

Rosyth
Methodist Church



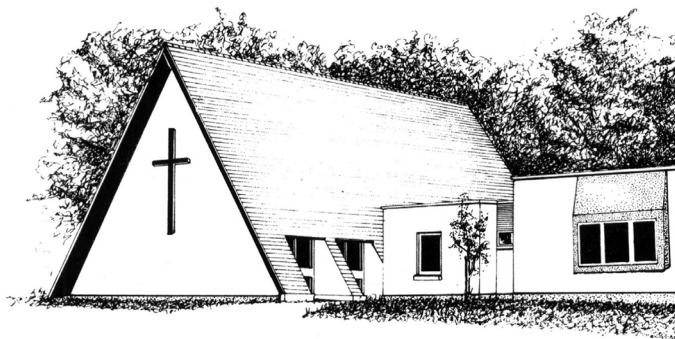
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 92
Mid-August/September 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:

Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
01506 842333

Coordinating Steward:

David Salthouse 01383 889212

Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

Church Council Secretary :

Sandra Wilson 01383 415885

Treasurer:

Dave Ward 01383 414944

Rector:

Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654

Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

Treasurer:

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 92: Mid-August/September 2017

Contents

	Page No
Let the journey begin – <i>Mark Jason</i>	4-5
Rosyth journeying – <i>Helen Jenkins</i>	5
Invitations – <i>Sandra Young</i>	6-7
One Minute Please	7
Offers of help – <i>Gwyneth Kirby</i>	7
Around the Diocese – <i>Sandra Young</i>	8
Sundays@Six – <i>Howard Kirby</i>	9
Christian Blind Mission - <i>Adrian Masson</i>	9
Collection boxes – <i>Howard Kirby</i>	9
Wednesday Fellowship – <i>Sandra Young</i>	10
Property matters – <i>Martin Rogers</i>	10-11
The Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship – <i>Andrew Wedge</i>	12-13
Messy Church – <i>Gwyneth Kirby</i>	13
Fellowship News	14
Diary Dates.....	15-18
God's grace for all – <i>Hilary Henderson</i>	19-21
What must you take with you – <i>Edward Idle</i>	22-24
Envisioning the church – <i>Robert Morton</i>	24-29
Sermon on the Mount 3 [<i>Editor's note</i>]	29
Puzzle Page – <i>Dave Ward</i>	30
Contact points and meeting times	31
Our next issue	32

Editor: Howard R. Kirby

12 Overton Court, Pitreavie Castle, Dunfermline, KY11 8TY

E-mail: editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk

Assistant Editor: Dave Ward

Diary Editor: Sandra Young

Closing date for October/November 2017 issue: Tuesday 26th September 2017

Let the journey begin...

In the Circuit Plan for September/November, our new Circuit Superintendent, Rev Dr Mark Jason, reflects on the start of the new Forth Valley Circuit

A new connexional year. A new plan. A new quarter. A new circuit. A new (-ish) list of preachers and leaders of worship...

I am very aware that this 'new' circuit plan reflects a new era in the life of the Scotland District as two circuits that have been in existence for a considerable period have now merged into one. This is an exciting time for the circuit with this new context introducing 'new' preachers to 'new' churches. As the congregations get to know one another, it enables the opportunity of meeting new people and forming new friendships. The list of 'new' things seems to go on and on!

As I reflect on where we are as a circuit, while there is a very real sense of 'new-ness' I am drawn to the image of 'journey.' Let me explain. In the months leading up to this merger, a recurring question I encountered related to the Preaching Plan. I was asked on several occasions about the increased distances that our preachers would be required to make, the new and longer journeys with increased travel times across an enlarged circuit stretching from Stirling to Dunbar, and how we would cope. Fortunately, we are blessed with a competent and gifted team of preachers who are willing to travel and make these journeys to share the gospel around our circuit. It occurred to me that somewhere along the way,

the lines between the itinerant ministers and local preachers have become blurred, with most of our preachers now itinerant, and on a journey.

But it is not only the preachers in the circuit who are 'on a journey' - we all are, as an entire circuit. Over the last couple of months, many of us may have travelled for our holidays, some to places far away and others to less distant destinations; through the year many of us travel well-worn paths: from home to work and back. That said, some of us may not be able to travel very much, or even anywhere at all; nevertheless, we are all on the move, participants in a great journey, the journey of life. Each new day marks the silent passage of another milestone in this journey that we are all on. How we have all fared so far varies from person to person - some may have had it easier than others

But as we continue to 'journey' we need to remind ourselves that we have a God who travels with us. No matter how tedious or difficult the journey, God is there by our side. The wonderful thing about this is that whether we think of real, physical travel between two points or our metaphorical travels on the journey of life, we have a God who travels with us. This is a truth frequently acknowledged in the Scriptures. When Isaac journeyed to the land of the

Philistines, God said to him "I am with you" (Gen 26:3); Jacob left Lot's house and travelled back to his own home in the confidence that God travelled with him (Gen 31 :3); Moses had the courage to go before Pharaoh because he knew that God went with him (Exod 3: 12); as the Israelites travelled through the desert for forty years, the presence of the Lord travelled with them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exod 13:21). When Joshua eventually led the Israelites into the promised land they had the assurance that God travelled with them into this new land (Deut 31: 23). In the gospels, this idea is summarized in the words of Jesus when he commissioned his disciples and sent them on a journey to "all nations" to baptize, teach and preach saying to them "I am with you always" (Matt 28: 19-20).

This idea of a "travelling God" emanates from within the very nature of God - the Father sent the Son (Jn 3:16), the Son sent the Spirit (Jn 15:26) ... and the journey goes on. This dynamic movement within the Being of God is sufficient evidence that our God is a God of movement, a Companion along the way.

And so, at the start of a new quarter in a new circuit, when we think of the ourselves as a pilgrim people travelling together on this journey of life, there are real journeys and journeys that may not involve a physical movement, but that nevertheless force us to "move on" - in our minds or perhaps in our circumstances. At such times, may we

be assured that we have a God who not only promised to travel with us, but who really does.

Journey on in the confidence that God travels with you.

Mark Jason

Rosyth journeying

Rev Dr Helen Jenkins

Mark writes of journeying, and for me the changes in staffing mean I'll be making some different journeys. I'll be heading over the Fife less often (just as the new bridge opens to make my journey easier!) as I'm relinquishing pastoral charge of Kirkcaldy and becoming part of the staff team in Edinburgh. For the next year I will remain in pastoral charge here at Rosyth Methodist, so you'll still see me about once a month on a Sunday morning and for church councils and so on.

