

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



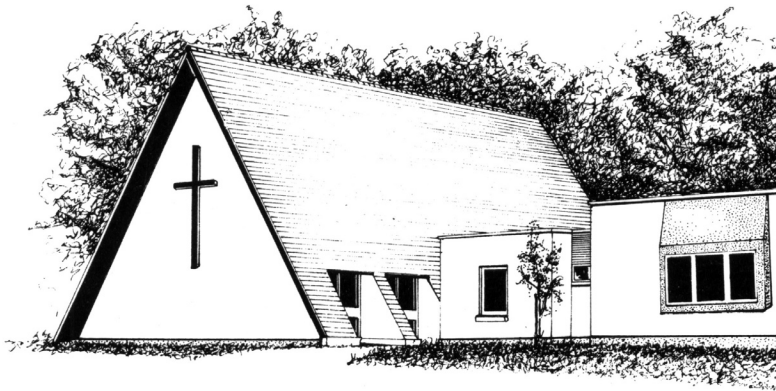
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 77

February/March 2015

## Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

[www.rosythmethodist.org.uk](http://www.rosythmethodist.org.uk)

## St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

[www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk)

### **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 Dr Helen Jenkins  
01506 464567

#### Co-ordinating Steward:

David Salthouse 01383 889212

#### Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

#### Church Council Secretary:

Sandra Wilson 01383 415885

#### Treasurer:

Dave Ward 01383 414944

#### 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 Episcopalians 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 “Messy Church”

#### **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.

# A view from the study ...

Jim Mein writes

Dear Friends,

As I grow older I increasingly recognise that each new year is a bonus to be made the most of and enjoyed to the full. At the same time I'm increasingly aware that our world has many deep divisions, violence and injustices. Gratitude for the present and fear for the future struggle.

Might (should) our Churches be part of the answer rather than part of the problem? I mean might we help bridge some of the divides rather than pontificate on one side or the other? Didn't Jesus have both a very strong, clear moral stance, and yet also have the ability to cross the divides and speak with love and understanding to those on the other side? Or to make the question more difficult – over which issues did Jesus draw a deep red line, and over which did he cross to meet the other and keep the discussion open?

I suggest teaching in parables is a supreme example of his keeping discussion open. They are stories which we each need to interpret. We each need to see how they affect our particular situation. They enable us to see that both many hands make light work and also that too many cooks spoil the broth.

All that is a rather complicated introduction to my hoping that as many as possible of you will give up Wednesday evenings during Lent to come to our discussions. There are details elsewhere in the magazine but my reason for inviting five 'experts' to introduce the five different topics is two-fold:

First, because I believe these are each serious topics for Christians and we need to struggle to see what our faith may be saying about them, or how our faith might help us see them more clearly. What does the Bible say? What did Jesus say?

But second, because I'm not sure there will be or indeed is "an answer". I suspect our faith might speak to us in parables – suggesting some principles we should keep in mind, but leaving the particulars to be worked out in the particularities of living. We might find hearing the feelings and ideas of others enlightening. Those introducing each week will be trying to see at least two sides and inviting us to listen.

We are approaching Easter, the pinnacle of hope and joy and the victory of good – but the Church has always known that the journey leads through Lent and that can be challenging and even painful. I expect to be challenged, and perhaps even hurt – but do come and join us on Wednesday evenings, struggling to be Christ's servants in our very complicated world.

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## What's in this issue ...

We have a section (pp31–36) that looks at other places, some farflung, an interview with Helen Jenkins (pp25–28), and:

Brambles RIP	(p9)
Invitations to special events	(p5, 11)
Preparing for Easter	(p4)
Reports on Christmas Past	(pp13–15)
Three tributes	(pp16–17, 29–30, 37)

plus our regular items:

Diary for January–April	(pp19–24)
Fellowship News	(p12, 18)
Invitations/requests	(p6)
Methodist news	(p10)
Music corner	(p38)
Wednesday Fellowship	(p7)
Working together	(p8)
Young people	(p14)

# Preparing for Easter

## Ecumenical Study Group

The subject for this year's Lenten ecumenical study at St Columba's will be "Embrace Lent", with the theme of "In the Beginning ...", walking through the six days of creation and pausing for reflection and prayer on the state of God's world today.

The first of six sessions will start at 7.30 pm on **Monday 23 February**, when all will be most welcome. Each session finishes with refreshments, usually by about 9.30pm. Speak to Alan for further information.

## Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday is on **18 February** and there will be communion services including the imposition of ashes, at Holy Trinity Dunfermline at 10.15am led by the Rev Ross Kennedy, and at St Margaret's at 7.30pm led by the Very Rev Jim Mein. Our evening eucharist will be sung, and everyone will be most welcome, whether or not they are Episcopalians.

## Lent study at the manse

Our theme for Lent 2015 is: "When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours"

Session 1 – Darkness at noon

Session 2 – Into great silence

Session 3 – The child on the cross

Session 4 – Outside a city wall

Session 5 – Touching the rock

The course starts on **Thursday 19 February** for five Thursdays, from 7.30–9.30pm, and all are welcome. More details from Deacon Sarah (01383 611000).

## Becoming part of the answer

A series on **Wednesdays** at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church Hall.

### 25 February: Inter-faith relations

Frank Bowness from the Fife Inter-faith group will introduce some of things happening in our area and invite discussion about how we maintain our own Christian integrity while giving due attention to other faiths.

### 4 March: Palestine and Israel

Nancy Adams, a regular visitor to the Holy Land will introduce her experiences of listening to the many different voices of this troubled region.

### 11 March: Same-sex relationships

Lis Burke from Perth attended the Provincial conference about this and will introduce the discussion. [Her name was suggested by Bishop David]

### 18 March: Homelessness

Jeremy Balfour from Scottish Churches Housing Action is coming to help us think through the issues – who has responsibility? Government, voluntary bodies, individuals? And what do we say or do when we pass someone sitting on the pavement?

### 25 March: End of life issues

Gordon McLaren, who is the Public Health Consultant in Fife and on the Board of "Good life, good death, good grief", will lead our thinking. This is *not* a body which promotes assisted suicide, but rather asks how we care for those who are close to the end of life, particularly if they are suffering and have no desire to struggle on?

## Holy Week services

Holy Week is early this year, running from 30 March to 5 April, and is being marked by a number of services. Details are in our diary pages: more in our next issue.

# Unpacking Fresh Expressions

“Unpacking Fresh Expressions” is an open event for Methodists in Scotland led by John and Olive Fleming Drane. The event will be held in Glasgow at a venue to be confirmed on **21 February 2015**.

If you would like to find out more about the phenomenon of Fresh Expressions<sup>‡</sup>, then please come along on 21 February.

John and Olive Fleming Drane will guide our thinking as we explore the rationale behind Fresh Expressions and discover many different examples of these new forms of church, some led by full-time workers and some led by volunteers with busy lives.

Whether it's Messy Church for and with families on a housing estate, or church for punk rockers, we will find out more about how God is prompting folk to get involved in mission which is complementary to more traditional forms of mission in the increasingly 'mixed economy' that is Church.

This exciting event will be followed later in the year by opportunities to engage in circuit-based conversations around how to support local growth of fresh expressions of church.

Professor John Drane is Chair of the Mission-shaped Ministry Board and a member of the Fresh Expressions Board. Olive Fleming Drane has written all the worship materials for the mission-shaped ministry course, and is a Fellow of St John's College, Durham and affiliate professor at Fuller Seminary. In 2011, John and Olive wrote a report for the Church of Scotland's General Assembly on fresh expressions of church, which was published as Reformed, Reforming, Emerging and Experimenting.

The event is free and all bookings go through Fiona Inglis at the District Office: email [fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com](mailto:fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com) or phone 01786 820295.

The programme outline is:

- 10.30 Gather, coffee, etc
- 11.00 Fresh Expressions of Church:  
what are they, and why do we need them?
- 13.00 Lunch
- 13.45 Group work
- 15.00 Short break (coffee, etc?)
- 15.15 Plenary summing up
- 16.00 Depart

<sup>‡</sup>A Fresh Expression of Church is a new gathering or network that engages mainly with people who have never been to church. There is no single model, but the emphasis is on starting something which is appropriate to its context rather than cloning something that works elsewhere. Over 3,000 of these new forms of church now exist in almost every denomination and tradition in the UK. Fresh Expressions of Church serve those outside church; listen to people and enter their culture; make discipleship a priority, and form church.

# Invitations and requests

## Cheerful givers needed!

Our Methodist church is celebrating its 99th Anniversary this year.

The month of March is given to our Anniversary Appeal for which envelopes will be available at the church services and in Contact.

We hope to encourage donations from the people to be able to continue the good work our church provides for the local community.

Please give what you can, and please remember to gift aid your donation. Every gift-aided £10 is worth £12.50!

Dave Ward

## Christian Aid events

The next Christian Aid Committee meeting is not until later in January. However, the following are dates for the next few events. They are always enjoyable social occasions so please support them if you can.

**Wednesday 25 February:** Super Soup Day at the Hub Cafe, Parish Church Hall from 12noon to 2.00pm with soup, sweet, tea or coffee costing £5.

**Tuesday 24 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 Christian Aid Concert by some of the Primary Schools in Rosyth at 7.00pm in the Parish Church.

**Ed:** Mary Dempster is still hoping that someone from our partnership will volunteer to take her place on the Christian Aid Committee. Could this be you?

## 'Foot washers' wanted

We are looking for participation in, and help to organise, our service for the World Day of Prayer. [See page 11]

There is the sanctuary to prepare, and catering (I have some recipes from The Bahamas for lovely food!), stewarding and welcoming, and sound control.

