

Rosyth
Methodist Church



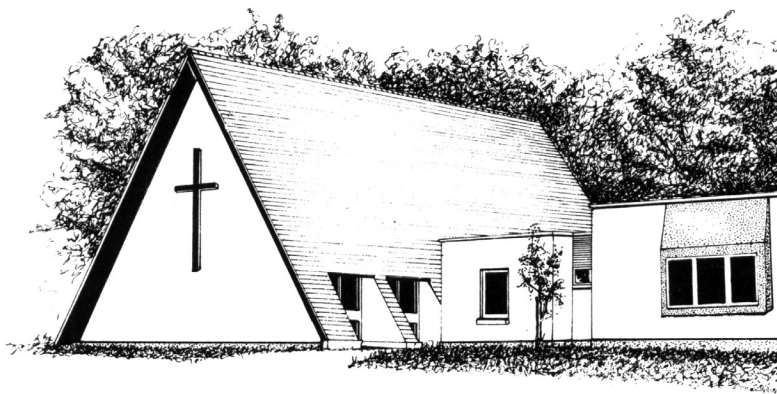
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 72

February/March 2014

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

Minister:

Deacon Sarah McDowall
01383 611000

Co-ordinating Steward:

David Salthouse 01383 889212

Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

Church Council Secretary:

Sandra Wilson 01383 415885

Treasurer (from 1 March):

Dave Ward 01383 414944

Interim Treasurer:

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

Interim Rector:

Very Rev Jim Mein 01506 834317

Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

Treasurer:

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

our regular pattern of worship

Sundays (except 4th)

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

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship
(including Sunday School)

2nd Sundays (during term-time): for the Young Church

9.00am Breakfast and “Sunday Funday”

4th Sundays: Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service

6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

where to find us

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

Deacon Sarah McDowall writes

To the lost Christ shows his face;
to the unloved he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.

I don't think anyone needs reminding of how long a month January can seem to be with its long dark nights and short days. All the excitement of Christmas seems so long ago now and already we are looking forward to the spring and summer.

In the week before Christmas we had our "From Hurt to Hope" service here in Rosyth for those who find Christmas difficult. I was encouraged to see so many new faces at the service and talking to those who attended afterwards I learned that some were members of other churches while others had less of a church connection. Everyone though, valued the opportunity to spend time with others who were experiencing similar feelings and to help support each other.

Just a few weeks after Christmas I conducted the funeral of a young lady in her early 30s who had died very suddenly. As I visited this lady's family shortly after her death I was struck by how so many friends and family members took time to visit her closest relatives and support them in both practical and spiritual ways at their time of bereavement.

It is of course never easy in such circumstances. It can be difficult to support others when we ourselves are grieving and maybe have so many questions about what has happened. One of the comments I hear very often at such times is "I just don't know what to say" and this sometimes leads to a reluctance to meet up and support those in need.

It is of course true that in some situations we don't know what to say. In the two situations I have described above there were times when very little was said. Maybe that is just as well because sometimes when we try to force ourselves to say something we say the wrong thing or something that might be unhelpful. What was confirmed to me in both cases though was the strong feeling of support that came about simply by being there. Simply by sitting in silence, or doing the practical things like cooking a meal or even just holding someone's hand and giving them a shoulder to cry on.

Here in Rosyth we are blessed with a small team of pastoral visitors. Much of what they do is unseen and I know that many of them have gone into situations where they didn't know what to say. That does not mean though that they have not been hugely helpful and supportive and we should all be very grateful for all that they do. Can I ask you to regularly pray for our pastoral visitors – something else we can do when we don't know what to say.

What's in this issue ...

We start with a section (pp3–7) all about covenant and commitment. Then we have:

Diary for February–April	(pp17–21)
Fellowship News	(pp14–15)
Finance-related matters	(pp23–25)
Invitations and requests	(pp10–13, 16)
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Reports	(pp22, 28–31)
Two reflections	(pp32–34)

From the Interim Rector

The Very Rev Jim Mein writes

Dear Friends,

I am writing this a few days before the closing dates for applications for the post of Rector and therefore have no idea whether there will be people wanting to come or if they would fit with Holy Trinity and St Margaret's. This has got me thinking about the role of a Rector again and even after 50 years I'm still ambivalent!

On the one hand my experience is that good, popular, hard-working Rectors do create stable, growing (spiritually, and sometimes numerically) and interesting congregations. Other Rectors can kill a congregation in a surprisingly short time!

So they are important.

On the other hand my experience is that lay involvement and responsibility is essential for a living congregation. Groups like the Quakers who have no paid leaders are often very lively communities with the resources to do a lot of good work in the world around them.

I think the Episcopal Church is still committed to the stipendiary Rector model and I expect our two congregations to appoint one during this year, but I'm not convinced it is a model that will last much longer – and that need not be all bad news.

I believe many congregations will build up the resources from within their own membership to lead worship (including preaching and celebrating Communion) and to engage in the mutual pastoral care of one another. This will require training and commitment. Many are already engaged in Service in their daily lives, in voluntary bodies, and in their work.

I also believe we can all be engaged in mission. Research shows that 80% of new people join a congregation because a friend invites them and brings them. We just have to believe that coming to our Church is something our friends would enjoy and find helpful.

I still believe the Church needs well-trained, full-time people to offer leadership and training and hold the wider Church together, but I hope our two congregations will continue to build on the work being done by so many people in each of them and never retreat into expecting a new Rector to take on all the work.

Jim Mein

Ed: Jim was writing before it was announced that the last round of advertising had yielded no applicants. So the responsibility is ours to pray and fill the gap together for a bit longer!



"God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

from I Corinthians 12:12-31 (NIV)

Our Joint Covenant Service

Mary Kidd reflects on the morning service on 26 January

Today was one of the occasions I feel proud and privileged to have dual membership of our two churches who have been together since 1996, when the Rosyth Naval Base closed.

Both congregations and St Margaret's Choir came together for the Annual Covenant Service and Holy Communion which was led by our Interim Rector, Jim Mein, and our Deacon Sarah McDowall. The service was well attended, on a morning when the weather was dire, and the music, prayers and hymns were all uplifting on a day when we were there to make this humbling

commitment of our lives to Christ as His disciples. "We desire, by God's help, actively to do or patiently to accept whatever is God's will for us." The covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole community of faith, something which applies to us all.

Today was also Homelessness Sunday, and following the service we were invited to share tasty refreshments (thank you, Jean!) with tea or coffee, and to make a contribution to the work of the Scottish Churches Housing Action, a very worthy cause in this day and age.

Take up that covenant

A sermon preached our joint Covenant Service on 26 January by the Very Rev Jim Mein

This is a powerful service: it really speaks for itself. In spite of the various revisions over the years which I suspect have actually softened the original blazing dedication of John Wesley, it asks for a commitment most of us are not ready to make.

"Let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing." For those of us who have quite a bit, that is risky.

I love the story about two young men who made a covenant with each other in their youthful enthusiasm – it was a basic covenant promising to always give 10% of their income to the Church.

At the time this was not a great deal of money but in later life one became a Church Minister and the other a Banker. Over the years their income increased – the Minister's not by much but the Banker's by a great deal. An income of £10,000 meant giving £1,000, and an income of £100,000 meant £10,000, but it was when he went

over the million and he was due to give £100,000 that he went to his friend the Minister and asked him to pray to God, asking that he be relieved from this great burden.

The Minister knelt and prayed for a long time and the Banker said "Will God excuse me from giving £100,000, it really is a great deal, more than I can afford."

"Well", said the Minister "I'm not praying that you be excused from your promise, but just that your income will be reduced so you only have to give a little."

Covenanting our lives is more serious than covenanting just our money – and more scary. I want to just take one word out of the invitation to covenant: that word is 'Yoke'. It comes twice "Let us — take upon us the yoke of Christ" and a few lines later "take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience".

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Take up that covenant – 2

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The yoke of obedience. I don't know about you, but this brings to my mind a picture of oxen or buffalo straining through the fields, the wooden yoke round their necks pulling the plough that cuts through the hard heavy soil. That is not an attractive picture. But I suspect it is how many of us see taking on of the yoke of obedience. Committing ourselves to God is taking on a whole load of rules and regulations – the things we must do and things we must not do.

We think committing ourselves to the Church surely means submitting ourselves to being badgered by me or one of the Vestry or Council to come to this meeting, take on that responsibility, give more money, use your precious free time to meet that need. I suspect that many of you, if you had thought about it, would have expected me in this sermon to exhort you to drive yourself harder, give more effort – be like the man wielding his cracking bullwhip, driving the oxen to walk faster. Or maybe, because I'm really a nice guy, just walking in front with a carrot held just out of your reach. I confess the Church has often worked in this way – the whip being the fear of hell, the carrot the hope of heaven. I can't resist another little story.

We had a big summer fete to raise funds for the new Church Centre we were building at Christ Church where I was the minister. The man in charge stood up in Church trying to persuade people to volunteer to come on the committee to plan it. He claimed it would not only help the Church but be great fun, sociable, meeting new people, coffee and cake at all meetings – and he ended up saying “and the fringe benefits are out of this world”. The congregation roared with laughter.

