

Rosyth
Methodist Church



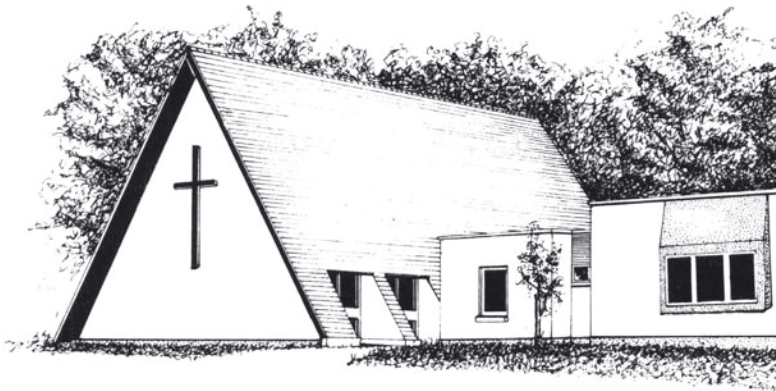
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 95

February/March 2018

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

Rector:

Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654
(until 17 February)

Co-ordinating Steward:

David Salthouse 01383 889212

Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

Treasurer:

Gordon Pryde 01383 249106

Church Council Secretary:

Sandra Wilson 01383 415885

Pastoral Co-ordinator:

Myra Tarr 01383 723989

Treasurer:

Dave Ward 01383 414944

our regular pattern of worship

Sundays (except 4th)

9.30am Sung Eucharist
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

Our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. The car park is behind the church, and limited local on-street parking is available, but there is lots more space in the parking area at the junction with Park Road.

From the Editor's Desk

Martin Tarr talks about "New beginnings" for Contact

Every two years the editorial team at Contact refreshes itself – a bit like Dr Who – and 2018 sees the return of the Episcopal team. Grateful thanks to Howard Kirby and Dave Ward for all the work that they've put in over the past two years.

Thanks also to all our contributors who collect information and ideas and keep us supplied – admittedly sometimes after some hassling! – with the elements from which Sandra and I construct what is *your* newsletter.

When we sat down to review our plans for this New Year issue, it was clear from the outset that we needed to focus on the many changes that are happening within our partnership in terms of personnel and organisation, and the challenges that we face both collectively and as individuals.

The opening "New beginnings" section naturally starts with contributions from three of our leaders that deal directly with the topic, though they have very different styles and perspectives.

But it was only when we looked at the items submitted or suggested by others that we realised how many of these also related to new beginnings. Two of these have been included at the end of the first section;



others appear throughout this issue, flagged with an "Old Life/New Life" direction sign, but mostly in the grouping of material that we generally call "The wider world".

From now on we'll be using a logo that shows the world held in a hand.



Whose hand this represents is up to you to decide. After all, while "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" (Psalm 24:1, and quoted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:26), and we are assured that we are in God's keeping, we're guardians of his gifts.

As the Church of England 1991 report on 'Christian Stewardship' put it:

"Christians believe that this world belongs to God by creation, redemption and sustenance, and that he has entrusted it to humankind made in his image and responsible to him; we are in the position of stewards, tenants, curators, trustees or guardians, whether or not we acknowledge this responsibility, and responsible for our planet."

We have to make decisions about how to do this, both as churches and individuals.

And it's currently a hot topic, whether one thinks of plastics or climate change. So we will be looking for your thoughts on the wider world. And on ways in which we can be more effective when we work together, as Alan McCougan suggests on page 27.

Keep those articles coming!

What's in this issue ...

New beginnings pp4–11

Preparing for Easter p12

Report: Nativity at Rosyth p23

The wider world

This section includes challenges from Alan McGougan and Donnie Caldwell, information on Fairtrade and

Val's holiday journal! pp26–31

Plus our regular items:

Diary to Easter pp17–22

Fellowship News pp14–15

Invitations/requests p13

Making Music pp32–33

News from the Diocese p25

Puzzle Corner p34

Wednesday Fellowship p16, p22

Working together p24

New year, new beginnings

Helen Jenkins prepares her Covenant Service sermon

It is, as you know, a tradition in Methodism to hold a yearly covenant service, often at the start of a new year. Here in Rosyth of course, we have the joy of sharing this service with St Margaret's – it's very much an ecumenical endeavour – and so we're nearly a month into 2018 when we gather, but that doesn't remove any of the significance.

The beginning of a new year is often a time for looking back at what has been, but even more for looking forward for what is to come. None of us can know for certain what the future holds, but sometimes we have more of an idea than others.

And this year we know will bring many changes to the life of this church, by which I mean both our congregations. St Margaret's, you said goodbye to Alison last week, and are entering into yet another interregnum with all the uncertainty that brings. Rosyth Methodist, you are in a less uncertain position in that you know what will happen, but still know that change is coming with your new minister and superintendent, Eddie, arriving in September.

At a wider church level the Episcopal diocese are now in an extended process of looking for a new bishop, and the Methodist District are advertising for a new District Chair. Change is afoot, and who knows what it will all bring.

Of course it's not just church where there will be change and uncertainty. As each of you look ahead to this year, you will have all kinds of thoughts and feelings. There may be some changes coming for you or those who are dear to you that are awaited with excitement – a wedding, a new baby, new opportunities. There may of course be things lurking on the horizon that you are hoping won't come to pass – health issues,

challenges with jobs or study. Or perhaps you're looking to a year that seems as though it will be much the same as those that have gone before, whether that's with relief or frustration.

It is with all this in mind that we come to our covenant today, an opportunity to bring it all before God, to come as we are, and to put ourselves once again in God's hands.

The covenant we make today is part of a long history of covenants God has made, from promising Noah that never again would the earth be destroyed by flood, to Abraham being promised that he would be the father of nations, to the Mosaic covenant based around the law that Moses brought down from the mountain after Israel had been freed from slavery in Egypt. There we clearly see the two sided nature of a covenant – the Israelites are set apart as God's chosen people, but they have to keep the laws they have been given. When they don't, God allows them to be exiled from their land, but never deserts them entirely.

It is into the context of exile that Jeremiah's words are spoken, to a people who have been uprooted from their land, their culture, the places in which their faith is embodied. They have had to come to terms with nothing being the same, nothing being how they had hoped and dreamed. We hear their longing to return in words such as Psalm 137: "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion."

Perhaps you can relate to those feelings – not necessarily of exile, but of things not being what you had hoped. As you look at your life, or the life of the church, there may be disappointments, things that haven't gone to plan.

Jeremiah speaks words of hope, of promise, that Israel and Judah will be restored and the exiles will return home. He speaks of God who has not deserted them, and in the words we heard earlier, tells them of a new covenant that is to come, where the laws will no longer be external things but will be written on their hearts. God will be among them. Perhaps some of us need to hear those words of hope this morning.

Jesus picks up on this language in the words we heard from Mark, which are so very familiar from the communion service. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many" he tells them at the last supper, clearly placing himself into that which Jeremiah has prophesied. Our relationship with God is no longer mediated through the law, but through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and we celebrate that new covenant every time we share bread and wine.

The new covenant is shared by all Christians everywhere, but as we've experienced here on a small scale over recent months, its expression in communion is far from something we find it easy to share universally. I suspect I'm not the only one of us who feels a deep sadness that we cannot easily share communion with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, and that issues of gender and churchmanship can get in the way in other contexts. One of the real treasures of our partnership here is that we do come around this table together, albeit knowing that some choose to stay away, and that we're not always free to do things exactly as we might choose. Despite all of those things, we come here together, to share in the covenant.

That of course is a reflection of the covenant between our two churches. I don't know if you ever stop to look at the documents that are on the wall just outside the sanctuary but there are two – our constitution as a Local Ecumenical Partnership, which sets out some of the practical things, and then the covenant, signed by some of you here on behalf of us all, which speaks of our commitment to work together, rooted in our shared faith.

The relationship we have is strong and precious, and through times of change even more so as we support one another. That goes for our personal lives – many of you will have read Sheila's reflection in Contact on the support so many of you offered her when she was having to travel to Dundee for treatment, and I know that wasn't an isolated incident in the way you care for one another – as well as our lives as congregations with all the joys and struggles.

