

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



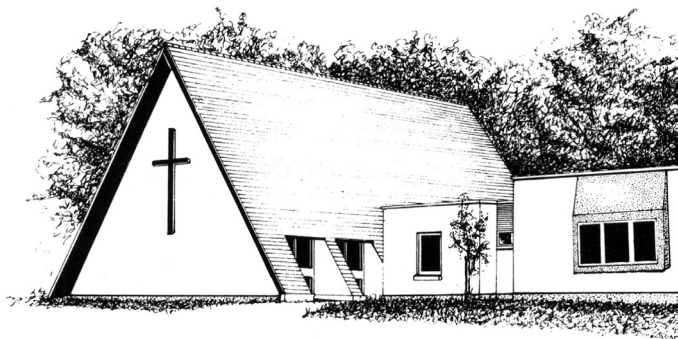
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 90  
April/May 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

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**Treasurer:**

Dave Ward 01383 414944

**Rector:**

Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654

**Vestry Secretary:**

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:**

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 90: April/May 2017**

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Diary Editor: Sandra Young

*Closing date for June/July 2017 issue: Tuesday 23rd May 2017*

## Losing leaders

As an ecumenical partnership it comes as a bit of a jolt to find that leaders in our two churches who have taken an active role in encouraging us to explore new ways of working together are to move to pastures new at about the same time. The retirement of Bishop David Chillingworth this year was of course not unexpected (see page 7). Circuit Superintendent Andrew Letby had been expected to move on a year later, but the following announcement makes it clear how the unexpected happened.

*One of the strengths of Methodism is the mutual support and accountability which comes with being a 'connexional' church. This often means that ministers are needed to move to serve particular needs in different areas. In response to a request to fill a strategically important vacancy, our superintendent, Andrew Letby, will be leaving the Edinburgh and Forth Circuit this summer to take up the superintendency of the Croydon Circuit in the London District. This has come as a surprise to both him and his wife, Deacon Belinda Letby, minister at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church. Belinda will of course be moving with him.*

We wish David and Alison well in retirement and Andrew and Belinda well in this exciting new stage of their ministry and will continue to hold them all in our prayers.

Howard Kirby

## A Service of Light and Darkness

Our Maundy Thursday service (on **13 April at 7.30pm**) will be a Service of Light and Darkness including the celebration of Holy Communion, led by Rev Helen Jenkins. We will gather around a table in the church for the service and to share bread and wine, and at the end we will hear the narrative of Jesus' passion during which candles will gradually be extinguished, leaving us in darkness. We will then leave in silence as we contemplate what we have shared and heard. All are welcome to join us.

*[Ed: for all the services in Holy Week in Rosyth, see the back cover—as well of course as our Diary]*

## One minute, please What did Jesus say?

“Come, follow me”

Mark 1:17

## Book sale-can you help?

*For Christian Aid at CEMC, 13-19 May*

Two book sales have been held in Edinburgh during Christian Aid Week every year for more than 40 years. These have raised phenomenal amounts of money for the work of Christian Aid. The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (CEMC) at Nicolson Square is now to provide a third sale location in the south-east of the city.

At Nicolson Square there will also be talks and events running alongside the sale that will give the week a favour of a mini book festival.

**Volunteers are needed:** Do you love books? Are you strong? Are you good at welcoming people? Volunteers for book sale and festival are needed for:

- Moving boxes of books
- Sifting, sorting and pricing books
- Being on hand to assist customer
- Manning a stall or a cash desk
- Helping to clear up afterwards

Please get in touch if you can help in any way or would like further information – every bit of help is welcome (even if just for one hour on one of the days). The book sale and Festival will run from **Saturday 13 – Friday 19 May** with sifting and sorting in the week before that.

Phone 0131 662 8635 or email [cemc.communications@gmail.com](mailto:cemc.communications@gmail.com).

If you would like to donate books the collection days at Nicolson Square ahead of the sale are **Friday 21 April (12noon – 2pm) and Saturday 22 April (9am – 2pm)**.

## £1 coin & paper £5 notes

*Evelyn Kenny shares her concerns*

As you will know, a new 12-sided £1 coin came into circulation on 28 March and the 'old' £1 coin will be phased out later this year. It will become useless: the old ones will cease to be legal tender, and on 15 October shops will not accept old £1 coins or distribute them in change. After 15 October - for a limited period - banks and post offices will still allow customers to deposit old £1 coins into their bank account.

Many of us collect for charities, especially those supported by our church - Mary's Meals, Haiti Help, Water Aid, JMA to name a few, and some of you may collect £1 coins for personal purposes. Please make sure you hand in your charity boxes, and use the coins long before 15 October.

On 5 May, the old paper £5 will cease to be legal tender and will no longer be accepted by shops. They are gradually being withdrawn but, if you still have some, be quick and get rid of them now! If, after that date you discover some paper £5 notes in a drawer or tucked in a coat pocket, don't despair – all Bank of England notes retain their face value for all time. If your bank, building society or post office refuses to accept them, they can be exchanged at the Bank of England in London's Threadneedle Street, either by post or in person where they will be redeemed for their face value.

Evelyn Kenny & Sandra Young

## Bishop David's Lent Appeal

Bishop David has chosen three local charities:

Stirling Interfaith Community  
Justice Group  
Express Group Fife  
Churches Action for the Homeless  
(CATH)

to support his Lent Appeal this year.

In 2016, his Appeal for support for community projects in the Diocese of Calcutta raised the outstanding sum of £5,078.

Bishop David feels it is equally important that we support local charities which do excellent work in our community. Each of these voluntary organisations is situated in a different part of the Diocese and members of congregations are involved.

There will be a retiring collection at St Margaret's services on **Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Day.** Gordon has gift aid envelopes. Please support this work as generously as you can.

These are all very interesting charities which readers might wish to learn more about. There is a poster on the notice board in the Crush Hall summarising their work or you can access their websites as follows.

STIRLING INTERFAITH COMMUNITY  
JUSTICE GROUP ([www.sicjg.co.uk](http://www.sicjg.co.uk)).  
This is a Charity established by representatives of the churches and other faith communities in the Stirling

area. The Family Help Hub HMP/YOI Cornton Vale is built on a strategic community partnership between the Charity, The Scottish Prison Service and Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority, in response to the needs of female offenders and the families of offenders across Scotland.

EXPRESS GROUP FIFE (<http://www.expressgroupfife.org.uk>). For 37 years, people in Fife with mental health problems have been able to turn to Express Groups to help them cope and recover. The aim of the Groups is to give opportunities for self-help social activities, outings and holidays; and to provide a place where members can share experiences, and offer mutual support.