There will be a preparatory meeting at 2.00pm on **6 February** for representatives from local churches in the area which includes Inverkeithing and North Queensferry as well as Rosyth.

We would welcome any extra ideas; help and research all make our service extra special. Please feel free to ask for more information, or to volunteer any help. Hope to see you there.

Mary Kidd

## A plea for paperbacks!

Our bookshelf in the Crush Hall is getting rather empty and we are desperately short of paperbacks to fill the shelves. If you have any, in good condition, that you no longer need, please bring them to church. If you can also encourage your friends to give you their unwanted paperbacks too that would be great. Their sale will enable us to continue to raise a small but regular contribution towards the churches' funds.

## The Gathering 2015

As you'll read on Page 32, **by 30 May** we need to have produced a poster with pictures and text showing how our partnership is busy serving the community.

Ideas please to Sandra or Martin by the end of April. And do you have poster design skills to offer?

# Wednesday Fellowship

We finished off our successful autumn session with a visit from Brambles Playgroup, who delighted us with Christmas songs accompanied on the ukulele by Sue Masson, and a team Christmas Carol Quiz, won by Mary Dempster and Sandra Young. Our usual Christmas Lunch at the Elgin Hotel was well attended and enjoyed by all.

As a result of the generous giving of our Fellowship people we donated £250 to Rosyth Methodist Church in December.

We have had a break for January and re-start our meetings on **Wednesday 4 February** when we catch up with news and welcome our friend Hilary Henderson, a Methodist lay preacher from Bathgate, as our guest. We have a varied and interesting programme for our spring session and are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to share Wednesday afternoon in fellowship and friendship. Do join us if you can.

## Wednesday Fellowship Spring Programme 2015



February	4th	Tea, Chat, and Devotion	Hilary Henderson
	11th	Games Afternoon	
	18th	Help for Heroes	Kim Wardener
	25th	Philately	Ronnie MacMillan
March	4th	Guest Speaker	Bill Tulloch
	11th	World War 1	Lorna Miskelly
	18th	Dunfermline of Old	Jack Pryde
	25th	Daffodil Tea	Fundraising Event
April	1st	Holy Week Communion	Rev Helen Jenkins
	8th	Desert Island Discs	Alan Taylor
	15th	Mary's Meals	Richard Lloyd
	22nd	Christians Against Poverty	Helene Kelly
	29th	The Bicycle: Two Wheels Good	Brian Curtis MBE
May	6th	To be confirmed	
	13th	Guest Speaker	Bob Liddle
	20th	AGM, Tea, and Close of Session	
	27th	Lunch at The Elgin Hotel, Charlestown	

**Autumn Session begins on September 2nd**

**Meetings start at 2.15pm**

**For more information contact  
Mary Kidd, Sandra Young or Mary Dempster**



# Working together

## Rosyth Foodbank

Erica Lock writes:

The Foodbank continues to open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4.00–6.00pm at the Parish Church. Over the Christmas and New Year period we had sessions on the Mondays and Tuesdays of each week.

Rosyth people, schools and organisations gave generous donations of festive food, selection boxes, advent calendars and small gifts suitable for kids and even adults, which were greatly appreciated and used. The Crush Hall donations from both congregations are still needed and a list appears in the weekly notices of goods in short supply. Many thanks from all of us involved in the Foodbank for your ongoing thoughtfulness and care for people in the community who are having problems.

If anyone has time or energy to give, we are still looking for volunteers and you will be warmly welcomed and given some training before doing a session. Please contact me and I will pass your details on to the organisers.

## BibleWorld

We are now full steam ahead for another visit of BibleWorld to Rosyth, with support from the Parish Church, Rosyth Methodist Church and St Margaret's. The dates are **Monday 16 to Friday 20 February** inclusive, and the event will take place in the car park behind the Parkgate Centre. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce children to the Bible, maybe to re-state or emphasise what they already know – and a chance for adults to see what is going on as well. Why not come along when BibleWorld is open for the evening, which will be 6.00–8.00pm on **Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 February**.

Help is needed not only for the 70-minute sessions planned throughout the week, but also for setting up the exhibition – starting at 8.00am (sharp!) on the Monday morning – and for disassembling at the end of the week. Could you help – nothing strenuous? If you would like to help with the daytime children's sessions, you will need disclosure clearance.

## Parish Church Project

Everyone will have noticed the remarkable change in the appearance of the parish church since the report in the last issue of Contact. Decoration of the exterior of the building was completed in time for the Nativity Scene in the grounds. By the time we go to press, the contractors should have set up scaffolding to allow the internal work to start up again on 19 January, for the installation of heating and lighting and restoration. We look forward to a wonderful transformation!

You are invited to two events in aid of the project:

For all chocoholics! Morag Crawford, DCS, will be hosting a "Chocolat" Meal on **Friday 13 February** at 118 Wester Drylaw Place, Edinburgh, EH4 2TG. Arrive at 5.45pm for 6.00pm, for a meal, followed by watching the film "Chocolat". The cost will be £10. Please speak to Alan if you are interested.

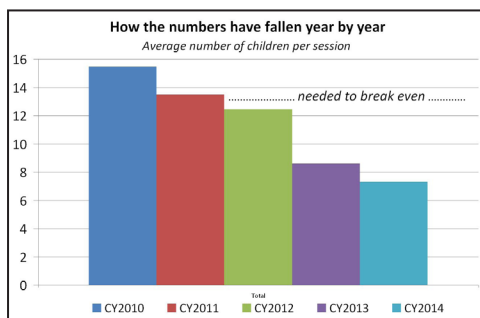
Rosyth Concert Band is giving a concert on **Saturday 28 February** in Rosyth Parish Church Hall – keep a lookout for further details.



# Brambles RIP

by Howard R Kirby, Chair, Brambles Playgroup

**The sad news:** The announcement in Dunfermline Press in December that Brambles was to cease operations at the end of that term was a shock to many, and regretted by all. But it scarcely came as a surprise to those who have seen how few children were attending a session. The low numbers reflected the downward trend shown below. So Brambles had been running at a loss, despite improvements made in the play-room, in the Care Inspectorate grades, in advertising itself.



Alternative ways of working had been considered: these included reducing the number of sessions in the week from five to three, and extending the age range to include 2-year olds. But none looked likely to succeed as a viable option for a small charity with constantly changing membership. Other ways of retaining a playgroup in Rosyth, by merger or take-over by an umbrella body (thereby providing continuity in management and administration) were considered but were not feasible. Market forces prevailed. So it was that following the decision by a Special General Meeting, the Playgroup has ceased to meet, a fate that had befallen to two other local playgroups over the last year (Limekilns Church Toddlers & Playgroup and Donibristle Playgroup).

**The good news** is that all three of our staff (Lesley Hynd, Johann Bald and Jemma Black) have got jobs elsewhere, and it is understood that all 20 children who moved on from Brambles in December have places elsewhere, whether in a nursery or another playgroup. The moving on was marked at what Lesley insisted on calling a “Graduation Ceremony” following the Nativity by the children on 18 December. These were a part of “A Celebration” of the role that the playgroup had had in the life of Rosyth families over 43 years. The appreciation of that role by many parents – and by many former Brambles children – was evident in the heart-felt comments made on the Brambles Face-book page and written on the white-boards in the reception area. Founded originally as a Rosyth Methodist Playgroup but continuing to be based at the church after it became independent (in 1995), the Celebration was led by Deacon Sarah McDowall and Rev Helen Jenkins. Presentations to staff followed, and the next day the boys and girls enjoyed a splendid Christmas Party with Santa Claus distributing many gifts, making a final farewell.

**And finally ...** although the service is no longer provided, the charity remains in being, so that it can dispose of assets, chase debtors and meet liabilities and then arrange for its formal dissolution. Meantime, thought is also being given to building on the “Celebration” theme by compiling an article on how the playgroup developed and the memories it evokes for those who played a part in it, whether as children, staff, parents or helpers. If you have memorabilia you wish to share, please let me know (01383 624779; [brambles@rosythmethodist.org.uk](mailto:brambles@rosythmethodist.org.uk)).

# Methodist Leadership Team update

The team met on 13 January and discussion was based around five main areas.

**BibleWorld** – see article on p8

**Easter:** A number of extra services and study groups are being organised during Lent and Easter. More details on p4, with updates in the pew sheets. Evelyn will be organising an Easter Garden competition again, and all are welcome to take part.

**Sunday@Six:** In March, the service will take the form of a Thank You social. The event is aimed at recognising and thanking all those who take part in the life of the Church whether they are part of organised groups, cleaners, committee members or just members of the congregations. There will be an opportunity for groups to provide information about what they do and for everyone to meet each other on a social basis. Nibbles and drinks will be provided and we hope to have some musical accompaniment. Further details and invitations will be sent out in February.

**Church Café:** Discussions are being held to consider having a regular café in the church premises. A small group will be looking at the main issues and practicalities before reporting back to the Church Council with more concrete proposals. If anyone would like to be involved in the planning stage, please speak to Sarah or Helen.

**Centenary Year:** Plans are progressing well for the forthcoming centenary year celebrations in 2016/17. There will be at least one event each month with a number of on-going displays and initiatives throughout the year. Events confirmed so far include flower festival, ceilidh, bar-b-q, cream teas, concerts and a quiz evening. If anyone has any ideas for other events, or would like to help out with preparing for this period of celebration, please speak to Gwyneth Kirby.

As mentioned in the last update, if you have any ideas for the Leadership team please speak to one of the members. We would much prefer to hear something several times than not at all! For any pastoral matters please speak to Helen, Sarah or Gwyneth.

