experience.

If this has aroused your interest, take advantage of the fact that Morag Crawford is our guest at the Wednesday Fellowship on 28 September (page 11).

Thou Art Mindful

Psalm 8:4 (KJV)

Wondrous creature that is man,
He the whole of earth may span.
His mind is powerful to plan
Yet understand – we never can.
His inhumanity to man.

Machines he made have reached to Mars,
The moon he treads and reads the stars.
Complex vessels to fight his wars,
Yet he’s heedless of the scars.
Comprehend we never can.
His inhumanity to man.

Man did not heed the gospel call,
He forgot the Eden fall.
He thought – “God’s a mite too small” –
Forgetting He is over all.
Will He forget, do you think He can?
Man’s inhumanity to man.

Iris Lines

Tools With A Mission

For 25 years, Tools With A Mission (TWAM) has been collecting and refurbishing tools to send out to Africa and other countries to give people an opportunity of employment so that they can provide for their families. From just a few containers per year, TWAM has grown to sending over 200 tonnes per annum to countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya. The tools are sent to specific projects run by charities working in partnership with TWAM to achieve our aim of helping those in need of employment and some purpose to life.

TWAM also helps in supplying rainwater tanks to provide families with clean germ-free water throughout the year. And their children's scheme collects materials for schools in Africa that sometimes lack items like pencils and rubbers that we take for granted.

In short TWAM is trying to bring God's love to those who need it by offering practical help. A by-product is that they help recycling in this country by renovating, to a useable standard, items that might otherwise have ended up on landfill sites.

TWAM's new Rosyth branch, at 24 Fairyrkirk Road, is open from 10.00am to 3.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays to receive any tools for which you no longer have a use, and they will arrange to collect tools that you can't deliver yourself. Lists are also available of the tools they are looking for.

TWAM are always in need of people who can help refurbish tools, and at the moment are in urgent need of someone to help check sewing machines being sent to Rwanda. You can work at the branch, or TWAM can supply the tools and machines for you to do the work at home if you have suitable facilities. And any ladies thinking that this is a "man thing" can get involved on our haberdashery side with knitting and sewing!

Like all charities, TWAM have financial needs and any donations will be very welcome, and they also ask for your prayers as they carry out this vital and practical work in the Lord's Name. More details on their web site www.twam.co.uk, or phone Finlay Robertson on 01383 722371 (mobile 07891 857990).



TWAM tools at work in Africa



More about other charities carrying out work in Africa on pages 35, 36 and our back cover.



Welcome Service for Deacon Sue Langdale

1 September at Tranent Parish Church

We were warmly welcomed by the friends from Tranent into a bright, attractive, modern church set inside a traditional stone building. The tables at the rear of the church were spread with a delightful array of cakes and pastries, and tea was served from a very small kitchen which closed away into a concealing cupboard!

The service began with Ken and Casey Weatherford (our music missionaries from the USA) setting the mood. Rev Andrew Letby (our Superintendent) then welcomed the congregation of about 130, which included Sue's family and members from her previous church, representatives from the Methodist Diaconal Order and many ecumenical partners, members from all parts of the Circuit, and also Rev Lily Twist from the Scotland District, who was the preacher.

Rev Lily Twist spoke to the theme from the readings with the question: "What are you wearing?" The priest Joshua in Zechariah 3:1-7 was given new clothes to wear, replacing the filthy rags (sin) that he had on before he took up his duties in the Temple; in John 13:1-5, 12-15, Jesus took off his outer garment in order to prepare himself for washing his disciples' feet; in 1 Peter 5:1-5, instructions are given for leading and caring for the flock as a shepherd, even to the wearing of the apron of humility. All these outer garments are to



be symbolic of the inner life, following in the footsteps of Jesus and aiming to mirror his actions with our own, and becoming servants of all in our Christian service.

The evening progressed with many ways of expressing the servant ministry to which Deacons are called. Rev Linda Bandelier came to the front to

hand over to Sue the responsibility of being chaplain to the Torness Power Station, which was done symbolically in the form of a white protective hard hat! Linda also shared some of her own experiences in that role. I'm sure that many of us don't fully understand or appreciate the nature of the work needed in what is a tough, hi-tech world, but one where people have the same family problems and health issues as the rest of us. A warm, gentle and compassionate listening ear can give great blessing in that extreme environment.

Many civic and ecumenical welcomes followed before Sue shared her story and her hopes for her ministry in East Lothian, in Cockenzie, Tranent and Dunbar, and in the wider Circuit.

The sharing of the Peace among the congregation was a real symbol of our willingness to work together across the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit. Surely the hearty singing of the final hymn "I the Lord of sea and sky" signified the call to all to love and serve the Lord in the power of His Spirit.

Evelyn Kenny

Rev Kathryn Price – an introduction

Kathryn will be presiding at the Joint Communion Service in October,
and we invited her to introduce herself ...

So what do you want to know?

My family history?

I was born into a Methodist family in South Shields and we moved to Sheffield when I was 15. I went to Bradford University to study modern languages, but although I graduated, I got sidelined – married Hugh and we moved to Mold in North Wales, where I had a job at Theatr Clwyd. Three children later – a daughter and two sons in that order – I also returned to work in a variety of roles in the theatre, before moving to Age Concern Chester.

Meanwhile I joined the nearest ‘free’ church, which happened to be the United Reformed Church, and settled there.

My ministry history?

I went to theological college – Northern College in Manchester – at the age of 40, when, they say, life begins! I developed a profound love of the Bible, which no doubt began in Sunday School 37 years earlier! In 1997 I was ordained in Llanelli. During my time as minister there we created a community arts centre in the building and I was joined by a Church Related Community Worker (rather like a Methodist deacon). The church in Llandeilo was added to the pastorate in 2001.

I moved to Scotland in 2004 to join the Drumchapel Churches Partnership as an ecumenical community minister – interesting and challenging in equal parts. Then in 2008 I was called to Dunfermline and Coaltown of Balgonie.

What about your ministry here?

As I said, I am minister to two churches, 17 miles apart, spending 25% of my time in the smaller village church. My particular interests – creative worship, storytelling, spirituality, community involvement, learning together – are played out on Sundays, through some small groups in the churches, in chaplaincy to the primary school in Coaltown and at Your Oasis in the Kingsgate centre. I am also chaplain to the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College and I convene the Synod Ecumenical and World Church Committee.