Through this coming year that covenant will be particularly important as we look to the future. Whatever is coming for either congregation will affect the other as our lives are intertwined, and it may be that as we journey together our covenant relationship develops and changes – I'm certainly NOT standing here with a plan that I hope to impose, but I pray that this partnership will continue to grow and bear fruit. I pray that all that we do, both as separate congregations and together, will be enriched by the covenant relationship we share, and that together we will be a beacon of God's love in this place.

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As we look to both the past and the future, we can see many times of uncertainty and challenge, but I hope that through all of them we can see the constancy of God's presence, just as the Israelites did even when they were in exile. Entering into a covenant with God doesn't mean everything will be easy – we only need to look at the words of the prayer to know that it may be anything but – but it does give us the assurance of God's presence and equipping. As Paul expresses in Romans, it is as we offer ourselves as living sacrifices (in contrast to the very much dead sacrifices that marked the worship of the old covenant) that we are transformed from within, by the renewing of our minds. As Jeremiah prophesied, the new covenant is marked by God dwelling within us, and it is from God that we receive our strength to live out this covenant relationship. It is from God too that we receive forgiveness when we get it wrong!

So, however you are feeling about the year that is past, or the year that is to come, I invite you again this morning to join in the words of the covenant prayer. We pray it as individuals, thinking of our own lives, but also together as the church in this place.

They're not words to be said lightly, they are hugely challenging, but we say them in the assurance that God who knows us and calls us is the partner in our covenant, and will never fail us or give up on us.

Let's take a few moments now to reflect in silence on the covenant we are about to enter into.

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

The Anniversary Service and Anniversary Appeal 2018

On **Sunday 4 March** we celebrate the 102nd anniversary of Methodism in Rosyth – is it really two years since we celebrated our Centenary? We are pleased to welcome back Rev Christopher Shreeve and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet to lead our worship.

Most will have seen the excellent publications by Martin Rogers of "101 years of Methodism in Rosyth" (see page 14). As we read through the articles we soon realise that we have so much for which to be thankful.

Associated with the anniversary is our Anniversary Appeal, and Methodists may receive with this edition of Contact an envelope inviting you to Gift-Aid your donation – further supplies will be at the back of the church nearer the day. Remember that £10 given becomes £12.50 thanks to tax recovered. As we would struggle to pay our Circuit Assessment if we had to rely only on our weekly income, the Anniversary Appeal is a very important part of our finances.

Going for gold

A Reflection for Epiphany 2018 by Michael Paterson

Well how did you get on? Did you find any? I tried TK Maxx, Primark, Marks and Sparks – but they had none. “It’s for his birthday”, I said: “It’s what he’ll be expecting”.

“I’m sorry”, she said: “There’s a pawn shop in Dunfermline. I’m sure you’ll get gold there, but there’s no market for frankincense and myrrh in Rosyth.”

I put my hat and gloves back on, and exchanged the warmth of the Co-op for the icy cold of the street. The Christmas lights announced “Joy to the World”, but the shoppers looked stressed out of their minds, their faces miserable, their manner agitated.

“What can I bring him?” – the carollers sang – *“Poor as I am.”* (Well, they meant well, but sounded out of tune.) *“If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.”* (Pity you’re not, I muttered under my breath, ‘cos then you would be on a farm and not blocking the pavement.) *“If I were a wise man I would do my part.”* (Like be wise enough to stick to the day job.) *“But what I have I give him, give my heart.”*

Give my heart? Give my heart? What kind of present is that? This torn and unreliable thing where the very best and the very worst in me is stored?

Give your heart? Mine was frozen and would take longer to thaw out than a Christmas turkey.

But this ‘give your heart’ thing was an invitation, not a demand: more like being invited to a friend’s house for tea than a letter from the Tax Office. I made a stockpile of excuses why giving my heart was a bad idea:

- My ‘no entry’ sign is there for a reason
- I’ve been hurt before and need to protect myself
- There’s more clutter in there than in a lady’s handbag
- I’m too old to be changing my ways now

But the voice persisted: “Give your heart.”

I wore myself out arguing and finally gave in. It was meant to be a gift for Him, for His birthday – but, do you know what? I think I got more out of it than He did.

And to begin each day opening my heart to Him, knowing that He can turn my inner car boot sale into the kind of treasure you get in Sotheby’s – is the best New Year’s resolution I have ever made.

You can keep your frankincense and myrrh. I’m going for gold!

2018 is the Year of the Heart.

Fancy joining me?



Three ‘wise women’ going for gold – see page 23

Beginnings and endings

Alison Cozens' farewell sermon
to the St Margaret's congregation on 21 January 2018

"When John had been sent to prison, Jesus went into Galilee" (Mark 1:14)

Today's Gospel reading is about beginnings and endings ... John the Baptist was a popular figure and he had baptised many people in the river Jordan including his cousin Jesus. People went out to see him, a prophet in camel hair and eating wild honey. Remember that John was in the wilderness and often the wilderness can be the place of change and growth. John's arrest will have been a shock for many of his followers.

And yet the Gospel tells us that, as John was arrested, so Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the Good News, and many of the disciples of John became the disciples of Jesus.

Just as John had predicted, there is "One coming after me whose sandal I am not fit to untie". So it is Jesus can begin his public ministry where John had prepared the way for him, making the smooth the rough places and opening the hearts and minds of those who were waiting for the salvation of God.

For those of you who like to follow the church's lectionary, today we begin the continuous reading of the Gospel of St Mark, interrupted by Lent and Easter, but eventually we will come to the narrative of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem, sometime in November – when you get there, spare a thought for me as I will for you.

So the ministry of Jesus begins in Galilee, the northernmost province of Palestine, way out on the periphery and a long way from the holy city Jerusalem.

Jesus begins with the calling of the first disciples, humble fishermen out mending their nets, In a moment of grace, they hear God's call and stop what they are doing and go and follow him.

I wonder when you first felt called by God? For me, as a teenager, the Methodist chapel in my village was a place and a community which nurtured my sense of calling. Each of us has our own stirrings of faith and it is always worth revisiting them, especially at times of change.

Now what does it mean to follow Jesus?

Is it about what we can get out of it?

Like the crowds who were fed on the hillside who followed him, are we looking for water to be turned into wine, or to be healed from our ailments, or to be fed from God's table?

Or can we go deeper, and can we see with the eyes of faith who Jesus really is and the profound difference he can make in our lives.

So often in our world we like to calculate things before coming to decisions – feasibility studies and flow charts – but perhaps Jesus is teaching us that some things work by a kind of instinct, like Jesus walking beside the Sea of Galilee and seeing the fishermen he calls over to them: “Come and follow me”. Maybe what we can learn from today’s Gospel is that the way of Jesus is to go and look at the periphery and see what is happening there.

The poet, Malcolm Guite, writes:

He calls us all to step upon his ship,
take the adventure on this morning’s wing,
raise sail with him, launch out into the deep
whatever storms or floods are threatening.
If faith gives way to doubt or love to fear
then, as on Galilee, we will rouse the Lord,
for he is always with us and will hear
and make our peace with his creative Word
who made us, loved us and formed us and has set
all his beloved lovers in an ark.
Borne upwards by his Spirit we will float
above the rising waves, the falling dark,
as fellow pilgrims driven towards that haven
where all will be redeemed, fulfilled, forgiven.

From “Sounding the Seasons: Seventy sonnets for the Christian Year”
by Malcolm Guite, published by the Canterbury Press 2012.

Today, as I said before, the Gospel reading is about beginnings and endings. Just as today marks the ending of my ministry in this place and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of this congregation, so I will pray for you, as I hope you will pray for me, that, as you set sail with Jesus Christ as your Captain on a new adventure, you will put your trust in him and not be afraid.

Let us pray

God of our beginnings and our endings:
go before us and prepare a path for us;
walk beside us and reassure us of your presence;
stay with us through the day and through the night,
and bring us at the last safely home
to your eternal harbour and everlasting rest.
We ask in Jesu’s name. Amen.

Resolutions

Jan Benvie's reflection is based on the hymn "Good King Wenceslas"
written by J M Neale (1818-66) and first published in 1853

Did you make any New Year resolutions? If so, have you kept them, or have they fallen by the wayside?

As Christians we make and renew our resolutions all the time – in weekly services through our creeds or confessions, in Covenant Renewal and other services. We find inspiration, guidance from our bible or from the hymns we sing. Recently at the St Stephen's Day (26 December) service (when we remembered the first Christian martyr) I found deeper meaning in the carol "Good King Wenceslas".