But actually of course the Christian claim is that taking on the yoke of Christ is not a burden. What Matthew says is this: “Come to me all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me — for my yoke is easy and my burden light”.

There is a real mystery at the heart of the Christian call to covenant with God, to undertake Christian discipleship. On the one hand the demand is impossible – too great to even contemplate. The promises at a wedding are probably the closest we have to it – indeed John Wesley in the first version used words from that service – “for better for worse, richer or poorer, for all my life”. A covenant is very different from a contract. There are no conditions, no limits, no complaints procedures, no let-out clauses or arbitration deals. Covenants are open to all possibilities, there are no boundaries, they are relational, reactive to changing situations, concerned with the needs of the other party rather than my own rights.

Who would possibly agree to such a thing – what could make me enter such an agreement? Why risk it? Well, I think the answer is the same whether we are talking about our religious relationship with God, or marriage, or a parent and child. The only possible justification is love – believing that our love is more important than any number of rights, or wealth, or position, or self-interest of any kind, even than death.

Our world may regard that as naive, stupid, idealistic – not something to be considered seriously. But when I look round the world at the people who seem to be really happy, relaxed, enjoying life, I find it is generally those who have given themselves to

Take up that covenant – 3

something outside themselves – who have risked loving, risked committing themselves to a person or a cause that benefits not themselves, but others or the world.

And in very small ways I know it in my own experience. I am more fulfilled when struggling for something I believe in than when I'm looking to protect my own interests. Having taken on the yoke, the commitment, I find that even when it is hard, exhausting, I am actually more fulfilled, and life as a whole feels lighter rather than heavier.

This for me is the grace of God, the being where and what we are created to be, meant to be – finding our true home. Of course I still hang back – I know I don't go as far as the words in this covenant service invite me to go – I stay in shallow water where my feet can touch the ground. But actually it would be alright out there – and I really would like to risk it – take up that covenant and be committed.



The Wise Men brought their gifts.
What are you *bringing*?

Our Anniversary – our gifts

Rosyth Methodist Church celebrates the 98th anniversary of its foundation on **Sunday 2 March** when we welcome back our former minister Rev Deborah Cornish to lead worship at 11.00am, and all are welcome to the simple church lunch that follows the service (see page 10).

Associated with the anniversary weekend there was for many years the concept of a "Gift Day", at which folk offered gifts of time, talents and money to the church, but the emphasis in more recent times has been just on gifts of money. The idea is that people think whether they could or should give more to the church. Without a specific objective for the anniversary appeal it is difficult to encourage people to give, but here are two salient facts:

- The anniversary appeal is an essential part of our unrestricted income. Last year over £3,400 was donated, which compares with £16,000 contributed through the envelope scheme and loose offerings on Sundays.
- The average amount needed per month per Methodist member to meet our Circuit Assessment last year was £40.

Please remember to Gift Aid your donation, so that the value of every £10 denoted becomes £12.50 thanks to tax recovered from HMRC. Special envelopes are provided as an insert to this issue of Contact, and further supplies are available at the back of the church!

Howard Kirby

Preparing for Easter

Ecumenical Lent Study Group

Using the BBC's *The Nativity* during Advent 2013 was so good that it was agreed to repeat the same format in Lent, so this year's ecumenical study will be based on the four episodes of the BBC DVD *The Passion*.

The group will be meeting at St Columba's at 7.30pm on each **Monday** evening in Lent, starting on **3 March** and running through to Holy Week. All are most welcome.

Ash Wednesday services

Ash Wednesday is on **5 March** and there will be eucharist services, including the imposition of ashes, at Holy Trinity at 10.00am and at St Margaret's at 7.30pm. Our evening eucharist will be sung, and everyone will be welcome, whether or not they are Episcopalians!

Lent Bible Study @ the Manse

The subject is "Build on the rock; Faith, Doubt and Jesus". The dates are **Tuesdays** 11 and 25 March, 1, 8 and 15 April from 7.30pm–9.30pm at the Manse. All are welcome. For more information contact Deacon Sarah Tel: 01383 611000.

Mark's Pattern and Purpose

Jim Mein writes:

Last year a few of us met on Wednesdays for worship and discussion and I intend to repeat that this year. I will talk a bit more with the Vestries, but my present plan is to study the Gospel of Mark over five weeks – rather than trying to dissect each verse we will see if we can grasp something of his whole pattern and purpose.

So do join us in Holy Trinity Church Hall at 7.15pm for tea/coffee – 7.30pm start and end by 9.00pm – on **Wednesdays** 12, 19, 26 March and 2, 9 April.

On the road!

Bishop David has arranged two Lent Roadshows this year: at 7.30pm on **Thursday 27 February** at St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan, and at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 26 March** in Perth at the Cathedral Chapter House. The topic will be "Let's Go to Church – 10 Important Things about Worship in 2014". The sessions will last an hour and a half and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome to attend either of the sessions.



Say it with flowers!

As part of the church's celebration of Easter, it is intended to hold a competition for creating an Easter garden. Although there is not a combined service that Sunday (20 April) the competition is open to both congregations, and entries will be on display in the sanctuary.

There are three classes: for under 8 year olds, 8–18 year olds, and adults. Suitable containers could be a biscuit tin lid, a small tray, or a shirt box lid. It would be helpful if these could be brought to church on the morning of **Saturday 19 April**.

Preparing for Easter

'Food for thought'

The Scottish Episcopal Church and Christian Aid have launched a brand new cookbook for Lent 2014 bringing 'food for thought' from around the world to churches and families in Scotland. Inspired by last year's Enough Food For Everyone IF campaign, which focused on tackling global hunger in a world of plenty, the 'Lent Food' book is full of recipes for good food at low cost. Members of the SEC were invited to contribute their ideas for interesting meals, using at least one locally-sourced ingredient or fair trade product. The cookbook also includes prayers, Bible studies and thought-provoking stories from Christian Aid's partners, and projects that the SEC supports overseas.

The intention of this joint venture is to help generate reflection and discussion around themes of food justice, how our food is made, and what individuals and communities in Scotland can do to challenge the fact that each night 1 in 8 people in the world still go to bed hungry.

Bishop David commented "God's grace is experienced in both feeding and fasting. I hope that this book will encourage a thoughtful attitude to our food and make us mindful of the link between food and justice for the poor of the world."

The cookbook is provided free of charge, but all donations will go towards furthering the work of Christian Aid. Copies of the cookbook will shortly be sent to all congregations.

Paschal Candle 2014

This year's candle, being given by Eve Denning in memory of her son John, who very sadly died last year, will be dedicated at the start of the Eucharist on Easter Day. The design of the wax relief that Eve has chosen is a blue cross, with gold accents.

Living upside-down in Lent

Reduce ... Recycle ... Return ... Refresh ...
Renew ... Reflect ... and be Reborn

Sally Robertson of the 'Holiness & Risk' Team warmly invites you to join them on **Saturday 22 February** for a day, thinking about Jesus' offer of 'a more abundant life' ...

"What do you think he meant? And what challenge does that offer to us in a society where great abundance sits side by side with poverty and need? Once again we come together to explore the upside-down message of the gospel.

"We gather to ask ourselves: When does generosity become extravagance? Or frugality become mean-spirited? How do we decide to spend our time or our money – everyday decisions that, collectively, make a huge impact. Could we live 'more abundantly?' We will spend time looking at some of our day-to-day choices and gain ideas and inspiration for more abundant living. The day will include worship and workshops as well as opportunities to chat and share ideas. David Easton, the District Chair, will also introduce us to the third in our 'Living Upside Down' Bible Studies which he has prepared for small group or personal use in Lent.

"The event will be held at Central Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square. Brunch will be provided from 10.30am, with opening worship at 11.15am. The day will finish at 4.00pm – however we hope lots of people may be able to stay on for a fellowship tea. The event is free.

"We hope you can join us. Please let us know by returning the booking form to Fiona at the District Office by Tuesday 18 February."

Ed: Booking forms are on the small table at the back of the church, or you can email fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com

Invitations

The EDWJ Group

Our Every Day with Jesus Group has grown in number in recent months and it has become necessary for us to move to larger accommodation!

With grateful thanks to Mary Kidd, we are now meeting in her house at Limekilns.

Furthermore, we will be meeting every second week on Tuesday mornings at 10am until 12noon. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 11 February**. For further information speak to Mary Kidd or Jack Fowell.

Church Anniversary

On **Sunday 2 March** we celebrate 98 years of Methodism in Rosyth.

We welcome back to lead us in our service of celebration, the Rev Deborah Cornish, who herself made history when she came to be our first lady minister! Deborah worked closely with our then Rector, David Campbell, and both congregations, at ways of coming together and sharing more within the LEP and in the community.

The future is in our hands, and those of God, as we rapidly approach the centenary. A Centenary Committee will meet to discuss ways and special events to commemorate this milestone. Gwyneth Kirby will welcome ideas and helpful suggestions to help 2016 become a year to remember in Rosyth Methodist Church.

