

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



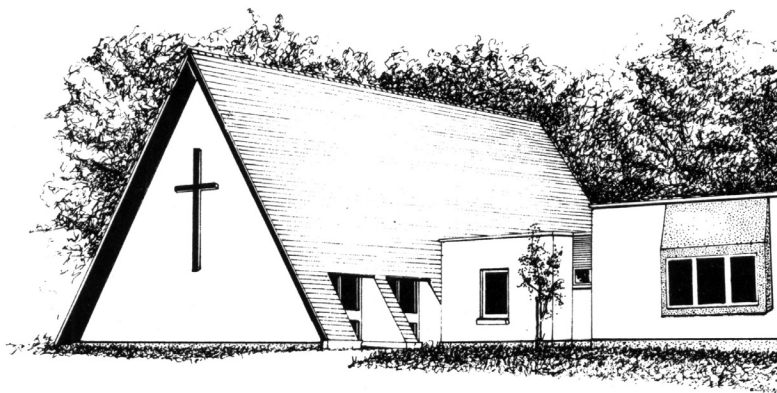
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 81

October/November 2015

## Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

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

## St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

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

### **in partnership**

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

#### Minister:

Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
on maternity leave from 18 October  
– to contact a minister, please call the  
Circuit Office on 0131 662 8635

#### Co-ordinating Steward:

David Salthouse 01383 889212

#### Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

#### Church Council Secretary:

Sandra Wilson 01383 415885

#### Treasurer:

Dave Ward 01383 414944

#### Rector:

Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654

#### Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

#### Treasurer:

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

### **our regular pattern of worship**

#### **Sundays (except 4th)**

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

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship  
(including Sunday School)

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

9.00am Breakfast and “Messy Church”

#### **4th Sundays:** Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service  
6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

### **where to find us**

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

# Journeying together

Helen Jenkins writes ...

Dear friends,

As I write this letter, I've only got three more weeks until I finish for maternity leave (of which more later) which will herald big changes in our family. I'm not sure whether the change from a family of three to one of four will be more or less of a shock to the system than when we went from two to three, but certainly life will never be the same again. Caitlin in particular will have to get used to not being the only small person in the house!

Of course change is something we all deal with all the time. Some of it is very much welcome (like the arrival of a new baby) whereas some is anything but what we would want, but is often unavoidable. The world around us is changing all the time – as we celebrate harvest we recognise that autumn is arriving, the nights are drawing in, the leaves are starting to turn and there's a decided chill in the air. More than just the seasons though, our society doesn't stand still; whether it's changes in technology or politics or world events things are always on the move.

Which leaves us, as churches, with the challenge of how to react in an ever-changing world. Do we sit still, clinging onto the things we've always done in the hope that we find some stability in the midst of all the other changes we have to face? Or do we always seek to look forwards, to react to what is happening around us so that we are in the best place possible to share the good news we know in Jesus.

In the past year that I've been sharing ministry in Rosyth, changes have happened. Some have saddened us, particularly the closure of Brambles playgroup after so many years of service to our community, but others are bringing new life, particularly Triangle on a Friday morning which is engaging so many people from within and

without the life of the church over coffee and cake. Good things are happening, but we must never sit still or be complacent, but always ask questions of what we are doing, or could be doing next as we follow Jesus together and seek to share his love with the world around us.

I'm aware that over this next year I'm going to miss many good things, particularly around the centenary celebrations in both church and community. (I may well turn up for some of them to see what's going on!) I hope that when I return it won't be to a place that looks the same as when I left it – the year will have changed me (watch out for the grey hairs!) but I hope it will have changed you all too as you continue to grow together in discipleship and service.

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## What's in this issue ...

Our international focus has a number of items about being on a journey!

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While I'm not around, Methodist services (and the Methodist-led joint communions) will continue as usual led by ministers and local preachers from around the Circuit. I'm entirely confident that much that you do will continue as usual, not least because of the strength of the partnership between our two churches, but for anything where you need a Methodist minister or help or advice the first point of contact will be the Circuit Office (details elsewhere in Contact) where Louise will be able to point you in the right direction. Out of hours the answerphone will tell you which minister is 'on call' if you need someone urgently.

For those of you who are on Facebook, do friend me if you want to see the odd picture of the baby when s/he arrives (although I'm sure some will make their way to you all by other means) and so I can keep up with some of what's going on for you. I won't be officially around but I'm sure news will filter through in both directions.

Whatever the coming months hold for each of us, whether in stability or change, we can be assured that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) and that his love for us and presence in our lives is constant. May that knowledge strengthen and sustain you through all of life's joys and challenges.

Every blessing

Helen



A number of filler items in this issue have a bee symbol, which means that they are words chosen by Helen for the Harvest communion service. Why a bee is used, rather than a loaf or something more traditional, is explained on page 6.



Pictures taken during our Harvest Supper

# Harvest Supper

Sue Masson reports ...

Norman Liddle from the Scottish Bible Society was the guest speaker for the harvest supper this year. As his talk was about Rwanda, Pam and I decided that the menu should reflect this so the simple meal of soup and a pudding offered vegetable and lentil soup followed by apple and blackcurrant pie versus sweet potato soup and tropical fruit salad. Many people decided to mix and match, with one person even having both soups in the same bowl!

Hearing Norman speak about his visit to Rwanda was both inspirational and challenging – imagine having a bowl of hot water delivered to your bedroom door every morning, but that being your daily ration of water; of being in hospital and only getting food if your relatives were near enough and rich enough to provide it; of having to share a hospital bed with maybe one or two other people. Imagine too, church services that need to last for three hours to make them worthwhile coming for people who have had to walk for 2–3 hours just to get to church, and then of course another 2–3 hours home.

Rwanda is often still defined by the genocide that happened 20 years ago when one million people were killed in 100 days; however the picture of life there now is much more encouraging. The tribal loyalties have gone and people of all sides are able to forgive and work together. The Good Samaritan project run by the Rwandan Bible Society provides a meal for patients one day a week in hospitals; they rebuild homes that have been damaged by floods; they provide wind-up machines so that a whole village can gather and listen to the Bible being read in their own language.

It is a staggering statistic that 350,000,000 people worldwide still do not have access to a Bible in their own language. The SBS exists to provide Bibles:

- in a language people can understand
- at an affordable price (which often means free)
- in a format they can use.

In Rwanda a Bible costs £4 to produce, but this is double the average weekly wage, so most people cannot buy one. Norman said that the most rewarding part of his trip was when he was able to give someone a Bible and watch them instantly read it, realising that it is theirs to keep and that it is written in their indigenous language.

After supper a collection was taken to cover the cost of the food and also to give a donation to SBS, we were able to present Norman with a cheque for £163 – nearly 41 Bibles!



**Ed:** SBS Gift Aid envelopes are still available at the back of the church for those who would like to help their work.

Norman's presentation was very interesting, and we hope that it will soon be available on the Archive pages of our websites.



# A buzz about the church!



Our Harvest celebration continued on the Sunday morning with a joint communion service led by Helen Jenkins.

The team that devised our worship used material produced by All We Can, the new name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

Pretending to be bees, and accompanied by Rimsky-Korsakov's "The flight of the bumblebee", the children demonstrated how bees collect nectar and transfer pollen in the process.

After the choir had sung "Come to the courts of the Lord with singing", with the solo part taken by Gwyneth Kirby, we read Genesis 1:26-31, reminding us of God's provision for us in creation. But being made in God's image brings with it both the ability and the responsibility to look after each other and the rest of our world.

As we gave thanks for all the good things God has given us, we looked at one particular bit of creation – bees! Helen reminded us that bees are essential to the pollination and therefore reproduction of many plants, and the production of fruit, and of course they produce the honey that we enjoy eating.

We watched an All We Can film about one of their projects in Ethiopia, which is using the amazingness of bees to support people to live better lives.

Then, having thought a little about the role bees can play in another part of the world, we looked at things a little closer to home. There are plenty of problems facing bees in this country, but it seemed that those issues are also found in a place that would be familiar to us, though Helen wasn't sure quite where it was!



The place turned out to be Hundred Acre Wood, and Helen told the story of Winnie-the-Pooh and the Missing Bees<sup>†</sup>.

Helen concluded: "So we've seen this morning that bees can bring positive changes for people in other parts of

the world, but that here at home they're facing some particular challenges. As we think about our responsibility to care for creation, there are two particular ways we might want to respond to what we've heard – we have a retiring offering for the work of All We Can which is our charity for this month. There are also copies of the Winnie-the-Pooh story you can take away, which also have lots of suggestions for practical things you can do to help the bees here at home. No doubt you can think of other ways in which you can express your gratitude to God for the provision of bees, and all the rest of the good things we enjoy."

Evelyn's intercession also started with an activity – filling in prayer suggestions on paper hexagons which were used to create a honeycomb on the wall.

The communion which followed, when the children helped distribute the elements to people in their seats, and did so most reverently, also reflected the theme – the bread used was a seed and honey loaf made by Katie!

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<sup>†</sup>You can download the story in a booklet, which includes information on how to help bees, at <http://tinyurl.com/nvsj3k2>.

Friends of the Honey Bee is a national campaign organised by the British Beekeepers Association.

# Summer Praise



23 August was certainly the best-attended Sunday@Six yet, with a commendable presence from other fellowships (some from far afield), and it was very encouraging to have attracted into church some who wouldn't normally darken the doors. There was a real buzz about the place, and the congregation (35) even outnumbered the musicians (33), if only by a small margin!

Linda Sherwood wrote in the Holy Trinity magazine:

"Imagine my surprise when I walked into St Margaret's to find the straight rows of chairs gone, replaced by a lively café scene! The Fife Ukulele Orchestra in bright red tops sitting at tables on the left, and members of the church congregations around tables on the right. On each table there were savouries, cakes and big jugs of juice. Extra chairs had to be pulled out and space made as more people arrived to enjoy the evening.

"There were songs we all joined in with and some sung just by the choir. They entertained us and made us laugh, but you could hear a pin drop when they gave us a rendition of 'Steal Away'. There were readings, poems and prayers, as the programme said, 'Giving thanks for all that makes our two churches in Rosyth'. It was an excellent evening which I thoroughly enjoyed.

"All that was missing was you!"

There were lots of other positive comments, but Sue Masson was particularly touched by the one from Chris (chair of the Fife Ukulele Orchestra):

"Just writing to say how much my Mum, Juliet and I enjoyed the service yesterday.

"It was fun, interesting and at points, moving. The choir were absolutely excellent and everyone was so welcoming.

"Possibly the most enjoyable event I've been involved in, with FUO."

Sue reported that one or two others had said they should have a rest from the ukes and should learn how to sing like the choir!



A huge thank you to choir, orchestra and others that helped for all their efforts, and especially to Sue, who devised and led the programme, and personally provided the floral arrangements and the delicious array of cakes. Hard work and talent came together!