Something at the service, or perhaps it was the frosty weather and having recently read news articles about food banks and benefit cut backs, really made me think about the words. I think there is a tragedy in this hymn being consigned to the category of 'Christmas Carol' and sung so rarely. It's a hymn much more in keeping with resolutions (New Year or otherwise), and its sentiments are ones that I certainly found helpful to be reminded of.

Wenceslas, a 10th century Bohemian ruler, is variously described as Duke or King, but was a man of wealth and power. We can assume he '*looked out*' from a grand residence, unlike the '*poor man ... gath'ring winter fuel*' Wenceslas was likely warm and comfortable. Few of us (if any) live in grand residences, but most live in comfortable homes. We don't have to look far to see those less well off, but Wenceslas we learn didn't just send his page out to help, rather '*page and monarch ... forth they went together*' – and he didn't let the '*bitter weather*' stop him. How often do we give a charitable donation then feel good about ourselves? Could we, as well as doing this, '*go forth*', become more active?

Part-way to the peasant's dwelling the page becomes rather overwhelmed by '*the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather*'. I'm sure we have all experienced that sense of being overwhelmed by the winds of change that seem to constantly blow through our lives. The storms of life can indeed feel bitter.

I've only been coming to church in Rosyth for a few years. What I found was not only a place to worship, but also a caring community to be part of. As we move forward into 2018, facing crisis in the NHS and Social Services, living and witnessing to Christ in a country where loneliness (particularly among the elderly) we are told is reaching epidemic proportions, perhaps we can think of where we can '*mark ... footsteps*' for those who are struggling through the snowstorms of life. Can we build on the work we do already – helping at the Wednesday Fellowship, Triangle Coffee Shop, Foodbank, helping to make our church a Fairtrade Church ...?

"Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing."



see page 29

What path are you on?

In the October/November 2017 issue of Contact, Dorissia Forsyth shared her recent experience of a service she attended at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield, Edinburgh to celebrate Mary Sumner and the Mothers' Union. After the service and lunch in the hall there was a tour of the Garden of Contemplation with its various stations of wisdom and poems.

But for Dorissia, the wisdom that spoke to her was the 'bit' between the church and the hall, where it is aptly situated. She would like to share what was written with us as we start a new year.

The 'bit' between the church and the Hall

We all spend our lives transitioning, moving between one state of being and other. We start as an embryo and grow into a new-born. From there we continue to grow into adulthood and then we stop growing and start to age. Finally we grow into death and our bodily remains are returned to the earth to rest in hope of resurrection.

None of us knows the paths we will take and sometimes the choice between paths is difficult and we can wonder what life might have been like if, we had taken the other path. But the paths we take, are the paths we take and rarely can we go back and take another route.

What path are you on? is it the path you want to be following? If not is there anything you could do to change it?

To the Temple courts they came ...



It will soon be 2 February, forty days since we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. On that day, which we call Candlemas, we recall when Jesus was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father, and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified; in their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord.

In the February "Thought for the Month" on our websites we'll be focusing on the story of Simeon who, as he enters the Temple, meets Mary and Joseph and Jesus, and knows that this is the Messiah. Simeon was greeting the future and saying, "I recognise you. Now, go and change the world." Which is what he did, and continues to do through his Church and us, his disciples.

Preparing for Easter

Ecumenical Study Group

“Who do you think you are?” is a popular programme in which personalities trace their genealogy discovering secrets and surprises from the past. The group is currently looking at four of the women in Jesus’ ancestors, discovering who they were and what their secrets were. Why not join us on a **Monday** evening **7.30pm** at the Parish Church on **Monday 29 January** and **5 February**.

The Lenten study group will follow on, starting on either **12 or 19 February** at **7.30pm** and running during Lent, also at the Parish Church. Details of the subject and book to be studied are not yet to hand, so watch the weekly Sunday notices for further details. All will be most welcome to come along. Each session will finish with refreshments, usually about 9.30pm. Speak to Alan Taylor for further information.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is on **14 February** and there will be a Sung Eucharist, including the imposition of ashes at **7.00pm**, led by the Rev Dr Michael Paterson. Everyone will be most welcome, whether or not they are Episcopalians as we prepare to mark the beginning of Lent.

Holy Week services

Holy Week is early this year, running from **Sunday 25 March** when we will celebrate joint communion, and distribution of Palms at **11.00am**, to **Saturday 31 March**. Details of all the services, including those at other churches in Rosyth, are not yet fully available, so the information on the Diary pages is subject to change. Further details will appear on the weekly notice sheet and website diary.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at **Wednesday Fellowship** at **2.15pm** and on **Maundy Thursday** we will commemorate the Last Supper at **7.00pm**. On **Good Friday** from **12noon** until 1.00pm there will be a service of meditation and readings followed by refreshments and hot cross buns. All these services will be conducted by the Rev Dr Michael Paterson and an invitation is open to everyone to join all or any of these services as we remember this most holy week in the life of our Lord.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

For updates on what is planned, don’t forget that we have *two* websites, one for each part of our LEP, but a shared diary page that is mirrored in both. Why not bookmark one or both websites?

www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk

www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

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

Invitations and requests

3 C's Coffee, Cake and Craft or company and chat

We meet on the **1st Tuesday** of the month in the stained glass window room.

Coffee, tea and cake are always available. Please bring a craft with you. We do have 2-3 workshops where all items are provided. We meet **7.30pm-9.30pm** and always finish with a thought for the day.

Many thanks for all help given especially to Sue and Gwyneth.

Come along and try us, but don't worry if you can't manage all the classes.

Jean Hall

Help fill up our bookshelves

We are encouraged by the turnover, but we are running quite low again on paperbacks for sale from our bookshelves in the Crush Hall. People are very good at donating books and we were delighted that £190.80 was collected for the year 2016/17 and split between both churches. So please look out your read books and ask your family, friends and neighbours to do so too and bring them along to the church. Your help is appreciated to keep this worthwhile service going. Our aim is to reach £200 this year, so please help to make this happen!

Sandra Young

Physics and Faith lecture

Prof John Sawkins has passed on details of this year's Heriot-Watt University Chaplaincy Annual Public Lecture. It takes place on **Monday 5 February at 7.00pm** at Heriot Watt's Riccarton campus and will be given by Professor Tom McLeish of the University of Durham. The title of the lecture is "Physics and Faith: Are God and Science engaged in a Phoney War?"

As well as being a noted research physicist, Professor McLeish has also written and spoken widely on the relation between science and faith. The lecture will be aimed at a general audience, and will be held in the newly-refurbished James Watt Centre I. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 6.00pm onwards. Full details and a link to registration may be found at <http://tinyurl.com/yafofs7j>.

Pastoral Worker wanted

As many of you will know, Aggie Weston's is a forward-looking Naval Christian Charity that provides pastoral support to naval personnel and their families. They are looking to recruit a pastoral worker to work with the personnel and families attached to HMS Prince of Wales. Sandra has been asked by the Operations Director if anyone from our congregations or someone you know would be interested to apply.

The vacancy for lay staff to join Rosyth Naval Base, is one part-time post, 18 hours a week, pay £8,650. This exciting post calls for a Christian vocation, with the ability to work effectively in a disciplined military environment.

For full recruitment pack visit www.aggies.org.uk or email office@aggies.org.uk.

Closing date: 9 February 2018

Interview date: 21 February 2018



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Fellowship news

Farewell to Alison

On Sunday 21 January we said farewell to **Rev Alison Cozens**, Rector of St Margaret's since April 2015. Val Leslie, our Lay Representative, presented Alison with a beautiful quaich, suitable inscribed and with the SEC logo inside, and a card signed by all the congregation. On behalf of our Methodist friends, Howard Kirby and David Salthouse were also present. Howard gave Alison a card from them and a 'spoken' gift which unfortunately hadn't arrived – a music copy of 'Singing the Faith' to remind her of her time in Rosyth.

Our prayers and thoughts go with Alison and Peter as they prepare to move to Birmingham where Alison will be licensed at St George's Church, Newtown, on Sunday 18 February.

The **Rev Dr Michael Paterson**, who has helped Alison by taking services at St Margaret's for the past year, has willingly offered to take our services throughout February and March. We are extremely grateful to Michael for the continuity he will bring, until such times as we know what future plans are in store for St Margaret's. Michael will also officiate at the joint communion services in February and April.

