

Rosyth
Methodist Church



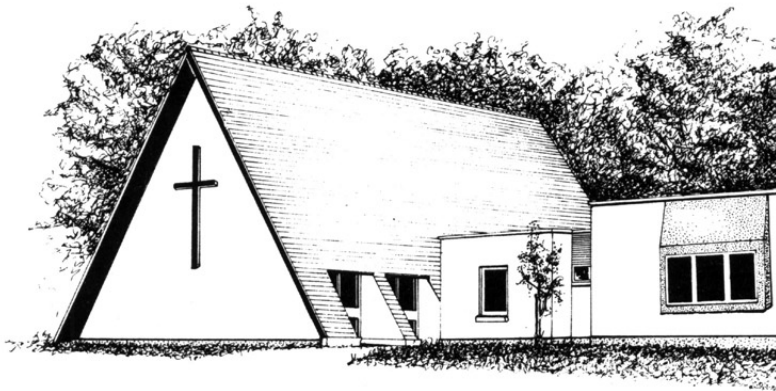
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 79

June/July 2015

Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

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

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Rector:

Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654

Vestry Secretary:

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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 joint celebration

Rev Alison Cozens writes ...

Why do we remember the events of the past? It has been said that if we want to understand today, we need to know and remember what happened yesterday. That's something that we know in our own families and it's also something that we know as a Church family. More than a little of what we now know as the New Testament was written for the early Church communities to help them understand who they were, where they came from and where they were going. Each week, at the Eucharist, as we meet God in the bread and the wine, we remember and relive that first Last Supper, recalling Jesus' death for us on the cross and his resurrection and also looking for his coming in glory. So we stand not just in human history, but also in God's great pattern and purposes.

And what is true for us as a Church community is also true for our local communities. Each has a history, and each has a place in God's plans and purposes. During my first weeks here, as I've been privileged to meet members of all three congregations, I've been fascinated to start learning from you about the rich histories of our communities here in Dunfermline, Rosyth and West Fife. One thing that has particularly struck me is the number of people who first came to Fife because of the dockyard or with the Royal Navy. This is something that especially resonates with me as my father was in the merchant navy for most of his working life.

Next year sees the centenary of Rosyth dockyard, and plans are already underway for a programme of events throughout the year. 2016 also marks the centenary of the founding of the Methodist Society in Rosyth in 1916 and that year was also a key date in the history of the Church of Scotland in Rosyth. Rosyth of course not only had the Episcopal church of St Andrew's and

St George's but also the Anglican church of St Andrew's within the dockyard, later replaced in 1969 by St Margaret's Anglican church. When the Royal Navy withdrew from Rosyth, the naval base church was closed. St Margaret's Rosyth was formed by the congregation and was invited to share the facilities of Rosyth Methodist Church. The St Margaret's congregation was then accepted into the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1998, and in 2000 entered with the Methodist Church into what is now known as a Local Ecumenical Partnership. This has flourished through the years, with a number of joint initiatives as well as regular worship together.

So next year is an important one for our Methodist partners and the wider community in Rosyth and it is therefore also important for us. Bishop David will be visiting us again on **Sunday 18 October**. Our plan is to pray and to prepare for the events of next year by holding a joint service in Rosyth at 11.00am on that Sunday, a service that would involve Holy Trinity, St Margaret's, and Rosyth Methodist Church. As we come together to recall the importance of the association with the dockyard and the continuing mission of our churches, Roger and Sue have kindly agreed to work together with me to find suitable music for the choirs to sing together. If you don't currently sing with either choir but would like to be part of this significant event, you would be most welcome to take part – please could you speak with either Roger or Sue. Please do put **Sunday 18 October** into your diary and please do pray for the planning group and Bishop David as we draw the liturgy together.

What's in this issue ...



Rembrandt's first "Supper at Emmaus" (1628), a print hung in Rev Dr Canon Andrew Wingate's study pp15-17



The Madhiba Yurt from last year's Solas Festival on the theme "Mandela's legacy" p29



Kenny and Alison Roger, with Benjamin, Emily and Callum, prior to their setting off for Israel in 2013 pp34-35

This issue we include a sequence of items relating to the handover from Rev Jim Mein to Rev Alison Cozens (pp12-19), and three special articles:

A month in a life	pp34-35
How to rebury a King!	pp31-33
No room for homelessness!	p37

Of course there are our regular items:

Diary to early August	pp21-24
Fellowship News	pp6-7, 38
Invitations/requests	pp11, 29-30
Methodist changes	pp25-28
Reports	pp36, 39-41
Wednesday Fellowship	p20
Working together	pp8-9
Young people	p10

And there are some articles for which we didn't have room to put the pictures where they belong, so they're on this page, to spur you to explore!

We celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit with two Pentecost services with a difference. As well as the p5 report and p42 extract, we've included some other elements from Helen's material for the day. Look out for the "dove and flames" symbol!



How to rebury a King! pp31-33
An invited topical article from a colleague of Peter Cozens

When the Day of Pentecost was fully come ...



We've chosen these words from the King James Version of Acts 2.1 to remind those who were there of the day when we "were all with one accord in one place", as the verse continues ... and to tell those who weren't at our joint services what they missed!

Pentecost Sunday fell on the fourth Sunday of the month this year, so St Margaret's and the Methodists were able to share the all-age celebration service – a service with a difference, which was apparent as soon as people arrived. The chairs had been moved from their usual positions and placed in two circles around a low communion table. The children sat on kneelers very close to the table, together with Helen, who was the celebrant for the service.

The service hadn't been going for long before there was a very loud interruption as two witnesses of the coming of the Holy Spirit burst into the church, desperate to describe what they had seen and heard, and demonstrating to us, in a very dramatic way, the events of that first Pentecost. Though the words were very familiar, the presentation really brought the events to life.

Then it was the congregation's turn to get involved as we were invited to explore the crafts and activities which had been prepared for us to make us think further about the Spirit. Many people went home

carrying doves, tea-light holders and bookmarks which they had made together with the children. Someone described it as "Messy Church for grown ups"!

We then shared a simple form of communion, with the bread and wine being distributed to people where they sat. It was very special to see three of the children taking bread to all the adults.

This was a very different service and one which we will all remember for a long time, and, while not all the congregation were totally happy with this style of worship, we all felt that this was how all-age worship should be.

24 May was also Aldersgate Sunday – the anniversary of the Sunday in 1738 when John Wesley wrote in his diary that "I felt my heart strangely warmed" – so our Sunday@Six took the form of a Methodist Love Feast, an opportunity to share cake and juice and stories of our own encounters with God.

Helen wondered what we were expecting when we came to a Love Feast! Feeling that for many the idea would be entirely new, she explained it (as recorded on page 42).

We were in groups of five/six to share tea and testimony. After about fifteen minutes of sharing, there was a chance to share with everybody, and we sang hymns that had been chosen by members of each group to reflect something of their conversation.

Another thought-provoking experience, which helped bring us together as a fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who shared in the day, and special thanks to those whose hard work in preparation made it possible: Helen for her helpful leadership; Gwyneth for her "Messy Church"; Sue for her music and cake-baking.



Fellowship News

Margaret's Ordination

On Sunday 26 April, in a packed St Luke's Church, Glenrothes, Dr Margaret Dineley, lay reader at St Finnian's, Lochgelly, our former lay representative, was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop David. The deacon from St Luke's, the Rev Gerry Dillon, was also ordained to the order of presbyters.

St Margaret's was well represented and included our choir, directed by Sue Masson, whom Margaret had invited to lead the singing. Alison, our Rector, and Ross Kennedy, were among the large gathering of robed clergy present.

This was a joyous and happy occasion with well-known hymns heartily sung by all. Our choir, as well as leading the mass setting, sang Psalm 23 to 'Brother James' Air', and during communion the anthems "The Real Presence" from "Blessed bread" by Margaret Rizza and "Eat this bread, drink this cup", the evocative Taizé chant.



Margaret was presented for ordination by the Rev Thomas Brauer (her former Rector) and Edith Mathewson, lay representative, St Finnian's. This was followed by the declaration, the calling of the candidates and the laying on of hands by Bishop David and all the clergy present – an incredibly moving gesture. Earlier, the Rev Canon Dr Alison Peden, Provincial Director of Ordinands, had preached a thought-provoking and apt sermon.

The service was followed by tasty food and refreshments in the church hall, where we were able to meet Margaret and Gerry and mingle with people from other congregations.

Margaret will be serving as a deacon at St Finnian's, and our thoughts and prayers are with her as she starts this new chapter in her ministry.

A letter from Jim Mein

To all at St Margaret's

This is an enormous "THANK YOU" not only for the most generous cheque and big card with all your comments, but for letting me share in your worshipping community over the past 27 months.

It would be invidious to pick out names for though some obviously have more responsibility and give more time than others, when you begin to list all that is done to keep the living congregation healthy you have to add name after name.

This is really my most satisfying memory and the most hopeful sign for the future, for God does not call us to slavish obedience or a dutiful responsibility but to our full creative, joyful humanity.

May God bless the continued contributions of all you in the future.

Fellowship News

Service to the church

Jock Headden has been a server for over 80 years and reluctantly he has decided to call it a day. He was St Margaret's Treasurer for many years, and has sung in the choir since we worshipped in the Naval Base.

In recognition of his loyal and unstinting service to our church we are offering our thanks to Jock with a celebratory lunch for him and Audrey on Sunday 5 July – Jock's 89th birthday – in Garvock House Hotel. Two days later Jock and Audrey will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary and later in the month Audrey's birthday.

Our sincere thanks to Jock for all he has done over the years for St Margaret's, and our congratulations to Jock and Audrey on their anniversaries. Well done!

Easter comes to Orchardhead!

Thelma has been a regular supporter of the Orchardhead service, now on the third Sunday of the month, for many years. She greets all the residents with a cheery word of encouragement, and remembers their names. When she saw this hat at the home, she couldn't resist trying it on!



Thelma's Easter bonnet

It's a boy!

Myra's younger daughter, Ceri, gave birth to Edward Jago (Urquhart) on 23 March in Aberdeen. He weighed 7lb 8½oz and Myra and Martin were there when he arrived home at 24 hours old.



Of course Ceri and Jim are delighted, and so are all the family.

It's a girl!

Valerie Leslie writes:



"This is Charlotte, the Leslie's newest baby, born in Auckland, New Zealand on 10 May, weighing 9lbs 7oz.

"Charlotte was born on her great-Gran's birthday, so there was a great deal of excitement felt back in Fife on her arrival. Her full name is Charlotte Molly Mei Gui (her Chinese name meaning Rose).

"Jessica is a very good big sister, always willing to help mummy and daddy look after baby. Allan and I are going out to Auckland in January to see grandchild number 7. I can't wait!!"

Working together

Serving the community

Sandra Young writes: By the time you read this the 2015 Gathering in Perth Cathedral will be over. Hopefully, another successful day when those attending – including representation from St Margaret’s – will have come away stimulated and full of ideas from the four interesting and useful workshops which explored “Serving the community:

- with congregations shaped for mission
- with people at work
- with older people *and*
- with children and young people”

The Gathering is also a valuable opportunity for relationship-building across the diocese and learning what other churches are doing, as well sharing how we in Rosyth are serving the community.



We are rightly pleased with our poster, which illustrates “What our partnership is doing to serve the community in the name of Christ”. This is displayed in the church building – do take a look at it for yourself. However, we also need to consider the challenges facing us if we wish to strengthen this service:

- Not enough hands!
- Making effective contact with facility users
- Getting support from both sides of the partnership
- Getting ecumenical involvement.