CATH - CHURCHES ACTION FOR THE HOMELESS ([www.cath-org.co.uk](http://www.cath-org.co.uk)) is a local charity in Perth supporting those who are homeless or under threat of homelessness. Volunteers make a valuable contribution in all areas of its service provision, and working in partnership projects with organisations such as Scottish Churches Housing Action and the Criminal Justice Authority provides opportunities to share expertise and best practice.

Sandra Young

## Bishop David retires

Bishop David announced in early February that he will retire as Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus at the end of July this year. Bishop David was consecrated our Bishop on 5 March 2005 and was elected Primus in 2009.

In his leadership roles in Scotland, Bishop David has encouraged the church to become more missional. In our diocese he worked with clergy and laity to carry out a major review of the life of the diocese and its congregations. This led to the Casting the Net initiative, which was launched in all churches in the diocese on Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2009. Casting the Net is a movement of mission and growth – it encourages clergy and congregations to reach out into the communities in which they live. Bishop David has also worked hard to sustain the unity of the church as it addressed human sexuality issues

Throughout his ministry, Bishop David has given a high priority to communication. He is a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio Scotland's *Thought for the Day*, a contributor to the *Church Times*, and for over ten years has written a blog at [www.bishopdavid.net](http://www.bishopdavid.net). He has been a loyal supporter of St Margaret's and has particularly enjoyed our hymn singing - he reported in one of his blogs that we sing our hymns more briskly than anywhere else he goes and with passion!

In announcing his retirement, Bishop David said "it has been an immense privilege for me to exercise the interwoven ministries of bishop and Primus. The Scottish Episcopal Church has with increasing confidence been developing its mission and taking its place in the evolving story of Scotland. "As the process for the election of my successor begins – and as God's unfolding future for our church is revealed – I shall continue to hold this church and its leadership in my prayers."

Although having served all his ministry in the Church of Ireland until he was appointed Bishop here, Scotland has become his home and Bishop David and Alison will live in retirement near Edinburgh within easy reach of their three children and four grandchildren.

Bishop David will mark the end of his ministry as Bishop and Primus with a Eucharist in Perth Cathedral on **Sunday 25 June at 6pm** to which all are invited. The service will also mark the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood

We remember, with affection, Bishop David and Alison in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for their retirement.

Sandra Young

## **Around the Diocese**

### **The Gathering 27 May**

This will be held at St Ninian's Cathedral. More details of the programme will be available soon.

Over the last few years (except 2016, when it had to be cancelled) the Gathering has been a great opportunity for church members across the Diocese to exchange ideas and experiences, to learn something new together, to worship at the Cathedral and to be re-energised in ministry and mission. This year's event will be no exception.

John Bell, the inspirational Christian speaker, hymn-writer and broadcaster has been invited to help us think afresh about worship and about the way we view Jesus.

There will be opportunities during the day to meet friends old and new, to find out what is going on in other churches and to explore the Cathedral.

Learning new songs from all over the world, trying out a wide range of prayer activities and taking part in hand-on workshops – you may learn some new skills and perhaps discover hidden talents! The event is designed to appeal to all ages and will be a family-friendly day out. If you are interested please look out for booking forms which will be sent to all churches soon after Easter.

Sandra Young

### **Learn about the Fife Pilgrim Way**

**On Thursday 18 May at 7.30pm** in St Finnian's Church Lochgelly, Lynn Strachan from Fife Countryside Trust will be speaking to the St Andrews West Area Council Meeting about the Fife Pilgrims Way.

The Fife Pilgrim Way is an exciting new heritage project that seeks to engage the support of local people and visitors in developing a new long distance walking route through the heart of Fife. It is currently in its development phase, after obtaining development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund in September 2015.

Beginning at either Culross Abbey or North Queensferry and passing through Dunfermline it will wind its way through inland Fife until it reaches St Andrews Cathedral. With a total distance of 70 miles, the route will link together many examples of the region's medieval and pilgrim heritage. It will use Fife's existing network of rights of way, paths and tracks to offer varied opportunities for long distance, multi-day walking supplemented by shorter walks and circular routes.

Led by Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, in partnership with Fife Council, the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum, the



Fife Tourism Partnership, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forth Pilgrim, the long term aim is to see the route included in Scotland's network of 'Great Trails', linking award winning sites of natural beauty with historic centres and sites of medieval pilgrimage.

Interested in learning more? As always with the Area Council meetings this is an open meeting so do join us. Refreshments will be served before the meeting begins.

Sandra Young

## **Methodist General Church Meeting**

On Sunday 28 May, following the 11am service, there will be a General Church Meeting. Such meetings are held 'for fellowship, for mutual counsel respecting the condition of the Local Church, including its financial affairs, and for the election of church stewards and representatives.' All members of Rosyth Methodist Church are invited, can nominate other members for election and have a vote. Nominations should be given in writing not less than 7 days before the meeting; a sheet inviting nominations will be placed on the notice-board.

The meeting is also open to all other persons on the community roll.

Howard Kirby

## **Help fill up our bookshelves**

We are running quite low on paperbacks for sale from our bookshelves in the Crush Hall. If you, your family or friends have any unwanted paperbacks ((in good condition) please look them out and bring them to church. We are encouraged with the turnover which, as well as giving people reading material for their leisure or holidays, provides a steady contribution to church funds Your help is appreciated to keep this worthwhile service going.

We find that hardback books are not popular, probably due to their size and weight. If you do want to donate hardbacks why not give them to the Christian Aid Book Sale at CEMC, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh (see page 5 for collection days at Nicolson Square)?

Sandra Young

## **Mission to Seafarers news**

In March the Mission to Seafarers Scotland launched its new website [www.mtss.scot](http://www.mtss.scot), where you can sign up to receive their newsletters

Adrian Masson

# Diocesan Synod 2017

*Valerie Leslie reports on the Synod held in St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth on 11th March*

This year's synod was much more tense than usual, primarily because of the vote re canonical changes to Canons 31, 22 and 63. For over two years various discussions have gone on in regard to Canon 31, concerning the change to the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony to recognise same sex marriage in church. (For information on the proposed changes see the full report of the synod in the crush hall.)

It was Bishop David's last synod before he retires. His address was very interesting; making special mention of the hard work of clergy, synod members, and the Dean and Dom Ind especially. He also thanked his wife Alison for her tireless and faithful support of his work.

Bishop David talked fondly of his 12 years as Bishop and Primus, making special note of the mission links between Calcutta and the USA. Bishop David spoke of the amazing fund raising work currently taking place in Lochgelly; Ross Stirling is raising money to build a hospice in Calcutta. The Bishop said that Ross was a really good ambassador for the SEC, praising his enthusiasm and energy as he works hard to make life a little easier for those most in need in Calcutta.

