

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 89  
February/March 2017

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:**

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**Church Council Secretary :**

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Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654

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Sandra Young 01383 415021

**Treasurer:**

\*Gordon Pryde 01383 860450

*\* An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue*

## our regular pattern of worship

**Sundays (except 4th)**

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

11.00am Morning Worship  
(including Sunday School)

**1st Sundays:** (starting March)

6.00pm "Sunday@Six"

**4th Sundays:** Worship together

9.00am Breakfast and "Messy Church" (during term time)  
11.00am Joint Communion Service

## 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

**Issue 89: February/March 2017**

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*Closing date for April/May 2017 issue: Tuesday 21st March 2017*

## **From the Editor's desk**

'Change' has been a constantly recurring feature in CONTACT over the last year or so, whether in sermons, articles, or editorial overviews. For the two churches in our partnership, long-term changes such as declining and ageing membership mean we need to consider and try out new ways of doing things; that is how Messy Church, Sunday@Six and the Triangle Coffee Shop developed.

The question 'can we do more together?' has arisen and in his article 'Looking forward ...' (in the August/September 2016 issue) Andrew Letby said that it was a brave question, as 'asking it could lead in all sorts of unexpected directions and we need to be ready to follow the prompting of God's Spirit'. As referred to there,

and in Alison Cozens' article 'On working together' (in the subsequent issue), there is a small group, which has now twice met with Andrew and Bishop David, that is exploring new ways of working together. Their proposals do of course need approval by Vestry and Church Council.

Some ideas may have implications that make it desirable to have wider consultation. Examples from elsewhere include the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church's consultation on the name of their new Café and the current conversations in the Circuit about a potential merger of Circuits (see page 25.) Below you will find out why and how consultation on a possible new name for our own church building is proposed.

### **Consultation on the name of our building**

Have you realised that the name of our building is an anomaly? Its current name, 'Rosyth Methodist Church' shows that it is where Methodists worship, not where Episcopalians worship. Should it be changed to something more neutral but nevertheless acceptable to both churches and the community?

To help answer that question a consultation process has been agreed by the Methodist Leadership Team and the Vestry. The first stage is to invite suggestions from members of Vestry and Church Council as to the

building's name (the present name still being an option of course); the second to reduce these to a short-list; and the third to invite all church members and the various users of the building to indicate their preferred choice in the short-list. The outcome will then be reported to the Joint Vestry/Church Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April for a decision on any change in the name of the building. Note: any change in name would be a name for the building only. The two churches retain their own name..

Howard Kirby

## Introducing Rev Dr Michael Paterson

My name is Michael Paterson and I am delighted to have been invited to lead worship once a month at St Margaret's. I was licensed for ministry in 1982. Since then I have held full time posts in parish ministry (Glasgow, Birmingham, Stonehaven, Arbroath and Edinburgh), theological education (Cambridge) and hospice chaplaincy (London, Airdrie and Edinburgh). These days, my ministry portfolio includes heading up a national project in values-based education and reflection for NHS Scotland, running two diploma courses in supervision and supporting those in ministry through psychotherapy, spiritual direction and pastoral supervision.

I have close ties with the Methodist Church from my time as Director of Pastoral Studies in the Cambridge



Theological Federation and am currently engaged in rolling out a nationwide programme of supervision and supervision training for Methodist's District Chairs and Presbyters so working ecumenically is nothing new to me.

In my free time, I play the piano and write poetry. When time allows, I indulge my addiction of walking the Santiago

Pilgrim Trail through the hills and valleys of the south of France and the plains of Castille as far as Santiago de Compostela. It is an addiction I have fed annually for twenty years and for which – thank God - no cure seems to have been found. Perhaps you will hear about it in one of my sermons!

I look forward to getting to know you better over the next few months.

Michael Paterson

## Enquiry corner

*The Editors' way of dealing with occasional enquiries*

Connie Syme has posed the following question. 'How can I let folk know that I have things I don't need, in good condition, which I want people to take from me and make a donation to the church?' She says it would be a waste to put them in a recycling bin, and the church does not run its own charity shop. **Comments please to the Editors.** Mean-time – without setting a precedent - you could help resolve Connie's immediate need by calling her on 419494; the articles available are a haversack, a slow cooker, 2 Thermos flasks and 2 tins of gloss paint.

## What's coming up....

### In the Diocese

**St Andrews West Area Council meets on Wednesday 22 February at 7.30pm** in St Paul's Church, Kinross. The Area Council is very fortunate to have Bishop David as the guest speaker to talk about current issues in the Scottish Episcopal Church and in particular Canon 31 (on marriage) on which the houses of clergy and laity will be voting at the General Synod in June. This is an open meeting and all who are interested in hearing what Bishop David has to say are most welcome to attend. We are usually very good at supporting special events so representation from us would be appreciated.

**Changes in Sunday evening worship at Lochgelly.** Margaret Dineley has let Area Council members know that she is introducing **Praise and Worship**, a new informal service of worship on a Sunday evening, on **Sunday 26 February**, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Margaret is hoping that this new service will appeal to all age groups but may have an appeal to younger folks. The plan is to hold this service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

*[Ed: This won't affect our own Sunday @ Six as from March we will change from the fourth to the first Sunday of the month].*

**2017 Gathering.** Planning has started for this year's Diocesan

Gathering in the Cathedral on **Saturday 27 May**. It will be a 'hands on' event led by John Bell of the Iona Community, with a variety of workshops. Please save the date in your diaries now. Further details will appear in due course.

### In Scotland District

**Open meeting on climate change: 'Not in our backyard - Not in their market garden' Monday 20 February at 7.30pm**, at Stirling Methodist Church, Queen Street, Stirling FK8 1HL

The Rev Walter Attwood extends an invitation to a rare chance to listen to and speak with a person who is at the forefront of the effects of climate change, Dr Julia Edwards, a Methodist mission partner working with the Pacific Council of Churches as a climate researcher and planner.

The meeting is being co-hosted by Stirling Methodist Church and Friends of the Earth - Stirling. The main speaker, Dr Julia Edwards, has very much a hands-on job as much of her work involves working with communities affected by adverse weather events. This includes planning for and assisting with the relocation of whole villages from coastal areas, and in some cases abandoning very low-lying islands. Such moves can be a considerable distance away. These migrations are entirely due to global warming caused

by the burning of fossil fuels in the industrial north.

After the talk there will be a question and answer session and an opportunity to discuss a response from this area and country to the urgent and increasing needs of the vulnerable people of the Pacific Islands and elsewhere in the world. The plight of these people depends very much on the planning decisions we make in the industrial countries and in Scotland that includes the decision that has to be made on 'fracking'.