What are you going to do to help overcome the challenges?

Ed: we hope to have a report on the Gathering in our next issue

Sunday@Six

As is usual in June, our Sunday evening worship is replaced by a BBQ on the Silver Sands, at Aberdour (see page 11), and in July we take a holiday, along with most of the congregation.

Sunday@Six will be back on **23 August** with our popular theme of Summer Praise. Sue Masson is planning this and you can expect poems, readings, songs from the choir and hopefully the Ukulele Orchestra – back by popular request! Always an enjoyable and inspiring evening, so note the date now!

The following month, as part of our Harvest celebrations, we meet a day earlier, on **Saturday 26 September**. Come and hear about “The Land of the Thousand Hills” from Norman Liddle of the Scottish Bible Society.

Rosyth Foodbank

Erica Lock writes: Dunfermline Foodbank in Rosyth – to give it its proper name for a change – remains busy and continues to help people from the area in need. Even on the afternoons we have few or no clients, stocks need to be replenished, tins and packages dated, and stock checked to see that we have no out-of-date products on the shelves.

The Foodbank depends on all the stock being in tins or packets for storage and safety for the clients, so no perishable produce is carried.

The generosity from members of our congregations and Rosyth folk generally is heartwarming and means donations are used locally or sent to the central stores so that hungry Fifers receive some comfort when they most need it.

Many thanks for the thought that goes into the donations received and for the continuing support you all offer.

Working together

Church Coffee Shop

By the time you read this, Triangle Coffee Shop will have been open for a couple of weeks.

We “opened the doors” for the first time on 22 May, and had a steady stream of customers from 9.30 onwards. There was a very relaxed atmosphere (at least from the customers!) as people either stopped for a quick coffee, or sat and chatted with friends over several coffees. Very few managed to resist the home baking, though!

This is the fulfilment of many months of planning, praying, shopping, and decision-making by a group of people determined to make this venture work. You will meet all these people if you call in for a coffee one Friday morning, as they try out their new waitressing skills, and grapple with the new coffee machine.



Perhaps you would like to join one of the teams looking after the coffee shop? At the moment we have enough volunteers to have four people staffing it each Friday but five would make it more manageable, especially if our good reputation spreads!

If you can't offer help, please support the coffee shop by popping in, and bringing a friend with you. You will get a warm welcome, and good coffee and cake!

We look forward to serving you.

Gwyneth Kirby

Christian Aid

Jan Benvie introduces herself:

I am delighted to be the new Christian Aid representative for Rosyth Methodist Church & St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church. I thought I'd write a few lines as a sort of introduction.

I've always been a supporter of Christian Aid's work, and feel that, as Christians, we are called to work for a just world. I spent a few years in the Middle East (mainly in Palestine, but also in Iraq and Syria), with a Christian group that monitors and reports on human rights. I returned home five years ago to support my elderly parents, but since my mum died a little over a year ago and my dad went into a care home, I've had more time to follow my interest in faith-based justice work. I'm a member of the SEC Provincial Global Partnership Committee (previously Overseas Committee).

I was happy to be able to help with Christian Aid week in Rosyth this year and although we still don't have a final total, here is what has been raised so far: quiz – £63, lunch – £75, concert – £426, door-to-door – £557. Thank you to all who supported these events.

Much of the money raised during Christian Aid Week will go to support the people of Nepal who have suffered the terrible earthquakes. But, of course, Christian Aid does not only provide emergency aid, they also campaign on justice issues. Their current campaign is about climate change and I've left some postcards in the 'coffee area', to be sent to the Prime Minister, calling on the government to uphold the 2008 Climate Change Act and to support access to low-carbon energy, especially for poor countries. As it is going to a Freepost address, the only cost is the few minutes it takes to sign the postcard and pop it into a letter box.

Young people at Rosyth

Transforming lives

This year Messy Church is supporting WaterAid Scotland. Through collecting pennies and making cards and gifts at Easter a cheque for £30 was sent. Since then the children have collected another £30.

The children were originally going to send £3 a month but they have done so well that we now send £7.50 a month.

WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. To end poverty WaterAid believes everyone, everywhere must have clean water and toilets. Together WaterAid believes it can happen by 2030. For more information visit www.wateraid.org.

Gentle Spirit, promised by Jesus to those who loved him, we thank you for your presence within us this Pentecost. We come, encouraged by stories of you at work, but knowing our own need of renewal. Breathe on us we pray.



Encouraging Spirit, who warmed Wesley's heart, may our hearts too be strangely warmed as you work in us, giving us assurance of our forgiveness and salvation. Help us to live inspired by you, and may others be able to see you in and through us that they too may know God's love.

Spirit of life, we gather in this place as your people, your church. Some of us are full of life and energy, some of us are weary. Sometimes the church is the place which drains us rather than energising us. Sweep through your church again we pray, here and in all places, that we may live in the life that you bring us, and that others may be drawn into that life.

Messy Church

14 June will be our last Messy Church before the summer break. I can't believe that's another year of Messy Church! How quickly it's gone by! It's been lovely to see the children every month, and to welcome new children and their families too.

Our latest banner is now hanging in the corridor leading into church, and shows the story of Jonah in a set of panels. The banners are all produced by the children, guided by Jean. Jonah was the theme of May's Messy Church, and, predictably, we managed to produce lots of whales. We even had 'Jonah in the whale' biscuits.

In June we will be thinking about Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. We have thought about different aspects of the life of Moses before, so this will be a continuation of the story.

Sunday School continues each Sunday morning, no matter how many or few children are there, and we have great fun learning together. During the Summer holidays arrangements are a little more flexible, but if there are any children in church I will take them out during the 11.00am service – if the weather's good we will probably be outside – so don't feel you have to stop coming during the summer.

Gwyneth Kirby

Spirit of truth, we don't have to look far to see the untruths in our society, and in our own hearts. Shine a light we pray, into all places of darkness where the truth is hidden whether accidentally because it is not recognised, or deliberately as someone seeks to gain from lies. Where we turn away from truth, help us to look instead towards it, and find healing and hope within it.



Invitations and requests

Enjoy a Cream Tea ...

... on **Saturday 27 June** between 3.00pm and 5.00pm, and help the work of Action for Children, as well as enjoying the excellent hospitality of John and Jean Hall at 6 The Willows, Cairneyhill.

Tickets are £4 which you can buy from Jean or Katie Cameron or Gwyneth Kirby.

Jean offers many thanks for donations, 'League of Light' boxes and tea donations. During 2014/15 over £1,000 was raised for Action for Children.

Ed: Our thanks to Jean for her tireless work in supporting this charity

... or an International Feast!

Dorissia and members of the Holy Trinity Mothers' Union branch would like to let you know that this year's International Feast will be held in **late October** in Holy Trinity Church Hall. We hope many of you will be there.

This is our popular fund-raising event – not to be missed!! A night of gourmet food from various countries, all freshly prepared by our talented members.



And did you know that this year we have been cooking for ten years ... look out for more details after the summer holidays.

Church Family BBQ

The Annual BBQ will take place on **28 June** from 2.00pm. As in previous years the venue will be Silver Sands beach in Aberdour. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

If you are intending to come along, please add your name and number of adults and children to the list in the Crush Hall. Also, if you have any special dietary requirements please let us know on the form too. The cost will be the same as last year at £3 per adult, with no charge for children.

Any questions, please ask David Salthouse (davidsalthouse@sky.com or 01383 889212).

Bible Study at the Rectory

Alison has started **Sunday night** meetings in the Rectory at 8.00pm for all those reading in church and leading intercessions the following Sunday. There will be an opportunity to read through the Bible passages, to have some time for reflection and prayer and to be finished by about 9.00pm.

This is very informal and anyone else who is interested from both our churches will be most welcome to come along any Sunday.

Summer Garden Party

Sarah Hunt is once again opening her lovely garden at Logie House, Crossford for members of St Margarets, Rosyth Methodist Church and Holy Trinity, Dunfermline on **Saturday 18 July**, from 2.00pm onwards. This is a chance to share fellowship, meet new people and enjoy a lovely garden that is on the Angus and Fife Garden Trail. A list will be going up shortly in the Crush Hall. Do sign up – and pray for good weather!

To every thing there is a season ...

In the following pages, we follow this major transition in the life of our church, starting with Jim's last sermon, and leading to an account of Alison's Institution (with its Emmaus Road sermon), and her first sermon to us.

New life

The sermon preached by the Rev Jim Mein on Easter Day 2015
The readings were Acts 10.34–43; 1 Corinthians 15.1–11; Mark 16.1–8

This may be a dangerous start – but then it is the last time you have to listen to me after these 27 months.

“It is expedient for you that I go away for if I do not go away the Spirit will not come to you” (John 16.7)

Dangerous because you could imagine that I'm thinking of myself as somehow like Jesus, or Alison like God's Spirit. I hope it goes without saying that we are both far from that!

But also dangerous in that you might think I am building up the importance of the Priesthood, the Rector, and I certainly don't want to do that. In fact the reverse. Leadership is of course very important, and in Church life, Rectors can both build up the Body of Christ but also almost destroy congregations – and there are many examples of them doing one or the other. Leadership, and specifically God's leadership, is essentially and vitally about empowering others.

“I am come”, said Jesus, “that you might have life, life in all its fullness”. Through this past week we have seen, both in our Church as we have reflected on the events of 2000 years ago, and in our daily newscasts, and probably to some degree in our own personal lives, different aspects of that “fullness of life” – some of it wonderfully encouraging – stories and experiences of love and generosity and unselfishness – but some of it also terrible – stories of horror and cruelty beyond imagination, suffering that can only make us weep.

That is life, this mixture of light and darkness, suffering and joy, love and hatred, good and evil. And as this morning we flash from Good Friday to Easter morning, from utter despair to unbounded hope, I want to reflect for a moment on what could possibly be God's justification for all this – because I think many people might say that the suffering experienced is just too great for any good that might justify it.

And it is not only human suffering, it is the whole creation. As Paul put it “The whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation but we our-selves who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption” (Romans 8.22). Paul expected that adoption to come very quickly, in his life-time; we know it is taking a great deal longer and doubt it will be on this earth. But I believe Paul's image is still at the heart of our Christian faith.

The creation groaneth in labour pain – it is a work in process. If it had all happened in even a few thousand years we might all believe this. The development from big bang to swirling gasses, to the planets, the beginning of life, the development of more and more complex forms, to the coming of humanity with self-consciousness and moral responsibility – all this is creation. And we have reached the point where the creation has real freedom to explore love and self-sacrifice and all the other good things that make us really human – this requires the possibility of evil and

consequent suffering. And that freedom, of necessity, demands a loosening of God's power over the creation. It is a risk.

What we have reflected on during the past week is that God did not just set up this experiment and watch, as an outsider, how it worked out. God lives within it and (this is the important bit) ultimately the creation is not a risk, because the love which is at the heart of all creation goes all the way, to wherever it leads – totally unconditional, totally without limit. It cannot be ultimately defeated.

This is not a promise that things will work out well – that humanity will find a way to cope with global warming, develop a peace process in Palestine/Israel, find a cure for Alzheimers. Many things have not and are not 'working out'. The life of Jesus, God's son, did not 'work out' in the sense of being successful and bringing peace, justice and universal happiness. Rather, that life gave a picture of what is required to bring creation to its fulfilment – unlimited courage, staggering wisdom, and a love which perseveres through every challenge and failure.