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

Vision 2020: A Circuit Strategy Consultation Meeting

In 2014 our Circuit, Edinburgh and Forth, will need to take some big decisions. This will include questions about buildings, future staffing, what projects to prioritise and what is the direction of our church's mission in this part of the world.

The Circuit Leadership Team – Circuit staff and stewards – want to hear from you to help work out what should be part of our strategy, the framework of principles which we will use to help guide us over the next few years.

We will be holding an interactive consultation on **Thursday 20 March**, and you are invited!

The meeting in Rosyth Methodist Church will be led by Helen Wareing and will last up to two hours from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It will involve small group work and conversation. Your ideas will help to shape how we make decisions in the future.

Sunday Funday

After lots of Christmas crafts at our December Messy Church, we turned our attention in January to Epiphany, and you can see the beautiful banner made by the children (with just a little help from Jean!) hanging on the wall (picture on page 7). Next month we will be continuing the story of Elijah.

Over the last couple of months it has been lovely to see grannies bringing their grandchildren along to share in Messy Church. We hope that this will continue, and we look forward to seeing a few more of you. Even if the grandchildren are not close by, please feel free to invite friends and neighbours to come with their children, and help us to spread the word about Messy Church.

Wednesday Fellowship

It's that time of the year when we look forward to longer daylight, and the appearance of the first snowdrops in flower; hopefully the arrival of Spring is not too far away! Members of the Wednesday Fellowship look forward to the start of our new session on **5 February**, after a well-earned break since we had our Christmas lunch together at The Elgin Hotel.

The new syllabus is now available, and posters are on display in the Crush Hall. We have quite a varied and interesting programme to look forward to. We would love to see new members join, and cordially invite you to join us. Maybe you would like to come occasionally if something appeals to you.

We meet in the church lounge at 2.15pm, and usually begin with a time to meet and greet each other, before a short time of devotion. Most afternoons we have a guest speaker; we are so grateful to these people who give of their time to come and share with us their interest. Each week we finish with refreshments and another opportunity to chat to our friends.

Hope to see you there!

Mary Kidd

Spring Programme 2014

February	5th	Tea, Chat, and Birthdays and Hymns		
	12th	Games Afternoon		
	19th	Discover Dunfermline	with	Jack Pryde
	26th	Mary's Meals		Richard Lloyd
March	5th	Ash Wednesday	with	Sandra Young
	12th	International Rescue Corps		
	19th	Travels		Evelyn Kenny
	26th	To Enniskillen	with	Olive Lee
April	2nd	Daffodil Tea	—	Fundraising Event
	9th	The Glencoe Massacre		Bob Liddle
	16th	Holy Week Communion		Very Rev Jim Mein
	23rd	A Quiz for St George's Day		
	30th	Poetry Please		Mary Kidd & Bill Tulloch
May	7th	Guest Speaker		Rev Marion Chatterley
	14th	Mission to Seafarers		Adrian Masson
	21st	Lunch at The Elgin Hotel, Charlestown		
	28th	AGM, Tea, and Close of Session		

Autumn Session begins on September 3rd

World Day of Prayer

Streams in the Desert

Mary Kidd writes ...

This is a reminder that the 2014 service for this district is to be held at 2.00pm at North Queensferry Church of Scotland on **Friday 7 March**.

The World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is extensive. An international committee works from New York and each participating country has its own national committee. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at North Queensferry on 7 March, women, men and children will gather to celebrate using a programme of worship offered this year by women in Egypt. I hope to see you there!

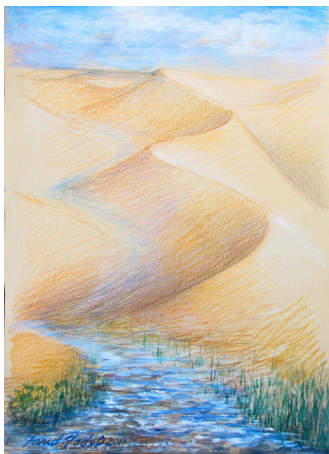
The theme of our service is 'Streams in the Desert', and we are asked to reflect on our Christian role of being a 'stream in the desert' for those who experience spiritual 'drought'. We believe that the service from Egypt has universal appeal.

One of the oldest civilisations in the world, Egypt has long been home to Coptic Christians. Since the uprising in 2011 there has been conflict between religious groupings. Political change affects individual lives and we pray with the women of Egypt for peace.

We envisage a great wave of prayer, rising with the sun over the island of Samoa and sweeping across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, coming to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then WDP services will have been celebrated in over 170 countries.

All are welcome to attend, men and women and people of all ages. You will note that in Scotland we have dropped the earlier title of Women, so that all people are included, and warmly invited to share with us. For further information and resources, together details of services in other areas, see the WDP website: www.wdpScotland.org.uk

Note that our own church will be hosting this event in March 2015!



An illustration for the 2014 WDP by Farid Fadel

Ed: Mary wrote more about the importance of water in our lives in the December 2013 issue of 'Contact', which can be accessed or downloaded from our website Archive page

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

John 15:4

Working together

Rosyth Foodbank

The Dunfermline Foodbank in Rosyth has been open for four months, so an official "Open Day" is being planned for **Saturday 15 February** to which all are invited. This will be held in the Rosyth Parish Church from 10.00am to 12noon.

Perhaps some people are wondering why the Foodbank is not accepting any goods – well the answer is the alterations that are ongoing to the Parish Church. These includes the hall and various rooms, one of which is where the Foodbank is situated. This means that they have to work from a smaller room. Hopefully things will be back to normal soon.

Christian Aid News

Mary Dempster writes ...

The following dates are what the Christian Aid Committee have decided on for this year, so please enter them in your diaries and support them if you can.

Wednesday 26 February: Souper Soup
Day at the Hub Cafe with soup, dessert, tea/coffee costing £5.00.

Tuesday 25 March: Daffodil Tea from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Parish Church Hall with scones and cream and, of course, daffodils. Donation £3

Thursday 15 May: Annual Concert by some of the Primary Schools in Rosyth. More details later.

During Christian Aid Week (**11–17 May**) the Parish Church will hold their annual lunch with proceeds going to Christian Aid.

LEP news

Evelyn Kenny has accepted the role of being the representative of our LEP on the grouping of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, together known as EMU. The group meets in order to work out how they might work together in unity, and we look forward to reading Evelyn's report on the proceedings in due course.

The biennial **LEP Gathering** "Building Bridges" planned to be held in our church on 22 March has been postponed until the Autumn.

Casting the Net News

After the success of last year's **Gathering** this year's will also take place in the Cathedral, Perth on **Saturday 31 May**. The focus will be on Mark of Mission 1 "Worship that Renews and inspires". Full details in the April edition of Contact, but please note the date now and try to come along and enjoy the fun and fellowship. It's a great day!

At the 30 January meeting of the **St Andrews West Area Council** at St Peter's, Kirkcaldy, the guest speaker was the Rev Thomas Brauer, Rector of the Central Fife Group of Parishes, who spoke on "The Devoted Image; exploring photography as devotional practice".

The next Council meeting (open to all) will be on **Thursday 20 February** at 7.30pm in St Serf's, Burntisland. No details yet of the guest speaker, but part of the business will be to discuss the papers for the Diocesan Synod, which will be held on **Saturday 8 March** in Perth Cathedral. This starts with a Eucharist at 9.30am and usually finishes mid-afternoon. Anyone can attend the Synod, but only our lay representative (Valerie Leslie) can vote.

Fellowship News

Birthday Greetings

On 30 December our lovely friend in the Wednesday Fellowship Mrs Ethel Douglas celebrated her 101st birthday. She went out for lunch with her daughter Betty and then once back home she had some other family members visit. Congratulations Ethel, and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2014.

Family News

Ruby Lucas, Gillian Potts, Ken Jackson and Gwyneth Manley still need our thoughts and prayers.



Taking things very seriously – members of the Wednesday Fellowship hunting for Christmas carols at their Quiz Afternoon!

Church Christmas Dinner

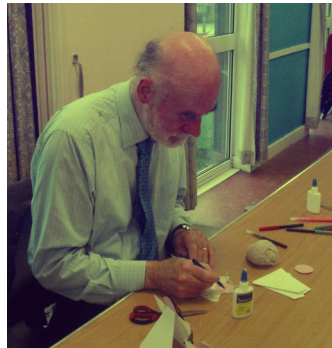
This was held in Ciao Italia Restaurant in Netherton Broad Street, Dunfermline, which was convenient for all. Eleven people attended and managed to make enough noise for a larger crowd! Everyone enjoyed the various Italian dishes, the interesting chat and of course Dennis's annual Irish joke – it's the way you tell them, Dennis! It was decided to try having a lunch next year, as most folks don't like coming out in the evening. Our thanks to David and Dennis for arranging the evening.

An Appreciation

Mary Kidd writes ...

Through 'Contact' I would like to say, on behalf of us all, a big 'Thank you' to Howard Kirby who has been our Methodist Church Treasurer for the last eight years.

Being Treasurer is an onerous task and one of enormous responsibility. Howard has given generously of his time and talent with great commitment, enthusiasm and charm. This appointment was taken on after several years as a steward and our Senior Steward at a time when most of us 'retire'.