So when the new Climate Change Bill is introduced in the Scottish Parliament, will it be bold enough in its aspirations to again give a lead to other legislators elsewhere and encourage them to follow this country's example?

Along with these issues there is also the need to increase our investments in the generation of renewable energy and other infrastructure projects that reduce the amounts of greenhouse gases that we push into the atmosphere.

This is an important meeting, and an opportunity to share your views on this growing global crisis and the plans to attempt to minimise its adverse effects.

*[Ed: Julia Edwards will be the guest speaker at Wednesday Fellowship on 22 February at 2.15pm. All interested are invited to attend.]*

## **District Safeguarding Support Day**

At Stirling Methodist Church on **Saturday 25 March** (starting with coffee at **10am** and ending at **3.30pm**) the focus will be on increasing awareness of safeguarding guidance and policies for the Methodist Church. Some time will be spent considering which groups and individuals have responsibility for specific aspects of safeguarding and it is hoped to explore good practice guidance in work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. As usual there will also be an opportunity to raise specific questions with our District Safeguarding Officer, Donald Urquhart.

Safeguarding is a whole-Church responsibility and so Donald is encouraging attendance from a range of office holders and interested parties, including members of church councils and church and circuit stewards, as well as church and circuit safeguarding officers.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided on the day but please bring a packed lunch.

To book a place please email Fiona ([fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com](mailto:fiona@methodistchurch.plus.com)) at the District Office.

Sandra Young

# Centenary Celebrations

*Gwyneth Kirby reflects on the 12 months of celebration*

By the time that you read this our year of celebrations will have ended with our Final Fling on Saturday evening – a ceilidh at Parkgate Community Centre with over 60 people coming along to share in an evening of fun. A fitting way to bring a wonderful year to its close!

Will we ever forget our Service of Celebration led by The Revd Dr Lord Leslie Griffiths, with the Church completely full? And how did we manage to feed all those people after the Service ? What a way to start our year of celebration.

And what a year it has been! Exhibitions, talks, walks, musical events, a barbecue and a quiz. We hope that everyone has found something to enjoy during the year. I am so grateful to everyone who has taken part in any way, either as a visitor to an event or as a helper.

None of it would have happened without a large team of helpers – some taking on the responsibility of organising an event, others baking and serving refreshments, and those who shifted tables and chairs and washed up endless piles of dishes. And I'm sure that each one of you has at least one piece of merchandise to remind you of the year – something else which had to be planned and organised. So a huge thank you to you all – it may have been a Methodist Centenary but the two congregations worked together as one to make the year a success.

So what do we do now that the year is over ? Well, in just a few weeks we will be celebrating 101 years of Methodism in Rosyth! We may not be celebrating in quite as big a way, but let us continue to walk and work together in as many ways as possible.

Gwyneth Kirby

## The Anniversary service and Anniversary Appeal

Yes, we mark the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Methodism in Rosyth on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March, when we are pleased to welcome Rev Robert Morton to lead our worship. As usual we make our Anniversary Appeal at this time, and the accompanying envelope invites you to Gift-Aid your donation. As we would not be able to pay our Circuit Assessment if we had to rely only on normal weekly income, the

anniversary appeal is an essential part of our income. (With 49 Methodist members, the average cost of our Circuit Assessment per member is £45 per month.) Our groups / organisations who contribute to our property running costs through this appeal are particularly asked to consider reviewing what they give.

Dave Ward and Howard Kirby



# World Day of Prayer 2017

I hope you are looking forward to the **World Day of Prayer** service on **Friday, 3 March at 2pm**. The Catholic church of St John and St Columba is the host church this year.

This year the service has been written by the women of The Philippines with the theme '**Am I being unfair to you?**' As you probably know, WDP is a global movement rooted in local communities. It is not just a one hour or a one day activity but an ecumenical year-long process rooted in prayer and acts of solidarity. This year, 2017, we rejoice in the ecumenical participation of many churches in Scotland in the WDP, in this its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

There is something unique about World Day of Prayer. Yes, it follows the same service on the same day as the rest of the world; yes it encourages all to attend a service in your community, men, women and young people; the difference is in the preparation for that service. The committee meets in 121 George Street; we have Area Preparation Days and Gatherings when people share their ideas and then take them back to help in local preparations for the first Friday in March.

## **Scottish Committee Mission Statement**

As representatives of the churches in Scotland, and members of a world-wide movement of Christian women, we work to promote prayerful living

and worship for men, women and children and to raise awareness of the lives and concerns of others throughout the world, especially those who write the service.

We encourage women to plan ecumenically for World Day of Prayer services and facilitate them by the preparation of material supportive of the annual international theme and country. (Locally this was carried out in Rosyth in January.) Through these activities, we generate resources in support of Christian literature distribution (the Scottish Bible Society and Feed the Minds), as well as projects giving practical help to people in the writing country.

## **Facts about The Philippines. Did you know that.....?**

- The Capital city Manila is named after the white flowers which grow on mangrove trees
- Official languages are English and Filipino – with 8 major dialects
- It is a world leading producer of coconuts, other agricultural products include rice, corn, sugarcane, pork and fish.
- 94% of the population are Christian – due to the Spanish influence in the country's history.
- It consists of 7,107 islands.

Now that you've read your homework, we look forward to seeing you at the Church of St John and St Columba.

Mary Kidd

## Making Music

**Come and Sing.** The next Come and Sing Workshop in aid of Waverley Care is with world-renowned choral composer and conductor, Bob Chilcott, at Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh on **Saturday 11 February from 10am to 4.15pm.** Sandra Young has details.

**Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society's** choice for this year's show is *Ruddigore* (or *The Witch's Curse*) and you can see it at the Carnegie Hall from **Wednesday 22 to Saturday 25 February.** Our own Gwyneth Kirby, Ann Duly and Joan Bell are part of the chorus of bridesmaids but Martin Tarr, sadly is indisposed. For further details see the posters on display.

For their Spring Concert **Dunfermline Choral Union** will perform Handel's *Messiah* on **Saturday 5 March at 7.30pm** in the Vine Centre, Dunfermline. Guest soloists are: Emily Mitchell (soprano), Frances McCafferty (alto), Robert Forrest (tenor) and Ivor Klayman (bass). This will be a popular concert so please get your tickets (£12 (standard), £10 (concession/student), £5 (U18) early. Talk to Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd, Myra Tarr or Joan Bell.

**Kingdom Singers** are holding two concerts at local churches. On **Wednesday 15 March from 7.30pm to 9.30pm** you can hear them at St Ninian's Church, Allan Crescent, Dunfermline, KY11 4HE and on **Wednesday 5 April from 7.30pm to 9.30pm** at St Margaret's Parish Church, Touch, Dunfermline KY11 4JJ.

