

Rosyth
Methodist Church



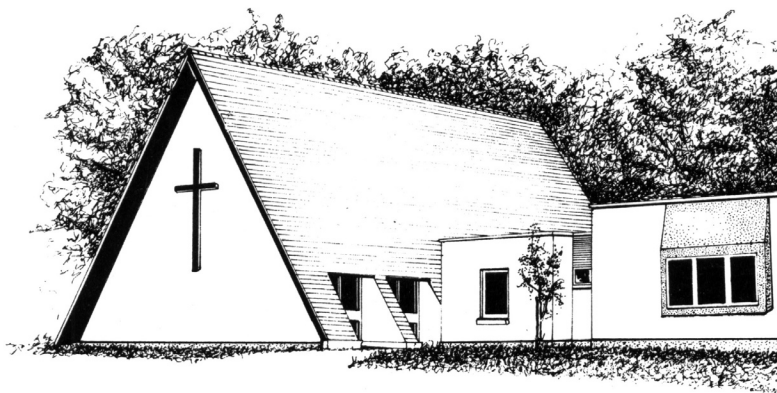
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 82

December 2015/January 2016

Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk

in partnership

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

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.

From the Editor's Desk

Martin Tarr reflects on the past two months



Our team at Babcock's (p16)

October was a busy month! Bishop David visited Rosyth twice, and we were invited to consider our role in the Rosyth community both at Wednesday Fellowship and during a joint church service. Plenty of scope for an outward-looking focus!

In November, I listened to two very different addresses that shared the common factor of having both been significantly rethought because of recent external events: Michael Paterson's sermon at Margaret Dineley's ordination, and David Chillingworth's Inter-faith lecture. The world outside affects us whether we like it or not!

As this issue of Contact is the last in the two years that Sandra and I have been editing the Partnership newsletter, and we hand on the baton to our Methodist friends, it's appropriate that our intended theme of "Community" should reflect the changes, and morph into "*The future* of our community".

I'd like to share some thoughts that arise from this month's contributions. First is the positive impact of new ways of working together in partnership, even when your history of witness goes back 250 years! (p23). Secondly, there is a real potential for reduced effectiveness when "it is a case of too few people trying to do too much" (words we decided not to publish!).

Then Alison's use of 'liminal' (p15), in the sense of "standing at the threshold of change", drew attention to its anthropological roots,

ambiguity or disorientation being thought of as inevitable when people leave behind their familiar situation, but have not yet begun the transition to where they will eventually be. Yet Christians, of all people, know that "what we will be has not yet been revealed" (1 John 3:2), and can have confidence like Abraham in God's plan for us.

But inevitable change must be embraced; the threshold must be crossed. As Jim Mein puts it (p38) "Neither our Church nor our world can remain repeating year after year, like a mouse turning a wheel in its cage. A rut, dug deep, becomes a grave. A new year calls us to renew our search for life in all its future fullness ... The God who is always ahead of us, calling us into a new year, new hope, new life. God bless you on the journey." Amen!

What's in this issue ...

Apart from covering Christmas in pp4-8, the future of our community is our focus in much of this issue:

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Rosyth centenaries	p38

And there are our regular items:

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Getting ready for Christmas

Advent Study Group

The former “St Columba Group” – so-called (probably only by Alan!) because it met for such a long time in the former HMS Cochrane church of St Columba in South Rosyth – has moved back into the Parish Church, where this year’s Advent Study Group started on Monday 30 November.

The material we are using is a six-part booklet entitled *Making Room for Jesus – encountering Jesus in new ways*. There will be three more **Monday evening** sessions before Christmas, and two after the New Year. Everyone is most welcome for fellowship and study, so why not come along at 7.30pm?

Ed: The dates are in our Diary section.

Christmas Around the World

By the time you read this, the annual nativity event in the Parish Church – at which the school choirs sing traditional carols and some more modern pieces, the nativity story is told by our ministers, and the lights on the Christmas trees and on the newly-renovated nativity scene are switched on – will have happened, accompanied by Rosyth Concert Band – and mince pies!

But an innovation this year is to have an Advent Calendar, which will be opened at **3.30pm daily Monday to Friday** through the days leading up to Christmas, as the kids come out from school, with a supporting cast of storytellers with Christmas stories from around the world. Each child will get an appropriate token to take home to hang on their own Christmas tree. Why not pop in to see what goes on?

Alan Taylor

Christmas Cards

As usual there will be a post box in the Church crush hall over the weeks up to Christmas. This is a means of exchanging cards with friends in the Church. A full address is not required, but please ensure that surnames are included on the envelopes. The cards are sorted and laid out in racks on the worktop in the lounge to be collected after the service. **There is no delivery service**, so please do not put cards in the box for people who do not come to Church regularly.



Our Explorer Scouts are taking part in the West Fife Scout Christmas Post and cards can be sent to most parts of Fife for 30p (see poster for further details). There will be a separate post box in the Church crush hall for these cards. The deadline for receipt of cards is **Tuesday 8 December**, so please “post” your cards in good time. Cards and money should be placed in a plastic bag or envelope with a note of your name and contact details in the event of any queries. Please include postcodes on the cards. The cards will be delivered by local scouts in the period from 12 December.

Seasonal lunch

The Church Christmas and New Year lunch will take place on **Tuesday 12 January**, at 1.00pm at Ciao Italia. As before, the cost will be split evenly over the total number of those present.

Dennis Cook

Services at Christmas

“Let there be Light”

The Rev Christine Fraser, Rector of St Peter's Church, Kirkcaldy, has invited us to join her congregation in a quiet, meditative Taizé Service for Advent “Let there be Light” on **Thursday 10 December** at 2.00pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Anyone who would like to go along will be made most welcome.

From hurt to hope

This is now the fifth year we have run the “different kind of Christmas service” initiated by Deacon Sarah. Still continuing “by popular demand”, this year's service will be led by the Rev Dr Margaret Dineley. As Sarah said, back in 2011 ...

Christmas is of course a time of joy, but for many people it can also be a very difficult time. This may be because of painful memories, fears for the future or family circumstances. In recognition of this there will be a special service on **Thursday 17 December** at 7.00pm here in Rosyth Methodist Church.

In this service, we will be given a chance to sing and to pray. We will be invited to offer up the pain, the loneliness, the sad memories, and the anxiety and fear to the one whose birth we eagerly await ... Jesus Christ. We pray that you will find hope and peace in this service, and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. All are invited to this service and tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Do join us ...

... on 20 December at our church

12.45pm Messy Christmas Party – all our Messy Church friends are invited, but please let Gwyneth know if you are going (see page 7 for details)

6.00pm Sunday@Six: a traditional candlelit service of lessons and carols, with mince pies to follow. As usual the offering at the service will be in aid of CHAS (CHAS Gift envelopes from Marc Tempelhoff)

... on Christmas Eve

3.00pm Family Christingle service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline with Rev Alison Cozens

4.00pm All-age Nativity at our church (see page 7 for details)

11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, led by Rev Alison Cozens

... on Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book) at Holy Trinity, led by Rev Ross Kennedy

10.00am Family Service at our church led by Mrs Mary Kidd

10.00am Sung Eucharist for Christmas at Holy Trinity, led by Rev Alison Cozens

... on 26 December at our church

10.00am Said Communion service led by Rev Alison Cozens

... on 27 December at our church

11.00am Joint Communion service led by Rev Alison Cozens

and in the New Year ...

... on 24 January at our church

11.00am Joint Covenant Service led by Rev Andrew Letby (see page 25)

6.00pm Sunday@Six (see pages 10 and 33)

Betty Terry
wishes Seasonal
Greetings to both
congregations.

Mary Dempster
wishes everyone a
Happy Christmas and
a Blessed New Year

Eve and Julie Denning send their
Christmas Greetings to both
congregations. May the sun
always shine on you all.

Lesley Yellowlees
wishes friends in both
churches a Happy
Christmas and
blessed New Year.

Pauline Fisher
wishes all in both
churches a very
Happy Christmas.

Thelma and David Couch send their good
wishes and pray God's blessing
on you all, looking forward to
His promise of peace on Earth.

Jock and Audrey Headden wish
their friends from both
congregations a Happy
and Holy Christmas.

Myra and Martin Tarr
wish all their friends
at church a joyous
Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.

Dennis Cook
wishes everybody
at Rosyth a very Happy
Christmas and a Peaceful
New Year.

David Slater
sends Christmas Greetings
to all readers of Contact.
As Paul wrote to the Colossians:
"Let the peace of Christ rule in
your hearts - and be thankful".

John and Rosemary Cowell
wish all their friends in
both congregations a Merry
Christmas and a Happy and
Healthful New Year to follow.

Thank you to all those who have decorated our Christmas
tree, and given generously to charity for the privilege!

Young people at Rosyth



We had great fun at Messy Church in November, learning about the prodigal son. The pig-swirl cakes and the marshmallow pigs were particularly popular, but we also enjoyed making money bags, welcome home gates, jigsaws and father figures with welcoming arms.



Our next Messy Church will be on **13 December** when we will be celebrating Messy Christmas with lots of lovely, messy Christmas crafts.

All our Messy Church friends are invited to a Messy Christmas Party on **20 December** at 12.45pm, following the morning service, but please let me know if you are going to be there so that Santa is prepared!! There will be a party lunch and lots of games before Santa fits us into his busy schedule.

We were delighted to be invited to visit the Beavers to give them a taste of Messy Church. They were able to try out some of the prodigal son crafts after listening to the story. We hope to see some of them at our next Messy Church.

Our first Messy Church of 2016 will be on **10 January** at 9.00am.

Gwyneth Kirby

All-age Nativity

Gwyneth Kirby offers you a chance to participate!