Joining me to work with you this year will be Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet who many of you will have encountered at Triangle Coffee Shop. She will be the worship leader some Sundays, and will also take on some of the pastoral care. I know Elizabeth already feels very welcome among you, so I trust that will continue. We hope to leave RMC in a strong position for this time next year when we hope a new superintendent minister will arrive to live in Fife and minister with yourselves, Kirkcaldy and Granton.

Helen Jenkins

Invitations

Enjoy a Cream Tea...

on **Saturday 9 September** between **3pm to 5pm** at the home of Jean and John Hall in Cairneyhill to help the work of Action for Children, for whom Jean works tirelessly. This annual event is always enjoyable with delicious home baking. Jean looks forward to welcoming you and your friends.

...or a Family Barbeque

on **Sunday 17 September**, from **2pm to 5pm**; this is a later date than has been our custom, but it may be no less warm than we've found in previous years, and we hope it's drier than it has been in recent months! As in previous years, the venue will be the **Silver Sands beach** in Aberdour.

If you are intending to come, please add your name, the number of adults and the number of children to the list in the Crush Hall (or contact David Salthouse directly, address below). Also, if you have any special dietary requirements please let us know on the form too. The cost is expected to be the same as last year at £3 per adult, with no charge for children. Any questions, please ask **David Salthouse** (davidsalthouse@sky.com or 01383 889212).

...or a Harvest Supper with an Indian flavour

Over the last few years our Harvest Supper has included a guest speaker who has been involved in international projects. This year, Ross Stirling, the lay representative of St Finnian's, Lochgelly, and well known to most of us, will join us on **Saturday 23 September** to tell us about the Arumina AIDS Hospice, Kolkata, which he is supporting.

The Hospice, which is linked with our Diocese, helps children who are either HIV positive, have AIDS or they are the children of parents who have died of AIDS. It is very much in need of support. Ross has already raised funds to support it and he and a colleague from Fife College visited Kolkata in April with the aim of building new relationships between the hospice and Fife College, as well as continuing established links with our Diocese.

We would like to support the project and are delighted to welcome Ross to give us first-hand knowledge of what is happening and how the money he has raised so far is helping the Hospice.

This evening will start with supper for which Dorissia has agreed to make some of her renowned curries so please join us at **6pm** for some food, followed by Ross's talk.

...and The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

The Triangle Coffee Shop is taking part in this event and is donating all its proceeds on **Friday 29 September** to Macmillan Cancer Support. Even if you are not a regular attender on a Friday morning, please do come along and support this most worthy cause.

Music at Lochgelly

On **Saturday 16 September at 7.00pm** St Finnian's Church Lochgelly are hosting their annual concert by the ever popular amateur, but highly professional inspiring choral group, Ensemble. fresh from the Festival Fringe with a programme entitled "Irving Berlin - 100 Years of Song." Tickets are £6 to include refreshments and can be reserved by emailing Rev Margaret Dineley on margaret.dineley@gmail.com, or by phoning her on 01592 358933 or 07931483906. They can also be bought at the door on the evening. Margaret hopes that some of us will come along and hear this excellent group who always provide an

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"But what about you?
Who do you say I am?"

Luke 9: 20

Offers of help

Further to the request made in the previous issue (on the back page) for additional helpers for the **Triangle Coffee Shop** teams, it seems appropriate to provide a bit more background.

When Triangles was set up, the plan was that 16 team members were needed, so that, with 4 members to each of 4 teams, each did a turn just once every 4 weeks. But Triangles has been so successful that 5 members in each team are now needed to cope with the high demand. Some additional help has been forthcoming from friends of existing teams, for which we are very grateful. But we currently need two more volunteers to ensure all teams have 5 members.

It would also be helpful if some others would be willing to be available to help 'in emergency'. Team members who find they cannot do 'their turn' one week normally arrange a swap with a member of another team. Sometimes a swap is not possible, and being able to call on another person, not necessarily at short notice, would be a boon.

Do give me a call if interested.

Gwyneth Kirby
01383 624779

Around the Diocese

Bishop David retires

Several hundred people from across the Diocese and the wider Scottish Episcopal Church together with Clergy, Lay Readers and invited guests including the Bishop of the Diocese of Calcutta (our companion Diocese) as well as Bishop David and Alison's family and grandchildren attended the farewell Eucharist on Sunday 25 June in St Ninian's Cathedral to celebrate Bishop David's ministry in our Diocese.. It was a wonderful, joyful occasion with the singing led by the Cathedral Choir and a poignant moment when Bishop David laid down his crozier on the altar.

St Margaret's was well represented and we were privileged that Alan Taylor had been invited to take part in the intercessions. After the Eucharist there were valedictory speeches – some quite long! and finally a glass of prosecco and cake to celebrate 11 years of Bishop David's time here.

Bishop David retired at the end of July. We thank God for his ministry with us and wish Alison and David a long and happy retirement.

The process of selecting a new Diocesan Bishop begins this month and if all goes according to plan his successor will be announced on Saturday 3 February 2018, the consecration taking place in early Spring 2018. In the meantime Bishop Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles has been appointed our

interim Bishop. At the end of June, when Bishop David stood down as Primus, Bishop Mark Strange of Moray, Ross and Caithness was elected Primus in his place.

The Gathering – Youth taster

Alan Taylor and Sue Masson wrote favourable and interesting reports in the Summer edition of Contact about their experience of the Gathering. Since then the Rev Nerys Brown has sent a short report which mentioned that a team of youngsters from around the diocese worked together to provide a '*Taste of the Gathering*' on video. This, and the photographs they took, can be shared with those who were unable to join us on the day. The youngsters took on the responsibility of this role and interviewed a selection of participants. Nerys hopes to have the presentation ready to share before the end of September.

West Area Council Service

This year's annual Area Council Service is on **Sunday 10 September at 6pm** in St Peter's Church, Kirkcaldy. In a break from tradition, it will be led by the Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship, (see p 12) and the service will focus on the overall theme of "God loves you", the theme this year from the provincial youth week at Glenalmond.

We are usually well represented at the annual service so please come along and support the young people.

Sandra Young

Sundays@Six

Sunday@Six services are currently planned for the first Sunday in the month, but it is with regret that we have to announce that the event planned for September with the Salvation Army has had to be postponed. So the first occasion this Autumn will be **Sunday 1 October**, when the focus is on the work of Christian Blind Mission, about which see below.