Anything else?

I sing (with Dunfermline Choral Union), play piano, learn flute and dulcimer, spin, weave and knit, walk my dog Rufus, visit my children (now all about 30 and living in Cardiff, London and Hampshire), read thrillers. I still enjoy the theatre and welcome many guests during the Festival season!

And I’m looking forward to getting to know you all better.

Shalom

Kathryn



Diary for September/October 2011

Sunday 18 September

| | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Trinity 13 | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Rev Tim Bennison |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Mrs Hilary Henderson Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader) |

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

Wednesday 21 Sep 2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship
Mary Kidd: Our own Harvest Thanksgiving

Friday 23 Sep 7.15pm Choir Practice for Harvest service

Sunday 25 September

| | | |
|---------|---------|---|
| Harvest | 11.00am | Harvest Communion Service Revs Tim Bennison, Andrew Letby and Valerie Walker Deacon Sarah McDowall (Worship Leader) |
|---------|---------|---|

1.00pm Bring-and-share Harvest lunch
(see page 4 for details)

Note: No Sunday@Six

Tuesday 27 Sep 12.00pm Faith Talk Lunch URC Church, Dunfermline
(see page 6 for details)

Wednesday 28 Sep 2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship
Deaconess Morag Crawford, Rosyth Parish Church:
Visit to Tanzania

Thursday 29 Sep 10.30am Mini-Conference 'Developing Local Partnership'
to 12.30pm Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
(see page 8 for further information)

Friday 30 Sep 10.00am The World's Greatest Coffee Morning
to 12.00pm Evelyn Kenny's home (see page 5 for details)

7.15pm Bible Study Home Group: Joel and Amos
Evelyn Kenny's home, Willow Lodge, Leys Park Road

Sunday 2 October

| | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Trinity 15 | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Mr Laurence Wareing |
|------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|

11.00am St Andrews West Area Council Service
at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
Celebrant and preacher Bishop David
(see page 5 for details)

Note: No 9.30am service at St Margaret's

Diary for October 2011

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---|-----------------|
| Monday 3 Oct | 7.30pm | Ecumenical study group, St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane | |
| Wednesday 5 Oct | 2.00pm | Wednesday Fellowship | Games Afternoon |
| Friday 7 Oct | 7.15pm | Choir Practice | |

Sunday 9 October

| | | | |
|------------|---------|---|--|
| Trinity 16 | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker | |
| | 11.00am | All-age service Mrs Sheila Lee and Deacon Sarah McDowall | |
| | | Note: No Sunday 'Funday' during School Holidays | |
| | 3.00pm | Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---|--|
| Monday 10 Oct to Friday 14 Oct | 2.00pm | Holiday Club for Primary School children | |
| | 3.45pm | in St Columba's Church, Rosyth (see page 7) | |

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|--|--|
| Tuesday 11 Oct | 12.00pm | Faith Talk Lunch URC Church, Dunfermline (see page 6 for details) | |
| | 7.30pm | Prayer-in-Unity at St Leonards Parish Church (see page 8 for details) | |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|---|--|
| Wednesday 12 Oct | 2.00pm | Wednesday Fellowship Lou Davidson: Latest visit to Haiti | |
|------------------|--------|---|--|

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|----------------|--|
| Friday 14 Oct | 7.15pm | Choir Practice | |
|---------------|--------|----------------|--|

Sunday 16 October

| | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Trinity 17 | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Rev Tim Bennison |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Rev Alan Whitson Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader) |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|--|--|
| Wednesday 19 Oct | 2.00pm | Wednesday Fellowship Ethel Douglas: Desert Island Discs | |
|------------------|--------|--|--|

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|----------------|--|
| Friday 21 Oct | 7.15pm | Choir Practice | |
|---------------|--------|----------------|--|

Sunday 23 October

| | | | |
|------------|---------|---|--|
| Trinity 18 | 11.00am | Joint Communion Service Rev Kathryn Price and Deacon Sarah McDowall (to learn about Kathryn, see page 18) Traidcraft goods on sale after the service | |
| | 6.00pm | Sunday@Six: King James Bible 1611-2011 A Bible Sunday celebration led by Mrs Mary Kidd | |

Diary for October/November 2011

| | | |
|------------------|--------|---|
| Monday 24 Oct | 7.00pm | Property Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday 26 Oct | 2.00pm | Wednesday Fellowship Gillian Hall: Samaritan's Purse |
| Thursday 27 Oct | 6.30pm | St Margaret's Vestry pre-AGM meeting (to be confirmed) |
| Friday 28 Oct | 7.15pm | Choir Practice |

Sunday 30 October

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|---|
| All Saints Sunday | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Rev Tim Bennison |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Rev Geoffrey Baines David Salthouse (Worship Leader) |
| Tuesday 1 Nov | 12.00pm | Faith Talk Lunch URC Church, Dunfermline (see page 6 for details) | |
| Wednesday 2 Nov | 2.00pm | Wednesday Fellowship Bring and buy sale | |
| Thursday 3 Nov | 7.30pm | St Andrews West Area Council meeting at St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly | |
| Friday 4 Nov | 7.15pm | Choir Practice | |
| Saturday 5 Nov | | "Equipping, Calling and Going" event at Gateshead (details on page 14 of our August issue, or talk to Sarah) | |

Sunday 6 November

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| Trinity 20 | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Valerie Walker |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Mr Laurent Vernet |
| Monday 7 Nov | 7.30pm | Ecumenical study group, St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane | |
| Wednesday 9 Nov | 2.00pm | Wednesday Fellowship Remembrance: Past Times | |
| Friday 11 Nov | 7.15pm | Choir Practice | |
| Saturday 12 Nov | 10.00am | Casting the Net Liaison Officers meeting | |
| | 10.30am to 3.00pm. | Ecumenical Gathering for spiritual growth led by the Spirituality Team, Holy Trinity (see page 7 for details) | |

Diary for November 2011

Sunday 13 November

- Remembrance 9.00am 'Sunday Funday' and Breakfast
- 9.15am Sung Eucharist
- 10.50am All-age service Mr Will Carroll
 David Salthouse (Worship Leader)
- 3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth
- Wednesday 16 Nov 2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship
 St Margaret's Day – a celebration
- Thursday 17 Nov 7.30pm Agape Eucharist for St Margaret
- Friday 18 Nov 7.15pm Choir Practice
- Saturday 19 Nov 9.30am Volunteering in Faith: Obligation or Joy?
 to 4.00pm A day conference at St Mary's Centre,
 Kinnoull, Perth (see page 8 for details)
- 8.00pm The Scottish Chamber Choir 'Improvisation'
 St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh
 (see page 37 for details)