Our famous(!) all-age Nativity will take place on **Christmas Eve** at 4.00pm. This is becoming a very popular event, so don't miss it. The story will be very familiar and the characters well-known to everybody, but there will still be one or two surprises. The children are already learning their lines – I'm not sure about the adults! – and costumes are being sorted. This is a lovely way to spend an hour of your Christmas Eve. Take a little bit of time amidst the frantic busy-ness, and support our young people.

There will be costumes and walk-on parts for anyone who comes along on the day and wants to take part. Or why not come in costume already? Shepherds, angels and animals particularly welcome!

We look forward to sharing our Nativity drama with you.

Invitations and requests – 1

Music for Christmas

There are a number of musical happenings involving members of both churches (see the diary pages for more details).

Monday 7 December at 7.30pm

The **Kingdom Singers** and **Rosyth Concert Band** are holding a combined concert in the United Reformed Church, Dunfermline. The music is seasonal but includes some innovative arrangements – Christmas at the Circus, Secret Agent Santa, Cowboy Christmas, Prelude on Greensleeves and others. For one or two pieces the choir and band will be playing/singing together. Details from Ann Duly.

Friday 11 December at 7.30pm

The Woodmill Singers Christmas Concert is in St Margaret's RC Church, East Port, Dunfermline.

Saturday 12 December

at 3.00pm and 7.30pm

Dunfermline Choral Union and their Junior Chorus present its programme of Christmas music at carols at the Vine Centre, Garvock Hill, Dunfermline.

Sunday 13 December

at 2.00pm and 3.45pm

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society perform *Winter Wanderings* with the Langtoun Singers in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. The orchestra will be performing Paddington Bear's first concert (narration and music), Leroy Anderson (A Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride), Philip Lane (Overture on French Carols), Frederick Delius (Sleigh Ride). Details from Adrian Masson.

Thursday 16 and Friday 17 December

at 7.30pm

Christmas Concert presented by The Band of Her Majesty Royal Marines Scotland in Dunfermline Abbey.

Saturday 19 December at 7.30pm.

Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society in a Concert of Carols and Christmas Music at St Margaret's RC Memorial Church, East Port. Tickets £6.00 at the door.

From the Leadership Team

Thank you from the Leadership Team to everyone who has helped us over the year in whatever capacity, it is much appreciated. Please accept our Best Wishes for a restful Christmas and peaceful New Year from the Leadership Team.

David Salthouse adds: Our next leadership meeting is on **12 January** so, if anyone has any suggestions for consideration at the meeting, please send them through to me or any of the stewards.

Real Living

Real Living (a part of Link Living) offer one-to-one befriending to older people in West Fife, and also run a social cafe at Torryburn Community Centre.

They have started something similar on **Wednesdays from 10.30am–12.30pm** at Parkgate Community Centre, Rosyth. If you are over 65, and feeling in need of company, you will be most welcome. Do pass on the message to others.

On **Fridays**, come (and direct others) to our own Triangle Coffee Shop!

Invitations and requests – 2

Memorial Book

A further update of the memorial book will take place early in the New Year. If anyone has suitable information please convey this to either David Slater or Dennis Cook.

Ed: Did you know that David goes to the church early on the first day of each month specifically to turn over the book to the new month's page? Just another example of the unseen dedication on which our church depends – we would only notice if it wasn't done!

Paschal Candle 2016

Ever since St Margaret's decided to have a paschal candle in 2009, the candle has been chosen and donated by a member of the congregation. In recent years, the candle has been donated twice by Methodist friends.

As you know, the candle represents the Light of Christ. It is dedicated at St Margaret's on Easter morning and continues to burn through the Easter season. It is also used during baptisms, when the candle presented to the child is lit from the paschal candle, representing the gift of the Light of Christ. It is also used at funerals, and on All Soul's Day. And at the end of the year, it is given back to the donor.

Would you like to donate the paschal candle in 2016, perhaps to commemorate a loved one, or a special event in your life? As Easter comes early next year, the candle will be ordered in January. If you would like to do this, please speak to Alan Taylor as soon as possible.

"Say it with flowers"

Two new lists will appear on the notice board in December for you to add your names for 2016. Please indicate if you are willing to supply the flowers, or arrange them – maybe both. Perhaps you have a special date, an anniversary or birthday you wish to commemorate in this way.

I would like to thank all those people who have supplied flowers, and given money for flowers during the last year. This is an important part of our ministry of our church. Not only do they add beauty to our worship area in the sanctuary, and add to the welcome cheer in the Crush Hall, they are also appreciated by recipients afterwards, maybe in the comfort of their home when a visit is made. Please let me, or the Duty Steward, know of anyone who is ill at home and would appreciate flowers.

There are visiting cards and a record book kept in the flower cupboard which are helpful to those who are distributing these messages of good cheer with love from our church.

Thanks also to those people who have taken time and care to arrange the flowers during the year: Jennifer Irvin, Evelyn Kenny and Lesley Yellowlees. Thanks are also due to Dave Ward, who 'manages' the Flower Fund. Any contributions to the fund may be passed on to him – inform him of your gift envelope number if you are a Gift-Aider.

Mary Kidd, Flower Secretary

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:27 (NIV)

Invitations and requests – 3

Sunday@Six – a reflection and a plea by Sue Masson

Sunday@Six was set up in June 2009 in response to a joint meeting of both churches where it had been decided that we needed some form of out-reach. It was seen as a chance to (a) enjoy different forms of worship including traditional evensong (b) to invite visitors both to join us and to lead services and (c) to look outward to the wider church and bigger issues. Originally there were four people who volunteered to help co-ordinate things, two Methodist and two “Pisky” but this fairly quickly came down to one person i.e. Sue.

Sunday@Six appears to have been a success and, for those who like statistics, over the last six-and-a-half years we have enjoyed:

10 evensongs, 8 visiting speakers, 7 Bible Sundays, 7 Christmas carol services, 6 visiting musicians, 6 Taizé, 5 BBQs, 3 Advent Carol services, 2 St Cecilia days, 2 Café Church and one each of West Gallery, Agape meal, service of healing, Lent meditation, film, Remembrance, social evening, love feast and ordination. (No partridge in a pear tree, but I’m working on it!) Our thanks to all who have led/participated in these.

The attendance for these special services is mixed, we have numbered as many as 68 and as few as 7. We are discussing this at the moment within the Vestry/Church Council, looking where we have come from and where to go in the future.

So can you please help? We would like to know:

- 1 Do you come to Sunday@Six?
- 2 If not, is it at the wrong time, or do the services not interest you?
- 3 What type of service would you like someone to organise?
- 4 Do you know anyone who would be a good visiting speaker?
- 5 Are you willing to help? – each one of these services takes a huge amount of time and effort and it is quite a task to come up with new ideas all the time.

Please speak to me on any Sunday or email me on susan.masson@btinternet.com if you have any views or offers of help.

World Day of Prayer

Every year Christians from all over the world, of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. We bring the needs of the world and of a different country in particular each year, before God.

The World Day of Prayer for 2016 is on **Friday 4 March** at 2.00pm at the Parish Church of St Peter and St John, Inverkeithing. Our material has been prepared by women in Cuba and is entitled “Receive children, receive me”. We will learn about life in Cuba and pray for the adults, young people and children there.

I will give more details about this service in the next edition of Contact, but more information is given on our website www.wdpScotland.org.uk.

Mary Kidd (Methodist Representative on the WDP Scottish Committee)

Invitations and requests – 4

Coming soon to a church near you – **The Three C's** – Coffee, Cake and Craft!!

Announcing the arrival of a new group to start in the New Year – Jean Hall and friends will be running an evening craft club on the first Tuesday of each month, starting in February, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. To start with bring a craft project of your own and then later we will be running workshops to learn different skills.

So whether you want to learn how to crochet, make a quilt, stitch a handbag, decorate a birthday card or just enjoy “playing” – this is the group for you. See Jean for more details, otherwise see you on **Tuesday 2 February** in the lounge!

Keep the paperbacks coming!

Thank you to those of you who have been donating paperbacks to our shelves in the Crush Hall since the last appeal a few months ago. However, we still need lots more paperbacks to ensure we can rotate them. With many organisations and people coming into the church, the paperbacks are in steady demand. If you or your friends have any unwanted paperbacks in good condition we would welcome them please. The money we get for the sold paperbacks mounts up over the months and is split between both churches. We each received £68 in September.

How Listening can bring Life A day event for anyone involved with Pastoral Care of older people

This will be held on **Tuesday 19 January** from 10.00am to 3.00pm at The Golden Lion Flagship Hotel, 8-10 King Street, Stirling, led by Jenny Williams, former Chaplain to the Christian Fellowship of Healing.

The aim is to give encouragement to those engaged in pastoral care and offer tools to support on-going reflection enabling individuals and small groups to better access the resources within themselves.

The day will be participative, with a mixture of input, reflection with one another and group sharing. Through listening to our own and others experience we will explore how to be creative with the limitations of becoming older; how to listen to faith issues; how to listen to our own wisdom before, during and after a visit. The cost is £50.00 (includes tea/coffee on arrival and lunch) and can be booked via www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

Getting ready for Lent

With Easter Sunday falling on 27 March in 2016, Ash Wednesday is on **Wednesday 10 February**. There will be the usual Sung Eucharist with the imposition of Ashes at 7.30pm, to which both congregations are invited. The service will be led by the Rev Ross Kennedy.

Share his prayer and his concern



Do read our back cover! In a film advert, Archbishop Justin Welby appears walking through a park as his voice-over intones “Our Father in heaven ...”. The Archbishop told *The Mail on Sunday*: “I find it extraordinary that cinemas rule that it is inappropriate for an advert on prayer to be shown in the week before Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ” and urged people to judge the advert themselves rather “than be censored or dictated to”. More at <http://tinyurl.com/og65fcb>

Fellowship news

New births

Congratulations to Helen, Colin and Caitlin on the safe arrival of **Oran Robert James Jenkins** on 4 November. Oran made his first appearance in our church at November's joint service and we look forward to getting to know him better.