Christian Blind Mission

Christian Blind Mission (CBM) is the largest Christian international organisation supporting people with or at risk of disability in the world's poorest places. CBM works with local partners to treat and prevent blinding diseases and help around 30 million people with disabilities each year to go to school, earn a living, access health care and play an active role in their communities. CBM is driven by Christian values to transform the lives of the world's poorest people.

This year to publicise its work and in particular to focus on the needs of children in Kenya, CBM has nominated a Sunday in October as Christian Blind Mission Sunday. As two churches that have supported the work of CBM in the past we felt it would be appropriate to support CBM in this new venture and to celebrate CBM Sunday at our Sunday at Six service on 1 October.

So, please do try to come along at **6pm on 1 October** to learn more about CBM's work, to be challenged about how we respond to the needs of folk with disabilities and, if you are able, to make a contribution towards CBM's work in Kenya..

Adrian Masson

Collection boxes

Could all those who hold Collection Boxes for **JMA** or **World Mission** or **Action for Children** please return them to **Jean Hall** as soon as possible, for forwarding to the appropriate charity.

Collection boxes as a method of giving have become less and less popular over the years, and finding people to champion each cause increasingly difficult. Collections through boxes for 'Mission in Britain' (previously known as 'Home Missions') ceased in Rosyth some years ago, and JMA and World Mission collections through boxes will now similarly cease once currently held boxes are returned. Note that JMA and World Mission will continue to be supported in other ways.

And we remain actively supporting 'Action for Children' in all sorts of ways, including collection boxes, thanks to our local champion, Jean Hall. Messy Church will also continue to use collection boxes to support 'Water Aid'

Howard Kirby

Wednesday Fellowship

For the Autumn session, the committee has arranged a varied and interesting programme – a mixture of guest speakers and Fellowship members who have offered to share an afternoon with us. Look out for the posters for the details.

Wednesday Fellowship has grown into a really ecumenical gathering over the years, with members from all the other Rosyth Churches coming along. Sadly we lost Rosemary Cowell during our break and some of our older members are not able to join us very often, although we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. So we are always happy to welcome new members – men and women - and invite you to join us, whether regularly or occasionally if something appeals to you. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

We gather in the church lounge at **2.15pm**, when we 'meet and greet' each other, before we have a short time of devotion. Our speaker's talk follows, and we finish with chat and refreshments, leaving around **3.45pm**.

Our opening meeting is **6 September** when we welcome Morag Crawford, Deacon at Rosyth Parish Church to lead us in a devotional afternoon. Guest speakers at other meetings in September are:

13th: Cathy Scott

20th: Bob Liddle

27th: Padre Stewart Young

Property matters

Looking after the church property is much like looking after your own home. There is always cleaning to be done, repairs to be carried out, rooms in need of redecoration and light bulbs to be replaced. Also, from time to time, there is a need to make some improvements to the facilities. Additionally in the church we have to have inspections of gas and electrical installations and keep risk assessments up to date. All of these things have featured in our "to do" list over the past few months and we are grateful to all those people who help with this in any way.

So what have we been doing? Some of you may not have occasion to go into the hall very often. If you do, you will see that we have new curtains and rails. The previous curtain rails probably date back to when the church was built. The new poles and different style of curtains make it much easier to open and close the curtains. Thanks to Myra and Martin Tarr for sourcing the materials and erecting the new poles and curtains.

The lounge (the room with the stained glass windows) has been having a facelift. Some panels which give the effect of tongue and groove boarding have been fitted to the bottom of the wall under the stained glass windows and more of this is planned. Thanks to Martin Tarr and Alan Taylor for doing this work. Mandy and Dave Ward and Suzie and Dougie Knight

have largely re-decorated the room and this will be completed when the additional panels have been fitted. Marie Walkinshaw also helped by plastering a deep cavity at the top of one of the walls. Our thanks to all of these folk for their work.

Less obvious is the fact that we have had our 5 yearly check of the electrical installation carried out. I am pleased to say that this didn't reveal any problems. At the same time we had the old style fuse box in the crush hall upgraded (this is in the cupboard where the keys are kept). An electrical supply was run from the fusebox into one of the cupboards under the sink in the coffee bar to enable a water heater to be installed. The installation of the water heater has dragged on for months because of problems with tradesmen. This has been most frustrating for me and for some of the coffee bar users who are anxious to see it brought into use. I can only say the end is in sight! There is also now a new larger capacity catering urn in the coffee bar which will be of help to the Triangle Coffee Shop teams. *[Ed: Martin has helpfully pinned up guidance on how to use the new water heater and new urn; users, please take note!]*

We have continued with our programme of replacing the wooden framed windows and the latest one to be done is in the outside store. Dougie Knight is doing some work to improve the look of the concrete sill under the window. Thanks again to him.



We rely heavily on users of the premises to keep our premises in good order and ensure that they are left in a tidy and secure condition with lights switched off etc. We will shortly be sending out a letter to organisations to remind them of some of the basic steps they can take to achieve this end.

I would like to conclude with a word of thanks to Mary Innes who does a lot of the cleaning required. Mary is very conscientious and accommodating and well known to the various users of the building. We are very fortunate to have Mary in this role and thank her for all that she does.

Martin Rogers
Chairman, Property Committee

The Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship

Andrew Wedge, (youth group leader at Holy Trinity) reflects on a wider initiative

Youth work took me from a traditional Young Church setting, where I attended with my parents each week, to one where I was engaged with church life and my faith but more importantly going to church became my own decision. I remember getting in the Youth Fellowship (YF) mini bus on a Sunday night and heading off for what was really a random adventure somewhere around Fife. Beach trips, walks into the woods, swimming, chips, water fights, hikes, chips, hitting sticks, BBQs, cinema trips and chips to name just a few.

YF when I was a delegate brought together the few sporadic young teenagers from across Dunfermline, the villages and even as far north as Kinross into one group. The most common feeling amongst young Christians (or teenagers who are simply considering faith) is one of feeling alone, isolated and rare in an ever increasing secular society. Bringing together one teenager from each church created a group that could lean on or support each other through the journey into faith and adulthood, a community still in touch that now stretches across the globe in Australia, Dubai, Edinburgh and London to name just a few.