Sunday 20 November

- Christ the King 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
- St Margaret's Annual General Meeting
 of the congregation (time to be arranged)
- 11.00am Morning Worship Mr Ian Paterson
 Deacon Sarah McDowall (Worship Leader)
- Wednesday 23 Nov 2.00pm Wednesday Fellowship
 Jack Fowell: Box of Matches
- Friday 25 Nov 7.15pm Choir Practice

Sunday 27 November

- Advent Sunday 11.00am Joint Communion Service
 Mrs Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
- Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
- 6.00pm Sunday@Six Advent Service

St Margaret at Durham

Our patron St Margaret is celebrated on 16 November: the following day, we will be remembering her at an Agape. Whilst we proudly associate her with Dunfermline, she is also honoured in Durham Cathedral.

St Margaret's name has linked Durham and Dunfermline since the 11th century. Durham's Prior Turgot was her confessor, friend and first biographer, and through him Margaret must have been familiar with the importance of Durham Cathedral and Northumbria. Her husband, King Malcolm III, was present when the foundation stone of this Norman Cathedral was laid in August 1093, and it is likely that Margaret, with her close connections to Durham, must also have attended the significant ceremony.

The huge Chapel of the Nine Altars stands at the eastern end of Durham Cathedral. The Chapel is designed in a series of bays, three in each of the three compartments.

In one of these bays is the St Margaret Altar, with its comparatively new hangings and kneelers, which was dedicated to our patron saint on 16 November 2005. A painting depicting the Scottish Queen who became a medieval saint, forms the centre-piece of the altar. The Cathedral Chapter commissioned the work, *Margaret and David 2003*, by London-based Portuguese painter Paula Rego.

Paula Rego is widely regarded as a great painter, even spiritual, but her work often gives a sinister edge to story-book imagery as is evident in this painting, a pastel on paper mounted on aluminium.

The painting shows Margaret (1093) near the end of her life, perhaps having heard about her double bereavement of her

beloved Malcolm and Edward her eldest son in the Battle of Alnwick, with her son who became David 1. She is gazing into the far distance, as if her sights are already set on the next world, like Jesus in John's gospel, setting his face to his imminent passion and death. Her face is lined with the marks of suffering. Her left hand points to her most treasured collection, a Gospel Book now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford; the other rests gently on the shoulder of her young son and king-to-be David 1, wise beyond his years, perhaps caught between the lure of the weapons lying like a child's toys around him, and the summons of his mother's gospel book to fight different, spiritual battles.



Far from the image of the saintly queen portrayed in familiar paintings, this disturbing and thought-provoking painting is a contemporary image of St Margaret's character, who was not one to reign in easy state while others suffered. A refugee with no home of her own, Margaret received kindness and hospitality in Scotland, and repaid it a hundredfold in her own care of the poor and imprisoned, the desperate and the abandoned. She was truly a remarkable woman.

The connection with Durham does not end there. In 1070 Queen Margaret founded a priory in Dunfermline on the site where she had married Malcolm, which in the 12th century, their son, David I, raised to the status of an abbey. David brought stonemasons who had previously worked on Durham Cathedral's construction to help build the Abbey, as indicated by the similar shape and design of the Romanesque pillars in both naves.

From the Superintendent's desk

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

Dear friends

The last few weeks have also seen lots of comings and goings in our staff and leadership teams, which point to new life and vibrant new initiatives.

In July I was delighted to attend, along with a number of others from the circuit, the service which marked the Ordination of Rev Helen Jenkins. The service took place in the grand setting of Chester Cathedral and it was deeply moving and satisfying to be with Helen as the long years of discernment and training drew to a close. I suspect most people are not aware of the lengthy and gruelling process of testing and learning that Ministers have to work through to reach that moment when the congregation at the ordination service enthusiastically acclaim, 'They are worthy' and by laying of hands they are sent out to a life of service, proclaiming God's love in word and deed. Helen was able to celebrate Holy Communion with her Livingston congregations for the first time before beginning her period of maternity leave. We look forward to family news and to Helen's return to circuit life next September.

At the end of August we also said a formal farewell to Rev Linda Bandelier as she leaves the circuit staff to embark on a new ministry and voyage of discovery developing her calling as a storyteller. Of course no-one can really bear to leave us entirely (!) and we are pleased that for a period Linda and Nellie will remain resident in the Manse in Leith and Linda will offer a day of ministry each week in Livingston Ecumenical Parish. September also sees us welcome back an old friend, as Rev Alan Whitson learns what it means to be 'Supernumerary' – which has all sorts of connotations, but certainly does not mean being surplus to requirements! Alan will

once again be preaching regularly in the circuit and take up the vacant position of secretary to the Local Preachers' Meeting.

In July we received the sad news of the passing of one of our long standing supernumerary ministers, Rev Kenneth Lane. It was a true privilege to conduct Ken's funeral, celebrating the long and faithful ministry of man whose interests ranged from classical literature to Jazz music. Our prayers are with his widow Evelyn and their son David and family.

It was good to welcome our new circuit minister, Deacon Sue Langdale, to the new Manse in Tranent at the end of July. Sue is excited to be here and ready to begin the next phase of her ministry as she takes the lead in pastoral care and community engagement in East Lothian. Sue will also be Chaplain at Torness Power Station. It is a sign of the faith and vision of the circuit leadership team that after 10 years we have been able to resource a full-time minister in this part of the circuit once again. Many circuits look enviously at the way we have been able to develop our team. The process has been long and often controversial, but we sensed God's guiding and as a circuit we now model a radical style of leadership which honours the diverse gifts and callings of presbyters, deacons and lay people as equal partners.

An example of this mix of styles and gifts is the arrival of Ken and Casey Weatherford from the United States as 'Music Missioners'. We of course know them well after their time with us last summer and we look forward to their new role with us encouraging new styles of worship which will complement and enhance our worship life. They come to us as employees of the circuit who will work primarily in Edinburgh and with those Methodist folk who are associated with the

church in the city but live further afield. Their work will fit well with the on-going ministry amongst the student community and the plans for the arrival of a 'ventureFX' Pioneer Minister later in the year. That appointment supported by Connexional funding is set to enable the development of dispersed communities of younger people, who live in what social research describes as the UK's 'loneliest city'.



