

Rosyth
Methodist Church



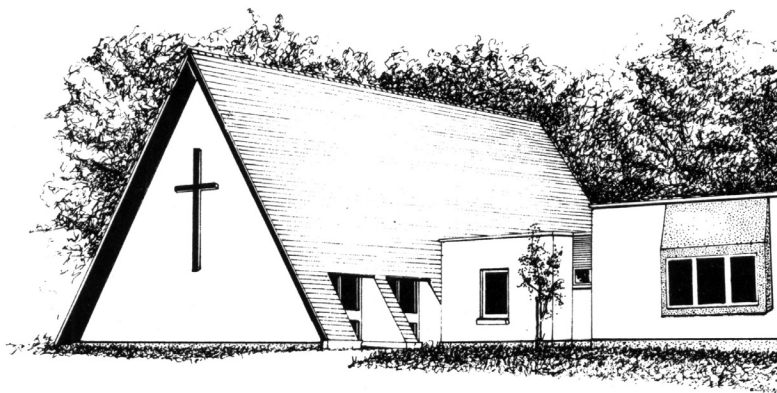
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 98

August/September 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

Co-ordinating Steward:

David Salthouse

01383 889212

Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby

01383 624779

Church Council Secretary:

Sandra Wilson

01383 415885

Treasurer:

Dave Ward

01383 414944

Rector:

vacant

Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young

01383 415021

Treasurer:

Gordon Pryde

01383 249106

Pastoral Co-ordinator:

Myra Tarr

01383 723989

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

10.30am "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 recharging the batteries



In his email responding to the call for contributions for this issue, Howard Kirby made the point that the recharging of batteries is not necessarily obvious. And his message continued:

“The need for it to happen might not be obvious either. Consider the batteries in a car. The biggest drain on them might be on starting the engine. Yet the engine can be started many times a month without any sign of the battery becoming weaker. Why? It is because once the car gets going it is powered by fuel, and some of the energy in that fuel is quietly converted into electrical energy to recharge the battery.

“Humans are not like cars in needing something (other than a cup of tea!) to start the engine. But, like cars, they need energy to keep on going. There are all kinds of sources for that energy. So are we being continually recharged?”

Lots of things to think about there, especially the bit about the need for a continuing recharge. It's amazing how a few carbs or a sip of tea can lift the spirits when things are getting on top of us, and we find we've forgotten to eat and drink! Equally amazing how a timely word of thanks or encouragement can make a seemingly impossible task ten times lighter. So, thank you to all who provide both practical support and a word in season.

We need opportunities to recharge physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and many of the articles in this issue reflect ways in which our readers achieve this. [Although Val's breathless article on pages 19/20 seems to be from someone who's like the Duracell Bunny, keeping going when others have fallen by the wayside!]

To continue Howard's car analogy, not only do we need recharging, but occasionally some folk need maintenance! Dave Ward has had a major operation, and we wish him a full and speedy recovery. I've also had a recent (unplanned) stay in hospital, so this issue has been compiled in haste and is thinner than usual. My apologies to any whose contributions I've overlooked or have had to defer to our next issue.

Howard also pointed out that the biggest drain on batteries is on starting, and once more our Autumn programme is about to start. So, make sure your batteries are fully charged before September by taking advantage of all the sorts of refreshment that God freely offers!

Included in this issue ...

Reflections from clergy colleagues
pp4-5, pp26-29

Recharging the batteries
pp20-25

Plus our regular items:

Diary to early October
pp15-18

Fellowship News
pp6-9, p19

Invitations and requests
pp10-11

Keeping the show on the road
pp12-13

Making Music
p30

The wider world
p11, p14, pp24-25, p30

Apologies that our regular Puzzle Corner is missing from this issue. We hope that Dave Ward will soon be able to let us have some new puzzles, and the answers to those he posed in our June/July issue.

A guide to our symbols



working the wider building recharging
together world community batteries

Reflections on Rosyth

Helen Jenkins thinks back on her time with us ...

It feels like no time at all since I was being grilled, sorry interviewed, by Martin for a Contact article when I first arrived as part of the ministry team in Rosyth, and yet here I am, thinking about the end of my time as minister here. I'll still be in the circuit, so you won't be rid of me entirely – I'm sure they'll let me back from time to time to preach.