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## One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mark 1:17 (RSV)

# Sunday School and Young People

Gwyneth Kirby and friends at work ...

It's lovely to see our children back after the school holidays – and haven't they all grown!

We were delighted to be able to take part in the Harvest Festival, which was All Age Worship with Holy Communion. The children led the opening prayers, took the offertory and helped distribute the bread and wine during Communion. They also gave us a demonstration of the work of bees and their importance to the economy of many countries, such as Ethiopia. The children made "beautiful bees", as Lewis read the narrative.

This was an excellent follow up to our first Messy Church of the season, when we learned about bees and honey. Lots of bees were taken home that day, plus bread that the children had made with honey in jars they had decorated. I don't think the bee cakes will have survived very long – I wonder how many actually got home?! We also planted seeds to remind us of what we need to be doing to encourage the bees in our own country. I hope that you will take time to look at the amazing banner produced by the children (with just a little help from Jean!)

We had 16 children at Messy Church with their families. It was lovely to see friends returning and lovely to see new faces too. There's room for plenty more.

## Call to worship

I will always thank the Lord;  
I will never stop praising him.  
I will praise him for what he has done;  
may all who are oppressed listen  
and be glad!

Proclaim with me the Lord's greatness;  
let us praise his name together!



During the first weekend of September Katie and I took seven young people to the District Youth Weekend, which took place at the PGL Outdoor Activity Centre in Dalguise. This was a great opportunity for our young people to meet young people from different backgrounds and different parts of Scotland, as they learnt to work together and support each other in a variety of challenges, ranging from survival skills to a giant swing (think circus trapeze!), vertical climbing challenges and huge zip wires.



As part of the weekend they also worked in groups to present three parables in a modern way, through drama, illustrations and rap. It was fascinating to hear the lost coin become a lost i-Phone, and hear the story unfold as a rap!

Please remember, Messy Churchers, that the next Messy Church will be in **November**. Although we normally try to continue during the October holiday, this will not be possible this year because three of the leaders will be away.



# Scouts and cubs in Rosyth

Martin Rogers gives the background to another local Centenary

There have been scouts in Rosyth from the very early days of Rosyth's existence. A Navy<sup>†</sup> Mission operated in Rosyth Tin Town in 1913 and one of the missionaries, Darwin Needham, started a scout troop in 1915 and became its first scoutmaster. When the Navy Mission



1st Rosyth Navy Mission Church Troop circa 1916

closed in 1917 the troop transferred to the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Castle Road. At about that time another troop was started at St Margaret's Anglican Church at Orchardhead Farm in Rosyth. Cub packs were also started at both churches. When the Dockyard closed in 1926, both churches were badly affected by a large percentage of their members returned to the southern Dockyards. This resulted in the closure of the scout troops and cub packs.

A new scout group (scouts and cubs) had been formed in 1925 at the Presbyterian Church in Rosyth and had been given the number "41st Fife". In about 1935, the group moved to its own headquarters in the Backmarch Steading and, in 1963, opened new purpose-built headquarters in Woodside Avenue. This group is one of two scout groups operating in Rosyth at the present time. The other is our own scout group (13th Fife) founded in 1942 and meeting at the previous Methodist church premises in Parkgate and later also in Wesley House.

A number of scout groups have come and gone over the years. These include the 61st Fife (St John & St Columba) RC; the 43rd Fife, attached to St Andrew & St George Scottish Episcopal Church; the 49th Fife, attached first to St Andrew & St George and

later to St Margaret's Anglican Church at the Dockyard and HMS Cochrane; the 26th Fife attached to Rosyth Baptist Church and later to the YMCA Red Triangle Club; the 52nd Fife attached to Rosyth Baptist Church; the 59th Fife and 89th Fife attached to the Salvation Army in Rosyth; and a Rover Crew meeting at HMS Caledonia.

2016 is also the centenary year for the Wolf Cub or Cub Scout section which was introduced by the founder, Lord Baden-Powell, in 1916.

<sup>†</sup>Ed: For our younger readers, perhaps we should point out that Navy is correct in this instance. We may associate Rosyth with the Senior Service who used the base, but it was the 'navvies' who did the civil engineering work.

A shorter form of navigator, the term 'navvy' was coined in the late 18th century when numerous canals were being built: these were sometimes known as "navigations", or "eternal navigations", intended to last forever.

## Fellowship news

### Birthdays and celebrations



A significant milestone occurred on 21 September, when our dear friend, **Betty Terry** celebrated her 90th birthday. She has attended St Margaret's Naval Base and Scottish Episcopal Churches for about 40 years. She was able to enjoy birthday meals with friends and Army nursing colleagues and received many cards, flowers and a cake in recognition of this special occasion. Many congratulations, Betty, and God's blessing always. We all miss you so much on Sundays, but know you are with us in thoughts and spirit.

**Valerie Leslie**, who also celebrated a special birthday recently, chose to be on holiday in Florida for the occasion. Many happy returns Val!

**Joan Burt** was 88 the day before Harvest Festival, so Jean Hall provided a cake in a suitable environmentally-friendly colour!



Congratulations to **Stephen Tarr** who recently took advantage of a holiday in Rome to "pop the question" to Stephanie (Steph) Gaydon. Their wedding is being planned for next summer, though a more immediate challenge is finding a place to live, now that Stephen has started a new job at a school in Ilford!

### For your prayers

**Cathy Cusator** fell and broke her hip some weeks ago but we are glad to say she is now able to walk with the support of a stick.

It was lovely to have **Dorissia Forsyth** with us for the 9.30am service recently. Dorissia is making steady progress after major surgery. We remember Dorissia in our thoughts and prayers.

**Sheila Lee** is having major surgery on 5 October. Afterwards she will not be able to have visitors or receive telephone calls for some time. Please keep her in your prayers and thoughts.

**David and Mandy Ward** are also to be remembered as they have had a family bereavement.

Having featured **June Baines** as the "birthday girl" in our last edition, we were both surprised and saddened at her sudden but peaceful passing. We are printing Helen's tribute to her on page 12.

# Wednesday Fellowship

Mary Kidd extends a warm welcome to everyone ...

It's hard to believe the first month of the Fellowship is over, but there's much to look forward to in the coming weeks. We welcomed our new Rector, Alison Cozens, who opened the Autumn session with a Devotional afternoon. She was then free to 'meet and greet' our members, some of them familiar members of our two congregations and friends from other churches in Rosyth.

Jean Hall, 'caterer extraordinaire' came to give us a demonstration on cooking for one. Her methods and recipes were inspiring and delicious. She made it all seem so easy and yet encouraged us to try something a little different with minimal effort. (I now have all the ingredients for a mackerel paté, but have yet to put them together!)

The following week was our yearly Harvest celebration and Warren Murphy came to talk to us about the Rosyth Foodbank. We had agreed that our weekly offering on this occasion should support this worthy cause. With such generosity of spirit we gave £60 (thank you, everyone!), which was received with grateful thanks. There would be another opportunity to give much-needed toiletry items at the Harvest Festival on Sunday.

October will be an interesting time with the visits of VIPs. Bishop David Chillingworth is visiting Rosyth on 7 October with a small group from both our congregations, as well as our Circuit Superintendent, Rev Andrew Letby. They plan to visit the Dockyard and the Community Centre before coming to our Fellowship.

The following week we have Jilly-ann Guild who is coming to talk to us about the Fife Children's Clothing Bank. This is a recently-launched charity which aims to provide good-quality clothes to children (aged newborn to 12 years) of struggling families in Fife. Jilly-ann is the great-granddaughter of the late Ethel Douglas.

At the end of October we have Sarah Brown coming to tell us about 'A World at School'. Last year our members and church members signed a petition about the education of children in poor, troubled countries of the world. Maybe we didn't know very much about this movement at the time, and now look forward to being more enlightened.

Please do consider joining us, even if only occasionally if a particular topic appeals to you. You will be assured of a very warm welcome and fellowship, and don't let's forget the refreshing cup of tea or coffee afterwards, and a chocolate biscuit, if you're lucky!

The members of the Wednesday Fellowship were saddened by the passing of **Ethel Douglas**. She was an enthusiastic member who enjoyed her Wednesday afternoons, especially when we had a party to celebrate her 100th birthday two years ago, and the Brambles children came in to sing, much to her delight. We will all miss this "very special lady" with the lovely smile, and she will be much missed in the wider community.

# June Baines

14 June 1926 – 12 August 2015

The tribute at her funeral given by Rev Dr Helen Jenkins

June was born in Brighton, on her mum's birthday! She had older twin sisters, and they grew up in the shadow of the war, with Brighton of course being in the thick of it. The war also put paid to her ambitions to be a singer, but music was a major part of her life all the way through – she would sing if she was happy, sing if she was miserable and generally keep singing no matter what.

One of her sisters met and married a Scotsman, and it was through him that June met and married his brother David. She moved to Inverkeithing – a long way from home, but her sister was here already. She had four children in four years – Richard, Dorothy, Elizabeth and Christine – and life must have been exceedingly busy!

As the children got older, June worked part-time in the kitchen at John Lewis, a job she thoroughly enjoyed, and she threw herself into the musicals the staff would put on. Having this independence left June in a position to deal with the divorce which might have thrown others completely. Instead she showed her great strength of character and created a new life for herself.

June loved her family dearly, and it was a great struggle when her daughter Christine died far too young. She adored being Gran to Debbie, Kirsty, Emma, Adam and Leo, and Great-Gran to Joshua, and will be greatly missed by the whole family – she was more



than just mum, she was someone who could be confided in, or asked anything (including how to cook a chicken!).

June's independence came through in her love of travel – she went to Shetland to visit family every year for many years, and into her 80s was

still travelling down on three trains to Hull to visit Dorothy, always there at birthdays and Christmas. After she broke her hip her activities had to be curtailed somewhat, but she still resolutely refused all help that was offered to her in the flat. The support of her son Richard was hugely important in enabling her retain a large degree of independence.

As she was less able to get out and about, things June had enjoyed previously became even more important – she was forever doing puzzles, and watching quizzes and Countdown on the TV, often doing better than the contestants! She was a great reader and regular at the library. She loved her food and cooked for many people over the years, and was a fan of a glass of red wine.

Friary Court was a good place for her to be, and she reconnected with many people she had known over the years not least through having attended many a coffee morning there. She, and the family, were able to relax knowing that she was secure.

Church was a huge part of June's life, both spiritual and social. As you might expect she loved to sing hymns, and would sit and read through the words before the service and chat about her favourites. She wasn't a fan of the new ones she didn't know the tune to! A moment of fame came when she was on Songs of Praise, watched over and again by the family, with grandson Adam most unimpressed that she wouldn't wave back to him! This fame was perhaps only beaten by her appearance on Google streetview on Inverkeithing High Street!