Ken and Casey

We also mark the start of a new initiative amongst Chinese students in Edinburgh. Supported by the Methodist Church in Hong Kong a worker will co-ordinate 'Stand by Me' offering the hand of friendship, helping students understand UK culture and improve their language skills.

We welcome back Rev Geoffrey Baines from his sabbatical leave. The fruits of that time for study and travel will soon start to be seen across the circuit. I am particularly pleased that now our plans for staffing across the circuit are complete, Geoffrey and I can properly begin to work out how we share the 'Pastoral Charge' of the circuit, and our desire to draw from the heritage of Methodism and find a 21st century expression of 'Circuit Riders'. All of us will become used to new ways of understanding the role of ministers in the circuit which will seem strange for a while but ultimately help us all exercise our own skills and callings to the benefit of all.

For most day to day matters the first point of contact with the ministers will be as follows: City of Edinburgh – Belinda Letby; Kirkcaldy and Rosyth – Sarah McDowall; Cockenzie, Dunbar and Tranent – Sue Langdale; Granton – Helen Mee; Livingston – the Parish Team. Of course Jo continues to serve us with great dedication in the circuit office and is available each morning to direct enquiries and advise when issues arise.

Finally I want to offer my thanks for the dedicated service of our Circuit Stewards. Their hard work, prayer and vision often go unseen and unappreciated. They give many hours of their time freely and with great dedication; they pray for us all and fight our corner in many different ways. My thanks go especially to Archie McDowall, as he steps down from the role of Senior Circuit Steward. Much that we have achieved over the past couple of years has been facilitated by Archie's selfless commitment of time and energy, not to mention his patience and good humour when the Superintendent has come up with yet another crazy idea! My job has been made much more manageable and has felt a lot less lonely because of our almost daily (sometimes several times daily) phone calls and many face-to-face meetings. Our new senior steward has a hard act to follow, but I know that he is more than up to the task and I look forward to working with Lyn Smalridge as we seek to lead the circuit into a new era. Thanks also to Lynn Powell as she stands down as a Circuit Steward and a warm welcome to David Bradwell as he takes up the role.

I wish you all a Happy New (Methodist) Year – it will be a challenging one, but of one thing I am sure – God is with us!

Property Matters

from Martin Rogers, Property Committee Chairman

Use of our Church premises

Some Church buildings have very little happening in them during the week but this is certainly not true of ours. Recently, two more outside organisations have booked our premises for regular weekly meetings.



The Crosswater Jazz Band are holding their band practice in the hall on Tuesday afternoons between 1.00pm and 4.30pm and Slimming World are holding their meetings in the Church sanctuary from 4.00pm to 8.00pm on Wednesdays.



This means that, with the exception of Thursday mornings and evenings, there are at least one and sometime two or three organisations meeting on our premises every morning, afternoon and evening during the week. There are also occasional bookings for the Saturday or Sunday for birthday parties, etc.

It is good to see our premises well used but this does bring its problems. We do rely on all organisations to tidy up after themselves and make sure lights etc are switched off. This is particularly important when outside groups are renting the premises as they will probably have higher expectations in terms of the cleanliness and tidiness of the rooms they are using.

Another aspect which is of some concern to me is the use of the premises for Church meetings, events, etc. There are occasions when I read in the Church notices about a meeting or an event taking place on the premises and nobody has approached me to make sure that the premises are available! With additional lets to outside users, it is more important than ever that a booking is made with me before any events or meetings are finalised, to ensure that there is no clash. Please bear this in mind if you are involved in arranging meetings or events.

Maintaining our premises

I have just been writing the annual property report for the next meeting of the Church Council. As I have mentioned above, our premises are heavily used and it seems that there are always areas requiring re-decoration, repairs to be made and items to be replaced. On our limited budget, I think we do quite well to keep the premises in reasonable condition although with more money we could do better. I am all too conscious of the state of some of the external woodwork and carpet tiles and the fact that the flat roof will require some major expenditure in the not too distant future.

As the average age of our congregation has increased and the numbers have fallen, it has become increasingly difficult to find people able to help with the maintenance work. However, there are still a number of people who do so, principally our teams of volunteer cleaners who make a regular commitment to keep the sanctuary clean and tidy.

Ed: Myra Tarr will always be pleased to hear from people willing to wield cleaning tools, and join the rota!

Casting the Net News

There are also those who are able to help on the redecoration front. A few months ago, the vestry was given a makeover by Ron Dempster and his grandson and, more recently, Alan Taylor with a little help from his friends has transformed Room 3. If you normally have no reason to go into that room, have a look at what has been done. Our grateful thanks to Ron and Alan and all who help to clean and maintain the premises.

Amongst other work carried out this year has been the replacement of the PVC cladding above the front corridor which was ripped off in a storm; repairs to the bollard in the car park damaged by a Fife Council vehicle; repairs to the harling at the front and side of the church near the external notice board; fitting a new lock, handles and push plates on the front door; and the painting of some of the woodwork of the A-frame part of the Church. At our Property Committee meeting next month we will be looking at our priorities for the coming year.

Farewell to Susannah

Susannah Silver has decided to move on from the post of CTN Officer and has recently taken up a position at the University of Dundee. Susannah has brought a lot of energy and creativity to the job and has been a pleasure to work with. We are delighted that she expects to continue to do some work with CTN on a volunteer basis. As we will be seeing her again at Diocesan events, it's not a big goodbye.

Now that Casting the Net is mainstreamed, and with a re-jigging of the Action Groups, the team have decided to refocus the CTN Officer post to be more administrative, supporting all the CTN Action Groups. In the meantime, the indefatigable Karen Gaskell, Convenor, CTN Congregational Development Action Group, is again our link person.

Get-together of Liaison Officers

The Autumn CTN liaison officers meeting has been arranged for **Saturday 12 November** and Sandra hopes to attend.

Scout Group Barbeque



Early in the year the Scout Group purchased a new marquee with the aid of a grant from the Scout Development Fund. We decided to have a barbeque at Aberdour Silver Sands at the end of August to launch it officially and to raise some money towards its cost. There was good support from members and families and almost £200 was raised.