Our next meeting is on **24 March** when we will discuss any new ideas and take forward to the Church Council if appropriate. Thank you.

David Salthouse



The symbol of the World Day of Prayer was designed by an Irish nun in 1982, the year when the service was prepared by the women of Ireland, and adopted as the International logo.

The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic Cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

# World Day of Prayer 2015

Mary Kidd explains a 'foot-washing' style of life

This year's World Day of Prayer service has been written by women in The Bahamas. How much do you know about The Bahamas? If you're like me, probably very little – unless you have been there on holiday. But a tourist's view of a place is normally very different from that of those who live there day in and day out. It is an English-speaking, independent nation within the British Commonwealth. It has a parliamentary government based on the Westminster system and Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State. It gets over 315 days of sunshine a year!

Since the 17th century, The Bahamas has been predominantly Christian. As well as numerous Christian denominations, there are people of other religions, all co-existing peacefully together in their communities. Today the churches are impacting on The Bahamas in practical ways, including running drug rehabilitation centres, working with people with HIV and AIDS and coordinating, funding and managing numerous social and street programmes.

One thing that stands out loud and clear is the level of commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church which is shown by the people of this country. Such commitment means a readiness to serve Him in daily life. It is commendable that the people of The Bahamas have chosen a reading for this service which commits us to serve. "Do you understand what I have done to you?" asked Jesus after washing the feet of the disciples. "If I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet" Jesus went on, "then you ought to wash one another's feet."

How would the disciples have felt about that? After all, as time had gone by, bickering, jealousies and competitiveness had crept in among these men. Each of

them was different, and at times it showed; yet Jesus had called them to come together from different walks of life and to form a new community – a community of love and respect.

Have things changed much since then? Probably not. Not here. Not in The Bahamas. Not in most places. We can easily be exasperated by a selfish or unexplained act of someone who, at other times we call 'brother' or 'sister'. How difficult after a quarrel to go to someone and say "I'm sorry; will you forgive me?" How would you feel about washing their feet?

Yet the need to be prepared and able to serve one another is almost universal in life, and is certainly a tenet of the Christian faith. The commitment of a Christian to serve is universally accepted. How we deliver that service is up to each one of us, and can take many forms. Yet when we try to live in the way that Jesus has shown us and taught us, even though achieving it seems almost impossible at times, we will indeed be happy because we will be nearer to Him.

So we are sent out to live out this 'foot-washing' style of life. Probably women in The Bahamas feel that way too, because they have chosen this theme. They have pointed out a good aspect of the Christian life to us. As Jesus had been sent by His Father, so He sends us to do His work in the world. We may not wash feet every day, but we can all live in the spirit of forgiveness and understanding. In other words, we can live the gospel.

Note that the Methodist Church in Rosyth is hosting the service this year for the churches in this area. A request for help appears on page 6. Even if you can't help, do come along on **Friday 6 March at 2.30pm**.

# Fellowship News

## On the mend

**Ruby Lucas** has had an operation, as has **Sandra Wilson**: we wish them a speedy recovery. **Jack Fowell** is progressing slowly, and is always delighted to see any visitors.

**Betty Terry**, who had a bad fall in December, is now home, following a spell in hospital. She will also welcome visitors, but please phone her first.

Please remember all these friends in your prayers.

## Wednesday Fellowship

The end of the last session was marked by a delicious lunch served at the Elgin Hotel, which was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, we have since heard of some of our members who are poorly, so please pray for them – **Margaret Fotheringham**, who was at our service on Christmas Day, has been in hospital, but is now home, and **Ethel Douglas** has been in and out of hospital once or twice during the last few weeks, but she is quite bright. Now aged 102, Ethel is looking forward to perhaps getting back to the Fellowship.

## Service recognised

Tesco Duloch has been around longer than you think! Martin Forman was “in with the bricks”, and the company recently marked his 15 years of service with a gift. Well done, Martin, for “hanging in there”!

When he's not working, Martin can often be found curled up with a book. And not just any old book ... Martin is amazingly well-read, and would love to be a librarian.

## Wedding bells

Our former Priest in Charge, the **Rev Dr David Campbell**, currently Senior Chaplain at Marlborough College, Wiltshire, tied the knot with Lucy, on Sunday 8 December at a service in the College Chapel. We wish them every happiness in the future.

A thrilled Mary Kidd was so pleased to tell us that her son, **Andrew**, became engaged during the Christmas season to Andrea Mero Perez. They currently live and work in London, although Andrea hails from Ecuador, in South America. Andrea has also fallen in love with Scotland and the couple plan to marry in our church on Saturday 25 July. The last wedding held here was nearly 11 years ago! By coincidence, the bride then was Andrew's sister, Mary's daughter Becky, when she married Sean, and the minister who officiated was David Campbell. Congratulations to Andrew and Andrea.

## A new Rector

After nearly three years in a Vacancy, we are delighted that the Rev Alison Cozens has accepted the invitation to become our Rector, along with Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. Although currently serving in the Church of England – Alison has been Vicar of St Peter's, Highfields, Leicester since October 2010 – she is no stranger to the Scottish Episcopal Church. Alison had served all her ministry until then in the Diocese of Edinburgh: from 1992–1994 she was Deacon-in-Charge and from 1994–2010 Rector-in-Charge at St Columba's-by-the-Castle. Alison and her husband Peter look forward to moving to Dunfermline in April.

Alison's institution at 1.00pm on **Saturday 18 April** will be in Holy Trinity. More of that and of Alison in the next two editions of Contact.

# Christmas Past

## Carols by Candlelight

Our December Sunday@Six took the form of a traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. There was a very good turn-out on a wet and windy evening and all those who attended were most appreciative of the choir singing, the readings from the King James Version, the hearty singing of favourite Christmas hymns and the atmosphere created by the candlelit church.

The choir was in fine voice and treated us to less well-known carols including a creative pairing of Amanda McBroom's *The Rose* with Michael Praetorius' *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*, which was very evocative. Our thanks to the choir and especially to the musical director, Sue Masson for all her work with them throughout the year.

As we have been remembering the centenary of the start of WWI in 2014, it was fitting that the service included *The Christmas Truce*, a letter from a Gateshead soldier (published in the Aberdeen Daily Journal on 5 January 1915) followed by the choir leading the singing of *Silent Night*, with verse 1 in German as an introduction.

Special thanks to Martin Tarr and David Salthouse who worked so hard to organise the service and arrange the lighting so effectively. Our thanks also to Lesley Yellowlees and her helpers for welcome tea/coffee and mince pies afterwards.

## Collection for CHAS

We exceeded all records when the retiring collection at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols came to £503.39, inclusive of Gift Aid which we will claim later this year. The service was very well attended and folk who couldn't come along on the night were generous in adding to the collection. Well done everyone!

## Church Christmas Lunch

On Tuesday 6 January the annual meal organised by Dennis Cook and David Slater was held at the Hideaway Restaurant in Halbeath. It was decided that it should be a lunch instead of an evening meal as most of us do not want to go out in the evening. This turned out to be the right decision as twenty-two attended.

Our congratulations must go to the staff – everything was served efficiently and the food was so beautifully arranged on the plates it was a shame to disturb it. Perhaps someone was a keen watcher of MasterChef! If you are looking for a nice place to take a special friend, then go to the Hideaway. Our thanks to Dennis and David for successfully arranging it all.

## Community Nativity

This is the second year in which we have had an all-ticket Nativity event at the Parish Church, during which the Nativity Scene and the Christmas lights were switched on, against the backdrop of the freshly-painted church. The church hall was packed with parents and grandparents, as well as countless kids, for the traditional carol concert on Tuesday 2 December, during which choirs from the four primary schools sang with great heart and voice and our ministers read the traditional story. Everyone was warm, no one was getting wet, and we all had a seat – but it was sad we couldn't be outside! However, the event was all the better for being indoors – especially as there was ready access to tea, coffee and mince pies afterwards (donated by Cooperative Funeral Services)! The grand sum of £217.00 was raised for CLASP, Edinburgh's children's cancer charity. Well done everyone, especially the children – and their teachers, of course!



# Young people at Rosyth

Gwyneth Kirby writes ...

Christmas was a very busy time for our young people, but also lots of fun.

On the last Sunday before Christmas we had our Messy Church Christmas Party, attended by 15 of our children. After a party lunch there were lots of games, followed by a visit from Santa, who had presents for all the children, and some of the adults too! (Did any of you spot the flashing angels being worn by Sarah and Helen?)



The highlight of Christmas for the children, and some brave adults, was the Nativity play, performed on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. The children had been working hard for some weeks, and some had lots of lines to learn. I wasn't able to be there for the actual performance because I was with the family in London by then, but I have been told by all who were there that it was the great success that I had expected – and even the things that went wrong were an important part of it. Thank you to all who took part, or helped in any way, especially Katie who assumed all responsibility once I left for London. I wish there could have been more there to see it. Make sure you don't miss next Christmas!

The second Sunday in January seemed to be upon us really quickly, and time for Messy Church again. Our theme was "New Year, New Beginnings", and the children spent time planting bulbs and seeds, making calendars, getting very messy doing hand-print butterflies, equally messy making chocolate nests and cutting out hand shapes holding the promises they made for the New Year.



For the New Year those who were at Messy Church decided it would be a good idea to give some other children a new start. We are promising to send £2 a month to Water Aid so that a few more children can enjoy the clean water that we all take for granted

We meet again on **8 February** when we will be thinking about "Jesus the light of the world". We look forward to seeing any children up to the age of about 11. Please invite any young families you know, or better still, bring them along yourself.



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**Ed:** Grateful thanks to John Hall for photographing the occasion. And to Valerie, for sportingly allowing us to print her photo!