These same ingredients are the ones we have used to continue YF today. We still meet on a Sunday evening after six; we still go on random

ventures across Fife; we still eat copious amounts of food (mainly chips. What we have done however is join up with our neighbours in Kirkcaldy. At the Youth Provincial Committee's (YPC) youth week at Glenalmond a couple years ago we met and invited a delegate from Kirkcaldy to join the YF in Dunfermline so they didn't feel like the only teenager. We then spoke with Rev Christine Fraser and created what we now more aptly call the Fife Cluster YF where we take it in turns to travel to each church or many of Fife's tourist spots in between. The PYC youth week symbolically brings together the crosses of the 7 Diocese (plus one representing our international delegates) of our province, they come and fit together and bring our youth together as one larger family.



We have ourselves gone from having a YF made of three families and mainly siblings to one of many families, more than 12 who turn up regularly and a real energy and passion for their individual journeys through faith. Since then not only has the group come together but they have achieved so much. In the photo (of their feet!) 14 of the 15 people from across our whole Diocese who went to Glenalmond came from the Fife Custer YF. Many now stand on church committees and groups, some stand on vestry, one is even on the nominating committee for our new Bishop. Three of our youth leaders attend Glenalmond but also the many youth events throughout the year across Scotland. Our YF has spoken at Synod passionately about their faith and wanting to be involved at every level, they have attended events with other denominations and represented our whole Pisky church across the globe, we even have a member who is now the chair of the PYC.



These young adults have a deep faith, personal to them but glowing to see. They are articulate, connected, talented and passionate whilst also having a huge amount of energy and creativity to enable our churches to grow. The YF doesn't belong to one church, to a set of leaders or even our YF Rector Christine, it belongs to all of the congregations across our Diocese.

It belongs to all of us because it is part of all of us. Many rectors tell me they can't have a YF, they can't do youth work because there are no teenagers or just one or two but simply taking the one or two out for a coffee or some food (free food always got me interested) once a month is a youth group. We are in a very fortunate position that we have a group that is growing and set (due to members of our young churches growing up) to grow even more.

I ask you to feel proud and take ownership of these young adults who are from our local area, engage with them, support them and know simply talking to them or turning up to the Area Council service that they are helping host in Kirkcaldy next month is all you need to do to fire and enable their faith.

Andrew Wedge

Messy Church

We look forward to seeing everyone again on the 4th Sunday in the month, starting on **24 September** with breakfast at **9am**. But before then you might like to join us for the Family Barbeque on **17 September**; for further information see page 6.

Gwyneth Kirby

Fellowship News

People

Dorissia Forsyth wishes to thank everyone for the support and prayers after the sudden death of her niece Juliette, aged 37, on 25 June in the Seychelles. Please continue to remember Dorissia, and also her sister Maryrose and family as they struggle to come to terms with this tragic loss.

On a happier note, we congratulate Dorissia's younger daughter Sabine who has graduated from Edinburgh University with an honours degree in Theology. We wish Sabine joy and success as she shortly takes up a teaching post in philosophy and religious education at a boy's school in Surrey. Well done.

Rosemary Cowell passed away peacefully on 29 June. Her life was commemorated at our church in a packed service led by Deacon Morag Crawford, reflecting her Church of Scotland and Guiding connections.

Jeremy Masson, Adrian and Sue's elder son and his fiancée Carleen, 'tied the knot' at the lovely village church of St James Bramley, Hampshire on



24 July 2017. Congratulations to you both and best wishes for the future.

Alice Mirren Irvin was baptised at the Joint Communion Service conducted by Rev Helen Jenkins on 23 July. It was a joy to welcome Alice, her parents, godparent and friends on that day—a day that was also her first birthday.

Thelma and David Couch celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Sunday 27th August—congratulations and best wishes to them both!

Rev Deborah and John Cornish gave Jean and John Hall a warm welcome when the latter visited them recently. This was just before Deborah and John moved to Brighton, where Deborah becomes Circuit Superintendent of the Brighton and Hove Circuit. Deborah and John sends greetings to all at Rosyth and say that folk would be welcome to come and stay. [*Ed: info for our newer members, Deborah was our minister from 2004 to 2009*]

Wednesday Fellowship see page 10.

Diary for end August to mid-October 2017

Sunday 20 August

Pentecost 11	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Louise Gilchrist
Tuesday 22 Aug	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting in the small lounge	
Friday 25 Aug	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 27 August

Pentecost 12	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Alison Cozens
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
		Note: No Messy Church today	
Tuesday 29 Aug	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
	7.30pm	Inauguration of the Forth Valley Circuit and Welcome Service for Rev Laurent Vernet in Grahamston United Parish Church	
Friday 1 Sep	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 3 September

Pentecost 13	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Hilary Henderson
		Note: No Sunday@Six today (see page 9)	
Monday 4 Sep	6 for 7pm	First Circuit Meeting of the Forth Valley Circuit, at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 5 Sep	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
	7.30pm	Rosyth Methodist Council meets in the Church Lounge	
Wednesday 6 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Opening Session Deacon Morag Crawford	

Diary for end August to mid-October 2017

Friday 8 Sep 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 10 September

Pentecost 14 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
 11.00am All age worship Local arrangements
 6.00pm St Andrews West Area Council Annual Praise
 Service, St Peters Kirkcaldy led by the Fife Cluster
 Youth Fellowship (see page*)

Tuesday 12 Sep 10.15am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Wednesday 13 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker: Cathy Scott - Lions Club
 International

Friday 15 Sep 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 16 Sep 7.00pm Concert by Ensemble at St Finnian's Church,
 Lochgelly (see page 7 for further details)

Sunday 17 September

Pentecost 15 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
 11.00am Morning Worship Mr Brian Curtis
 2.00pm Family barbeque at Silver Sands, Aberdour
 7.00pm Taize service in St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly
 led by the Rev Dr Margaret Dineley. All invited to
 this quiet, reflective service followed by
 refreshments in the Hall

Wednesday 20 Sep 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker: Bob Liddle

Friday 22 Sep 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Diary for end August to mid-October 2017

Saturday 23 Sep 6.00pm Saturday@Six Harvest Supper followed by a talk from Ross Stirling about his Arumina Hospice Project, Kolkata (see page 6)

Sunday 24 September

Harvest	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast
	11.00am	All-age Communion Service Rev Dr Helen Jenkins David Salthouse (Worship Leader)
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
Tuesday 26 Sep	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's home
	7.30pm	Joint meeting of St Margaret's Vestry/Methodist Council in Church Lounge
Wednesday 27 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Padre Stuart Young, Chaplain 3 RIFLES
Friday 29 Sep	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support' tea, coffee and home baking – all proceeds for Macmillan Cancer Support
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Sunday 1 October