The Bishop spoke about how he was working hard to pave the way to make his successor's transition as smooth as possible. He spoke about the need for good governance and civility. He lamented the fact that civility often

proved difficult but with good governance comes good relationships.

The Bishop also spoke of the journey the SEC has travelled this past 2 years in regards to Canon 31, making special mention of the cascade conference where those on both sides of the debate spoke and discussed same sex marriage in church with respect and love. Bishop David spoke of the difficulties that congregations experienced debating this issue, particularly those with smaller congregations. We were given an opportunity to discuss the issues after the Eucharist and lunch.

For more details see my full report on the Synod, displayed on the notice board in the Crush Hall. Please pay special attention to page 2. Section 1 is particularly beautifully crafted and protects clergy as it has a conscience clause.

The vote re Canon 31 was as follows:  
CLERGY : 17 for, 6 against and 1 abstention; LAITY : 29 for, 16 against.

The vote did not achieve the two-thirds majority needed but it will go to the General Synod later this year for a further vote. Aberdeen diocese voted against and Glasgow voted for the change to Canon 31.

The Bishop received a standing ovation as he brought the Synod to a close.

Valerie Leslie

## Christian Aid Week 14-20 May

*Christian Aid Concert (children from Rosyth schools) Parish Church, **11 May**  
Bread & Cheese Lunch in the Parish Church on **14 May** (from **11.30 am**)  
Quiz Sheet – available in Church*

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christian Aid Week.

British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, Christian Aid Week was launched.

Sixty years ago, Christians refused to stand by while people suffered in refugee camps. The current refugee crisis is the focus for Christian Aid Week this year.

*An example is Nejebar and her husband Noor. They fled Afghanistan after the*



*Taliban threatened to kill Noor, who was a teacher. It wasn't an idle threat - the Taliban blinded, then murdered, another member of their family.*

*'The last days weeks in Afghanistan were the hardest,' says Noor. 'When I went to work, my heart was beating harder. I didn't know if my family were going to be alive when I got back.'*

*The family have been in a refugee camp in Greece for six months now and there's no end in sight. The only*

*protection they have against the wind and rain is their tent. There's no school for their children. Five-year-old Sudai, their youngest, is ill, but Nejebar and Noor don't know what's wrong with him because they can't communicate with the camp's doctor, who is Greek.*

As well as our local events (by the time you read this we will have held our Souper Soup Day) – Christian Aid Concert on **11 May** and Bread & Cheese Lunch in the Parish Church on **14 May** – there are also Scottish events, including the Christian Aid walk across the Forth Road Bridge, on **22 April** at **2pm**. For details of this, and other walks in Scotland go to <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/events/walking/scotland.aspx>.

During Christian Aid Week across the UK and Ireland 7 million envelopes are delivered to raise money for our global neighbours in need. It's an opportunity to reach out to our community, and to make sure some of the world's poorest people have enough to eat and a safe place to live.

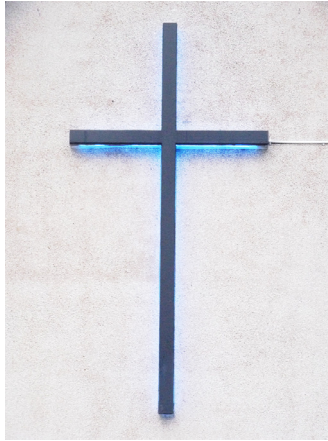
If you want further details or can help at any of these events, copies of the Quiz or can deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes to your neighbours this Christian Aid Week, contact Jan Benvie, 07535 757526, or email [jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk).

Jan Benvie

## Property matters

It is a while since I contributed an article in Contact on property matters. Last year we had some major changes to the property with new flooring, refurbished coffee bar, new back door and additional cupboards. One item which remains to be done is to improve the hot water supply to the coffee bar. This is a lot more difficult and costly than one might think. We have decided on a way forward and I hope it won't be too long before this work is done. I am about to fill in our end of project report for Awards for All who contributed about 60% of the cost of our improvements package for which we were very grateful. The balance of Malcolm Trew's bequest was used to fund these improvements and I think that Malcolm would have been well pleased with what has been achieved.

Since then the Property Committee has been concerned with more mundane matters but ones which are necessary to keep the premises operating safely and smoothly. The Property Risk and Fire Risk Assessments were reviewed. One of the floodlights in the car park was replaced. A roller blind was fitted in front of the stained glass windows. Some redecoration arising from the



property improvements was carried out. Problems with the illumination of the outside cross have been resolved and it is now functioning normally. Recently, portable appliance testing has been carried out and the fire extinguishers have been inspected.

Wheelie bins have been a source of concern. Last

year we switched from commercial to domestic wheelie bins to save having to spend almost £1000 per annum. The domestic bins are not entirely satisfactory for our needs with the landfill and paper bins filling up quickly. More could be done to help avoid this by taking greater care to sort out plastics etc to go in the green bin or by taking rubbish home. The drainage gutters on the roof were cleaned out and some repairs made to the roof covering. Last year we received the 5 yearly (quinquennial) property report which we have had to digest and identify issues which need action. This has now largely been done.

We will shortly be sending out our occasional letter to organisations reminding them of what they should be doing to help keep our premises clean and tidy and reduce costs. There is still room for improvement in

routine matters like switching off lights and extractor fans, locking doors and tidying the premises after use. The kitchen is an area where surplus food stuffs from baking, cooking etc are sometimes left.

As a rule we try to keep the tops of cupboards clear and we look to organisations to store equipment in their allotted cupboards. Some temporary exceptions to this are allowed for art or handcraft work, for example, but if this is more than for more than a week or two, please speak to me. I would be grateful if people would not take it upon themselves to dispose of material on the tops of cupboards if it does not belong to them. Permission may have been given for this to be left there and, in any event, we do like to give notice of any clearouts so organisations have a chance to take action. Similarly with "lost" clothing. There was an incident where someone removed all the coats etc on the coathooks and had thrown them in the Rag-Bag box. I had to retrieve them and, as I usually do, look through them to see if any have a clue to the owner's identity. It turned out that one of the coats belonged to one of the cubs. On a slightly different tack we do welcome offers of surplus furniture, equipment etc but please speak to me about this first before leaving items on the premises. It may be that we don't need the item or don't have the space to accommodate it or that we have plans to obtain something ourselves.

Other things we have under consideration at the moment are a new table for room 4, the decoration of room 4, adopting names rather than numbers for our rooms, new curtains in rooms 2 and 3, check of the electrical installation, replacement of the secondary fuse box (in the key cupboard) and continuation of our programme of window replacement. Enough to keep us busy!