But Howard is not one to retire; indeed he has moved on to higher things. Seen in this photograph, he shows a talent for making angels on a Sunday Funday! Recently he has taken on the position of Chairman of our Brambles Playgroup, another important and responsible task most of us would shy away from.

We do thank you, Howard, and appreciate all you are undertaking in the life and work of our church.

The long search for a capable replacement is over and I would ask that we all support Dave Ward who is taking on the Treasurer's mantle from Howard on 1 March.

Ed: More about the change and the people involved on page 23.

Margaret Lawson – my Mum

A tribute from Sandra Wilson

My Mum, Margaret Lawson was born in Plymouth, Devon on 24 May 1929 and was the eldest of six children. During the war years, Plymouth was badly hit by bombing raids because of the Royal Dockyard and Mum was evacuated to Newquay, Cornwall for safety. Following the war years, her Father and mother together with their children moved to Edinburgh and eventually Rosyth where her father (my Granddad) was able to secure work in Rosyth Dockyard. Initially, they lived in Dollytown and eventually settled in Parkside Street.

When my Mum initially reached working age, she wasn't allowed to go out to work, instead she had to stay at home looking after her younger siblings because my Grandmother could earn more money than she could during those financially tight times. (Seems like nothing much has changed on the financial front then!) Eventually, when she first started work in her late teens, she worked as a bus conductress on the Dunfermline to Saline route. It was then that she met my Dad, David, as he was a regular traveller on that route. My Dad fell head over heels for this lovely young woman, but at that time Mum had her eyes on his friend. Eventually my Dad plucked up the courage to ask her out on a date, and the rest was history. They married in Holy Trinity Church, Dunfermline on 28 May 1949 and were married for 61 happy years before my Dad passed away in August 2010.

As a really close family, the loss of my Dad was heart-wrenching for all of us, but for my Mum the pain of losing my Dad was immeasurable. He was the love of her life and her soulmate and his passing left such a huge hole in her life.

Sadly in June 2013 Mum was diagnosed with lung cancer and bravely decided she would not have any invasive treatment, given her

age. She passed away peacefully at home on 3 December in the care of myself and three sisters. In the last few months before she passed away, Mum was not able to do very much at all, but thankfully with help and a great deal of effort on her part, she did manage to attend the wedding reception of my nephew in early October which delighted all the family, not least Francis and his new wife Pamela.



It is difficult for the family to accept that in the space of three years we have lost both Mum and Dad, but at the same time we count ourselves very blessed to have had them with us for so many years and to have shared such wonderful times with them. This has given us many great memories to hold onto and remember in the dark days.

Mum's funeral was held on 12 December and Sarah delivered a wonderfully heartfelt service and tribute to my Mum. I would like to express our sincere thanks to Sarah and our Church family for their prayers, messages of sympathy and attendance at the Crematorium. I would also like to thank Geoffrey Baines who throughout Mum's illness regularly contacted me to offer prayers and support.

My Mum and Dad were very special people and I take comfort in knowing that they are now at peace and together again.

Can you help?

Adding beauty

There are still vacancies on the Flower Rota in the Crush Hall. Please indicate if you are willing to give flowers, and/or arrange them, or make a donation to the Flower Fund, via the Church Treasurer, or one of the stewards. And/or talk to Mary Kidd!

Christian Aid

It was mentioned in the last Contact that we are looking for someone to be the representative on the Rosyth Christian Aid Committee as Mary Dempster wants to retire. So far she hasn't heard of anyone to do this. Please think about it – and say YES!

Ed: See page 13 for Christian Aid activities over the next few months.

Giving to others 2014

For several years now, St Margaret's has tithed its income to allow us to give to others. Typically, we have been able to give £250 to each of about five charities every year, such as Bethany Christian Trust, Mission to Seafarers, Help for Heroes, Scottish Bible Society, West Fife Samaritans, Mothers' Union, Christian Aid and Haiti Help. This is in addition to our regular annual retiring collections, which go to CHAS, the Bishop's Lent Appeal and the Provincial Community Fund.

Vestry will decide at its March meeting which charities we will give to this year. Do you, members of either congregation, have a favourite charity we should consider? We would love to have your suggestions. Please speak to Alan.

Ed: See page 25 for information about the special monthly offerings through the Methodist Tea-Bar.

The Bookstall

Thank you to the regulars who take books almost every week. We have re-arranged the books and put in some different ones so do have a look – you're sure to see something of interest.

We have decided to hold another sale but have not yet fixed on a date, so we are asking that you start to bring in books again. We were complimented on the good condition the books were in at our last sale. As we want to have the same standard at the next sale, please remember to bring only nice clean ones and it is advisable not to have your name and address inside. Looking forward to receiving some interesting volumes!

Mary Dempster



Good bricks wanted!

You may remember that it used to be said of someone that he/she is "a good brick", meaning someone who is approachable, good-humoured, helpful and dependable.

Well, the work of our partnership in Rosyth is always in need of "good bricks"! And particular "bricks" we're short of include people to join one of the cleaning teams, folk who can serve tea/coffee and clear up afterwards (both with a smiling face!), those with practical skills to help with property maintenance, and "IT bricks" to use their computer skills for editing Contact and running the church websites.

Immediate opportunities for all these types of brick. Which sort are you? Only requirements are to be willing and able!

Diary for February 2014

Sunday 9 February

Epiphany 5	9.00am	'Sunday Funday' and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Jim Mein
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Prof. Jeremy Bradshaw
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House,	Rosyth

Tuesday 11 Feb	10.00am	'Every Day with Jesus' (EDWJ) Group	
	till 12 noon	meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	

Wednesday 12 Feb	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Games afternoon	
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Friday 14 Feb	7.00pm	Choir practice	
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Saturday 15 Feb	10.00am	Official 'Open Day' at Rosyth Foodbank	
	till noon	at the Parish Church, Rosyth	

Sunday 16 February

Epiphany 6	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Ross Kennedy
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Brian Curtis Deacon Sarah McDowall

Monday 17 Feb	7.00pm	Property Committee meeting	
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Wednesday 19 Feb	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Jack Pryde of Discover Dunfermline	
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Thursday 20 Feb	7.30pm	St Andrews West Area Council meeting at St Serf's, Burntisland	
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Saturday 22 Feb	10.30am	Living Upside Down in Lent	
	till 4.00pm	Day event for thinking about Jesus' offer of a "more abundant life" at CEMC Nicolson Square, Edinburgh (see page 9 for details)	

Sunday 23 February

Epiphany 7	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev John Knox Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six: an extravaganza of classical music, based on the theme of Love (see page 26 for details)	
Tuesday 25 Feb	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
Wednesday 26 Feb	12noon	Souper Soup Day for Christian Aid in the Hub Café	
	to 2.00pm	with soup, dessert and coffee (cost £5)	
	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Richard Lloyd – 'Mary's meals'	

Diary for February/March 2014

Thursday 27 Feb 7.30pm Bishop David's Lent Roadshow, St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan: "Let's Go to Church – 10 Important Things about Worship in 2014"

Friday 28 Feb 7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 1 Mar 10.30am CEMC Nicolson Square, Edinburgh
to 12noon Circuit MWiB Coffee Morning to raise funds to help
Eastern European Women attend the World Federation
Seminar in Italy and for the Dalit Project

2.15pm Afternoon Tea Concert in St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly
to 4.15pm Entertainment by a small jazz/swing band playing
nostalgic music from the 30s and 40s.
Tickets £3 at the door (see page 33 for details)

2.30pm 'Come and Sing' Fauré's *Requiem*
to 8.30pm at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh
in support of Waverley Care.
Rehearsal 2.30pm, concert 7.00pm
(see page 27 for details)

Sunday 2 March

Sunday before Lent 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy

Church Anniversary – 98 years of Methodism in Rosyth

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Deborah Cornish
 Deacon Sarah McDowall
 followed by a 'soup and sweet' lunch in the Hall
 All welcome (see page 10)

4.30pm “Bring and share” tea preceding
6.00pm Church Anniversary
and Rededication of Methodist Church, Kirkcaldy.
Service led by Deacon Sarah McDowall
Guest preacher, Rev Deborah Cornish (see page 28)

Monday 3 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church
Torridon Lane. Study based on the BBC DVD *The Passion*.
(see page 8 for details)

Tuesday 4 Mar 7.30pm Methodist Church Council meeting in the Church Lounge

Wednesday 5 Mar

Ash Wednesday 2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Ash Wednesday with Sandra Young

6.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meeting in the Church Lounge