# A Nativity report

from Angel Number One!

On Christmas Eve the children of the Sunday School and Messy Church presented “The Grumpy Shepherd”. A tale of a none-too-happy shepherd who felt less than pleased to be sitting on a very chilly hill-side keeping watch over some rather cheeky sheep and running the gauntlet of the quips of some of his fellow-shepherds. To make matters worse, some weird goings-on make him spill his cup of tea. And lo a shining light made him so scared he fell to the ground right in the middle of his ‘Tetley moment’.



The children playing the shepherds were terrific, well done to all three of them for learning their lines.



Yours truly played a rather chubby white angel (I hate to think what I looked like and am not looking forward to seeing myself in photos). The real feather wings were rather special though!



Many thanks to Sue for playing the organ so we could sing some old favourite carols, they really made the nativity play special. Also a huge thank-you to Gwyneth for putting us all through our paces and coaching the children in the weeks running up to the big day! Also thank you to the Camerons, without whom there would have been no grumpy shepherd or angels and sheep. The sheep and angels were fantastic, especially since some had been brought in at the eleventh hour.

It was lovely to see so many new faces in the church to cheer on the young actors. It seems likely that they have all caught the acting bug; the smell of the grease paint and the roar of the crowd and all that. At least one shepherd was particularly fond of his costume and beard and insisted on wearing them at church and in the house.

The children loved the excitement backstage: on a couple of occasions I thought they would get too high, but they came up trumps and I am very proud of them all. Bravo, and can't wait for next year!

As for Angel Number One, I think it is a case of “Don't give up your day job!”

Valerie Leslie



## Audrie Pollard – a life remembered

This tribute, paid by Deacon Sarah McDowall at Audrie's funeral service at Dunfermline Crematorium on 15 January 2015, was put together with help from Audrie's niece Margaret and her friend Mary Dempster.

Audrie was born in Farnborough to Frances and William Pollard. When she was 3 years old her father died, so her mother thought it would be best if she, Audrie and Norah returned to Rosyth where her family lived. They stayed with Audrie's grandmother. During the war Audrie and Norah were evacuated to Leslie for a short time but, because Norah didn't like being away from home, they came back. While Audrie's mum went out to work, her grandmother looked after her and Norah as well as her other grandchildren.

Audrie attended Park Road Primary School, and it wasn't until she was about to sit her 11-plus that the teacher sent for her mother and told her that she ought to go to Inverkeithing Primary School where they had a remedial class. She said that Audrie was slow. Her mother was very upset and took Audrie to the optician to have her eyes tested, when it was discovered that she had very poor eyesight. What a difference spectacles made to her life! She went on to Dunfermline High School where she studied commercial subjects, but felt that they were the wrong subjects for her because she did not really like them.



Audrie Catherine Pollard  
24 October 1929 – 3 January 2015

So at 16 Audrie left school and sat the Civil Service Examination, which she passed, and was sent to Stanmore in Middlesex to work in the Ministry of Education. She enjoyed that, and shared accommodation in a wooden hut with girls of her own age. They had lots of fun together and she remembered they gave her a party for her 21st birthday.

Her next move was to Curzon Street, London, where she became secretary to the Junior Branch of the Civil Service Trade Union. She also attended the

Trades Union Congress, which she found interesting. One of the things Audrie enjoyed was staying up all night so that she got a good view of the Queen's Coronation, even though it was raining.

Because of Audrie's faith and her need to be at worship Audrie regularly attended Westminster Methodist Central Hall.

When Audrie moved to Newcastle she decided to apply to the Special Recruitment Scheme and was accepted to study for teaching. She came back to Rosyth to study for her Highers. She went to Edinburgh Further Education College, where she studied History, Maths, Latin and other subjects, then went on to University to study English and History, and finally to Moray House for teacher training.

It was at University that Audrie became interested in politics, especially the Labour party. Probably because of her Christian faith and being a Methodist made her committed to social justice and action.

Back home in Rosyth, she taught in different schools. She also did a distance-learning course to be a Librarian. She latterly taught Special Needs and worked in the library at Auchterderran.

Audrie and her sister, Norah, were close although different in personality; but it was Audrie that Norah called on to look after her children, Margaret and Malcolm, when Norah went to join husband Andrew on his ship to spend Christmas together in Australia.

As a reader she gave the family good books to read, mainly classics. The library fell heir to many of her books when she had finished reading them. She also enjoyed a good murder on television.

Audrie was generous to her family and friends; she also gave 10% a month to charity.

In the late 80s, after her mother died, Audrie went to live with Norah, to support one another.

Audrie's great interests were the Brownies and Guides and going to art classes. She sold a number of her paintings, and she went on holiday to learn more about the subject, especially portraiture.

She became secretary and also president of the Women's Own Group; when it changed to the Wednesday Fellowship, Audrie enjoyed



Audrie and Norah on a happy occasion

the devotional time, the interesting speakers and "the cup of tea and a chat" afterwards.

She was secretary to the Thursday Club, and Audrie ran the Sunday School for many years and was treasurer for Home Missions.

She also helped to make and serve the lunch at the

Parahandies group on a Monday, always bringing her one pudding recipe – trifle – for dessert.

Although Audrie was involved in all of these activities, she didn't like to put herself forward or be pushy, but liked to encourage people to use their gifts and become more involved in things.

As well as being an aunt to Margaret and Malcolm, Audrie was also a great-aunt to Eleanor, Frances, Alistair, Jacqueline, Andrew, Kathleen, Juliet and grand-aunt to Chloe.

When Norah died in August 2010, Audrie didn't cope and found it difficult being on her own. She moved into Calum MacDonald Court sheltered housing, but it wasn't a success. 2½ years ago, Audrie moved into The Beeches. Once again she started to sketch, but sadly her health was failing her. So on 3 January God saw that she was tired, and called her home.

So let us not be sad, but think of all that Audrie accomplished in her 85 years, and let us give thanks that she is now at peace and reunited with her loved ones and with God.

# From our own correspondents!

## Property matters

On the property front, our year started with a bang – literally. As many of you will know, one of the windows in Room 4 which face onto Woodside Avenue was kicked in. However, more seriously, the vandals also damaged one of the stained-glass windows in the same room.

The stained glass is sandwiched between an outer layer of safety glass and an inner layer of ordinary glass. The force of the blow broke through the outer layer, pushing it into the stained glass and, in turn, pushing it against the inner layer which shattered. A number of the small pieces of stained glass are damaged and there is a distinct bow shape to the pane.

We are currently trying to assess the damage and seek a way forward for its repair. If the stained-glass pane has to go to a specialist restorer it could take some time and be quite expensive to restore. The silver lining to this dark cloud is that our insurance should meet the cost, apart from our £50 policy excess. It is a while since there has been significant vandalism to our premises and it is very sad that this has happened, particularly at this time of year.

Martin Rogers

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## One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

John 4:24 (AV)

## Paschal Candle 2015

This year's Paschal Candle is being donated by Mary Dempster in memory of Ron. It will be dedicated at the start of the Eucharist on Easter Day, 5 April. At the same time, the 2014 candle will be given back to Eve Denning, who donated it in 2014 in memory of her son, John. Eve plans to give it to John's partner, Marjorie, who will also be at the service.

## Cruet set

St Margaret's was very pleased to have a cruet set donated by Val Leslie to commemorate the safe arrival of her latest grandchild, Emily Vivien, who was born on 28 November. The cruets were dedicated for use when Bishop David took our service on 14 December. [A cruet set contains the wine and water used during communion, and is placed on the credence table before the service]

## St Andrews West Area Council

The January meeting will be held on **Thursday 29 January** at 7.30pm at St Paul's, Kinross. There won't be a formal speaker; instead we will be arranging our programme for the forthcoming year. As always, anyone is welcome to come along.

There will also be a meeting on **Thursday 26 February** at 7.30pm at St Serf's, Burntisland. As is usual at this meeting we will discuss the papers for the Diocesan Synod which will take place at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on **Saturday 7 March**, starting at 9.30am with a Eucharist. We look forward to reading a report on this important event in the next edition of Contact by Valerie Leslie, the St Margaret's Lay Representative.

# Diary for January 2015

## Sunday 25 January

Epiphany 3                      11.00am   Joint Covenant Service                      Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
(Homelessness Sunday)

6.00pm   Sunday@Six: traditional Evensong, for the Week of  
Prayer for Christian Unity, led by Myra Tarr

Thursday 29 Jan              7.30pm   St Andrews West Area Council meeting  
at St Paul's, Kinross

Friday 30 Jan                7.00pm   Choir practice

## Sunday 1 February

Epiphany 4                      9.30am   Sung Eucharist                      Very Rev Jim Mein  
11.00am   Morning Worship                      Mrs Margaret Freeman  
Deacon Sarah McDowall

Monday 2 Feb                6.00pm   St Margaret's Choir taking part in the community choir  
class in the Fife Festival of Music.  
Sorry that so many choirs are competing this year that  
there will be **no room for an audience!**

Tuesday 3 Feb              10.00am   EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

Wednesday 4 Feb          2.15pm   Wednesday Fellowship Opening Session, Devotional, Tea  
Guest: Mrs Hilary Henderson

Friday 6 February          7.00pm   Choir practice

Saturday 7 February 7.30pm   Scottish Chamber Choir *L'homme armé*  
St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street,  
Edinburgh (see page 38)

## Sunday 8 February

Epiphany 5                      9.00am   'Messy Church' and Breakfast  
9.30am   Sung Eucharist                      Rev Ross Kennedy  
11.00am   Morning Worship                      Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