She very much loved the children at church, and she and the family were very grateful to those who gave her lifts and enabled her to continue this part of her life. Her faith was deep, and it's into the hands of the God whom she loved and worshipped that we trust her today.

The suddenness of June's death has been a great shock and today of course we gather in great sadness that she has gone. But we remember someone who loved to laugh, and I hope that today there will be laughter in amongst the tears.

June was in church the Sunday before she died, and one of the hymns sung that day was "All praise to our redeeming Lord", a good traditional one she will have enjoyed. In retrospect, the last verse seems very fitting:

And if our fellowship below  
in Jesus be so sweet,  
what heights of rapture shall we know  
when round his throne we meet!

In our reading we heard Jesus promise his followers that he was going ahead of them to prepare a place for them. They didn't understand the entirety of what he meant, and I guess we don't either, but what we do trust is that he is faithful to that promise and that June, no longer here with us, is now part of a greater fellowship beyond the grave, free from the frustrations that increasing frailty brought, and able to sing and laugh in freedom forever where one day we shall join her.

Jesus also promised that when he left his disciples he would leave them his peace, and in the pain and sorrow of today and the days to come, I pray that each of you would know that peace that passes all understanding.

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## Plan ahead ...

The hymns that were sung at June's funeral were:

"Praise my soul, the king of heaven"

"Abide with me"

"Great is thy faithfulness"

Have you ever thought about which hymns you would like at your funeral?

The question isn't as morbid as it sounds!

Twice recently your editor has had to arrange a funeral service and struggled to choose the most appropriate hymns. So we will never know whether his choice would have pleased those who had 'gone before'.

So why not tell someone close how you would like to be remembered? While you're choosing the hymns, you can reflect on all the glorious promises of God encapsulated in them, and expressed so well.



# Invitations and requests – 1

## Bishop David's walkabout

Bishop David will be taking a walk around Rosyth on **Wednesday 7 October** from 10.30am–3.30pm, starting with coffee at our church.

A small group from our Local Ecumenical Partnership will be joining him for their visit to the Dockyard and another community facility.

After the walkabout, Bishop David will be the guest speaker at Wednesday Fellowship.

## Joint Service on 18 October

Our joint communion service will be led by the Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews (and Primus of the SEC) and the Rev David Easton, Chair of the Scottish District Synod.

Both are well-known to our congregations, but this will be the first opportunity for them to take part together, although Bishop David and Rev Lily Twist (David Easton's predecessor) celebrated a joint communion service in November 2012.

The congregation of Holy Trinity, Dunfermline will be worshipping with us at Rosyth for the first time, and a joint choir will lead the praise.

The "sermon slot" will take the form of a dialogue between the two Davids, fuelled by insights from the walkabout.

Please do try to attend on this very special occasion.

**Note** that this will be the October joint service – on the *third* Sunday, rather than the fourth – although Sunday@Six will be on the fourth Sunday as usual.

## Congregational AGM

St Margaret's Annual General Meeting will take place on the morning of **Sunday 15 November** at about 10.45am in the church lounge (after the 9.30am service at which we celebrate our patron St Margaret of Scotland). Please make a note of the date now and join us at this very important event, and share your views on matters affecting the running of our church.

## Sunday Bible Study

Alison's informal Sunday evening meetings attract a steady following, both regulars and occasional visitors, who enjoy the opportunity to read through the Bible passages for the following Sunday, and have time for reflection and prayer. These meetings are open to everyone who is interested, and not restricted to those reading and leading intercessions in church the next Sunday.

Please note that while the normal venue remains the Rectory we are continuing to meet at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for the time being. Any change to this will be communicated on the website and the weekly notice sheet.

## Methodist Women in Britain (Scotland)

**Saturday 10 October** is Methodist Women in Britain (Scotland) District Day at Armadale Methodist Church from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. The speaker is Mrs Linda Crossley, Connexional MWiB Vice President 2015/16 and the theme is Dementia Awareness. There is a Market Place – Bring and Buy. Lunch ticket is £8 (including tea and coffee on arrival). To assist with catering requirements, tickets are available from Gail Balfour by phoning 01698 823132.

# Invitations and requests – 2

## Events at St Finnian's

It is always good to hear of events taking place in other churches in this part of the Diocese and at St Finnian's Lochgelly, our friend, the Rev Margaret Dineley is leading a Taizé-style service at 7.00pm on **Sunday 11 October** and a Compline service at 7.00pm on **Sunday 8 November**, both of which are open to all. We don't very often get the chance to take part in the quiet and reflective service of Compline, so Remembrance Sunday offers an opportunity to do so.

On **Friday 27 November** members of St Finnian's are supporting the Spatz & Co Smooth Jazz Showband in their concert at 7.30pm in the Lochgelly Centre. St Finnian's role is to act as welcomers, have a stand about themselves at the back of the hall, and set up the hall for the audience.

Spatz & Co are five musicians from varied musical and performing backgrounds who have been playing in bands for at least twenty years and performing all kinds of music. They came together in early 2013 to form a band whose focus is on a mix of jazz standards and melodic pop.

The advert in the 'What's On in Fife' booklet offers tickets at £11.50, but people who get in touch with Margaret to reserve tickets can avoid the admin charge and get tickets for £10!

## Put your Christmas greetings in Contact

As usual, our December/January issue will provide you with an opportunity to broadcast your greetings to readers, in exchange for a donation to a charity of your choice. Copy must reach the Editor by **Sunday 22 November**.

## Broaden your mind!

The Autumn lectures at St Margaret's Leven continue with their very varied programme!

The second lecture will be given on **Monday 5 October** by Canon Joe Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms, who is the heraldic authority in Scotland and responsible for all state ceremonial. Joe hails from Fife and is an advocate, President of the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland, Vice Lord Lieutenant of the City of Dundee, and incumbent of the Chapel of Glamis Castle. He is also a commander of the Venerable Order of St John. Joe will speak on *The Court of the Lord Lyon with special reference to heraldry around Leven and the surrounding area*.

On **Monday 2 November**, the Very Reverend Hunter Farquharson, Provost of St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth will speak on *Tattoos and Piercings*.

The lectures, to be held in St Margaret's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Leven, will begin at 7.00pm followed by refreshments. Admission is free. There will be a retiring collection for the Leven Foodbank. All are most welcome to attend.

## St Andrews West Fife Area Council

The next Area Council Meeting will be on **Thursday 19 November** at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, when the speaker will be the Rev Thomas Brauer who will talk on his role as Diocesan Missioner. During the evening we will also plan our programme for 2016. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

# Two pleas from Evelyn Kenny

## Taking the church into Rosyth

For a number of years we have only with difficulty been able to fill the Church's slot on the Rosyth Churches' rota for the Resource Centre. It would be very helpful if more people from our congregation were able to join the small group of faithful and willing helpers to share an act of worship with the clients who attend the Centre. Many were active members of their local churches, but now through age and physical difficulties do not have that connection. Taking Church to them in a small act of singing, praying and Bible story-telling is met with real enthusiasm and appreciation.

We are also looking for more people to fill our monthly commitment at Orchardhead House. The current group of leaders have a number of our congregations who can join in the singing and musical leadership, but we are always hoping and praying that more would feel able to help.

Training and guidance is available within our congregation – and would not be too daunting to absorb.

The clients and residents of both establishments are really pleased to find that Church still comes to them in their now much changed circumstances.

Please give this some thought and prayer. If you feel that you would be able to help with this small but very valuable part of our reaching out into the local parish (not the wider world as John Wesley said), please get in touch with Evelyn Kenny, Mary Kidd or Gwyneth Kirby.

We will all be pleased to hear from you.

## A fashion statement!

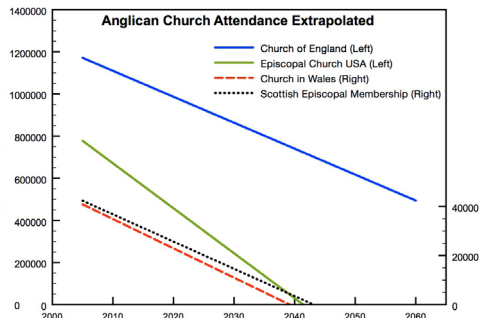
I'm planning to put together an exhibition of costume for May 2016. In the last 100 years civilian fashions and the clothing worn by Navy personnel and clergy have changed dramatically and I feel an exhibition would be of interest to the current population of Rosyth.

You have guessed the next part of this item by now – I need your help!

- Do you have your own or your grandparents' uniform hiding at the back of the wardrobe?
- Do you have your Granny's wedding dress in a trunk in the attic?
- Were you in the Navy in the past?
- Have you photos of weddings or baptisms with clergy vestments visible in a group picture?
- Do you have a dressmaker's dummy in the spare room or shed?

If you have answered YES to any of these questions I need to know SOON!

Hoping to hear from lots of you. I'm sure we can put together an interesting exhibition of Dockyard and Church-related fashions through the century as part of our own Anniversary.



Predicted decline and fall – see the opposite page

# Church Centenary

March 2016 – February 2017

Gwyneth Kirby gives us an update

When I was first asked to get involved in the planning of events for the Church Centenary it all seemed very remote, a very long time in the future! But here we are: in just a few months our celebrations will begin. And celebrating is what we want to be doing, as we give thanks for 100 years of Methodism in Rosyth.

You should have received with your copy of Contact a brochure outlining all the events which are planned for the year. Please take time to look through the brochure now so that you can plan which of the events you would like to attend. The success of our celebrations depends on all of you supporting the events. Please pass on brochures to your family, friends and neighbours. We would love to see them at all the events too. I hope you will agree that there is something there for everyone to enjoy.

The opening event will of course be our Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving. (Historians will have noticed that this will

take place one week later than the actual anniversary!) This will be followed by a buffet lunch to which everyone is invited. A number of special guests have already been invited, and the lunch will give people a chance to catch up with those who have played a part in the history of our Church.

Details of all the events will be made known as we get nearer to each event, but I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Merchandise will be on sale before Christmas and throughout the Centenary year, giving you a chance to purchase gifts for other people as well as souvenirs to keep for yourselves.

Many people will be involved in the presentation of all these events, but many more will be needed to make sure they all run smoothly. Why not offer your help now?

Please help to make this special year a success. We need your support!

## Extinct by 2043?

John Hayward's Church Growth Modelling research project uses the techniques of mathematical sociology to understand the growth and decline of the Christian Church. Recent blogs (<http://tinyurl.com/q76vqmj> and <http://tinyurl.com/net3bru>) explore Anglican decline and predict the demise of the SEC by 2043 (figure on left).

Bishop David has responded:

"The statistics make sobering reading. I think I understand why they reach the conclusion they do. I don't believe that the church will be extinct in 2043. But it will almost certainly look very different.