Congratulations also to **Pam and Gordon Pryde** on the recent arrival of Pam's granddaughter Molly, a little sister for Finn.

Under the weather

We were sorry to hear that **Eve Denning** was admitted to the Victoria Hospital for investigation following a period when she hasn't been firing on all cylinders. We trust that Eve will soon be back to being her usual chirpy self. Meanwhile we think of Julie and the rest of Eve's family.

John Cowell has been unwell, and this has had a knock-on impact on Rosemary, who has been unable to leave home. We hope that the issue of safe access will be resolved soon, so that this grand old couple can get back to their normal routine.

Good to see you back!

Sheila Lee 'celebrated' her retirement this summer by spending some time at St John's Hospital, Livingston! We're happy to say that Sheila is making good progress after major surgery, and we were delighted that she's been able to come to Sunday worship. Sheila is very grateful for all the love, prayers and practical help from her friends at Rosyth.



We were delighted to see **John and Virginia Osborne** at our Eucharist on St Margaret's Day. They had been back from Hampshire for a few days renewing connections from their time in Rosyth, when Virginia was our organist and choir director for many years.

70 years together

We were delighted to hear about the celebration of **Jim and Jean Oliver's** 70th wedding anniversary. Staff and residents of Valley House, Cowdenbeath, where the Olivers moved a few months ago, got together to help mark the memorable occasion.

Bring and buy

The Wednesday Fellowship Autumn bring-and-buy sale was held on 4 November and raised £110.62 towards our fundraising.

Wednesday Fellowship

Mary Kidd reports on an eventful Autumn session

Our Autumn session is almost over – where have all the months gone? At the beginning we were delighted to welcome our Rector, Rev Alison Cozens, to open the 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 the community. She has also been to see us recently when she talked about the island of St Helena where her mother was born.

Food was an important part of our earlier planning and featured Jean Hall teaching and demonstrating to us how to cook for one, and Warren Murphy who came to us to tell us more about the Food Bank in Rosyth.

Gwyneth Kirby, ably assisted by Evelyn Kenny, talked about our Triangle Coffee Shop which opens every Friday morning, from the time it was just an idea at a Circuit Staff Meeting, recruiting team of helpers, and up to now when it runs successfully and is popular with members of the church here and of the local community.

On the subject of food we now look forward to our Christmas lunch at The Elgin Hotel. Then it will begin to feel like Christmas!

Children also featured in October when we had a visit from the Fife Children’s Clothing Bank, a recently launched charity which aims to provide good quality clothes to children (aged newborn to 12 years) of struggling families in Fife.

Then Sarah Brown came to talk to us about the Charity ‘A World at School’ which states that every child has the right to education. Last year most of us signed an ‘Up for School’ petition promoting the education of children who have been starved of an education due to emergencies in poor,

troubled countries of the world. It was shocking to know that there are 59 million boys and girls who do not go to school. Many communities have been hit by conflicts and disasters. The recent project ‘Their world’ helps Syrian refugee children return to school in Lebanon, and Sarah has recently visited some of the children who have just returned to school for the first time in years.

Sarah was not our only **distinguished visitor** in October. We were delighted that our Bishop David Chillingworth, accompanied by our ministers, Alison Cozens and Helen Jenkins, joined us in the Fellowship. This followed their visit to Rosyth Dockyard and the newly-refurbished Rosyth Parish Church with a small group representing our Local Ecumenical Partnership. Bishop David engaged in conversation with Fellowship members who remembered Rosyth of old. One member thought that being a ‘Garden City’ made a great difference to the morale of residents, most of whom enjoyed all that a garden has to offer.

It was agreed that local churches working together have a much more successful approach to ‘Outreach and Mission’. We must be prepared for many more people coming to our community in the future to live and work as industry and housing develop, particularly after the opening of the new Forth Crossing later next year.

Meetings resume, after our winter break, on **Wednesday 3 February**; we will welcome new members who wish to join us, if only for some of the meetings. (NB: one of our meetings features *chocolate* – watch this space!)

In the meantime we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

Helping others

Christian Aid

The Rosyth Christian Aid committee has not been very active recently – something we hope to change in 2016. However, Christian Aid continues to do vital work, and one way you can support its work is through Present Aid (www.presentaid.org).

How often do you “just don’t know what to give him/her for Christmas”? Present Aid could be your answer: from goats and chickens to bicycles, you can purchase a gift on-line and help transform communities in need. The gifts are a donation towards a particular aspect of the work of Christian Aid. Each gift comes with a free, personalised card that gives the person you are buying for some information about how your/their gift will help transform lives.

Christian Aid is also working with partners in the Middle East and Europe to help those caught up in the Refugee Crisis. So far their Refugee Crisis Appeal has raised more than £1 million. A great strength of Christian Aid is that it works with local organisations – people who know the local needs:

- In Greece they are working with International Orthodox Christian Charities in three Greek islands, providing sleeping bags, food, water and baby kits.
- In Serbia they are working with the Charitable Foundation of the Serbian Orthodox Church.
- In Lebanon one partner provides winter fuel vouchers; another works with Syrian refugees with disabilities, providing assistive devices and physiotherapy.
- In Syria, Christian Aid partners are providing food and milk to communities struggling to obtain fresh food.



Rosyth Foodbank

Dunfermline Foodbank in Rosyth continues to operate from the Parish Church three times a week to provide food and household essentials for those in need in the area.

We are looking for items that appear on the list in the Crush Hall and the weekly joint notices, and are very grateful for the continuing support of both congregations.

Last year the Foodbank was inundated on the last day of distribution with an abundance of Christmas treats and selection boxes, which meant that we were unable to offer many to those who would have enjoyed them, only to those who appeared on the day. The appeal this year is for those nice surprises to be offered earlier, so that more may benefit and have extra treats in time for Christmas.

Volunteers will be made welcome, and application forms are available from the Foodbank on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 4.00–6.00pm, or from Warren Murphy, the local organiser.

Many thanks for the continued generous donations from the congregations and best wishes and Christmas blessings from the Rosyth Foodbank volunteers.

Erica Lock

-
- In Iraq, Christian Aid partners provide both humanitarian essentials, and psycho-social support for displaced children and their host communities.

To find out more, or donate to Christian Aid’s work, visit www.christianaid.org.uk

In the next issue of Contact I will be giving information about Christian Aid Week in May 2016.

Jan Benvie

In our community – 1

2016 will provide an opportunity to celebrate both our roots and those of the community we serve, and also the opening of a major new link with Scotland's motorway network. But, iconic as the Forth Bridge is and the Queensferry Crossing may become, what matters to us is the presence of Christ in Rosyth, as we are reminded every time we look at our Church mural. The next three pages are about what is happening in our community.

Parish Church Rededication

After being closed for 11 years – and a phenomenal £690,000 fundraising effort, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations, including our own Joseph Rank Foundation – the bells rang out on Sunday 11 October for the rededication of the Parish Church. Erica and Alan represented St Margaret's at the service, while Mary Dempster, Evelyn, Jack and Valerie represented Rosyth Methodist Church. Martin Rogers was there also, representing Rosyth Garden City Association. Well-kent faces from other churches in Rosyth and Dunfermline were there as well.

A former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev John Chalmers, performed the rededication ceremony, in the presence of the Moderator of the Dunfermline Presbytery, Mrs Margaret Mateos (the first woman Elder of the church to fill that role), the Rev Violet McKay and Deacon Morag Crawford, both of the parish church, together with a packed congregation.

After the service, guests toured the building and enjoyed a buffet lunch.

Alan Taylor



On the threshold

Last night, Tuesday 1 December, I attended the nativity event at Rosyth Parish church. It was a wonderful coming together of the local community under the eagle eye of Deacon Morag Crawford. The newly-refurbished parish church was packed and the joint choirs of children from three of the local primary schools led the singing of Christmas carols and songs from around the world in the telling of the story of The Smallest Angel.

One of the things I have discovered about Rosyth is the sense of community. Maybe it has something to do with the size of the Garden City, its particular history with the dockyard, or just that sense of being the small town down the road from Dunfermline.

I think that 2016 is a liminal year for the Garden City of Rosyth – the dockyard, the city, and the Methodist church all celebrating their centenaries; a sense that the Community Council has a new lease of life; Babcock continuing to provide significant employment opportunities for the local workforce, not least in these days of renewed defence spending; the opening of the fifth bridge over the Forth, and the allocation of heritage status to the Forth Bridge – all these mean that Rosyth is firmly on the map.

I wonder how St Margaret's Episcopal congregation and our ecumenical partners in the Methodist church can be part of that renewed sense of civic identity?

Alison Cozens

In our community – 2

The Bishop goes walkabout

Our much travelled bishop, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, together with Alison, Martin Rogers, Evelyn and Alan, went walkabout in Rosyth on Wednesday 7 October. We all met in church for coffee, where Alison briefed us on the aims of the day, which were – in simple terms – to take the church out into the community.

Our first stop was the Parish Church, where we met Deacon Morag who took us through the very impressive, newly-renovated building. Then it was on to the Resource Centre – which I had not visited before – for a remarkable tour of the facilities, when we met staff and folk who come to the centre for companionship, craft activities and fellowship, fulfilling a very pressing need in our society, particularly for older folk. And it's there we have a monthly service for friends and visitors to the Centre. Who could possibly think of closing such a facility? but that might be its fate.