Looking at the world today despair should surely overwhelm us – but it does not. I can see no way we are going to take the decisions that are needed to keep global warming within reasonable limits, or how we can prevent more wars, or persuade the powerful to empower those who are weaker. And yet I look at my grandchildren and I think how things are changing in race relations, the emancipation of women, the recognition of our different sexualities – above all I look at the Christian story and I can't despair, I can only hope.

Of course I know that for many the hope is based, especially this morning, on our individual resurrection to the next world – and that's fine. This world is far too

incredible a place for anyone to say our spirits don't live on to be part of a creation far greater and more wonderful than anything we might be able to imagine. I am always moved as I commit the souls of the departed into the loving arms of God. Many of us need those images of heaven to keep our hope alive.

But to return to where I started I don't find Jesus on Easter morning speaking of his own survival. I find him inspiring others to go out and live their lives after the pattern he has set them. Nothing in this life lasts for ever. Governments need to change, the Church needs to change, our ideas need to change – the creation is an on-going process and just as people 1000 years ago could not imagine the world we live in today, we cannot imagine what the future might bring.

The only certainty is that we cannot stand still, keep one pattern, the insights of one leader, even if that leader was Jesus, or Mohammed. We are not bounded by one person, with one set of experiences, in one age. The promised Spirit is a different concept.

In our Christian faith we have the creator, creating a world that is free to choose; we have Jesus who shows us what lies at the heart of that creation – a life that demonstrates love, generosity, forgiveness, perseverance, strength – and we have the Spirit which can speak to and inspire every generation, every individual.

Today we celebrate new life – certainly new life after death – but perhaps of more immediate concern for us (I hope!) new life in this world. Each day, each year, each generation, God is loving the creation towards its fulfilment and if we can be just one tiny brick somewhere in that giant city, that is more than enough. May this congregation grow as God wills.

The Institution of our new Rector

Alan Taylor reports

Saturday 18 April 2015 seemed like the end of a very long “pilgrimage” which had gone on and on for almost three years. But, like John Bunyan, we didn’t give up, but strode valiantly onwards in our pilgrimage, looking for the bright light at the end of our road. And so it was that 18 April dawned bright and sunny, as that was the day when Alison – the Rev Alison Cozens, formerly Vicar of St Peter’s Parish Church, Leicester, and before that, Rector of St Columba by the Castle, Edinburgh – became our new Priest and Pastor.

On that day the Service of Institution as Rector of Holy Trinity, Dunfermline and St Margaret’s, Rosyth by the Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, took place to much rejoicing, as a “new beginning” for us was established. The church was packed with members of both congregations, by clergy from near and far, by friends from Edinburgh – and by members of Alison’s church in Leicester. The Rev Andrew Letby, the Rev Helen Jenkins and Deacon Sarah McDowall and other Methodist friends were there, as was Deacon Morag Crawford from Rosyth Parish Church.

The combined choir of Holy Trinity and St Margaret’s was conducted by Sue Masson, leading us in the singing of some of the most beautiful hymns in our hymn books – “My song is love unknown”, “Who would true valour see” (John Bunyan again!), “I to the hills will lift mine eyes”, “All creatures of our God and King”, and “I danced in the morning when the world was begun”, while “The Lord’s my Shepherd” and “Take my life,



and let it be” were sung during Communion before the choir sang the *Agnus Dei* from Fauré’s *Requiem*.

The Epistle from 2 Corinthians was read by Alison’s husband, Peter, the Gospel, telling the story of the meeting on the road to Emmaus, was read by the Very Rev Jim Mein, while the

Sermon was preached by Canon Andrew Wingate, a close colleague of Alison’s from a neighbouring parish in Leicester.

Ed: Andrew’s sermon is on page 15

Alison was presented to the Bishop by Linda Sherwood from Holy Trinity and our own Erica Lock, while various gifts were presented by members of all three congregations including Lesley Yellowlees who presented a stole, Gwyneth Kirby who presented wine, and Sue Forman who presented the keys to St Margaret’s.

After the Licensing, Alison led the Intercessions, which were followed by the Liturgy of the Sacrament, presided over by Bishop David. Soon it was all over, as Bishop David blessed us and Alison dismissed us. But only across the road to Viewfield Baptist Church Hall, where a veritable feast had been laid on – I’m sure the tables really did groan! There, short welcome speeches were made, followed by a eulogy from one of Alison’s former congregation, while the Minister from the Abbey Parish Church, the Rev MaryAnn Rennie, assured Alison that she would always be most welcome, especially when she needed a cup of coffee!

Thus ended a wonderful day. But this also was the start of a glorious new beginning for our church.

The Road to Emmaus

a sermon given by the Rev Canon Dr Andrew Wingate OBE
at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, on Saturday 18 April 2015
on the occasion of the Institution of the Rev Alison Cozens
The readings were 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Luke 24:13-35

This is the third of the Resurrection appearances on which I have preached during this beautiful Easter season. The first was on Easter Day itself, as Jesus encountered Mary Magdalene in the Garden. At first Jesus is concealed, he seems to be the gardener. But she recognises him as he addresses her most beautifully by name, 'Mary'. She is known as a woman who has sinned much – but he accepts her as she is, and she, a woman, becomes the first to be sent as a witness, to tell the brothers, 'The Lord is risen.' How sad that it has taken so many centuries to ordain women to full leadership in our church. And now in quick succession we have three women ordained to be Bishops in the Church of England. It is good that your new priest Alison has been on a group at Lambeth to encourage such leaders to be prepared. But of course, Mary here represents all women, not just those in high office. Women have always been the majority in all our churches, responding to the call of the risen Lord, by name.

Then, last Sunday, the appearance to Thomas, in the upper room. Thomas for ever afterwards in the West known as Thomas the Doubter, because he insists on touching the wound in Jesus' side, and seeing the nail marks – before he will believe. He represents, to my mind, the western believer – scientific, rational, proof from the five senses, is necessary before we can believe, before we can put away our scepticism. This is the philosophy made popular in the 18th century in Scotland by David Hume, in England by Bishop Berkeley. This is post-enlightenment thinking. In India, where I used to work, we find a very different understanding of Thomas –

he was not the doubter, but the one who went from Palestine, via Antioch in Syria – ironically then the safe place for early Christians – and then across the Arabian sea to Kerala in Western India. So was founded the earliest churches in India, before there was Christianity in Scotland or England, today known as the St Thomas Christians, including the branch in communion with Anglicans, the Mar Thoma Church. The one who doubted becomes the Apostle to India, and much celebrated as such.

And then today, the story of the two disciples walking to their village of Emmaus, and Jesus comes to walk with them – again an enigmatic presence – 'they were kept from recognising him.' They were in discussion about the scriptures, and the events they had experienced, and the testimony of the women. But they had not believed. It must have been a confusing walk as they came away from the city, and went back home, and reflected on what might have been – a walk of deep sadness. But, by the end of the story, they have recognised the risen Lord – through his walking with them on the road, and his deep attention to them; through his interpretation of the events as they had lived through them, and his bringing out the meaning of the scriptures; and through his breaking bread with them in their house. This had required them to invite him into their house, to give hospitality to a stranger. Their excitement was palpable – I have travelled the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, and it is not easy country – to go back again immediately, shows the power of what they had experienced – 'The Lord has risen indeed – and he is known to us in the breaking of the bread.'

Alison comes back to Scotland, having been inspired by her time in Edinburgh. She came to Leicester, to a tough situation, to a parish that is by far majority Muslim, with probably more buildings of other faiths in the parish than almost anywhere in England, and with seemingly a new mosque opening every month. There she found amazing faith, as I too have experienced through being able to share in her ministry often, mainly to the Caribbean Anglicans of this part of Leicester, a very faithful community, deeply devoted to the risen Lord, whom they have encountered, as did those early disciples, in a village called Emmaus, with their centring on the eucharist, and on prayer. For the older ones it is a village in Antigua or Barbados or Montserrat. Many have not had an easy life, but they know deeply the power of their Easter faith. And I know that Alison experienced that faith through them.

So she comes to you. And in this very different context in Fife, she will not bring Christ, but find Christ meeting her, in Dunfermline and Rosyth. The places of encounter in ministry that she will experience, and bring from Leicester, are found in these three resurrection appearances. The first, to Mary in the garden, is what we call an I-Thou meeting. Jesus looks Mary in the eye, and addresses her by name. He meets her in her need where she is. This is the quiet, but central area of ministry. The individual encounter, meeting people where they are. This is profoundly moving, and is why, if you look on the Internet, you will find literally hundreds of great paintings depicting this meeting in the garden – ‘noli me tangere’ is what you need to put into the search engine – I had better not say Google search engine! Don’t touch me. Jesus is often holding a hoe to indicate that he looks like the gardener. Mary wants to keep him there. I think many of the people of St Peter’s, Leicester wanted

to keep Alison there – and certainly the Dean of Leicester wanted to keep Peter with him as his PA. But Alison was called by your Vestry to move on. But here the essence of ministry will be the same – getting to know you, and addressing you by name.

The Thomas story also has deep links with Christian ministry. Thomas doubted, as do so many people today – and even if we are not doubting at this minute, for most of us, there will be periods of doubt, or moments of doubt. Alison will not be able to cure those doubts by intellectual arguments, but by helping people to touch the risen Lord, to experience Christ in their lives. As Augustine puts it, it is ‘faith seeking understanding’, not understanding leading to faith normally. Last night there was a chilling programme on BBC2 – look on your iPlayer – ‘Kill the Christians.’ It was a survey of Christians in the Middle East today. What stood out was their unshakable faith in the face of terrible persecutions. This was faith in the crucified and Risen Lord – not faith based on reason.

Then the call to evangelism, to sharing the good news of the Resurrection. The Indian Thomas. I have a painting by an Indian Christian of Thomas reaching out to touch Jesus. It is a very radical one, Jesus is portrayed as an untouchable, a Dalit, and Thomas is portrayed as a Brahmin, as from the highest caste, who would normally not even allow the shadow of an untouchable near them. This was the Apostle Thomas, bring a resurrection gospel to all, without difference of caste or race or gender or sexuality – all are one in him. This is the gospel Alison is called to be an evangelist for, in your two communities, as she was in the heart of multicultural Leicester.

And the Emmaus story – represents the heart of Christian ministry – listening and talking on the road, being the third person in

the encounter between people, drawing out the meaning of experiences heard, and of the links with Christian scripture, and then the simple acts of eucharist, of communion, on big days like this, but especially when two or three are gathered together. This is what Alison experienced week by week in the St Peter's Tuesday morning eucharist, as I have done, ever faithful fifteen people, finding Christ in the heart of their lives. In my study I have a wonderful reproduction of a painting by Rembrandt of the Emmaus meal. I inherited it from my father, also a priest. The light shines from Christ, in the darkness. That is what is at the heart of the eucharist, as Alison has experienced it.

And finally, the Epistle. This is about the tough side of ministry, as experienced so much by St Paul. Alison has experienced this in Leicester – two examples:

A large old building, and the immense hope of getting a major lottery grant, and, even with the support of the City Mayor and the Bishop, failing. Having to be alongside the crushed people of the congregation who love this building.

And then four murders in the parish a couple of years ago, involving Asians and Caribbeans. The whole community rent apart: the place St Peter's and Alison herself played in a ministry of reconciliation, including taking the funeral of a murdered black person. The trauma during the long trial, when it turned out members of the congregation had close relatives ending up in prison. 'Perplexed', and Alison having to minister to them – struck down and not destroyed – and her listening role with them.