Martin Rogers  
Chairman, Property Committee

### **Property not needed**

*Sheila Lee noticed this Daily Mail report*

In their drive to ensure that everybody who needs a TV licence pays for one, the Licensing agency, Capita, has been known, at times, to pursue those who genuinely have no need for one.

East Leake Methodist Church found themselves in that situation. Since 2009 the church received around four letters per year, threatening fines of up to £1,000 for fee evasion. Despite treasurer Roger Latham returning all the letters saying "This is a church." the letters continued.

Eventually, he wrote, "*This is a church. Only God lives here and he knows everything, so he doesn't need to watch television.*"

A spokesman for TV Licensing said recently: We updated our database last May to ensure mailings to the church stopped.

## Diary for April to May 2017

### Sunday 2 April

|        |                              |  |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| Lent 5 | 9.30am Sung Eucharist        | Rev Alison Cozens  |
|        | 11.00am Morning Worship      | Mrs Margaret Freeman<br>David Salthouse (Worship Leader) |
|        | 6.00pm Sunday @ Six Compline | Rev Tim Tunley   |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Monday 3 Apr | 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church. Study material <i>Jesus' Final Week</i> by Cindy Bunch |
|--------------|--|

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Tuesday 4 Apr | 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 |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Wednesday 5 Apr | 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Alan Taylor 'With Great Pleasure'              |
|                 | 6.30pm Circuit meeting at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church. Tea from 5.30pm. |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Friday 7 Apr | 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>onwards tea, coffee and home baking |
|              | 7.00pm Choir practice  |

### Holy Week

#### Sunday 9 April

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Palm Sunday | 9.30am Sung Eucharist<br>with distribution of palms. Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal                                       |
|             | 11.00am Morning Worship<br>with distribution of palms   |
|             | 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 10 Apr | 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church. Study material <i>Jesus' Final Week</i> by Cindy Bunch |
|---------------|--|

## Diary for April to May 2017

|                  |        |   |                   |
|------------------|--------|---|-------------------|
| Wednesday 12 Apr | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Holy Week Communion  | Rev Helen Jenkins |
|                  | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross at SS John and Columba RC Church Rosyth   |                   |
| Maundy Thursday  | 7.30pm | Holy Communion<br>within a 'Service of Light and Darkness' (see page 4)<br>Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal | Rev Helen Jenkins |
|                  | 7.00pm | Film 'Resurrection' Rosyth Parish Church  |                   |
| Good Friday      |        | <b>Note:</b> There will be no Triangle Coffee Shop today  |                   |
|                  | 2.30pm | Ecumenical Service<br>'Were you there when they crucified my Lord'  | Rev Alison Cozens |
|                  | 7.00pm | Evening Service at Rosyth Parish Church   |                   |

### Sunday 16 April

|               |         |   |                      |
|---------------|---------|---|----------------------|
| Easter Day    | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist<br>and blessing of the Paschal Candle<br>Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal              | Rev Alison Cozens    |
|               | 11.00am | All-age Communion Service   | Rev Dr Helen Jenkins |
|               | 3.00pm  | Service at Orchardhead House  |                      |
| Easter Monday | 7.30pm  | Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church. Study material <i>Jesus' Final Week</i> by Cindy Bunch – last week |                      |

|                |         |  |  |
|----------------|---------|--|--|
| Tuesday 18 Apr | 10.00am | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns |  |
|----------------|---------|--|--|

|                  |        |  |  |
|------------------|--------|--|--|
| Wednesday 19 Apr | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker – Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet |  |
|------------------|--------|--|--|

|               |        |   |  |
|---------------|--------|---|--|
| Friday 21 Apr | 9.30am | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>onwards tea, coffee and home baking |  |
|               | 7.00pm | Choir practice  |  |

### Sunday 23 April

|          |         |                            |                   |
|----------|---------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Easter 2 | 9.00am  | Messy Church and Breakfast |                   |
|          | 11.00am | Shared Communion Service   | Rev Alison Cozens |

## Diary for April to May 2017

|                  |         |   |
|------------------|---------|---|
|                  | 7.00pm  | Praise and Worship at St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly, followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome to attend |
| Tuesday 25 Apr   | 7.30pm  | Joint Council/Vestry meeting in Church Lounge   |
| Wednesday 26 Apr | 2.15pm  | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker – Tom Russell from Cowdenbeath Rotary Club                                 |
| Friday 28 Apr    | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  |
|                  | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking   |
|                  | 7.00pm  | Choir practice  |

### Sunday 30 April

|                 |         |  |  |
|-----------------|---------|--|--|
| Easter 3        | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist   | Rev Ross Kennedy   |
|                 | 11.00am | Morning Worship  | Deacon Belinda Letby<br>David Salthouse (Worship Leader) |
|                 | 6.30pm  | Easter Offering dedication service, 'Shine like Stars' at CEMC   |  |
| Tuesday 2 May   | 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  |  |
| Wednesday 3 May | 2.15pm  | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Scouting Expedition to Ecuador – Sue Salthouse  |  |
| Friday 5 May    | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall   |  |
|                 | onwards | tea, coffee and home baking  |  |
|                 | 7.00pm  | Choir practice   |  |
| Saturday 6 May  | 3.00pm  | Peter Bryant and Crosswater in Concert. St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly. Tickets £5 including refreshments. Further details later |  |

### Sunday 7 May

|          |         |                   |                   |
|----------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Easter 4 | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist    | Rev Alison Cozens |
|          | 11.00am | Morning Worship   | Mr Ian Paterson   |
|          | 6.00pm  | Sunday@ Six (tbc) |                   |



## Diary for April to May 2017

- |                                  |                   |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Wednesday 10 May                 | 2.15pm            | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker - Tesco Community Champion   |
| Thursday 11 May                  | 7.00pm            | Rosyth's Got Talent Christian Aid Concert<br>Primary Schools Annual Concert, Rosyth Parish Church (ticketed event)  |
|                                  | 7.30pm            | Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Quarterly meeting at CEMC<br>Laurent Vernet – Language in Worship   |
| Friday 12 May                    | 9.30am onwards    | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall<br>tea, coffee and home baking   |
|                                  | 7.00pm            | Choir practice  |
| Saturday 13 May                  | 11.00am to 3.00pm | Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) District Fellowship Day, CEMC<br>Tickets £8 ( includes buffet lunch and tea/coffee on arrival). Market Place/Bring and Buy - Proceeds to The Congo Appeal.                        |
| Saturday 13 May to Friday 19 May | tba               | Christian Aid Book Sale and Festival at CEMC<br>(see page 5 for further details)  |
| <b>Sunday 14 May</b>             |                   | <b>Christian Aid Week until 20 May</b>  |
| Easter 5                         | 9.30am            | Sung Eucharist<br>Rev Alison Cozens   |
|                                  | 11.00am           | Morning Worship<br>Professor Jeremy Bradshaw  |
|                                  | From 11.30am      | Bread and Cheese Lunch (Christian Aid) in Rosyth Parish Church  |
| Monday 15 May to Saturday 20 May | tba               | Rosyth Garden City Annual Exhibition<br>Rosyth Parish Church. The Theme is Communications looking at the 3 Bridges and ferries as well as other forms of communications – writing , morse code, semaphore, wireless |
| Tuesday 16 May                   | 10.00am           | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns  |
| Wednesday 17 May                 | 2.15pm            | Wednesday Fellowship:<br>Guest speaker Bill Tulloch   |