Next stop – the Dockyard, where we were met by Babcock International's local Managing Director, Sean Donaldson, who briefed us on the building of the new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. Unfortunately, on this occasion, we were not able to get "hands-on", but Sean invited us back next summer when he hoped to take guests aboard one of the ships. We had a most enjoyable lunch in the Visitors' Centre, before heading back to the Methodist Church for the Wednesday Fellowship, where Bishop David was the guest speaker. All in all, a very fulfilling day.

Alan Taylor

From the local paper ...

Members of the Scottish Episcopal and Methodist congregations in Rosyth welcomed a special visitor to town – the presiding bishop of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The group ... met Bishop David Chillingworth last Wednesday for a community visit as part of their shared commitment to mission and ministry in Rosyth.

Rev Cozens said:

"It was a really nice group and everywhere we went, we felt very welcome. I think people like to know the church is interested about what's happening in the community. It got us out and about and it was a really good opportunity.

"The idea for the bishop's visit to Rosyth arose out of the planning for the Rosyth Methodist Church centenary in 2016. It's also the centenary of the Garden City and this year was the centenary of the dockyard. So it seemed appropriate to visit the dockyard."

The group also visited Rosyth Resource Centre and the newly-renovated Parish Church, before taking in the Wednesday Fellowship at the Methodist church, where the bishop engaged in a question and answer session about the history of Rosyth and the church involvement with the local community.

The Most Rev Chillingworth said:

"I was delighted to spend the day in the community with members of the two congregations. We are always eager to deepen the relationship between the congregations and to strengthen our commitment to the community. Churches are called to mission – to share the love of God – and this is part of that calling."

Dunfermline Press report

In our community – 3

Our joint service



Rosyth Methodist Church was packed on Sunday 18 October for a joint service led by the Most Reverend David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, and the Reverend Dr David Easton, Chair of the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland, and introduced by the Reverend Alison Cozens, our Rector. This was only the second time that the two leaders of our respective churches had jointly taken a service at Rosyth, and the first time that the Holy Trinity congregation had joined in.



Members of all three churches took part in the service and sang in the choir, and on a very special occasion we acknowledged and celebrated the many ways in which our congregations and their members work together both formally and informally and the many friendships that have been formed over the years.

The service included interviews with members of the congregation following Bishop David's visit to Rosyth on 7 October, and his reflection on moving out into the community.

David Easton preached a sermon based on our Gospel reading of Mark 6:30–44, ending with a final challenge in the question: "What miracles of grace are we willing to allow Christ to work through us today?"

You can listen both to Bishop David's reflection on moving out into the community, or to David Easton's sermon at the links at <http://tinyurl.com/gtcuf7o>.

For those who can't do this, we've printed an edited version of the sermon (approved by David!) on pages 26–27.



Diary for December 2015

Sunday 6 December

Advent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Ian Paterson Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
	2.00pm	St Nicholas Celebration in Rosyth Parish Church (ticketed event only, numbers limited to 50 children with an adult)	
	7.00pm	Taizé service at St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly, led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley. Refreshments afterwards	
Monday 7 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Week 2 of the six-part booklet entitled <i>Making Room for Jesus – encountering Jesus in new ways</i> (see page 4)	
	7.30pm	Combined concert with the Kingdom Singers and Rosyth Concert Band in the United Reformed Church, Canmore Street, Dunfermline. Tickets £6, concessions £5, children free: see Adrian Masson	
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	
Thursday 10 Dec	2.00pm	Taizé Service for Advent at St Peter's Church, Kirkcaldy followed by refreshments. All welcome to attend (see page 5)	
Friday 11 Dec	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 12 Dec	7.30pm	Woodmill Singers Christmas Concert in St Margaret's RC Church, Dunfermline: see Myra Tarr	
	3.00pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Christmas Concert	
	and 7.30pm	at the Vine Centre, Dunfermline. Tickets £10, £8 (concession) from Gwyneth Kirby or Myra Tarr	

Sunday 13 December

Advent 3	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Professor Jeremy Bradshaw

Diary for December 2015

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday 13 Dec | 2.00pm | St Lucia Event (Sweden) for children (accompanied by an adult) at Rosyth Parish Church |
| | 2.00pm and 3.45pm | Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society "Winter Wanderings" with the Langtoun Singers, in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. Programme includes music for Christmas. Tickets £8 adults, £4 children: from Adrian Masson |
| Monday 14 Dec | 7.30pm | Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Week 3 (see page 4) |
| Wednesday 16 Dec | 12.30pm | Wednesday Fellowship:
Christmas Lunch in the Elgin Hotel, Charlestown |
| | | Note: No further Wednesday Fellowship until 3 Feb 2016 |
| | 7.30pm | Christmas Concert by The Band of Her Majesty Royal Marines Scotland in Dunfermline Abbey. Tickets £12 from Carnegie Hall Booking Office 01383 602302 |
| Thursday 17 Dec | 7.00pm | 'From Hurt to Hope' a service for people who find Christmas a difficult time (see page 5)
Led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley |
| | 7.30pm | Christmas Concert by The Band of Her Majesty Royal Marine Scotland in Dunfermline Abbey. Tickets £12 from Carnegie Hall Booking Office 01383 602302 |
| Friday 18 Dec | 9.30am onwards | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
tea, coffee and home baking |
| | 7.00pm | Choir practice |
| Saturday 19 Dec | 7.30pm | A Concert of Carols and Christmas Music by Dunfermline G&S Society in St Margaret's RC Memorial Church, East Port, Dunfermline. Tickets £6 at the door. |

Sunday 20 December

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--|---|
| Advent 4 | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Rev Alison Cozens |
| | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Mr Iain Hampson
David Salthouse (Worship Leader) |
| | 12.45pm | Sunday School and Messy Church Christmas party | |
| | 2.00pm | Christingle Event (Moravia) for children (accompanied by an adult) at Rosyth Parish Church | |
| | 3.00pm | Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth | |
| | 6.00pm | Sunday@Six Service of Carols by Candlelight
Offering in aid of CHAS (see page 5) | |
| | | | |

Diary for December 2015/January 2016

Monday 21 Dec	7.30pm	Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Week 4 (see page 4)	
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Family Christingle service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline Rev Alison Cozens	
	4.00pm	All-age Nativity service	
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline Rev Alison Cozens	
Christmas Day	8.00am	Said Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book) at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	Rev Ross Kennedy
	10.00am	Family Service	Mrs Mary Kidd
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline Rev Alison Cozens	
Saturday 26 Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Rev Alison Cozens
Sunday 27 December			
Christmas 1	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Alison Cozens
Sunday 3 January			
Christmas 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Ross Kennedy
	11.00am	Morning Worship Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)	Rev Alan Whitson
Monday 4 Jan	7.30pm	Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Week 5 (see page 4)	
Friday 8 Jan	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
Sunday 10 January			
The Baptism of our Lord			
	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Hilary Henderson
Monday 11 Jan	7.30pm	Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Week 6 (see page 4)	
Tuesday 12 Jan	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
	1.00pm	Church Annual Lunch at Ciao Italia (see page 4)	
	7.00pm	Leadership Team meeting (see page 8)	

Diary for January/February 2016

Friday 15 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 17 January

Epiphany 2 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
11.00am Morning Worship Professor John Sawkins
3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth

Friday 22 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 24 January

Epiphany 3 11.00am Joint Covenant Service Rev Andrew Lethby
David Salthouse (Worship Leader)
(see page 25)
6.00pm Sunday@Six

Tuesday 26 Jan 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
7.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meeting in the small lounge

Thursday 28 Jan 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting at St Paul's,
Kinross. Guest speaker: the Rev Nick Green, rector of
St Mary's, Dunblane

Friday 29 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 31 January

Epiphany 4 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
11.00am Morning Worship Mr Edward Idle

Monday 1 Feb 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 2 Feb 7.30pm Coffee, Cake and Crafts: the inaugural meeting of a
monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends
(see page 11)

Wednesday 3 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship Opening Meeting
with Hilary Henderson

Friday 5 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice restarts!

Diary for February 2016

Sunday 7 February

Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)	Mrs Margaret Freeman

Monday 8 Feb 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 10 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
Rev Ross Kennedy

Friday 12 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

For updates on what is planned, don't forget that we have *two* websites, one for each part of our LEP, and each has a diary section. Why not bookmark one or both of them?

www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk

www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

And don't forget to give the webmaster your ideas and let him know of any errors or needs for change.

Area Council meetings 2016

28 January at St Paul's, Kinross, where the speaker will be Nick Green.

25 February at St Finnian's, Lochgelly. There will be a brief discussion about Synod papers and Rev David Mackenzie Mills will talk about Music in Worship.

26 May at St Peter's, Kirkcaldy, when the speaker will be from the Fife Migrants Forum.

1 July will be the annual social at Nan Kennedy's home, Warroch House, Kinross.

18 September is the Area Council annual church service, to be held this year at our church.

24 November at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, when the speaker will be James Gardner, Youth Officer.

This is a full programme and sounds really interesting. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, most of which begin at 7.30pm. If any of the programme stirs an interest, please come along! And don't forget that St Margaret's are the hosts for the annual service at **6.00pm** on **18 September**!

From the Superintendent's Desk

Rev Andrew Lethby introduces the December Plan,
and welcomes another ecumenical partnership ...

Dear friends

The most significant development in recent months has come in Dunbar. Last year we celebrated 250 years of Methodist history in the town, marked by an exhibition, a choral Evensong on Aldersgate Sunday and a special visit by the President of the Methodist Conference. In each of these we were reminded that the Methodist witness was part of something bigger, stretching much further back and relating in diverse ways to the history of the town. The special Evensong was especially significant as it was shared with our friends from St Anne's Scottish Episcopal Church. Little did we realise that evening how the friendship would develop as conversations and joint services began to draw us closer together. As you look at this Plan, you will see that worship on Sunday mornings will now be with St Anne's each week. The services will be Holy Communion, conducted according to the rites of both the Episcopal and Methodist Churches. On one Sunday each month one of our Methodist preachers will preach at the service.