So a tough, but rich, ministry she is leaving. But not leaving behind – she brings with her all this experience, and also she feels

the excitement of returning to her beloved Scotland, coming back within sight of the Forth. And here she will be a gift for you, as she ministers to you, and is ministered to by you, in your two parishes. She is excited, and I am sure you are also. God bless you in these coming weeks and months, as you get to know each other.

And in Peter too you have a special gift, a true deacon, very different from Alison, who will give much to you, and receive much from you in his own right. You will miss swinging the incense as well as any Caribbean, but will find something else here! God bless you too, Peter.

The Rev Canon Dr Andrew Wingate was until recently a Chaplain to The Queen. He is now Canon Theologian of Leicester Cathedral, and Associate Priest at St Philip's Church, the next-door parish to St Peter's, where Alison served.

Andrew's ministry has centred on theological education. A Lecturer at the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai, South India, he became Principal of the West Midlands Ministerial Training Course, Queen's College, Birmingham, and then Principal of the United College of the Ascension in Selly Oak.

He went to Leicester in 2000, as Director of Ministry and Canon Theologian, and was founding director of the national and international St Philip's Centre, for Study and Engagement in a Multi Faith society. He has close links with Sweden, and the Porvoo Communion, where he helps the churches relate across faiths. He has published eight books, the most recent (SPCK, 2014) being *The Meeting of Opposites? Hindu-Christian meeting in the West*.

Andrew received an OBE in the 2011 New Years Honours List for his inter-faith work.

Handing over the commission

The sermon preached by the Rev Alison Cozens on 19 April 2015

The readings were Acts 3.12–19; 1 John 3.1–7; Luke 24.36b–48

I would like to begin by saying how lovely it is to be here and to say ‘thank you’ to everyone who has made Peter and myself so welcome yesterday at the service of Institution and to all of you who contributed to the wonderful feast at the reception afterwards.

The reading from the Gospel of Luke which Marc read for us today picks up nicely where we left off yesterday with the Emmaus Road story. I wonder what you heard and saw in your mind’s eye as that Gospel was read? Two people, maybe a husband and wife, on a journey, the road to Emmaus ...

We are all on a journey. Peter and I are on a journey, the journey to Fife from Leicester!

I wrote this sermon in the midst of moving, surrounded by boxes, mainly of Peter’s books, waiting for the removal men to arrive.

And I was conscious of the feelings of upheaval and disorientation within me. Maybe those feelings of disorientation were similar to those experienced by the first disciples as they encountered the risen Christ coming among them.

They were glad to see their Lord again, though he was changed, transfigured into a resurrection life, but they were disorientated because they had thought he was gone and yet here he is among them again.

These situations of change can also be moments of growth indeed some have suggested that the most challenging times in our lives can also be the times when, with hindsight, we see the Holy Spirit moving among us.

Peter and I were blessed to spend Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday on retreat at a Franciscan monastery.

The preacher at the Three Hours spoke about what we all know, that you cannot come to Easter Sunday without having walked the Way of the Cross, without some experience of the Cross of Christ in your life.

We know that the resurrected Lord had the marks of the nails in his hands and his feet. So we are all witnesses to Jesus Christ, we are all resurrection people and we have a Gospel to proclaim.

Jesus appears to those first disciples in those days after Gethsemane and Calvary and he appears in ordinary situations, walking along the road, eating breakfast by the lakeside, meeting together in an upper room. Into these ordinary situations, something extraordinary happens.

I wonder how you know God in the ordinary things of life?

Every week in the breaking of bread we do something ordinary but it becomes, by God’s grace, something extraordinary. I am sure you will be able to tell me how important the Eucharist, Holy Communion is for each of you.

We, like those first disciples, will become keenly aware of the presence of God in the breaking of the bread.

In a moment, we will break the bread and drink the cup and God willing, we will know God’s extraordinary presence among us.

God is known in the midst of the ordinary things of life.

In our reading from the Acts of the Apostles today we know that Peter has just performed his first miracle, the healing of a crippled man.

So this is a story of handing over a commission.

Peter tells what has happened to the disciples and how they have come to believe that Jesus is God's Anointed One.

This weekend is also a time of handing over a commission.

Jim Mein and Ross Kennedy, who have cared for you during the interregnum, now pass on that responsibility to me as your new Rector. And I am very pleased that Ross will still be present among us, sharing in our ministry from time to time.

It is a commission therefore that I gladly accept!

In the first letter of John, we hear that what we will be has not yet been revealed. How true for us today.

What our ministry together will be has not yet been revealed.

How I will find Christ in you and how you will see Christ in me has not yet been revealed.

But we are full of expectation of the new thing God is doing among us, the new thing which is the gift of resurrection and of new life for all our ministries here.

We are all on a journey, the journey of life, the journey of faith and the journey of understanding.

I would like to listen to your story and hear how God has been at work in this place and in your lives over the interregnum. And I would like to share with you some of the ways God has moved in my own life.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and for us together discovering how we can respond to the changing nature of this part of Fife.

The rapid expansion to the east with the new bridge across the Forth, as Bishop David mentioned on Saturday, will bring new people looking for a church and a community to belong to. Are we ready to welcome them?

What then are the things you do well here and what are the things you enjoy doing and how can we build on these together?

Where are the areas you would like to grow in faith and community service and how can we address these together?

God is doing a new thing among us because Christ is risen and we have good news to share.

We are all at the beginning of a new chapter.

The past has been, the future has yet to happen.

May God give us grace to live fully in the present moment, with the gift of this new day and the gift of this new beginning and the gift of one another. As we set out on this journey together may we know that Jesus Christ walks with us on the road.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me."

Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

Wednesday Fellowship

An update from Mary Kidd

We are now at the end of our sixth year of the Wednesday Fellowship – I’ve just delivered the menu order to The Elgin Hotel for our end-of-session lunch. I know how much we’ll miss our Wednesday afternoons together; however, this year we do have the opportunity to meet up weekly at the Triangle Coffee Shop on Friday mornings.

When I look back over the past year, there is much we have to be thankful for. We began the year with 27 members, and a regular average attendance of 22.

There are a few members who are not able to come regularly, and we have welcomed new members. I know we all find fellowship and friendship within this group, as it goes from strength to strength as part of God’s kingdom in this place – the church and the community. We have become even more ecumenically-minded with our new members, men and women, who belong to other denominations in the area. We see the Wednesday Fellowship as part of our commitment to outreach in this community, and are encouraged by the support we get.

During the year we have enjoyed varied and interesting programmes throughout the autumn and the spring. We’ve been around the world – Haiti, with Lou Davidson, who is now preparing to go back with her team early next year; we’ve had an update on Mary’s Meals, another charity we have supported. Mary’s Meals now feed a million children during their days at school. We’ve had local speakers – all interesting in the work that they do in helping to make the world a better place: Help the Heroes; Christians against Poverty. Each week there has been something to look forward to. We had a full house recently when Alan Taylor, with help from Martin Tarr, presented his Desert Island Discs.

As in recent years the Fellowship has been very generous in our giving so that we’ve been able to support our chosen charities. We were amazed at its generosity to the Nepal Fund, through Christian Aid. We also make donations to the church here at Christmas and at Church Anniversary time in early March. At the recent Annual General Meeting last week, we agreed to support again Haiti Help, Mary’s Meals, CHAS and Help the Heroes.

We expressed our grateful thanks to Mary Dempster, our Treasurer, who keeps control of our finances. She has decided to give up the role of Treasurer; and to Erica Lock, Lesley Yellowlees, and Sue Forman for serving up the much-welcomed refreshments each week, and to those who offer transport to our less mobile members. Olive Lee has been in charge of our raffle, and Roy Jarvis is our Registrar. (Apologies if I’ve missed anyone!) Olive has taken on the responsibility of being our new Treasurer, and Mary will in future be running the raffle.

I add my personal thanks to these lovely people who organize the running of the Fellowship. We would love to see even more members join, or even attend occasionally if a particular topic interests you.

It now remains for me to say “keep well” and happy during the summer months ahead. Enjoy the break, and we’ll all look forward to meeting up again on **2 September**.

Ed: Our grateful thanks to Mary, whose leadership is valued and much appreciated by all who attend the Fellowship.

Diary for May/June 2015

Sunday 31 May

Trinity Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy (Celebrant) Rev Alison Cozens (Preacher)
	11.00am	Morning Worship Mrs Hilary Henderson Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
	6.30pm	Circuit Service for Easter Offering Dedication at CEMC, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh
	8.00pm	Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 7 June and anyone else interested (see page 11)
Monday 1 Jun	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane
Friday 5 June	9.30am	The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Sunday 7 June

Pentecost 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy
	11.00am	Morning Worship Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
	8.00pm	Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 14 June and anyone else interested (see page 11)
Tuesday 9 Jun	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth
	2.00pm to 5.00pm	Quiet Gardens at Gleneagles. An opportunity for stillness and reflection. Wander round the wild garden, or walk the grass maze, and finish the afternoon with a short service in the private 16th century chapel (see page 30 for details)
Friday 12 June	9.30am	The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Sunday 14 June

Pentecost 3	9.00am	Messy Church and breakfast, with crafts and story
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship Prof Jeremy Bradshaw
	8.00pm	Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 21 June and anyone else interested (see page 11)

Diary for June 2015

Wednesday 17 Jun 11.30am Women's Interfaith Fair, St Francis Centre,
to 2.00pm 405 Cumberland Street, Glasgow G5 0SE to celebrate
Refugee Festival Scotland 2015. Free lunch provided.
(see page 30 for details)

Friday 19 June 9.30am The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
11.30am – tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 20 Jun all day Solas Festival "Between the Lines" at The Bield,
Blackruthven, Perth (see page 29 for details)
7.30pm Dunfermline Choral Union Summer Concert,
Vine Church, Dunfermline (see page 29 for details)

Sunday 21 June

Pentecost 4 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
11.00am Morning Worship Mr Edward Idle
Deacon Sarah McDowall
3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House All welcome
8.00pm Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 28 June
and anyone else interested (see page 11)

Tuesday 23 Jun 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth
7.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meets in the Church Lounge

Friday 26 Jun 9.30am The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
11.30am – tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 27 Jun 3.00pm Cream Tea at 6 The Willows, Cairneyhill in aid of Action
to 5.00pm for Children. Tickets £4 (see page 11 for details)

Sunday 28 June

Pentecost 5 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Alison Cozens
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
2.00pm Family Afternoon at Silver Sands, Aberdour
onwards Bring your own drinks, seats, games, etc.
£3 for adults; no charge for children

Note: No Sunday@Six

8.00pm Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 5 July
and anyone else interested (see page 11)

Diary for July 2015

Friday 3 Jul 9.30am The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 11.30am – tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice
 7.00pm St Andrews West Area Council Annual BBQ
 at Warroch House, Dalqueish, near Kinross,
 home of Nan Kennedy

Sunday 5 July

Pentecost 6 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
 11.00am Morning Worship Rev Linda McMurray
 Deacon Sarah McDowell
 8.00pm Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 12 July
 and anyone else interested (see page 11)

Monday 6 Jul 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's, Torridon Lane

Tuesday 7 Jul 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth
 2.00pm Quiet Gardens at Gleneagles. An opportunity for stillness
 to 5.00pm and reflection. Wander round the wild garden, or walk
 the grass maze, and finish the afternoon with a short
 service in the private 16th century chapel
 (see page 30 for details)

Friday 10 Jul 9.30am The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 11.30am – tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 12 July

Pentecost 7 9.30am Sung Eucharist
 Giles Dove, Chaplain of Glenalmond College
 11.00am Morning Worship Dr Anne Pennington

Note: No Messy Church during School Holidays

8.00pm Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 19 July
 and anyone else interested (see page 11)

Friday 17 Jul 9.30am The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 11.30am – tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 18 Jul 2.00pm Garden Party at Logie House, Crossford,
 to 5.00pm home of Sarah Hunt (see page 11 for details)

Diary for July/August 2015

Sunday 19 July

Pentecost 8	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Ian Paterson
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House	
	8.00pm	Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 26 July and anyone else interested (see page 11)	
Tuesday 21 Jul	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth	
Friday 24 Jul	9.30am	The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 26 July

Pentecost 9	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
		Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)	
	6.00pm	Circuit farewell service for Deacon Sarah McDowall at Kirkcaldy Methodist Church	

Note: No Sunday@Six at Rosyth

	8.00pm	Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 2 August and anyone else interested (see page 11)	
Friday 31 Jul	9.30am	The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 2 August

Pentecost 10	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Lyn Smalridge
		David Salthouse (Worship Leader)	
	8.00pm	Bible Study in the Rectory for readers on Sunday 9 August and anyone else interested (see page 11)	
Monday 3 Aug	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's, Torridon Lane	
Tuesday 4 Aug	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth	
Friday 7 Aug	9.30am	The Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby writes in the latest Plan ...