## Diary for April to May 2017

Thursday 18 May 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council, St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly. Guest speaker Lynn Strachan (Fife Countryside Trust) will talk about Fife Pilgrim's Way (see page 8). All welcome

Friday 19 May      9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  
onwards tea, coffee and home baking  
7.00pm Choir practice

## Sunday 21 May

Easter 6                      9.30am Sung Eucharist                      Rev Alison Cozens

|              |               |   |                      |
|--------------|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Aldersgate S | 11.00am       | Morning Worship   | Mrs Hilary Henderson |
|              | 1.00pm to 6pm | 'Heart and Soul' 2017 Church of Scotland celebration of the whole church in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. Theme 'Word of Life' (see <a href="http://www.heartandsoul.org.uk">www.heartandsoul.org.uk</a> ) |                      |

3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House. All welcome

Wednesday 24 May 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship AGM, Tea and Close of Session

Thursday 25 May 7.30pm Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day Rev Tim Tinley

Thursday 25 May 7.30pm Kingdom Singers Annual Springtime Serenade  
and Friday 26 May Carnegie Annexe. See Ann Duly for details

Friday 26 May      9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  
onwards tea, coffee and home baking  
7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 27 May 10.00am The Gathering with John Bell (Iona Community)  
to 4.00pm St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth (see page 8 for details)

## Sunday 28 May

Easter 7                      9.00am Messy Church and Breakfast

11.00am Shared Communion Service Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
Followed by Methodist General Church Meeting  
(see page 9) and sale of Traidcraft goods

7.00pm Praise and Worship at St Finnian's Church,  
Lochgelly, followed by refreshments in the hall. All  
welcome to attend

## Diary for April to May 2017

|                      |         |   |                             |
|----------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday 30 May       | 10.00am | EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns  |                             |
|                      | 7.00pm  | St Margaret Vestry meets in small lounge  |                             |
| Wednesday 31 May     | 12.30pm | Wednesday Fellowship Lunch in the Elgin Hotel, Charlestown  |                             |
|                      |         | <b>Note:</b> Autumn session begins on Wednesday 6 September   |                             |
| Friday 2 June        | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards  | tea, coffee and home baking |
|                      | 7.00pm  | Choir practice  |                             |
| <b>Sunday 4 June</b> |         |   |                             |
| Day of Pentecost     | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist  | Rev Alison Cozens           |
|                      | 11.00am | Morning Worship   | tbc                         |
|                      | 6.00pm  | Sunday@Six (tbc)  |                             |
| Monday 5 June        | 7.00pm  | Property Committee  |                             |
|                      | 7.30pm  | Monthly Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church  |                             |
| Tuesday 6 June       | 7.30pm  | Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends   |                             |
| Friday 9 June        | 9.30am  | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards  | tea, coffee and home baking |
|                      | 7.00pm  | Choir practice  |                             |
| Saturday 10 June     | 7.30pm  | Scottish Chamber Choir 'Voices A Capella'. The Priory Church, South Queensferry EH30 9RA. A programme of unaccompanied music from early madrigal to contemporary writing. See Martin Tarr for details |                             |

### Plus Advance Notice:

Saturday 23 June to Sunday 25 June      tbc SOLAS Festival (see page 29)

**Sunday 25 June**      6pm Service to mark the end of Bishop David's Ministry St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth (see page 7)

## Be salt and light

*The sermon preached by Rev Dr Helen Jenkins on 5 Feb 2017*

The world is in a mess. No matter how many instagram filters we apply, what's happening in the US is frankly terrifying – a President who is a climate change denier and the shutting down of conversation about it, walls to keep out anyone who doesn't look like us (ie white and male with a dodgy hairdo) and travel bans in case they thought they could sneak in by plane, the suggestion that the reintroduction of torture may be possible and goodness knows what else between me writing this and preaching it. And that's only the picture as we look to the US – there is of course plenty else wrong elsewhere with war continuing in Syria and other parts of the world. Even if we think it's all happening somewhere else in the world we're deluding ourselves- it's only a few weeks ago that kids were throwing eggs at our Catholic neighbours down the road as they were going to worship – not as big a deal as some of the issues the world faces, but surely not the kind of behaviour we want to see in our community.

I don't know about you, but on many days I'm tempted to stick my head in the sand and pretend it's not happening. Sometimes that feels like the only option in response to the news – it's all just too much to process let alone know what we can do about it.

Last week I preached at CEMC and as Belinda and I were preparing, before Trump's inauguration, I said I didn't want to talk about politics. I believe passionately that Christians should be involved in political life from voting to campaigning, party membership to holding office, but I don't think the pulpit is the place to get party political. But as I watched what happened in the first week of Trump's presidency I realised I couldn't not talk about politics, and the same goes this week.

What he is doing and saying goes against so much of what we believe as Christians. He may have sworn an oath on the Bible, but I struggle to see much evidence that he reads it, or at least not without some massive mental filters to make it say what he wants. Don't get me wrong, we all do that to some extent as we read the bible through the lens of our own experience, but how he can justify his policies in the light of Jesus' teachings and example I have no idea. Jesus was all about the least, the vulnerable, those society pushes to its margins. Those seem to be precisely the people Trump is demonising, while rich, educated, white men (and the occasional woman, but we know what Trump's attitude to women in general is) get to rule the world.

What I wish I could do was stand here and tell us exactly what we can do to

change it all. If only it were that simple. I imagine some of you may have done things already – was anyone at the women’s march in Edinburgh the day after the inauguration? – I was stuck in a district policy committee meeting but friends of mine were there, showing their disquiet at all Trump stands for and standing in solidarity with women around the world who are marginalised because of their gender. There have been some pretty creative protests – some of the banners made me smile!

Or maybe you’ve signed a petition asking that Trump not be afforded the honour of a state visit, or any number of other ways to respond. But they all seem so small.