The past four years have certainly provided plenty to reflect on! I've worked closely with Deacons Sarah and Elizabeth, and have seen Rev Alison come and go. Most recently I've had the fun of working with Rev Michael, who brings a whole different perspective to ministry. Of course, more important than the clergy are all of you, members of both congregations, who it has been a joy and a privilege to work with. You have shared your church, your ministries and your lives with me, and I am very grateful.

There has been plenty to keep us all busy: I've had a baby; you've started Triangle and seen it go from strength to strength; we've explored worship together and seen conversations that began in frustration bear fruit as we've tried different things together. Of course alongside all of that has been the day to day life of churches worshipping and caring together.

I've said it many times, but won't hesitate to say it again: the partnership between St Margaret's and RMC is a very precious one. I love it that when I preside at the joint communions and we share the peace, there is no way to divide the two congregations (even if that means it takes forever!) The things which unite you are clearly far greater than the differences, but the elements each tradition brings add much value to your life together – your partnership is not about everyone being the same, but about taking that which everyone can offer and using it for all.

As we look at the church landscape across our country it can be depressing. Attendance is declining, members are getting older, churches are closing. I wish I had a magic wand to wave, or formula to implement, that would guarantee to protect you from those things. Sadly the wands in our house (of which there are quite a few!) don't seem to work in my hands. What I do know, is that we serve a God whose mission is not over, and have a gospel that is eternally relevant. How we engage in that mission and share that gospel to best engage with the community around us is a challenge we will come to time and again, whatever our context.

At a time of change, with new ministers and senior church leaders, you have the opportunity to explore once again those questions for your context. New people will bring new ideas, but it will be down to you to work out what works for this time and this place. In the end, God calls us to be faithful in our love for each other and our sowing seeds of good news. The growth that may come is in God's hands; all we can do is play the part we are called to.

So as I move on to a new phase of ministry, I pray that you will continue to discern where God is calling you, as individuals, as congregations, and as a partnership together. You have taught me much – about ways of working together, of worship, of engaging with the community – and I will miss you all. Thank you for the time I have spent with you, and I hope you'll keep in touch. God Bless you all, and the work that you do.

With love

Helen

Ordination Reflection

Elizabeth Harfleet writes ...

Those who have heard my testimony will know that my first awareness of a call to ministry was on Saturday 10 July 2010. I was loading the tumble-dryer when I heard God's invitation to ordained ministry. And whilst I initially dismissed this as my over-active imagination at work, it certainly shows that God calls people in the mundane, everyday experiences of life as well as on a mountain-top. On that evening, on my knees, sorting out wet washing, I could never have envisaged that almost eight years later, that same call would have me on my knees in a different way, in beautiful Southwell Minster. My journey to ordination has been a longer and at times, more challenging road, than I perhaps expected at the outset. Whatever my thoughts and feelings on this, I am reminded of Psalm 139:16 "In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed". This was God's plan for me and this would be my ordination time and not before. The ordination retreat definitely helped set the tone and pace for this 'ordination season' and having time to reflect alone as well as sharing in led sessions was a special gift indeed.

To be welcomed into Full Connexion within the Methodist Church on the morning of Sunday 1 July 2018, alongside presbyteral sisters and brothers, many of whom I had not seen for a long time, was a special privilege. I was committing myself to a lifetime of service in the Methodist Church and to accept its discipline. In turn, the Methodist Church was promising to support and uphold me in my ministry within the Church. After the service I felt both joy and relief as well as eager anticipation for the ordination service itself later that day.

Temperatures were soaring by mid-afternoon but thankfully, Southwell Minster provided some cool relief from the heat within its ancient and beautiful walls. As the ordination service began, it dawned on me that this was actually *it!* This was what I had worked, waited, longed, hoped, prayed and dreamed of for years. What a blessing it was to be ordained with my diaconal sisters, whilst surrounded by the smiling faces of family, friends and many other diaconal sisters and brothers! Whilst the ordination service was full of special moments, receiving the laying on of hands with prayer, my silver Methodist Diaconal Order cross and chain and my new Bible, knowing that I was now a full member of the Methodist Diaconal Order, was truly wonderful and brought tears to my eyes, as did the congregation's enthusiastic cry of 'They are worthy!' To conclude the service with the magnificent sound of the Minster organ playing Widor's Toccata, was just the icing on the cake.