Pentecost 17	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Iain Hampson
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six Christian Blind Mission, with Adrian Masson (see page 9)	
Monday 2 Oct	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 3 Oct	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 4 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: George Beattie – The history of Stephens, Bakers	
Friday 6 Oct	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking	

Diary for end August to mid-October 2017

Friday 6 October 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 8 October

Pentecost 18 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (Worship Leader)

Tuesday 10 Oct 10.15am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Wednesday 11 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker: Lou Davidson - Haiti Help update

Friday 13 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 15 October

Pentecost 19 9.00am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Keith Pearce
David Salthouse (Worship Leader)

Monday 16 Oct 7.00pm Property Committee meeting

Wednesday 18 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Mary Kidd - St Luke's Day

Friday 20 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 22 October

Pentecost 20 9.00am Messy Church and Breakfast

11.00am Communion Service Rev Dr Michael Paterson
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

God's grace for all

*The sermon by Mrs Hilary Henderson on 18th June , with readings
Exodus 19: 2-8a; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35-10*

We all know the story of the Israelite nation's deliverance from slavery in Egypt, and Moses role as God's spokesperson. In our Old Testament lesson this morning, we find the people camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. Through Moses, God speaks to the people, promising to always be there for them and continue to grant them blessing upon blessing.

God invites the people into a special covenant relationship - a binding contract - dependent on them paying heed to God's word.

This covenant-making, between God and the Israelites, is the essential pattern of God's relationship to all people. First God shows his love for his people in acts of kindness and generosity, to which the people respond by entering into a loving relationship where even more blessings are promised.

The covenant that Moses brings to the people for their acceptance promises that...*'out of all nations'* they will be God's *'treasured possession'* and *'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation'* (Ex 19:5-6a).

God is offering the Israelites a singular, privileged rôle in His plans for the world. They are to be God's special ambassadors – authorised to take God's word to the rest of the world, and to show, by their lives,

their actions and their characters, what it means to live under God's will.

Israel has no hesitation in responding – saying together: *"We will do everything the Lord has said."* And so God gives the people a set of rules to help them to live righteous lives.

Unfortunately, the people begin to see disadvantages in their situation and prefer to do things their way and not God's. The covenant soon ceases to be upheld by the majority of people and God has to apply other means to reach their hardened hearts.

As century follows century, the people draw further and further away from God and continue to disobey his laws. God, however, continues to love each and every one of them. God chooses to send a succession of prophets to speak to the people - to tell them of his great love for them and to call them back to His side. Through these prophets, God seeks to bring His people to a true and lasting faithfulness to the One who creates and loves and cares for them. While God's compassionate love flows through the lives and work of these prophets proclaiming His message, ten centuries pass.

And then there is silence – a silence that is to last for over 400 years!! During that silence, the people hold to the belief that one day God would speak to them again.

God's grace for all: continued from p 19

So ends the story of God's dealings with the people of the Old Testament. But on the story doesn't end there - a new era is about to unfold.

With no prophets to relay God's word, the Leaders of the Jewish people, take it upon themselves to be God's voice to the people. They work on amplifying God's law, adding more and more conditions so that there's not the least possibility that anyone can adhere to all of them. To a people already suffering under Roman oppression, the extra burden this places on their lives is immense - such an overwhelming pressure of having to conform to so many rules in order to gain access to God.

A thought begins to fester in people's minds - the notion that there's no earthly way that anyone can become worthy of God's love. The people continue to despair, believing God has abandoned them. Without God to protect them, they're *'like sheep without a shepherd'*.

But God hasn't abandoned his people. God's compassionate loving nature cannot see his people suffering. Something special must be done to make it possible for the people to be made right with God.

That's when a cry shatters the 400 year silence: *"Repent, the kingdom of heaven is near...Prepare the way of the Lord"*, (Matt 3:2,3) as a rough & ready herald comes striding out of the desert announcing the imminent arrival of God's saving grace.

That 'something special' is God choosing to come himself to save his people. So God in Jesus comes! But not to the rich and powerful; nor to the healthy and comfortable - God in Jesus came to the sick and the needy, and the downtrodden and the destitute.

Hear again the words of Matthew: *"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (9:35-36)*

God's compassionate love could be no more faithfully expressed and actioned than through the life and ministry of His own Son, Jesus. Lovingly, God in Jesus shows care and compassion to everyone he meets. Tirelessly, God in Jesus works to bring hope and healing to a suffering people. Graciously, God in Jesus gives his whole life for others.

In Jesus, God makes a new covenant, opening the way for all people to find a true and lasting relationship with God. Those feelings - of unworthiness, guilt and shame - of helplessness and hopelessness - are all washed away by the blood of the cross! By the amazing grace of Christ's sacrifice, forgiveness is freely given, and faith, peace, love & hope become potent words for a song of grace. God in Jesus, comes to teach us that what counts is not about *our* access to God - but about *God's* access to us. It's not about being good enough

or wise enough or obedient enough to gain a place in God's heart; it's that God's love is so great, we are already in his heart. It is by God's grace that we can have a special relationship with God. All it takes is faith; a belief in Jesus; and our acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, writes for a world in which people are desperately trying to find something that would give them access to God. He explains that, *"At just the right time, when we were still powerless...."* (Ro 5:6a). *"...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us,"* (5:8). Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross puts humanity right with God.

And *"... since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* God's grace in Christ is the promise all believers can rely on and the message we're all called to proclaim. (5: 1-2).

Matthew writes of the time God in Christ sends out twelve of his disciples to go on the first missionary journey into the heart of the Jewish nation. And from that first 'sending out' the Church, the Body of Christ, is authorised by Christ to become God's ambassadors taking the good news of God's grace to the world, to minister to the needs of all.

Those first missionaries were called 'apostles' because they were being

'sent out' and we too are called in the same manner to go out and speak to people about the saving grace of God and to serve Christ in our local community, and the wider world.

Those twelve apostles had firsthand experience of Jesus' life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and were able to speak from a personal experience of knowing and loving and being loved by God in Christ.

Paul, whose prolific writings inform our faith, didn't meet the earthly Christ, but he did meet the Risen Christ on a sunlit road.