"Most of our clergy and people recognise the challenge we face ... there comes a point beyond which it is simply very difficult to grow back because the existing congregation doesn't have enough contact across the spectrum of age in its own community."

Alison has asked us all to read Bishop David's blog at <http://tinyurl.com/odwqd5o>, to follow the links, and to prayerfully consider our response as we look towards the future and how we support and nurture the young within our congregations.

## Show you care ...



The development of the Fairtrade Mark and the sales of Fairtrade goods in supermarkets are really good news stories of the past decade. Traidcraft was instrumental in supporting these developments.



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

However, Traidcraft does much more than comply with a set of standards. Fair trade isn't just part of Traidcraft's business, it's all of Traidcraft's business. In 35 years of trading, Traidcraft's mission is unchanged – to apply the love and justice which lies at the heart of Christian faith to international trade, and so to give the world's poorest farmers the opportunity to trade fairly and to thrive.

- For its entire history Traidcraft has been a pioneer and innovator in Fair Trade
- Traidcraft has a strong sense of partnership with many of its suppliers
- Traidcraft focuses on the most marginalised groups in developing countries – groups that mainstream businesses would not work with
- Traidcraft strives to understand suppliers' problems and assists in finding solutions. It seeks funding for projects to help suppliers grow and develop sustainable businesses.
- Traidcraft ensures that the people who make or grow the products are connected with the people who buy them by telling their stories and showing their pictures.



Traidcraft believes this is the 'best of fair trade'. Sadly, despite the growth of total Fairtrade sales, Traidcraft's own sales have declined significantly. Indeed, the annual accounts show a trading loss for the fourth consecutive year. One reason is that people are now buying Fairtrade products from supermarkets rather than from Traidcraft or its supporters.

This means our original pioneering mission is now under serious threat. **Traidcraft asks you to 'Show You Care' this Christmas** by buying Fairtrade foods and crafts. We have a Traidcraft stall in the Crush Hall after most joint services, and Myra Tarr will be happy to give you a catalogue. Or you can shop online at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

### 'Care for Creation' ...

... is the theme for Scottish Interfaith Week running **from 22 to 30 November**. With the Climate Change Summit taking place in December, Interfaith Scotland is focusing on what faiths have to say about caring for the environment and protecting it for future generations.

The launch of the Week is at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on **Sunday 22 November** from 2.00–4.30pm and there will be events all over Scotland during the week. Details at [www.interfaithscotland.org](http://www.interfaithscotland.org).

Established by Interfaith Scotland in 2004, Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for individuals, local interfaith groups and faith communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity and to plan events that bring local people together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities.



# Woolly Hat Day 2015

Sue Masson puts on her MtS bonnet ...



I know that some of you regularly knit hats for the Missions to Seafarers which Adrian takes out to the cruise ships in Rosyth and container and bulk carriers in Grangemouth. These provide warmth and comfort to men and women who usually come from much warmer parts of the world and it is a small thank you to them for bringing the 90% of all our goods we enjoy safely to the UK.

Every year MtS designates a day as Woolly Hat Day, this year being **Friday 9 October**, to try to make people more aware of the seafarers who spend a long time away from home, sometimes in very dangerous conditions.

So, on 9 October, whether you choose to wear a hat or not, I would ask you to remember the crews of Rijnborg and GB Rotterdam, who are visiting Grangemouth regularly at the moment, and the support vessels VOS Tiree and VOS Power who are local, although their crews may not be.

If you would like to knit a hat, or try a new design, the following pattern is easy and quick to make.

Materials:

- Aran weight wool
- 1 pair 5mm needles

Cast on 90 stitches and work 22 rows in K2 P2 rib, inc 1 stitch at end of last row (91 stitches)

Change to stocking stitch ( knit a row, purl a row) for 24 rows

Shape top:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Row 1        | (K8 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 2,3,4    | Purl a row, knit a row, purl a row                |
| Row 5        | (K7 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 6,7,8    | Purl a row, knit a row, purl a row                |
| Row 9        | (K6 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 10,11,12 | Purl a row, knit a row, purl a row                |
| Row 13       | (K5 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 14       | Purl a row  |
| Row 15       | (K4 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 16       | Purl a row  |
| Row 17       | (K3 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 18       | Purl a row  |
| Row 19       | (K2 sts, K2 tog) repeat( ) to last stitch, K1     |
| Row 20       | Purl 2 sts tog, repeat to end of row, 14 stitches |

Break yarn and thread through remaining 14 stitches, pull up and fasten off securely. Sew up seam.

# Helping others

## Rosyth Foodbank

It is a surprise to think that the Foodbank in Rosyth opened two years ago on 16 September.

The forward planning by so many people, including Ron and Mary Dempster, paved the way so well for the later volunteers like myself to get on with the job during the working sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4.00–6.00pm.

Since opening, Warren Murphy, the Rosyth Organiser, tells us that Rosyth Foodbank has provided food and necessities for about 800 local people and 400 children.

When the sessions are not busy, it means there is time to check that our donated supplies are in date and the shelves are well stocked and tidy for ease of access when packing for our clients. The generosity of Rosyth folk means that we do have a constant supply of food, toiletries, household cleaning products and pet food.

When money is short, and when food is the most urgent need, it is these last items that are the things that seem to run out and are difficult to replace. So our unusual harvest festival offering this year of toiletries will be greatly appreciated and well used.

I must thank both congregations for their kindness and thoughtfulness over the past two years and the ongoing support for your neighbours in need.

Erica Lock



Delicious cakes to eat in or carry out!

## Triangle Coffee Shop

On Friday 25 September, like many thousands of other people throughout the UK, we held a coffee morning at our Coffee Shop to raise money for **Macmillan Cancer Research**.



Extra staff from other teams were drafted in to help, and people had been very busy baking to provide not just the usual selection of home baking, but a whole lot more. There was so much choice that I think some of our customers took twice as long to decide what they wanted to sample! There was always the option of tasting one thing over coffee and buying something else to take home.

We opened at 9.30am as usual, and from then until long after our normal closing time we were busy serving. There wasn't a quiet moment the whole morning, and we apologise if the service wasn't quite as efficient or as personal as usual!

We were thrilled to find that £223 had been raised, and even more thrilled when an anonymous donor called in with £120 in 20p pieces to be added to our total. A really worthwhile morning!

Thank you to all those who came along to support the morning, and who ate heartily and gave generously. Thank you to our mysterious donor. And thank you to all who baked and ran around serving our customers on the day.

Normal service will be resumed next week!

Gwyneth Kirby

# Diary for October 2015

## Sunday 4 October

- Pentecost 19      9.30am   Sung Eucharist      Rev Alison Cozens
- 11.00am   Morning Worship      Rev Keith Pearce  
                                 Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
- 3.00pm   Service to launch the Scottish Episcopal Institute in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. Preacher: The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus and Bishop of St Andrews.  
All are warmly invited, but please inform Mrs Denise Brunton, SEI Administrator, if you intend to come as there will be a reception after the service in the Chapter House (DeniseB@scotland.anglican.org)
- 8.00pm   Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday 11 October and anyone else interested (see page 14)

Monday 5 Oct      7.00pm   "Lecture at Leven": Joe Morrow on *The Court of the Lord Lyon* (see page 15)

Tuesday 6 Oct      6.30pm   Methodist Leadership Team meeting at Mary Kidd's home

7.00pm   Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society presents 'Mapping the Music – Near and Far Autumn Travels' in Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. (see page 42 for details)

Wednesday 7 Oct   10.30am   Bishop David's visit to Rosyth starting with coffee at the Church and including visit to the Dockyard (see page 14)

2.15pm   Wednesday Fellowship:  
Guest speaker The Most Rev David Chillingworth

Friday 9 Oct      9.30am   Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  
to 11.30am   – tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm   Choir practice

Saturday 10 Oct   11.00am   Methodist Women in Britain (Scotland) District Day  
to 3.00pm   Armadale Methodist Church. Theme: *Dementia Awareness*. Speaker: Mrs Linda Crossley, Connexional MWiB Vice President 2015/16. Lunch ticket £8.  
(For more details see page 14)

## Sunday 11 October

- Pentecost 18      9.30am   Sung Eucharist      Rev Alison Cozens
- 11.00am   Morning Worship      Professor Jeremy Bradshaw
- Note:** No Messy Church during school holidays

# Diary for October 2015

- |                  |                      |  |
|------------------|----------------------|--|
| Sunday 11 Oct    | 7.00pm               | Taizé-style service at St Finnan's Church, Lochgelly led by Rev Margaret Dineley. All welcome to attend  |
|                  | 8.00pm               | Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors at the joint service on Sunday 18 October and anyone else interested (see page 14) |
| Tuesday 13 Oct   | 10.00am              | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns   |
| Wednesday 14 Oct | 2.15pm               | Wednesday Fellowship: Fife Children's Clothing Bank  |
| Friday 16 Oct    | 9.30am<br>to 11.30am | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>– tea, coffee and home baking  |
|                  | 7.00pm               | Choir rehearsal for joint service on Sunday 18 October   |

## Sunday 18 October

- |                  |                      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
|                  | 9.45am               | Choir rehearsal for 11am joint service  |
|                  | 11.00am              | Joint Communion Service<br>The Most Rev David Chillingworth<br>and Rev Dr David Easton<br><br>Traidcraft goods on sale after the service              |
|                  | 3.00pm               | Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth  |
|                  | 8.00pm               | Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline<br>for readers and intercessors on Sunday 25 October and<br>anyone else interested (see page 14) |
| Wednesday 21 Oct | 2.15pm               | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker Helen Farquhar: Walking for CHAS   |
| Friday 23 Oct    | 9.30am<br>to 11.30am | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>– tea, coffee and home baking   |
|                  | 7.00pm               | Choir practice  |

## Sunday 25 October

- |              |         |   |                    |
|--------------|---------|---|--------------------|
| Pentecost 20 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist  | Rev Alison Cozens  |
|              | 11.00am | Morning Worship   | Dr Anne Pennington |
|              |         | Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)   |                    |
|              | 6.00pm  | Sunday@Six: Andrew Wedge of Holy Trinity speaks about his recent pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (see page 34)                             |                    |
|              | 8.00pm  | Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday I November and anyone else interested (see page 14) |                    |

# Diary for October/November 2015

Monday 26 Oct	7.00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday 27 Oct	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry Meeting in the small lounge
Wednesday 28 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Sarah Brown – A World at School
Friday 30 Oct	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	to 11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