How and why has all this happened? We are all aware that our smaller societies are struggling to maintain reasonable Sunday congregations and to manage finance and buildings. Too often this results in a small group of people struggling on until money, energy or both run out and another society is closed. As a consequence, the people feel they have failed and the distinctive Methodist witness in the community is lost. An open door of welcome from one of our sister churches in Dunbar, along with a real desire to support and indeed develop the Methodist witness, has given the opportunity to work out a new future and avoid such a fate.

On Advent Sunday (the last Sunday on the previous Plan) I will be leading a service alongside the Bishop of Edinburgh to inaugurate our new way of working in light of St Anne's declaration of 'Ecumenical Welcome'. I work with Bishop John in a number of contexts and it has long been our shared, prayerful hope that we can develop closer working between our two denominations, which have much in common. When we planned the service for Advent Sunday it was in expectation that it would be a moment to take stock of progress and encourage the on-going conversations. Little did we imagine that God was not as patient as us and things were going to move far more swiftly than we could even have predicted. In October the Dunbar Church Council agreed by an overwhelming majority to follow this path and soon after the Vestry meeting at St Anne's showed their equally enthusiastic response to the proposals.

The Scottish Episcopal Church of course stands in the Anglican tradition (though it is not by any means a branch of the Church of England!) and I do rather enjoy the thought that life-long Anglican Priests, John and Charles Wesley might just be smiling as they look down on this small example of healing and reconnecting. Their desire was always for reform not separation. The hope is that their teaching of faith lived out in scriptural and social holiness will be renewed as we jointly witness to the grace filled love of Jesus in Dunbar.

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Our collect for Aldersgate Sunday sums up much of this hope:

Almighty God, you raised up your servants, John and Charles Wesley, to proclaim anew the gift of redemption and the life of holiness.

Pour out your Spirit and revive your work among us; that, inspired by the same faith, and upheld by the same grace in word and sacrament, we and all your children may be made one in the unity of your Church on earth, even as in heaven we are made one in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

When I wrote for the Plan 12 months ago, I did so as part of the preparations for my period of sabbatical study and travel. I have shared some of the experiences in various ways since I returned to the circuit in March. It all feels like a very long time ago now! Life has been far too busy since. It is now the turn of Deacon Sue to enjoy a sabbatical, though hers will be somewhat different as

she will take the time in three separate blocks as she leads up to her retirement in the summer of 2016. I know she will benefit from the time to begin preparations for the next phase of her life and ministry.

I do need though to ask for everyone's patience and respect for the workload which will result, especially for Belinda and me. Helen is already on maternity leave, and Geoffrey on reduced hours whilst Lou, Stephanie and Helen Mee have their time dedicated to particular areas of important work.

As a circuit we will need to work in different ways and manage expectations. I thank the circuit stewards and others for their promises of support and for taking on some new roles, but please remember that none of us can be at meetings seven nights a week or realistically lead more services, bible studies, or take on extra visits ... That said, "be of good courage" – God has great things in store for us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one who made all things new.

Yours

Andrew

Editorial team changes

For those who are not aware, the editing, printing and distribution of the Contact magazine falls on the Methodist church for the next two years. Howard Kirby has kindly volunteered to oversee this job assisted by Dave Ward. To that end, Dave will be looking for congregational input in one way or another, so be prepared for e-mails or phone calls to ask for information/stories.

Dave says there will be a problem/puzzle page in each issue, plus a special item to keep you guessing. Here is one to whet your appetite:

On the picture opposite, join all nine dots with only four *straight* lines, and *without* taking your pen off the paper.

Answer in the next issue!

Our Covenant Service

Mary Kidd prepares us for 24 January ...

At the Covenant Service, which is more usually held on the first Sunday in January (though it might be held on the first Sunday of the Methodist year which begins in September) Methodists renew their Covenant with God. Our Circuit Superintendent, Rev Andrew Letby will be leading us at our Joint Service on **24 January**. Other Christian denominations have in recent years expressed their interest in this covenant with God, so it is good that we as Methodists and Episcopalians have this opportunity to take part together.

This service has been a deep source of blessing to our church since the year 1755 when John Wesley held his first Covenant Service in the French church in Spitalfields, in London. He drew much of his material for the service from 17th-century Puritans and subsequently made changes to it.

The service has a special significance and solemnity. It begins with "Glory to the Father; the God of love, who created us; who continually preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love, and given us the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ".

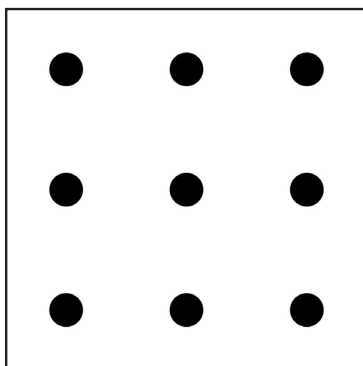
Towards the end of the service we unite in the following declaration "We take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience and, for love of you, engage ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own but yours".

The words "Put me to doing, put me to suffering", have raised difficulties for some people. These words do not mean that we ask God to make us suffer, but rather that we desire, by God's help, actively to do or patiently accept whatever is God's will for us.

The covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole faith community.

It's possible that this covenant, sincerely entered upon, and faithfully remembered throughout the year, can have a deep and blessed influence upon the whole life of our Church, our partnership, and as individuals. What better way is there to begin 2016, the year we celebrate 100 years of Methodism in Rosyth, and 20 years of worship here as the Scottish Episcopal Church of St Margaret?

"Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace".



Reflecting on our community

A sermon preached by the Rev Dr David Easton on Sunday 18 October 2015
The readings were 1 Kings 17:8–16 and Mark 6:30–44

I was sorry I wasn't able to be on the Rosyth walkabout, but it's a reminder that we live in communities. So I want just to reflect very briefly on what the Gospel reading that was chosen for today says to us about community.

Jesus himself lived, it seems to me, in an ever-changing community – the community of his disciples, but also the different crowds that he met as he moved around. The Gospel reading this morning was about one particular crowd – the ones who were hungry – the 5,000 who were fed. And if you look at this story, it wasn't that Jesus invited these people to come and listen to him – there weren't posters scattered about the town saying "Jesus is here: come and hear him" – they kind of discovered him, they came uninvited. I get the impression that he was tired – that he wanted a quiet space to be on his own – and yet the people caught up with him, as so often was the case.

Ever-changing communities

I think the first point I want to make is that our communities, the communities of which we are a part (and we are part of a community – I think sadly that sometimes, as the church, we find it easier to be *apart from* the community than to be *a part of* the community) in many senses are similarly *not* of our own choosing, and they *are* ever-changing.

The community of Rosyth is very different from when the Methodist church was established here 100 years ago next year; from when this building was put up; from when your own congregations were established. Times change and move on, and these changes as it were sometimes catch us up. They present themselves to us, and so there is that sense in which the

community comes to us. We do not choose that, even if you in a sense have chosen to come and live in Rosyth. Nevertheless, its changing nature means it is always bringing new things, new opportunities, new challenges, to you.

Responding to the community

Secondly, what was the response of Jesus as these uninvited people came to him? Well, tired as he was, it says that he felt sorry for them – *compassion*; some translations say 'pity'. Pity today is perhaps a bit of a patronising word – "I pity you," but I mean that he *felt* something for them. He didn't just say "Oh, more people" or "Was it a good turn-out today?" or "That was a pretty good gig – 5,000". No, he looked at them and he felt pity. He felt sorry for them ... and he spoke to them ... and of course they were hungry.

What is *our* response to the community that comes to us, the communities of which we are a part? We need as churches to be looking out into our communities to be concerned, and we see of course today that churches are involved in foodbanks, street pastors, all sorts of initiatives to help people, refugees. But is very easy for all to sort of slip into organisational mode. How can we best do this? who is on the rota? You know all the rest of it. But at the heart of Jesus' response was that he felt *compassion*. Do we feel for the people in communities? Do we as God's people have a compassion for others? or is our expression of our Christian faith a mere almost mechanical sort of thing? For Jesus it came from his heart, he felt sorrow, he felt pity, compassion for them, and as we think about how we interact with our communities, our families, our places of work, whatever it may be, we need to have that heart of the love of Christ within us.

Meeting the need

And then thirdly, he met them where they were, at their point of need, their hunger. As the story went, they were hungry. Imagine all those 5,000 stomachs rumbling in unison! He met them where they were, and we need to meet people where they *are*, not where we think they *should be*. So often our first response is “Oh, come to church: our services are on Sunday at 9.00am or 11.00am, or whatever it might be. Do come along, you’ll be very welcome”. But if you look at the pattern of Jesus, he went to where people were: he went to the hungry; he went to the leper; he went to the beggar. That was where he was, and as churches I think we need not only to be a church with an open door to welcome people in, we need to be a church with an open door so that we can go out and be part of the community of which we are a part. Jesus went to where they were.

Being a receiving church

I think one of the most intriguing things about this story and several others about Jesus (the story of the woman at the well, for example) is that it wasn’t all a one-way street. Jesus fed them because someone gave bread and fish. Now in Mark’s account, and in Matthew and Luke’s accounts, it’s not quite clear where this food came from. The impression seems to be given that it was something the disciples had. But if you read John’s account it was a boy who gave the barley bread and fish, and Jesus was able to do the miracle. But, whichever was the case, Jesus didn’t provide it himself. Just as with the woman at the well, he asked for a cup of water. He didn’t say to her “I can give you a cup of water”, he asked for what she could give him. In John’s account of this story of the 5,000, it powerfully says he took the fish and the barley bread from a boy.