New Superintendent Minister

We are delighted to announce that the Rev Eddie Sykes will be the new Superintendent Minister of the Forth Valley Circuit from September next Year. Eddie will have pastoral charge of Kirkcaldy, Rosyth and Granton (from November 2018). He and his wife Susan will live in the manse at Crossgates, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them into the Circuit next year. If you have any questions about the appointment, please speak to one of the Circuit Stewards.

Change at Rainbows

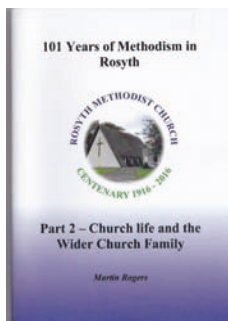
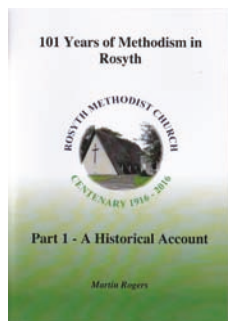
Best wishes for the future to **Susan Warren**, former Rainbow Leader and a big thank you for all your hard work in the past. We welcome as the new Leader, **Skye Fraser**, who has been an assistant to Susan for some time.

Christmas Collection

Thanks for the generosity at the Christmas Carol Service at which a collection was taken for the two charities of "CHAS" and "Action for Children". Inclusive of Gift Aid, a donation of £307.75 has been made to CHAS and £157.75 to AfC.

Gordon Pryde

Have you got your copies yet?



The church history booklets so ably and painstakingly written by Martin Rogers make a really interesting read, and many of you will recognise both your younger selves and friends no longer with us, especially in Part 2: "Church life and the Wider Church family", which was published in December.

Copies are available from Martin price £4 (part 1) and £5 (part 2).

William A Tulloch

9 December 1929 – 3 January 2018

It is with great sadness we learned of the death on 3 January of a dear friend, Bill Tulloch.

He's probably better known locally as one of the founder members of Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society, in 1970. He was a long-serving membership of the male chorus, but hated wearing tights and was not over-keen on the dancing! He was very involved with the Management Committee, and was Chairman for several years. In this role, amongst many other responsibilities, he always welcomed new members, and I can recall he was the first person to come up and welcome me, and that began a lasting friendship that lasted for over 35 years. In those long-ago days the Society used to rehearse in St Margaret's Church in the Naval Base. To celebrate 25 years of the Society, Bill directed a charitable performance of "Trial by Jury" in the Sheriff Courthouse in Dunfermline. Also during the 25th Anniversary year, a dinner-dance was held in the Keavil House Hotel, Crossford, during which he was presented with an award for all his years of loyal and devoted service.



In later years he became known to members of Rosyth Methodist Church. One of the first successful events of the recently-formed Catering Committee was a Burns' Night celebration supper, when Bill, with his customary Scottish charm, toasted the haggis.

Bill and I shared a love of poetry, and we entertained many local societies and groups with our recitations

– under the name of "Poetry Please"! Every year he came to the Wednesday Fellowship to share poems which pleased him, or to tell stories of things which fascinated him, be it "A terrible murder" or "An unsolved murder", or "Yet another murder"!

In 2007, Bill was invited to take part in a Songs of Praise to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Charles Wesley – poet, preacher, priest, pioneer evangelist and prolific hymn-writer. Instead of choosing a Wesley hymn, he chose "Let us build a house where love can dwell" which has the lovely chorus "All are welcome, all are welcome in this place". It wasn't in our Hymns and Psalms hymnbook, so it was relatively unknown (unless you belonged to the Church of Scotland!).

Bill made a point of saying that he loved coming to our church at Rosyth, where he was always made to feel very welcome.

And that is how I shall remember him!

Mary Kidd



"Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place."

Wednesday Fellowship

It seems a long time since we enjoyed our Christmas Tea Party at the end of our Autumn season. It's now that time of a new year when we look forward to longer daylight, and the appearance of the first snowdrops in flower. Hopefully the arrival of Spring is not too far away!

Members of the Wednesday Fellowship look forward to the start of our new session on **7 February**, weather permitting, when we welcome back Hilary Henderson.

The new syllabus is on page 22; there will be posters on display in the Crush Hall and around the church. As you'll see, we have quite a varied programme to look forward to, with some very interesting subjects and guest speakers.

We would love to see new members, and cordially invite you to join us. Maybe you would like to come occasionally if something appeals to you. We meet in the church lounge at 2.15pm, and usually begin with a time to meet and greet each other, before a short time of devotion.

Most afternoons we have a guest speaker: we do appreciate these people who give of their time to come and share with us their interest. Each week we finish with refreshments and another opportunity to chat to our friends. Hope to see you there!

I'd like to wish all members, and Contact readers, a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Mary Kidd (President)

World Day of Prayer 2018



The global and interdenominational movement of the World Day of Prayer invites everyone to attend one of the many services being held throughout Scotland on **Friday, 2 March** with the title "All God's Creation is Very Good!" Our local service will be held at **2.00pm** in the Church of St Peter-in-Chains, in Inverkeithing. [The local preparatory meeting is on Friday 2 February at 2.00pm at St Peter-in-Chains, Inverkeithing, for anyone wishing to take part in the service, or to contribute in any way]

On 2 March we will join an estimated 3 million people around the world in a service that has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America. On that one special day the world is circled in prayer for 36 hours. Starting in Tuvalu as the sun rises and ending as the sun sets in Alaska, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1,000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this beautiful world that we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future. So, it's not just a one-day wonder, but a learning, sharing and caring experience that lasts the whole year.

This is a day of prayer not only for women, but for everyone who cares about our World and those who live in it. For details of other services in our area, and for further information and resources, please visit the WDP Scottish website www.wdpscotland.org.uk.

Mary Kidd

Diary for January/February 2018

Sunday 28 January

Homeless Sunday	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
	11.00am	Joint Covenant Service	Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
Monday 29 Jan	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Week 3 of "Who do you think you are?" (see page 12)	
Friday 2 Feb	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 4 February

Candlemas	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Hilary Warwick
	Note: No Sunday@Six		
Monday 5 Feb	7.00pm	Heriot-Watt Chaplaincy Annual Public Lecture Professor Tom McLeish – “Physics and Faith: Are God and Science engaged in a Phoney War?” (see page 13)	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church final week of “Who do you think you are?” (see page 12)	
Tuesday 6 Feb	10.00am	EDWJ 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 7 Feb	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Opening meeting with Mrs Hilary Henderson	
Friday 9 Feb	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Saturday 10 Feb	1.45pm	RSCM ‘Come and Sing’ at Dunfermline Abbey (see page 33)	

Sunday 11 February

Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	All-age Worship – Action for Children	
	7.00pm	Compline at St Finnian’s Church, Lochgelly, led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley and followed by refreshments and fellowship in the hall. All welcome to attend.	

Diary for February 2018

Monday 12 Feb	7.00pm	Local preachers and worship leaders meeting Wallacestone Methodist Church
	tba 7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
St Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

7.00pm Sung Eucharist and Beginning of Lent
Rev Dr Michael Paterson

Friday 16 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
	7.00pm	Lochgelly Centre Art Room, Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together Ecumenical Praise and Worship (see page 25)	

Sunday 18 February

Lent 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Helen Jenkins

Monday 19 Feb 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting

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

Tuesday 20 Feb	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
	7.30pm	St Andrews West Area Council meeting at St Peter's Kirkcaldy. Guest speaker Rev Nerys Brown. All interested are welcome to attend (see page 25)

Wednesday 21 Feb 2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker Mr Edward Idle: "Communication"

Friday 23 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

[illegible]

Diary for February/March 2018

Sunday 25 February

Lent 2 9.00am Messy Church and Breakfast
 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Dr Michael Paterson
 Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Monday 26 Feb 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
 Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Wednesday 28 Feb 2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Puppets for Jesus

Friday 2 Mar 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service at St Peter-in-Chains,
 Inverkeithing (see page 16)
 7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 3 Mar 7.30pm Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert
 The Vine Centre Dunfermline (see page 32)
 7.30pm Scottish Chamber Choir Spring Concert
 Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh (see page 32)

Sunday 4 March

Lent 3 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Dr Michael Paterson
 Dr Linda Dunbar (preacher)
 11.00am Anniversary Service Rev Christopher Shreeve
 Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (Worship Leader)
 6.00pm Sunday@Six: to be confirmed

Monday 5 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
 Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Tuesday 6 Mar 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 7 Mar 2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker – Bob Liddle