Dear friends

On a beautifully warm Advent Eve, walking back to my hotel just outside the historic heart of Florence, I chanced upon a very ordinary looking church. I probably wouldn't have given it a second glance had it not been for the numerous teenagers sat on the steps. Those steps are obviously a regular meeting place and in the air you could sense all the joy and angst of teenage. I noticed lights on in the church and carefully picked my way through the kids to take a look through the glass doors. In fact the doors were open and folk inside were viewing Advent displays. I went in to see for myself. There were abundant decorations, but pride of place went to the extremely detailed Advent tableau, one of many I would see over the next few days, each one seemingly more detailed and dramatic than the last. This particular one depicted the setting for the birth of Jesus against the backdrop of a very Italian looking rural scene. Both that evening and after the Mass I attended the next morning, the scene attracted rapt attention from young and old alike; with the very apparent exception of those out on the steps who seemed totally unaffected by it. Where, I wondered, were the most important signs of Advent, of God breaking into the world, at that church? Inside among the beautiful displays or in the as yet unlivid hopes and fears of the young folk outside?

At the other end of the spectrum, the first news I received as I came back to circuit life was of the death of Rev Arthur Valle. He began ministry as a circuit minister in the early years of the Second World War, returning to Edinburgh many years later in retirement. During the intervening years he served in circuits in Scotland, England and Wales bringing a particular brand of pastoral care, a phenomenal memory for

names and important details about people as well as passions for reading, politics and social justice. One of my duties as superintendent on the death of one of our supernumerary ministers is to write and present to Synod an official obituary. There was a gasp of amazement as I concluded the reading of Arthur's life at our recent Synod in Edinburgh – with the required formula, 'He died in the ninety eighth year of his age and the seventy fifth year of his ministry'. I think Arthur was one who found God breaking into the world in a whole host of places and was passionately concerned for the hopes and fears of everyone, young and old, inside or outside the building.

During the course of this Plan one of our circuit ministers will move on. Deacon Sarah McDowall will move to a new appointment in Cumbria. Our staff team has grown together in a way that is not always evident in circuits across the connexion and has adapted and been strengthened through many changes, but each moment of change is challenging. Sarah writes of her time in the circuit:

"It is hard to believe that it is now almost five years since I arrived in the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit to take up my current appointment in Fife and this summer I will be leaving to take up a new appointment in the North Cumbrian Circuit and Cumbria district. Like any ministry my time in Fife has been one of highs and lows.

"Highs have included seeing our work in Kirkcaldy totally transformed, not only in the ways in which our newly refurbished building can now be used but also in our work and mission to the local community. Another high has been working alongside ecumenical colleagues in Rosyth showing our community that the Church is alive

particularly through community-based events at Christmas and Easter. Perhaps the greatest highs though have been the ways in which opportunities have come along which have made it possible for me to share stories of faith with those who are not part of any church but who are struggling to cope with everyday life. There have of course also been low points such as the pastoral situations which have tested the faith not only of those who have experienced them but also those of us who have walked alongside them.

“It can of course be difficult to let go of what we know best in order to fulfil the new experiences that God is calling us to. This is true of me as I move to a new circuit and district, and it will be true of our churches as they adjust to a new ministry. I know that you will welcome my friend and colleague Helen as she expands her current role in Fife.”

As Sarah notes the shape of our team will change from September. We will move further towards a properly integrated team ministry across the circuit. Helen Jenkins’ focus will be on our two Fife Societies but we endeavour more and more to work to our individual gifts across the whole circuit. Within this Geoffrey Baines will focus on Student Ministry during the next year.

From September we will also welcome a new colleague, Rev’d Stephanie Njeru, a probationer minister who will join the ecumenical team in Livingston. Previously a member in the circuit we are excited to welcome her back to serve her first appointment with us.

Finally, the Spring Circuit Meeting agreed a new Mission Statement for the circuit. As we look to future developments this provides us with a measure against which our priorities and allocation of resources will be decided.

Deacon Sarah – an appreciation

by the Methodist Church Leadership Team

Deacon Sarah’s five-year appointment as Deacon to the two Methodist churches in Fife draws to a close this summer. Her appointment and that of two other deacons in the Circuit (to the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (CEMC) and, later, to East Lothian) came about following a Circuit Review undertaken by an open meeting in July 2009. With no suitable presbyter available to fill the then vacancy at CEMC, the need to consider other forms of ministry had become paramount.

Participants learned about the Order of Deacons and how its growth contrasted with the decline in number of presbyters; and voted on what they saw as key priorities for the Circuit. It was explained that deacons could not preside at communion services, and were not necessarily preachers, though could be worship leaders. The Church Council were told in September of the Circuit’s subsequent recommendation that a five-year Deacon appointment be sought exclusively for Fife.

The profile of appointment would include two key needs “identified by the Fife congregations”:

- 1 To enable and encourage pastoral carers and set up robust and on-going systems to ensure this continues into the future;
- 2 Discover and build on links in the local communities surrounding the existing church buildings. This will involve community audits, ecumenical working and seeking out chaplaincy opportunities (workplaces, day centres, schools etc.),

Ways of fulfilling these needs identified in the profile included encouragement of links between users of church buildings; exploiting possibilities for ‘Fresh Expressions’ or a form of ‘presence’ in one of the new housing areas.

Such a project-based approach, with its emphasis more on the community than on the congregation, meant that whoever might be appointed as deacon might be thought by the congregation to be relatively less engaged with the local church than most ministers. But with 20 years of experience as a Deacon with the Church of Scotland beforehand, this did not faze Sarah, given the approach she had to both community and congregation was one of engagement with individuals. Whether it was with people she met at the Resource Centre, in church user groups, or the congregations, her style of listening and interacting with people and their problems left them feeling supported and helped, whether their problems were illness, bereavement

or business-related. A leader of one user group once remarked that Sarah had shown more interest in and concern for the group than any previous minister. A parent, not connected with the church, remarked that she felt she could talk with Sarah. But not all opportunities envisaged in the profile for such engagement were open to her; whilst she became involved with the Resource Centre, a big disappointment was finding that work as a school chaplain was not open to her in Rosyth, though happily it was in Kirkcaldy.

Of course, little of this is widely known. More obvious have been her communication skills with the children at church services; the encouragement she has given to grow social occasions though the summer Barbecue, to small study groups, to outreach through “Messy Church”, to the experiment of “Café Church”, the promotion of “Bible World”, the development of improvements in all-age worship; and the start-up of the “Triangle Coffee Shop”, and of course to the growth of ecumenical understanding and co-operation not only within our local partnership but with our URC friends in the EMU partnership.

Thank you Sarah for all that you have done for the Rosyth congregation and the community. We wish Sarah and her husband Archie all the very best as they move to Carlisle where Sarah will be working in two churches in the North Cumbria Circuit and with a District role in Carlisle. The farewell service to her from the two Fife churches and the wider Circuit will be at Kirkcaldy Methodist Church at 6.00pm on **Sunday 26 July**.

Moving on

Deacon Sarah writes

It is hard to believe that it is now almost five years since I arrived in the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit to take up my current appointment in Fife and this summer I will be leaving to take up a new appointment in the North Cumbria Circuit/Cumbria District. Like any ministry my time in Fife has been one of highs and lows. Here in Rosyth highs have included worship not only on a Sunday morning but also the variety of Sunday@6. More than once I have been able to experience that amazing feeling that only happens occasionally in worship when we have been focused on God so much that our singing and prayers have taken us into His very presence. It has been wonderful to hear from others that they too have had that experience.

Messy church has also been a favourite place to be; learning about God and having fun during story time, prayer and of course being messy during activities relating to the Bible theme. Please continue to support and encourage the leaders who work so hard each month to make Messy Church happen.

Over the last four years at Christmas and Easter it's been good to come together with the other clergy and churches in Rosyth to do a variety of things from outdoor Christmas nativity services with the schools; having Sidney the donkey on our Palm Sunday walk; Good Friday walk of witness and so much more.

Perhaps the greatest highs though have been the ways in which opportunities have come along which have made it possible for me to share stories of faith with those who are not part of any church but who are struggling to cope with everyday life. There have of course also been low points such as the pastoral situations which have tested the faith not only of those who have experienced them but also those of us who have walked alongside them. Being with people who have welcomed me into their homes during times when they have been struggling with illness, bereavement or other situations has been an enormous privilege to me, so thank you for allowing me to journey with you through these times.

This is now a time of more change for both myself as I enter a new appointment and for all of you as you adjust to a new pattern of ministry. Change is never easy but of course it cannot be avoided particularly as we seek to serve and show God's love to a world that is changing faster than ever before. I will continue to pray for you all as you continue your mission in Rosyth and ask that you would pray for me and for Archie as we discover the new work which God has called us to.

Love and God Bless

Deacon Sarah

Come and explore your next steps

Helen Wareing invites you to the Solas Festival on 20 June

Dear Friends,

“Do you, or someone you know, have a sense that God might be calling you or nudging you to explore a new step in your Christian life? A new way of serving God ... maybe a new volunteering role in your community or the development of a fresh expression of church? Or maybe a new role as a local preacher, worship leader or youth leader? Or as a presbyter or a deacon? Why don't you join us and take some time out at the Solas Festival on **Saturday 20 June** in Perth at The Bield, Blackruthven to pray, reflect and explore a bit more? The theme of Solas this year is 'Between the Lines'. It invites us to think about who we are, what separates us and what brings us together. It is a wonderful place to explore our own identity as followers of Jesus in 21st century Scotland and to engage with all the music, arts and other opportunities at the festival. You can find out more about the festival at www.solasfestival.org.uk.

“Andrew Letby and I would love to welcome you to the Methodist tents at Solas where there will also be reflective activities on offer to all festival goers to explore the theme of 'breaking out'. Those of us interested in exploring 'next steps' will gather together at 11am to pray and reflect on God's call; then we will show you round the site so that you can enjoy all the festival events and activities. You may want to participate with the activities in the Methodist tent or you may prefer to go and do something different. During the day there will also be scheduled opportunities to meet with other people who are living out their callings in the church and community in different ways and then we will gather together again at 4pm to reflect on what we have heard and learned during the day.

“We have funding in place to ensure all costs are met for your day. Please let us know if you are able to come by replying to Louise McAspurren, who works in the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church office, at efcircuit@googlemail.com – Louise can then sort all the arrangements directly with you.