7.30pm Eucharist and imposition of ashes

Diary for March 2014

Friday 7 Mar	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer at North Queensferry Parish Church
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 8 Mar	9.30am	Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth
	7.30pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert "An evening of Rutter" The Vine Church, Dunfermline Tickets from Gwyneth Kirby and Mary Kidd
Sunday 9 March		
Lent 1	9.00am	Sunday 'Funday' and Breakfast
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Very Rev Jim Mein
	11.00am	Morning Worship Mr Ian Paterson Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House
Monday 10 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane (see 3 March)
Tuesday 11 Mar	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study@the manse
	to 9.30pm	"Build on the rock: Faith, Doubt and Jesus" For more information contact Deacon Sarah (01383 611000)
Wednesday 12 Mar	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker William McMartin – International Rescue Corps
	7.15 pm	Lent Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
	to 9.00pm	A study of the Gospel of Mark over five weeks, grasping something of his whole pattern and purpose (see page 8 for further information)
Friday 14 Mar	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 15 Mar	7.30pm	Scottish Chamber Choir: <i>Out of the Deep</i> , Lenten music by Buxtehude and J S Bach, at St Andrew's and St George's West, George Street, Edinburgh Tickets from Martin Tarr
Saturday 15 Mar	7.30pm	Lenten Prayer around the Cross: a service open to all in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, York Place, Edinburgh, as part of the Taizé Weekend in Edinburgh [Details and contact point: www.taize.fr/edinburgh]

Diary for March 2014

Sunday 16 March

- Lent 2 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Jim Mein
 11.00am Morning Worship Rev John Knox
 Deacon Sarah McDowall
- Monday 17 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church,
 Torridon Lane (see 3 March)
- 7.30pm Concert by the Kingdom Singers
 in Townhill Parish Church
- Wednesday 19 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Evelyn Kenny – Israel re-visited
- 7.15pm Lent Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
 to 9.00pm (see 12 March for further details)
- Thursday 20 Mar 7.30pm Vision 2020: A Circuit Strategy Consultation Meeting
 to 9.30pm An interactive consultation at Rosyth Methodist Church
 to which all are invited. Your ideas will help to shape
 how we make decisions for the future.
 (see page 10 for details)
- Friday 21 Mar 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 23 March

- Lent 2 11.00am Joint Communion Service Very Rev Jim Mein
 Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
- 6.00pm Sunday@Six
 Evening worship with talk by Evelyn Kenny on Israel.
- Monday 24 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church,
 Torridon Lane (see 3 March for further details)
- Tuesday 25 Mar 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
- 2.00pm Daffodil Tea for Christian Aid
 to 4.00pm in Rosyth Parish Church Hall
 Donation £3
- 7.30pm Lent Bible Study@the manse
 to 9.30pm (see 11 March for further details)
- Wednesday 26 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Olive Lee in Enniskillen
- 7.15pm Lent Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
 to 9.00pm (see 12 March for further details)
- Wednesday 26 Mar 7.30pm Bishop David's Lent Roadshow, Chapter House, Perth
 Cathedral: "Let's Go to Church – 10 Important Things
 about Worship in 2014"

Diary for March/April 2014

Friday 28 Mar 7.00pm Choir practice
Saturday 29 Mar 8.30pm Earth Hour in Scotland (see back cover)

Sunday 30 March

Mothering Sunday 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Jim Mein
11.00am Morning Worship Rev Geoffrey Baines
Deacon Sarah McDowall
Monday 31 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church,
Torridon Lane (see 3 March for further details)
Tuesday 1 Apr 7.30pm Lent Bible Study@the manse
to 9.30pm (see 11 March for further details)
Wednesday 2 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Daffodil Tea fundraising event
7.15pm Lent Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
to 9.00pm (see 12 March for further details)
Friday 4 Apr 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 6 April

Lent 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Jim Mein
11.00am Morning Worship Mr Laurence Wareing
Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
Monday 7 April 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church,
Torridon Lane (see 3 March for further details)
Tuesday 8 Apr 7.30pm Lent Bible Study@the manse
to 9.30pm (see 11 March for further details)
Wednesday 9 April 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Bob Liddle
7.15pm Lent Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
to 9.00pm (see 12 March for further details)
Friday 11 April 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 13 April

Palm Sunday 9.00am Sunday 'Funday' and Breakfast
9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Jim Mein
11.00am Morning Worship Rev Andrew Letby
Deacon Sarah McDowall
3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House

Reports

from Alan Taylor and Gwyneth Kirby

Christmas Eve Nativity Play



Have you ever seen such adorable angels? And the shepherds? And the Kings? And the owl? And all those wonderful children who took part and did so well, telling the familiar story with a new twist. And shall we ever forget the sight of Jean transmogrified into a cow – with sound effects – or Sue as a hen, laying eggs to give to baby Jesus. Will they ever live it down! My grandson, who normally wants to get involved with everything even when he is not involved was mesmerised – thank goodness. Well done everyone!! (AT)



A huge thank you to all the young people (and older “young people”!) who took part in our Nativity Play, Michael Mouse, on Christmas Eve, which was such an important part of our Christmas Celebrations. If you missed it, please look out for the photographs on the wall. (GK)

Christmas Party

On the Sunday before Christmas all the youngsters enjoyed a Christmas party after the Service, with all the usual ingredients of lots of food, fun and games, and, for the first time since I have been at Rosyth, a visit from Father Christmas. Thank you Father Christmas for fitting us into your busy Christmas schedule – and, yes, it’s time you had a new suit! (GK)

Carols by Candlelight

The collection taken at the Carols by Candlelight service on 15 December came to a total of £318.09, inclusive of Gift Aid tax claimed by St Margaret’s and by CHAS (on their own envelopes). This is almost as good as 2012, when we had a much larger congregation. As usual, the service – conducted this year by Deacon Sarah – was very moving, with beautiful music. (AT)

Community Nativity

The switching on of the lights and the concert by the primary schools choirs at the Parish Church on 3 December, was an indoor event this time, thereby avoiding any bad weather we might otherwise encounter. The event, supported by Rosyth Silver Band, was an all-ticket, seated occasion, which enabled everyone to hear and see the choirs to maximum effect. And weren’t they good, singing popular carols as well as music from Rock Hosanna? Clearly much practise had gone into creating this concert, which was supported by all our favourite readings by the clergy of the Christmas narrative. But who wasn’t there? – well, Sydney, of course; you can’t bring a donkey into the church hall! But we missed him. (AT)

Out with the old, in with the new!

As you will have read on Page 14, 1 March is a significant date for our leadership team – apart of course from being the Feast Day of David, Patron of Wales!

Howard Kirby writes:

After 7½ years as Church Treasurer, I am standing down at the end of February and **Dave Ward** will take on that role.

I have very much appreciated the support I have recently had in this role from various helpers, and am delighted that they are willing to continue to support Dave too.

They are:

- **Olive Lee** (who receives all invoices and expense claims and ensures that cheques are made out, signed and sent)
- **Connie Syme** (who receives the details of such payments from Olive and puts them in a spreadsheet)
- and, in an earlier period, **Valerie Clark** (who entered into another spreadsheet the amounts recorded by Stewards in the “Envelopes and Services” record that is completed every Sunday).

That last role will now be undertaken by **Adrian Masson**, who kindly responded to an appeal in *Contact* for “data entry” help. And a big “thank you” is also owed to **Ron Dempster** for all his support and encouragement over the years.

Dave Ward introduces himself:

I am a 67 year old, retired Civil Servant. I have been involved with Rosyth Methodist Church for the past 35 years, through various roles.

My link with the church started as Assistant Scout Leader, for the 13th Fife Scout Group affiliated to the church. After a number of years I moved on from being an assistant for the Friday night Scout section, to take the helm of the new Tuesday night Venture Scout section and my wife Mandy became my warranted assistant. Our roles were reversed on a Sunday night, as we ran the very successful Youth Club. I also gave assistance teaching life skills to the Guide Company, alongside Mandy who was Guide Guider. During these various leadership roles I played a big part in logging, maintaining and reporting sectional accounts. These varied in size and description, from ongoing yearly accounts, to holiday trips, excursions and camps.

For the past couple of years I have assisted in the background with the Funday Sunday team and I am looking forward to becoming a member of the church. I enjoy the challenge of new endeavours and my new role as Church Treasurer.



Would you like it as it comes, or Gift-Aided?
A church barbecue memory from 2010

Dilemmas confronting playgroups ...

and how might Brambles respond? Howard Kirby shares his concerns ...

Did you know that in Scotland the number of hours of government support for early learning and child care:

- has from August 2008 been 475 hours per year (equivalent to 12½ hrs a week for 38 weeks) *and*
- will from August 2014 be increased to a minimum of 600 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds and some ¹ 2 year olds – equivalent to 15hrs 47mins (!) per week for 38 weeks?

And did you know it is proposed that in an independent Scotland the entitlement would increase to 1,140 hours per year of child care a year (the same amount of time as children spend in primary school, that is 30 hrs per week for 38 weeks) for all 3 and 4 year olds and vulnerable 2 year olds by the end of the first Parliament, and to all children from the age of 1 to school age by the end of the second Parliament?

At this stage I'm considering only the prospect of increasing to 600 hours this August. This change is causing consternation for many nurseries and playgroups, which have hitherto been constrained to providing no more than 5 sessions a week. That is because it implies they change from 2½-hr long sessions to sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes. Not only might the longer duration be difficult for the children to manage, but the new starting and finishing times might also be difficult

for some parents to manage. This would be counter-productive, since the purpose of the changes intended (in the "Children and Young People Bill" currently at the second stage of the Parliamentary process) is to increase the ability of parents (especially mothers) to be in full-time work!