We too can know Christ's presence in our lives and speak of the peace, love and hope God's grace brings. We have God's Word, written down all those centuries ago by the Old & New Testament writers, and we have the fellowship of the Church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

These, together with the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, are the means of grace which God has given us, to nurture and strengthen our faith. God in Christ speaks to us and invites us to enter into a personal covenant relationship with the Triune God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

Can we respond, with heart-felt conviction – **'We will do everything the Lord has said'**. And can we determine to show, by our faith, our lives, our actions and our character, what it means to live God's way and not our own?

Hilary Henderson

What must you take with you?

Edward Idle led Café-style Morning Worship on 2nd July to consider Acts 2: 8-12

My wife and I recently attended the graduation ceremony of our No 2 grand-daughter, Ruth, at Glasgow University. It was a wonderful occasion and our chests swelled with pride and pleasure to see this young woman receive her award. It seemed like only yesterday that she was dancing to the tune of one of Abba's songs in our living room. But in Glasgow, it was cool and the wind whistled through the quadrangle in the centre of the University complex, so we were happy to get into the overflow hall where we watched proceedings. [Grandparents were not issued with tickets for Bute Hall where the action took place.]

It took over an hour to name each of the graduates, for the Deputy Vice Chancellor to tap them on the head with the cap and for them to receive their degree scroll. Various thoughts went through my head while all of this was going on. One was to marvel at the composure and dexterity of the Dean of the Faculty, as he called out the names. What a list; it went on and on! And I could only guess at their country of origin. Here's a sample.

Toolika Gupta, Leila Nicole Riszko, Yuan Wang, Debora Agazzoni, Daria Katarszyna Barambas, Agnieska Maria Checka, Ruth Margaret Dougall.

Here's another list of names, this time from another source

Anthony Disson, Isaac Paulos, Khadiya Saye, Steven Power, Omar Belbadi, Denis Murphy, Mary Mendy, Gloria Trevisan.

These are just some of the names of people who perished in the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

So we have two lists of people whose names show origins from across the world but have completely different reasons for being included on a list.

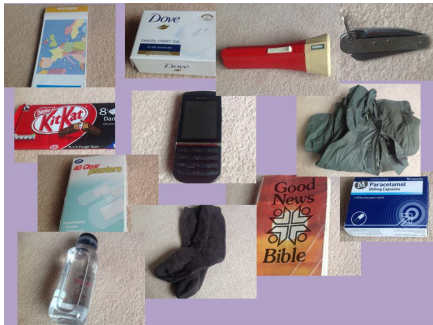
When Peter "*stood up with the eleven – ... and addressed the crowd*" as we are told in chapter 2 of Acts, he spoke to people from 15 different countries and, miraculously, they heard "*in their own language.*" They understood what was being said to them - and we now know that the Gospel of Christ reaches out to all men and women, whether they rejoice like the graduates or mourn like the bereaved and desolate from Grenfell Tower.

The multi cultural crowd that Peter addressed called on him, and the small group of Jesus' followers with him, to action. In the same way these two very different lists call us to respond. For the University graduates with their enormous potential to those who lost their lives or their loved ones and everything they have, even to the clothes they wear, we need to respond. But what should that response be?

When Abraham, or Abram as was his name at that time, responded to God's call to leave *"his country, his people and his father's household"*, he did as God had told him. But unlike the people in Grenfell Tower, or the thousands and thousands of people on the move from their country, Abram took with him *"his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan."* (Genesis 12: 1-5). Sounds like quite a convoy! Abraham took an awful lot with him.

Imagine you are at home and a heavy knock comes to your door. When you answer you are faced with a group of uniformed stern-looking people who tell you that you must leave your house immediately and find you way to another country. You have no choice in the matter and are given no help as to which country to go to.

However you are given a bag containing various items which you might find useful on the journey you are about to make. The only complication is that you must choose only 3 things from this bag. Which do you feel you must take with you?



The list is shown below.

Map of Europe	
Bar of Soap	
Torch	
Knife	
Kit Kat bars	
Mobile Phone	
Waterproof	
Box of Sticking Plasters	
Bottle of Water	
Clean pair of thick socks	
Good News Bible	
Box of Paracetamol Tablets	

Why did you choose what you chose?

How did you decide what you must take?

How did you feel as you were choosing?

Over the last few weeks our Church of Scotland Minister at Livingston, has been clearing out his mother's house. He says he has numerous things which

he doesn't know why his mother kept, photos of people he can't identify and postcards of places he can't remember. Deciding what to keep and what not to keep is a dilemma for him; his garage is overflowing! But it has also concentrated his mind on what he should keep for himself to pass on to his children. The more he keeps of his late mother's the less he has room for his things.

Most of us are very familiar with this problem; certainly we are in our house. We have hundreds of books, and our children signal to us that they are not particularly interested in the majority of them. Choosing what to keep and what to pass on is not always easy. Choosing what we really need for our journey, or what others might need is equally difficult.

I wonder what we will pass on from this church to the next generation. I hope it will be good things of the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus. Will it be that here is a place where men and women find refuge, comfort, forgiveness and peace. A place of joy, encouragement and stimulus. A place where all are welcome and not afraid to cross the threshold. A place where worship meets the needs of conversations with God and spiritual refreshment.

A place where everyone hears the gospel and can understand it for their own needs.

A place where we know what to take with us and help others to do so.

Envisioning the church

Rev Robert Morton's sermon for the 101st Anniversary of Rosyth Methodist Church on 5 March 2017.

Readings: Ephesians 2: 13-22; John 4: 19-26

One of the things you find about the bible is that it uses picture language so many times. And none more so than when the pictures are trying to define what the church is. The picture language that is used, particularly in the New Testament, is for the Church.

It's called the Body of Christ, it's called the Temple of God, it's called the living stones. It's called God's field, God's vine, God's vineyard, it's called the Household of God. And in the passage that we want to look at from Ephesians, Paul puts it this way. "*You are no longer foreigners and aliens but citizens with God's people and members of God's household built on the foundations of the Apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*"

All of us are here today one way or another, whether you are a Methodist, or you're an Episcopalian or whether you're Church of Scotland or whatever denomination you are or whether you have none. All of us have had some connections one way or another with a church... the church as a building. And yet the reality is that nowhere in the scriptures do you find reference to the Church being a building. It's always focused on it being a people, and yet buildings are important to us. It's the place that we gather, it's the

place that we communicate, it's a place that stands out as a point of witness to the community around us.