Wednesday 11 Feb          2.15 pm   Wednesday Fellowship: Games Afternoon

Thursday 12 Feb            7.30pm   Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at CEMC

Friday 13 Feb                7.00pm   Choir practice

5.45pm   'Chocolat' meal, followed by the film  
for 6.00pm (see page 8)

# Diary for February 2015

## Sunday 15 February

Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Jim Mein
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Jane Peers
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth	
Monday 16 Feb to Friday 20 Feb	tba	Bibleworld (Scottish Bible Society) Roadshow for school children Parkgate Centre rear car park	
Monday 16 Feb	7.00pm	Property Committee Meeting	
Tuesday 17 Feb	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth	
	6.00pm to 8.00pm	Bibleworld Roadshow – adults visit Parkgate Centre rear car park	
Wednesday 18 Feb	10.15am	Eucharist with imposition of Ashes at Holy Trinity	Rev Ross Kennedy
	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Kim Wardener – Help for Heroes	
	7.30pm	Eucharist with imposition of Ashes	Very Rev Jim Mein
	6.00pm to 8.00pm	Bibleworld Roadshow – adults visit Parkgate Centre rear car park	
Thursday 19 Feb	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Lent study at the Manse 'When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours' (see page 4)	
Friday 20 Feb	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 21 Feb	10.30am to 4.00pm	"Unpacking Fresh Expressions" an open event for Methodists in Scotland led by John and Olive Fleming Drane in Glasgow (venue to be confirmed). Bookings through Fiona Inglis at the District Office (see page 5)	
	11.00am to 7.30pm	Come and Sing Verdi's Requiem in support of Waverley Care at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. Rehearsal 11.00am–5.00pm. Concert 6.00pm (see page 38)	

## Sunday 22 February

Lent 1	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Dr Marion Keston Deacon Sarah McDowall
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six: Taizé service	

## Diary for February/March 2015

Monday 23 Feb	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church Torridon Lane (see page 4)
Tuesday 24 Feb	12noon to 2.00pm	Souper Soup Day for Christian Aid in the Hub Café with soup, sweet, tea/coffee (cost £5)
Wednesday 25 Feb	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Ronnie MacMillan – Philately
	7.30pm to 9.00pm	Lent Study Group at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline "Inter-faith relations", introduced by Frank Bowness (Fife Inter-faith group) (see page 4)
Thursday 26 Feb	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Lent study at the Manse 'When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours' (see page 4)
	7.30pm	St Andrews West Area Council meeting at St Serf's, Burntisland
Friday 27 Feb	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 28 Feb	tba	Concert by Rosyth Concert Band in Rosyth Parish Church (details later in the weekly notice sheet)
<b>Sunday 1 March</b>		
Lent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Very Rev Jim Mein
		Church Anniversary – 99 years of Methodism in Rosyth
	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev David Easton Chair of Scotland District Synod
Monday 2 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane (see page 4)
Tuesday 3 Mar	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
Wednesday 4 Mar	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Bill Tulloch
	7.30pm to 9.00pm	Lent Study Group at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline "Palestine and Israel", introduced by Nancy Adams (see page 4)
Thursday 5 Mar	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Lent study at the Manse 'When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours' (see page 4)
Friday 6 Mar	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer Service in Rosyth Methodist Church
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 7 Mar	9.30am	Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

# Diary for March 2015

## Sunday 8 March

Lent 3	9.00am	'Messy Church' and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Jim Mein
	11.00am	Morning Worship	
Monday 9 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church Torridon Lane (see page 4)	
Tuesday 10 Mar	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting in the Church Lounge	
Wednesday 11 Mar	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Lorna Miskelly – World War 1	
	7.30pm to 9.00pm	Lent Study Group at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline "Same-sex relationships", introduced by Lis Burke (Lay Reader, St John's Perth) (see page 4)	
Thursday 12 Mar	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Lent study at the Manse 'When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours' (see page 4)	
Friday 13 Mar	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 14 Mar	7.30pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert of favourite Choral music at The Vine Church, Dunfermline Tickets from Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd and Myra Tarr (see page 38)	

## Sunday 15 March

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Jim Mein
	11.00am	Morning Worship	
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth	
	3.00pm	Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society: <i>Solutions in Spring</i> Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy (see page 38) Tickets £8 adults, £4 children from Adrian Masson	
Monday 16 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane (see page 4)	
Tuesday 17 Mar	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
	7.00pm	Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society: <i>Solutions in Spring</i> Dunfermline High School (see page 38) Tickets £8 adults, £4 children from Adrian Masson	
Wednesday 18 Mar	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Jack Pryde – Dunfermline of Old	



# Diary for March 2015

- Wednesday 18 Mar    7.30pm    Lent Study Group at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
                                  to 9.00pm    "Homelessness", led by Jeremy Balfour from Scottish  
                                  Churches Housing Action    (see page 4)
- Thursday 19 Mar    7.30pm    Lent study at the Manse  
                                  to 9.30pm    'When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours' (see page 4)
- Friday 20 Mar    7.00pm    Choir practice
- Sunday 22 March**
- Lent 5    11.00am    Joint Communion Service    Methodist-led  
                                  Traidcraft goods on sale after the service  
                                  6.00pm    Sunday@Six: Thank You social (see page 10)
- Monday 23 Mar    7.30pm    Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church,  
                                  Torridon Lane (see page 4)
- Tuesday 24 Mar    2.00pm    Daffodil Tea in the Parish Church in aid of Christian Aid  
                                  to 4.00pm    Scones, cream and tea. Donation £3
- Wednesday 25 Mar    2.15 pm    Wednesday Fellowship: Daffodil Tea fundraising event  
                                  7.30pm    Lent Study Group at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
                                  to 9.00pm    "End of life issues", led by Gordon McLaren, who is the  
                                  Public Health Consultant in Fife and on the Board of  
                                  "Good life, good death, good grief" (see page 4)
- Friday 27 Mar    7.00pm    Choir practice

## Holy Week

### Sunday 29 March

- Palm Sunday    9.30am    Sung Eucharist with distribution of palms  
                                  Very Rev Jim Mein  
                                  Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal  
                                  11.00am    Morning Worship with distribution of palms
- Monday 30 Mar    7.30pm    Ecumenical Lent Study Group at St Columba's Church,  
                                  Torridon Lane (see page 4)  
                                  7.30pm    Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
                                  Rev Ross Kennedy
- Tuesday 31 Mar    10.00am    EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns  
                                  7.30pm    Readings and meditation at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
                                  Very Rev Jim Mein

# Diary for April 2015

Wednesday 1 Apr    2.15pm    Wednesday Fellowship:  
Holy Week Communion                      Rev Dr Helen Jenkins

7.30pm    Lay-led Taizé service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

**Maundy Thursday** 10.15am    Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
Rev Ross Kennedy

7.00pm    Passover Celebration followed by Communion  
at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane

7.30pm    Liturgy of the Last Supper              Very Rev Jim Mein  
All welcome to attend from both congregations  
Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal

**Good Friday**            12noon    An hour by the Cross  
to 1.00pm    led by the Very Rev Jim Mein

2.00pm    An hour by the Cross at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
to 3.00pm    led by the Very Rev Jim Mein

**Holy Saturday**        7.30pm    Easter fire and renewal of baptismal vows  
at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline              Very Rev Jim Mein

## Sunday 5 April

Easter Day              9.30am    Festival Eucharist and blessing of the Paschal Candle  
Very Rev Jim Mein

11.00am    Morning Worship

Wednesday 8 Apr    2.15pm    Wednesday Fellowship:  
Alan Taylor – Desert Island Discs

Friday 10 Apr        7.00pm    Choir practice

## Sunday 12 April

Easter 2                9.30am    Sung Eucharist                      Rev Ross Kennedy  
Low Sunday

**Note:** No 'Messy Church' and Breakfast during school holidays

11.00am    Morning Worship

Tuesday 14 Apr    10.00am    EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

Wednesday 15 Apr    2.15pm    Wednesday Fellowship:  
Guest Speaker: Richard Lloyd – Mary's Meals

Saturday 18 Apr    1.00pm    Institution of Rev Alison Cozens as Rector  
at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

# Helen Jenkins – the path to priesthood

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

Since we ran a series of articles on people on both sides of the Partnership a couple of years ago, there have been some changes in personnel. We thought readers might appreciate learning more about the Rev Dr Helen Jenkins, who became part of the Methodist ministry team at Rosyth last September, working alongside Deacon Sarah McDowall.

When you interview someone whose parents met when they were both studying computing at college, it makes you feel really old! That was one of the first things I learnt about Helen, our new Methodist presbyter. Another was that the family enjoy board games with a strategic content – for her husband, Colin, the more strategy and the less element of chance the better, because he likes to win!

The story that the latest member of our ministry team has to tell starts in Stockport, south of Manchester, where Helen was the elder of the two daughters of a “cradle Methodist” mother, Pat, from Box in Wiltshire.



Her father, Dave, was an Anglican – Rev Libby Lane, soon to be the very first female bishop in the Church of England, was once a member of the team at what was originally his home church – who “got stuck in” to Methodism in his mid-forties with the same enthusiasm that had once engaged him in Sunday football. But that’s another story!



Helen was educated in Stockport, where she moved to a new Sixth-Form College to take advantage of the greater breadth of subjects that could be studied under the umbrella of an International Baccalaureate course. Helen was able to continue with English and French, and make a start in Psychology, as well as taking her Maths, Chemistry and Biology to a level that won her a place at Nottingham University. Here her BSc in Human Genetics led to a move to Scotland and research at Glasgow University.