Now barley bread is something we might see in a supermarket today and say: “That’s a bit of a change – I’ll try that – slightly exotic”. It wasn’t slightly exotic for that boy, because barley bread in the time of Christ was the bread that poor people ate. The wealthy ate wheat bread. So that word ‘barley’ tells you that this boy was poor, and the fish would have been dried fish. The gift he had to offer didn’t come from his wealth, his high status; it came from his poverty and where he was in society. And Jesus didn’t turn away from that and say “Sorry that’s not good enough! I am the Son of God: I can only do miracles with food that is bought in Waitrose” (and you’ve scraped along in the Co-op or Lidl or Aldi, or wherever). No, he took what was offered, and then did the miracle.

So, as well as thinking about what we can give to others in our community, we need to be a *receiving* church. (It was interesting that our people were grateful for what they had learned in the walkabout) I am not speaking here about receiving money when we want a new roof on our church; I am talking about something far more profound, in accepting what others can give. If it’s only a cup of cold water, or a piece of barley bread, we are saying that what that person has to offer is worthy to be received. And more, that the person is worthy and that we are gracious enough to receive it.

Do we as a church have enough of the grace of Christ among us that we feel love and compassion for our communities? Do we have enough of the grace and love of Christ about us that we are willing and ready to receive what the communities of which we are a part of have to give? Jesus had that grace, and a miracle happened. What miracles of grace are we willing to allow Christ to work through us today?

Churches in Rosyth – the early days

Our resident local historian Martin Rogers tells the story

Everyone reading this article will be aware that it is our Church centenary next year. Are you aware that it is also the centenary of Rosyth Garden City, of the dockyard becoming operational, and of the Battle of Jutland? The story of the churches, the town of Rosyth and the dockyard are inextricably linked, with the fortunes of the dockyard having a significant impact on the town of Rosyth. This article sets the scene for our centenary year and particularly looks at the establishment of other Christian denominations in the town.

So let's step back in time to December 1915. Building the new dockyard had started in earnest in 1909 and work was fairly well advanced. However the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 had resulted in shortages of labour and materials and this was having a significant effect on progress with the contract. The bulk of the men working on the dockyard construction were navvies or labourers. They were an itinerant group of workers who travelled round the country working on major civil engineering projects – docks, railways etc. Initially the navvies found lodgings in Charlestown, Inverkeithing and Dunfermline as there was no town of Rosyth. In 1913 and 1914 the contractors building the dockyard erected a hut settlement (Tin Town) on land to the north of what we now know as Hilton Road principally for the navvies and later for some of the first dockyard workers.

Navvies did not feel comfortable worshipping in the established churches, and a body called the Scottish Navy Mission Society had been set up some years previously to cater for the spiritual needs of the navvies. They appointed a navy missionary to contracts employing a substantial number of navvies and also provided a temporary navy mission church. Such a church was established at Rosyth

on the edge of the Tin Town settlement. The work of the navy mission society was supported by the established churches both nationally and at a local level. By its nature, the navy mission would only ever be a temporary presence in an area. When the contract was completed the navvies would move on to another contract elsewhere in the country and the mission would close. However, taking the place of the navvies at Rosyth, so to speak, were large numbers of skilled workers coming to work in the dockyard and their families. It was to house this new work force that the Garden City of Rosyth came into being. At one stage the population of Rosyth was expected to be 30,000 (as opposed to our current population of about 13,000) although Royal Naval personnel would make up a large part of this number.

At the end of 1915 the population of Rosyth was based on the Tin Town settlement at Hilton Road, but this was about to change. The first houses in the new garden city were under construction and within a few years the population of the garden city would significantly outnumber the Tin Town residents. Once the Garden City was established the Tin Town houses were due to be demolished. So, it was to the Garden City that the Christian denominations looked when making their plans to establish permanent churches in the town. In the interim, three temporary churches were erected in Castle Road to serve the population of Tin Town and also Royal Navy personnel. The Wesleyan Army and Navy Board opened the first of these at the end of January 1917, to be followed about three weeks later by St Margaret's Anglican Church (a naval church). The third church was a Presbyterian church, established jointly by the Church of Scotland and UF Church of Scotland, which opened in June.



The temporary SS Andrew & George church

Three temporary churches were also opened in the Garden City area. In June 1917, the Church of Scotland erected a temporary building on the site of their present church and, in that same year, St Andrew and St George Scottish Episcopal Church erected a temporary church on the south side of Admiralty Road at the Crossroads. In April 1918, the Congregational Church opened a temporary church on a site at the north end of King's Road. This was remote from the area which had been developed for housing at the time, but was possibly with an eye to the future expansion of Rosyth. In December 1919, the Rosyth Corps of the Salvation Army erected a hut on the south side of Admiralty Road. A Baptist Church congregation was formed in 1918, initially holding their services in one of the schools and later in the YMCA Red Triangle Hut at the top of Backmarch Road. A permanent church building was opened in March 1923 on their present site.



The temporary Congregational church

Following the Great War, the Treaty of Washington was drawn up and signed by the major powers in 1922. This restricted the size of the navies, and as a result the Royal Navy scrapped many of its ships. One consequence of this was that there was not enough work to occupy all the Royal Dockyards. Short-time working had already been introduced at Rosyth in 1921, and the following year the news came that some 3,000 men (almost half the work-force at Rosyth) were to be dismissed. In April 1925, the Admiralty dropped a bombshell by announcing that the dockyard was to close and was to be put on a care-and-maintenance basis. This outcome of this decision was that many of the workers who had come from southern dockyards returned there or moved to dockyards elsewhere. This dramatically reduced the membership of our church and plans for a new church building at the corner of King's Road and Admiralty Road were abandoned. The permanent church for St Andrew and St George Episcopal Church was under construction at the time, and the plans were re-drawn to reduce the size of the building. The Congregational Church had been destroyed by fire in 1925, and the decision to close the dockyard was probably the reason the church was never re-opened. One scheme which did proceed was the building of St John and St Columba's Roman Catholic Church at the Crossroads which opened in October 1926.

So by 1925, the fortunes of the dockyard had already had a significant effect on the town of Rosyth and the churches in Rosyth. Other ups-and-downs would follow over the years, but fortunately not in quite such a dramatic way.

Keeping the show on the road – 1

Property improvements

We have submitted a grant application to Awards for All to try to obtain funds to make improvements to the front and back entrances of the church. If successful with the application, the plans are to put down vinyl flooring in the back entrance and the Crush Hall, to replace the back door with an aluminium one, to replace the motley collection of cupboards in the back entrance and to refurbish the coffee bar. Users of the coffee bar who would like to provide some input to the coffee bar refurbishment will find the preliminary plans on display on the notice board in Room 3. Suggestions and comments would be welcomed. I should emphasise that these improvements will only go ahead if we are successful with the application.

Martin Rogers
Chairman, Property Committee



What was making Dave so happy at his job? Simple answer – large congregation = large collection! This picture was taken on 18 October in the church office. If you're mystified by that term, it's what was the vestry, until Dave and Mandy redecorated what used to be the Crèche Room.

Tax refund

Dave Ward reports: "We have recently received our tax refund for last year, so our monthly charities will be getting a little bonus (once I have worked it out). I am also currently getting the information together for our OSCR returns."

Centenary items to buy

Next year is the Church's centenary, and we have obtained some items to sell to celebrate this great event:

- Mugs with the Church logo on opposite sides, selling for £6.00 each.
- Leather key rings with a picture of the church embossed on a fob, selling for £3.50 each.
- A4-size 2016 calendars with pictures of the church at the top, selling for £1.00 each.

If you feel really flush you can purchase all three for £10.00!

The items are on sale every Friday at the Triangle Café, and also after Sunday worship. Or you can purchase them direct from Mandy or Dave Ward.



Prayer is a very effective way of "keeping the show on the road". This is another still from the Lord's Prayer advert referred to on our back cover.

Keeping the show on the road –2

St Margaret's AGM

The AGM held on Sunday 15 November was attended by a large number of the congregation. This was a relaxed and informed meeting and the annual reports previously passed to the congregation to 'mark, read and inwardly digest' were well received. Our finances are in a healthy state, partly due to an increase in congregational giving. The budget for 2015/16, approved by Vestry on 27 October, includes an increase of £50 a month each to Holy Trinity towards the Rector's stipend and travel and to Rosyth Methodist Church towards the upkeep of the building, bringing the annual giving to each to £4,500. We are also donating a new church notice board to replace the current one on the roadside in recognition of the Methodist Church's 100th anniversary in 2016.

Our lay representative, Valerie Leslie, and our alternate, Erica Lock, were re-elected to serve for another year.

Mary Kidd stood down from the Vestry after several years. No-one had volunteered to take her place, but Vestry can co-opt someone during the year if necessary.

Members of the Vestry for the next year are: Sue Forman, Valerie Leslie (ex officio), Erica Lock, Sue Masson, Gordon Pryde, Myra Tarr, Alan Taylor and Sandra Young.

Vestry will appoint the Secretary and Treasurer at the next meeting on 26 January 2016.

Marc Tempelhoff, who has been our Protection of Vulnerable Groups co-ordinator since 2009, gave up the role due to pressure of work. Jan Benvie has offered to take it and Vestry is delighted to recommend her to the Bishop for appointment subject to completion of the inevitable paperwork.

Marc will also be standing down as our Gift Aid secretary at the end of the tax year. If anyone feels they would like to take on this important task from next April, please talk to Alan Taylor.

Sandra Young

Ed: It amused me that it was the Collect for the Sunday closest to November 16 that Sandra was reflecting in her article. It reads: "Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." A timely Collect!