## Sunday 1 November

All Saints /Souls	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Paul Singh
	8.00pm	Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday 8 November and anyone else interested (see page 14)	
Monday 2 Nov	7.00pm	"Lecture at Leven": The Very Reverend Hunter Farquharson, Provost of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on <i>Tattoos and Piercings</i> (see page 15)	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical study group at Rosyth Parish Church, Queensferry Road	
Wednesday 4 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Bring and Buy Sale – fundraising event	
Friday 6 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	to 11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 7 Nov	2.00pm	RSCM Dunblane Singing Day Rehearsal followed at	
	5.00pm	Service (see page * for details)	

## Sunday 8 November

Remembrance	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
	9.15am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	10.50am	Parade Service	Mr Edward Idle
	7.00pm	Compline at St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly led by Rev Margaret Dineley. All welcome to attend	
	8.00pm	Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday 15 November and anyone else interested (see page 14)	



# Diary for November 2015

Tuesday 10 Nov	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
	7.30pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at CEMC
Wednesday 11 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Fire safety in the home
Friday 13 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	to 11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 14 Nov	2.00pm	'Come and Sing' Scotland: Brahms <i>Ein Deutsches</i>
	to 5.30pm	<i>Requiem</i> . Rehearsal at St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh
	7.00pm	Performance Conductor Christopher Bell (see page 42)

## Sunday 15 November

St Margaret	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	10.45am	AGM of the St Margaret's Congregation in Church Lounge	
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Alan Whitson
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth	
	4.00pm	Ordination to the priesthood of Rev Margaret Dineley St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth (see page 39)	
	8.00pm	Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors at the joint service on Sunday 22 November and anyone else interested (see page 14)	
Wednesday 18 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Peter Cozens	
Thursday 19 Nov	7.30pm	Area Council Meeting at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline: Guest speaker: Rev Thomas Brauer on the role of the Diocesan Missioner	
Friday 20 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	to 11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 21 Nov	7.30pm	Scottish Chamber Choir performs Duruflé <i>Requiem</i> in Old Saint Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church, Edinburgh (see page 42 for details)	

## Sunday 22 November

Christ the King	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Andrew Letby
		Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)	
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	

## Diary for November/December 2015

Sunday 22 Nov	2.00pm	Launch of Scottish Interfaith Week
	to 4.30pm	Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh (see page 18)
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six: Choral Evensong for St Cecilia's Day
	8.00pm	Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday 29 November and anyone else interested (see page 14)
Tuesday 24 Nov	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
Wednesday 25 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: The Triangle – Jean Hall and Gwyneth Kirby
Friday 27 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	to 11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
	7.30pm	Spatz & Co concert in the Lochgelly Centre (see page 15 for details)

## Sunday 29 November

Advent 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Keith Pearce
	8.00pm	Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday 6 December and anyone else interested (see page 14)	
Monday 30 Nov	7.30pm	Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (see page 29)	
Tuesday 1 Dec	7.00pm	Christmas Nativity Event, Rosyth Parish Church (ticket-only; see page 29)	
Wednesday 2 Dec	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker from CHAS	
Friday 4 Dec	9.30am to 11.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall – tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

## Sunday 6 December

Advent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	
	8.00pm	Bible Study at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dunfermline for readers and intercessors on Sunday 13 December and anyone else interested (see page 14)	

# Diary for December 2015

Monday 7 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (see page 29)
Tuesday 8 Dec	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
Wednesday 9 Dec	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Christmas Celebration, Quiz, Music
Friday 11 Dec	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	to 11.30am	– tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

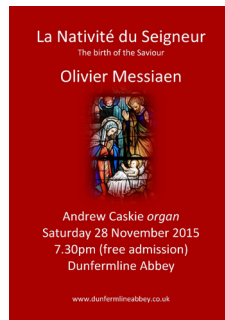
For updates to the diary, don't forget to look at the "What's On" sections of the Church websites, or read the weekly joint notices!



## Fife Art Exhibition

Fife Art Exhibition, which runs from **10 October to 13 November** in the Kirkcaldy Galleries, features art work from local artists living in Fife and is well worth a visit. You may even spot pictures by Adrian and Sue Masson!

If you haven't been there recently, we would recommend going anyway, as the library, museum and art gallery complex, now known as the Kirkcaldy Galleries, was reopened after a major refurbishment just two years ago, and is now a very attractive and inviting place. It's conveniently close to the railway station, so you can enjoy the beautiful Fife coast on the way!



## Organ music for Advent

Andrew Caskie, the organist at Palmerston Place Church, is giving a complete (and free!) performance of Olivier Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* on the magnificent organ in Dunfermline Abbey at 7.30pm on **Saturday 28 November**.

Forming one of the greatest organ works of the twentieth century, the nine movements of the work are full of radiant and evocative music that illuminate the message and poetic images of Advent and Christmas. Each of the movements will be preceded by a reading of the Scripture verses that Messiaen referenced at its head.

# From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby writes ...

Dear friends

John Wesley described his 'parish' as being the world, by which he meant everyone, everywhere. His concern was not restricted to specific groups of people, ethnic, geographical or social. During August it felt as if the whole of Wesley parish has landed on my doorstep as Edinburgh is in full festival mode. Everywhere I went there was music, people dressed up in the brightest and weirdest of costumes, myriad accents and languages to be heard and of course no-one quite seemed to be able to decide which way to walk or drive causing massive confusion, frustration and hilarity. Sometimes we were not be sure whether to laugh or cry – if in doubt I suggest we learn from theologian Karl Barth who said, "Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God."

At City of Edinburgh Methodist Church we found ourselves at the heart of this fun and creativity and café, theatre spaces and indeed Sunday Worship was filled with visitors from all around the world. We flung open our doors and welcomed the world. In this second year of being a major Fringe venue we were pleased to welcome back friends that we made last year and who appreciated our welcome and hospitality. It was particularly good to renew our relationship with Greenside Venues who describe the church as part of their 'family'; I hope the church see them as part of our family too.

Obviously the opportunities in the city are specific, but that does not mean that other congregations cannot find ways to welcome the world. The need for us to grasp such opportunities is one of the key themes being proclaimed by this year's President of Conference.

So what do we have? The Methodist heritage in Dunbar already attracts wide interest, just imagine how much can be made of that if we can find some resources of people and money and work together with the local community. Our buildings in Kirkcaldy and Granton lie at the heart of communities with great need, by finding the right partners and opening the doors the impact on the lives of local people can be immense. Rosyth are already experimenting with a Coffee Shop – what might follow from that? In Livingston the revitalised Parish has many contacts across the town and opportunities to develop these. Looking only a little way ahead, the building in Cockenzie could find itself in an entirely new place as plans form to develop the site of the power station. Our message to the 'world' must be 'welcome'.

As I think about our local welcome, I am also mindful of the situation of migrants who are desperately seeking a welcome all over the world, including those who seek to come to the United Kingdom. The churches Joint Public Issues Team have recently produced a statement which encourages a pastoral response from Christian folk and tries to counter some of the sensationalist language which has dominated the media reports. You can find it at <http://tinyurl.com/oucsprn>.

Talking of welcome, on 4 September we welcomed Rev Stephanie Njeru beginning her ministry as part of the team in Livingston. It was time of great celebration and a truly ecumenical occasion as senior representatives of all the four partner denominations share in leading the service. She comes back to Scotland with her husband Zak and son Elisha.

/cont'd over

## Area Council meeting

/from previous page

Though Stephanie's role will be based primarily in Livingston, she is stationed to the circuit as a whole and she will be involved in various aspects of circuit life

We also welcomed some more new names to the Plan – Rev Andrew Bain, the Rector at St. Anne's Church, Dunbar, has been designated by Conference as an Associate Minister, a real sign of the exciting ecumenical developments in the town. We also welcome a new supernumerary minister, Rev Bob Barker and his wife Doreen move to us from Cumbria.

Finally, a note about circuit stewards. We say farewell to David Bradwell who is stepping down from this role as his wife Aniko seeks her first appointment as a Church of Scotland Minister. We wish them both well in their journeying together wherever it may take them. I also want to express my thanks to Lyn Smalridge who was due to step down as a circuit steward this summer, but as we have not found anyone to join the team this summer has agreed to serve one more year. We have a couple of folk waiting in the wings to take up the role in future years but we are always glad to hear from anyone who would like to explore whether this important task might be right for them.

God bless

Andrew



### Prayer of thanksgiving

And now we give you thanks because all things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws, but you have chosen to create us in your own image, setting us over the whole world in all its wonder. You have made us stewards of your creation, to praise you day by day for the marvels of your wisdom and power: so earth unites with heaven to sing the new song of creation: **Hosanna!**

Alan, Erica and Valerie represented St Margaret's at the St Andrews West Fife Area Council's annual church service at St Columba's, Aberdeen, on 6 September, led by the Rev Dean Norby, Rector of All Souls Fife (formerly the Aberdeen, Burntisland and Inverkeithing Group)

Val reported: It certainly was very different from a usual service, with a mix of old and new. Dean Norby led worship, describing it as a "Praise and prayer" service.

"Praise to the Lord, the almighty", was followed by the collect for purity and the confession and absolution. But here the old met the new! The congregation was led by two members of St Peter's singing "When I survey" and "Seek ye first the kingdom of God". It was lovely to hear the guitar leading us, and a real treat for me who likes to play hymns on the guitar ... usually in the comfort of my own bedroom!

The congregation then divided into three groups each with a prayer leader, to pray for the church, for our concerns and for the refugee crisis in Europe. This was a new experience for me, but it appears that All Souls are experimenting with this form of prayerfulness. I am sure I might get used to it, but I confess to being rather 'tense' throughout the experience.

Ed: our other delegates shared Val's uncertainty about this "time of open prayer" – not part of the usual episcopalian experience, though common among non-conformists.

We finished the service by singing "Be thou my vision" and saying the Grace together. Refreshments were served afterwards. I have often driven past St Columba's on my way to the beach, and many a time I have wondered what the church was like inside. I can report that it is very beautiful and well worth a visit!



# Working together

## Parish Church re-dedication

Following the extensive work completed at Rosyth Parish Church over the last couple of years, the church will be re-dedicated at a special service at 10.30 am on **Sunday 11 October**. At the same time, the Rosyth Community and Heritage Project will be opened. St Margaret's will be represented by Erica Lock and Alan Taylor, both of whom have been connected with the parish church for many years. A celebratory lunch will be held after the service.

For those not at this service, the building will be also be open the following week (12–18 October): Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 2.00–4.00pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30–8.30pm.

But perhaps most important of all, worship will restart there straightaway, and organisations such as the Ecumenical Study Group will return from St Columba's. At this time, it is not known what the future will be for St Columba's.

There is still time for anyone who may like to remember one of their family connected with the parish church by sponsoring a chair, at a very reasonable charge of £50 for a chair without arms, or £65 for one with arms. All donors will have their names recorded in a memorial book. Please speak to Alan Taylor if you would like to do that.