Receiving so many beautiful cards and gifts has been overwhelming and I am deeply grateful to everyone for their kindness. I am thrilled to have been ordained but this is not an ending point but the beginning of a new phase in my ministry. I look forward to all that lies ahead in serving God through the Methodist Diaconal Order and I thank God for his goodness, expressed in the love, prayers and support of the many people who have helped me to this point.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"But what about you?

Who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:15 (NIV)



New arrival in Blackheath!



Martin and Myra are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their granddaughter

Matilda Luna Joy Tarr

born on 4 July, and weighing in at 8lb 4oz.

We were able to pay a flying visit to Stephen, Steph and Matilda in Blackheath soon after Matilda's arrival, and can report that all is well. You'll see from the photos that we're chuffed to bits!



Steph doesn't appear in the photos, although she was the "main player", because she didn't at that stage feel "photo-fit"!

Wednesday Fellowship restarts

I write this when it's nearly the end of July, which means there's only a month to go before we meet again on Wednesday afternoons. Today must be the hottest day of the year, so maybe it's hard to focus on our Autumn term of Wednesday Fellowship!

We enjoyed our end-of-term tea party at Dobbies, which was a different venture for most of us, and little did we know that we were to have the best summer on record for many a long year. At our last meeting at the end of May we held our 9th Annual General Meeting. This gave us the chance to look back over the events of the year, and to give thanks for the way in which the Fellowship plays an important part in our lives. We see this group as part of the commitment to Outreach in our community, and are encouraged by the support we get.

The Committee recently met to plan our Autumn session – there are lots of interesting things to look forward to. As soon as the programme is completed we'll get a copy of the syllabus to our members, and details will appear in the website diary and on the notice boards in the Crush Hall. Do come and join us. There's sure to be something to interests you!

We look forward to Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet coming to open the season, and to tell us about her recent Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination as a Deacon earlier this month. This is followed by a visit from Karen Dorratt of EATS Rosyth (Edible and Tasty Spaces) a fairly new venture in our Rosyth community. Talking about EATS reminds me that after each session we get a cup of tea/coffee with a biscuit or two, and – if we're lucky – cake!

May God be with you 'til we meet again – on **5 September**.

Mary Kidd



Appointment of a new Rector

For those readers who haven't already heard, we are delighted to announce that at a meeting on 19 June, chaired by our interim bishop, the Right Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, members of both vestries interviewed and appointed the **Very Rev Kenneth Rathband** as the new rector of Holy Trinity, Dunfermline and St Margaret's, Rosyth.

Kenny was brought up in Edinburgh and as a boy sang in the choir of Christ Church, Morningside. He attended the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Theological College from 1982–1986, being ordained deacon in 1986 and priest the following year. He has spent the last 28 years as Rector of St Catharine's, Blairgowrie, St Anne's, Coupar Angus and St Ninian's, Alyth. He also has pastoral care of St Michael's, Ballintuim.

In 2007 Kenny was additionally appointed as Dean of the Diocese by Bishop David Chillingworth, and it is through this role that Kenny is already well-known to many members of St Margaret's.

Kenny will be installed as Rector of Holy Trinity and St Margaret's at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline on **Saturday 3 November** by our new Bishop, Ian. Further details of this including the time will be announced later. We hope to hold a welcome service in our church for Kenny and Rev Eddie Sykes in mid-November.

We look forward to welcoming Kenny to minister to us. In the meantime, we hold Kenny and his wife Ruth in our prayers as they prepare for a new future in this area.

Ed: We're hoping that Kenny will introduce himself in the next edition of Contact.

Bishop-elect

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) announced on 2 June that the **Rev Canon Ian Paton** had been elected by the Electoral Synod, comprising representatives of clergy and lay members from the Diocese, as the new Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

Ian has been Rector of Old St Paul's Church, Edinburgh since 1997, and is also honorary Anglican Chaplain to Edinburgh University, Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh and Associate Tutor at the Scottish Episcopal Institute. He was previously a rector in East Lothian, Vice-Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, a university chaplain in Oxford, a bishop's chaplain, and a curate in Reading. He is a former convener of the SEC's provincial Liturgy Committee, involved in writing new services for the SEC, and continues to teach worship to students training for ministry. He is a supporter of the ordination of women, the rights of LGBTQI people, and the inclusion of people of all ages in the Church.