Church was a big part of Helen’s life throughout these years. The growth of her faith was a gradual process, though she can point to an occasion at the age of about 12 when she made a conscious decision that it was going to be *her* faith. “Someone pointed out that it was a decision that I had to make for myself”.

Helen was a Sunday School teacher, and enjoyed taking part in a Youth Group that had a really strong spiritual component. The leaders weren’t threatened by teenagers exploring their faith and challenging their views. Not only did they give “space to ask questions”, but they encouraged their young

people to work things out for themselves. Helen feels this approach leads to a faith that is more likely to last the test of living than the blind acceptance of doctrine.

Helen was active in a local non-church Guide company, progressing from Brownie to Guider. She also learnt the flute, which she played in the worship group; she found it easier to play an instrument than to hold her alto part against strong soprano competition! Whilst her skills have suffered from disuse, listening to music still gives her pleasure. The family diet is a “whole mixture” of classical, jazz and pop music, but “more folk than anything”. Sport is something to be watched rather than participated in in Helen’s world – you’re far more likely to find her curled up with a good book than getting any exercise!



There are exceptions to the exercise rule!

The Commonwealth Games provided a great opportunity to see various sports, although don’t ask her how the scoring works for rhythmic gymnastics. She’s a Stockport County fan, although it’s a bit far to travel to matches nowadays, so occasional trips to see Aberdeen (Colin’s team) have to suffice.

In the late 1990s, Helen attended the Methodist Youth Conference, and was challenged to put herself forward for election to its Executive, which “wasn’t on my radar at all”. Helen “went away, but the idea didn’t go away”, and she was elected to the Executive in 2001, serving as Chair for 2002–03, having shadowed the role the year previously. This position involved a great deal of travel to represent young Methodists at meetings and events, which had to be fitted in between her research. The role culminated in Helen chairing the Methodist Youth Conference in 2003, which was a huge challenge, but exhilarating and immensely fulfilling.

Similarly with the call to ministry that emerged during her doctoral studies: “If you said when I was a teenager that I’d be a minister I’d have laughed at you”. In fact she felt at that stage that she had been “called *not* to preach”. But, in parallel with becoming increasingly convinced that a career in academia would not be for her – too much strident over-focussed competition – there was a “growing sense of “being called to places I didn’t expect to be”.

Helen first explored the call to preach by becoming a Local Preacher and then undergoing “Foundation Training”, a blend of academic study and discernment, which involved a two-year theology degree at Durham University. “Never one for taking life quietly”, during the vacations Helen was writing up her doctoral thesis, and even finding time, halfway through her course at Durham, to marry!



Helen had met Colin through mutual friends while they were both postgraduates in Glasgow. Her husband, Paisley-born and brought up in Stonehaven, took his doctorate in electronics, and is currently employed by Cirrus Logic (until recently Wolfson Microelectronics), working on MEMS (micro-electro-mechanical systems) microphones.

Colin once worshipped in the Church of Scotland, and is “not a fan of traditional church institutions”, preferring the monthly Holy City events organised by the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona Community. [Ed: more details at <http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk/>] The new form of morning worship at Livingston (see later) gives him opportunity in the all-age service and discussion that forms the meat in the worship sandwich.

The next year, 2007, had one crazy fortnight, when Colin received his doctorate, and Helen graduated twice, with a PhD in Human Genetics from Glasgow and a BA in Theology from Durham! By this time her call had been affirmed by the church, and Helen commenced two years of preparation for the ministry. Half was through an MA at Durham, half through placements. Of these, the most seminal experience was four weeks spent in The Gambia, experiencing major differences in culture and churchmanship, followed by two weeks in Senegal with Colin. If you need someone to help you bargain in French with a market trader, Helen is your girl!



With her family at Helen's ordination

In 2009, the Stationing Committee gave Helen a five-year appointment as the Methodist team member of the Livingston LEP, initially responsible for two of the six congregations. The 2009 team of four ministers and other workers has gradually contracted to two ministers, plus a youth worker and (since the end of her original appointment in August 2014) just “part of Helen”, and corresponding changes have been made to the pattern of worship.



Having six congregations around the town, all doing more or less the same thing, was felt not to be sustainable, and two years ago the LEP started worshipping together. Their Sunday starts at 8.45am with an Episcopal communion, continues with 30 minutes of informal all-age worship, which is led by teams of lay and ordained together and followed by discussion (with Sunday School for the young people), and finishes with a traditional preaching service: something for everyone!

**Ed:** Unlike our own LEP, this four-church partnership is fully integrated in terms of both governance and services, and the people are “mixed in together”.



In 2011, the family welcomed a daughter. Caitlin is now three years old and “jigsaw-loving, story-loving and purple-loving”. Helen is now permanently part-time, juggling her caring responsibilities with a three-day working week. This is currently split three ways, with Livingston, Rosyth and the Circuit/District being allocated a day each. Her day in Rosyth is generally a Thursday, though this is subject to what in other contexts would be called “the exigencies of the service”!

Helen is currently working alongside Deacon Sarah – “it’s nice to have the transition” – concentrating primarily on the “presbyteral bits of the role” (preaching; presiding at communion; chairing meetings). From September 2015, her responsibility will switch from Livingston to Kirkcaldy, but “Rosyth will be a part of it”. As will working with the new rector of St Margaret’s, to which Helen is looking forward greatly.

Helen hopes that members of both congregations think of Rosyth as being *our* church, working together to care for each other; to enable church life to continue, and reaching out, relating our faith to the world outside. Given that our building is well used, one of the questions she asks is whether there are ways of engaging with people who use our premises, making our building more than just a community centre.

Particularly given the challenge of her time constraint, Helen will be seeking to work *with* the members here, rather than *for* them. This ties in with her leadership style, which is cooperative and rarely dictatorial, seeking to enable other people to use their skills. What skills do you have to offer?



# Remembering the Rt Rev Michael Hare Duke

Sandra Young reflects ...

2014 saw the passing of our last two diocesan bishops. In May, some of St Margaret's congregation attended a service of thanksgiving in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth for the Rt Rev Michael Henley, better known to us as a former Chaplain of St Margaret's Naval Base Church. On 23 December, we said farewell to his predecessor, the Rt Rev Michael Hare Duke, who was Bishop for 25 years from 1969 to 1994, with a funeral requiem, also



in the Cathedral. Our interim Rector, Jim, who knew Michael well, and I were there from St Margaret's. The Cathedral was well filled with family members, clergy past and present and many people like myself who remembered Bishop Michael over the last 45 years. He spent his retirement in Perth and was active in the Cathedral for much of that time.

Although we were not part of the SEC during his time in office, I was surprised how many of St Margaret's people knew Michael as he undertook confirmation services at the Naval Base Church when our own Bishop of the Forces was unable to be present. Sue Forman was confirmed by Bishop Michael in 1991. Several of our present congregation also knew him through various church connections and have fond memories of this unforgettable man.

I attended his consecration in the Cathedral on St Ninian's Day, 16 September 1969, when my late father, the Cathedral Lay Elector, opened the West End door of the building

to welcome Bishop Michael to his new Cathedral, and I remember him throughout his long ministry in the Diocese.

One of the things I remember most about this friendly, approachable and small-in-stature man, was his mitre – yellow and orange in colour, the design representing the flame of the Holy Spirit. It acquired the nickname of “high-speed gas” as befitted a man so full of energy and enthusiasm, and it was

touching that it should rest on his coffin along with his yellow robe and a simple wooden crozier.

Seen as a progressive priest, Michael's views were radical, controversial, and ahead of his time. He played a key part in bringing about significant changes in the Scottish Episcopal Church, such as the introduction of non-stipendiary ministry and revised liturgical rites. He was the driving force behind the 1982 Eucharistic Liturgy (our 'Blue Book'), and was the author of parts of its Eucharistic prayers.

Michael was the first Bishop to ordain women to the priesthood in Scotland in 1994 and this was evident by the large turnout of women priests, three of whom took part in his funeral service. It was also fitting that one of them, the Rev Celia Matthews, who was his licensed parish worker in Nottingham and whom he brought to work as Diocesan Missioner (for 25 years), gave a very moving and apt sermon.

/cont'd overleaf



One of his less successful ventures, however, affected Rosyth. In 1983, a community project called "The Whale" was based in SS Andrew & George Church, and the church used as a puppet theatre, coffee bar and community hall. The project was not a success and was disbanded after about two years. The church was closed in 1986, the building demolished, and the area is now housing.

His friendship with Bishop Luis Prado of the Diocese of Pelotas in Brazil led to a successful international link between the two dioceses, which lasted for several years. Many young people, clergy and adults from churches in this diocese benefitted from visiting Pelotas and reciprocal visits also took place.

Michael was a recognised writer, journalist and poet. His love for poetry is well known – he wrote the words of a hymn we often sing at our patronal festival – and one of

his poems, "Rites of Passage", was read by the Rev Dr Marion Keston during the requiem. He was a natural with the media and became well-known for his appearance on television and radio.

Michael's wife Baa died in November 2012 and he is survived by a son and three daughters and their families.

There are so many things to be said about Bishop Michael and fitting tributes abound. Two worth reading are by David Campbell (<http://tinyurl.com/k2xunqy>) and Robert Gillies (<http://tinyurl.com/kjg6uud> – a document download), a former rector of St Andrew's, St Andrews.

It was a privilege to have known Michael and to be present in the Cathedral when we rejoiced and gave thanks, through words, music and the liturgy, for a remarkable man, who touched the hearts of so many.

### **Rites of Passage (1988)**

From the taffrail of his cot-bed's side  
he scanned the bone-locked sea of memory,  
that drowned names and places beyond recall.