Brambles Playgroup is right now in a more flexible situation, though arguably a more challenging one.

Firstly, we are in an in-between state so far as Fife funding is concerned: having just been deprived of the status as "Partner Provider" to Fife Education, there is no immediate need to seek to renew that status, so we are not constrained by its terms. (However, there will be a revised procurement exercise in 2014/15, with new three-year partnership contracts starting in August 2015, so we need to "make ready" to bid.)

Secondly, the extension of the age range for funded children to 2 year olds is an attraction: after all, at present children are with us only from the age of 2 years 6 months to age 3 – and since nobody celebrates an age of 2½, it would make a lot of sense to enable the playgroup to accept children as soon as they have their 2nd birthday (whether or not funded by Fife Council) ².

/continued opposite

¹ The term "some 2 year olds" was originally defined as "2 year olds who are looked after", but, under pressure from Willie Rennie MSP to be consistent with the approach in England and Wales, the Scottish Government is now proposing to extend coverage to an additional 5,400 two-year olds.

² Note that extending the age range for Brambles to 2 years will not necessarily impact adversely on the church's Toddlers' Group, since parents (or child minders) have to remain there with their children.

Dilemmas confronting playgroups ...

Your views are invited!

Thirdly, we can readily move to offering 6 sessions a week, with only an extra quarter of an hour a day needed to (almost) reach the 600 hours necessary for funded children.

Change is inevitable. Our focus however needs to remain on ensuring that what we do attracts sufficient children to ensure sustainability.

We are inviting views from the parents of both past and present children registered with us. We would also be pleased to receive views from all readers of this article: you can contact me by email to brambles-chair@rosythmethodist.org.uk or by phone (01383 624779) or via a note addressed to me as Chair, Brambles Playgroup, at Rosyth Methodist Church.

Not the Retiring Collections, but also ...

Howard Kirby explains ...

From September 2012 the Methodist practice at the 11am service has been to invite donations to named charities to be made at the Tea-Bar after the service. This was in the light of previous experience, where donations made at the Tea-Bar had often exceeded those put in the “retiring collection” plate at the rear of the church.

There have however been some occasions where the Tea-Bar donations are augmented by special appeals or fund-raising activities. Recent examples of the former have been November’s response to the Philippines Typhoon appeal, and the January response to “Poverty Action Week”; and examples of the latter are Action for Children quiz sheets which supplemented Christmas giving.

Funds raised in all these ways from September onwards have been as follows:

- September: Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF): £32.40
- October: Junior Mission for All (JMA): £46.90
- November: Philippines Typhoon appeal: £243.34
- December/Christmas: Action for Children: £225.62
- January: Scottish Churches Housing Action: £133.61

In addition, the Funeral and Thanksgiving Service held in December for the late Frieda Trew raised £332.20 shared equally between Alzheimers Scotland and the Philippines Typhoon Appeal.

Charities to be supported in the next 4 months are:

- February: The Methodist Fund for Mission in Britain
- March: our own church, via the Anniversary Appeal (about which see page 7)
- April/Easter: The Methodist Fund for World Mission
- May: Christian Aid

Note that from 6 April 2013, all cash donations (of £20 or less) have benefitted from a 25% top-up by HMRC under their “GA Small Donations Scheme”. This applies not only to donations at the Tea-Bar but also “small change” provided in the offertory bags at services. However, those who are (or wish to become) registered Gift Aid donors are encouraged still to do so for larger donations (and all those by cheque).

Music corner – 1

Our choir in action

On Monday 3 Feb at 6.30pm, the place to be was definitely the Adam Smith Theatre in Kirkcaldy, where 13 choirs from all over Fife and beyond, including our own St Margaret's choir, joined together for a fantastic evening of choral singing as part of the Fife Festival of Music.

Each choir gave a performance of 3–4 songs with music ranging from trad Scots through classical, the shows, sacred and pop. Our programme featured music that we would use week by week in our service:

- High let us all our voices raise – Patronal hymn
- Sanctus from the St Anne's Mass by James MacMillan
- Laudate Omnes Gentes – Taizé
- Sing Jubilate Deo by Jerry Estes

Jane Ferguson, the adjudicator, said in her opening remarks that we are so often looking for the things we do wrong we forget to celebrate the things that we are getting right.

She commented on our choir's performance as follows:

"Lovely – a church choir whose voices blend beautifully together in songs of praise with much meaning and feeling.

"Sanctus – James MacMillan is one of our foremost Scottish composers who likes to set a challenge to singers. You found no problems, only an excellent line which flowed from beginning to end. I wish it could have been longer!

"Jubilate – I know this one well – it's good is it not? Happy, uplifting and entertaining too! Well done men – good to highlight male solos to give that added colour to the overall performance.

"To see such 'joy' in singing is heartening. Your performance was strong, enthusiastic and very moving. Thank you."

I think that night we got it right !!

Sue Masson

Sunday@Six

The November and December Sunday@Six services were well attended and led us gently into the Christmas festivities, and January 26 found us in reflective mood using chants, songs and readings from Taizé.

The choir is working hard to prepare for **23 February** – an extravaganza of classical music including lieder by Marc, anthems from the choir, and music from a wind quintet – all based on a theme of Love.

23 March will be different again – Evening Worship with a talk by Evelyn Kenny on her recent trip to Israel.

If you have any ideas for different services, outside speakers, or would like to volunteer to lead an evening service, Sue Masson would be very pleased to hear from you.

 Pilgrimage of trust on earth
Taizé

**Weekend in
Edinburgh
15-16 March 2014**
with a brother of the Taizé Community

**"Towards a new solidarity" – sharing
our experiences, with meals and prayer**

Including:

**Lenten Prayer around the Cross
7.30 pm, Saturday 15 March 2014
in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral,
York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3JD**

■ Details and contact: www.taize.fr/edinburgh

Music corner – 2

With music in mind ...

February sees the **Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society** take the stage for its annual fully-staged production, which this year is an old favourite, *The Pirates of Penzance*. This will be at the Carnegie Hall from **Wednesday 19 to Saturday 22 February**. Tickets from Martin Tarr and Gwyneth Kirby.

Dunfermline Choral Union's Spring Concert on **Saturday 8 March** at 7.30pm at the Vine Church is an evening of John Rutter. Featuring his Requiem and *Feel the Spirit*, you can expect an evening of tender, powerful choral singing with professional soloists and orchestra. Tickets from Mary Kidd and Gwyneth Kirby priced £9 (£8 concession).

Out of the deep is the title of the **Scottish Chamber Choir's** concert on **Saturday 15 March** at 7.30pm in St Andrew's and St George's West, Edinburgh. One of J S Bach's earliest surviving cantatas, *Aus der tiefe* (Psalm 130: "Out of the deep"), is framed by hauntingly beautiful cantatas for Lent by Bach's great predecessor and inspiration, Dietrich Buxtehude. Tickets from Martin Tarr.

The **Kingdom Singers** are in concert at Townhill Parish Church on **Monday 17 March** from 7.30pm to 9.00pm and you are welcome to join them there. Talk to Ann Duly if you would like to attend.

'Come and Sing' Fauré's Requiem

Members of the choir and congregation have signed up to take part in a 'come and sing' event on **Saturday 1 March** at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, in support of Waverley Care, with Christopher Bell conducting Fauré's *Requiem*. An award-winning chorus master, Christopher brings "a wealth of experience, uncompromising standards and unshakeable vision" to his 'come and sing' events. Following an afternoon rehearsal, the concert will start at 7.00pm. Even if you don't wish to 'come and sing', please come and listen to the concert.

Waverley Care

Waverley Care (www.waverleycare.org) established in 1989 is Scotland's leading charity providing care and support to people living with HIV or Hepatitis C. As part of their work they also strive to raise awareness of these conditions and their prevention. Waverley Care have operational sites in Edinburgh, Lanarkshire, Glasgow and Inverness and their outreach work extends across Scotland.

The Rev Marion Chatterley, Chaplain, will be talking to the Wednesday Fellowship about the charity on **7 May**.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2014 (24 February to 9 March) marks the launch of a unique campaign that aims to transform the banana industry to ensure that those at the sharp end of the supply chain, the millions of struggling banana farmers and workers, get a fair deal.

Click on foncho.fairtrade.org.uk to find out more.

Refurbished home for Kirkcaldy Methodist Church

Iris McTighe writes on behalf of the KMC leadership team

After a long period of planning and applying for funding, the long-awaited refurbishment of our 125-year-old building began in mid-October 2013. We are working to make the building more suitable for our own use and for use by other groups in the community. The wish is to provide a much lighter and welcoming space with better facilities and greater flexibility.



Before the work started!

Once complete we will have a large open space that can be used for worship, meetings or other functions. We have managed to keep many of the original features like beams, stained glass and the wooden floor has been given new life. Updating has involved the installation of an open-plan kitchen with a serving counter, toilets including disabled facilities, a utility area, a small open-plan meeting area, greatly improved storage facilities throughout and a ramp for disabled access.