Canon Ian Paton is married and he and his wife have, between them, four grown-up children. They enjoy art and poetry, hospitality around the dinner table and have a love of the sea.

On hearing the news of his election, Canon Ian Paton said "I am very happy and deeply honoured to have been elected by the people of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane to serve them as their Bishop. I ask for your prayers for the whole Diocese, and for me, as we set out together on this new journey for all of us".

Food and good company!



The Scout Group

We usually have an annual Group barbecue at the Silver Sands in September. This is largely a social occasion but also raises some funds for the Group. This year we decided to try something different and arranged a Tea Afternoon at Fordell Firs in June. This was held in conjunction with a cub camp taking place over the weekend. We booked the bouncy castle and slippery slide for those who felt energetic, but most of the adults were happy to enjoy the sunshine and the eats. All in all it was a pleasant and successful occasion.

I mentioned in my last article for Contact that our Scout Group was celebrating its 75th Anniversary and we were designing a badge to mark the occasion. Here it is.



We are wearing this on our uniforms during the year. As a special event for our anniversary year we have arranged a long weekend at the PGL Centre at Dalguise in October. About 35 cubs, scouts, explorer scouts and leaders will be attending. We went to Dalguise four years ago and had a very enjoyable time so we hope this will be the case again.

Martin Rogers
Assistant Group Scout Leader

Annual Barbeque

We returned to Silver Sands for our annual church barbecue on Sunday 24 June, and this year the sun shone!

Our party added around twenty to the many hundreds on the beach, but the others didn't have the benefit of David Salthouse's excellent cooking, honed by years of Scouting practice. Thank you, David!



This year we had visitors from New Zealand, Val and Allan Leslie's son Paul, his wife Emma, and their children (see page 19), and for once we didn't need to apologise for the bleakness of the Scottish climate!



Celebrating a century

Margaret Dineley reports

I was privileged to be invited by Jim Oliver to attend the celebration of his 100th birthday on Thursday 19 July. I have been visiting Jim now, taking communion to him once a month, for over two years, at the request of himself and the Care Home in which he was living at the time, Valley House in Cowdenbeath. As we reported in our last issue, this Care Home and its counterpart in Lochgelly, recently closed their doors and transferred all the residents to a brand-new Care Home, Lindsay House, in the newly-built Lumphinnans Retirement Village.

What a party it was! Lindsay House did him proud! So did the weather! The party was due to start at 2.00pm and I arrived shortly afterwards to be ushered onto a large patio area, just outside his unit, where a wonderful singer treated Jim, his family (daughter and three grandchildren) and other residents to a highly-entertaining medley of old favourites, encouraging everyone to join in. Jim certainly did!

Members of the care staff were present and one of them got the residents up to have a wee dance. Jim was not excluded: she whirled him round in his wheelchair!

After we sang Happy Birthday to him, food was announced. the drink having already been flowing, and we were all invited to



Jim Oliver with his daughter Caroline

help ourselves from an amazing buffet of savouries, sandwiches and cakes.

Jim was then visited by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Fife and another member of Council, a bouquet of flowers was presented by them and an official photographer took a number of shots of this special occasion. It certainly was special and very memorable.

Many of the St Margaret's congregation will remember Jim and Jean, who lived in North Queensferry, and were regular members of our congregation until age and infirmity intervened.

Since their removal to a care home, several of our congregation have been visiting from time to time and enjoy their chats with Jim, who takes a keen interest in events.

Jean is still alive, but very frail, and sleeps the vast majority of the time. Sadly she no longer recognises her family.

Jean was propped up in a chair to see the birthday party from the sitting room but didn't waken.

Invitations and requests – 1



An invitation to our 2018 Church Anniversary

Readers will well remember us having to postpone the Church Anniversary on 4 March, because the so-called 'Beast from the East' meant many of us could not get out or leave our communities to be able to get to church on that Sunday morning. It was a huge disappointment to Rev Chris Shreeve and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet who were coming from the deep South of the Circuit to lead us in this celebration of 102 years of a Methodist presence in the Garden City of Rosyth.

If you've read the recent works of Martin Rogers, during the Centenary Year about Methodism in Rosyth, you will know a lot about its history – many of you will have been a part of it and know that there is much to celebrate. We, the Church Council and Leadership Team, were keen not to have to cancel Church Anniversary all together, but to postpone it.