“I'm very happy to chat to you more about the day so please feel free to send me an email on wareingh@methodistchurch.org.uk or phone me on 07799 900465.

“Hope to see you there!”

Ed: Helen Wareing is the Regional Coordinator, Scotland and Shetland, The Discipleship & Ministries Cluster, The Connexional Team.

Can you help at Solas?

Helen is interested in hearing from anybody who wants to volunteer in the Methodist tent – this means chatting to folk who come into the tent, helping with the reflective activities and so on. It is a relaxed and enjoyable weekend.

If anybody is interested, please put them in touch with Helen (phone 07799 900465 or email wareingh@methodistchurch.org.uk). A free day ticket is offered to people who do one two-hour volunteering shift and a weekend ticket if a person can do three shifts. There is also a £5 meal voucher for each shift.

Last year we offered activities to reflect on Mandela's legacy; this year, our theme is 'Break out!' It's a great opportunity to engage with people who may not normally come into contact with the Church.

Invitations elsewhere

Quiet Garden at Gleneagles

'Be still and know' (Psalm 46:10)

This is opportunity on **Tuesdays 9 June** and **7 July** from 2.00pm to 5.00pm for stillness and reflection for visitors of any faith in the beautiful setting of Gleneagles. You will have a chance to wander around this recently-created wild garden, or walk the grass maze, and finish the afternoon with a short service in the private 16th-Century chapel on the drive.

The afternoon will be led by the Rev Giles Dove, Chaplain of Glenalmond College. Warmth, tea and coffee will be available. All welcome to attend – a donation of £3 to the Quiet Garden Trust is suggested. Any enquiries to: Petronella Haldane, Gleneagles, Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1PJ (01764 682 388; petronella@gleneagles.org)

To find more about the Quiet Garden Trust, which has the vision of spreading a network of opportunities for stillness and reflection aided by the beauty of the garden, visit www.quietgarden.org.

The beauty of the garden

As part of the church's celebration of Easter, we held a competition to create an Easter garden. This entry attracted the editor's camera lens:



Music Corner

As always, members of our church family are involved in musical activities, even though summer is upon us!

Dunfermline Choral Union's Summer Concert on **Saturday 20 June** at 7.30pm at the Vine Church is a performance of light and popular classics, with guest soloist Louise Timney, violin. Tickets from Gwyneth Kirby are £10 (£8 concession).

Further ahead, the Kingdom Singers will be appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival on **Saturday 29 August** at 6.00pm and 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Women's Interfaith Fair

Interfaith Glasgow, Scottish Refugee Council and Women of Faith (Glasgow) have teamed up to host a Women's Interfaith Fair on **Wednesday 17 June** from 11.30am to 2.00pm at the St Francis Centre, 405 Cumberland Street, Glasgow, G5 0SE. The event is part of the Refugee Festival Scotland 2015, which is celebrating 30 years of supporting refugees in Scotland (www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk).

Come and join us for a FREE lunch! Make friends with women from different religions and cultures. Learn to tie a sari or try on a hijab! Discuss what faith means to you. Get creative with arts, song and dance.

Booking is essential as spaces are limited. Please contact by email: frances@interfaithscotland.org or telephone 0141 420 6982. A crèche is available.

How to rebury a King

Until July, Alison Cozens' husband Peter is continuing with his administration work in the team at Leicester Cathedral, where he has been involved with the reinterment of King Richard III.

Peter has persuaded his colleague, the Rev Pete Hobson, the Acting Canon Missioner at Leicester Cathedral, to give us this insider's view of recent events.



The reinterment of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral on 26 March must count as one of the most unlikely and at times frankly bizarre events I have ever been involved with in my almost 40 years of Christian ministry.

It all started with the unlikely finding of the royal remains – a million to one said the archaeologist, Richard Buckley – under the now infamous Leicester car park in September 2012. Of course, it wasn't a car park back in 1485, when Richard III was buried there following his death at the hands of Henry Tudor's forces at the Battle of Bosworth Field. A battle which brought to an end the Wars of the Roses, and replaced the centuries long reign of the Plantagenets with the rather shorter, but much better known, one of the Tudors. Back then it was the choir of Greyfriars Priory. But that was demolished only 50 years later by Henry's son, Henry VIII, and over the years the exact location not only of grave but of the very church itself became lost in the haziness of time. So when Philippa Langley of the Richard III Society came digging, she was one of very few people who confidently expected to find what she did find – the battle-wounded skeleton of the defeated king. But her plans for reinterment were already well formed, and specified Leicester Cathedral, which in the form of St Martin's Church lies less than 100 yards north of Greyfriars – and has been there ever since, even if it only gained its cathedral status in 1927.

The find set in motion a whole chain of events, and by May 2013 I was seconded to join the cathedral team to oversee the reinterment project, working for the Very Rev David Monteith, the newly-appointed Dean of Leicester, a task that, as it turned out, took almost two full years to complete.

The first complication was around a legal challenge to the place of reinterment, brought by a hastily-formed and small group called The Plantagenet Alliance, who argued that, as distant relatives of Richard, they ought to have been consulted, and furthermore that his own wishes in the matter were not being taken into account. Both of which boiled down to a case for reburial, instead, in York Minster. This view was not shared by the Minster itself, and indeed their whole case owed more to sentiment than hard evidence, and in the event the High Court found comprehensively to that effect. But it did delay our ability to progress matters for at least a year, as their final judgement was only delivered in May 2014. So it was only at that point that we were in a position to move forward as promptly as possible in making the changes necessary to bury a 500-year-dead monarch.

One abiding benefit of the project was the partnership of bodies that came together to make it happen. This Cathedral Quarter Partnership included the University of Leicester, the City and County Councils, and the Lord Lieutenant – the royal representative. But necessarily at the heart

of it all, of course, was the cathedral. And starting from May 2014 we had to prepare a royal tomb, and raise a budget of £2.5M to pay for it all – which by the way we did, and none of it from the public purse! Fortunately we had used the intervening year well, to refine our proposals, gain all the necessary permissions to make the planned alterations – which for a cathedral means going to the national body responsible, the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England – and get ready to go out to tender on the plans. We knew it would take us six months for building works, and that we'd need at least 6–8 weeks once we had it all back to make final preparations. So it was that on 4 August 2014 the builders moved in – and by the end of January were out again, having relocated several large early 20th century wooden screens, re-laid three floors, and dug a brick-lined vault for the burial – on the way discovering ten other graves and no end of what the archaeologists gently call 'disarticulated remains'. All of which were reburied beneath the floor, with as much prayerful commitment, but rather less ceremony, than the king was to receive. The tomb itself that was to go on top was another matter. Its eventual design consists of a large block of swaledale fossilstone on top of a plinth of black Kilkenny marble. The tombstone is marked with a deeply incised cross, and slants towards the great east window, whose stained glass presents the image of Christ the King, coming in glory. Earthly king – heavenly King: it's no accident! Richard's own details – his name, dates and personal motto, are carved into the plinth, along with the royal coat of arms of his day and four boars, his own insignia, and in the floor four white Yorkist roses.

Come March, come the week of events. You may well have seen the extensive coverage on Channel 4, including the whole reinterment service, live. The week began

on Sunday 22 April, with the bringing of the coffin from the University, where the remains had lain since discovery, to the cathedral, by a route taking in the place of his final battle and defeat, and retracing the journey taken by the naked corpse, slung over the back of a horse, this time with the dignity and honour denied to him half a millennium ago. We knew there were intense levels of public interest, but we didn't anticipate quite how great it would be on the day. In the event I think we were all taken aback by the numbers, right across the board. For whatever reason, people wanted to be there, at what was, rightly, perceived as a historic moment. That evening the coffin was followed into the cathedral by Richard Duke of Gloucester – Patron both of the Richard III Society and our own Appeal – and four descendants of the 'Bosworth Peers' who fought for and against Richard on that fateful day of 22 August 1485. Once in the cathedral they together placed the ceremonial black velvet pall we had commissioned onto the coffin, there to remain while he lay in repose for four days between Reception and Reinterment. The service itself was that of compline, familiar to Richard in his own day, and the preacher was the Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, so laying to rest the criticism from a few grumblers who had cavilled that a catholic monarch should not be buried in a protestant cathedral. But, as we said, those distinctions simply didn't exist in his time – and, if a monarch of the realm cannot be buried in the established church of the realm, what are we saying?

Those days were remarkable. Over 20,000 people filed past the coffin to pay their respects, as it lay there, surrounded by guards of honour formed by ex-servicemen and women of Leicestershire. The queues stretched round the cathedral block and

back out into the nearby Jubilee Square. At their height wait time was over four hours – but still they came. From far and near, and in remarkable good spirits, to wait for their couple of minutes of being that close to history.

Then, on the Reinterment day itself, the Archbishop of Canterbury came to lay him to rest, with a bearer party of serving armed forces personnel, and three royal representatives, led by Sophie, Countess of Wessex. And I may be biased, but we have had overwhelmingly positive feedback on both that and the Reception service four days earlier, from the music and choir, to the sensitive blending of medieval and modern in the liturgy, to the sermon of Bishop Tim Stevens (due to retire this July).

The tombstone went on overnight – all 2.3 tonnes of it, which took from 6.00pm, when it arrived on site, to 4.00am the following morning, when the masons finally left. Then our unique week ended with a final service of Reveal on the Friday, of the final resting place of the last Plantagenet King of England. This was a very different event, built around a group of dancers from Leicester's own Curve theatre, which movingly portrayed the progression from Conflict through New Beginnings to New Life. The invited congregations to all three services included 200 of the general public at each (just about 1 in 3) who had been successful in an on-line ballot for places, and as they all spilled out of this culminating service, each was given a rose of any colour other than red or white, symbolising the inclusive note that the week had ended on. Later that evening the area around the cathedral was lit up with 8,000 large candles, in an outdoor event called Leicester Glows, and the whole area once again filled up with thousands of people, wandering peacefully amidst a

mesmerising atmosphere of smoke and serenity. This ended dramatically with a firework display from the roof of the cathedral, as it seemed the whole city proclaimed: "We have done it! We have reburied this former king in dignity and honour, and we have done it well!" Or as Jon Snow, Channel 4's presenter for the week, said: "I can't think of another city, or another cathedral, that could have done this as well as Leicester".

That was all a couple of months ago. Where does it leave us now? The visitor numbers may not be so large, but they continue to come – regularly around 2,000 on Saturdays and holidays. We're working out what we're calling 'the new normal' means for us as a working, praying cathedral, committed, in our strapline, to being a "faithful heart for city and county". We keep on welcoming, we keep on praying, and we keep on talking to people about the big messages of life and death, judgement and mercy, that Richard's discovery and reinterment also speak of. We're just doing these things with many more people than before.

I may not have imagined I'd ever be doing this when I was ordained to Christian ministry back in 1977. Life throws funny things at you over the years. But the rediscovery of this long-dead king has brought new impetus to the life of a cathedral serving one of the most diverse populations in the UK – and has put a unique line onto my own CV. "Re-burying of former monarchs a speciality". Who else can say that?

Pete Hobson
Leicester Cathedral
19 May 2015

A month in a life

Kenny Roger, Middle East Secretary for the Church of Scotland,
and Evelyn Kenny's son-in-law, shares his month

'Thank you for coming'. That is one of the sentences I hear most from people I meet doing my job, yet I have a tough time persuading them that it is a privilege for me to be with them in their houses and communities. For me, it is a great excitement to be able to regularly visit people throughout the Middle East Region and talk with them, learn from them, pray for them, and pass on the love and support of the Church of Scotland.