As Christians our starting point is, and always should be, prayer, because we have a God who is bigger than all we see in the world around us. If we lose sight of that then we might so easily succumb to despair. But if our prayers aren’t also reflected in our actions then we’re only scratching the surface of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

So what does it mean to be a disciple? Well, in this morning’s reading Jesus tells us we have to be salt and light. But what does that mean.

In Jesus’ time salt was primarily used as a preservative – it stopped food going bad meaning it could be stored for longer periods of time, something we still use it for sometimes today. As we look around our world there’s no

shortage of things going bad – how can we be salt to stop the rot?

And light – well, it transforms the darkness. If you walk into a pitch black room then even the smallest light is a welcome guide to where you are and what obstacles might be in your way. Without light we would stumble around, hurting ourselves and never getting anything done. If we think not of physical darkness, but darkness as places where there is fear, hatred, violence, no hope, then it’s not hard to think of the places in our world that need light.

Jesus said, “*You* are the light of the world”. We’re probably all familiar with Jesus’ statement that “*I* am the light of the world” in John’s gospel, and yet here that is applied to us. “*You* are the light of the world”. The light that Jesus came to shine it’s our task to shine too.

But how?

I guess you all know “This little light of mine” – we sang it at Messy Church a couple of weeks ago and I learnt some new verses thanks to Gwyneth! What that song (which is based on one of Jesus’ parables) keeps telling us is that we mustn’t hide our light, whether that be under a bush, behind our backs, or even letting it be blown out.

Because it’s only when our light can be seen that it will make a difference, that we will be part of stopping the world going bad.

Now that leaves us with a challenge – what does the world see of me? In what ways am I shining Jesus' light through my life? How do I tell others about Jesus?

I'm not talking about preaching – most of you aren't preachers, and those of us who are get to do it for twenty minutes or so once a week. Yes, this is important, but most of the people who know me won't ever hear my sermons, and I'm guessing most of the people who know you won't either.

It's about how we live. It's about being salt and light through all our day to day interactions. But how?

The passage from Isaiah might give us some clues. Isaiah was speaking to people who weren't living righteous lives, but thought it was OK because they did all the right religious things. It would be like us exploiting others, committing fraud and undermining justice during the week but arguing that was OK because of the hour we spend here on a Sunday morning. Isaiah has a whole lot to say about that:

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into  
your house;

when you see the naked, to cover  
them,

and not to hide yourself from your  
own kin?

Those few verses tell us a whole lot about what it is to be disciples, to be salt and light, about what our priorities ought to be.

I want to come back to our conversation from earlier about the image we project. It's so easy on social media to pretend to be something we're not, to present an idealised view of ourselves to the world – I posted these pics of my children before Christmas and if that's not an idealised view I don't know what is! Or we can choose to hide away, fit in with the crowd, never challenge anything – hide our light away.

But it's not just on social media is it? Those of you who've never ventured onto facebook or Twitter can't feel that this doesn't apply. Every day we project an image of ourselves to the world. Does that image include Jesus? As we are made in God's likeness do we reflect God's values? Are we shining Jesus' light?

Discipleship has to be something that can be seen and felt by those around us. Whether people know of our faith or not, they should be able to experience what it means to us through the way we live our lives.

And the world needs that more now than ever before.

Sometimes we may have the opportunity to challenge the big things

– sadly I think the women’s marches will not be the last opportunities we have to show our feelings will be plenty in the next few years.

But at least as important if not more so are the day to day things – the way we treat other people, the way we spend our money, the things we do with our time. As we read the bible we have plenty of examples of how we should be living, and even if we only worked from Isaiah’s words in today’s passage we wouldn’t go far wrong.

So my challenge to all of us, myself included, is to think of one specific way we can be salt and light this week, that’s different to what we would usually be doing. One way we can go out of our way to show God’s love. One way we can challenge injustice. One way we can support the poor.

That is when we will be salt and light for a world that so desperately needs us. And as all our little lights shine in the darkness, together we point to Jesus, who is the light of the world.

I’m not pretending it’s easy, or that we will change the world by next week, but as Jesus’ disciples I don’t think we have a choice. So let’s take a moment now to come before God in silence, and ask what it is that we can do to be salt and light in our world.

Our next hymn continues those prayers, asking God to show us how we can live differently. Show me how to stand for justice.

## Pilgrims on a journey

*“Brother, sister, let me serve you...”* is one of my favourite hymns, and when better to put it into action than Lent.

I’m sure we all have different ways of serving, all equally valid. One way in which I seek to serve is supporting groups offering aid to Refugees. *“We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.”*

I am currently supporting a Baby Box scheme operated by Carry the Future (<http://www.carrythefuture.org/>) – my daughter is one of the coordinators in Europe.

Carry the Future deliver baby beds (Moses baskets) which provide a secure place for newborns to sleep and include essential items for the baby. It is the essential items that I am collecting – baby blankets, shawls, hooded towels, hats & clothes in the 0-3 and 3-6 month size, either new or in good condition. The Baby ‘boxes’ will then be delivered to a warehouse in Greece and given to new parents in the refugee camps.

Carry the Future have already distributed 200 boxes, now they are trying to collect donations for another 500! **Can you help? If so, either speak to me at church or email ([jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk)) or phone me on 07535 757526.**

Helen Jenkins

Jan Benvie

## For you

*The homily by Rev Dr Michael Paterson on 12 March following the reading of John 3:1-17*

I have a friend called Joe who has Downs Syndrome. He lives in L'Arche a small Christian community which Jean Vanier founded for people with learning difficulties. Joe is a great guy and he loves nothing better than have people come to visit him – and when he sees you coming up the path, his whole face lights up and rushes out to meet you with one of those bear hugs which feels like it's going to break your ribs! Joe doesn't have much speech, but he communicates a huge amount of love in lots of other ways. Every time someone goes to see him, without fail he disappears from the room only to return a few minutes later with something he has found, it could be anything – an apple, a biscuit, a toilet roll, a book – anything at all which he then thrusts into your hands with the words – 'for you'.

A few Easters ago his little community decided to put on a Passion Play during Lent and everyone was given a part. The helpers in the community were going to read the lines while those with learning difficulties were to mime the parts. As you would expect, various people were given the roles of Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica and the Centurion, but Joe insisted that unless he played Jesus he simply wasn't playing – and of course he got his own way!

The rehearsals went on for weeks and finally the night arrived when all the visitors turned up to see this very special Passion Play. To everyone's

relief all the props stayed in place, none of the scenery fell down, the costumes fitted and everyone was in the right place at the right time.