We took the opportunity of the gathering to make a presentation to Stuart Fowell, who will shortly be stepping down as our Group Scout Leader after 20 years in the post. The gift made to Stuart was a replica of a famous statue of "The Boy Scout" carved by a Canadian/American sculptor Tait McKenzie. We are very grateful to Stuart for all the time and energy he has devoted to the Scout Group as GSL and as Beaver Leader.

Martin Rogers, Cub Scout Leader

Malcolm Trew at 50+50

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

How can an interviewer introduce someone as well-known as Malcolm Trew? After all, he served in Rosyth for ten years and has stayed in the church since he retired in 1999. And how, in only a few pages, can anyone possibly do justice to the story of someone who has just finished analysing the diaries of a lifetime and is himself amazed at “What a lot I’ve done!”?

Faced with these challenges, we’ve focused on two 50th anniversaries, those of Malcolm’s ordination and of his marriage to Frieda, sandwiching between the two sections a brief review of the key events and people in his life. And we deal mainly with parts of the story that took place elsewhere, and that readers won’t remember. For the full life story, you’ll have to wait for the book Malcolm is busy writing!

50 years in the ministry

Malcolm’s intention at school had been to practice medicine in some form or other, until he received a definite call to the ministry shortly before his 17th birthday. Whilst doing his physics homework alone in his bedroom, Malcolm heard a voice that spoke “as clear as day”, and said: “Why not become a Methodist minister?”

Malcolm’s path to ordination was much longer than it would be these days. It involved getting over two years of lay experience, followed by four years of formal training, and two years as a probationer minister, all before being ordained. And, for the probationer years in Barnsley, he had to put up with the loneliness of being ‘in digs’ as well as being away from home.

So it wasn’t until July 1961, at the age of 26, that Malcolm was ordained at Methodist Conference, held that year in Bradford. As one of twenty being ordained that day – all men, of course – the event was not ‘customised’ in the way that it would be nowadays, and it was all “very low key”. His only supporters at the ordination service were his fiancée and “a couple of people from the Circuit”, despite the Circuit being really quite local.

Whilst Malcolm offered twice for service overseas (in India and the West Indies), concerns over his medical condition prevented acceptance, and he was appointed to a succession of three pastorates, in Sheffield, Retford (with seven country chapels) and Pollokshaws. This South Glasgow pastorate had just one church, which allowed Malcolm to expand his ministry into the community. Just one example was his work for Scottish Christian Aid (of which he later became Chair), organising the annual sponsored walk, which attracted 1,000 young participants.

In the 1970s, Methodist practice was to reassign ministers after a fixed and fairly short period without today’s greater regard for the adverse consequences that these moves had on family members. With a daughter anxious to continue her school studies, aiming at being a doctor, a wife looking for fulfilment in her teaching career, and with no pastoral vacancies in Scotland, instead of moving home, Malcolm was given approval to become effectively a ‘worker priest’, combining a full-time paid job with ‘spare time’ ministry within the Circuit. For the first year of his post-graduate course he even juggled his studies with a pastoral charge!

Although successful in this different line of work, and becoming a Senior Social Worker within two years of qualifying, Malcolm's call to pastoral ministry remained strong, and the growing independence of their daughters allowed him to accept a three-year appointment as Superintendent Minister in Newton Aycliffe. But Frieda was not totally happy there, wanting to go back to Scotland, and it was with some relief that Malcolm was called to the Rosyth pastorate in 1989.

Within the Methodist pattern of ministry, extended periods in one church are unusual, but Malcolm's five-year initial term was extended by three years and a move for his final two years successfully resisted, realising that Frieda needed Malcolm and that she wouldn't move. In retrospect this was one of the early signs of her Alzheimer's affliction. For similar reasons, Malcolm stayed at Rosyth when he retired, though moving to another area is normal practice.

Although retired, Malcolm is still passionate about ministry, and has continued to make a real contribution to the fellowship he loves. As he says "They'll scatter my ashes in the grounds." But we hope that won't be for some time yet!



Two photographs from the Guy's report:
Left: a couple of hours before the accident
Right: 21 years later – "It illustrates his good nutritional status and his understandable disinclination to ride bicycles!"

The "gutless wonder of Guy's"

Only nine months after his calling to the ministry, whilst on a cycling holiday from London to travel round Scotland, Malcolm fell off his bicycle and his intestine herniated. It was 18 hours before surgery could be performed. Against the odds he survived and his medical history was published by Guy's Hospital in 1973 under the title "Survival in good health for 21 years after removal of all but eighteen inches of the small intestine". It was a world record.

To quote from this report, "Apart from giving up an earlier intention of becoming a missionary, his condition has imposed few limitations upon his working or family life."

"Management of his problems has been helped immeasurably by his intelligent co-operation, buoyant personality and consistently sensible attitude to his condition and to life in general. He himself would attribute much of this to his religious faith and to his wife."

Do Malcolm's restless energy and his "hands-on" approach to ministry have their origins in this accident. He thinks that he never felt he was living on borrowed time, and that he has always tackled things head-on, like walking up mountains "because they were there". As he says: "I just love life".

The Seven Ages of Malcolm: Acts 1–4

Formative years

(Nov 1934–1952)

Apart from the 9 months in 1943 when they were evacuees in Conisborough, Malcolm and his younger sisters Christine and Marilyn were brought up in Tottenham. This is an area that now has a markedly multi-cultural population, and was recently the scene of major riots, but was then a stable working-class North London suburb.

His parents played major roles at Miller Memorial Methodist Church, and from his earliest years Malcolm spent much of his spare time in church activities.



This included being in the Boys Brigade company of which his father was the captain, and becoming the leader of the Christian Union at Tottenham Grammar School. And after his call to ministry, he began preparing to be a Methodist Local Preacher.

Young Timothy

Paul writes “I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5)

Like Timothy, Malcolm is a 3rd-generation Christian. His maternal grandmother



was a simple soul, challenged in mid-life by an internal voice that asked whether Jesus would be happy with how she was spending her time. She was generous, putting money aside from her

pension every week for Home Mission, Overseas Mission and NCH, though admittedly she enjoyed the quarterly visits from three separate collectors! She also bought Malcolm his first bike, and later intended him to benefit from her will, realising that the ministry would not be well-paid, although her legacy of £10 (put towards his preaching gown) actually came from a family whip-round, grandmother's funds being insufficient!