Captain of his last trip, he hauled the sheets  
to catch the light airs of his failing lungs  
and make his land-fall on the further shore.

Patronising attendants failed  
to grasp the intensity of purpose.  
Body-focused, the nurse mistook for sweat  
the sea-spray of the inner journey  
and placed a thermometer where his telescope belonged;  
The chaplain paddled past, blinded with clichéd foam.

The captain's urgent message  
failed to find a signalman on watch;  
only civilians, unskillful to decode  
received his flickering light.

And then the setting sun drew a straight course of gold  
across the waves; the energy of angels  
help his bows steady, while the taut rigging sang  
a psalm of safe home-coming.

# What we learn from John the Baptist

The sermon preached by Bishop David on 14 December 2014

I always enjoy the Sunday in Advent on which we meet John the Baptist. The world of faith seems sometimes full of people of all-surpassing niceness but who won't tell you clearly what they think. John the Baptist is the antidote to all that. Noisy, intemperate, wild – he calls on people to repent and to prepare for the coming of the Saviour. And of course, as is often the case with people like this, he doesn't come to the end of his days full of years and peacefully in his bed. He was a threat – so his life was prematurely ended.

But if that is all you see in John the Baptist, you miss some of the more subtle messages. John's Gospel – possibly because of tension or competition between the disciples of Jesus and of John – shows John making very clear who he is not. He isn't the Messiah nor Elijah nor the prophet. He points the way towards the greater one who comes after him – he points to Jesus. And so do we.

When I read this passage against the background of the things which I think about, it seems to me that there are three important messages.

Firstly John the Baptist is noisy – he is bold, public and confident. I know that as a church you try hard to connect with the community around you. Our Casting the Net movement encourages our churches to turn outwards in mission and in service. It is very easy for churches in our times to turn inwards, to talk only to themselves and to withdraw from the public arena. One of the big issues about a new Scotland in the



future will be whether it makes space for faith – not just in guaranteeing freedom of religion which is a basic human right – but whether it allows faith to be part of public discourse and wider civic life. Part of the ministry I exercise as Primus is about this. I write in the press. I meet politicians and media people. I go places – I was the only visible representative of Scotland's faith communities at the launch of the report of the

Smith Commission. It's public, visible and engaged – wanting to see faith communities making a contribution to the whole.

Secondly John the Baptist is confident – certain – about his faith. But thirdly he is humble about it as well.

We are greatly blessed at the moment in the number of people who are exploring a vocation – a calling – to ordained ministry and lay reader ministry in our church. At present in this diocese it is eleven. I am hugely encouraged by that because it tells me that, whatever else goes wrong – and plenty goes very wrong indeed – there are some things which are going right. If in our congregations, there is a quality of faith and community which allows people to be open to God's call, that is very positive.

I often find myself in dialogue about what this calling means – how we nurture and shape it – what kind of people we would like to see in our ministry in the future. Last week, I wrote to somebody that I thought we needed deep conviction with provisionality – I might have said humility.

/cont'd overleaf

We need people who have in their hearts and in their guts a conviction about the life of God and his call on their lives which is beyond reason – deeper than reason. Unless it has that depth, they will be destroyed by all the challenges which come. But unless they have humility – and sometimes provisionality – they won't be able to connect with people in congregations and in the wider community who are tentatively making a journey towards faith. People pick up the certainty but they want openness with it.

So this is an important day for the mission of the church. It tells us about the kind of church and the kind of people that we need to become if we are to be effective witnesses in a society which is often less than hospitable to faith.

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## Cascade conversations

Remember what Jim Mein wrote in our last issue (page 26) about his plans for Lent study? The way in which we will be tackling various 'divisive but important' issues, facilitated by our five excellent speakers in our own Lent course (page 4 of this issue), is going to mirror the pattern adopted by Bishop David for the 'Cascade' conversations that are currently taking place within the diocese on the subject of same-sex marriage.

Lay members and clergy are coming together in open, and we pray constructive, discussion on three occasions: you are too late to attend the meeting at Perth, but there are two more opportunities in St Andrews (27 January) and Stirling (5 February). Details in the weekly Joint Notices.



## The Gathering 2015

Saturday 30 May

10.00am–4.00pm

St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

This year's Gathering will focus on *Mark of Mission 8: Serving the community in practical ways, reaching out to others, especially those in need.*

We are planning an interesting and varied programme for both young and not so young from across the Diocese. Lots of our churches and individual members are already busy serving the community in various ways. They are in themselves a helpful source of information for the wider Diocese. We would like each congregation to bring a poster, A3 or A4, with pictures and text in order to share these important service initiatives. More about that and the programme later.

Booking forms will be available from the end of April from your Casting the Net Liaison Officer or on the diocesan website ([www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org)). In the meantime, please keep the date!

Val Nellist

Convener

Congregational Growth Group

**Ed:** The Gathering is always a very enjoyable event to which a number of folk have gone in previous years. Ask Sandra for the latest information.

# From country to home!

by Dorissia Forsyth

I have always enjoyed going back to Seychelles to visit my family and friends. It is where I was born and brought up. Previous trips with the girls have always been planned well in advance with tickets purchased at least six months before departure date;

allowing enough excitement to see the relatives, sun, sea and food. My trip in October was different altogether, travelling on my own to see my mother for the very last time. A necessary visit which conjured up very different emotions because of the short length of time doctors predicted she had left with the family.

I decided to make my visit a surprise to make it a wee bit easier for both of us, and was able to have quality time with her talking about my childhood memories, complaining about the heat, dogs barking at night and world issues. She had fond memories of her trip to Scotland in 1988 to attend Nadine's christening at Holy Trinity, and of meeting with David Redwood and the congregation.

Her spirit was strong, although she got weaker as the time went on. As she loved singing, we sang French hymns which she preferred. She passed away on the very day I left Seychelles for Scotland.

My visit was not all sad. I had the opportunity to attend my niece, Angelica's confirmation on Remembrance Sunday morning, then in the afternoon chatted to some war veterans of Tobruk. My Uncle John fought



Niece Angelica's confirmation by Bishop James Wong, with her mother Lucine, godmothers and Auntie Dorissia

at Tobruk with the East Africa Corps when Seychelles was part of the British Empire. I could not understand why they called all those men "Tobruks" when I was growing up, until I did History at school! There are quite a number of them alive, and they speak fondly of being

a soldier and of Empire Days. They still receive a British War Pension.

As Seychelles is a member of the Commonwealth, there were a lot more questions asked about Glasgow and Scotland, and in particular the Referendum. Almost everyone I bumped into said that Seychellois eyes were glued to the television more than ever. At least now most people know where Scotland is on the map of the world and have promised to come to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Of course our knowledge of their world also comes from the media. Thankfully threats from Somali pirate attacks in Seychelles waters have considerably diminished.

And what of the church there? My relatives are mostly members of the Anglican Church and worship at Holy Saviour's Anglican Church, the second biggest parish. Almost everyone goes to church on a Sunday and congregations are well-balanced in ages. In fact, younger people between the ages of 16–30 are most represented. Not going to church is not an option, even if you have been out till the early hours the night before!

Singing and music have always played an important part in my family. My brother Robin plays the organ, with my three sisters and five nieces in the choir. Inevitably, I was asked to join them. Services are held in the four languages of the islands – Creole, French, Latin and English – which I miss at times.

Seychelles forms part of the Province of the Indian Ocean in the world-wide Anglican Communion. Although Seychelles is a popular destination for tourists, in a fast-moving world it faces many social issues including drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancies, divorce, abuse and domestic violence. Members of the Mother's Union are very active and work alongside the authorities to tackle those issues. They are (rather cheekily) called the "Army of the Church" by the youth. Shortly before I

left, the Anglican Church held a rally against domestic violence and abuse. Often the Government pays more attention when it is the churches that call for these rallies.

As in a number of countries which offer freedom of worship, a number of new churches are being built. Islam, with its financial support from wealthy Middle East States, is also very visibly on the rise. This doesn't make it very comfortable in a small island state with strong Christian traditions. The Seychelles Inter-Faith Council, which comprises all the main religious bodies in Seychelles, plays an important role in maintaining religious tolerance and harmony.

I also spoke about St Margaret's and Holy Trinity, and my family's parishioners send you all a sunny greeting from the Anglican Communion in Seychelles.

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## **We take flying for granted ...**

Thoughts from [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org)

"Aircraft have been so powerful in spreading death and destruction during the war. Why can't they be used to bring life and hope in peace time?"

This was the thought of a few young Christian Air Force officers, including MAF UK co-founder Stuart King, towards the end of WWII. "Let's seek to use small planes to bring help to needy people in the inaccessible areas of our world."

Amazingly, God put this same thought simultaneously into the minds of airmen in the UK, USA, Australia, and South Africa. They didn't know each other at first. Connecting later, each group took the common name of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

MAF USA, MAF UK and MAF Australia all had very small beginnings. Each lost an aircraft early on. Each learnt many lessons flying in remote regions and difficult terrain – mountains, jungles and swamps.

MAF UK's first aircraft was a twin-engined Miles Gemini which left from Croydon Airport in January 1948 for a 9-month survey in Africa. MAF Australia began flying with an Auster 'Avis' aircraft in New Guinea in 1951. Today, MAF has a worldwide fleet of over 130 aircraft operating in more than 30 countries.

From its small and struggling beginnings MAF has grown into a highly-developed organisation. God has done great things.



# Singing in Bangladesh

More World Voices!