If you are interested in attending either, see Ann Duly for details.

**Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society** have chosen 'Forty Favourites - the Best Bits and Hits' as this season's theme, with "The Main Bits" for their Spring Concert. Their very demanding programme is: *Rhapsody in Blue* (with guest pianist) by Gershwin; *Overture to 'Candide' and Divertimento for Orchestra*, Bernstein; *English Dances (set 2)* Arnold; *Orkney Wedding with Sunset*, Maxwell Davies; *Pops' Hoe Down*, Hayman and *Fanfare and Fugato*, Gourlay. John Gourlay is an oboist in the orchestra and composes contemporary music. The *Fanfare and Fugato* is based on the well known tune to Auld Lang Syne. The two performances are: on **17 March at 7.00pm** in the Hall at Dunfermline High School; and on **19 March at 3.00pm** in the Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy. See Adrian Masson for tickets.

The **Scottish Chamber Choir's** next concert is *Ein Deutsches Requiem* on **Saturday 25 March** in Old St Paul's Episcopal Church, 39 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DH, **at 7.30pm.** The programme is devoted to Johannes Brahms' with the choir performing his *Neue Liebeslieder*, John Gardner© Brahms inspired *Waltzsongs* and Brahms' *German Requiem* in the composer's own arrangement for chamber choir and piano duet. Martin Tarr has further details.

## **Giving to charities**

### **By Triangle Coffee Shop**

The success of Triangles Coffee Shop last year led to nearly £4,000 being raised. With half ear-marked for external charities and half shared between our two churches, the teams nominated five Charities to benefit. These, and the cheques I sent out on behalf of both churches, were:

£400 to CHAS

£400 to Leonard Cheshire Disability (Rosyth Day Centre)

£400 to Fife SANDS (the Still Birth & Neonatal Death charity)

£400 to Haiti Help

£533.14 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (Yemen Crisis Appeal) and includes November's Sunday Tea-bar takings in response to that Appeal.)

A specific appeal to customers on 30th September had also raised £359.93 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

See also our Charities noticeboard.

Dave Ward

### **A letter from Malawi**

Those of us who were fortunate to attend the Harvest Supper last September were entertained and inspired by Patricia Roberts who told us of her Christian message of love and respect for those less fortunate than ourselves. Patricia was about to leave on a charitable visit to Malawi and our retiring collection (and donations next day) enabled us to give her cheques for £300 to help fund some new projects.

We are delighted to have received a letter of thanks for our generosity from Fr Focus Chikweya, a priest whom Patricia mentioned that she was visiting. This is reproduced on the back cover. It is gratifying to know that our contribution has been put to good use.

Val Leslie is making a prayer blanket with over 150 crotchet squares, which when finished will go to Malawi. Details and a photo of the prayer blanket will appear in a future edition of Contact. Well done Val.

Sandra Young

### **Christmas Quiz and AfC**

Thanks to all those who supported Action for Children through the Christmas Quiz, which raised £45. The answers are on page 29, and the winner was Sue Masson with all answers correct. A further £55 was collected for AfC through donations and Tea Bags for Christmas. Thank you too to those who give through League of Light boxes: these raised £250.76 in 2016.

### **Water Aid**

Well done 'Messy Church' folk: together they raised £100.34 for this charity using home boxes. Thank you to the church family who support our young church throughout the year.

Jean Hall

## Fellowship news

### Welcome

We are delighted that the Reverend Dr Michael Paterson will be with us on the second Sunday of the month until June, when his experimental period of ministry will be reviewed. Michael has written a short introduction about himself on page 5.

Annie Hughes, a member of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth is a first year ordination candidate at the Scottish Episcopal Institute and on placement with Rev Alison until Easter. Annie is interested in how the ecumenical partnership works and has learned something of our history from a small group, she has visited Triangles, taken part in Messy Church and attended our joint service. Annie will be around again; if you see her please talk to her.

We welcome Michael and Annie as we remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

### On the mend

Martin Tarr is on the mend after his recent hip replacement. He is frustrated at not being able to use his computer and his lack of full mobility, this latter difficulty means he will be sorely missed in Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society's performance of *Ruddigore*.

Similarly frustrated is Evelyn Kenny who is having to obey doctor's orders and step back from engagements and

from driving. Offers of lifts would be appreciated.

We wish Martin and Evelyn well and continue to pray for their recovery.

### Changing the guard

At St Margaret's Vestry meeting on 24 January Alan Taylor relinquished the role of Treasurer after 10 years. Alan has worked tirelessly for St Margaret's and the healthy financial state the church finds itself in is largely due to his prudence and wise investments over the years. To mark his retirement, Val Leslie, as lay representative, presented Alan with a card and a bottle of his favourite Irish malt whiskey as a token of our appreciation and thanks.

We are delighted that Gordon Pryde has willingly agreed to be our treasurer and we wish him well in the post.

Sandra Young

### EDWJ

When you read your 'CONTACT' magazine you will have noticed that in the centre pages the dates of forthcoming events in our church life and in so many ways we are a busy church. You will have noticed, too, that there is an entry, once a fortnight, listed as EDWJ. These initials stand for 'Every Day with Jesus' – a series of daily Bible readings; and the EDWJ group meet for coffee or tea and chat before we discuss together what we have read during the previous fortnight.

If you would be interested to know more about this, have a word with either Mary Kidd, Mary Dempster or Jack Fowell.

Jack Fowell

## Coffee, cake and craft group

Following our Christmas break, our craft group resumes on **Tuesday 7 February from 7.30 to 9.30pm**. All are welcome to this group.

Jean Hall

## Wednesday Fellowship

The first meeting this of the Spring session (on **8 February**) will be a devotional one led by Hilary Henderson, one of our Methodist Local Preachers. Details of later meetings are on the notice boards in the crush hall, CONTACT and the syllabus each member will be given.

My thanks to all those who give tirelessly of their time to ensure the smooth-running of the organisation. It means we can support some of the organisations that are helping make our world a better place. One of these is Haiti Help. Following Lou Davidson's talk last summer, we had filled a coin collecting box to help buy the children in the orphanage new exercise books, pencils, rubbers and rulers; and have since provided a second box (with over £34). The charity was most grateful and graciously added \$100. They sent the money at Christmas so that items could be purchased locally at the start of the new school term. We hope to fill a third box in the weeks ahead.