I don't know about you but I often love to dialog with some of the buildings, whether it be a Cathedral, or a small Methodist Chapel in the midst of the countryside somewhere. Because I believe that, like this building, every stone, every joint, every piece of wood could tell its own story. It could tell us the great events that happened here. It could tell us the sad occasions that there have been; it could tell us of times of disappointment and failure. It could tell us of times of great renewal and resurgence of faith, because that is certainly true in the situation concerning Rosyth. 'Cos if you look at that brief history in your magazine on the Centenary of Rosyth there was that lovely part where, after the closure of the old, the first building the membership declined significantly from 115 down to 26 and yet it grew dramatically and I meant to bring with me my diary that I kept when I was here way back in 1975 during the summer period and I did my placement here. And I kept a day to day diary and I can't remember it all but I can remember the church was full including that stage behind you. And, you know, sometimes we look at the Church and we almost get the idea that our days are numbered.

Well I'm sorry, I'm not a pessimist, I'm an optimist and I dare to say that if anyone has a faith and a belief and a trust and, more importantly an

interest in Christian history they will see that the history of the church throughout the generations has been peaks and troughs, peaks and troughs, peaks and troughs and we may well be down in a trough but I believe passionately with all my heart that the trough that we are in just now, we're beginning to move out of it. I sense a new optimism, a new sense of hope, a new sense of excitement within some of the churches that I visit and preach in during recent months. But what I want us to do this morning, is to put on our virtual reality hats, you know you've probably seen these spectacle things that are advertised on television. You put them on, these big glass things and you have this virtual reality experience. You might imagine you are driving along Brands Hatch or you might imagine you are operating an aeroplane or whatever. And I want us to put on our virtual reality specs this morning and I want us to ask ourselves or rather to ask the building to give us some indications, some markers for the future. Some markers for the way ahead. And the first marker I think our buildings would speak to us about they would be about vision. Before this building was built, it existed as a vision. A dream, a hope in the hearts of perhaps some of you here today, perhaps those of you who had no part in it. Way back at the foundation of Methodism in this community, 1917, when the Army and Navy Board of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, decided to appoint someone here to institute a church here within this community. And in

the fullness of time, a church was built, an architect was appointed and plans drawn up. But it doesn't matter whether it was within the Army and Navy Board of the Methodist Church or within the heart and mind of the people who built this building. It began as a vision; and the book of Proverbs reminds us that '*where there is no vision, a people perish*'. And there is a wider truth to this as well because the Church of Jesus Christ has its birth in the vision not of one man or a group of men but in the vision of God. Too often we speak about the Church as if it were a club and I daresay that is why so often we find our confidence shaken and we begin to question and doubt what it is all about. But my friends, what we need to remind ourselves of is that the Church is God's enterprise, not mans.

There is a lovely, lovely picture of the Ark. It's got this huge big Ark and these tiny little people representing you and I trying to support the Ark. And we haven't a snowball's chance of supporting the Ark. It's far too big for us. And so with the Church, it's God's enterprise, not yours, not mine. It began 17 centuries before the Christian era, when God called a particular nation, when he called the people of Israel to be his own. It was reconstituted when God's own son called 12 Apostles, mark that my friends, 12. Not 12 thousand, not 12 million but 12. And you and I are the products of 12 faithful men and true who followed in obedience to Jesus Christ. There's more than 12 of us

here today. You get my message; you see what I am trying to say. The Christian Church came into being, not because a few followers of a crucified saviour decided that there should be one but because Jesus Christ said I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16: 18). And down through the centuries the church has been beset by trials, by decline, by disruptions, by controversy, yet still it goes forward. And why is that? It goes forward because the church was born, not in the mind of man but in the vision and purpose and will of God.

Our building speaks to us of a vision but it also speaks to us of sacrifice. You see it's not enough to have a vision, you have to pay the price to make this vision a reality. I believe every church stands as a monument to human generosity in terms of money and labour; and I often think it ought to challenge us to our attitude at times. We get up on a Sunday morning and think, ugh, can't be bothered going to Church today, my bed seems more inviting. Or I can't be bothered going to Church, it's looks as if it might rain before I get back. Or perhaps we go on holiday and we enter a local Church and we go in and we think, hmm, don't like this church very much. Not like ours, no it's not very nice place is it? Bit old fashioned, a bit ultra-modern, ugly, or some other choice phrase. And yet it didn't seem so to those faithful men and women who paid the price for it and dedicated it with a song in their hearts. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. And

my friends, this truth applies to the wider church, every church, every church building reminds us that we are debtors to a God who showed his love for us in the ultimate sacrifice through dying on the cross. How likely we so often take this awful cost to set us free from sin and death.

St Paul reminds us in this passage from Ephesians that we had before us this morning that the whole church in heaven and on earth rests upon an endless row of crosses. With the foundation cross of Calvary being as Paul puts it “the chief cornerstone”. So our church speaks of vision, it speaks of sacrifice. But it speaks also of historical continuity. You know, no poor minister can enter the pulpit without feeling a sense of inadequacy. Inadequacy as he recognise the faithfulness of those men and women who have stood in that same place and preached the gospel with such fulness. Praying that he or she might be worthy successors of the preachers who stood before him.

I remember when I went to my first appointment in the Scotland District, my first appointment as a Methodist minister, it was in the Clydebank Church, the Clydebank Methodist Church. Now it had been my great privilege to go to Cliff College, the Methodist lay training college for evangelism and mission for two years before I ever candidate for the ministry. And one of the great Principals of Cliff College was a man by the name of Samuel Chadwick. One of God’s great (saints). He wrote two

classics; “*The Path of Prayer*” and “*The way to Pentecost*”. And Samuel Chadwick began his ministry in Clydebank in 1877, and he was there for 13 years. He went and there was no Church and they built a church as he gathered around him through his open-air preaching, a congregation and a people who would call themselves Methodists. Now I remember as I went to Clydebank and being told that that was where my first appointment would be, the sense of inadequacy that you were following in the footsteps of only one such great man that I knew and there were many others I’m sure. I never got to preach from the pulpit that Chadwick preached in because by the time I arrived the Church has been partially destroyed by fire and we were about to build a new one. But I did get into the building (that was against all advice), I did get into the building that was all boarded up after the fire and managed to stand in the pulpit. And to this day I’ll never forget that experience. To realise that I was just one in a great, a great chain of men who had stood in that same pulpit. Because at that time it was only men in the ministry who’d stood in that same pulpit and witnessed to Jesus Christ. And the same can be said of men and women who week by week sit in the pews that they have sat in and being surrounded as it were by an unseen cloud of witnesses who have stood there, sat there before us.