Friday 9 Mar 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 10 Mar tbc Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Diary for March 2018

Sunday 11 March

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)

9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Dr Michael Paterson

11.00am Cafe Church Mrs Louise Gilchrist

7.00pm Taize service for Lent at St Fillian's Church, Lochgelly led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley and followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome to attend

Monday 12 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Wednesday 14 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker Gerry Grieve:
"Making and flying model aircraft"

Friday 16 Mar 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

7.00pm Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society "Variations ... on a theme"
Queen Anne High School, Dunfermline. Tickets from
Adrian Masson (see page 32)

Sunday 18 March

Lent 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Dr Michael Paterson

11.00am Morning Worship Mr Edward Idle

3.00pm Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society "Variations ... on a theme"
Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. Tickets from Adrian Masson
(see page 32)

Monday 19 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Tuesday 20 Mar 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
7.00pm St Margaret Vestry meets in the small lounge

Wednesday 21 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker for the Forget-me-not Trust
on behalf of Bloodwise

Friday 23 Mar 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Provisional Diary for Holy Week

Sunday 25 March

Palm Sunday	9.00am	Messy Church and Breakfast	
	11.00am	Joint Communion Service with distribution of palms	Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
Monday 26 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)	
Wednesday 28 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Holy Week Communion	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
		All welcome from both churches	
Good Friday	12.00noon	Service of readings and prayers	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
		followed by refreshments and hot cross buns All invited from local churches	
		Note: There will be no Triangle Coffee Shop today	
Holy Saturday	7.00pm	Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together Tenebrae Service. Church tba	
	8.00pm	Sung Eucharist and Lighting of Paschal Candle St Fillian's Church, Lochgelly led by Rev Dr Margaret Dineley. All welcome to attend	

Sunday 1 April

Easter Day	9.30am	Sung Eucharist and blessing of the Paschal Candle	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Communion Service	Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
Tuesday 3 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 4 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: George Beattie – Trams in Dunfermline	
Friday 6 Apr	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Wednesday Fellowship Spring Programme 2018

February

- 7 Opening Devotional Hilary Henderson
- 14 Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet
- 21 Communication Guest speaker Edward Idle
- 28 Puppets for Jesus

March

- 7 Guest speaker Bob Liddle
- 14 Making and flying model aircraft Guest speaker Gerry Grieve
- 21 Speaker for the Forget-me-not Trust on behalf of Bloodwise
- 28 Holy Week Communion Rev Dr Michael Paterson

April

- 4 Trams in Dunfermline Guest speaker George Beattie
- 11 Hospital Radio Guest speaker Barclay Macintosh
- 18 Guest speaker Martin Rogers
- 25 Speaker Dennis Cook

May

- 2 To be advised
- 9 Haiti Update Guest speaker Lou Davidson
- 16 AGM and close of session
- 23 Afternoon Tea Party

Meetings resume on **5 September 2018**

Area Council meetings 2018

Tuesday 20 February at 7.30pm in St Peter's, Kirkcaldy.

Guest speaker Rev Nerys Brown, talking about her role as Diocesan Enabler of Mission.

Thursday 24 May at 7.30pm in St Paul's, Kinross.

Speaker from Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI); Nan Kennedy, St Andrews Diocesan Ambassador for SEI; Annie Hughes, 2nd year St Andrews Diocesan Ordinand, whom we know from her time with us in early 2017.

Sunday 16 September 6.00pm at St Finnian's, Lochgelly.

Annual Area Council Service

Wednesday 20 November at St Margaret's Rosyth.

The speaker will be the new Bishop (provisional).

Nativity at Rosyth

Our 2017 Nativity took place at the 11.00am service on Christmas Eve. The Nativity story was told by the animals – camel, donkey and sheep. After a hard day at the zoo – it was petting day, so busy – the animals settled down to share something from their past lives. Imagine their surprise when they each had a part of the same story to tell!

Camel told of the special journey she had made many years before with three wise men following a star and finding a special baby, born in a stable in Bethlehem.



Donkey spoke of her pride at being chosen to help a young, pregnant woman called Mary make the difficult journey to Bethlehem, to register in the census with her husband Joseph.



Sheep told of a time when, as a little lamb, angels appeared in the hills to a group of shepherds and their flock. He was very proud to have been chosen as a gift for the baby whose birth the angels announced.

These three animals were ably assisted in their story telling by Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels and wise 'men' – actually wise women in our performance!



A special mention for Heidi who worked so hard to learn her lines but was struck down by a tummy bug on the day of the performance.

Thanks to everyone, too numerous to mention (and I'm bound to miss out someone, so no names – you know who you are!) who helped with costumes, script, rehearsals and performance.

Jan Benvie

Working together

The Triangle Coffee Shop

This continues to be a great success. The place can be extremely busy on a Friday morning with three rooms full. There we can enjoy friendship, fellowship and delicious home baking by teams of volunteers from both churches and beyond, all whose dedication and hard work is wonderful. Christian witness, care and hospitality are at the heart of the Triangle and we also appreciate the special involvement Deacon Elizabeth provides each Friday by her presence and time spent circulating in the different rooms and engaging with the people present.

As well as serving a need in the community, a fair amount of money is generated. For the Methodist church year ending August 2017 income was £5,081.27 and after expenditure amounted to £4,560.73. Half of this, £2,280.37 was donated to charities as decided by the volunteers:

Disaster Emergency Committee (South Sudan Appeal)	£1,000
Stillborn and Neonatal Death (SANDS)	£400
Cheshire Homes	£400
West Fife Community Support Services	£200
Kept for any future emergency appeals	£280.37

The balance was split evenly between St Margaret's and RMC with £1,140.18 to both churches.

Thank you to all involved for helping with this worthwhile enterprise.

If you don't attend on a Friday do give it a try – you will be surprised how pleasant a morning you can pass!

Ship Visiting

In March I have decided to take a break from the ship visiting that I have undertaken upon behalf of the Mission to Seafarers. During the last five years I have visited 167 ships at Rosyth and Grangemouth with crew sizes varying from six to several hundred. The free woolly hats, gloves and scarves that we give out are always very well received, especially on the cruise ships where the sailors often send them home as gifts for their families rather than keeping them for themselves. Consequently I would like to say a BIG thank you to those members of both congregations who have kindly kept me supplied with woolly hats and of course for the other ways in which you have supported the Mission.

During the last five years we have gradually built up a small team of volunteers to support the work in the Forth area. The Seafarers Centre in Grangemouth docks has been re-opened and although unmanned now provides free wi-fi, tea/coffee, television and facilities for snooker, table tennis and darts. The number of cruise ships visiting Rosyth continues to increase so anyone interested in joining the team of volunteers would be warmly welcomed.

Last week when visiting a Dutch container ship in Grangemouth I was browsing their company magazine and noted that they recently lost an officer overboard from one of their ships– a sad reflection of the ever present hazards of life at sea. I also read that the company had recently sent a ship from China to Eastern Canada through the North-West Passage. Surely an illustration of the impact of global warming and something that would never have been possible until the last decade or so!

Adrian Masson

News from the Diocese

Election of a new Bishop

On 20 December 2017 the following appeared on both the Diocesan (www.standrews.anglican.org) and SEC (www.scotland.anglican.org) websites.

“In the process to elect a new bishop, the Preparatory Committee of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane has been unable to achieve a shortlist of candidates by the due date. (Under the canonical process the Preparatory Committee is charged with preparing a shortlist of no fewer than three, nor more than five, candidates for presentation to the Electoral Synod.) In light of this, the Electoral Synod will meet to hear an explanation of the position from its Preparatory Committee and will be invited to consider a second round of the election process which, following a new mandate from the Primus, would then allow a period of 120 days from the date of the new mandate for elections to take place”.

The Diocesan Electoral Synod, is due to meet on Saturday 27 January (date of publication of Contact) and Val Leslie, our representative on it, will be able to update us on the outcome of that meeting.

Ed: By way of information, the Diocesan Electoral Synod, is formed of the Rectors and Lay Representatives of all the Charges in the Diocese, who have the right to vote for the appointment of the next Bishop.

The Gathering 2018

Advance notice has been given that this year's Gathering will be held on **Saturday 26 May** at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. Details will be available shortly, but please put the date in your dairies now.