Several members have expressed their gratitude for the lovely 'MaryMade' birthday cards they received; many thanks to Mary Dempster for creating these. Our congratulations too to honorary members John and Rosemary Cowell, who last October celebrated their Platinum (70<sup>th</sup>) Wedding Anniversary. That's yet another telegram from the Queen!

Readers – do feel free to join us, even if it's only an occasional visit when something interests you.

Mary Kidd

## Some changes in our worship pattern

Don't forget that **Messy Church** is now at **9.00am** on the **fourth Sunday** of the month. Only the date has changed – everything else remains the same. This will be followed at **11.00am** with our joint monthly communion service.

To accommodate this change, **Sunday@ Six** will move to the **first Sunday** of each month, **starting on 5 March**, when at **6.00pm** we have an opportunity to celebrate Dewi Sant (or Saint David to the non Welsh speaking members of the congregations). So why not join us for a new start and bring your friends to what should be worship with a difference.

*[Ed: There will be no Sunday @ Six in February due to the change to March].*

Sandra Young

## Diary for February to early April 2017

### Sunday 5 February

|            |         |                 |   |
|------------|---------|-----------------|---|
| Epiphany 5 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist  | Rev Professor Oliver O'Donovan                        |
|            | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Rev Helen Jenkins<br>David Salthouse (Worship Leader) |

Monday 6 Feb      7.30pm    Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

|               |         |   |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Tuesday 7 Feb | 10.00am | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns                                  |
|               | 7.30pm  | Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends |
|               | 7.30pm  | Worship Leaders and Local Preachers meeting at CEMC                                 |

|                 |        |   |
|-----------------|--------|---|
| Wednesday 8 Feb | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Opening meeting – Devotional with Mrs Hilary Henderson |
|-----------------|--------|---|

|               |         |  |
|---------------|---------|--|
| Friday 10 Feb | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall |
|               | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking            |
|               | 7.00pm  | Choir practice                         |

|                 |             |   |
|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Saturday 11 Feb | 10.00am     | Come and Sing with Bob Chilcott   |
|                 | till 4.15pm | In aid of Waverley Care. At St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2EP (see page 10) |

### Sunday 12 February

|            |         |                 |                         |
|------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Epiphany 6 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist  | Rev Dr Michael Paterson |
|            | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Mrs Jane Peers          |

Monday 13 Feb      7.00pm    Property Committee Meeting

|                  |        |  |
|------------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday 15 Feb | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Bill Tulloch entertains |
|------------------|--------|--|

|               |         |  |
|---------------|---------|--|
| Friday 17 Feb | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall |
|               | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking            |
|               | 7.00pm  | Choir practice                         |

### Sunday 19 February

|            |         |                 |                      |
|------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Epiphany 7 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist  | Rev Alison Cozens    |
|            | 11.00am | Morning Worship | Mrs Hilary Henderson |

## Diary for February to early April 2017

|                  |         |   |
|------------------|---------|---|
| Sunday 19 Feb    | 3.00pm  | Service at Orchardhead House  |
|                  | 7.00pm  | Compline at St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley. Followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome to attend  |
| Monday 20 Feb    | 7.30pm  | 'Not in our backyard – Not in their market garden', a meeting hosted by Stirling Methodist Council and Friends of the Earth Stirling in Stirling Methodist Church about climate change impacts<br>Main speaker Dr Julie Edwards, a church mission partner of the Methodist Church<br>(See page 6 for further details) |
|                  | 10.00am | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns  |
| Wednesday 22 Feb | 2.15 pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker Julia Edwards, Missionary to Suva  |
|                  | 7.30pm  | St Andrews West Area Council meeting at St Paul's, Kinross. Bishop David will talk about current issues facing the SEC.<br>All interested are welcome to attend (see page 6)  |
| Friday 24 Feb    | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  |
|                  | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking   |
|                  | 7.00pm  | Choir practice  |

### Sunday 26 February

Sunday before Lent

|               |         |  |
|---------------|---------|--|
|               | 9.00am  | Messy Church and Breakfast   |
|               | 11.00am | Joint Communion Service      Rev Alison Cozens<br>Traidcraft goods on sale after the service   |
|               |         | <b>Note:</b> Sunday @ Six restarts on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month  |
|               | 7.00pm  | Praise and Worship at St Fillian's Church, Lochgelly introducing a new alternative informal way of worship and followed by refreshments in the hall.<br>All welcome to attend (see page 6 for details) |
| Monday 27 Feb | 7.30pm  | (tbc) Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary)  |

## Diary for February to early April 2017

Tuesday 28 Feb      7.00pm   St Margaret's Vestry meet with Bishop David in the small lounge

Wednesday 1 Mar

|                      |         |   |
|----------------------|---------|---|
| <b>Ash Wednesday</b> | 2.15 pm | Wednesday Fellowship: Ash Wednesday – Lent thoughts |
|----------------------|---------|---|

7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes  
Rev Ross Kennedy

Friday 3 Mar

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

2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service at St John and St Columba Rosyth (see page 9)

7.00pm Choir practice

## Sunday 5 March

Lent 1                      9.30am   Sung Eucharist                      Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Robert Morton  
101st Anniversary of Methodism in Rosyth (see  
page 8)

6.00pm Sunday @ Six "Dewi Sant" celebrating St David  
(note new Sunday in month)

Monday 6 Mar

7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church. (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Tuesday 7 Mar

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

7.30pm Methodist Church Council meets in the Church Lounge

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

Wednesday 8 Mar

2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:  
Guest speaker/demonstrator Jackie Davidson on  
glass painting

Friday 10 Mar

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

7.00pm Choir practice



## Diary for February to early April 2017

|                 |        |   |
|-----------------|--------|---|
| Saturday 11 Mar | 9.30am | Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth  |
|                 | 7.30pm | Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert Handel's "Messiah". The Vine Centre Dunfermline (see page 10 for details) |

## Sunday 12 March

|        |         |  |                         |
|--------|---------|--|-------------------------|
| Lent 2 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist   | Rev Dr Michael Paterson |
|        | 11.00am | Morning Worship  | tbc                     |
|        | 7.00pm  | Taize service for Lent at St Fillian's Church,<br>Lochgelly led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley and<br>followed by refreshments in the hall.<br>All welcome to attend |                         |

|               |        |   |
|---------------|--------|---|
| Monday 13 Mar | 7.30pm | Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary) |
|---------------|--------|---|

Tuesday 14 Mar 7.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meets in the small lounge

Wednesday 15 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:  
To be advised

7.30pm Concert by Kingdom Singers at St Ninian's Church,  
Dunfermline (see page 10)

|               |         |  |
|---------------|---------|--|
| Friday 17 Mar | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall   |
|               | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking  |
|               | 7.00pm  | Choir practice   |
|               | 7.00pm  | Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society “The Main Bits”<br>Dunfermline High School. Tickets from Adrian<br>Masson (see page 10 for details) |