We aim to be a church in the community and for the community. We are near to completing our exciting plans to redevelop the building that will make it a valuable resource for ourselves and for the community. Currently the church is a weekly collection point for the Credit Union. In the future we look forward to encouraging more

people to use the building as the church's work progresses. Our belief is though that there is no real split between "church" activity and "community" activity but that everything we hope to do is in the name of the church and part of our worship and service to God. Our refurbished building will give us an opportunity to serve God in a totally new way.

Sunday 26 January was Homelessness Sunday. Someone said Kirkcaldy Methodist Church has been homeless over recent weeks even though the building was still there. During this period of homelessness we have had a temporary home with Pathhead Parish Church in Kirkcaldy whose minister Rev Andrew Donald, along with his congregation, have made us very welcome. The warmth of their welcome, kindness and hospitality have been greatly appreciated and will ensure close links between us in the future.

Some of our members have not worshipped with us over the weeks we have not been using our home in St Clair Street and as our doors open again we would like to welcome back all our regulars, and hope that both old and new friends will once more share this space. Services are each Sunday at 10.45am. There is also a Sunday School at this time.

A special service to mark the Church Anniversary and Rededication of the building will be held on **Sunday 2 March** at 6.00pm. This evening service will be led by Deacon Sarah McDowall, with guest preacher the Rev Deborah Cornish. There will be a "bring and share" tea before the service at 4.30pm. We hope to see many friends at this occasion. We look forward to seeing you at Kirkcaldy in the near future.

KMC – a work in progress



Wide open spaces!

[all the photos were taken by David McTighe]



Not quite finished, but the 26 January congregation are enjoying their new building for the first time

Our Church Premises

by Martin Rogers, Property Committee Chairman

There were some additional services and events over the Christmas period, but most organisations closed down which gave the premises a bit of a breathing space. However, with the exception of the Wednesday Fellowship, the regular weekday activities are once again in full swing. Those of you who do not visit the premises during the week may be surprised at the activity taking place. Apart from all the children and youth organisations (Brambles playgroup, Mums and Toddlers, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) we have the Parahandies disabled club, the Wednesday Fellowship, St Margaret's choir, Slimming World and a jazz band meeting during the week. We also have a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on a Saturday evening. Add to this occasional bookings (for birthday parties, for example), fundraising and social events, and people popping in to do flower arranging, cleaning and photocopying, it is a busy place.

The increase in income from regular bookings in recent years has enabled us to spend more on the upkeep of the property. Over a period of time we have been replacing the wooden-framed window

in the premises. In December, it was the turn of the windows in the front store room where the cleaning equipment is kept.



Apart from the Church sanctuary itself, we now have only a few wooden-framed windows left – in the kitchen, vestry and outside store. We are also replacing the notice boards as funds permit, and over the next couple of months it will be the turn of the crush hall boards to be replaced.

In January we changed our gas and electricity suppliers from e-on to Business Gas. We have entered into fixed-term three-year contracts on favourable terms which will protect us from price increases over this period.

There always seems to be something needed doing around the premises and we are grateful to members of both congregations who help with this.


Rosyth Parish Church Community Development

Did you read in the 23 January issue of the *Dunfermline Press* about the launch of an appeal to raise a further £300,000 to help restore Rosyth Parish Church.

£300,000 appeal to restore church

© By Siew Pang Lee

mllee@dunfermlinepress.co.uk

 AN appeal to help raise a further £300,000 and restore the B-listed Rosyth Parish Church will be launched on Saturday.

pleted at the end of February.

However, further conservation work needs to be carried out to make the building fit for use by the congregation and community.

Deacon Morag Crawford said, "Due to the dry rot we can't get

velop the halls as well for the future and we hope to have a landscaped area at the front with a sloped walkway to give access to people with disabilities, but that would be in the later phases.

"We would welcome support,

Phase One of the project is now nearing completion, as you can see from Deacon Morag Crawford's progress report on the opposite page.

The work so far has been made possible by substantial locally-raised funding and more than £340,000 in grants from Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Church of Scotland and other grant-making bodies.



The project

Due to dry rot, the congregation have been unable to use their 'B'-listed church building on its town centre site, and have worshipped at St Columba's for the past seven years.

As the promotional leaflet for the Rosyth Community and Heritage Development Project explains, their vision is to restore the church and develop the buildings to create a multi-use 'hub' as a community asset for the benefit of a wide range of local citizens and visitors.

The plan is to create this hub by:

- undertaking necessary fabric restoration work and reconfiguration of the church and its associated buildings
- creating a multifunctional complex to meet the inter-generational and interdenominational needs of the community
- creating a facility to exhibit and promote the heritage of the Garden City
- encouraging citizenship and pride in the community.

But Phase One just makes the fabric sound – Phase Two is needed to equip the sanctuary. As Deacon Morag said to the *Press*:

"It would mean a lot to have the church restored – more events could happen, like when the schools put on concerts.

"We're limited to the numbers we can get into the hall, and it would be double if we could use the Church building as well.

"There are also plans to develop the halls ... and we hope to have a landscaped area at the front with a sloped walkway to give access to people with disabilities, but that would be in the later phases.

"We would welcome support, practical and financial help, and fund-raising ideas."

The appeal for £300,000 to fund Phase Two was launched on 25 January with a soup lunch and display in the church halls.

Progress so far

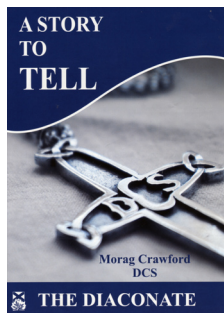
In a recent circular Morag wrote:

The end of 2013 saw the slate work completed on the roof, new windows in the upstairs link building, the inside rot work eradicated in the church and lounge, the copper replaced in the bell tower. Work was almost on schedule. There was some delay in sourcing glass for the sanctuary windows but a source was found and so windows are due to be replaced early in the New Year.

Fund raising is also progressing for Phase 2. We have raised approximately £60,000 of our target of almost £300,000 required to put in

- Insulation, heating, lighting
- Restoration of toilet facilities
- Kitchen tea bar area, floor covering
- Floor covering
- Chairs
- Induction loop sound system
- Multi-media equipment

Also in print ...



Morag not only writes to supporters and the Press, she's just written a book! In it she shines light on the 125 years since the first Deaconess was 'set apart' by the Church of Scotland, and tells the personal stories of women and men who have made a difference to the lives of people and communities up and down Scotland, across the world and in the most unexpected places.

The book costs just £5, and copies can be ordered from Mary Dempster.

The Hub Café

Some years ago, when it was decided that the Parish Church should be refurbished to accommodate community involvement, funds were required by the church to help supplement the plans.

Some of the members decided to provide a lunch from 12noon to 2.00pm on Wednesdays. Thus the Hub Café was born and has operated very successfully ever since.

The church hall is furnished with tables seating 4–6 people, covered with very pretty tablecloths and fresh flowers. The menu is changed weekly supplying a choice of soups, a hot main course (usually) and a choice of desserts. There are also staples such as filled rolls, toasties, tea and coffee. On occasion, there are special meals – such as Christmas, Golden Jubilee and the Olympics.

There are a good number of customers each week, usually around 20 to 25 people. The lunch is advertised by boards outside for passing trade. The volunteers who man the café are very capable, friendly and helpful. The prices are low and good value.

It is well worth a visit to meet up with friends, promote ecumenical relations with other church members and the public in general.

Do go to support our friends and enjoy their home cooking.

Lesley Yellowlees

Life as a Licensed Lay Reader

Margaret Dineley writes ...

I have to confess that my life as a Licensed Lay Reader is quite different from what I had envisaged when I entered my training and indeed during my time at TISEC (Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church). However, it is much more fulfilling, demanding, challenging and in fact, just wonderful!

I had realised before I was licensed that I would be concentrating on mission and outreach at Lochgelly, but imagined that I would have less liturgical input than has in fact been the case. I attend at St Finnian's every Sunday of the month bar one and lead the Liturgy of the Word, except on the Sunday when the service is a lay-led one from the Reserved Sacrament and I share the different parts of the service with a Lay Leader. Once a month I also preach. As regards our mid-week service, I take this once a month, using the Reserved Sacrament.

So, you may ask, what I am up to on the other Sunday of the month? No, I am not swanning off to the cinema or down to the beach! I give Maureen Stirzaker, the Interim Rector of the Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing Group of churches, a Sunday off from preaching, leading the Liturgy of the Word and preaching alternately at the two churches of Burntisland and Aberdour or at Inverkeithing. Maureen, a non-stipendiary retired priest, and a truly delightful and conscientious person, has something of a task on her hands taking responsibility for three congregations. So that is my normal pattern, but it can vary, as I witnessed on Remembrance Day when, having preached at Burntisland, I had to be rushed by car to Inverkeithing to take their Remembrance Day service – I didn't quite make it for 11.00am!

Of course the greatest challenge has been my mission and outreach work at Lochgelly, which I am absolutely loving. Thomas Brauer, my priest, has been an inspirational guide, encourager and support. St Finnian's is a tiny congregation and our profile in the area has been extremely low – more than one member has been met with the exclamation "I thought the church had closed!" So, I have been charged with 'upping' the profile – and I have had amazing and enthusiastic support from the congregation, who though very small in numbers and mainly over 60, is blessed with a great variety of skills (even though some of them didn't recognise that initially!).