St Andrews West Area Council

The first meeting of the year will be held on **Tuesday 20 February** at **7.30pm** in St Peter's Kirkcaldy. Our guest speaker will be Rev Nerys Brown, Diocesan Enabler of Mission, who will talk about her current role and facilitate a discussion on resources. Nerys was responsible for organising the very successful 2017 Gathering and is well-known to some of St Margaret's folk. This should be an interesting meeting, which is open to all – as are all Area Council meetings (you'll find the 2018 programme on page 22).

St Finnian's Lochgelly

On **Friday 16 February**, at **7.00pm** in Lochgelly Centre Art Room, Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together are combining to hold an **ecumenical Praise and Worship Service** in a neutral venue, reaching out to the unchurched and others looking for an alternative way of worship. The theme is “We are all God's Children”. There will be modern Christian music, prayers and thoughts on the theme. If you are looking for something different, why not come along!. All are welcome.

Taize service: Our friend, and former lay representative, the Rev Dr Margaret Dineley invites us to come to St Finnian's evening Taizé service, which takes place on the 2nd Sunday of alternate months, the next one being on **Sunday 11 March** at **7.00pm**. It is a beautiful, peaceful meditative service in a candlelit atmosphere. There is always a warm welcome and plenty of time afterwards for fellowship. if you are looking for some extra spiritual nourishment during Lent, do consider this invitation. Margaret and Edith Mathewson are regular attenders at our Sunday@Six, so it would be good if we could support their church.

Unity through Action

Alan McGougan leads our Morning Worship



The “pulpit exchange” that used to be a common practice during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has rather fallen by the wayside in recent years, so it was with particular pleasure that on 21 January our Methodist congregation welcomed Rev Alan McGougan in a pulpit exchange with Dunfermline United Reformed Church. Alan lives in Dunfermline, but also has pastoral responsibility for four other churches, in Coaltown of Balgonie, Dundee, Dunning and Newburgh.

In 2018, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity worship resources were prepared by churches in the Caribbean. Themes for different days included welcoming strangers, and the need for churches together to work for economic justice. In introducing some of these themes Alan illustrated with the use of slides how in El Salvador what would be to us small improvements in basic living conditions, such as fresh water supply and toilets, made a huge difference to people’s health.

In his sermon, Alan challenged us all to be welcoming to strangers and to take steps to recognise and counter local injustices. His notes have been used to produce the following challenge.



I wonder: have you experienced being a stranger? It often happens to me – this morning is one example, coming to a Church where I know no-one.

Of course, I’m treated differently as I am the preacher for the day, and at the start of the service everyone is nice and welcoming – it hasn’t always been that way at the end!

Have you visited another church (perhaps whilst on holiday)? How were you welcomed? How did you feel?

I remember two occasions when I visited different Churches as a worshipper. In El Salvador, I found myself in a Spanish-speaking Catholic Church, and didn’t have a clue what was going on, but a child sitting next to me patiently explained what to do. On the second occasion. I was on holiday in the UK and attended a URC Church. There was a “Good morning” at the door, but the welcomer turned away to continue their conversation, and no-one else spoke. At the end, as I was leaving, the preacher (a retired minister) asked me if I was going, saying “There’s a bun fight in the hall now”.

It doesn’t take much working out which church was the more welcoming to the stranger!

And those strangers may be people we know, or people we have never met before. Think about the story of the Good Samaritan, who put aside cultural differences to help someone in need.

But welcoming the stranger is challenging. Perhaps we hold back, not knowing what to do, or the task seems overwhelming. Or perhaps the people we encounter just don’t meet what we consider the norm and well ... we want nothing to do with them.

Actually, we have it easy! Crime statistics make El Salvador the “murder capital of the world”. Indeed on 13 January 2017 the headline on the BBC was: “A remarkable event in El Salvador: a day without murder”.

	Scotland	El Salvador
Land Size	30,414 sq mls	8,124 sq mls
Population	5.3 million	6.2 million
Murder Rate per Annum	90	3,650

Much of the violence relates to gangs. It's estimated that at least 60,000 young people belong to gangs, of which there are two main gangs, Mara Salvatrucha and their rivals Calle 18.

Both the Government and the Churches work with communities and gangs. It is said that there are only three ways to leave a gang:

- If you die, or are murdered
- If you move in with someone and have a child
- If there's evidence that you have joined a Church

Imagine someone coming in here who everyone knows is guilty of something and has never been caught, yet you are expected to welcome them with open arms!

This really is "welcoming the stranger" – the person who is different.

Why do the youngsters join gangs? Simply because many young people come home to empty houses, with nothing to do and no hope of a job. Their choice is to stay and join a gang or flee to America with all the risks that involves.

Church is seen as providing family – a place where people care for each other and will welcome the stranger in their midst – no matter their denomination.

And that overcoming fear of the other is what we are asked to think about when we consider injustices in the world.

But what of the Churches in the UK?

In the UK, ecumenism – Churches coming together – seems to have faltered. The great hope (which certainly the URC had) of all Churches uniting has faded, and often we stick dogmatically to our theology, our history and the feeling that "well, they are just not like us".

Yet, each year we pray for unity.

I think that the information provided by the Churches in the Caribbean gives us a new impetus to start again – but not just by bringing Churches together on a Sunday, although that would be nice.

Perhaps a better place to try to start again would be with what we do in the community together – not just the Food Bank (though it is very important that this is supported), but with other activities. Wouldn't it be nice if, when organising any activity, our first question was "How can our neighbouring Churches join in?"

So, I repeat the words from the introduction to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity information:

"Praying for the unity of the Church involves a recognition not only of the brokenness of Christian relationships, but also of how injustice in the world at large rends asunder Christian communities and impedes our participation in God's mission."

May God guide us to work more closely together in all we do. Amen.



Pictured at the well is Rev Simon Walking, Moderator of URC National Synod of Wales

Loving the unloved

A story shared by Donnie Caldwell on 19 November 2017

Each September, Miss Thompson greeted her new students with the words: “Boys and girls, I love you all the same. I have no favourites.” Of course, she wasn’t being completely truthful. Teachers do have favourites and, what is worse, they sometimes have students they just don’t like.

Teddy Stallard was a boy Miss Thompson just didn’t like, and for good reason. He was a sullen boy who sat slouched in his seat with his head down. When she spoke to him he always answered in monosyllables of “yes” and “no.” His clothes were musty and his hair unkempt. He was an unattractive boy in just about every way. Whenever she marked Teddy’s papers she got a certain perverse delight out of putting Xs next to the wrong answers. And when she put the “F” at the top of his papers, she always did it with a flair. She should have known better. Teachers have records, and she had records on Teddy:

First grade: Teddy shows promise with his work and attitude, but poor home situation.

Second grade: Teddy is a good boy, but he is too serious for a second grader. His mother is terminally ill.

Third grade: Teddy is becoming withdrawn and detached. His mother died this year. His father shows no interest.

Fourth grade: Teddy is a troubled child. He needs help.

Christmas came. The children brought presents to Miss Thompson and piled them on her desk. They crowded around to watch her open them. All the presents were wrapped in brightly coloured paper, except for Teddy’s present. His was wrapped in brown paper and held together with Scotch tape. But, to tell the truth, she was surprised

that he even brought a present.

When she tore open the paper, out fell a rhinestone bracelet with most of the stones missing and an almost-empty bottle of cheap perfume. The other children giggled at the shabby gifts, but Miss Thompson had enough sense to snap on the bracelet and take some perfume out of the almost-empty bottle and put it on her wrist. Holding her wrist up to the other children she said, “Isn’t it lovely?” The other children, taking their cue from the teacher, all agreed.

At the end of the day when all the other children had left, Teddy came over to her desk and said softly: “Miss Thompson ... All day today you smelled just like my mother used to smell. That’s her bracelet you’re wearing. It looks very nice on you ... I’m really glad you like my presents.” After he left, she got down on her knees and buried her head in her hands and cried and cried and cried, and she asked God to forgive her.

The next day when the children came to class, they had a new teacher. It was still Miss Thompson, but she was a new teacher. She loved-in ways that the old teacher didn’t. She reached out in ways that the old teacher didn’t. She reached out to all the children, but especially to Teddy. She nurtured them and encouraged them and tutored them when they needed extra help. By the end of that school year Teddy had caught up with a lot of children. He was even ahead of some.

Teddy moved away and Miss Thompson didn’t hear from him for a long time. Then, one day, seemingly out of nowhere, came a note:

Dear Miss Thompson, I’m graduating from high school. I wanted you to be the first to know. Love, Teddy Stallard.