## Sunday 19 March

|        |         |  |                   |
|--------|---------|--|-------------------|
| Lent 3 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist   | Rev Alison Cozens |
|        | 11.00am | Morning Worship  | tbc               |
|        | 3.00pm  | Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth   |                   |
|        | 3.00pm  | Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society "The Main Bits"<br>Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. Tickets from Adrian Masson<br>(see page 10 for details) |                   |

## Diary for February to early April 2017

|                  |                                |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday 20 Mar    | 7.30pm                         | Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary)  |
| Tuesday 21 Mar   | 10.00am                        | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns   |
| Wednesday 22 Mar | 2.15pm                         | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Jan Benvie – Expressions of faith   |
| Friday 24 Mar    | 9.30am<br>onwards<br>7.00pm    | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>tea, coffee and home baking<br>Choir practice  |
| Saturday 25 Mar  | 10.00am<br>to 3.30pm<br>7.30pm | District Safeguarding Support Day<br>Stirling Methodist Church (see page 7 for details)<br>Scottish Chamber Choir Concert <i>Ein Deutsches Requiem</i><br>Old St Paul's Episcopal Church, 39 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh (See page 10 for details) |

### Sunday 26 March

|                  |                             |   |     |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----|
| Lent 4           | 9.00am                      | Messy Church and Breakfast  |     |
| Mothering Sunday | 11.00am                     | Joint Communion Service<br>Traidcraft goods on sale after the service   | tbc |
|                  | 7.00pm                      | Praise and Worship at St Fillian's Church, Lochgelly followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome to attend  |     |
| Monday 27 Mar    | 7.30pm                      | Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary) |     |
| Tuesday 28 Mar   | 7.00pm                      | The joint small ecumenical group meets  |     |
| Wednesday 29 Mar | 2.15pm                      | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker: Michelle Russell, Leprosy Mission, Scotland                               |     |
| Friday 31 Mar    | 9.30am<br>onwards<br>7.00pm | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>tea, coffee and home baking<br>Choir practice                           |     |

## **Diary for February to early April 2017**

### **Sunday 2 April**

|        |         |                    |                   |
|--------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lent 5 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist     | Rev Alison Cozens |
|        | 11.00am | Morning Worship    | tbc               |
|        | 6.00pm  | Sunday @ Six (tbc) |                   |

|              |        |   |
|--------------|--------|---|
| Monday 3 Apr | 7.30pm | Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary) |
|--------------|--------|---|

|               |         |  |
|---------------|---------|--|
| Tuesday 4 Apr | 10.00am | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns |
|---------------|---------|--|

|                 |        |  |
|-----------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday 5 Apr | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Alan Taylor "With Great Pleasure"               |
|                 | 6.30pm | Circuit meeting.. At City of Edinburgh Methodist Church                  |
|                 | 7.30pm | Concert by Kingdom Singers at St Margaret's Church, Touch (see page 10 ) |

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Friday 6 Apr | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall |
|              | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking            |
|              | 7.00pm  | Choir practice                         |

### **Provisional Diary for Holy Week**

### **Sunday 9 April**

|             |         |  |                         |
|-------------|---------|--|-------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist<br>with distribution of palms<br>Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal | Rev Dr Michael Paterson |
|             | 11.00am | Morning Worship<br>with distribution of palms  | tbc                     |

|               |        |   |
|---------------|--------|---|
| Monday 10 Apr | 7.30pm | Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary) |
|---------------|--------|---|

|                  |        |  |                   |
|------------------|--------|--|-------------------|
| Wednesday 12 Apr | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Holy Week Communion | Rev Helen Jenkins |
|------------------|--------|--|-------------------|

|                 |        |                |                   |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------------------|
| Maundy Thursday | 7.30pm | Holy Communion | Rev Helen Jenkins |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------------------|

## Provisional Diary for Holy Week (cont)

Good Friday                      tbc    Service (Details will appear on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

**Note**    There will be no Triangle Coffee Shop today

### Sunday 16 April

|            |         |  |                   |
|------------|---------|--|-------------------|
| Easter Day | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist<br>and blessing of the Paschal Candle | Rev Alison Cozens |
|            | 11.00am | Holy Communion                                       | tbc               |
|            | 3.00pm  | Service at Orchardhead House                         |                   |

## God votes for Us!

*A sermon by the Rev Dr Michael Paterson on The Baptism of the Lord, 8 January 2017*

They say a week is a long time in politics and some weeks longer than others. But at the end of the first week of the new year, a week that has seen Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, Teresa May and Nicola Sturgeon all hit the headlines, I am sure any one of them would give an arm or a leg to have the heavens open and the divine seal of approval resound: 'You are my son, my beloved. You are my daughter, my chosen one my favour rests on you.' Especially if the divine announcement came with the rejoinder: 'Listen and take heed the rest of you!'

Today, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, is the Church calendar equivalent of election day for a president or a prime minister. In a few short days, we have gone from Jesus in the manger receiving birthday

presents from the wise men to, Jesus, the determined adult, coming to be baptized by John in the River Jordan.

The whole scene is scandalous especially for a new God keen to launch his winning campaign on the world stage. Here is Jesus the spotless one - coming for a detox; Jesus the all-powerful one - needing a helping hand; Jesus the sinless one - up to his neck in human sin; Jesus the holy one - wading in the scum and debris of the world. And yet it's here - when Jesus is caught like a bird in an oil slick that the heavens open and the Father's voice resounds: 'This is my son the beloved, with whom I am well pleased'.

I don't know about you, but such a low key event with John the Baptist and a dove as the only recorded witnesses is not exactly the way I would have

expected God to cast his vote and reveal his favoured candidate. Surely if God had hired a campaign publicist He could have chosen a better media opportunity to bellow affectionately 'That's my boy: I am so proud of him!' like when he made the wine flow at Cana; or when he withdrew the paralytics disabled badge; when he fed the 5,000 and offered second helpings or when he brought Lazarus back from the dead.