It was his grandmother, who lived two doors down the road, who took Malcolm to church at the age of 3 weeks. And it was she who first encouraged his call to ministry, whereas, when he tentatively shared his decision with his mother, she declared. “I thought something like that would happen!” immediately followed by “You know, there’s no money in being a minister!”

But it was his mother who was the church deputy organist, and encouraged



his talent, and who “wanted me to be a BBC announcer”, and arranged for elocution lessons with the Sunday School Superintendent. Church gave many opportunities for

speaking, recitation and singing, and he later used the lessons to good effect in teaching others to address “the deaf old man who sits at the back of the church”.

Preparation for the ministry

(1952–1961)

Malcolm spent 2½ years with the Whitechapel Mission as a lay pastoral assistant, for part of which he was Assistant Chaplain to The London Hospital.

His formal training was at Hartley Victoria College, Manchester, after which he spent two years as a probationer Methodist minister in the Barnsley Circuit.



Malcolm's first baptism at Barnsley



On the road to Glasgow!



Running two youth clubs

Early years in ministry

(1961–1976)

Malcolm was assigned to a church serving a new housing estate on the edge of Sheffield. Malcolm and Frieda's three years there were marked by a great deal of stress due to the demands of the job and problems with accommodation, but also saw the birth of their first daughter, Judith.

Their second daughter, Anita, was born during their five years in Retford, where Malcolm was spread thinly between seven country chapels, but enjoyed industrial chaplaincy work. He was offered a further two years, with three more chapels, and was glad to accept the call to just one church in Glasgow!



Organiser of a "walk with a purpose"

'Worker-priest'

(1977–1986)

Malcolm became what is known as a 'Sector Minister' and, following a two-year course in Social Work at Glasgow University, worked for Pollokshaws Social Work Department, for most of the time as a Senior Social Worker.

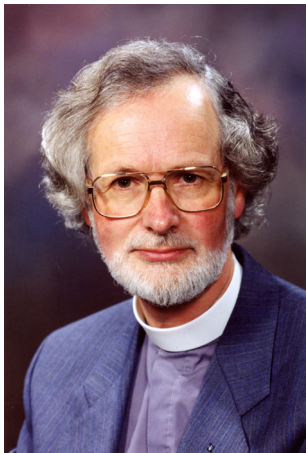
This being a 'nine-to-five' job, Malcolm was able to play a leading role within local churches, both preaching and running a house group, and being involved with The Fisherfolk.

The Seven Ages of Malcolm: Acts 5-7

Return to pastoral ministry

(1986-99)

Malcolm went to Newton Aycliffe as Superintendent Minister, and after three years started what turned out to be his final pastoral charge as minister of the churches Rosyth and Kirkcaldy.



Malcolm's favourite portrait (1996)

First phase of retirement

(1999-2008)

Malcolm and Frieda stayed in Scotland to be nearer their daughters, and remained very active in church life, employing their considerable talents:

Malcolm became Rosyth Church Property Secretary and edited the Circuit Newsletter before creating and maintained the Circuit web site.

Frieda played the organ, notching up 60 years as a church organist, arranged flowers and was a property steward.

However, Malcolm was very much a 'people person' and in retirement missed the opportunity to visit people in their homes.



Celebrating 60 years as an church organist

Retirement: now

(2009-present)

Following Frieda's diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, and subsequent move into care, and all the adjustments to his life that involved, Malcolm made the decision to move house. This gave him a new project to tackle with his customary vigour! As everyone will know, he has since suffered two strokes, but continues to enjoy life, spending the enforced break from physical work to tackle his memoirs. He also reports a greater focus on prayer: "I've become more religious" ...

A footnote

Malcolm thrives on challenges. He first tackled Ben Nevis in 1995, en route to all three of the highest peaks in each of the countries of the UK basically "because it was there". [Readers will identify Malcolm's companion as John Daly] And he was up there again in 2004 (inset).



50 years in partnership

Malcolm's eventual book will undoubtedly pay loving tribute to his partner of 50 years: "Naturally I cannot write about my call to ministry without the support of my wife Frieda, to whom I have dedicated my story".

It was whilst a probationer minister in the Barnsley Circuit that Malcolm met Frieda, a Head of Department at a secondary school, where she taught RE and needlework, and a lay preacher and organist at another church in the Circuit. She "was coming up 30", but the age difference didn't get in the way of romance, and they were married soon after Malcolm's ordination. The whole Circuit turned up for their wedding on 12 August 1961 at Frieda's home church!

Malcolm remembers that he had to pay both a taxi fare and a fee to the Registrar to attend in order to make their marriage legal, and recalls the problems he had tape-recording the service and reception, in those days an unusual occurrence. The equipment was being brought from London by a friend, whose car hit 'big end' trouble. The best man's rescue attempt having failed, they had to scour the Circuit for a replacement!

Life was difficult for Frieda at times, especially in their first home, where she had to struggle with totally inadequate living conditions in the Sheffield manse,

whilst adjusting to being no longer an independent young woman with her own career and income, but a 'lady of the manse' with all its demands and, very soon afterwards, also a new mother.

For Frieda, breast cancer was another challenge to be overcome, as was having to retrain as a primary teacher. The return from Glasgow to mainstream ministry was also difficult, but each time Frieda adjusted to her changed situation, and continued to provide Malcolm with the companionship and support he needed.

In hindsight there had been earlier signs of dementia but, following a heart attack, Frieda was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Her gradual deterioration, coupled with Malcolm's bouts of ill-health, led to her inevitable move to a residential care home in 2008. Malcolm admits that now "there are three ladies in my life" (apart from his sisters and daughters!), and he is very lucky with, and appreciative of, the support he gets from Irene King, who is "fantastic with Frieda", and from Mary Kidd, who "does the rest".

Despite his recent stroke and her ongoing condition, Malcolm and Frieda were able to celebrate their Golden Wedding together in Malcolm's home, and Frieda enjoyed some hours of peace in the company of family and friends.



Malcolm and Frieda on their wedding day,
12 August 1961, and 50 years on

Malcolm the 'early adopter'

The enthusiast

"All my life I've dabbled in everything", and Malcolm seems to have been an 'early adopter' of technology, as witness the wedding tape recording incident. So computers, cameras and camcorders have all played their part in filling Malcolm's leisure hours. And there can't be many folk celebrating their 75th birthday who can put together their own "This is Your Life" using PowerPoint!