Fairtrade Fortnight



I am delighted to report that we are now a Fairtrade Church, which means that we always serve fairly-traded tea, coffee and some fairly-traded biscuits at church-organised events such as Triangle Café, after church refreshments and other meetings. [This does not apply to organisations that use the church premises] No doubt you have seen the colourful posters stating that we are now a Fairtrade Church.

We are also committed to having fairly-traded goods on sale on a regular basis. This is normally on the 4th Sunday after joint services. I would like to thank all the loyal customers who use Traidcraft tea, coffee, cleaning products and of course chocolate, on a regular basis. There is a little time before Lent, so do stock up on our delicious chocolate! I can take orders for Easter eggs soon.

Thank you to all those who bought Christmas cards. Over £80 worth were sold this time – a record, I think! There are usually a few birthday cards to choose from too, and they are excellent value. Help yourself to a catalogue, as I can order things for you and it will save you the postage.

I headed this article Fairtrade Fortnight, and I am now getting to the subject! As a Fairtrade church we are committed to raising awareness of fair trade, particularly at this time of year, when Fairtrade Fortnight takes place. In 2018 it runs from 26 February to 11 March. Fairtrade Fortnight is a time when we make a special effort to buy fairly-traded goods from the supermarkets, as well as from Traidcraft, which is only one ethically-based organisation. This year I am asking you to look out for something that you may not have tried before. Sometimes you have to look quite carefully for the logo. For example, Tate and Lyle sugar, some flowers and some wines are fairly traded.



I even buy cotton wool pads from the Co-op which bear the Fairtrade logo. See what you can find. I'll put a list on the board where you can add a product that you have found and we'll see what we can recommend to each other.

Sue, Martin and I will look forward to serving you at the Traidcraft stall and also to seeing what new products you have been able to source during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Myra Tarr



There was no address. But, four years later there was another short note, and it read:

Dear Miss Thompson, I wanted you to be the first to know. I'm second in my class. The university has not been easy, but I really liked it. Love, Teddy Stallard.

And four years later there was still another note:

Dear Miss Thompson, As of today I am Theodore J. Stallard, MD! How about that! I wanted you to be the first to know.

I'm going to be married, the 27th of July to be exact. I want you to come and I want you to sit where my mother would have sat. You're the only family I have now. Dad died last year. Love, Teddy Stallard

And she went. And she sat where Teddy's mother would have sat ... because she deserved to be there. She was a teacher who had done something great for the Kingdom of God, and she deserved her reward, because she loved the unloved. God touched her, and she became a new person. We have to love the unloved.

Our trip to New Zealand

Val Leslie explains how she saw in the New Year 12 hours before we did!



Happy New Year to all my friends in both congregations. As most of you know Allan and I flew out to New Zealand on Boxing Day to visit our son Paul, his wife Emma and our gorgeous granddaughters; Jessica and Charlotte. We flew Qatar Airways, taking 24 hours to get to Auckland; flying through three time zones and witnessing three sunsets! Very weird!

New Zealand's North Island is a place of immense beauty, with startling countryside and some wonderful beaches. Paul and Emma were keen to show us some of them, and on New Year's Eve we found ourselves travelling North to Waipu to witness the Highland Games. The journey took us through some rough country and twisty roads, but the result was worth it. No matter where you go in this world you will invariably find one or more second- or third-generation Scots blowing the bagpipes, dancing the Highland Fling or tossing something very heavy, and the Scots of Waipu are experts at all three. We had a fantastic time watching dancers, mass pipers of Waipu playing "Scotland the Brave" and singing along to "Flower of Scotland". Big butch Highlanders fought off Vikings and tossed the caber and the hammer for all they were worth.

We left just before the heavens opened, which made for an interesting ride home! That evening at midnight the sirens heralded in the New Year in Auckland Harbour along with fireworks a plenty. On the 1st of January we headed South to Tauranga and Papa Moa to some of the most breathtaking beaches and bays. The Bay of Plenty is simply a super beach.

We stayed in a B&B for two nights. Unfortunately, the weather was not at its summery best and we were only afforded one evening of lovely weather before the



Val and family at the Bay of Plenty with Mount Manganui in the background

storm came and lashing rain stopped us climbing Mount Manganui. However, we did brave the weather to go to a Hot Spring at the foot of Manganui. A most bizarre feeling to be sitting in a pool as warm as a hot bath whilst the rain poured down!

On the trip back to Auckland we drove through Hobbit country, but since it was raining heavily we did not go to see Bilbo Baggins house. We did however stop in Hamilton, where the most breathtaking Botanical Garden awaited us. Sadly it was not the weather for walking amongst the flora and fauna, but, the park does boast a terrific café so we had a pit stop there.

New Zealand is known for its café culture and the cafés did not disappoint. The food was outstanding and of course New Zealand's vineyards also produce some simply exquisite wines. Brick Bay is one of my favourite vineyards, not only because of the wine, but also their lovely sculpture trail. This has to be seen to be believed and is a treat for all the senses. Bells ring, Thomas Tallis is played on a loop as you

walk around the 'Garden of Heavenly Delights' and some of the exhibits are very tactile. It is fun to walk amongst the silver ferns and listen tinkling streams. Majestic kauri trees that have taken many centuries to grow remind you that in New Zealand Mother Nature takes time to grow her garden.

The people of New Zealand are keen to preserve their wildlife and take a great deal of time and effort to do so. Mistakes of the past such as the over-forestation of native woods such as the kauri has been halted. Protecting the wild birds is also a priority. In Auckland Zoo we saw kiwi and kakapo which was thrilling. I woke every morning to the sound of the tui bird which was a joy.

Allan enjoyed the transport museum (MOTAT) and the naval museum in Davenport was really interesting. Davenport is a gorgeous sea port stuffed full of history and old colonial-type wooden houses. You can also take a ferry from Davenport Harbour over to Auckland which takes 20 minutes or to Wahekie Island which takes around 40 minutes.

Davenport is definitely my favourite little town, but there are so many little gems dotted around North Shore.

New Zealand has burrowed deep into my soul and I can't wait to go back again. The people I met were lovely, so engaging and chatty and one sometimes got the feeling you were in a different time zone as most of the small towns had a very 1950s feel about them. Time moves slowly and progress seems to touch these little towns lightly. I loved the fact that most of the shops were family-owned and the farmers' markets selling local produce were in almost every small town in the North Bay area. No Starbucks or Costa here!

I could go on and on about this great holiday but as space does not permit I will end my holiday adventure here. I have photos but they are all in Allan's camera still. The other piece of news is Paul, Emma and the girls will be visiting back home in July and I hope to bring them to church so you can meet Paul, Emma and my beautiful girls and see how big Jessica has grown since her baptism.

Fairtrade makes a difference



Albeiro Alfonso 'Foncho' Cantillo, banana farmer,
Coobafrio co-operative, Colombia
(Photographer: Eduardo Martino)

"We experienced very difficult times when we weren't in Fairtrade. We didn't have the resources to provide an education for my children and the banana business barely provided enough for basic meals... Being in Fairtrade makes me very happy, knowing that there are opportunities to achieve some of the goals I had planned."

More information at
www.fairtrade.org.uk/

Making Music

Come and Sing ABBA in support of Waverley Care is on **Saturday 24 February** in St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, The conductor is Ben Parry, with soloist Imogen Parry.



Waverley Care
making a positive difference

Following the success of our Come and Sing The Sound of Music (2016), Waverley Care are delighted to welcome Ben Parry back to Edinburgh to conduct a fabulous concert of the very best of ABBA. Whether you're a budding Björn, an aspiring Agnetha, or just enjoy a good sing-along, then this event is for you! You'll rehearse with a live band before boogying your way through an early evening concert.

2.45pm: Rehearsal for those of you who would like to sing in parts. Please indicate your voice part when you book.

4.45pm: Rehearsal for those of you that don't read music, but want to come and sing the tune. Please indicate 'Tune' when you book.

6.30–7.30pm: Concert

To register as a singer or to buy audience tickets download a registration form at www.waverleycare.org/abba. All music provided.

For their Spring Concert, **Dunfermline Choral Union**, with soprano and baritone soloists, will perform Paul Carr's *Requiem for an Angel* and give the UK première of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* on **Saturday 3 March at 7.30pm** in the Vine Centre, Dunfermline. Tickets are £12 (standard), £10 (senior citizens/students) or £5 (U-18 incl. school students). Talk to Joan Bell, Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd or Myra Tarr.