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of returning to my home church in Armadale, just across the water. I

went there and in some respects I don't know what I expected. Probably I expected to see all the faces of the people I'd known there going back to the late 60s. But there was just a handful, literally, a handful of faces that I recognised. But one thing I did do at that Church was that I remembered the people who had touched my life; I remembered the witness of one particular man called Jimmy Gracie, who made me ask the question. "What is it you've got in the person of Jesus Christ in his life?" I looked at the Church and remembered how I knelt at the front of the Church and committed my life to Christ and sought to follow him. Yes, I didn't recognise very many faces in the congregation; but the one thing that brought the continuity was the building. It was still the same building; it still.... had the bulge in the side wall that's never collapsed yet. It still had the pulpit which was dedicated to my Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School Teacher. It still had the organ that was dedicated to Jimmy Gracie. So much about that building, the continuity made me feel at home. The one constant factor is the church that brings that sense of historical continuity.

And my friends there is a larger truth that Paul seeks to bring here. He says in Ephesians 2: 22 *"In him we are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* And the Apostle Peter put it this way. *"You are called as living*

stones, being built into a spiritual house." (1 Peter 2:5). The church that God is building is not one of bricks and mortar, important those these are. It is a church that is built of men and women, living stones who have been made alive through the Spirit of Christ shared and broaden their hearts and being built into that spiritual temple in which Christ lives by his Holy Spirit. Just as the existence of Scotland makes it possible for you and I to be a Scotsman or a Scotswoman, so the existence of the Church, a community of men and women, with traditions, with a history, makes it possible for a man or woman to be a Christian. So our Church speaks, our Church speaks of vision, it speaks of sacrifice, it speaks of historical continuity and one final thought, it speaks of stewardship. You and I are called to be custodians of the building in which we worship. It is our responsibility to maintain the fabric, to keep it clean and in good repair. I venture to suggest that there is nothing dishonours the character and name of the Christian Church more than a dilapidated church building. It speaks volumes to the world outside as to what you and I think of our Saviour, of our Lord. It displays in no other way than gratitude to the past and poor stewardship of that which has been entrusted to us for the present and the future.

My friends, you and I may not enjoy building a physical church although I know that some of you did enjoy that privilege in building *this* church. But all of us can and all of us must share in

the spiritual home in which it is enshrined. For though this material structure may be completed and paid for, yet the church itself, the family and household of God must ever be expanding and reaching new heights of witness and service with each succeeding generation. The Church of Jesus Christ is not fully built. It will continue being built by men and women being made alive by the spirit of God who put their trust in Christ the Saviour and continue to do that until the day that Christ returns. And that my friends, is the story of the Church in the purpose of God. A spiritual structure, building and being built upon. And yes, imperfect though the Church may seem it is still, it is still and always will be God's building. The visible structure that gives historical continuity to the faith that you and I share.

The task we face today and in the future is no different to that of those early disciples, nor that of John Wesley, nor that of those faithful men and women who a hundred and one years ago bore their witness for the Methodist congregation in this community. All of them through word and deed witnessed to the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. As Christian men and women we are called to no less an honourable task. We are not called to buttress up a toppling structure like those who were trying to hold up the ark. Rather, we are called to enlarge, to beautiful a building that rises to heights of grandeur. We do that best, when in the Power of God's spirit we proclaim

his love, his forgiveness to a tired and needy world. Because my friends, the gospel that we proclaim is the gospel of a living church, belonging to a living God. And he calls us for no more than to be worthy stewards of that task.

Robert Morton

Acknowledgement: this sermon was kindly transcribed by David Salthouse from the recording made of the Service.

Ed: Transcription is a time-consuming task, though not very often needed. It would be helpful to hear from anyone who might be willing to offer help with such a task should the need arise again.

(Typically it happens once a year; in 2016 David transcribed the Centenary sermon by Rev Leslie Griffiths ; in 2015 Sandra Young transcribed a sermon by Rev David Easton).

Sermon on the Mount 3

Ed: Professor John Sawkins gave three sermons on this theme, based on Richard Holloway (1981) 'Beyond Belief: the Christian Encounter with God'. The first, given on 30 October 2016, was reproduced in Issue 90, pp 25-29; the second, given on 6 November 2016, was in Issue 91, pp 24-29. The third, given on 29 January 2017, was intended to be in this issue but has been held back, but a printed copy (or a CD of the service) can meantime be obtained from the Editor (tel 01383 624779).

Puzzle page

With puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1) Counting high

How high would you have to count to before you used the letter A?

2) Extraordinary times

What was extraordinarily about the 5th June 1978 at 26 minutes to 1?

3) Mirror magic

If you looked into a mirror and saw that you were holding the letter 'd' in your left hand, what would you actually be doing?

4) Sounds the same

What 5 lettered word in the English language would be pronounced the same if you removed the last four letters?

5) The Pig and Whistle

Three Giants OG, GOG and MAGOG live in a land called Teetotal. Every Friday they like to go for a drink at The Pig and Whistle which is located on the border of a land called Booze. OG takes 5 League steps and can take 40 steps in an hour, GOG takes 6 League steps and can take 30 steps in an hour, whereas MAGOG takes 7 League steps and can take 20 steps an hour. The border opens at Exactly 8 pm to allow visitors in, but closes again if no one is there, the border back into Teetotal is open all the time. The problem is that they all have to arrive at the same time or else they cannot get their

drink. How far away is the border from their house in Leagues and at what times do they all have to leave to all get there at the same time?

NB They all must reach the border at the end of their pace exactly, also they will all leave at different times.

Answers to Summer puzzles

A1) He will need to take 5 socks out of the drawer to guarantee a pair. If he takes out 4 he could have 1 of each colour so the 5th must make a pair.

A2) Mike would take 24 days. Geoff normally mows $\frac{2}{3}$ of the lawns and Mike $\frac{1}{3}$ of the lawns in 8 days so if Mike has to do it on his own it would take him 3×8 days

A3) 2999.

A4) They must both be lying. If only one had been lying, then they both would have said that they were boys or girls, so the blue eyed child is a girl and the brown eyed child is a boy.

A5) The cabin is the cabin of a plane that crashed in a forest, the men died in that crash.

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

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

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 October, so please send us your contribution by **Tuesday 26th September 2017**. You can send it to *editor\ rosythmethodist.org.uk*.