The story unfolded as rehearsed until the crucifixion scene when, just as Jesus was about to breathe his last upon the cross, Joe, unable to contain himself in the presence of so many friends, beamed a huge smile around the room and cried out – FOR YOU – bowed his head and fell silent again.

Those lines were not in the script but somehow they were the only ones anyone remembered about the play that night. Joe had understood the heart of the story – that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son *For You, For Me, For Us*.

Joe can't write – but for me he is an evangelist. Joe has very little speech – but for me he is a top-rate preacher. Joe will never have a career, own his own house, or be successful in human terms, but he is the richest man on earth because he knows, he *really* knows, and with a beaming smile to show it, that no matter what we are going through, no matter the hardships we have to bear, no matter the worries that keep us awake at night, God came into the world FOR YOU, for me, for US, and if we open your hearts and let that message sink in, then like Joe, we will have understood everything and never need to listen to a sermon again.

Michael Paterson



# The Sermon on the Mount 1

*On 30 October 2016 Professor John Sawkins gave the first of three sermons on this theme, based on: Richard Holloway (1981) 'Beyond Belief: the Christian Encounter with God.'*

## Background

Let me begin by sketching in some of the background.

I think it was St Augustine who first referred to this block of writing in Matthew's gospel as the Sermon on the Mount. It runs from chapters 5 to 7 in Matthew's gospel, but a shorter version appears in Luke chapter 6 with other bits of the teaching popping up in other parts of that book.

And the first question to ask ourselves is this – was this sermon or one like it ever preached? If you read it straight through it would take you perhaps 15 minutes which is on the short side. However it is packed full of some pretty profound teaching, and because of that scholars have speculated that Matthew has in fact not recorded a single sermon, but instead collected together and put into some order a selection of the best remembered and most often repeated sayings of Jesus.

I reckon that it's highly likely that Jesus delivered teaching like this to his close disciples in a pretty systematic or intense way. Maybe during a period of training away from the crowds, much as we do when we get away from it all by going on a spiritual retreat.

When all's said and done the technicalities probably don't matter very much. What matters is that we

have written down a pretty lengthy account of teaching that gives us insight into the mind of Christ. And it is, perhaps, the most read, the most studied piece of teaching in history. Something that has caught the imagination, the hearts and minds of men and women the world over, since it was given two thousand years ago.

But what was the teaching for? What was the purpose of it?

Most commentators are at pains to point out the parallels between Matthew's account of Jesus giving the sermon on the mount and the account in Exodus of Moses giving the law to the people of Israel. That's why I chose to put those two readings together this morning.

In both cases the events are recorded as taking place up a hill or a mountain. In both cases the teaching was apparently aimed at forming a new sort of society in the world.

And there are other parallels.

Although Christ didn't preach to the twelve tribes of Israel, he taught his twelve disciples.

Although Christ didn't give ten commandments, he did set out some sort of new law that he wanted his followers to take on board.

This new law however, was not like the ten commandments. And it was

not like the laws we have in society which, if they are broken, mean you will be punished.

If you make a habit of shoplifting for example, you know you are going to get caught and fined or in the extreme, sent to prison. The Sermon on the Mount, or the new Christian law is not that sort of law. If you break one of these laws no-one is going to punish you. This new law does not simply list all the things it is wrong to do.

No, it is law, it is legal, but it is more than a list of dos and don'ts. It is about the sort of character you have, the sort of person you are. It's not just about what you do, but what your thoughts and motives and intentions are. It's about what goes on in your mind and your heart, that leads you to act in a particular way. Christ is seeking to get us to be good through and through.

So, the law contained in the Sermon is not like laws against shoplifting or driving your car too fast, it's more like what middle aged men like me face up to when we realise that all the clothes we have are getting just a little tight round the waist. I've found out, what I should have known all along, that if I eat too much, surprise, surprise, my stomach will get bigger and my trousers won't fit me. Now I know, no-one is going to punish me if I eat too much or smoke too much or drink too much and never take exercise – but if I keep doing it, sooner or later the consequences will catch up with me. I

will pay the price in terms of my health. And this new law given in the Sermon on the Mount is a lot like that. It's like the law of health, you won't get punished if you don't have your 5 portions of fruit and veg a day, but if you keep it up, sooner or later you won't feel so good.

This Sermon on the Mount then isn't a new rule book – with a string of punishments if we break the rules. It's more like one of those diet and exercise sheets – the way to a healthier life. Follow the instructions and you will see the weight fall off and your health improve. But instead of toning up our physical body, it's about toning up our spiritual selves, making us better characters, better people and therefore better placed to behave well.

### ***Disinfecting the World***

So far so good. Here we have teaching to the group of disciples about how to live the good life, from an individual point of view.

But whenever Jesus taught, the crowds weren't far away. Was it just about the individual then and the individual's struggle for goodness, or was it something bigger than that?

I think at least part of the intention of Jesus must have been to preach a message to a wider group of people. God so loved the world – let me repeat – the world - that he gave his only son. And his son came to save the world – from danger, from chaos and disorder that always lurks just beneath the surface.

We've all seen pictures of cities after a natural disaster has struck. Flood or earthquake or fire. It doesn't take long for the thin veneer of civilisation to peel away, leaving hungry and desperate people to take things into their own hands and fight for food or for water or for shelter.

Perhaps it takes an event like that to remind us that the ties that bind our sophisticated society together are actually rather weak and fragile. Cut them, and human beings have a tendency to revert to type, to fight for food – then it's every man for himself and a case of survival of the fittest.

The world is prone to this – to moral and spiritual decay and corruption. I'm not talking about the sort of disintegration and breakdown that follows a sudden natural disaster. I'm talking about all the pressures of living in the modern world. The world's standards make us greedy and selfish and destructively competitive. And the world needs to be saved from this fate – that was part of Christ's mission. To save the world in a through members of a new society.

In verse 13 of chapter 5 Christ says "you are like salt for all mankind". Salt was not just a handy condiment to put on your fish and chips – it had a vital use back then as a preservative and a disinfectant. Salt was there to fight off infection and prevent decay.

A few summers ago I had come over the handlebars of my bike and had some pretty bad scarring on my arm

around my elbow. The wounds healed over – but they were getting infected and the skin was taking quite a while to heal. We were at the beach and it was hot enough for a swim in the sea – so I went in and in a couple of days the salt water cleaned up the wound and encouraged the healing. My dentist still advises a salt water mouth wash to help heal mouth ulcers and small cuts.

Christians are to be like salt – to purify and preserve. We are not to get too mixed up in the standards of the world otherwise we will lose our purifying power and effect. We are to keep ourselves clean, to stick with my medical illustration, like the surgeon.