Malcolm is passionate about print, having first mastered moveable lead type with an Adana printing machine, and overcome successive generations of printing and copying equipment. But he still uses the touch-typing skills learnt on the typewriter his uncle reconditioned when he went to college!



Malcolm at 16 as Portia in Julius Caesar

In his youth, Malcolm was on the dramatic stage, but in later years music called, and he has sung with several first-rate choirs, being at one time a member of both the RSNO Chorus and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus. And his wide-ranging interests have included current affairs, DIY, gardening, caravanning and church architecture. Shades of Hebrews 11:32: "And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of ..." !

The ecumenist

There are many examples in Malcolm's life of him working with those of other denominations, but none has had as much impact in Rosyth as the invitation given by him to the motley crew of worshippers at St Margaret's Church at the Naval Base, who were without a home following the decision of the Navy to pull out of Rosyth.

On 12 September 1996, the Methodist Recorder ran an article headed "Time of transition", which included three paragraphs worth quoting in full:

The town and its churches are having to deal with the problems caused by change. One effect has been to bring the Episcopal Church of Scotland into the Methodist church building. The Episcopalians were given notice to quit their church on the dockyard complex.

Mr Trew said: "I invited them to come with us for a while and they found the idea attractive. It is a happy story for us. They came to share our Methodist church in the town during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. We have a very good relationship."

"The Chairman of the Methodist Church in Scotland recently signed a declaration document linking the two Churches in much the same way the Methodist Church is linked to others. It is as if they have now caught up with us in this respect and we are all playing on the same playingfield together. Elsewhere there are similar arrangements to ours, but this one at Rosyth is working very happily."

As it continues to do ... Thank you, Malcolm!

From our Treasurers ...

Alan Taylor writes:

August was a 'quiet' month on the money side, with many folk away on holidays or other absences. At the time of writing I have not got the information needed – like the August bank statement – to summarise the month, but I have a feeling our income is probably not in line with the budget. However, I know that everyone is very good at playing 'catch-up', by which I mean making up for those Sundays they were unable to give their Freewill Offering Envelopes.

As a Vestry, we decided to go forward in faith and send a cheque for £200 to each of the following charities: Help for Heroes, Marie Curie Nurses, OASIS, National Trust for Scotland and – an old favourite – Mission to Seafarers Scotland. We still await our tax refund from HMRC, but we thought it important to honour our Giving to Others pledge in this financial year, which ends on 30 September. Hopefully we will get our tax refund soon!

When you read my report to the AGM, you will note that our retiring collections this year have been quite splendid, thanks to the generosity of folk at the special services at which retiring collections are taken. The latest of these was The Mango Tree service on 28 August, so ably arranged by Sue Masson, which attracted 42 people, and from which we were able to send a cheque for £360 (including gift aid) to the charity.

Howard Kirby writes:

East Africa Appeal and MRDF

An appeal to help relieve the famine in East Africa took the place of the usual retiring collection in August, and raised £263.53 (including associated tax to be recovered on Gift Aided donations). This has been sent to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF), which was chosen as the appropriate agency (rather than the World Mission Fund) since it was best placed to channel support to the affected areas quickly.

As it happens MRDF is also the charity that is to benefit from the planned retiring collection for September, so if you want your MRDF donation this month to be directed to the East Africa appeal, please state that on the Gift Aid envelope.

Malaria No More!

During his address at the 11am service on 11 September, Rev Geoffrey Baines posed a number of challenges. One of these was to stop the growing number of people who die from malaria in Africa: over one million die a year from the disease, most of them children: a child dies every 30 seconds. Just £5 is enough to pay for deliver and hang a bed net sufficient to cover two people while they sleep. The tea-bar collection that day of £15.30 was immediately donated to that cause, thereby helping to save the lives of three children. If you wish to contribute to that end, please use a Gift Aid envelope and mark it "Malaria No More". More details at malariafreeschools.org.uk.

One of the ways that the Wednesday Fellowship (page 11) raises money for good causes is a weekly raffle. No big prizes, but some surprises – Jock Headden would love to know what he won one week ...



The Mango Tree

reported by Sue Masson

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Written the service | check |
| Organised the music | check |
| Rehearsed the choir | check |
| Borrowed the projector | check |
| Emailed the guest speaker | check |
| Baked the cakes | check |
| Wait for a couple of people to turn up to the service | WRONG |

O ye of little faith!

In all 42 people turned up on 26 August for our service about The Mango Tree, including friends from St Margaret's and the Methodist congregation, Fettes College, Holy Trinity, Viewfield Baptist, four members of the Dunfermline URC church and two visitors from Australia!

We heard a greeting in Swahili, the New Testament reading was in Afrikaans, and the choir and congregation sang in Zulu, Xhosa, Swahili and English – all unaccompanied.

David Dawson, one of the directors of the charity, gave a fascinating talk about their work with 10,000 AIDS orphans in Tanzania, how they provide education, healthcare and support for the children to stay in their local communities. He also spoke about their vision for the future – the need to provide a good boarding school for children of secondary age.

I am delighted to say that the collection came to £268, most of which was gift-aided, an amazing response for which David and the charity are very grateful.

Please look online at www.themangotree.org to see where the money will be spent.

Sue Masson



Sue Masson, Rita Heuston and David Dawson



David Dawson and Pierre de Bruyn.
What language were they talking?!



Next time, will there be dancing in the aisles?



Helen and Julie from New South Wales

Ed: Including later gifts and reclaimed tax, a total of £360 was sent.

Music Corner

Sunday@Six

Our thanks to Sue Masson for organising a joyful and different Sunday@Six in August (see report opposite). The congregation really enjoyed singing the African hymns and entered into the spirit of the occasion. Our thanks also to David Dawson, whose enthusiasm and dedication for his charity came across during his interesting talk. We look forward to hearing him again in the future for an update of charity's current projects.

On Sunday **23 October** we revert to a more traditional form of worship, when Mary Kidd and Myra Tarr will lead an evening for Bible Sunday, with specific reference to the King James Bible.