So far I have undertaken a good number of prayer walks and have held meetings with people from a number of organisations in the area, as well as researching helpful population statistics in the library and on the internet. I have spoken with folk from community organisations and resources for the elderly, and some local 'worthies', and next week I am making a visit to one of the Primary Schools. Following requests I started taking a monthly service at the Day Care Centre for the elderly in December and next week will be starting to take monthly services at the Jenny Gray Care Home in Lochgelly. A group of us supported an event around the lighting the Christmas tree in the town, organised by the local community association. We put on sticky badges and went round the town hall talking to folk, and I hope to extend our involvement with them in the near future.

There is good ecumenical rapport in Lochgelly in the shape of the Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together, which holds services at Christmas, the Week of Christian Unity, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest.

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Prior to my arrival, Edith Matthewson, our hugely helpful and hard-working Vestry Secretary, had agreed that St Finnian's should host the Christmas service. I took on the task of liaison with the Lochgelly Brass Band, who played for us at what turned out to be a fabulous event, held in an absolutely packed church. The church, which usually is somewhat on the cold side and so requires the retaining of coats during a service, was so hot that evening that we were all stripping off as far as we dared!

Finally, before I render you all absolutely exhausted reading this, I must mention the series of wee concerts I have initiated as a way of reaching out to the community and showing that we, and our building, can offer more than worship services. The first will take place on **Saturday 1 March** from 2.15-4.15pm. It is to be an afternoon tea concert, with tea and cakes available in the hall, and we are to be entertained by a small jazz/swing band playing nostalgic music from the 30s and 40s. I do hope that at least some of you will come along and join in the fun and fellowship.

Of course, you are always welcome to join us for worship. Our Sunday service doesn't start till 11.30am (with tea/coffee, toast and jam afterwards!), so it doesn't clash with your normal Episcopal service! I have been so blessed with a truly warm and welcoming little congregation, so supportive of me and my ventures and so willing to work at making our church in Lochgelly viable. And our worship space has an amazingly spiritual feel to it. As well as Thomas, who takes our services once a month and is incredibly inspiring, we have a very delightful retired cleric, Father Gareth Benson, who takes our Sunday services twice a month and feels very much part of our scene.

Yes – my ministry is somewhat atypical of Lay Readers, but I feel I am in the right place and undertaking the work God has set out for me. I do, of course, miss you and hope sometimes to be able to attend Sunday@Six. You have always been very supportive of me and I very much value that support.

Ed: Since Margaret wrote her article we have learnt that Maureen Stirzaker is ill at present, and will be off work for a lengthy period. Please pray for Maureen and her family, and for all the other people and activities that her illness will have an impact upon.

Make the point and save energy

Will your lights be going out for an hour at 8.30pm on **Saturday 29 March**? WWF's Earth Hour is claimed to be the world's largest call to action to protect our planet: the initiative started in Australia in 2007, and in 2013 over 150 countries and territories took part. In Scotland, iconic landmarks that went dark included Edinburgh Castle, the Forth Bridge, the Falkirk Wheel, and Stirling Castle.

This year, in Fife, lighting in buildings in each of our main towns will be switched off, including Fife House in Glenrothes, the Town House in Kirkcaldy, the City Chambers in Dunfermline and the County Buildings in Cupar.

Join millions around the world in turning off your lights in a huge, symbolic show of support for action on climate change and for a more sustainable future. More information on WWF Scotland's website at <http://tinyurl.com/pdt657n>.

Forward in Hope ...

Mary Kidd writes

'Forward in Hope ...' is the title of a booklet produced by our in-house historian, Martin Rogers, and the late Rev Malcolm Trew, in 1991 when the church celebrated 75 years of Methodism in Rosyth. Because we are now only two years away from the Centenary I thought it would be interesting to read the book again and note how things have changed. I found that some of the contents are as relevant today as they were in 1991.

Firstly, there is a letter of greetings from the then President of Conference, the Rev Dr Donald English MA. He remarked on the fact that "Rosyth is a place which has been in the news from time to time, not least because of the varying experiences in the Dockyard. The fact that the church has continued through these years, and has shown signs of growth, is a wonderful tribute to you who are there, and to the power of the Holy Spirit using the gospel of Jesus Christ."

He continues "I am so grateful to God for your perseverance through difficult years, and thankful for the ways in which He has blessed you. I know that you are now asking yourselves not about your past, but about your future, and I am sure that is a very important Christian perspective. We look to our past in order to be grateful for all that God has done for us. We search our present for the ways in which he intends us to serve him, and we look out into the future in the hope which the gospel gives us. At the heart of that looking out will be your celebrations and I trust that within them you will great encouragement from the gospel."

Another significant contribution to this publication came from our minister at that time, the Rev Malcolm Trew, and I feel that some of his remarks are worth recalling. In talking about *Our Present* he said

"Though shaped by our past we live in the present. The pace of change has quickened. People are more mobile; many traditions have weakened. Sunday has changed with increasing participation in work, sport, shopping, leisure and DIY activities. Society is more materialistic and secular in outlook and church-going is no longer fashionable."

Commenting on *Our Future* (which is now our past and in the last century!) Malcolm said "We may rejoice about many things. We are a community church and our premises are very fully used. Our church prospered in past difficult times because it met the changing needs of that day. So must we. Change is uncomfortable.

"Churches weaken when, like other organisations, they try to cling to past ways and refuse to adapt to the present. Churches grow when Jesus is worshipped in all his power and vitality, and there is a warm, caring fellowship, particularly for newcomers. To adapt our approach to 'serve the present age' takes faith and courage. This task requires the fullest support of all our members – their prayers, time and giving. As we travel together we must look back with gratitude, look upward in faith, look outward in mission and service, and look forward in hope."

Little did Malcolm know then that another chapter in Rosyth's history was to be written – that of the closure of the Naval Base in 1996. He, and the Church Council at that time, invited the congregation of St Margaret's, the Anglican Church in the Base, to come and worship at our Methodist Church. The 21st Century dawned with the formal coming together of our two congregations as a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

And the rest, they say, is history ...

Contact points and meeting times

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

St Margaret's Choir
Sue Masson 01383 824887
susan.masson@btinternet.com

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

Toddlers' Group (Wed/Fri 0930-1100)
Elaine Lambert 01383 417071
elaine.lambert1@sky.com

Traidcraft
Myra Tarr 01383 723989
myra@mtarr.co.uk

Wednesday Fellowship (Wed 1415-1600)
Mary Kidd 01383 872332
cmmarykidd@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup (Wed/Fri 0915-1145;
Wed/Thu/Fri 1245-1515)
Lesley Hynd (senior play leader)
07758 877284
bramblesplaygroup@sky.com

Howard Kirby (chair) 01383 624779
brambles@rosythmethodist.org.uk

Parahandies Disabled Club
(Mon 0930-1400)
Peter Merckel (sec) 01383 822940
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

Scout Group

Group Scout Leader
see Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Beaver Scouts (Tue 1730-1830)
David Sinclair 01383 410255
davidgraeme31@yahoo.co.uk

Cub Scouts (Tue 1830-2015)
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)
Alan Connery 01383 731391
alan.connery@virgin.net

Explorer Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)
Terry O'Neill 01383 842695
terryoneill2003@yahoo.co.uk

Guide Unit

Rainbows (Mon 1800-1900)
Susan Warren 01383 414355
susarren@aol.com

Brownies (Mon 1800-1930)
Nicola Byrne 07956 005996
NicolaByr44ne86@hotmail.com

Guides (Mon 1800-2030)
Melissa Peel 07850 249911
6throsythguides@gmail.com

Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk

The church in the community

As one of our website pages puts it: “Christ is still alive in Rosyth”, and we have reports on page 22 on the Community Nativity and on pages 30–31 on the development taking place at Rosyth Parish Church. On pages 24–25 there is a discussion document about the playgroup we both host and support – just one example of the many regular activities through which our partnership seeks to engage in the name of Christ with a wide range of local folk of all ages.

The church on television!

Following the amazing quality of the singing at the Songs of Praise programmes from Dunfermline Abbey in 2011, TernTV were commissioned to make the Watchnight programme that was broadcast on BBC Scotland last Christmas Eve.

So, on a Monday and Tuesday in early December, the Abbey nave was full to overflowing with congregation and choir members from the surrounding area. We worked really hard rehearsing and singing five hymns in arrangements by the conductor for the programme, Paul Leddington Wright. It was exhausting, and a real eyeopener for those who had not previously experienced the amount of detail and effort that goes into such recording sessions!

But the result was worthwhile, even if those who went to a live Midnight Mass had to watch a recording later. The contingent from our choir was scattered throughout the Abbey, but you should at least have seen Dorissia, Pam, Valerie and Mary Kidd centre screen at different points: it takes more effort to catch glimpses of everyone else, but they are there!

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue, with photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/pw64ybt>. The archive pages of the church websites also link to previous issues of Contact.

To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, both in writing material and during the production phase.