But no! Despite the thrill factor and the ensuing publicity, God the Father showed no interest in such displays of holy power and offered no press conference on those occasions. In fact, throughout the whole of Jesus' life we never get a peep out of heaven except at two low key events: his Baptism and his Transfiguration. And at both we get the same message: 'This is my son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

And so, if the Baptism of Jesus is the theological equivalent of election day for a president or a prime minister, what kind of God do we find ourselves dealing with? What kind of policies can we expect to see? Isaiah 43 offers us some clues:

A God who is interested in us personally, who doesn't just canvass our votes but knows us by name. A God who promises to be with us when we feel overwhelmed or find ourselves drowning in the things life throws at us. A God who won't run away when we get overheated by our own egos. A God who knows the scrapes we get into, the wrong

turnings we take and blind alleys we follow. A God who wades right in when we are out of our depths – not shouting words of condemnation or whispering 'I told you so' - but bellowing for all to hear: 'That's my boy, That's my girl, My beloved on whom my favour rests.'

The Good News is that in Jesus, we are dealing with a God who has turned the tables and, despite all our shortcomings, actually votes for US! A god who tells us that we are chosen. That he delights in us and that our middle name is Beloved.

And so today we are faced with a choice: to go on rejecting ourselves, tying ourselves in knots and worrying about our sinfulness or to accept God's verdict that we are winners not a bunch of losers, that we are beloved and chosen and that he delights in us.

The polls are open. It's time to cast your vote and discover the true meaning of baptism.

Michael Paterson

## **One minute, please**

### **What did Jesus say?**

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation"

Matthew 26: 41

# Imagining baptism

*A sermon by the Rev Andrew Letby on The Baptism of the Lord, 8 January 2017  
Readings: Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17 and 21-22*

Two images: "*The Baptism of Christ*"  
by Pietro Perugino, 1483:



and contemporary 'tourist' site of  
Baptism near Tiberius, Galilee:



For many years I have looked at Renaissance paintings of events from the life of Christ and struggled with the images filled with c.15<sup>th</sup> Italian noblemen and European scenery filled with castles. More recently I have come to understand that the painters were seeking to the root the stories in their contemporary context.

The site near Tiberius is equally 'unrealistic' but I think does much the same. For a place that is more stage set than historical location I would say it had a strangely moving and spiritual atmosphere.

When I visited twenty years ago one thing in particular happened which has stuck with me. I was leading a church pilgrimage group. From above I observed an elderly brother and sister from my party wading into the water – and baptising each other.

They didn't say much about it afterwards – but it clearly had been a big deal for them – and something unbeknown to me they had planned long before the trip. (In fact, it was almost solely for this moment that they had made the journey) I didn't really understand their motivation or whether they really had a conscious understanding of what they were doing. I do know it came from the heart.

Young and inexperienced, I was concerned I would get into trouble for allowing this to happen. I am somewhat more reflective on it all now!

Many years later the Methodist Church got itself into a characteristic theological tussle over trying to find a way of dealing with people who expressed a similar sense of needing

to do 'something' to express a moment or experience of particular commitment. Much of the argument was around whether water could be used in some way in the resulting ceremony. (We get very jumpy about the idea someone might intentionally or even unintentionally be baptised twice.)

*The Methodist Church recognises that some who have been baptized have grown away from the Christian faith but have discovered afresh the claim of Christ on their lives and have felt the call to repentance. They long to rededicate themselves to Christ by renewing the expression of faith associated with Baptism and confirmation. The Methodist Church also recognises the deep pastoral needs of those who wish the reaffirmation of Baptismal Faith to include the sign and gift of water associated with the sacrament of Baptism*

It took our Faith and Order committee several years to devise an authorised liturgy (and get it accepted by the church's governing body, Conference) – which in carefully crafted words and carefully managed symbolism – purports to do what that brother and sister found a way of doing within themselves.

I happen to think that the honesty and the rawness of that moment was probably more real and demonstrated a deeper sense of God than the stylised liturgy which resulted from a paranoia about offending God's sensibilities!

I also think it helps us gain a sense of both our Gospel reading and the snippet of early church development recorded in Acts.

When John baptises Jesus in the Jordan it is in effect a commissioning, a moment of making ready for the task which lies ahead. Baptism in the water offers a symbol of washing, cleansing, refreshing – but it is associated directly with the enabling power of the Spirit. This is moment filled with power and dynamism.

Luke describes the consequences in pretty uncompromising terms – this is the moment when Jesus is commissioned and equipped to turn upside down the accepted order. This brings with it the possibility of judgement where there is injustice and hypocrisy (the chaff) – as well as being life giving where there is hope and goodness (the wheat).

Within this, it is important to notice that this is not just about Jesus – Luke describes 'all the people' being baptised – indeed he implies that is more important than Jesus' baptism – 'Jesus also was baptised' – not the main event evidently.

But, our culture and tradition have reduced Baptism to a sort of naming ceremony, a piece of folk religion – and led us away from understanding that Christian Baptism is a moment of total transformation. We tend to speak of 'christening' – and we conjure up images of babies in white outfits. (one of 250 babies 'booked in' for Baptism)

*Imagining baptism: Continued from page 23*

In doing so we forget that '*christening*' implies *becoming like Christ*.

We tend to take a 'job-done' attitude to Baptism – an end in itself. Somehow, we need to resist such a way of understanding what is really a symbol of new life, filled with energy and possibility.

It is not just about being given a name, but about *being transformed*, and a moment when by the Spirit those who are baptised are commissioned to obedient, faithful service, to follow the path blazed by the unique Son of God

The task, like that task confirmed for Jesus at baptism, has to do with 'establishing justice in our families and communities, with being of loving service to all people and a light to the nations.'

When we jump on a few years to the life of the early church we are given an illustration of the importance of all this.

We often describe the festival of Pentecost as the birthday of the church. The events we recall 50 days after Easter are of something amazing happening to the believers who were in Jerusalem – the outpouring of the Holy Spirit enabling them to understand one another's languages and leaving them exuberant and frankly a bit unruly.

Of course, that soon settled down and as we read the Acts of the Apostles, we hear how the first Christians in Jerusalem began to form into a

community which worshipped and ate together and who had an influence on those around them. These first Christians were of course Jews who were convinced Jesus was the long-promised Messiah.

Importantly – this was not the only place that things began to happen – fundamental to the Pentecost story (the birth of the church) was that travellers from far and wide were witnesses to it – and they took the stories back to their homes. As others heard what had happened they came to believe that the ministry, death and rising of Jesus was important and they began to seek to follow 'The Way'.

Evidently there was a group in (importantly) non Jewish Samaria who had come to believe and had allowed themselves to be baptised (we assume by water). The group in Jerusalem heard of this but saw the shortcoming in what had happened.

These folks were only part way toward being true followers. They needed to experience the baptism of Spirit.

They needed the enabling power which would really transform their attitudes, their actions, their understanding.

The reporting of this in the history of the church is particularly significant in that it makes quite clear that the 'good news' the gospel was a universal gift. All people, all nations could be known as God's own – and receive mercy, forgiveness and new life.