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society have chosen "Variations ... on a Theme" as this season's theme and their very demanding programme for their Spring Concert is: *Rondeau from Abdelazer*, Purcell (arr. Gourlay); *Diversions on a theme by Dr Arne*, Thorpe Davie; *Concerto for trumpet*, Fraser; *Pineapple Poll*, Sullivan (arr. Mackerras); *Now fades the glimmering landscape*, Gourlay; and *Overture and dances from the Bartered Bride*, Smetana. The soloists for the trumpet concerto will be John Wallace CBE (for whom the concerto was originally composed) and Kate Cooper. The concert will be performed twice: on **16 March at 7.00pm** in Queen Anne High School, Dunfermline, and on **18 March at 3.00pm** in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. Tickets are £8 (or £4 for children) and can be obtained from Adrian Masson, and at the door at the concert. The concerts at the Old Kirk are usually well subscribed and advanced booking is recommended.

The Scottish Chamber Choir, directed by Iain McLarty, are joined by Feargus Egan (cello) and Ian Munro and Tommy Boyle (percussion) for an unusual concert at Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh, at **7.30pm on Saturday 3 March 2018**.

The main work is Gabriel Jackson's *To the Field of Stars*. Inspired by writings on the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, this extraordinary work for choir, solo cello and percussion transforms the emotional and physical struggle of a life-changing journey into a vibrantly communicative musical odyssey. This piece is complemented by the *Cello Suite No 2 in D minor* by J S Bach and choral music by Arvo Pärt, each exploring spirituality and simplicity in their own timeless way, and will be presented together in a new and unique combination.

Tickets are £12 via <http://tinyurl.com/y97bl83s> or at the door.

Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society take to the Carnegie Hall stage once more from **22–24 February**, with three evening performances at **7.30pm** and a Saturday matinée at **2.30pm**. This year's show is the evergreen favourite, *The Mikado*, which has been given a makeover by Rae Lamond, responsible for the 2017 production of Ruddigore that was such an eye-opener. It showed that G&S can still be topical – and why G&S is seriously addictive!



Rae's interpretation of this classic opera is packed full of movement and fun, as well as good music, and we wouldn't want you to miss it. So now is the time to make sure of your tickets – a bargain at £15 (£14 concessions). Ask any of the members of the cast – Joan Bell, Ann Duly, Gwyneth Kirby or Martin Tarr.

Concerts at St Finnians, Lochgelly.

Margaret tells us that they are planning to have three concerts again this year, but to space them out better than in 2017, with concerts in March/April, June/July and September/October. The concerts at Lochgelly are varied and entertaining and some of our congregation are regular attenders. Margaret hopes that Crosswater Band – who have been part of our Café Church Sunday@Six in the past, and whom we hope to have with us again this year – will feature at one of the concerts. She will keep us informed throughout the year.



You don't have to be a member of the choir to enjoy the **Royal School of Church Music** "Come and Sing", directed by Matthew Beetschen, Master of the Music at Dunfermline Abbey, which will be held at Dunfermline Abbey on **Saturday 10 February**. The rehearsal starts at **1.45pm**, and the afternoon finishes with a short service at **4.00pm** to which all are welcome. More details from Myra Tarr.

The afternoon will provide the first opportunity to purchase the RSCM Triennial Festival book and get a taste of the music that might be included in the RSCM Scotland Triennial Festival which will be held at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee on the afternoon of **Saturday 2 June**. More details later, but save the date!

Singing@Six

Our Sunday@Six events often involve music, and we are grateful to all those who offer their talents as singers and musicians to enrich our worship and understanding, and to add to our enjoyment.

The most recent Sunday@Six took the form of Carols by Candlelight, when our choir was joined by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, who sang "Born in the night" most beautifully. The congregational hymns included many of the best-loved pieces, and the readings followed the usual Nativity narrative – *except* that each Bible reading was followed by one giving a "Christmas Character" perspective on the story. Thought-provoking!

For those who enjoy making music, plans are in hand for a "Easter Praise" sometime in April. Details will be in our next issue ...

Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1 Card player needed!

How many cards will I have to pick from a normal pack of 52 cards to guarantee 4 of a kind?

2 Number-crazy cat

$$CAT = (C + A + T) \times C \times A \times T$$

Substitute numbers for letters to make this equation work!

3 Filling the pool

A new swimming pool has 4 taps to fill it:

Tap 1 will fill the pool in 12 hours

Tap 2 will fill the pool in 5 hours

Tap 3 will fill the pool in 10 hours

Tap 4 will fill the pool in 6 hours

How long would it take to fill the pool with all taps on at once?

4 The manager's dilemma

A bank manager has a problem, both of his new clerks insist on sitting behind the other. How can he solve this dilemma?

5 What's on the menu?

Five men go into a new hotel where the language and custom are strange to them. The hotel always has the same nine dishes on the menu listed as A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I. The waiter cannot tell them which dish is which.

If they order one dish each over three nights, can they work out the menu? If so, how?

Answers to Dec/Jan puzzles

1 Frankenstein's blood

Fill A from C

Pour A into B

Fill A from C again

Fill B from A and pour rest of A away

Fill A from B

This leaves 2l in B and 2l in C

Pour B into C gives 4l

2 Does this add up?

$$SEVEN + SEVEN + SIX = TWENTY$$

$$68782 + 68782 + 650 = 138214$$

3 Picky Problem

$$1111 + 11 = 111$$

$$11111 - 11 = 111$$

(change the plus to a minus;
add the 1 to 1111 to make 11111)

4 Round the World

You will only need 6.28m extra of rope.
If you increase the radius by 1m then you increase the circumference by $2\pi r$:

$$2 \times 3.14 = 6.28$$

5 Coconut dilemma

The number of coconuts they all collected was 1021. This gives

Man 1 335 coconuts

Man 2 271 coconuts

Man 3 223 coconuts

Man 4 187 coconuts

Monkey 5 coconuts

Total 1021 coconuts

Let Dave know if you need
extra clarification!

Contact points and meeting times

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

Church activities

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

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

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

St Margaret's Gift Aid enquiries to
Gordon Pryde 01383 249106
gordonpryde@talktalk.net

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

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

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

Wednesday Fellowship (Wed 1415–1600)
Mary Kidd 01383 872332
cmarykidd@btinternet.com

Coffee, Cake & Crafts (1st Tue 1930–2100)
Jean Hall 01383 882221
j.h.patall@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)
Skye Fraser 07565 531886
skyefraser96@gmail.com

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

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

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

What Cheer?

"Perhaps you are like many others who are feeling an excited optimism after the raised glasses of last night and the hugs at the stroke of midnight. This morning we are poised at the beginning of a new adventure, so let's celebrate with William Walton's What cheer? ..."



What cheer? Good cheer!

Be merry and glad this good New Year!

"Lift up your hearts and be glad in Christ's birth", the angels bade,
say each to other, if any be sad: "What cheer?"

Now the King of heav'n his birth hath take, joy and mirth we ought to make;
say each to other, for his sake: "What cheer?"

I tell you all with heart so free:

right welcome, welcome ye be to me; be glad and merry, for charity!

What cheer? Good cheer!

Be merry and glad this good New Year!

This is how Frances Finn started the first Radio 4 Daily Service for 2018. Her thoughts continued: "On this New Year's Day, isn't it heartening to know that we have a God who is very much the God of new beginnings. With Him, our mistakes are forgotten as quickly as Christmas is over. It's almost as if He edits them out of our Review of the Year, and we truly can begin afresh."

And we share her prayer:

"Lord, thank you for this new year. Thank you for the anticipation that comes with looking at the very first page of our calendar. A new start. A fresh beginning. We know that you are already writing on the pages of the days ahead, and we say "Your will be done".

"Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Thank you that you hold each day in the palm of your hands. Lord help us to trust you with our tomorrows and to truly live for today.

"We are sorry when we have dwelled in the past, and perhaps held onto hurts or grudges. As this new year begins, help us to let go of our grievances. Show us where the past is holding us in its grip, so we may move forward with a clean heart."

This was our website "Thought for the Month" for January.

Contact on-line

You'll find this edition, and many previous issues of Contact, on the archive pages of both the church websites, where you'll get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost!

To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. The next issue will be published on 25 March. Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Monday 19 March**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.