## Prayer after communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Rosyth Nativity 2015

All the details about the Nativity at the parish church on **Tuesday 1 December** are as per the article in the last issue of Contact, but watch out also for the posters which will be displayed in churches and schools.

Thanks are due to Messy Church and the youth groups who are producing small hand-made arts and crafts for use with the Advent Calendar.

## Ecumenical Advent Study

At the time of going to print, details of this year's Advent Study Group are not known. However this will probably start on **Monday 30 November** in the Parish Church. Further information nearer the time from Alan Taylor.

## Giving to Others

Since the last issue, St Margaret's completed the third of its three annual retiring collections, when it was able to send a cheque for £203.78 to the Provincial Community Fund, which supports those most in need in our society when all other sources of help have been exhausted. At the end of our church year, we have also been able to send £250 each from our Giving to Others Fund to the Royal School of Church Music 70th Anniversary Appeal, to Mission Aviation Fellowship Scotland and to Marie Curie Scotland. We hope to support another charity when Brambles refunds the rest of the financial support we were able to offer last December when the charity was being wound up. That Brambles has been able to achieve this is down to the sterling work of the Trustees in settling the accounts of the charity.

# Leadership Team update

David Salthouse reports ...

The team met on 18 August and discussion was based around four main areas.

## **Arrangements during Helen's maternity leave**

Our Superintendent, Andrew Letby, was in attendance at the meeting and he addressed some of the issues that needed to be covered during this time. He explained that the Circuit does not have any dedicated 'locum' cover in these situations, but there were a number of actions which would be taken to make sure that the Church was able to meet its spiritual, pastoral and regulatory responsibilities. The preaching plan would be produced as normal, with effort given to continuity of some people coming more regularly. Contact with the Circuit would be via the Circuit Office with details of 'on-call' ministers outside of normal working hours. These details will be provided on the letterhead and pew notices. The email address for the minister will also go directly to the Circuit Office and any necessary arrangements for funeral, weddings, baptisms, etc. would be provided centrally.

The role of the Circuit Stewards would increase to assist with some of the more business related matters concerning the church. This could include attendance at Church Council, leadership team meetings and other meetings as required. This role will be undertaken by Allan Henderson, whom many of you will already know.

For those meetings requiring a ministerial presence, Andrew will continue to lead but the location and format may be changed to make these more streamlined to discuss only the required trustee business (finance, property, safeguarding). These may be

held jointly with other councils within the Circuit. The joint meetings with St Margaret's will continue as is, with the chair alternating as before. This may be chaired by a lay member from existing Rosyth Church Council or Allan as Circuit Steward.

## **Forthcoming Services**

There are a number of special services coming up over the next few months, including Remembrance Sunday, Advent and the Christmas season. Since the meeting it has been confirmed that Remembrance Sunday will be a Parade Service with the inclusion of the uniformed sections from the Scouts and Guides.

There will be a similar format to the existing Christmas services which will include the joint carol service, Christmas Eve nativity, Christmas morning as well as a reflective service along the same lines as the "From hurt to hope" that Sarah had previously led. We intend to work with the local preachers and worship leaders as well as St Margaret's to make sure leaders are available for all these services.

In addition to the services at the Church there are also some outreach services that we currently support. We will be coordinating with existing service leaders and also the Local Preacher and Worship Leaders to provide suitable cover for these services.

## **Centenary Year**

Plans are progressing well for the forthcoming centenary year celebrations in 2016/17. There will be at least one event each month, with a number of on-going displays and initiatives throughout the year. Events confirmed so far include a flower

festival, a ceilidh, a barbeque, cream teas, concerts and a quiz evening, to name but a few. A brochure will be produced shortly which will be available for distribution. We are also linking in with the Rosyth Centenary Group so that our dates can be included in their booklet. A donation from the Circuit has been requested towards production and distribution costs of the booklet to all residents in Rosyth.

Service on **Sunday 13 March** will be the launch of the anniversary programme and it is hoped that as many former congregation, ministers and supporters as possible will be able to attend.

In addition to the brochure, a number of anniversary gifts, mugs, tea towels, etc. will be available to purchase during the year. If anyone would like to help with preparing for this period of celebration, please speak to Gwyneth Kirby.

### **Triangle Café**

The café has now been running for approximately 13 weeks and is proving to be well received by those visiting.

There was a discussion around providing tea or coffee for those who turned up but were unable to pay for their drinks. It was agreed that those on duty would let the visitor know that their drink had been provided for. Consideration was given to adopting a scheme similar to that used by some other coffee houses, whereby an extra cup could be gifted and thus build up a supply of 'donated' drinks for those unable to pay for their own.

There is still space for more volunteers: ideally we would like to have five on each team. If anyone would like to volunteer, please let us know.

### **AOB**

Jack has offered to host a **Prayer Group** at his house. If anyone is interested in taking part, please speak to Jack or one of the Leadership Team.

**Bishop's Visit** – this is planned for **7 October**. It will be followed by a Joint Communion Service on **18 October** with the Bishop and the Chair of the District leading the service.

**Contact** – the editorial responsibility for Contact newsletter reverts to the Methodists at Christmas. Sandra Young is prepared to maintain the joint notices but we will require someone (perhaps jointly with two people) to edit and produce Contact going forward.

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

Our next meeting is on **6 October**, when we will discuss any new ideas and take forward to the Church Council if appropriate. Thank you.



### **Blessing**

Go in the knowledge that you have been created in the image of a loving God  
Go as faithful and committed stewards of God's creation.

Go willing to share what you have been given to make this world a better place.

Go in the name of Christ, with the blessing of God, creator, redeemer and sustainer, today and always. **Amen.**

# Getting there the hard way!

Matthew Haigh reports on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela  
with Andrew Wedge (member at Holy Trinity)

I can't say I really knew what to expect from the pilgrimage. I love walking, but my tendency for developing blisters quickly has put me off long distance. But this seemed like far too good an opportunity to miss. It took less effort than I thought to convince Andrew to join me, although this might have been due to my liberal use of the word holiday, and not mentioning the long distance walking bit.



didn't really know anything about the Porvoo communion before I signed up for this trip, but I am now absolutely convinced of what a valuable link it is. From across many different countries and churches, we were a group of people with a common purpose. It was encouraging to learn that other churches are experiencing the same difficulties as us with their youth work. For instance the issue of how to develop a

So by the time we arrived in Porto ready to start the journey, both of us had only one question for each other. What are we doing here?! However, after lunch, a planning meeting, and a walk down to the Atlantic with the group, we both agreed that this seemed like a really cool group of people to be spending a week with. Representatives from Portugal, Spain, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. A motley collection of young people involved in a variety of roles within the church. Our group included people who work for the church full time as youth officers, ministers, and Bishops (+Jorge of Portugal, and +Carlos of Spain). Some such as ourselves did not hold any paid position within the church, but everyone present was involved in youth work to some extent (Andrew and I are leaders at the Glenalmond youth week, and both of us also volunteer time to other youth and 18+ events, including Andrew's spectacular youth network growing in Fife).

The week proved to be a fantastic resource for learning about how different churches approach youth work. I must admit that I

youth programme which appeals to a wide range of age groups and interests, or how to transition young people into becoming leaders themselves.

The networking opportunities of such a trip are also immense, and we are pleased to report that there is now real potential for a link being set up with Northern Ireland to send some of their young people to the Glenalmond youth week, and a sharing of youth leaders in both directions. Due to the great success of our lesson in ceilidh dancing, we are also hoping to make a tour of Scandinavia in the near future! In all seriousness though, we do hope to foster a link with Norway in particular, and I am excited to see what fruit will be borne from the seeds that this trip has planted.

After our arrival on Saturday, we spent the whole of Sunday in Porto getting the trip off to a relaxed start. At a service presided by +Jorge, we received a blessing for pilgrims, and a fantastic lunch provided by the congregation. It was fantastic not only to see the excitement of the group, but also the excitement of the people who had helped to plan and prepare the trip for us.



We were off! Leaving Allariz

The pilgrimage began in the Spanish border town of Allariz, 150km away from our destination. The journey was varied in many ways. We walked on roads and paths; through forest and farmland; in sunshine and in rain. But each day our routine was roughly the same. We got up at 6.45am, had breakfast and morning prayer, and then set off at about 8am to walk between 20 and 35km to our next night's accommodation. The pace was rather relentless in an effort to reach the end of the day before the afternoon heat had a chance to kick in. We regularly walked the entire distance with only one or two stops of no more than a few minutes. After a chance to eat and shower, we would find a local bar for a celebratory drink before our evening activities, which consisted of a presentation from one of the countries and night prayer.

We were following the Camino de Santiago, not the famous route from France, but on the Via de la Plata which would have been used by pilgrims travelling from central and southern Spain. However, the symbol of the scallop shell is still prevalent on route markers, and each of us carried our own shell given to us at our blessing service. It felt good to be carrying this marker of the religious nature of our pilgrimage. The route would no doubt be an excellent route to follow regardless of faith, nevertheless, walking the route as pilgrims gave a different sense of purpose than any other long journey I have done.



Markers always had the shell symbol

It should not be doubted for a moment that each of us travelled a meaningful journey with God over the course of the week. It is hard for me to place in words to what extent our physical journey became a spiritual one also. For me, each day was about asking God to be present as I walked.

Each morning we were given a card which contained the route for the day, and also a verse from a poem. I found that this poem had real meaning to me. It strongly describes the supporting role that God offers us, and I made it a habit to repeat the verses to myself each day as I was walking. For reasons beyond me, this seemed like an appropriate thing to do, and served as a wonderful way of bringing God into my walking. No matter how sore my feet felt, or how tired I was getting, simply repeating the verses and opening myself to God provided the strength I needed to carry on. I found that the act of pilgrimage was an effective way to strip away the distractions of life and allow time to reflect and focus on God.

However, for me the greatest lesson I learnt was not the great support that God has to offer. I realised that this is a role I spend a lot of time putting God in. Constantly bringing God my problems, and shortcomings, asking



## Getting there the hard way! – continued

for forgiveness. Somewhere along the way, sharing this experience with this fantastic group of people, I became acutely aware that I don't give God nearly enough credit for all the joy in my life. No matter what is happening, God is there as a source of joy for us. God is the living water that flows through us.

Living water was our biblical theme for the week, as we reflected on the story of Jesus asking the Samaritan woman for water from the well in John 4. There are many things to reflect on from this story, particularly relevant at the moment is the place of Samaritans in our own lives as we seek to help the refugees from Syria and other nations.

During the course of our evening activities, several people in the group shared moving accounts of their own journeys of faith. Some of these were a reminder that we must be open to everyone who seeks God. Church is not a place for our judgement, but for God's love. We must be aware of our ability to help people find this regardless of who they are, or how they appear to us.