This of course demands an active response and willingness to be transformed. God reaches out to us – the question for us is, ‘do we have the desire or the courage to respond?’

This is not a passive receiving – but a commitment to live in a new way. Sometimes that will set us at odds with those around us – as we seek to promote values of love, hope, tolerance, peace, self-sacrifice. As we stand up for the powerless and the unlikeable – accept those who are not like us and resist the temptation to take the easy way out.

2016 was a strange year, in which it often felt that the accepted rules of global politics were being rewritten. We await the consequences in a new year, but it seems to me that key to

how we move forward is whether we remember that our calling is fight for these values in every way we can. We who have received the transforming power of water and spirit cannot be swept along on a tide of fear or intolerance.

Reflecting back to my fellow travellers and their symbolic moment in the Jordan, I think they understood – probably better than most of us – the possibility and necessity of commitment. It was more than a moment of ritual – it was a sign of real commitment to one another, to God – it was thanksgiving and it shouted to the world – we are ready for what God wants of us... Amen.

Andrew Letby

## **Circuit collaboration — an announcement**

*Rev Andrew Letby asked that the announcement below be widely conveyed across the Circuit.*

‘In light of the recommendations of the Autumn Synod\* of 2016, the members of the Leadership Team of the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit have been in conversation with the Leadership Team of the Central Scotland Circuit, seeking to find ways of developing closer collaboration. These conversations very quickly raised the possibility of merging the two circuits to form a new circuit along the length of the Forth Valley.

‘A paper has been prepared to facilitate discussion. It contains a proposal which will be brought to the Spring Circuit Meetings [*Ed: ours is on 5th April at CEMC*]. Copies can be obtained from the Church Stewards.

‘The paper will be discussed in detail at forthcoming church council meetings [*Ed: 3th March*]. Ministers and Circuit Stewards will be happy to discuss the proposal and answer questions in the intervening period.’

\* [*Ed: for a report on the Autumn Synod see October/November 2016 issue of CONTACT, p22*]

# The challenge of the Covenant

*A sermon by The Most Rev David Chillingworth at the Covenant Service and Joint Communion on 22nd January 2017, with Celebrant Rev Dr David Easton*

It was a strange experience to be in America two days after the election of Donald Trump. I was on church business but Alison and I added a day to visit Washington. One of my friends reminded me last night that I wrote that I looked at the dais which was being built for the inauguration - with a slight sinking in the pit of the stomach. America faces deep problems about poverty, about race, about education and medical care. But angry leadership will not solve them. It is a spiritual failure in the making. I am part of the generation which lived through the Northern Ireland Troubles — I was 18 at the start of it. When the violence ended, it seemed to time to go. Another generation was called to build a new kind of peaceful society. And they have failed. Entrenched divisions have not been addressed. Imaginative gestures which would dissolve the hurts of history have not been made. It is a spiritual failure.

One of my strongest memories is of being at a meeting in Belfast addressed by Desmond Tutu. It was a gathering of community workers — the kind of people who would have had little time for churches — believing perhaps with some justification that the churches were part of the problem rather than the solution. Archbishop Tutu arrived and his first words were, 'you need to understand — it is a matter of

spirituality'. He was affirming his deep belief - which I share — that while the challenges which we face may be matters of politics, administration, vision. At the heart of it all they are matters of spirituality.

Whether in nations or in families, in churches or in communities, progress depends on an underlying spirituality which brings into play love and generosity, sacrifice, giving and forgiving. And it also depends on a feeling that, whatever may be, we are not masters of our own ship.

I have always been attracted by the Methodist tradition of the Covenant Service - indeed when I was the Rector of a congregation, I used elements of it regularly. The Methodist tradition gives this as a gift to the wider Christian community.

The words resonate in our hearts  
*I willingly offer  
all I have and am  
to serve you,  
as and where you choose.  
Glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours*

And of course as we consider the next steps in the relationship between Methodist and Episcopalian congregations here, we are exploring not just a friendship, not just a partnership but in some sense a Covenant - the kind of relationship

which energises and enriches those who commit to it - the kind of relationship which makes of all of us more than we can be on our own. For: *'In this Covenant God promises us new life in Christ'*

That's what the words of introduction to the Covenant part of our worship say. We have heard the scriptures.

Moses reads the book of the Covenant and the people say,  
*'All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient'*

And Jeremiah says:  
*'I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people'*

And Paul says:  
*'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds'*

And in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus calls disciples and they follow him immediately. They recognise his call on their lives and they commit wholeheartedly, completely and at once.

People are shy and hesitant about commitments today. They are cautious about signing up for anything - churches, voluntary work or indeed membership of political parties. People don't like the idea of being bound or under obligation. They prefer to be free to do what they want when they want.

The Covenant commitment which we undertake is boundless and

unconditional. We are not just pledging a bit of our time and some of our energy, we are pledging everything without holding back— it is unconditional.

*'I willingly offer  
all I have and am  
to serve you,  
as and where you choose.  
Glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.  
May it be so for ever.  
Let this covenant now made on earth  
be fulfilled in heaven.'*

We use the word vocation - people hear it as being about people who feel called to ministry and priesthood. We are seeing a resurgence in that - maybe it arises from the spiritually arid landscape in which we live. But it isn't just about those individuals - vocation is for every disciple, every baptised person and for churches and indeed for communities. And the whole point of the Covenant Service is to remind us that we cannot know what the Lord requires of us - unless we commit ourselves wholeheartedly and without reservation as disciples. Otherwise we shall be negotiating with God. And we shall never discover what Desmond Tutu discovered - that it is all about spirituality in the end

In this Covenant God promises us new life in Christ. We give totally of ourselves. But we gain the spiritual riches which are the gift of God to his faithful and obedient disciples.

David Chillingworth

## Young people in Rosyth

Were you there on Christmas Eve to watch the all-age Nativity? If, like me, you missed it, then you missed a real treat. After several weeks of hard work and lots of lines learned the children (and the grown ups!) did us proud once again and put on a wonderful performance. It is getting increasingly difficult to get all the cast together for rehearsals – in fact, Christmas Eve was the first time that everyone had been in the same place at the same time – but that didn't seem to affect the performance. Within minutes of the play finishing I received a photo of the final tableau on my phone which made me feel very much part of things even though I was hundreds of miles away. So well done everyone for all your hard work. It was worth it in the end and I'm very proud of you.

The Sunday before the Nativity play we had great fun at our Messy Church Christmas party – lots of food, games and, of course, a visit from Santa with

a sackful of presents. Thank you Santa for fitting us into your busy schedule.