Our November Sunday@Six heralds the start of Advent. We shall have our usual Advent Carol Service on **27 November**, weather permitting. [Last year the severe winter weather which arrived that day had the last say, and the service was cancelled at short notice!] The choir will lead this, and anyone interested is invited to join them at their regular Friday evening practices.

Please do support these services and bring your friends too.

SCC concert

At 8.00am on **Saturday 19 November**, at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, the Scottish Chamber Choir have an interesting programme entitled 'Improvisation'. This includes the Scottish premiere of David Briggs' *Messe pour Notre Dame*, with Jeremy Cull 'showing off' the St Cuthbert's organ, and explores the use of plainchant in a range of English music by Tallis, John Taverner and Bob Chilcott.

More details and tickets (£10; students £5; under-18s free) from Martin Tarr.

Seen at the Abbey

Those of us who saw the recent Songs of Praise programmes made in Dunfermline Abbey would have recognised a number of well-kent faces including Eve and Julie Denning, Mary Kidd, Olive McNee and Lesley Yellowlees. The singing, the interviews so sensitively carried out by Sally Magnusson, and the views of the Kingdom, made for inspiring and compulsive viewing, and hopefully the programmes were appreciated throughout the United Kingdom.



"Let us build a house where love can dwell"
Julie Denning and Mary Kidd

"Songs of Praise" at 50

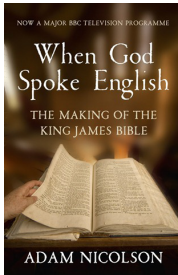
Songs of Praise started 50 years ago in a chapel in Cardiff city centre, the recording made the previous week at the Tabernacle Chapel being broadcast on 1 October 1961. Its forerunner was Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol, a Welsh language church music programme first shown at the start of 1961. Both series are still going strong!

All surviving members of the original congregation were invited to return on 25 June for the recording of the anniversary edition, conducted by Tim Rhys-Evans, musical director of Only Men Aloud.

Another Songs of Praise 50th Anniversary programme, being recorded at Alexandra Palace on 25 September, will feature Andrea Bocelli and Katherine Jenkins.

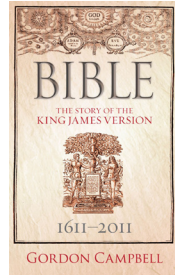
400 years on ...

Two books reviewed by Allan Fenwick



“When God Spoke English – The making of the King James Bible”, Adam Nicholson, Harper (ISBN: 0007431007)

“Bible – The story of the King James Version 1611–2011”, Gordon Campbell, OUP (ISBN: 0199557594)



There is a Fife connection with the King James Bible. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at Burntisland in 1601 first asked James VI for a new translation, but the decision to produce – “not a new translation, but one which makes good ones better” – was made in 1604. It was a major project for a newly-united kingdom, and took fifty translators in six companies seven years to produce. The new Bible was not an immediate success. Earlier translations continued to be popular, but it became the preferred translation for Protestants in Britain and perhaps surprisingly, America.

These books are two of the many appearing on the 400th anniversary of the first publication of the KJV. The authors dig deep, Adam Nicholson into the daily and intellectual life of Jacobean Britain, and Gordon Campbell into the complex history of Protestantism and the Bible’s part in it.

“When God spoke English” brings to life the setting in which the translation was produced and the people who did it. It gives details of court life, and national events such as the gun powder plot (1605). The King was co-author of the guidance notes for translators and maintained a close interest. The translators had to be supported and released from other duties.

As to why this translation has endured, Adam Nicholson points to a culture which appreciated the past, and downplayed individuality, and the optimism of the time.

Each day’s work began with a prayer for guidance. There is material on previous translations, a list of the translators and quotes from the few surviving working documents. Each chapter begins with a well-chosen quotation from the Bible.

“Bible – The story ...” begins with previous translations and translators, notably Tyndale, Coverdale and Rogers. It continues through the process of translation, the initial printing and revisions and the 1769 corrections by Dr Blainey which produced the current text. It looks at the work of the Bible Societies, and the various revisions and editions since the end of the 19th Century. The last section is “The KJV in 2011”. There is much of interest on the fierce debates about the text, the nature of inspiration and much else. It is dispassionate, but not dull. See the quote on page 275: “... in a range of T-shirts sold on the Internet ‘real men use the King James Version Bible’”. There is a list of translators and an appendix on the seventy-four pages of preliminaries in the first printing.

Both authors write with wit and warmth and rate the KJV more highly than the alternatives. Campbell says “other translations may engage the mind, but the King James Version is the Bible of the heart”. You cannot fail to learn something new from either book and come to a deeper appreciation of the KJV, whether or not it is the version you use.

Ed: Allan Fenwick’s sister was one of our Australian visitors (see page 36)

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
cmmarykidd@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup
Lesley Hynd (play leader)
07758 877284

Lauren Harris (chair) 01383 412592
laurenst3@aol.com

Alan Harris (treasurer) 01383 412592
alanharris34@aol.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

Do it early for Christmas!

Shoebbox Appeal 2011

This year we have decided to help the charity "Samaritan's Purse", mainly because the shoeboxes can be delivered to a depot in Rosyth. The appeal is called Operation Christmas Child, and we are invited to "Fill a child's life with joy this Christmas".

The boxes go to children in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Last year 1.2 million shoeboxes were packed with gifts and goodies and sent from the UK to children who need them most in some of the toughest parts of the world, including Haiti.

Leaflets will be available nearer the time, and Mary Dempster will let you know exactly when you need to bring your box to Church.

Samaritan's Purse collects only for children, which might make it a little easier when looking for articles to go in the box. Please remember that only *new* items are accepted, and if you put in used items such as toys they will be taken out of the box.

Gillian Hall, who is in charge of collecting the boxes locally, will be giving a talk to the Wednesday Fellowship on **26 October**, so to learn more about the Samaritan's Purse do come along to the Church Lounge at 2.00pm: you will be made most welcome.



Put your Christmas greetings in Contact

As last year, our December/January issue will provide you with an opportunity to broadcast your greetings to readers, in exchange for a donation to a charity of your choice. Copy must reach the Editor by **Sunday 13 November**.

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue, with photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/3awskek>. 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/3doram8>.

To our contributors

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this issue. 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 Advent Sunday, 27 November. Contributions please by **Sunday 20 November** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; 01383 723989), preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk. Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young (sandrayoung39@btinternet.com or 01383 415021).