It so happens that **Sunday 5 August** is the next available Sunday that Chris and Elizabeth are both free to come and lead us in this celebration.

I appeal to both our congregations here and to any of our readers who once belonged to our church, plus members of the organisations who meet in our premises week by week, to come. We would love to see you, and you will be assured of a very warm welcome, and coffee or tea and cake afterwards, one of the features of Methodism from the Year Dot! There will also be an exhibition of archived items that will give you a better understanding of our Methodist roots in Rosyth. And in seven months time, on 3 March 2019, we will gather again to celebrate another year! Hope to see you there!

Mary Kidd

Pick a favourite for Morning Worship!

Suggestions of favourite hymns, Bible readings or prayers, are invited for inclusion in morning worship on Sunday 12 August. Please let Mary Kidd (Tel 01383 872332 or email cmarykidd@btinternet.com) have suggested items, with a few words about why each chosen item is special to you, no later than **Thursday 9 August**.

Edible and Tasty Spaces

On **Wednesday 12 September**, Karen Dorrat, of EATS Rosyth is coming to Wednesday Fellowship to talk about this challenging project in our community.

Karen has asked that in the meantime everyone is more than welcome to pop in through the week and see what they have to share out (everything is just for a small donation, so no set prices). There are also two community meals, **every Thursday and Friday 5.00pm–7.00pm**, where anyone can join, to sit in or take away.

Come and Sing workshop

Bob Chilcott, Patron of Waverley Care, will lead another of his immensely popular singing days on **Saturday 22 September** at St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. Bob has chosen an exciting and inspirational programme of his music and the workshop will be joined for part of the day by the Inverclyde Schools' Junior Choir, giving the opportunity to explore some of Bob's double-choir repertoire. The rehearsal is from 10.00am–4.00pm, with a concert from 4.30–5.30pm which will include Bob's captivating choral suite, "Five Days that Changed the World".

You can register now or buy audience tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7xmw55>.



Invitations and requests – 2



Events in the Circuit

There have been plenty of comings and goings in the Circuit recently with further special services in August.

Welcome to **Rev Eddie Sykes** and **Rev Mary Paterson**. There will be a service at Livingston United Parish Church on **Wednesday 22 August at 7.30pm** for these two ministers, who join the Forth Valley Circuit ministry team from September. Eddie, who has accepted the Circuit's invitation to be Superintendent Minister, will also have pastoral charge of Rosyth, Kirkcaldy and Granton, and we look forward to him ministering to us here. Mary will have pastoral charge of Armadale, Wallacestone, Stirling and support of Grahamston. All are invited to attend.

Farewell to **Rev Laurent Vernet**, who will be leaving us to join the Strathclyde Circuit on 1 September. On **Sunday 26 August at 4.00pm** there will be a special open-air service at Cockenzie Old Harbour to say 'bon voyage' to Laurent (please pray for good weather). Before the service folk are invited to Tranent with Cockenzie Methodist Church **from 3.00pm** for strawberries and cake! If you expect to come along for the refreshments, please let Louise know on or before **9 August**, so that the catering team have an idea of numbers.

At the farewell service, the Circuit will also be presenting Laurent with a token of our thanks. Laurent has been a favourite with us in Rosyth and we wish him every blessing for the future.

Ed: For those who may wish to attend, Laurent Vernet's welcome service to Strathclyde Circuit will be on **Sunday 2 September at 6.30pm** at East Kilbride Methodist Church, Cedar Drive, East Kilbride G75 9HZ.

What's happening in Lochgelly

Saturday 1 September at 2.00pm

Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together are organising a family friendly walk along a local section of the Fife Pilgrim Way. The first section, starting at the car park at the Keltie entrance to the Lochore Meadows Country park, will take us through the Country Park on paths wheelchair and buggy friendly. We will have a gazebo erected near the Centre building, where activities, both indoors and outdoors, plus refreshments will be available. Those able to walk further on a slightly rougher path will be encouraged to walk the extra mile to Harelaw Cairn for a view eastwards along the Pilgrim Way, returning to the gazebo to share a final sing song together. To book please contact Margaret on 01592 358933 or 07931 483906 or by email at margaret.dineley@gmail.com Otherwise just turn up on the day. All welcome.