Messy Church was back on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January (Don't forget the change of Sunday!). We thought about Jesus saying "I am the light of the world". I bet you've never seen candle biscuits before! There were crafts using all sorts of different sources of light and even a story about four candles (You have to be of a certain age to appreciate the humour there!). We meet again on **Sunday 26 February** when we will learn about Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Don't forget to look at our latest banner hanging in the corridor, depicting four of the miracles of Jesus (which we learned about last year). Thanks to Jean for putting all our work together in such a lovely, colourful way.

Gwyneth Kirby

## Our trip across the pond and some surprises!

Our excursion to USA commenced on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November with a kindly given lift to Edinburgh Airport for our flight to JFK, New York. Having checked in, breakfasted and browsed through the various shops, we boarded and were just getting comfortable for the flight when a rather surprising announcement came from our Pilot. "My apologies as our

flight map, *which is neither required nor used*, is out of date and unfortunately by law we must carry an up to date flight map". This delayed our flight by 45 minutes!

Seven hours later we arrived safely in the big apple, and were glad that we had arranged assistance upon arrival at JFK. This gave us priority through immigration, baggage claim, customs

and check-in for our connection flight to Dallas, Texas, in a fraction of the time it would otherwise have taken us in such a huge airport.

Another delay occurred before departure for Fort Worth, Dallas, where we were met by our oldest son, who with his family lives in Flower Mound (population 66,000), a 20 minute drive from Dallas. The following day we attended our younger grandson's school for a short concert in which he plays the violin. We were surprised how patriotic the American schools are: every morning all students have to pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and Texas.

We saw both our grandsons in action in their chosen sports. Lewis, the eldest, is a keen tennis player and very good for his age and build; Max has taken to American Football and is loving it. In our first week we visited the Stock Yards. This is the traditional side of Texas, home to the Rodeo, saloon bars and Long Horn Cows. In the shops we had to work out costs, as the marked price does not include the compulsory sales tax. Back in Flower Mound, we were surprised that all front gardens looked the same; this was because of a couple of strange laws: front gardens must have at least 2 trees and it is illegal to hang washing out, front or back. Four surprises so far!

Dave and Mandy Ward

## Christmas Carols Quiz

*Jean Hall provides the Answers*

See page 11 for the prize-winner and amount raised for Action for Children.

- 1) O little town of Bethlehem
- 2) Away in a manger
- 3) Silent night, holy night
- 4) O come, all ye faithful
- 5) Little donkey, little donkey
- 6) Infant holy, infant lowly
- 7) Hark the herald angels sing
- 8) Ding dong merrily on high
- 9) It came upon the midnight clear
- 10) Good king Wenceslas looked out
- 11) God rest ye merry gentlemen
- 12) I saw three ships
- 13) The first Noel
- 14) Angels, from the realms of glory
- 15) On the first day of Christmas
- 16) Once in royal David's city
- 17) The holly and the ivy
- 18) How far is it to Bethlehem
- 19) Little Jesus sweetly sleep
- 20) In the bleak midwinter
- 21) Unto us a child is born
- 22) We wish you a merry Christmas
- 23) Born in the night, Mary's child
- 24) See him lying on a bed of straw
- 25) While shepherds watched
- 26) Come and join the celebration
- 27) Girls and boys leave your toys
- 28) Go tell it on the mountain
- 29) Do you hear what I hear
- 30) See amid the winter snow

## Puzzle page

*With puzzles from Dave Ward*

### New puzzles

1) An easy one to start with: what is unusual about the following sentence?

*'The quick brown Fox jumps over the lazy dog.'*

2) Consider the following statements.

*'Fiona Jackson married Alan Smith on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 1430 in the afternoon in Rosyth Parish church Scotland.'*

*'Alice Wexford married Alan Smith on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 1430 in the afternoon in Rosyth Parish church Scotland.'*

How can both these sentences be true?

3) Sat at a table in a Pub are a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister, two cousins, an uncle and an aunt, if one of them buys a round of drinks, what is the least amount of drinks you have to buy to give everyone a drink? Please explain!

4) John numbers every page of his 100 page book, how many times does he write the number 8?

### Answers to Dec/Jan puzzles

A1) Because the clock strikes once at 1 o'clock and every quarter-hour thereafter, the maximum amount of time the man would need to wait would be 1½ hrs. That would arise if he heard the clock chime once at 12.15. After 6 more chimes (every ¼ hour up to 1.45) he would know that the clock would strike twice next, at 2 o'clock.

A2) Given that a judge has allowed a prisoner to make one statement, such that if the statement is true he will be hanged, but if it is false he will be shot by a firing squad, the statement that secured his release was: *'I will be shot by a firing squad'*. Work the rest out for yourself.

A3) The timepiece with the most moving parts is AN EGG TIMER!

A4) To make the sum  $5 + 5 + 5 = 550$  correct with just one straight line, you add a diagonal line to the first plus. to make the '+' into a '4'. Thus, it becomes  $545 + 5 = 550$ .

*[Ed: A Christmas Quiz was also arranged by Jean Hall to raise funds for Action for Children. The answers are given on page 29, and the outcome on page 11]*

## 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  
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  
cmarykidd@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](mailto:editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk)**

# The letter from Malawi

*For context, see the article on page 11 about the letter*

Dear Friends

**RE: VOTE OF THANKS FOR THE SOIL STABILIZING BRICK MAKING MACHINE (SSB) RECEIPT:**

Peace and Love of Jesus Christ be with you.

I am Fr. Focus Chikweya Parish Priest of St. Joseph Mendulo Parish. I am writing this letter to thank you very much and acknowledge the receipt of the above mentioned machine. We have received it with appreciation.

We also register our profound gratitude to Patricia Roberts who submitted her request to you good people and you came up with the Retiring Collection.

A vote of thanks also go to Mr. Charles Fawcett who has a great passion for St Joseph's Mendulo Parish

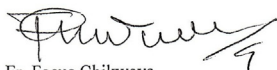
The machine has just come at the right time when we have so many projects at Parish and these projects need a lot of bricks. This means that the cutting of trees in the Parish's vicinity will be reduced and deforestation will be avoided more especially in this climate change,

Well and good, Malawi is keeping us fine despite the hunger crisis. This has become the order of the day. Pray for us.

We pray to God that he may grant you all kinds of spiritual and material blessings and we ask for your prayer too.

Wishing you all the best in your daily endeavours.

Devotedly yours in Christ,



Fr. Focus Chikweya  
Parish Priest for St. Joseph Mendulo Parish

## 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 April, so please send us your contribution by **Tuesday 21st March 2017**. You can send it to *editor\rosythmethodist.org.uk*.