If a surgeon goes at a patient before scrubbing up, carefully disinfecting himself, he is likely to make things worse not better. If Christians allow themselves to be sucked into the values of the world they too may make things worse.

So Christ calls us to work in the world like salt. To purify and clean and be antiseptic in the midst of diseased society. Our actions might make society smart or wince in offence. Too bad. That's what salt water does in a wound in order to clean it up.

### ***Mission Impossible***

OK, those are the background comments and exhortations to us all. I hope I haven't said anything that would offend anyone. So far it's all rather like motherhood and apple pie – who could disagree that they are

both very good things? Who could take exception to any of it?

Now comes the hard bit. Who on earth could do what Christ asks us to do?

When I read through the sermon, when I really listen to its challenge to me I'm hit by a mixture of sadness and regret for what I have said and done in my life, which goes against so much of it – and despair that I could ever do any better. Who on earth, what kind of superman, could live up to this impossible standard?

Who can control his or her innermost desires and thoughts?

Who can get rid of the deep almost primeval longing for comfort and security?

Who can really bless those who curse them, and turn the other cheek to those who injure them?

Who on earth?

And if no-one can, then why not jack it all in? Why don't we just admit that the game's up, we can't do it, and throw ourselves on God's mercy and forgiveness rather than attempting the impossible?

Some have tried to weedle out of it of course.

Some have argued, for example, that Christians were not, actually, meant to live up to the impossible standard set out in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus had given it to his disciples at a

particular time in some particular circumstances. So we aren't meant to attempt it – like those exam papers which say, 'answer three out of 8 questions' – we aren't meant to attempt it all.

Others have argued that really Jesus was just setting up a standard. Putting up a high hurdle 'this is perfection' he says – 'now look how far from it you are'. And the purpose of that was to shatter the disciples' complacency and to break them down and to throw them back onto the mercy and forgiveness of God.

And there's a third line of argument. The would-be superheros who say – all it needs is a bit of discipline and gumption. Pull your socks up, try a bit harder, pull yourself together, don't be defeatist – it's not that hard.

Each of these arguments sound a bit hollow to me. The third one – just try harder – sounds too simplistic and easy and I don't think it is that easy. And there's something about the other two that sounds like an excuse. Now I can't know for sure, no-one can, but I have a sneaking suspicion that Christ meant what he said. He wants us to follow him and following him means trying the impossible.

Why I don't like the 'try harder' advice is that I don't actually think trying harder is very easy. Indeed I would argue that anyone who thinks the Christian life is easy is fooling themselves. It really isn't like a Sunday afternoon stroll along the front at the seaside. It's more like the

walk that some hardy souls take across Morcambe bay, where the quicksands and shifting tides easily cut off the ill prepared or unsuspecting walker.

It can be done of course. But no map or book, no amount of raw energy or enthusiasm will get you across – you won't do it alone - you need a guide. It's madness without a guide, but with a guide it's possible. And like the walkers, this guide of ours asks us to attempt the walk, to follow him. To get rid of any unnecessary baggage we have, and just begin to step where he steps and walk the way he walks, and do what he does, and keep our wits about us, and keep going.

“Stick close to me” says Christ, “follow me, put your feet where I put my feet, rest when I rest, keep going when I say keep going, trust me I'll make sure you get to the other side safely. I will never leave you.”

And, like every walker, as we take the exercise we get fitter. As we follow Christ our guide we will grow in spiritual strength, and character. The impossible demands of the Sermon on the Mount which seemed over the horizon and out of sight now come into view. “Stick close to me”, says Christ, “watch your step, we'll get there together.”

Put on your hiking boots – it's time to get started!

Thanks be to God.

Amen

John Sawkins

## Advance notice: the Solas Festival

The **Solas Festival** takes place in The Bield at Blackruthven, Perthshire from **23-25 June** 2017.

Solas is Scotland's midsummer festival which has been running since 2009. The all-age weekend-long celebration of music and the arts is designed to entertain, inspire and challenge.

The programme also makes space for challenging debate with activists, writers and thinkers from across the political, cultural and religious spectrum. Solas Festival offers a creative and entertaining programme for festival-goers of all ages in a safe environment.

Come to explore spirituality, politics, the arts, music and so much more. Come for the day (it's only 35 minutes away), come for the weekend. The Jenkins family will be there, and almost certainly wouldn't be the only familiar faces you'd spot.

There's lots more information at <http://www.solasfestival.co.uk> or ask Helen for more information.

Helen Jenkins

# Puzzle page

*With puzzles from Dave Ward*

## New puzzles

### 1) What Is It?

- I have an item P with 4C.
- I cut off 1 C from item P, using scissors.
- I now have two P, one with 5C, and one with 3C.

What am I talking about?

### 2) Strange Halves

If 4 is half of 9.

6 is half of 11

7 is half of 12

What is half of 13?

### 3) Diophantus' Epitaph

The gravestone of the Greek mathematician Diophantus was said to have contained this riddle:

*'God gave him his boyhood one-sixth  
of his life;  
One-twelfth more as youth while  
whiskers grew rife;  
And then yet one-seventh ere  
marriage begun.  
In five years there came a bouncing  
new son.*

*Alas, the dear child of master and  
sage*

*After attaining half the measure of  
his Father's life, chill fate took him.  
After consoling his fate by the science  
of numbers for four years, he reached  
the end of his life.'*

How old was Diophantus when he died?

## Answers to Feb/Mar puzzles

A1) The unusual thing about the sentence is that it contained all the letters in the alphabet.

A2) Alice and Alan were getting married; Fiona Jackson was the minister.

A3) The round was for only 4 drinks, as those present were:-a man, his sister, his daughter and her son.

A4) The number of times 8 appears from 1 to 100 is 20.

## 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.

## 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)**



# HOLY WEEK IN ROSYTH



## Monday 10 April

**7.30pm** Ecumenical Lent Study Group  
Rosyth Parish Church

## Wednesday 12 April

**2.15pm** Holy Communion at Wednesday Fellowship  
Rosyth Methodist Church

**7.00pm** Stations of the Cross  
SS John and Columba RC Church

## Maundy Thursday 13 April

**7.30pm** St Margaret's SEC with Rosyth Methodists  
Holy Communion  
during a "A service of Light and Darkness"

**7.00pm** Rosyth Parish Church  
Film: "Resurrection"

## Good Friday 14 April

**2.30pm** Rosyth Methodist Church  
Ecumenical Service  
"Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

**7.00pm** Evening Service  
At Rosyth Parish Church



# HOLY WEEK IN ROSYTH



## 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 23rd May 2017**. You can send it to **editor\ [rosythmethodist.org.uk](mailto:rosythmethodist.org.uk)**.