I have now been living with my family in Jaffa for over one and a half years. During that time we have been fortunate to experience many highs, but there have also been many difficult times, not least during the summer when we needed to go to our bomb shelters twice a day on average. My monthly work is split into three different aspects: firstly, meeting with our partners and the projects which we support in Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), and Gaza; secondly, building relationships with our partner churches in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan; and thirdly, supervising the work of the three organisations that the Church of Scotland runs in Israel, namely Tabeetha School, the Scots Hotel, and the St Andrew's Guesthouse.

Our focus is on the Christian community, which is of course under huge pressure and which is getting smaller each month. In Syria, Christians are being persecuted and forced to leave. In Egypt, during the revolutions, many of the young Christians left because there was nothing for them and they were being forced to convert, or to pay taxes, or to face death. So much so, that our partner in Egypt, the Synod of the Nile, has a huge issue in planting churches in Europe where so many Egyptian Christians now are. In Israel, although there is religious

freedom, the main Christian population is Arab, and they face real challenges in their life, as do the rest of the Arab population in Israel. In the OPT, Christians are facing oppression and injustice, a lack of opportunity, as well as religious extremism. The Christian community in the West Bank is now only around 40,000, whilst in Gaza it is 1,303. They need our prayers and our support. The Church of Scotland is committed to supporting those who find themselves marginalised and oppressed in the region. Working with our partners, we get to learn about these situations first hand, and by building partnerships with projects and friends working on the ground, we can give them some of the support that they need. Many of our 200 staff are also Christian, and they also give a great insight into what life is really like.

So my month consists of visiting the most incredible list of places that, until recently, I had only read of. Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jaffa, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, Gaza. A couple of weeks ago I was in Cairo, and earlier in 2014, Beirut and Amman. Not only do I get to visit these places, I get to meet the people that actually live there – people who are just like you and me.

At this moment in time the Middle East is without doubt the place to be. The world is being shaped by so many of the events happening in the region that we read about in the news every day. I think of the civil war in Syria and the effect of it in Lebanon, of Egypt where the last four years have consisted of two revolutions, of Gaza where if you were to be a five-year-old child you would already have seen three wars in your lifetime. And of course I think of Israel and the OPT, where justice

Evelyn Kenny writes:

and peace seem a long way away. Although these issues should mean that living in the region is constantly concerning, it is in fact constantly fascinating.

One day I may be looking out over the calmness of the Sea of Galilee whilst talking about a business proposal or a staffing issue, and the next I may be in Hebron, unable to walk down the street because of roadblocks and tear gas. Another day I may be reviewing A-level exam results at Tabeetha school, while the next I may be in the Judean hills visiting the Tent of Nations, where recently so many of their olive trees were destroyed controversially by the military authority. Or I may be talking to a pilgrim group in Jerusalem about the situation of the Christian population one day, and the next talking with those who have lost so much because their lives are lived inside the walls of Gaza.

My job fills me with hope and despair. Despair at the situation here and the many difficulties that people face daily which they simply should not have to. Recently I spent one hour 20 minutes walking 100 yards through the Bethlehem checkpoint at 5am – manageable once, but a living nightmare for those who need to do it every day just to get to work. Hope because in spite of all these difficulties, the people I meet are desperate for something different and will not give up in their struggle – their faith sustains them, and encourages me.

‘Thank you for coming’. Why don’t you come and see for yourself what makes this region so fascinating and yet so complicated?

From Life and Work, the magazine of the Church of Scotland, February 2015, p58.

In 2000, when my daughter Alison married Kenny, they both recognised God’s call on their lives. Kenny had trained as an accountant and Alison as a radiographer. When they started a family they moved out of London and settled in Edinburgh. Kenny took a finance officer job at the Church of Scotland, George Street.

He twice candidated for the ministry – even getting to the residential weekends for assessment. He was told he was not quite rejected, but the answer was “not yet, but eventually”.

In the course of his daily work, oiling the wheels of parish ministry, salaries, manses etc, a large project landed on his desk six years ago. It was the redevelopment of the Scots Hotel in Tiberias, Israel. This meant several trips to oversee the project of upgrading the hotel’s ratings by establishing a wellness centre and spa complex in what had formerly been a nurses’ home, manse and hospice facility.

The Middle East Secretary at the time was coming to the view that he needed to bring his family home to Scotland, leaving a vacancy for a suitable person to fill. Kenny felt that he could pursue this and was one of the four candidates (He is neither a Rev nor an Arabic speaker! – hHe gets by in Arabic, I think).

In August 2012 the job was his! Six months praying, planning and discussion followed, and the family settled in Jaffa in April 2013. As you will read in his article from the Church of Scotland magazine “Life and Work”, every day is a challenge! They are all well and happy and even more sure of God’s call on their lives.

West Fife Area Council

Valerie Leslie reports on the meeting held at St Margaret's on 21 May

The speaker was the Rev Dean Norby, rector of the All Souls Fife (formerly the Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing Group), who gave a splendid and inspiring presentation on *Try Praying*. He was a pleasure to listen to as he is so enthusiastic about this multi-church project.

Try Praying has been running for five years and uses simple methods of getting the message across: the sides of buses, banners on churches, and the simple handing over of booklets that show everyone, regardless of whether they have a belief or not, that Christ can come into their lives if they will let him in.

The message in the *Try Praying* booklets Dean brought along is "Try praying for a week and see what happens". The presentation clip showed how real people found their way to God by seeing the Try Praying logo on the side of buses or walking past a church which displayed a *Try Praying* banner. The stories these people had to tell of how they opened the door to Jesus by praying was incredibly powerful and moving.

Dean said that *Try Praying* was a church project any church could join in. Their mantra was:

- *Use* it (try using the book for a week)
- *Lose* it (hand it on to someone who might need to pray)
- *News* it (talk about prayer to others over a cuppa perhaps) – don't keep the good news about prayer to yourself!

Dean told us that *Try Praying* would be going national in 2015. There are plans for 50 churches to join together in York to spread the message, and for more city buses with the *Try Praying* logo – Edinburgh,



More about Dean at <http://tinyurl.com/nfsakzc>
and All Souls at <http://allsoulsfife.org.uk>

Inverness, Aberdeen and Dundee already have the signs on their buses. *Try Praying* also has an App (very modern!) that has reached young people around the globe and they are meeting Christ even in places like Iran and Saudi Arabia.

I for one will be reading and using my booklet for a week and then passing it on – I love that idea, what an opportunity to give real hope and joy to another! I also took a child's *Try Praying* booklet, so I can give this to my grandson and see what happens.

Dean reported that *Try Praying* is not expensive and is a really simple way of getting the message across, and I left the meeting feeling that this is a really exciting project for our congregations to think about joining.

Ed: Many of the materials can be viewed or downloaded from www.trypraying.org, a website that gives a lot more detail on the project.

The turnout was really good, with over twenty people from the other West Fife churches, and members of our Methodist family also at the meeting. Many thanks to Lesley Yellowlees for providing refreshments and to Howard Kirby for setting up the AVA equipment.

No room for homelessness!

Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA) works under the slogan *no room for homelessness!* For the last 20 years, this small charity has worked with Scotland's churches to establish and support local volunteering projects that help homeless people. It also works to secure the use of redundant property for affordable housing.

Alastair Cameron, SCHA's Chief Executive, spoke at Holy Trinity in the series of Lenten studies organised by Jim Mein. "Homelessness is a national problem," he said, "but the solutions lie in what we do at a local level".

Over the years, SCHA, together with local volunteers, has established 28 "starter pack" schemes across Scotland, helping people to resettle after homelessness; and has worked with partners to set up befriending projects to assist people struggling with homelessness.

The organisation has also helped the development of affordable homes from church property – in places as varied as north Edinburgh and the Isle of Iona. In 2013, SCHA set up a subsidiary charity, Whitebeam Homes, to provide below-market housing for rent on the Isle of Arran, with plans to expand to other areas.

Since 1998, SCHA has been the Scottish partner in organising Homeless Sunday, a UK-wide initiative, and has worked closely with Shelter Scotland and other campaigning bodies in working for improvements in homelessness policy and legislation.

The organisation is a development body, setting up initiatives and encouraging them to operate under local control. "This allows us to do more, and means that projects are more responsive to local circumstances,"

says Alastair. "We rely on the enthusiasm and commitment of church people all over Scotland – if it wasn't for that, our efforts would not bear fruit."

In January 2015, SCHA marked 20 years of work with a service in Glasgow at which the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and long-time supporter of the organisation, gave the address.

As it moves into its third decade, the headline figures on homelessness are dropping. "This is good to see," says Alastair, "but we fear it masks continuing problems – pressures on emergency accommodation, a greater concentration of people with multiple and complex needs, and long stays in temporary accommodation."

Looking ahead, there remains a lot for Scottish Churches Housing Action to do. In the offing, Alastair Cameron sees the development of further befriending projects; an expansion of Whitebeam Homes; and a completely new initiative in Edinburgh – Aid & Abet, a peer-led project mentoring people leaving prison.

Discussion at the Lent group concentrated on what people are already doing locally, with volunteers supporting the work of Bethany Christian Trust and other organisations.

People wanted advice on whether they should give to people who are begging in the street. Alastair confessed to still swithering on this after 30 years working in homelessness. "If you want to be sure where your money goes," he said, "it's best to give to a charity you trust. But there is undoubtedly something personal about giving directly to someone in need. Personally, I've never resolved the dilemma – sometimes I give, and sometimes I don't."

Memorial Service for Bishop Michael Hare Duke

Alan Taylor was there ...

2014 was a sad year for the Diocese. We lost two of our former Bishops, both called Michael. Firstly, Bishop Michael Henley, who had been our Chaplain when St Margaret's was the Anglican church at HMS Cochrane, who went on to become Chaplain of the Fleet before retiring from the Royal Navy, and later became Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Then, just before Christmas, Bishop Michael Geoffrey Hare Duke went to glory in his 90th year.

We had a Memorial Service for Michael Hare Duke in St Ninian's Cathedral on 10 April, to share memories and celebrate his life. It was more of a family affair than a grand diocesan event. Michael and Baa's four "children" – Philly, Barney, Pookie and Hilary – were there, and the quite informal event was led by Rev Celia Matthews, who



took our joint service at Rosyth on 26 April. Baa pre-deceased Michael.

Michael was born in India in 1925, of Irish forbears. He was a Sub-Lieutenant in the RNVR from 1944 to 1946, before training for the ministry. In 1969 – at a relatively young age for such an appointment – he became Bishop of St Andrews, where he remained for 20 years before retirement, still to live in Perth. He was often a controversial priest, but much loved

by his parishioners, bringing fresh life to the diocese. As he said himself, "I will still wear pompous clothes, but we've set out to do some new things and make the point liturgically". It was typical Michael – throughout his career, he questioned accepted views, but his influence on the Scottish Episcopal Church was significant. We miss them both.



In a moment we're going to do **something a bit different** to explore the idea of the Spirit being with us and equipping us. You'll have noticed that there are stations set up around the church, and at each one there's an activity you can do to help think about a different aspect of the Spirit – Spirit of love, Spirit of joy, Spirit of peace and Spirit of truth.