Sandra Young's brother, Ian, has just returned from his second visit to Bangladesh as part of the British Council's World Voice Programme. He spent a week training teachers to deliver this singing programme in schools throughout the country. In this venture the British Council is partnered by BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) which is one of the world's largest NGOs, running over twenty thousand schools throughout rural areas of Bangladesh. Ian says, "we learned and shared songs from Ghana, Losotho, Congo, Bangladesh, Canada, Israel, Scotland (in Gaelic), Northern Ireland, England and Wales (in Welsh)."

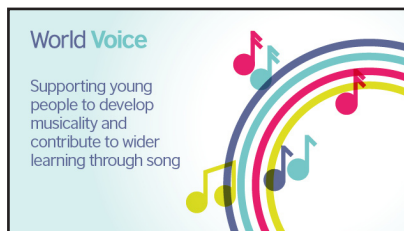


Ian concluded his time in Bangladesh by visiting the Dhanmondi Secondary Boys' High School.

Ian directs two of the area choirs of the National Youth Choirs of Scotland in Perth and Forfar, and the Junior Corps of the National Boys Choir.



The programme is designed to use singing as way into subjects across the curriculum and to learn songs from all over the world. After his time with the teachers Ian presented a workshop for the managers of the BRAC organisation in Dhaka, pupils of the Shurer Dhara Music School owned by the famous Bangladeshi singer, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya where they sang "Ye banks and braes" in English and then in the Bengali version composed by the Nobel prize-winning poet, Rabindranath Tagore, who collected many Burns songs on his visit to Scotland between 1912 and 1932.



Quite apart from his time-consuming commitment to encouraging singing, Ian is also an ordained priest! He is Archdeacon Emeritus of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, where he spent over twenty years. At present, he ministers to congregations at St Margaret's, Leven and St John's, Forfar within our diocese.

# Helping Meg

Stephen Tarr writes from Central Africa

Since August 2014 I have been living in Rwanda, having a break from teaching in London and taking the opportunity to have some new experiences in Africa. I spent time visiting several schools,



but I very quickly fell in love with one place in particular; Kinamba Community Project, or 'MEG Foundation' as it is locally known.

My first visit was an incredible eye-opener, and I decided to volunteer on a regular basis after about ten minutes! It is a primary school for children from the Kinamba area of Kigali, providing schooling and, equally importantly, two solid meals a day for pupils who are otherwise unable to afford either. Education is supposedly free in Rwanda, but with high costs for such items as exercise books, stationery, mattresses and soap (for boarders in high school), the reality is many of these children would otherwise not be in school. Meg (the founder) has encouraged around a hundred foreign sponsors to support a child who would otherwise be on the street. They will now go through primary and secondary education and utterly change their life chances. In a country which is not yet able to support the neediest in society, MEG Foundation does an incredible job to level the playing field.

I was amazed by the confident and enthusiastic children I came across at every turn, who would happily chat to

me or invite me to play games or ask if they could help out. The behaviour in class was a welcome improvement from Central London, even at the end of an 8am–5pm school day! The kids are all thrilled to be given the chance

to go eventually to high school, and to be a sponsored child is looked on with awe! The head teacher and all the teaching and non-teaching staff are from the area, and the mothers of the children sit in the playground and weave baskets every afternoon. These are sold to raise money for the foundation. There is also a thriving tailor business on-site which makes the school uniforms and many beautiful items for sale. The school is a truly community-led phenomenon!

This year the 2015 school year (which runs from January to December) will start three weeks later than usual, on 26 January. Rather than celebrating an extra-long holiday this is actually a cause for concern for the foundation, as it is an extra three weeks that the children will not get fed properly. Both nutrition and catching up on lost education time are urgent priorities, if the children are to have the best start to the year.

Please visit [www.kinambaproject.org.uk](http://www.kinambaproject.org.uk) for more information and news, or to sponsor a child or donate. See if you can find my photo!



# A life well spent

Alan Taylor remembers Operation Hopenot...

Fifty years ago this month (January) probably the “greatest Briton of them all” died. Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill had lived life to the full in the service of his country. He served as a Cavalry Officer of the 4th

Queen’s Own Hussars in the valleys of north-west India in 1895, and as a soldier and a correspondent in the Boer War; he was First Lord of the Admiralty for four years from 1911; he served in the trenches of the First World War as a battalion commander in the Royal Scots Fusiliers; and he led our country to victory in the Second World War. He was overall, without doubt, an outstanding politician, serving for 64 years, during which time he succeeded Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister at the start of the last war. Not content with that, he was again Prime Minister from 1951–55 in the early years of the reign of our present Queen, continuing his parliamentary career into his 90th year.

He died on Sunday 24 January 1965, and by the following day his State Funeral – rarely approved by the monarch for a commoner, but following in the footsteps of Wellington and Nelson – was in the final stages of preparation. I was honoured to have been chosen a year or so before to take part in Operation Hopenot. As the name implies, this was an Order detailing the arrangements following the death of any notable person, though clearly it was principally intended for Royalty. Little did I think I would be called upon to take part in any State Funeral, let alone that of one of my heroes, of any of our heroes? But



by late morning on Monday 25 January, I had joined other officers from the three Services in London to prepare for the lying-in-state in Westminster Hall, that great historic building attached to the Houses of Parliament where

Charles I had been tried for treason.

Each Service had several teams of six officers. Each team stood duty for six hours in every 24 hours. At the catafalque, which was guarded continuously, four officers would stand, one at each corner, with sword reversed and head bowed, for twenty minutes, absolutely still. A fifth officer stood at the top of the steps, ready to take over if necessary, while a sixth officer remained in reserve.

This was an amazing experience, as the great and the good of the land and dignitaries from other countries, as well as ordinary folk who had queued for hours, filed past the coffin, all day and right through the night. London was a sombre place to be. It wasn’t the cosmopolitan capital it is today; even the tolling of Big Ben lent atmosphere to the occasion. People in the streets were sad, as day followed day right through the week, until finally the funeral service took place in St Paul’s Cathedral on the following Saturday. Churchill’s coffin was then taken up the Thames by the historic barge Havengore – with dockers lowering their riverside cranes in salute – to go from Waterloo Station by special Pullman train pulled by Battle of Britain Class Pacific “Winston Churchill” to Bladon in Oxfordshire, where he is buried in the family plot in St Martin’s Parish Church, near his birthplace of Blenheim Palace.

## Music Corner

Members of our church family are involved in a variety of musical activities over the next two months:

On **Monday 2 February**, **St Margaret's Choir** are taking part in the community choir class in the Fife Festival of Music at the Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy. We are sorry that so many choirs are involved this year that there will be **no room for an audience!** However, you will have heard them sing all four of their pieces, but *only* if you're a regular attender of Sunday@Six!

*L'homme armé* is the title of the **Scottish Chamber Choir's** next concert on **Saturday 7 February** at 7.30pm in St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street, Edinburgh. Centred around Robert Carver's intricately beautiful Mass of that name, the programme includes other Scottish Renaissance pieces from the Wode Psalter: five-part motets by David Peebles and Robert Johnson, and Jean Maillard's *Omnes gentes*. Tickets from Martin Tarr.

If you miss this concert you can attend it on Sunday 15 February at 3.00pm at St John's Kirk, Perth.

February also sees the **Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society** take the stage for its annual fully-staged production, which this year is the ever-enjoyable *The Gondoliers*. This will run at the Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline from **Wednesday 11 to Saturday 14 February**. Tickets from Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd and Martin Tarr.

**Rosyth Concert Band** will be performing on **Saturday 28 February** at the Parish Church in aid of the Building Project Fund. Details later.

**Dunfermline Choral Union's** Spring Concert on **Saturday 14 March** at 7.30pm at the Vine Church is an evening of favourite choral music including excerpts from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, and Fauré's *Requiem*, plus a selection of opera choruses. Tickets from Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd and Myra Tarr are £9 (standard), £8 (Senior Citizens/students), or just £3 (under-18s).

*Solutions in Spring* is the title of the **Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society** concert at 3.00pm on **Sunday 15 March** at Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy and at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 17 March** at Dunfermline High School with Martha Ann Brookes, trombone. The programme includes Festive Overture, Prelude and Fugue, The Spitfire, Sir Patrick Spens, Overture, Prince Igor, Wellington's Victory and Miss Saigon. Tickets £8 adults, £4 children from Adrian Masson.

Unless you are a tenor, or have already signed up to take part, the invitation to 'Come and Sing' Verdi's *Requiem* on **Saturday 28 February** is too late!

But why not come and listen to the concert in St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, which is in aid of Waverley Care. Stephen Doughty will conduct the scratch choir and invited soloists, accompanied by Edinburgh Symphony Orchestra. The concert starts at 6.00pm and will finish by 7.30pm. Audience tickets are £10 (£8 conc) from [www.waverleycare.org](http://www.waverleycare.org).

Don't forget that *you* will get an opportunity both to take part and "let the music sink in" at our Sunday@Six at 6.00pm on **22 February**, which this month will take the form of a Taizé service.

# 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, St Margaret's Vestry, and by affiliated but independent organisations.

## Church activities

Methodist Gift Aid enquiries to  
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936  
Stuart.Fowell@btinternet.com

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 Messy Church  
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 is no longer meeting.  
All enquiries should be directed to  
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  
scouts\_13th\_fife@btinternet.com

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

## Where else but Contact would you read about ...?



A trio of angels  
on page 14



Travels of a singing priest  
on page 35



The Bahamas come to Rosyth  
on page 11



A brace of bishops  
on pages 29 and 31

## Contact on-line

You'll find this edition, and many previous issues of Contact, on the archive pages of both the church websites, where you'll get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost!

## To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, both in writing material and during the production phase. The next issue will be published at the end of March, hopefully on Passion Sunday, so please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Thursday 12 March**, preferably by email to [editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk](mailto:editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk).