

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 87
October/November 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

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on maternity leave — call the
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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

On the road: our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. This is a short walk from Rosyth Rail station. The car park is behind the church. Local on-street parking is limited, but there is much more parking space at the junction with Park Road.

Contact

Newsletter of the Methodist—Episcopalian local ecumenical partnership in Rosyth

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Closing date for December 2016/January 2017 issue: Tuesday 22nd November 2016

On working together

Rev Alison Cozens reflects on current and forthcoming ways of working

In the last issue, Rev Andrew Letby drew attention to the conversations that had taken place in various meetings on the question of 'how we can do more together'. As anticipated then, a meeting later took place (on 23rd August) of a small group with him and Bishop David Chillingworth to try to tease out ways forward. That was a significant meeting, with the Joint Council/Vestry members being given a quick debrief a week later, followed by a copy of the agreed record of the 23rd August meeting (copies of which are available on request to members of either congregation). This small group meets again on Tuesday 6th December when the Rev Helen Jenkins is back from maternity leave.

Against that background, the usual joint meeting of Rosyth Methodist Council and St Margaret's Episcopal Vestry took place on 27th September.

It was encouraging to hear about all the things we already do together: the property committee works especially well, perhaps because it has clear tasks like renovating the coffee bar! It was interesting to learn how it had evolved: from a Methodist-only committee with just a representative from St Margaret's, to its now joint structure. The Triangle Café each Friday morning goes from strength to strength and has been joint working from the outset. It is good to welcome Deacon Elizabeth there from the

Circuit, who comes with an interest in things nutritional!

New joint things are already about to happen or being planned. Joint Safeguarding training is to happen here in early October [*Ed: see page 2*]; and Messy Church is to become accessible to members of both congregations by meeting on the fourth rather than the second Sunday of the month [*Ed: see page 78*]. Another of the good things we have recently agreed is what is known as interchangeability of ministry. This has been done before in Rosyth. So once formal permission is given by the Diocese and by the Methodist Conference, two Methodist ministers and two Episcopal priests will be authorised to minister (including taking communion services) in either denomination. Other ideas may be progressed in consultation with the congregations.

Our hope is that from a position of mutual strength we can face the challenges of ministry and mission in our own day. Our Lord Jesus Christ sent out his disciples to work together for the sake of the kingdom. May we be a witness to God's love in all that we say and do here in Rosyth! To God be the glory!

Rev Alison Cozens

Introducing Deacon Elizabeth

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet introduces herself in a new circuit-wide role

As a relatively 'new kid on the block', so to speak, I have been invited to write a few words of introduction, following my recent arrival in the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit. If we've not already had an opportunity to meet, I'm Deacon Elizabeth, married to Graham and we have one daughter, Sarah-Sophia, who lives in Mauritius with her husband, Bilshan.

On 17th August Graham and I moved to Tranent from Manchester, where we had lived for 28 years. The news that I would be appointed to the Edinburgh & Forth Circuit was a delightful surprise and Graham and I were eagerly looking forward to coming to Edinburgh and have quickly settled into our new home.

Before candidating for ministry, I was a professional singer and singing teacher for 20 years and a qualified Nutritional Therapist for 12 years. Graham's background is in private medical insurance and he had his own brokerage which he sold earlier this year. In addition to presenting a weekly Progressive Rock music show on Salford City Radio, he now presents a live two hour show on Tranent based Radio Saltire every Friday evening at 8pm – if you want to tune in!



Graham and I are deeply grateful for everything that has been done to make us welcome here. We've not moved house for 28 years, a fact reflected in the many boxes we've had to unpack. Unpacking removal boxes is about unpacking the past as well as preparing for the future. During this

process I have been reminded of the many blessings that have shaped and influenced me over the years. But within those removal boxes were also reminders of those 'rocks on the road', life's inevitable difficulties, pains and losses – times during which I could only hold on to God, who faithfully brought me through. And it is my hope that these *particular* experiences will help me to be more real with those I meet and work alongside.

It's a privilege to have been appointed to serve God as a deacon in the Edinburgh & Forth Circuit. I'm particularly pleased that my role, which encompasses different areas of the Circuit, includes the Triangle Café each Friday morning. I look forward to getting to know you all in the coming days as we share fellowship and friendship over coffee and cake, whilst building relationships within our church and community.

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Safeguarding training

Jan Benvie, St Margaret's Protection for Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator, has arranged for Donald Urquhart, Provincial Officer for the SEC and Methodist Church for Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, to deliver Safeguarding Training at Rosyth Methodist Church on **Tuesday evening, 11 October**.

The training is not just for those who work with children or vulnerable adults, but for anyone with responsibility for Safeguarding. Donald has indicated that as the training is more beneficial with a greater number of participants, he hopes for a minimum of 10.

The training takes about 3-3 ½ hours, so we will meet at **5** for **5.30pm** and finish by **9pm**. Jan has offered to provide tea/coffee, sandwiches and cakes/biscuits from 5pm onwards.

Vestry and Council members have a particular responsibility, but each and every member of the church has their role to play. The evening training is open to all church members. We meet children and vulnerable adults in our church services, at our Triangle Coffee Morning, in Messy Church, Wednesday Fellowship, in everything that we do, and we all have a duty of care and protection.

This training evening will help equip us to provide a safe and supportive culture within our church, a safe place for people to come and worship and, when concerns are identified, we will know how to deal with them properly and promptly.

To help Donald prepare, and also to help with catering, if you wish to come please let Jan know (tel 07535 757526 or email jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk).

Fancy something spicy?

If you fancy some spicy food, then head to Holy Trinity Church Hall on **Friday 4 November, 7.00pm for 7.30pm**, when Dorissia and friends are laying on their usual selection of food "with a bite", this time in aid of the church Organ Fund. Whether you are a veggie or a carnivore, or prefer hot to mild curry, there will be something to suit your taste.

Bring your own bottle, but please *don't* turn up without getting a ticket

in advance, as this will be a sell-out! Tickets will be available from early October – talk nicely to Dorissia! You don't pay for the ticket, but you will be expected to turn up and to make a generous donation on the evening.

In the same way as the organ needs some fire put back into it, we all need warming up ahead of the long cold winter evenings, and this event will give you an opportunity to do it!

The Crosswater Band

Dave Ward continues his series of interviews with groups who use the building

A rare treat was had by all who attended the Sunday@Six Café Church style service on 28th of August. Apart from the well-chosen readings and the Episcopal Choir, in good voice as usual, the congregation were treated to selected music and songs, performed by the Crosswater Band, who were first class.

The Crosswater Band rehearse in our church weekly. Many of the band members cross the Forth each session, hence the name.

They are a 6-piece band, that have been in their present format for about a year. Here is a short profile of each band member.

George Brown plays the bass and comes from St Monans. George is a semi-retired property developer.

George Birrell is the Guitarist and comes from Gullen. George is an artist.

Fiona McLeod is the Vocalist and she comes from Edinburgh. Fiona is a self-proclaimed "lady of leisure".

Duncan Dewar is the Drummer and hales from Falkirk. Duncan is a chemist and an expert in computing.

Peter Bryant plays the Saxophone and Clarinet and comes from Largoward. Peter is a retired university lecturer.

Malcolm Lappin plays the Saxophone and lives in Dalgety Bay. Martin is also a member of the Inverkeithing Community Big Band.

The band play mainly Jazz. They have an eclectic mix of tastes, but are not a dance band. The bands web site is www.crosswater-band.co.uk and is maintained by George Birrell. When the subject of performance fees came up the word was "Negotiable" depending on the circumstances at the time and who was asking. The band stressed that they were only in it for the enjoyment, not money.

The "Sunday@Six" event was a stimulating sample of their music, enjoyed by all: here's to more enjoyment! *[Ed: read about Sunday@Six on page 13.]*

Centenary celebrations

Aug: Family barbecue

On 21st August the sun shone, the sea sparkled, and a great time was had by all on the Silver Sands at Aberdour. Church families and their friends mucked in together, and the barbecue itself, presided over by at least three chefs who served us all very well,



Thank you David Salthouse and Dave Ward for making it all happen. Serious swimming was not much in evidence, nor even the flippant variety, but of the building (and demolition) of sand castles there was no end.



Sep: Family hike, Loch Leven

On 3rd September, an assortment of 8 adults and 7 children met at Kinross Pier, and after considering different routes around Loch Leven, all chose the longest one, to Vale Farm (stated to be 6½ km), with the option of turning back at any point, which several did. The photograph shows those who made it all the way. En route we encountered poetry, inscribed on wooden benches.



Afternoon tea was enjoyed at Cleish Church Hall, where many others of our church family had been gathering. Our grateful thanks to the ladies of Cleish Parish Church, especially former RMC member Jacqui Watson (shown in the photograph) for all they did to make the day a memorable one.



Oct: West Gallery afternoon

"Sing Lustily and With Good Courage"

These words which come from John Wesley's instructions for singing, published in 1761 form the theme for our October Centenary celebration.

"It is hard to imagine hymns as something new and daring but at the beginning of the 18th Century congregations sang almost nothing except metrical psalms in the "Old" version. From 1700 onwards more modern versions of the psalms began to appear in a "New" style by people such as Tate and Brady. At the same time the Wesley's and others were writing hymns that were not versions of scripture but gave greater freedom of expression. Up to this point the new hymns were sung to the old psalm tunes but the Methodists soon began to write their own tunes in a much more secular style. They were played not by an organ but by a small band, usually comprising bass viol, bassoon, clarinet, flute and violin."

On **Sunday 23rd October** the **Sunday@Six** is dedicated to West Gallery music i.e. the music of the Wesley's – so called because the band used to play in a gallery in the west end of the church – the altar always being in the east.

The singers and instrumentalists will rehearse from **2-5pm**, have a break for tea and then play for a service at **6pm** where we will be joined by others from the West Fife area. The music is not difficult and great fun to perform so if you would like to join us please let Sue Masson know.

Nov: Russian Choir Concert

Book soon! see update on page 11.

Dec: Nativity Sets, please!

On 4th December 2016 a Festival of Nativity Sets is planned. At the moment I have two. Do you have any which you would be willing to loan to the Church to add to a display similar to the Flower Festival earlier in the year? Again it may be that we would display them on the Friday at Triangle coffee time and perhaps on the Saturday afternoon for a couple of hours, as well as during and after service on Sunday. It would be good to have some notes about the origins of the sets and perhaps some family history, if these have been passed down through the generations.

I know this seems like an early time to be thinking about Christmas but as with all our events this year, planning in advance has been the key to many successful and enjoyable occasions. I look forward to seeing what we can gather together to make another memorable occasion to add to this year's varied calendar.

Please contact Evelyn Kenny (432310, evkenny@hotmail.co.uk) with news of your potential contributions any time before the end of October.

And please note 2017 dates:

Jan 14: Games & Quiz evening

Feb 04: Celebration Ceilidh

Encounters on holiday—serendipity happens!

Mary Dempster found some surprises in store when she went on holiday

Changing plans. Away back in the middle of June my daughter Judith and I were making arrangements for me to travel down to Kelso on the 6th July for a few days when we remembered that my cousin Peggy, who lives in Davis California, had written at Christmas time that she was to be in Wales sometime in July attending the Eisteddfod at which her Grandson Colin was taking part. Judith emailed her and to our surprise got an instant reply that she would be in Wales that very week and that she had made enquiries about trying to come to Dunfermline but as it was an arranged tour she realised she did not have enough time. Right Mum said Judith, how about if we drive down and stay for a couple of nights - Well I was delighted although rather worried that Judith had so much driving to do.

Look who's here! We managed to get into a B&B in Oswestry which turned out to be one of the best that I had ever been to. I was rather excited as I had not seen Peggy for about three years and of course meeting Colin, his sister Kate and his Mum Katherine. We left Kelso at 8.30am and were sitting outside the main tent at the Eisteddfod Festival at 1.30pm, enjoying some lunch and watching the people walking past when to my astonishment I saw a friend from St. Margaret's congregation - Myra Tarr! I knew beforehand that she and Martin were going to be there but I

never thought that I would manage to see them in all the crowds of people that were going about. I was sitting on a grassy mound and thought that if I ran down the slope that I would probably land flat on my back so I decided just to stay on my chair. Surprisingly enough we met Myra and Martin the next day and had a photograph taken of Judith, Peggy, Myra and me.



Enjoying Eisteddfod. We thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful Singing and the dancing and wished that we had more time to see and hear more. I was amazed at the number of countries represented - choirs from the Philippines did very well and so did the dancers. A group of children from Zimbabwe aged from 5 to about 18 years were also fascinating to watch in their brilliant costumes.

The Madrigal Choir that Colin was in had designed and made all their own costumes (pictured on next page). Judith's son Iain is working in Wales about 60 miles from where we were



and was going to drive over to see us but unfortunately he had to work that weekend which was disappointing. Wales is a very beautiful country and we were sorry that we didn't have

more time to enjoy touring round. Our journey home took slightly longer as there had been an accident on the motorway so we had to find a road to avoid that incident. Thankfully we did as the traffic was held up for three or four hours. To end our lovely trip when we arrived back in Kelso my son-in-law Ben had prepared a nice meal for us — a perfect ending.

Mary Dempster

Russian choir concert—update

Tickets are selling fast for the eagerly awaited return visit of Jurij Maruk and his **Voskresenije Choir** (the name means *Resurrection*) on **Friday 18 November at 7.30pm** in Rosyth Methodist Church, a concert which forms part of the Methodist Centenary celebrations [*Ed: about which see p 8*]

The first half of the concert will feature music from the Orthodox Church tradition, with a set of Russian folk songs after the interval.

Please get your tickets now from Alan Taylor or you can book online on TicketSource. At £11 for adults/£10 for concessions/£5 for schoolchildren,

including interval refreshments and a programme, tickets offer real value.

If you cannot come on the 18th, but would like to hear the choir, there is another opportunity the evening before- Thursday 17 November - at St Serf's Church, Burntisland.

For more details see the domain www.russianchoirfife.org.uk which redirects to <http://russianchoir.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk>, a sub-domain of the St Margaret's site.

Sandra Young



Scout Barbecue

Our Scout Group held its annual barbecue last weekend. Our usual venues for this are Aberdour Silver Sands and Fordell Firs but this year we decided to use the church car park which is more convenient and avoids the fees which have to be paid at Fordell. Attendance was down this year possibly because of the threat of rain but in the event there were only a couple of showers during the afternoon. There were various entertainments for the children (and adults) including a bouncy castle, soak the leader stall (always very popular), roll a penny, glittery tattoos and hook the duck. There was of course food and drink.



At the end of the afternoon I was presented with an award made to me earlier this year. Known as the Bar to the Silver Acorn it is given for further specially distinguished services to scouting. Some former leaders from the past – Jane Roxburgh, Jimmy Hutchison, Rowland Lines and Jim Jarvie came along for the occasion. The presentation was made by recently retired Regional Commissioner for East Region, Alex Duncan. I celebrated by distributing Vimto lollies - thereby hangs a tale!

Martin Rogers
Acting Group Scout Leader

Messy Church

Our new season of Messy Church is in full swing. We started in September by thinking about the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho. I bet you didn't know it was possible to make the walls of Jericho out of bread, soft cheese and bugle crisps! We also had a fine array of horns and shields. We enjoyed listening to Sheila tell us the story and singing "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho" loud enough to put the Church walls at risk!

In October we continued our theme of Old Testament heroes and learnt about Daniel in the lions' den, with various models of lions, and some wonderful face painting. I hope you weren't too scared by all the lions coming out of Messy Church!

In November we will be looking at David's defeat of Goliath. Watch out for the slingshots on that day!

After our Christmas preparation day on the second Sunday in December Messy Church will be moving. From January we will be meeting on the fourth Sunday of every month. This brings us back to where we started some years ago and will make it easier for members of both congregations to participate more fully because there is no 9.30 service on these Sundays.

We look forward to seeing you all over the next few months. Why not bring a friend along to try Messy Church?

Gwyneth Kirby

Sunday@ Six

Valerie Leslie reflects on two recent experiences

Well just as I thought we couldn't possibly top the last Sunday@Six which was wonderful, we went and did it again!

Café church with jazz: On the 28th August both St Margaret's and the RMC enjoyed a celebration of GOOD THINGS in a Café Church format, with the Crosswater Band helping bring pizzazz to our worship! All with cake and juice thrown in for good measure.

The choir sang *Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho*, *Let my people go*, and *There is a green hill far away* (to the tune of *The House of the Rising Sun*). The Jazz band accompanied the choir to great effect. I loved singing with them.

The Jazz band played *Aint necessarily so*, *Fields of gold*, *Summertime*, and my particular favourite; *Stranger on the shore*. I visualised Christ standing on the shore whilst the disciples were in the boat fishing and now I will not be able to hear that piece of music without thinking of our lord.

Adrian did a super address tying all the pieces of music together with the scripture readings.

Thank you to Adrian and Sue for arranging such a fantastic café church experience. Well done to everyone who made it along to enjoy all the Good Things that were on offer. The Church hall was full and buzzing. It was thrilling to experience such a

feeling of enthusiasm and the joy that music can bring.

Thank you to the Crosswater Band for the best jazz I have heard in ages. The haunting strains of *Stranger on the shore* will stay with me for some time. Each member of the band played wonderfully and the singer was terrific. I hope the band will play for us again!

Harvest Supper: What was so different and special about the most recent Sunday@Six? Well, for a start it was on a Saturday (24th September), but what made it so special was the combination of really lovely food, thanks especially to Sue Masson and Pam Pryde; great singing, with Adrian leading us in the singing of the Doxology; and an entertaining and inspirational guest speaker, Patricia Roberts. She is an accomplished harpist, singer and guitarist who is able to use her music to convey her message of love, patience and Christian respect for others to her audience.

As Chaplain at Cornton Vale women's prison and Polmont young offenders institution, Patricia not only gives comfort, advice and spiritual guidance



to those there, but has managed to twin Cornton Vale women's prison with a women's prison in Malawi. She uses music and humour to help support male and female prisoners in both countries. She has seen women in Cornton Vale grow in generosity, making gifts for the women prisoners in Malawi, which Patricia takes to them on one of her many visits. Patricia told us too about her boys in Polmont and how there are some terrible conditions inside the men's prison.

Not content with all that, Patricia has built a school, involving some of her 'boys' in building it and in making the school uniforms. Now all the boys and girls in a very poor town in Malawi have an education, with a well just outside the school so they no longer have to walk 4 miles for water and 4 miles back home again.

The retiring collection at the Harvest Supper (and donations the next day) led to her being presented with two cheques totalling £300 (inclusive of Gift Aid) towards her charitable work in Malawi. Patricia was overwhelmed by our generosity and she will use the gift during her 4-week visit there in October to help fund some of new projects, such as one for disabled children, or improving conditions for tea pickers.

We look forward to hearing from her again as the projects develop.

Valerie Leslie

Orchard Head and Rosyth Resource Centre

For many years now we have been leading a short Service once a month on a Sunday afternoon at Orchardhead Care Home. Jack Fowell led this Service for much of this time, supported by a small group. After Jack felt unable to continue there was a group of about six people who took it in turns to lead the Service but unfortunately there are now only three people who are currently "on the list", still supported by a small group and assisted by our very willing musicians.

The same people have the responsibility of leading an act of Worship at Rosyth Resource Centre, which is done as part of a rota which involves all the Churches in Rosyth.

Both these Services are a very important part of our outreach and service to the community. We desperately need people to join this group to make it less demanding on those already taking part. Is this something you could help with? Could you lead a short Service? Perhaps you could help by doing a reading?

If you feel this is a task you could take on please speak to me. If you would like more information speak to Evelyn, Mary Kidd or Janet Murray.

Gwyneth Kirby

tel: 01383 624779

email: gmkirby@hotmail.com

Ionian insights on prayer

At Morning Worship on 4th September, Edward Idle read a story of local interest that ends with a profound insight on the nature of prayer.

Preamble: This story was in the introduction to the Iona Community's 2015 book *'In the gift of this new day: Praying with the Iona Community'*.

'When I was doing parish visitation in Rosyth, in Dollytown, an area of small houses, I knocked on a door.

'A man opened it whom I immediately recognised to be a Communist shop steward prominent in the dockyard. Sharply he demanded, 'Why are you knocking on my door? I'm not one of yours.' I replied that I had been appointed as minister to the parish, not just the congregation. So it was in no way out of place for me to knock on his door. At the same time, it was the door of his house, and so he had every right to shut it in my face. We had a short exchange, and he did so.

'I was doing a visitation in the area and knocked on the door again. This time we had a short conversation on the need for justice in dockyard, parish and country.

'I was going to leave it at that. But at a later point people got hold of me: 'He's desperate to see you!' This time he pulled me into his house. His wife was ill and in hospital. She meant an awful lot to him. We talked about the deep springs in our beings which led us to revel in love for one another, especially those who were dearer than life itself.

'He asked me then and there to pray for both of them.

'I responded that I honoured his position and atheist commitment. I would not want him to feel pressured into what had no meaning for him, on the basis that we had discovered a natural human bond. He replied: "Will you stop your bloody nonsense. Get down on your knees wi' me, and pray for my wife and myself'."

'I stopped my bloody nonsense.

'I knelt beside him.

'Together we lifted his wife and himself in love to the God in whom he was not supposed to believe.

'Prayer is not a religious activity.

'It is a human resource.

'Ian M. Fraser'

[Ed: Ian Masson Fraser, bn Dec 1917, became a member of the Iona Community in 1942. Ordained in the Church of Scotland, he was Rosyth's parish minister 1960-69. Thereafter he was Warden of Scottish Churches House, Dunblane 1969-73; Executive Secretary in the World Council of Churches 1973-82; Dean and head of the Department of Mission, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham 1982-90. More reminiscences, anecdotes and details of his life are in 'I've seen worse' by Ian Cranston — details from Howard]

Fellowship news

Welcome to Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, who joined the Circuit staff on 1st September. She has a flexible, cross-Circuit brief, within which she is coming regularly to the Triangle coffee shop to meet people. You can read about her on page 5.

Congratulations to Marie and Allan Walkinshaw who had a blessing of marriage service in the church on Saturday 3 September, conducted by Rev Alison. As well as family and friends, the choir (who took part in the service) and members of the congregation were there to support Marie and Allan on their special and memorable day. We wish them true happiness in their new life.

St Margaret's Annual General Meeting will take place on **Sunday 27 November at 4.30pm** in the church lounge and will last no more than 1 hour, followed by tea/coffee. Sunday@Six, an Advent anthology in words and music will follow at 6pm. You are invited to stay for this, which will be an appropriate way to start the church's new year and preparation leading up to the birth of our Lord.

Please make a note of the date for the AGM now and join us at this very important event and share your views on matters affecting the running of our church.

An appreciation

Allan and Marie Walkinshaw would like to express their gratitude on the occasion of their wedding blessing on the 3rd September which they shared with the congregation, their friends and families.

Your thoughtfulness and presence made our day happier and brighter adding to our joy.



Special thanks go to the reverend Alison Cozens who played a major part in making the blessing so special.

Particular thanks also to Alan Taylor for

officiation; Sue Masson who dedicated many hours to liaising; Mary Kidd and Valerie Leslie for the beautiful flower arrangements; Martin Tarr for his pc skills; Susan and Martin Forman for their lovely gift and the choir along with Sue who were outstanding in bringing our songs/hymns to fruition.

Last but not least to you the congregation for your warm wishes.

Thanks for being part of the most important day of our lives which we will always remember and treasure.

Diary for October to November 2016

Sunday 2 October

Pentecost 20	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
		<i>Note: Change in Sunday for this month</i>	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Dr Anne Pennington
Monday 3 Oct	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 4 Oct	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's house	
	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 5 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Rev Stewart Young, Chaplain to 3 RIFLES	
Friday 7 Oct	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 8 Oct	2.00pm	A Heritage Group in Scotland? A conversation.	
	to 4.00 pm	At Rosyth Methodist Church. See p 27 for details.	

Sunday 9 October

Pentecost 21	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Ian Paterson
	4.00pm	Learn Sung Compline in St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly led by Rev David Mackenzie Mills followed at	
	7.00pm	Sung Compline in St Finnian's (see page 23 for details)	
Monday 10 Oct	7.00pm	Property Committee meeting	
Tuesday 11 Oct	5.00pm	Safeguarding Training in the church led by Donald Urquhart, Provincial Officer for SEC and Methodist Church in Scotland (see page 6)	
	to 9.00pm		
	7.30pm	Christian Aid evening at CEMC (see back cover)	
Wednesday 12 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Jack Pryde - Local History	

Diary for October to November 2016

Friday 14 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 16 October

Pentecost 22 9.00am Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy
 11.00am Morning Worship Mr Lyn Smalridge
 3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth

Tuesday 18 Oct 10.15am EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's house

Wednesday 19 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker from The Wee Tea Company

Friday 21 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 23 October

Pentecost 23 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Tim Tunley, Chaplain
 to Scottish Ports, Mission to Seafarers
 2.00pm West Gallery afternoon - "Sing Lustily and with
 Good Courage" - a musical workshop event for all
 ages (a Methodist centenary event) followed after
 an interval for tea and cakes by;
 6.00pm Sunday@Six:, "Sing Lustily and with Good Courage"
 also attended by the Area Council churches as their
 annual praise event . (See page 9 for details)

Wednesday 26 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Messy Church comes to Wednesday Fellowship

Friday 28 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 30 October

All Saints /Souls 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
 11.00am Morning Worship Dr Deidre Homer
 David Salthouse (Worship Leader)

Diary for October to November 2016

Tuesday 1 Nov	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's house
	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends
Wednesday 2 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Dennis Cook - With great pleasure
	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry Meeting in the small lounge
Friday 4 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
	7.00pm	Curry Evening at Holy Trinity Church Hall in aid of their Organ Fund (see page 6 for details)
Saturday 5 Nov	1.30pm	RSCM Dunblane Singing Day Rehearsal followed by Service in Dunblane Cathedral (see p 23 for details)

Sunday 6 November

Pentecost 25	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Professor John Sawkins Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
Monday 7 Nov	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Wednesday 9 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship:	
		Janet Murray – Maundy Thursday at Windsor Castle	
Friday 11 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 13 November

Remembrance	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
	9.15am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	10.50am	Morning Worship	Mr Laurent Vernet
Tuesday 15 Nov	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's house	
Wednesday 16 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship:	
		A celebration for St Margaret	

Diary for October to November 2016

Friday 18 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.30pm	Concert by the Voskresenije Choir of Russian Choir in the church (see page 11 for details)
Saturday 19 Nov	7.30pm	"Something Rich and Strange" - Shakespeare in words and music including Scottish Chamber Choir in CEMC, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh (see page 23)

Sunday 20 November

St Margaret	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
Christ the King	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Andrew Letby David Salthouse (Worship Leader)
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth	

Wednesday 23 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Peter Cozens - The King in the Car Park

Thursday 24 Nov 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting in Holy
Trinity, Dunfermline. Speaker James Gardner,
Diocesan Youth Officer

Friday 25 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 27 November

Advent 1 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Alan Whitson
4.30pm St Margaret's Annual General Meeting in the Church
Lounge
6.00pm Sunday@Six an Advent anthology in words and
music

Monday 28 Nov 7.30pm Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (tbc)

Tuesday 29 Nov 10.15am EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's house

Wednesday 30 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Allison Brown - Hymns through the Church's year

Friday 2 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Diary for first week in December 2016

Friday 2 Dec 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 4 December

Advent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
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11.00am Morning Worship Rev Helen Jenkins

Monday 5 Dec 7.30pm Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 6 Dec	7.00pm	Follow up Meeting from 23 August with Rev Andrew Letby and Bishop David on developing our partnership
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7.00pm Christmas Nativity Event, Rosyth Parish Church
ticket only event (details later)

7.30pm Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends

Wednesday 7 Dec 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Christmas Celebration with Martin and Myra

Friday 9 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 10 Dec 3.00pm Dunfermline Choral Union Christmas Concert
and 7.30pm at the Vine Church, Dunfermline

Calling all children— for the Nativity play!

Over the last few years, on Christmas Eve, we have been delighted to present an all age Nativity play. We would love to do the same this Christmas but it won't happen without children and adults who are willing to take part and who are prepared to come along to about 5 rehearsals in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Sunday mornings are proving difficult at the moment for some of our children but I am open to suggestions for alternative rehearsal times.

Please don't let this tradition die out. It's one of the best ways of spending an hour on Christmas Eve afternoon and really starts off your celebrations properly!

If you would like to take part, or help in any way (we desperately need some larger costumes!) please contact me.

Gwyneth Kirby
tel: 01383 624779
email: gmkirby@hotmail.com

District Synod discusses cross-Circuit collaboration*

This summary of the Synod held at Inverness Methodist Church on 10th September and the subsequent Ministers' meeting in Perth was presented by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet to the Circuit meeting on 15th September.

This was my first Scottish Synod – in fact, my first Synod. During the morning session, representatives from each Circuit were invited to present an overview of their own context, highlighting the specific challenges and opportunities which exist within them. During the afternoon session, the assembled gathering was divided into small groups – and with the aid of flipcharts and pens, we reflected and talked on the morning session – drawing out the key points which we had observed. The District Chair, Rev David Easton, invited us to consider two questions.

- 1) What are the common strands between our Circuits?
- 2) How can we work together as Circuits?

These conversations were continued by those of us who attended the subsequent Ministers' overnight meeting in Perth. Amongst the points to emerge from our discussions were:

- The ongoing challenges of finance, diminishing and ageing congregations, maintaining old church buildings, finding volunteers to fulfil church roles and filling preaching plans, were issues with which all Circuits could identify to varying degrees.
- We talked about what it meant to fulfil the Church's calling to 'make

disciples'; and whilst acknowledging that this is God's work rather than ours, how do we share our faith, as Methodists? It was agreed that this dimension of our Church life is in need of some attention.

- In consideration of Circuit resources, constraints and geography, we talked about how Circuits might help to resource each other, working collaboratively across Circuit boundaries, sharing our gifts and skills – as well as finding better ways of using the resources at our disposal within each Circuit.
- Despite the challenges being faced by Circuits, there was a place for optimism. Across Scotland, including our own Circuit, there are some exciting and positive developments taking shape amongst all age groups, in the form of initiatives in both Methodist churches and as ecumenical projects and which importantly connect with the wider community.

These points are not to be seen as ends in themselves – conclusions to be filed away – but doorways to further discussion and action!

Elizabeth Harfleet

** [Ed: The Synod was assured that this theme was not a revisiting of the "One Circuit" proposal of yesteryear]*

What's on in the Diocese

Sung compline

There is an opportunity to take part in Sung Compline in St. Finnian's, Lochgelly on **Sunday 9 October**. Come and learn the beautiful music of Sung Compline at **4pm** in a workshop and rehearsal led by the Rev David Mackenzie Mills, Rector of St Paul's, Kinross. At about 6pm we will stop for a simple finger buffet and then the service will take place at **7pm**. Members from the choir are taking part, but this is open to anyone so please come along. You will be most welcome.

The Gathering

Unfortunately this event, scheduled for 17 September, was cancelled due to lack of support. This news was disappointing to St Margaret's congregation as we always support and enjoy the Gathering. However, the Gathering for 2017 will still be going ahead on **Saturday 27 May 2017** from **9.30am to 4pm** at St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, and we have been asked to mark this date in our calendars. The theme and programme will be sent out in the New Year.

Sandra Young

Other musical events

Dunblane Singing Day. Members of the choir and both congregations regularly take part in this annual event run by the RSCM in Dunblane Cathedral. This year the event will be on **Saturday 5 November** under the guidance of Matthew Beetschen, recently appointed organist of Dunfermline Abbey and former organist at Dunblane Cathedral.

No advance preparation is necessary. You just come and sing and enjoy the day! The rehearsal starts at **2.00pm** (arrivals at **1.30pm**) finishing with a service. If you wish to attend, please let Sue or Myra know before the end of October, as registration ensures sufficient copies of the music for everyone. There is no fee, but

donations are invited to cover costs and help the work of RSCM Scotland.

Celebrating Shakespeare. The Scottish Chamber Choir will start the 2016/17 season under Musical Director Iain McLarty with "*Something Rich and Strange*®" on **Saturday 19 November at 7.30pm** in City of Edinburgh Methodist Church. In this production with the Edinburgh University Theatre Company and the Edinburgh University Shakespeare Society the SCC will be going on a journey through some of the great themes of Shakespeare's writings in words and music. See Martin Tarr for further details.

Sandra Young

The Methodist Philatelic Society

Ronnie MacMillan tells the story of the Society that commemorated Rosyth's Centenary with a First Day Cover

The Society was founded in 1970 to encourage the study of philately with Methodist associations and to provide a means of communication between members and friends.

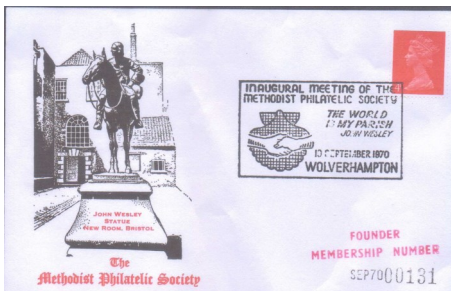
Since the inaugural meeting held on 19 September 1970 at Darlington Street Methodist Church, Wolverhampton, the Society has sponsored many special commemorative covers and postmarks; including the recent celebration of the Centenary of Rosyth Methodist Church.

It was around the end of 1968 that the idea of forming such a Society was first suggested. It is recorded how thrilling it was to the fourteen founder members meeting in Wolverhampton to discover a kindred interest of many in Methodism both in the United Kingdom and abroad. At that first meeting an act of dedication was conducted by the Rev Alan Warrell, MA, and the Rules and Constitution was discussed fully, line by line, and finally adopted following several amendments. The Society was honoured in that the then President of

Conference, the Rev Rupert Davies, MA, DD, accepted an invitation to become the first President of the Methodist Philatelic Society and members looked forward to the Conference of 1971 when the Society received official recognition.

To this day the President of the British Methodist Conference is also President of the Society. However this year is slightly different, as for the first time in our history the President of Conference is a member of MPS! The Rev Steve Wild is a collector of early Methodist postcards.

Members collect stamps, postcards, commemorative and first day covers featuring all aspects of Methodism - personalities, buildings, music, and postal history. It is surprising just how many stamps of countries throughout the world will be found in a Methodist collection. Here are just a few stamps

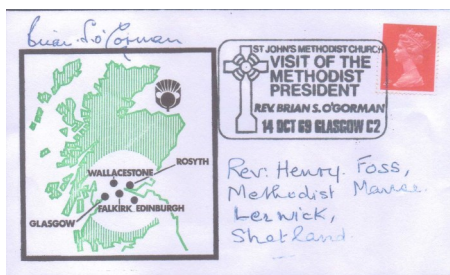


issued over the past few years, all with Methodist connections.

Stamps from Samoa, Tonga, Canada, Hungary, the United States, Fiji, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Caribbean Islands all with a Methodist story to tell. For example the man portrayed on the stamp at the bottom left of the illustration, is Nathaniel Gilbert, a lawyer trained at Gray's Inn London and called to the Bar in 1741. He was a slave owner, and Speaker of the House of Representatives in Antigua and the brother of Francis Gilbert. While recovering in bed from a brief illness in 1756, Nathaniel asked his daughter to bring him a book. His daughter Mary mistakenly handed him a book written by John Wesley, *An Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion*, that had been sent to him by his brother Francis. Nathaniel reluctantly read the book and was so impressed by the content that he vowed that he must hear Wesley preach himself. So in 1757 Nathaniel Gilbert sailed to England taking with him three slaves from his estate. Gilbert lost no time in locating John Wesley and under Wesley's preaching was converted to Methodism. On his return to Antigua Nathaniel began to preach to his slaves.

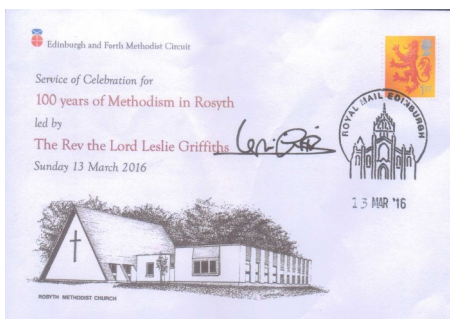
The most common area of our collecting are the commemorative and first day covers, which mark events in the life of Methodism. These are issued to celebrate anniversaries of births, deaths and marriages of Methodist personalities, from the Wesley family, to many not so well-known preachers, missionaries,

organisations, and events in the life of our church. A cover is issued each year for the Methodist Conference, many of which are now quite collectable. Over the past few years the New Zealand _ Conference has also produced a cover issued from the host town or city where the Conference is meeting.



Covers have been sourced from countries across the globe, the USA Sri Lanka, Antigua, Canada, Germany and many' others. One of the first commemorative covers to be issued in Scotland celebrated the visit of the President of Conference, the Rev Brian O'Gorman, to a number of churches including Rosyth. The cover illustrated addressed to Shetland has also been signed by the President.

On 13 March 2016 covers designed and printed by the Methodist



Philatelic Society to mark the 100th Anniversary of Methodism in Rosyth, were sold after the commemorative service; and to the best of my knowledge this is the only cover to be signed that day by the preacher, Rev Dr Lord Leslie Griffiths.

Interested? I have been interested in stamps since I was a child, and a member of the Methodist Philatelic Society for many years and now concentrate on my Methodist collection and spend many hours researching the history and lives of the people, buildings and events on the stamps, covers and postcards I come across.

If you are interested in learning more about the Methodist Philatelic Society feel free to contact me. Membership fees are £15.00 per year, which includes a quarterly twenty-four page full colour Newsletter.

Ronnie MacMillan
11 Cullaloe Court, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9NW
tel: 01383 823302

One minute, please What did Jesus say?

“But what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Luke 9 v 20

HMS Hood Centenary

On 1st September 1916 the keel of HMS Hood was laid down at John Brown's shipyard on Clydebank, that yard where ships such as Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, Lusitania, Aquitania, QE2 and the Royal Yacht Britannia were built.

Many famous warships were also built there, arguably the most famous of which was HMS Hood, the largest warship ever built for the Royal Navy. She remained the pride of the navy for over 20 years before being sunk in the Denmark Strait 75 years ago on 24 May 1941 by the Bismarck. Was it a design shortcoming which caused Hood to blow up when a shell from Bismarck penetrated her relatively lightly armoured deck, exploding in the aft magazine?

As a result of the sinking of several battlecruisers - such as Indefatigable, Queen Mary and Invincible at the Battle of Jutland 100 years ago this year - the Admiralty decided that 5,000 tons of additional hull armour would be added to Hood, but none would be added to the deck armour, as no navy ship had been sunk at Jutland through shells penetrating the deck. However, the higher trajectory of shells fired from greater range meant that a shell hitting the deck would almost certainly penetrate. There were other reasons which could have exacerbated the disaster in

1941, such as using peacetime corner-cutting procedures in war - which were fine when the ship was not being fired upon - but the principal conclusion of 2 Boards of Enquiry was that a shell had exploded in the magazine.

As a result of the additional armour, Hood sat over 4 ft lower in the water, which meant that her decks were often awash, earning her the affectionate nickname of "the navy's largest submarine".

Hood was so large that the No 2 Dry Dock at Rosyth had to be extended by cutting a notch to accommodate her bow. After WW2, the adjacent No 1 Dry Dock was lengthened considerably, to accommodate 2 warships at one time, and it is in this



dock that the Queen Elizabeth carriers, themselves now the largest ships ever built for the Royal Navy, are being assembled. The photo shows Hood entering the basin at Rosyth in 1920.

I was privileged to be invited to the keel-laying centenary commemoration, which took place on the 1st September at the Clydebank Campus of the West of Scotland College, built on the old slipways. It was a truly memorable occasion, honoured by the presence of 2 former sailors from Hood who had served on the ship in the late-'30s. A bronze commemorative plaque was unveiled by Rear Admiral Mark Beverstock, Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff, which will be mounted on the outside wall of the College.

HMS Hood's bell has been recovered from the wreck, from a depth of some 10,000', and is now on display in Portsmouth, a fitting memorial to a great ship.

Alan Taylor

A Methodist heritage group in Scotland?

On Saturday 8th October, from 2pm to 4pm, at Rosyth Methodist Church, there will be a conversation with the Chair of the Synod, the Rev Dr David Easton, on the question of establishing a Heritage Group in Scotland. The afternoon includes a presentation by David Cowling on "An Angus story: The Montrose Archive.

The meeting is open to anyone interested to attend..

Transfiguration

*A sermon given by the Rev Canon Dr Andrew Wingate OBE
at St Margaret's, Rosyth and Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, on Sunday 7 Aug 2016
The readings were Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14; 2 Peter 1.16–19; Luke 9:28–36*

This feast day has been celebrated since the 4th or 5th century, and has a central place in the church year in the Eastern Orthodox churches. Ikons of the Transfiguration are found universally, and fit with the mystical dimension of those churches. In the western churches, paintings are rarer, though the most famous is much reproduced, that by Raphael, painted in 1518–20. Look this up on your web sites. It is special in the way it shows Christ on the mountain, with Elijah and Moses next to him, and below the encounter between the disciples and the father of a demon-possessed boy, as in our gospel today. The painting confronts us with two realities – that of Christ in glory – and the other that of the reality of human pain, suffering, conflict and struggle. It is an extraordinary depiction of the text – and of two sides of Christian life – the high times, the times of uplift in the Spirit, the encounters with the living Lord – and then the day-to-day realities of Christian discipleship, when it seems we can do little more than hold on in faith, when struggles seem overwhelming. Maybe some of you are in one place at the moment, some in another.



The biblical story itself has amazing power and, as has been pointed out often, it seems almost like one of the resurrection appearances out of place – we can compare it with the Easter story of the meeting with Mary in the garden; the appearances to the disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem; and the Emmaus revelation to a couple of disciples, through the breaking of the bread. And the stories of struggle and darkness permeate all the gospels, and the struggle to cast out illness, social exclusion, and demon possession, and death.

The power of the Transfiguration story speaks in many ways, many comparisons, many encounters, personal and historical and religious. We can experience such moments in nature, if we open our eyes. We have just spent two weeks in the Outer Hebrides. The clouds come and go, as does the wind and rain storms. But then there are the amazing, awe-inspiring moments when the sun comes out and the white beaches sparkle and radiate remarkable light and colour. All around, we see mobile phones come out, and multiple photos being taken – including mine! There is a desperate

urgency to capture the moment, before it goes again – something to hold to, as we come back to look, again, as we look at our laptops later, in the darkness of winter in our urban settings. My wife Angela and I were recalling last week the moments when, awe struck by the beauty of its calling, we heard a solitary golden plover, singing at the top of a hill, when on a walk on the same Western Isles, some 15 years ago, something we have not heard again, and very special, we just stopped and listened.

I came across recently a poem of Ann Lewin, 'Transfiguration'.

*A moment of blinding perception
it would be good to stay there
but clutch it, and it's gone.*

*They come unheralded,
those moments of dazzling clarity,
and leave us as suddenly.*

*As well try catch the kingfisher
darting through stillness.*

*Be thankful for its jewelled beauty,
and keep awake, keep alert.*

'Unheralded' – these moments cannot be forced – I searched last week to see a golden eagle. I waited in an eagle-sighting hide on Harris, and nothing came, though I had walked a long way and it was drizzling.

These are transfiguring moments in the natural world. We can think too of the moments in history which we will never forget. The sight on our TV screens of the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989, with no violence but just the power of people's longing for

liberation. The sight of Nelson Mandela walking free from imprisonment, acknowledging the cheers of the crowds in his own modest way, as he walked down a main highway in Capetown, free at last, after nearly 30 years. I remember coming from church on a Sunday morning in 1994, and seeing this on our screens. The historical pictures we can see of the end of the war in 1945, and the ecstatic jubilation of the crowds in London. All these of course then followed by the years of struggle that have followed in each of these situations. More recently, we can think of the moment when the photo was released of the small boy lying dead on a beach in Turkey – such a powerful image that appeared to change hearts and minds across the western world, not least here – with promises to receive such children in large numbers, but to which there has been so little follow-up – the struggles go on day by day, for example, to receive unaccompanied children from Calais, just 20 so far of the hundreds promised by the so-called Dubs amendment in the House of Lords. And the death of Jo Cox, horrific, but in some ways inspiring in what followed in terms of the little-known gem that she was and her family – the call for a gentler politics, and her mantra to love, not just our neighbour, but the neighbour of our neighbour – but how little has followed of the gentler politics that mourners pledged to follow in the days that followed. And if I dare venture into an even more recent event, the Brexit event, and the

cry that this be seen as a new day of liberation by certain politicians, and the excitement of crowds of supporters that night – but then the seeming dark prospects which have followed, and years of struggle expected.

And then the moment of personal encounter – suddenly seeing others differently, or our lives differently – the being *“Surprised by Joy”*, as C S Lewis puts it, in his great book about personal conversion. Such moments need times afterwards to reflect, which may be about struggle to integrate. T S Eliot – *“to have had the experience, but missed the meaning”* is so often the case. We have to work on such experiences, and it may take a very long time. It surely did with Peter, James and John, as they reflected on what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration. This journey is reflected in our Epistle today from 2 Peter – years later, Peter reflects here on how, with their own eyes they saw the greatness of Christ, his honour and glory; how they heard the voice of God, *“this is my own Son with Whom I am well pleased”*, and how they felt this light shining in darkness, as they went on their way of struggle.

There is so much I can add, so many transformations through *‘Encounters in the Spirit’*, as I called a WCC book I wrote, about my meetings with Muslims – and I could add, with Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists – such has been my special opportunities in

ministry. But I will end with part of a passage from Teilhard de Chardin, the Roman Catholic divine:

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are, quite naturally, impatient, in everything, to reach the end without delay. We would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.” (from *Hearts on Fire*)

And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually – let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don’t try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.’

So we are all a journey of Christian discipleship. There will be a mixture of times of transfiguration, and probably much longer periods of struggle. And Jesus will be with us in both, and we are to support each other in both times.

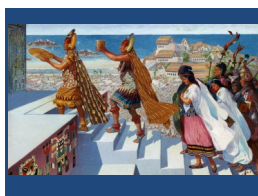
Worship—what does it mean?

The sermon by Mr Edward Idle on 4 Sep 2016

Based on John 4: 21-24

At the beginning of Sunday morning services, preachers will often say something like, “Welcome to Sunday worship,” or words to that effect. I said it myself this morning! The emphasis is on the welcome and the word “Worship” is rather passed over.

Whenever I hear the word “Worship”, I think about people in ancient times bowing down to something. It evokes for me pictures of ziggurats in Central



and South America and Inca/Aztec rituals. Then I see in my mind Druids

worshipping

the sun as it rises at Stonehenge.

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well in the town of Sychar, north of Jerusalem, their conversation began with him asking her for a drink. It seemed like a fairly ordinary thing to ask for. But it wasn't! Things moved very quickly to other aspects of the woman's life which were not so ordinary. They were the realities of how she lived – not high falutin' religious matters, ordinary everyday things.



And then in response to Jesus' perceptive comments

about her relationship with several husbands, the woman raises the question of worship. Jesus brings the conversation to an end by saying, *“God is spirit, and His worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth.”*

My reaction to that is “OK. But what does that mean?”