These evenings were also a chance for people to talk about their own countries. Usually in a light hearted way. Each country had responsibility for one evening, and for Scotland's night we entertained with Whisky, Irn Bru, and ceilidh dancing that went down a storm, even on tired feet! The Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant, and Orcadian Strip the Willow served as a fun introduction to this excellent tradition, and many people expressed a desire to try it again in fresher form. There was even a request to travel to Finland in order to run a ceilidh at a wedding!

In the end, I have hardly talked at all about the walking. Don't be mistaken into thinking that the walking was some kind of chore. It was a fantastic route which I would happily

do again. From the exceptionally verdant hill farms to the beautiful and imposing monastery at Ourense, we saw all kinds of fantastic things. As an engineer I was particularly impressed by the beauty of the magnificent Ulla Viaducts. But ultimately the reason why I haven't written about everything we saw here is that these were not the important things. I believe that this pilgrimage could have been done on almost any route and had a similar effect.

I will finish with a prayer and by including the poem which was shared on our route cards and which provided me great strength.

Dear Lord, I pray for the journey that we made, and all those who made it possible. I pray that the effects of the pilgrimage stay with us, and are felt by those around us. I pray for the people of the Porvoo Communion, and the countries which are a part of it. I pray that we can all experience the great joy that you offer us.

For each step that I might take  
be my guide, O Lord of life.

For each load that I might bear  
be my strength, O Lord of life.

For each mountain I might face  
be my power, O Lord of life.

For each river that might impede  
be my safety, O Lord of life.

For each place where I might rest  
be my peace, O Lord of life.

For each sunrise and sunset  
be my joy, O Lord of life. Amen.

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### Santiago comes to Rosyth!

Andrew will be sharing his experiences of their pilgrimage at Sunday@Six at 6.00pm on **Sunday 25 October**. Do plan to come!

# Singing in Sudan

Ian Young

"The visa's been approved!" These words, heard on a Thursday morning, were music to my ears, but also stirred up a feeling of panic, as I had one day to get the visa put into my passport in London and have it returned to me so that I could fly on Saturday morning. All went well and I caught my flight via Istanbul to Khartoum.

My home for the next six days was the Corinthia Palace Hotel, overlooking the meeting point of the Blue Nile and White Nile. Funded and built by the Libyan government in 2008, it is known locally as "Gadaffi's Egg". In fact, its appearance evokes the fictitious robot R2-D2 of Star Wars Universe.



Ian with some of the twenty teachers

My purpose for the visit was to begin the British Council's World Voice Programme in Sudan. I was to be working with forty boys of ages 11–13 and twenty teachers. The boys turned out to be between 13 and 16 so I had to re-think some of my programme on the spot, as lots of things happen to boys voices between 13 and 16! There is little singing in Sudanese schools, but what the teenagers lacked in experience was more than compensated for by their enthusiasm and sheer determination.

We worked together each afternoon from 3.00–7.00pm on both physical and vocal warm-ups, posture and songs from various countries. As we learned our songs, I pointed out to the teachers why they were chosen and how they might incorporate them into their curriculum. The songs, all sung in their native languages, were from Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Chile and Scotland (in Gaelic). In addition, the boys had to record a Sudanese song for young people in other parts of the world to access and learn. In this task I was ably assisted by Amal Anour, a famous vocalist from Khartoum, whose sister is an ophthalmologist in Glasgow. My schedule also gave me the opportunity to visit the Director of Teacher Training at the Ministry of Education, appear on the Breakfast Show of Capital Radio and meet professors and students at the Faculty of Music and Drama.

The final afternoon was a demonstration/presentation of all our work to parents, teachers and government officials, which was well received. The country director of the British Council in Sudan wrote "the 'demonstration' on Thursday was one of those events that makes one proud, and humbled, to work for the British Council. I hope it is the beginning of a quiet revolution in Sudanese schools – well, perhaps not so quiet, given the enthusiasm for singing!" and a senior teacher said, "My hope is that our teachers will benefit from the unique approaches that you offered to deliver singing into our national curriculum. I will do my best to make your second visit a great success." I found it all such a fulfilling and enjoyable time, and will return in January to work with teachers and begin their training in this World Voice Programme.

# Working in partnership overseas

Jan Benvie reports

I have been a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church's Provincial Global Partnership Committee (GPC) for almost a year now, and thought it might interest readers of the Contact to hear a little about the work of the Committee.

Our recent change of name (from Overseas Committee) reflects our hopes and aspirations – we seek to work in partnership with churches and church groups around the world.

Each member of the committee is responsible for a portfolio, mine being Asia/Pacific/Middle East. Other portfolios are Africa, Education, Small Grants and Companion Partnership.

Most of our education budget is spent on theological training, with an emphasis of training in-country or as near to the person's home community as possible.

We prioritise funding projects that can then become self-sustaining – for example: a grant to a project in Burma to stock a village pharmacy which would then re-stock from profits as well as provide a small income for a local health visitor; a grant towards completing a diocesan-run guest house in Papua New Guinea which would then enable the diocese to generate income.

However, many communities that need support are not in a position to become self-funding, so the decision of which projects to support and by how much are difficult to make, there being so much need and so little money to go round – the SEC is a small church!

Here are some of the projects we have given grant to in the past year: Arunima Hospice (a project of the Calcutta Diocesan Trust Association), supporting those with AIDS; a children's summer camp in Bethlehem organised by Wi'am Palestinian Conflict

Resolution Center; a farming project in South Sudan, training local people in dry season farming and ox plough technology; medical equipment for the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; a children's playground in Georgia for a project that works with displaced families.

We work closely with international organisations, and often give small grants to help participants from Scotland attend events, including some support to Diocesan partnership visits, work that we believe enriches the church here in Scotland. Some examples are:

- One of the Committee's members, Angela Daye, organised an activity at this year's Glenalmond Youth Camp based on the International Anglican Family Network (IAFN) birth registration campaign (which we have supported).
- In Brazil the Anglican Service of Diakonia & Development have produced bible study material on violence against women and girls in faith communities, and the GPC are currently supporting the adaptation of this material for use in Scottish churches.
- The Committee were delighted to arrange the visit to this year's Just Festival in Edinburgh of Moumita Biswas of the Campaign of All India Council of Christian Woman. In a session chaired by Bishop John Armes, Ms Biswas was in conversation with Valerie Allan, Chair of the Church of Scotland's Violence Against Women Project, about how faith communities can play their part in the eradication of gender based violence.

## Making music

- At this year's General Synod Emily Aldritt spoke of her role on the UN Commission on the Status of Women and her attendance at the UN-NGO Convention on the Status of Women (supported by the Committee).
- The Committee were delighted that the Rev Kate Reynolds (formerly Curate at Old St Paul's in Edinburgh) attended on their behalf, a two week trip to Palestine/Israel organised by the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland.

We have close links with Papua New Guinea Church Partnership, Scottish Churches China Group, Christian Aid, Church Blind Mission, Ecumenical Initiative in Palestine-Israel (EAPPI) to name but a few.

We encourage links at local and international level. We don't arrange links with companion diocese around the world, but we do encourage them. For those interested, our next Companion Partnership Day will be on **21 November** in Perth.

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### Making music photos

From top to bottom these are:

Some boys recording a Sudanese song

Two members of the Fife Ukulele Orchestra

The St Margaret's Choir men:  
Adrian, Marc and Martin

Don't forget that the website version has photos in colour!

We're always pleased to have photographs with your articles, but please make sure that they are sharp and are sent at the original (i.e. largest possible) file size.

In this issue we talk about a number of people making music, and we thought it would be nice to include some photos of folk enjoying themselves!





# My journey towards ordination

The Revd Dr Margaret Dineley writes ...

God calls each one of us to work for Him and, in our attempt to discern what He is asking us to be and to do, we find ourselves undertaking amazing and unexpected journeys with all sorts of strange twists and turns. Often we are not aware that God is behind our various life decisions, whether large or small, and even if we are, we find ourselves constantly asking why we took a particular path or why we are faced with unexpected outcomes, sometimes good and energizing, but sometimes seemingly quite disastrous.

That quite neatly sums up my journey and I am sure that many of you can identify with my thoughts. We are all on paths leading up towards God, up towards what He truly made us to be, and the paths are all different because each one of us has been endowed with unique gifts and skills. Nonetheless, we get distracted along all sorts of side paths, which turn out to be dead ends - and we never know when we will find the summit, our fulfilment of God's purpose for us, or where it will be.

When I started singing in your choir, writing for this magazine and dividing my time of worship between yourselves and Holy Trinity, I was already re-treading a path I had deserted some years ago, that of training for lay readership. Your support, from the very first time I met any of you, was both encouraging and affirming and, I am well aware, continues to this day, despite the fact that I am now based in Lochgelly.



The fact that I was called by God, through our Bishop and Primus, to act in a missional, diaconal, role at St. Finnian's, rather than undertaking the role of a traditional lay reader, helped me to realise that I had not actually reached the summit, the point where I would be fulfilling God's purpose for me. In approaching my then priest-in-charge, Rev Thomas Brauer, to ask whether there was a chance that I might be considered for ordination to

the diaconate, I discovered that both he and the Bishop had been waiting for me to respond to that call! However, that still wasn't to be the summit. +David then asked me to consider the priesthood and there followed the usual discernment process, early on fuelled by a vital week's retreat at the Franciscan Friary in Alnmouth, to ask God whether it was truly He who was calling me, not just the church.

Your immense and heart-warming support of me continued when your choir contributed a wonderful musical accompaniment on the occasion of my ordination to the transitional diaconate in St Luke's, Glenrothes in April and indeed I spotted a number of you in the congregation that day. This was a repeat of the same incredible support you had shown at my licensing service in St Finnian's back in August 2013.

Since April I have undergone a strange curacy, in that the Central Fife Charge, incorporating Lochgelly, Glenrothes and Leven, being in vacancy, has meant that I have been acting as Curate-in-charge at

/cont'd opposite



# Being a good wife!

This year, the lectionary included Proverbs 31:10-31 in September, and we will be reading the passage again during our celebration of St Margaret, so the editor was interested in this post by Rev Pam Webster, which was her “Pam’s Perambulations” blog for 14 September.

“In our contemporary world, this passage from Proverbs seems incredibly non politically correct, patronising and demeaning of women. It appears to reduce women to their role as a good wife, all the lovely things they can do for their husbands, and can even come across as a pat on the head for the good little wife. Being a wife is not the same today as it was when Proverbs was written – and many more are not wives than are.

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/from opposite

St Finnian’s, undertaking full responsibility for the running of the church. However, I am delighted to say that the congregation, like yourselves, are extremely supportive and have an incredible variety of gifts. God has certainly been supporting me as I travel onwards to the next stage of my journey, which, although in one sense it feels like reaching the summit, I know that His kingdom, His purpose for us, extends beyond our time on this earth.