A Centenary gift

Most folk know by now that St Margaret's will mark the Centenary of Methodism in Rosyth in 2016 by gifting a new roadside church board to Rosyth Methodist Church. Sadly the current board is well past its "best before date", but it has served its purpose

and now is a good time to replace it, with updated terminology, the names and contact details of our present ministers – and a banner headline "A Hundred Years of Methodism in Rosyth" surrounding the years 1916–2016.

The Scout Group

Martin Rogers (Assistant Group Scout Leader) reports ...

During the past year a number of our leaders and lay members have received awards for long service and good service. At last year's Open Night our then Explorer Scout Leader, Terry O'Neill, was presented with his 15-year Long Service Award and our former Group Scout Leader, Stuart Fowell, with his 40-year Long Service Award. In March our former Group Chairman, Tony Caudrey, received his 30-year Long Service Award and I received my 50-year Long Service Award.

At this year's Open Night last month, Tony and his wife Ann were presented with the Award for Merit in recognition of their contribution to scouting in our group over many years and our Scout Leader, Alan Connery, and Beaver Leader, David Sinclair, were awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service.

The total service of these individuals amounts to over 185 years which, I think, is a remarkable achievement. Terry has stood down from the position of Explorer Scout Leader to take on a new role as District Commissioner for Rosyth District, and Gary Dewar has taken his place. We were very sorry to lose the services of Suzy Knight as our group secretary and thank her for all that she has done for the group.

The number of young people in our group totals 75 and the past year has seen a good mix of activities both indoors and out. Our Beavers had success in both their District competitions – well done to them! There have been very few competitions for the other sections to enter. The cubs had two camps again this year, the most recent one



Ann and Tony Caudrey



Alan Connery and David Sinclair

being during the October holidays when the drop in night-time temperatures was very evident! The Scouts had a number of camps, with their summer camp held at the Jock Neish Centre outside Forfar, where they learnt a number of basic scouting skills including backwoods cooking with fresh trout and rabbit. The Explorer Scouts have a busy outdoor programme, which included a trip to Dublin in October. Highlights included visits to the Guinness factory, Croke Park and Dublin Zoo and a ghost bus tour.

The sections are now getting into a refreshed training programme introduced earlier this year. The Cub section has a special year to look forward to as it is 100 years since the Wolf Cub section was started – yet another centenary! A number of special events will be held, and our own Pack has arranged a summer camp on Brownsea Island, the home of Scouting.

Recent Sundays@Six

A Pilgrim's Progress (with apologies to JB)

Sunday@Six offers a wealth of delight with its wide variety of worship and fellowship. On 25 October, Andrew Wedge of Holy Trinity told us of his pilgrimage from Porto to Santiago de Compostela, a distance of some 150km, undertaken by himself and young people involved in the international Porvoo communion.

Andrew gave an extremely enjoyable, enthusiastic and impressive presentation of the joys and tribulations of a modern-day pilgrim. The journey on foot took the southern route, and involved an amazing logistics system, but not least sheer physical, mental and spiritual courage, as well as fun and lasting friendships.

A test not only of physical stamina, but a test of faith. Andrew was brave enough to admit that, on one particular occasion following an injury, he found himself alone on the trail, with part of the group well ahead and out of sight, and no sign of the part of the group behind. Was he still on the right track? Could he manage to go on? Where was everyone? Was he alone? Then, wonderfully, he realised he was not alone, as he heard the following group catching up with him.

The pilgrims walked about 35km a day, starting at about 8.00am, their heavy luggage and bedding, food, etc., going on ahead, and arriving at the hall or building where they were to eat and sleep. Each national group took it in turns to provide the evening's entertainment and worship, a truly ecumenical gathering, inviting faith, and strengthening those taking part. ▷

Choral Evensong for Saint Cecilia

November's Sunday@Six fell on the feast day of St Cecilia, patron saint of music and musicians, so it seemed highly appropriate to sing Evensong on that day. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis setting by Walmisley; a West Gallery anthem – I know that my Redeemer lives; Schubert's glorious song – *An die Musik* sung beautifully by Marc; Psalm 149 sung to traditional Anglican chant; and all expertly accompanied by William Campbell, assistant organist at Dunfermline Abbey.

I think the whole evening is summed up by David Mowbray's version of Angel Voices Ever Singing:

Fill our hearts, Lord God Almighty,
with thanksgiving for this place;
for its heritage of worship,
songs and silence, sacred space;
for the gift of choir and organ,
messengers alike of grace.

Sue Masson

Ed: Thanks to Sue for all she does to keep Sunday@Six going. Do please read her appeal on page 10.

I was most impressed by the commitment and the journey of faith shared by Andrew and his fellow-pilgrims. With young people like this in our midst sharing their faith and mission the future of our churches seems safer.

Erica Lock

In the wider world – 1

Margaret's ordination

St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth was full on Sunday 15 November to celebrate the ordination to the order of presbyters of the Reverend Dr Margaret Dineley, curate at St Finnian's, Lochgelly, our friend and former lay representative, and Nerys Brown from Dunblane, who used to teach Welsh to Myra and Gwyneth, to the Diaconate.

St Margaret's was well represented although, unlike Margaret's ordination to the diaconate at Glenrothes earlier this year, our choir did not lead the singing!

This was a joyous occasion with the Cathedral choir leading the praise and the congregation heartily singing the well-known hymns. The service was accompanied on the organ by Matthew Beetschen

(former organist at Dunblane Cathedral and known to those of us who have attended RSCM Singing Days there), whose wonderful playing showed off the Cathedral organ at its best.

Margaret was presented for ordination by the Rev David Mackenzie Mills (Rector of St Paul's, Kinross) and Ross Stirling, a member of St Finnian's, well-known to us as he often attends our evening worship. This was followed by the declaration, the calling of the candidates and the laying on of hands by Bishop David and all the clergy present – an incredibly moving gesture. Earlier, the Rev Michael Paterson, who had led the retreat that Margaret and Nerys had been part of a few days before, preached a short but apt sermon, which he had changed to reflect the atrocities of the Paris attacks earlier that weekend.

Margaret will continue to serve at St Finnian's and Nerys as curate at St John's Church, Perth. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they start a new chapter in their ministry.

Sandra Young



Nerys, Bishop David and Margaret

Challenges from the top

At the end of the Fife Inter-faith Group Annual lecture given at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline on 24 November, in which he had explored the impact of the Paris events and the Lord's Prayer video controversy (back cover), and spoken of the need for serious public debate about the kind of diverse society which we are building, Bishop David concluded:

"... consider where all this leads and what kind of society Scottish Inter-faith Week challenges us to build. I think that it calls us to become much more intentional about how we develop our interfaith relationships ... We need to get to know one another better on a personal level. We need to understand how one another's communities work. We need to think about whether there are parts of one another's traditions which we can share. Can we work together in the relief of poverty – as we already do in Food Banks? Can present austerity give us the opportunity of sharing in the wonderful Sikh tradition of feeding people in the Gurdwara? Can we explore together how together we might represent the idea of faith to a society which is very secular?"

In the wider world – 2

West Fife Area Council

The Area Council met at Holy Trinity on 19 November, when the main speaker was Thomas Brauer, Diocesan Missioner, on the topic of Mission in the Diocese.

Thomas spoke about the importance of looking outward into the community, and of the Bishop's role as key leader in mission, pointing out that throughout the history of the SEC the Bishop has had a key role in Church planting.

Having asked the question "What is mission", Thomas stated it to be an attitude of God. Looking outward was God's nature and empowered us to love. Thomas reminded us that God called us to step into the gap of God's living action and become "Active Disciples" by jumping into active discipleship. Thomas said that this could be as simple as walking in the community and asking God what he wants us to do there.

Thomas talked about "Fresh Expressions" of church. He asked why people leave the church, and suggested it was because they felt disappointed by the lack of fellowship, or were disappointed by the lack of mission, or even the lack of community.

Thomas stated that the Mission Action Planning Committee was backing away from "Casting the Net" as an activity and looking more at what it stands for: Casting the Net is about Values, Principles and Practice.

Thomas finished by discussing version 3 of the Mission Action Plan which takes Congregational Growth as a focus. Thomas suggested that the main focus of the SEC was to move forward with energy, looking at what the church has done well and also focus on its weaker, less successful plan, Growing Discipleship.

Valerie Leslie

RSCM Singing Day

It is a couple of years since members of St Margaret's choir attended the annual RSCM singing day, held in Dunblane Cathedral. Five of our choir, Myra, Val, Pam, Dorissia and Martin together with Ian and me, helped to swell the numbers, in total about 30, including singers from as far afield as Thurso and Balquidder, who spent the afternoon of 7 November making music.

As in previous years, we were instructed by the enthusiastic and helpful Gordon Appleton, an experienced Course Director, who taught us five pieces of choral music and a simple prayer "The Chorister's Prayer", beautifully set to haunting music. After the break for tea, we put our efforts to good use when, during a short service, we 'performed' four of the pieces and two hymns, with words we didn't know, but with familiar tunes. We were accompanied on the magnificent organ by Steven McIntyre, a former organ scholar at Dunblane Cathedral.

With 7 November falling within the time of celebration of All Saints and Remembrance, we were treated to a thought-provoking sermon on Saints by the minister of Dunblane Cathedral, the Rev Gordon Renwick, who also led the service and intercessions.

This was an inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in a beautiful, medieval building, and so worthwhile for the choir to have the opportunity to sing new choral music. Hopefully, the congregation will hear and enjoy these choral works as part of the choir's repertoire in future.

Sandra Young

A time to look forward

A sermon preached by the Very Rev Jim Mein at St Margaret's and at Holy Trinity
on Advent Sunday, 29 November 2015

The readings were Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 and Luke 21:25–36

Advent Sunday has come round again – another year gone, another year starting – enough to make anyone feel tired! No wonder there is a lot of drinking on December 31st!