Whatever it might mean, what the episode does show is that worship is not divorced from the realities of our lives. The realities of our lives lead to worship; it is part of them. Just as we heard about prayer [see page 71] *“It is not a religious activity; it is human resource,”* so worship is a human resource.

Karl Barth, famous theologian once said, *“Christian worship is the most momentous, the most urgent, most glorious action that can take place in human life.”* When the preacher at the Sunday morning service says, “Let us worship God,” what does it mean.

Well I guess different things to different people. So what might it mean for us?

Celebration. Laura Trott and Jason Kenny had good reason to celebrate and their faces show it. They had both just won gold medals at the Rio Olympics and they are engaged to be



married. The last verse of chapter 15 of Luke's gospel says this, *"But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found."* Like Laura and Jason we too have good reason to celebrate and be glad, for were we not lost and have been found.?

Rejoice. *"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it"* So says Psalm 118 verse 24. Last Friday, my wife and I attended the thanksgiving service for the life of our number one daughter's Mother-in Law, who had been a Church of Scotland minister. We found it impossible not to rejoice in all the days we have been given. And rejoicing in church is not always a quiet and decorous activity. Sometimes it means party time, the waving of hands, hearty uninhibited singing and hallelujahs.

Awe. In his book about Prayer written 10 years ago, Philip Yancey said this, *"Consider that if the Milky Way galaxy were the size of the entire continent of North America, our solar system around the sun would fit in a coffee cup."* Even now two Voyager spacecraft are hurtling towards the edge of the solar system at a rate of 100,000 miles per hour. For almost 3 decades they have been speeding away from earth, approaching a distance of 9 billion miles. When engineers beam a command to the spacecraft at the speed of light, it takes 13 hours to arrive. Yet this vast

neighbourhood of our sun - the size of a coffee cup - fits along with several hundred billion other stars and their minions in the Milky Way, one of perhaps 100 billion such galaxies in the universe. To send a light-speed message to the edge of that universe would take 15 billion years. *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"*

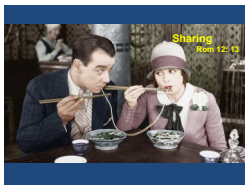


Awe is an emotion of amazement, of breathtaking wonder, a deep almost automatic

response to what we see, hear and experience. As sturdy, responsible, self-reliant people we may not feel awestruck in the presence of many or any individual, but the world we live in provokes that response towards God.

Reverence. In his letter to the church at Ephesus Paul says a lot! But this one verse says something about the implications of this reverence. *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."* That is not some mealy mouthed exhortation to be kind to one another. Submitting to others is not easy, particularly when you know, or think you know, the right thing. And a sense of reverence in worship is sometimes difficult to find when we try to cater for 21st century tastes.

Sharing. We do not always remember that we are eating the same length of spaghetti.



Paul says to the Romans, *“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need.”* Knowing what their needs are is a good start - and it may not be material things.

Vision. At Pentecost Peter quotes from the prophet Joel, *“In the last days I will pour out my spirit on all people... your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams.”* He doesn’t say what the women will do, but we know they are included. *“I have a dream®* said Martin Luther King and went on to explain what it included.. Do we have one here at Rosyth?



Self. *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* The solitude of worship brings us again to the personal nature of our faith. It is for us each one.

So, for you, how do you complete the sentence, *“Worship is...”*

Puzzle page

With puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1) A Landowner gives his Farmer £100 to buy 100 animals at a livestock sale. He finds that

- each cow costs £5
- each sheep costs £1
- and each chicken costs 5 pence.

He has to buy at least 1 of each animal and spend all the money on these animals. How many does he buy of each ?

2) A man has 10 bags of gold shaped balls all of the same size.

One of his servants has stolen one of his bags of gold and replaced it with painted lead so it looks similar. The lead balls are 1 oz lighter than the gold balls. He has a set of weighing scales with him but can only use them once. How does he find which bag is filled with lead?

3) Here is a simple one.

If 1 cost £1 and 10 cost £2, how much would 100 cost?

Any idea what he might be buying?

Answers to Aug/Sep puzzles

Q1) Consider

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      1
    1 1
  2 1
1 2 1 1
1 1 1 2 2 1
  3 1 2 2 1 1
X X X X X X X X
  
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What are the figures in the last row?

A1) The answer is straightforward if you write what you see:

- 1: I see one 1; or 11
 11: now I see two 1's; or 21
 21: now I see one 2 and one 1; or 1211
 1211: now I see one 1, one 2 and two 1s; or 111221
 111221: now I see three 1s, two 2s and one 1; or 312211
 312211: now I see one 3, one 1, two 2s and two 1s; or **13112221**

A2) The four weights needed to measure any item up to and including 40 lbs are : 1lb, 3lb, 9lb, and 27lb.
(For example, to weigh an item of 19lbs you put the 27lb plus 1lb on one side of the scales; and the item weighing 19lbs plus the 9 lb on the other, so both sides add up to 27lbs.)

Q3) A man is pushing his car along a busy road and stops outside of a Grand Hotel, suddenly he finds out that he has lost all his money, HOW?

A3) He was playing a game of MONOPOLY.

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 & letting enquiries:
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
Gordon Pryde 01383 860450
gordonpryde@btinternet.com

Sunday School and Messy Church:
Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779
gm Kirby@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
cmayridd@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

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)
Gary Dewar 01383 411938
gary.dewar@sky.com

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 (Thu 1800-2030)
Linda Wallace 07455 213809
6throsythguides@gmail.com

** An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue (in either meeting time or contact details or both)*

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

A Christian Aid Book Sale initiative

The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church is exploring the possibility of hosting a new outpost at Nicolson Square for the annual Christian Aid Book Sale.

Background

Such sales have been held at St Andrew's and St George's West on George St in Edinburgh since the early 1970s and another was set up some 20 years ago at Holy Corner. The sales raise a tremendous amount of money for the work of Christian Aid. CEMC believe that providing a third location in the south east of the city would further help this cause. The proposed initiative is seen as part of the mission/outreach work of the church.

What has happened so far and what is needed

There have been exploratory discussions with relevant people from Christian Aid, some other likely stakeholders and the organiser of the Holy Corner book sale. It is still only a provisional idea: undertaking it would be a huge logistical exercise and not one that CEMC can possibly do just on its own. The help and support of other churches in the local area, and other individuals and groups will be needed before a commitment can be made.

An invitation

Over refreshments in CEMC's Well Café at **7.30pm on Tuesday 11 October**, there will be an update on the work of Christian Aid from Mary Mulligan followed by an update on the proposal to hold a Christian Aid Book Sale at CEMC. The initial aim is to hold it during **Christian Aid Week 2017. This evening event will help establish what is possible!** It is an open evening for everyone who may have an interest or might be able to help with ideas or practical suggestions.

CONTACT on-line

You will find this issue, and many previous issues of CONTACT, on the archive pages of both of the church websites, where you will get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost.

Our next issue

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. The next issue will be published in early December, so please let us have your contribution by **Tuesday 22nd November**. You can send it to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.