On **Sunday 15 November** at 4.00pm in St Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth, I will be ordained to the priesthood, in the company of Nerys Brown from Dunblane, who is to be ordained to the transitional diaconate in the same service. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be with me in the cathedral that day in continuation of that support which I have so much treasured from its very beginning. And, in the meantime, I would ask you to pray for me please as I prepare for this momentous and somewhat awe-inspiring step.

“So do we just reject this passage as old-fashioned twaddle? Or do we seek to find if it has something to say to us today?



“This passage is not a charter for tying women to the kitchen sink. Can it be a picture of love and care? A vision of how to live together? Indeed if we read on, this woman is more than a good

little housewife, she is bringing in the food, buying and selling and planting, she makes her own money and her ‘goodness’ goes beyond her good looks to her heart – and her husband is called on to praise her and appreciate her. Can we find in it some pointers for us all – men, women, living with someone or alone, of how to live a good life? I hope so!

“Can we be good to others? Be dependable, whoever we are dealing with? Can we serve, not just those we love, but those who might perhaps be expected to serve us? Can we help the poor and needy? See what needs doing and do it? I may never be graceful in movement, but can I have a graceful nature, not barging in trampling on others thoughts and feelings? Can I be sensible and offer thoughtful advice? Do I honour the Lord in all I do?

“These things are attributes to live by, not just as a spouse, but as a member of society.”

Pam Webster adds “Of course Rachel Held Evans has already written brilliantly on this passage”. If this intrigues you, there’s more about Rachel’s exploration of what “a woman’s place” is at <http://tinyurl.com/p8vn6dv>, or read her book “A year of biblical womanhood” (ISBN: 1595553673)

# Help for the journey

a sermon given by the Rev Alison Cozens on Sunday 6 September 2015

The readings were Proverbs 22.1–2, 8–9, 22–23, James 2.1–17 and Mark 7.24–37

The image of the three year old boy washed up on the beach has shocked us all this week.

Whatever we feel about the struggle in Syria and the escalation of events which has led to the mass exodus of its people, deep in our hearts we know that to ignore the plight of the migrants is wrong. Even the Prime Minister David Cameron admitted that as a father he was shocked by this image, and by implication it has led him to review his decision about the numbers allowed into the UK.

In a similar way in the Gospel story Jesus is challenged by the woman to change his view about the healing of the child with a demon. We don't always get it right the first time, the art is to act with humility and redeem the situation.

As I see the photographs in this week's newspapers and as I reflect and pray about migrants flocking into Europe, it troubles me as I think about the desperation which leads people to leave their homes and families and to seek refuge in a strange land. Is there some way we can be more welcoming in Europe?

Most of the journeys that you and I undertake in our lives are well-planned and thought through, whether we are travelling by train or boat or aeroplane, not like the journeys these migrants are making. But perhaps the making of a journey at all can be a lesson, a point of learning for us?

My earliest journey was on a boat from Australia to England when I was two years old. I have an old photograph which shows me clutching my koala bear standing on the ship's deck on my second birthday.

My mother had been advised to go to a warmer climate to have me and so my parents emigrated to Australia for a couple of years, but my sister was born back here in Chatham in Kent where we grew up. In fact next week when Peter and I are on holiday we shall be meeting up with my dad to have a look round Chatham dockyard!

The next significant journey in my life was the move from Kent to St Andrews University and I vividly remember the long overnight coach that brought me and a couple of my school friends to the University Open Day in the summer of 1980.

Maybe because my mother was born on an island I never did learn to swim and I get seasick very easily. The third really significant journey in my life was in 1995, when I made a special trip on the RMS St Helena to visit the island of my mother's birth. But I famously never got there because I ruptured my Achilles tendon playing deck tennis as we crossed the Equator.

The ship's doctor was very good: "Alison", he said, "either you can have some co-codamol tablets, or you can visit the bar and have a double gin!" No choice really in that one! I was taken off the ship at Ascension Island and flown back to Brize Norton in an RAF jet. The only time I have travelled in an RAF jet!

The three days I had on Ascension were great and, as it happens, it was a Methodist minister who was the chaplain there at the time, and he kindly showed me round the island. So close and yet so far, less than a hundred miles from St Helena.

I imagine that many of you here can recount stories of travelling by ship in times of peace and in times of war. I imagine that many of you can recount stories of journeys that have changed your lives, where you met your spouse or encountered a special friend. In your travels perhaps you have been surprised by the kindness of strangers.

The journey of faith parallels the journey of life, with its times of joy and times of sorrow, times of setting out on a journey full of anticipation and times of homecoming. The art is to see God's hand at work in our lives, sometimes only with hindsight, to recognise that God travels with us in the help and companionship of both friend and stranger.

Turning to our scripture readings for today then we know that Martin Luther the great reformer famously called the epistle of James an "epistle of straw". Whereas St Paul insisted on justification by faith alone, the epistle of James seems to imply that works are needed as well. But in Galatians 5:6 Paul speaks about "faith working through love", so perhaps both writers are acknowledging that the outworking of faith is good works.

So what good works does our faith produce in us today? Only you can answer that question!

In the Gospel reading, Jesus' remarks to the woman are very pointed, "you cannot give the children's bread to the dogs", but she is equally persuasive, "even the dogs eat the crumbs from the table".

In this encounter we see Jesus acknowledge the Gentile woman and extend his message of good news beyond the Jewish people.

Both these readings today speak to me of a journey of faith from one rather narrow perspective or interpretation to a more generous reading and outlook.

We know that Jesus had to walk the lonely road to Jerusalem and at first, he was welcomed by the crowds crying "Hosanna!", because they thought he was going to bring them political freedom from the oppression of the Romans, but then the mood changed and the crowd cries "Crucify him!" They cannot believe that God would send his only Son for the redemption of the world.

We, who follow Jesus in our own day, are sometimes called to walk a lonely path alongside the sick or dying, alongside the poor or desperate, and we, with God's grace, can bring God's healing compassion and sustenance for the journey.

In three weeks' time we will celebrate our harvest festival. Please be generous in your donations which will go to our local Foodbank. Look after the Rev Marion Keston who is taking the Sunday services while Peter and I are on holiday.

As then we reflect today on the scripture readings, may we be prompted to good works as an outpouring of our faith and may we look to the needs of the stranger in our midst and seek to serve in Jesus' name and for his sake.

Let us pray:

God of the journey and protector of all who trust in you; you led your people in safety through the desert and brought them to a land of plenty. Be with us your people here today and fill us with a spirit of love and trust in you.

Be present also to those who are travelling today on holiday or by necessity fleeing conflict. Preserve each of us from all harm and bring us all safely to our journey's end.

We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## Music Corner

After a fairly quiet summer period there are numerous musical events to choose from during the autumn.

### To listen to

On **Tuesday 6 October** the **Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society** presents 'Mapping the Music – Near and Far Autumn Travels', the first concert of their 2015/2016 season in Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy at 7.00pm. Music includes three overtures– Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* and Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor* – Eoin Hamilton's *Scottish Sketches*, the first movement of Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony* and Beethoven's *Wellington's Victory*. More details <http://www.kirkcaldyorchestralsociety.org/season>. Tickets £8 adults and £4 children are available from Adrian Masson.

The **Scottish Chamber Choir's** winter concert is on **Saturday 21 November** in Old St Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church, 63 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1DH at 7.30pm. Iain McLarty directs the choir in Duruflé's *Requiem*, a memorial to the fallen of the Second World War. The programme includes seasonal works by contemporary Scottish composers, Rory Boyle, James MacMillan and Stuart MacRae and Poulenc's *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*. If you would like tickets (£10; £5 students; under-18s free) please talk to Martin Tarr.

### To join in

It is a couple of years since members of the choir and both congregations took part in the annual **Dunblane Singing Day** run by the RSCM in Dunblane Cathedral. This year the afternoon of singing is being held on **Saturday 7 November** under the guidance of Gordon Appleton.

No advance preparation is necessary. You just come and sing and enjoy the day! The rehearsal starts at 2.00pm (arrivals from 1.30pm) finishing with a service at 5.00pm. If you would like to attend you are asked to register to ensure sufficient copies of the music for everyone. Please let Sue or Myra know before the end of October. There is no cost, but a donation is invited to cover costs and help the work of RSCM Scotland.

The annual **Come and Sing** day in Edinburgh, popular with members of St Margaret's choir, this time is a big one! Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with four-

handed piano accompaniment will be performed on **Saturday 14 November** in St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. As usual the rehearsal takes place in the afternoon from 2.00–5.30pm. with the performance at 7.00pm The day's event will be conducted by the firm favourite Christopher Bell and the pianists are Stuart Hope and Neil Metcalfe.

These 'Come and Sing' events are great fun and are usually oversubscribed, with a large turnout of singers from all over Scotland. It is hoped that members of the choir and congregation will sign up for this event – but remember to do so early! If you don't wish to sing you can always come to the concert. Singer tickets are £15 (score hire £1), and audience tickets £5. Contact Ruth Townsend, Come and Sing Scotland, 15 Croftburn Drive, Glasgow G44 5JG, email [ruth@comeandsingscotland.co.uk](mailto:ruth@comeandsingscotland.co.uk), mobile 07816 679 815.

# 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 website

Our website has a regular “Thought for the month” feature, and in September, we had this picture and the following entry:



The latest in the Penguin Monarchs series “Elizabeth II: The Steadfast”, by Douglas Hurd, was published ... just ahead of the day when The Queen had reigned for longer than her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria (who was on the throne for 63 years and 216 days) and became the longest-reigning

Monarch in British history. The preface, written by HRH Prince William reflects on his grandmother The Queen’s commitment to a life of public service:

“... we find ourselves in a world that has changed dramatically, almost beyond recognition to the world that The Queen was born into, but where the role of charity, family, duty and compassion perseveres.

“I think I speak for my generation when I say that the example and continuity provided by The Queen is not only very rare among leaders but a great source of pride and reassurance.

“Time and again, quietly and modestly, The Queen has shown us all that we can confidently embrace the future without compromising the things that are important.”

“All of us who will inherit the legacy of my grandmother’s reign and generation need to do all we can to celebrate and learn from her story.”

This prayer, that was circulated to mark Wednesday 9 September, was a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ exchanged the glory of a heavenly throne for the form of a servant, we thank you that you have given Elizabeth our Queen a heart to serve her people, and have kept her devoted in this service beyond all who were before her: encourage us by her example to serve one another, and to seek the common good, until you call us all to reign with Christ in your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Why not take a look at what caught the webmaster’s eye this month? Go to either of our church websites, and navigate to “Thought for the month” tab. Enjoy!

## 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 as our St Nicholas gift to you all on 6 December! Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Thursday 26 November**, preferably by email to **editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk**.