Well let me start by saying I think one of the bedrocks of my faith these days is that we are **not** on an eternal circular treadmill, each year with its superficial differences but fundamentally a repetition of all the years that have gone before and all that will follow after.

On the contrary, God's creation, and the lives of each one of us, is a continuing process, a gradual unfolding. This is what our readings this morning suggest – though their time frame is rather different to ours:

Jeremiah promising that the days are surely coming – for justice and righteousness in the land.

Paul begging the Thessalonians to increase and abound in love in order to be ready for the coming of Jesus.

And Luke writing of the signs of the times which are the predictions of the coming of the new age.

As I say, their time scale was vastly different to ours. Paul and Luke appear to have believed that the end of the present age would come in their lifetime. It would take longer than I have, and someone brighter, to explain how their understanding of history, both the past and the future, was different to ours, but different it certainly was.

The beginning of a new year invites us to meditate on the past and the future – I'd like to try that, not in detail but broad brush. Life has always been precarious. From the first emergence of humanity our species experienced the threats of cold,

heat and starvation, of wild animals and neighbouring tribes, of sickness and the forces, or 'acts of God', which were beyond their control and which they could not understand. The dangers were all too clear. Life was hard, dangerous and short.

We might seem different. The central heating takes care of winter, the supermarkets are full whatever the weather, wild animals are safely locked up in zoos, wars are generally far away, the health service, for all we complain, is expected to cure our ills, and the forces people used to fear we now see as superstition. Today we are comfortable; life is under control.

Well, of course that is not true. Events in Paris, the news from Syria and a multitude of other countries, remind us of danger and chaos. I'm certainly pleased I live today rather than in any past age, but fundamentally the precarious nature of life has not changed. Indeed in some respects we may face even more challenges than our ancestors. Comparisons are impossible and irrelevant; but our rapid use of the earth's resources, global warming and floods, pressure on water supplies, continuing population growth, terrorist threats, new diseases for which we have no antibiotics, dementia – the list is long – and we are told the general stress levels in western nations are high: it has always been so.

It was so in Biblical times. As we look back through history there has always been the need to hope for a better future. I think it is part of our basic DNA – we hope; we believe the future can be better. This hope is one of the basic thrusts of religion. But I sometimes wonder if we are in danger of losing it in our modern world. There is a deep cynicism about politics, about our

ability to plan, organise, our corporate future. I sense a retreat on many fronts to a concern for ourselves, for our particular family or group or nation – or indeed our particular bit of the universal Church. The vision of a united, caring, inter-dependent world seems to be less bright than it was in biblical times or in the post-war Britain many of us grew up in.

But as I say, today we start a new Church year; in a month it will be a new secular year. It is a time to look forward with real hope that God's kingdom can draw closer. Of course I'm not expecting Jesus to float down from the skies to establish his kingdom as people thought possible 2,000 years ago. Nor am I expecting some marvellous political leader to emerge and establish a just and peaceful land in 2016 with well-funded health care and houses and jobs for everyone.

But I do have hope: partly because, in spite of all the many problems, I do believe we have made progress over the past centuries. Even in my lifetime better race relations: not only the end of apartheid, but in America and here more contacts between peoples of different colour. And great strides in the place of women in society, even in the Church. And an end to criminalising gay people. In Paul's great trilogy – Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free – it may be the slave or free, in the sense of the rich who have power and the poor who feel helpless, which needs most attention in our present world. And we must certainly add a greater integration of humanity and nature, a care for our environment – the march yesterday in Edinburgh was a real sign of this growing concern. There is obviously a long way to go on many fronts, but signs, green shoots, are there if we look for them.

But it is not really the successes (limited but real) of the past that feed my hope. Rather it is the belief that our Christian faith calls us to look forward rather than back. Perhaps that needs a little justification – so often the Church looks back. It's easy to see how we can slip into this. The ancient myth of the Garden of Eden could make us think our aim is to return there – though the myth itself denies this with the angel with a flaming sword barring the gate, and it was our acquiring the knowledge of good and evil that really created our humanity. We know there was no garden and that death and decay have always been part of the earth's way of life.

Or, more tempting, we might look back to Jesus and to the Bible – pretending that all truth was set out there. All the answers are available, if only we could shout more loudly to our present world. The Church has often tried to do this, but then continually had to adjust and catch up. I think moral progress has very often been led by Christian individuals and groups inspired by their faith, but they generally had to work against the dead weight of the institutional Church.

Jesus looked forward: he built on the past and then went beyond it. He expected the disciples to continue growing – to move out from Judaism to the whole world. He recognised that there were truths the people of his generation could not take on board – but the Spirit, he said, would lead us.

The kingdom of God lies in the future – it is in the process of being created. We are not called to fear the modern world but to sanctify it – to see God's will within it and help all humanity continue the journey. Our faith is not an escape from the complexities of life, but rather it should give us the strength to face life.

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We don't know what the future holds for our world, particularly in the short term, but God's future depends, in a quite terrifying way, at least partly, on how we women and men commit ourselves to that future, trusting the Spirit, searching for the positive possibilities, being willing to risk. We have to engage with the great themes which we traditionally remember from the archetypal stories of the Bible on these four Sundays of Advent – the Patriarchs, courage moving into the unknown; the Prophets, passion for justice; John the Baptist, calling the people to repentance, believing a new beginning is possible; and Mary, who welcomed God into her life.

The dawn of a new year is not an invitation to repeat the past. Neither our Church nor our world can remain repeating year after year, like a mouse turning a wheel in its cage. A rut, dug deep, becomes a grave. A new year calls us to renew our search for life in all its future fullness. We are not created in the image of the amoeba from which we evolved, but in the image of God to whom we journey. The God who is always ahead of us, calling us into a new year, new hope, new life. God bless you on the journey.

Jim Mein

Rosyth centenaries in 2016

Next March marks the centenary of the first Methodist meeting for worship and fellowship in Rosyth, and you will have received the short-form calendar of our own 2016 events in the flyer that was inside the previous issue of Contact. But that is not the only centenary being celebrated in the town in 2016, for 1916 is the year in which the first houses in the "Garden City" plan for Rosyth were occupied, and the year in which the Dockyard became operational. That year also, the Battle Cruiser Fleet based at Rosyth was involved in the Royal Navy's only major sea battle against Germany's High Seas Fleet, the Battle of Jutland, which took place on 31 May 1916.

Thanks to a meeting convened last February by Deacon Morag Crawford (Rosyth Parish Church) various organisations have been drawn into discussions and sharing of ideas as how best to mark these centenaries.

Those involved include representatives of the churches, the Rosyth Garden City Association, Rosyth Community Council, Take a Pride in Rosyth, Fife Councillors, and local firms. Others with a national role are also involved, given that Rosyth is just part of the wider picture of commemorative events planned by the UK and Scottish Governments to mark the centenary of the Battle of Jutland. The Rosyth Centenary Group (as the group is now named) has sought contributions from these and other organisations in Rosyth to a Centenary Booklet that is to be distributed to every household in Rosyth, funding for which has been sought and awarded. Local schools have been involved in a competition to design a logo for the centenary, which will feature both in the booklet and in the exhibitions and events that are planned. For details of these see the booklet, early next year!

Howard Kirby

Contact points and meeting times

This list supplements the list of formal contacts given on the inside cover, and is for the activities and organisations run by the Methodist Church Council, St Margaret's Vestry, and by affiliated but independent organisations.

Church activities

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

Property matters and letting enquiries to
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

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

St Margaret's Gift Aid enquiries to
Marc Tempelhoff 01383 410151
marct@talktalk.net

Sunday School and Messy Church
Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779
gmkirby@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup is no longer meeting.
All enquiries should be directed to
Howard Kirby (chair) 01383 624779
brambles@rosythmethodist.org.uk

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

Scout Group

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

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

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

Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)
Alan Connery 01383 731391
scouts_13th_fife@btinternet.com

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

Guide Unit

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

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

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

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



At his lecture (page 34), Bishop David explored two issues which made Inter-faith Week 2016 particularly significant.

“The first is the controversy surrounding the Church of England’s video and the refusal of the cinema chains to screen it even though it had been passed by the appropriate boards. The cinemas said that their policy was not to accept political or religious advertising. They are perfectly entitled to that policy – although it begs the question whether all the rest of their advertising is somehow neutral. I am particularly aware at present for example of the extent to which advertising invites us to enter into unrestrained materialism – and I’m thinking particularly of the Christmas advertising directed at small children. The mistake which the cinemas made, in my view, was to suggest that this advertisement ‘might be offensive’

“Some of you may have seen the advertisement. It is a 60-second hearing of the Lord’s Prayer. People in various situations and roles say a line of the prayer in a way which links it to their daily life and work. There is no comment – no selling of anything. It is not an attempt to package religion or to sell a religious brand. I think it was a genuine attempt to evoke faith in a society in which that faith response tends to go dormant under the pressure of our secular culture.

“But offensive? I think that the values of Scottish Inter-faith Week include a recognition that we can all appreciate one another’s faith without necessarily needing to share it. It’s about recognising that we are all in the world of faith – all attempting to stir in people a deep faith response when much of the rest of our society wants us to believe that there is nothing more – nothing more than what we see and experience – nothing deeper which lies behind that – nothing which calls us to a deeper ‘soul engagement’ with our own lives and the life of the world.

“It also calls us to explore what we mean when we talk about a diverse or a multicultural society. I don’t believe such a society can be one in which we are offended simply by hearing the views or the faith of others – unless of course what we hear is fundamentalist, exclusive, prejudicial or hostile.”

You can see the official video advert at <http://www.justpray.uk/>

Contact on-line

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. 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!