Different people learn in different ways, and different people like to express their spirituality in different ways, so today we have the opportunity to try some different things. You may find them useful, you may not – but if you don't, remember that for others they may be very important. We're going to have some time to go to whichever you want – you can spend all your time in one place, or move to several different ones. If you'd rather just stay in your seat and spend the time in quiet reflection and prayer then that's OK too. [Helen Jenkins at our Pentecost all-age service]

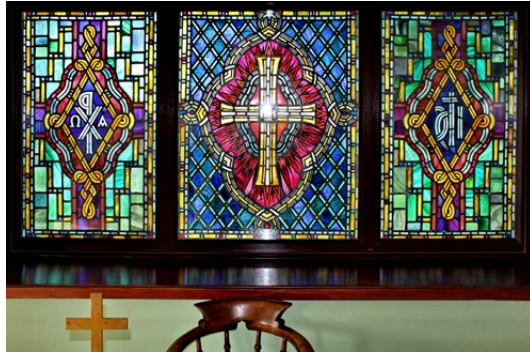
Property Matters

Martin Rogers reports

At long last our set of stained-glass windows is complete once more. It has taken some time to go through the procedures to obtain competitive quotes and to have the restoration work completed. The financial cost to us is small, as the

insurance company have reimbursed us the cost apart from a £100 excess in the policy. The cost in time and trouble has been more significant, as I have had a number of visits to the church to meet the police and firms quoting for the work, as well as emails and telephone calls.

Hopefully the windows will remain intact for many years to come. A member of one of the outside groups who use the premises was enquiring about progress as he missed seeing the window at the meetings he attends. A lady I was speaking to on the pavement outside was also asking when the window was to be replaced, as she enjoyed seeing them illuminated. So people who use the premises and also those who pass by do appreciate the windows. There is an old saying that you don't miss something until it is gone, but fortunately, in this case, it was only a temporary absence. (Five years ago, I wrote an article about the stained glass windows in an edition of Contact and I have suggested to the Editor that we might include it in this edition so that not only the windows themselves but the story behind them might be better appreciated.)



The closure of the Playgroup has resulted in a change to the use of the building. The Toddlers Group who used to meet in the Crush Hall and adjoining rooms on

Wednesday and Friday mornings have now moved into the hall. Their play equipment has been moved from Room 5 into the large walk-in cupboard off the hall. Room 5 is now more readily usable for small meetings, and the Property Committee will be considering what changes might be made to develop this further. We also have two new groups meeting on the premises. On Sunday afternoons, the CoolDowns are meeting. This is a theatre group set up for people of all ages with Downs Syndrome and their siblings. You may care to look at their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheCoolDowns>. Another branch of the Alcoholics Anonymous organisation is meeting on a Thursday night. On Friday morning the new Triangle Coffee Shop is now operating. So our premises continue to be well used.

Ed: The article to which Martin referred, which was published in April 2010, has been reprinted on the back cover.

“Keeping the show on the road ...”

Giving to others at St Margaret’s

Bishop’s Lent Appeal 2015: This year’s appeal was for the work of the newly-established Scottish Episcopal Institute, the training agency of the Scottish Episcopal Church, whose mission is to form people for service as competent and confident public ministers, whether as Lay Readers, Deacons or Priests. We responded as generously to this cause as we have to more “obvious” causes in previous years, by sending a cheque for £217.25. When Gift Aid was added in, this brought the value of our contribution to £271.56. Well done, everyone.

Provincial Community Fund: The third of our three annual retiring collections is for the Provincial Community Fund. This is traditionally collected throughout the Scottish Episcopal Church on the last Sunday in June, varied only at St Margaret’s by whether that is our Joint Service or perhaps, as last year, Sea Sunday. The idea behind this fund was originally tabled some years ago by our recent Interim Rector, the Very Rev Jim Mein. Jim felt that we should be responsive to the needs of others, of all faiths and none, when other sources of funding for the basic needs of life had been exhausted. The only requirement for support from this fund is that the needy person should be recommended by a priest. Please give very generously when we have this retiring collection at the end of June.

Nepal Earthquake: As in the past when disaster strikes, such as the Boxing Day tsunami a few years ago, we seek to help by donating from our Giving to Others fund. So it was this past month when we gave a cheque for £250 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) – itself made up of many charities – for relief work in Nepal.

Rosyth Methodist Church Leadership Update

The main focus of the last Leadership meeting was confirming plans for the Centenary Celebrations. There is now a variety of activities covering each month for the Anniversary year. The Centenary Service will be held on **13 March 2016** and will be led by the Rev the Lord Leslie Griffiths. The service will be a joint service with St Margaret’s.

The other matter discussed was the proposed café which will start on **Friday 22 May** from 09:30–11:30. There was to be a further meeting for those interested in volunteering for the café to be held in early May.

The next Leadership meeting is scheduled for **26 May**.

David Salthouse

Other Charities: Each year St Margaret’s tithe our income and give to four or five charities. This is usually done in September when we know what our income for the past year has been. Already this year we have reacted to the needs of Brambles Playgroup as, sadly, they sought to bring the playgroup to an end, to two charities which supported this year’s Lent studies, and to the DEC in support of relief work in Nepal. We have some money still to disburse in September. In the past we have given to Bethany Christian Trust, Scottish Mission to Seafarers, CHAS, Waverley Care, Help for Heroes, Alzheimer Scotland, Aberlour Childcare Trust, Children First (formerly SSPCC) and similar charities. Is there a particular charity you feel we should support this year? If so, please speak to Alan Taylor.

RMC Appointments, March 2015

The following appointments were ratified by
the Annual General Meeting of the Methodist congregation

Ministers	Deacon Sarah McDowall, Rev Helen Jenkins
Church Stewards	Mr David Salthouse, Mrs Mandy Ward, Mrs Sue Salthouse, Mrs Evelyn Kenny, Mr Howard Kirby, Mrs Mary Kidd
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Sandra Wilson
Finance Committee Chair	Mrs Sue Salthouse
Finance Committee Secretary	Mrs Mandy Ward
Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Gwyneth Kirby
Property Committee Chair	Mr Martin Rogers
Property Committee Secretary	Mr Alan Taylor (St Margaret's)
Treasurer	Mr David Ward
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Stuart Fowell
Envelope Secretary	Mr Jack Fowell
Junior Mission for All	Mrs Evelyn Kenny
Action for Children	Mrs Jean Hall
World Church and Mission	Mrs Evelyn Kenny
Magnet Magazine	Mrs Janet Murray
Junior Church	Mrs Gwyneth Kirby
Leadership Team	Rev Helen Jenkins, Deacon Sarah McDowall, Mr David Salthouse, Mrs Sue Salthouse, Mrs Mandy Ward, Mrs Evelyn Kenny, Mr Howard Kirby, Mrs Gwyneth Kirby, Mrs Mary Kidd
Church Council	Rev Helen Jenkins, Deacon Sarah McDowall, Mrs Sandra Wilson (Secretary), Mrs Evelyn Kenny, Mrs Mandy Ward, Mr David Salthouse, Mrs Sue Salthouse, Mr Howard Kirby, Mrs Gwyneth Kirby, Mr David Ward, Mrs Mary Kidd, Mrs Janet Murray, Mr Jack Fowell, Miss Sandra Young (St Margaret's rep)
Finance Committee	Mrs Sue Salthouse (Chair), Mr David Ward (Treasurer), Mr Howard Kirby, Mr Jack Fowell, Mrs Mary Kidd, Mr Martin Rogers
Property Committee	Mr Martin Rogers (Chair) Mr Alan Taylor (Secretary), Mrs Mandy Ward, Mrs Myra Tarr

A Methodist Love Feast?

Helen explains to those at Sunday@Six on 24 May...



Love Feasts look back to the early church, when sharing a meal together was something that was central to the life of the first Christians. It was an occasion when all the usual social boundaries were broached, as Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, slave and free, could all eat together. In the New Testament we catch glimpses of some of the struggles around these meals with debates around eating meat sacrificed to idols and other issues, and it seems that this act of eating together gradually died out, being replaced by the more formal setting of our communion services.

In the 18th century the idea of a love feast was revived by the Moravians, who shared food and gave testimony, and it was from them that John Wesley took the idea and introduced it to the Methodists. At that point Methodism didn't ordain clergy, so there were rarely opportunities for a Methodist communion service (Wesley encouraged them to go to the Parish church for that) so the love feast grew in importance, for many people being a higher priority than the Eucharist.

As Methodism ordained clergy and allowed them to preside at communion, the love feast decreased in prominence, but is making a come back in some parts of Methodism. It is a service which anyone can lead, and is very definitely not a second-rate communion service – it is different, and to be valued for its own contribution to the church's life. Like for the Moravians, the key elements are food and testimony and we will share both in a short while.

Today is coincidentally a particularly fitting date for such a service as it is Aldersgate Sunday, a day marked by Methodism to remember a particular event in John Wesley's life. On this day in 1738, Wesley, already ordained in the church of England, wrote this in his diary:

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed."

"I began to pray with all my might ... then testified openly to all there what I now first felt in my heart."

That idea of Wesley, that his "heart was strangely warmed", is one which has inspired Methodists over many years. This was clearly a pivotal moment in the development of the faith he had held for a long time, but which was now real and living to him in a new way.

It seems doubly fitting then that today is also Pentecost, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit which we heard Jesus promising to his disciples in our reading. It was clearly the Spirit at work in Wesley on that day, and no doubt through many a love feast in the years since.

So now, we come to the sharing of our love feast. We're going to share cake and juice around our tables, and as we do so I encourage you to think about and share your responses to either or both of these questions: drawing on Wesley's experience, when have you felt your heart strangely warmed? Perhaps you can think of a recent experience, perhaps one many years ago, perhaps you struggle to relate to that idea at all. And then where have you seen God at work in the last two weeks? ... You may have had a dramatic experience of God recently, but if you're anything like me you're probably having to stop and think, and then perhaps realising the small ways in which you have seen God at work. Those are just as worthy of sharing as the big things.

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

CoolDowns (Sun 1400–1600)
Valerie Dowie 01383 820586
07554 000812

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

From our archive

In our April 2010 issue, Martin Rogers wrote about our stained-glass windows:

When I was preparing my historical display for the Church Anniversary, I came across an article about the stained glass windows and thought I would share it with you. The time is August 1959 and the place is our former Church in Parkgate. The Church had recently been given a face-lift inside and out and the final item was the unveiling of three stained glass windows in the recess behind the stage. Miss Jenny Watson, a trustee and long-standing member of the Church (and sister of the late Pheme Hutchison) performed the ceremony.

The person who wrote the article then describes the light streaming through the many-coloured panes in a torrent of rich jewel colours – ruby, emerald, sapphire and amber.

One of the side windows has as its centre the Greek letters Iota, Eta and Sigma, the first three letters of the name Jesus. The other has the first two letters of the name Christ, and Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet declaring that Christ is Lord, the beginning and the end. The centre window has the cross, the symbol of the Christian faith.

When we moved out of the Parkgate Church at the end of 1969, the windows were removed and put in storage. They were



The windows in the Parkgate Church in 1962 with some of the Sunday School in the foreground. Jenny Watson is the lady in the hat second from the right.

later installed in the corridor of our present Church which, at that time, extended across where the coffee bar is today. Interestingly, and no doubt accidentally, the two side windows were transposed when the windows were installed. When the premises were extended in 1981 with the creation of the coffee bar, crush hall, and Rooms 3, 4 and 5 the windows were moved yet again into their present position in the lounge (Room 4) and in the correct order.

In the Parkgate Church, the windows could only be enjoyed by people in the Church. In the corridor of the new Church, they were largely for the benefit of passers-by. In their present location they can be enjoyed by all. Next time you are in Room 4, why not take the time to have a closer look at them and enjoy them!

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. The next issue will be published at the beginning of August, so please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Thursday 23 July**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.