Sunday 16 September at 4.30pm

St Finnian's are hosting the annual Area Council Service, preceded this year by a shared afternoon tea in our hall. Each congregation is to be approached via their Lay Rep to contribute to this tea, which will be followed at 6.00pm by the service. (see page 23)

Friday 21 September at 7.00pm

Concert by *Ensemble*, returning again this year with a new programme of songs from the shows. Do come along and enjoy the highly professional and thoroughly enjoyable performance by this group of singers and their keyboard accompanist. Tickets, £5 to include refreshments, can be obtained from Margaret on 01592 358933 or 07931 483906 or by email at margaret.dineley@gmail.com. Failing that, tickets will be available on the door.

Keeping the show on the road – 1



Rosyth Foodbank

The Foodbank in Rosyth at the Parish Church continues to open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 4.00pm to 6.00pm, to offer support to those in need in Rosyth and surrounding areas.

Foodbanks in Dunfermline and West Fife operate under the auspices of the Trussel Trust set up in Salisbury in the mid-1980, which now operates UK-wide. A depot in Dunfermline supplies and delivers to the area Foodbanks largely from regular supermarket collections and generous individuals who donate money to purchase stock needed or give food and household necessities directly.

All the thoughtful kind donations from both congregations here go straight to Rosyth Foodbank on Friday afternoon or, if I've cut it too fine, on Monday! The donations are weighed and a wee thankyou note is pinned to one of the boards in the entrance hall.

The figures for the numbers served by individual Foodbanks are not available to me, but usually the overall figure for the Dunfermline area appears in the Press in late September. Suffice to say that with benefit

changes and with more people on zero-hours contracts there has been an increase in the numbers using Rosyth Foodbank.

On the days when the volunteers have few clients there is still work to do checking the stock is not out-of-date, packing deliveries, and checking donations into the store with the goods stacked in date rotation, just like our home store cupboards.

Obviously food has to be in tins or packets because of storage and transport, and we also carry household cleaning products, personal toiletries and pet food. We have had the odd request for rabbit and parrot food, but there is only limited space, so dogs and cats are the winners.

We are all volunteers, and more are welcome! The only requirements are willingness and undertaking a short training course with an emphasis on client confidentiality. It is a privilege to give a couple of hours a week for others having a tough spell. So, if you have any spare time, why not drop in on a session to speak to the team leader and request an application form?

Erica Lock

Methodist AGM appointments

At the Annual General Church Meeting on 27 May the following office bearers were appointed:

Church Stewards: Mary Kidd, Mandy Ward, David Salthouse, Howard Kirby and Jean Hall.

Other members elected to Church Council: Gwyneth Kirby (Secretary to Pastoral Committee), Sandra Wilson (Secretary to Church Council), Connie Syme and Dave Ward (Treasurer).

Stuart Fowell is Church Safeguarding Officer – a new appointment made previously at the last Church Council meeting.

Martin Rogers was thanked at the AGM by Rev Helen Jenkins for his many years of service in that role.



Keeping the show on the road – 2



Christian Aid

Our final figure for the various events in Rosyth during Christian Aid Week is a little over £1,000. This includes a donation of £100 from Wednesday Fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who attended the various events and gave so generously. There are fewer people able to undertake

door-to-door collections, and more people decline to give a donation this way, so most of the money raised comes from church events like lunches, our Sunday@Six and the school choir concert.

Jan Benvie

World Day of Prayer 2019

Just an update on what's happening for the World Day of Prayer. It takes some organising, believe me!

The worldwide growth of the movement calls for international involvement in planning and responsibility for World Day of Prayer. An International Committee in New York is made up of representatives from the seven Regional Committees. Every five years an International Conference is held when representatives of National and Regional Committees gather together in a different area of the world. Last year it was held in Foz, Brazil.

The next International Conference will be held in 2022. The Scottish Committee are putting in a bid to host it. It would be wonderful to have 200 women from all over the world meeting here in Scotland. Please remember us all in your prayers. As I write this, our proposal is being considered.

The Scottish Committee has 21 ladies, each representing a religious denomination, and we meet about six times a year to prepare the material for the next service and we go away on retreat at Schoenstatt once a year. We're very fortunate to have a hard working and friendly committee.

The WDP service on Friday 1 March 2019 is being written by women of Slovenia, one of the smallest countries in Europe.

At the core of the theme, an invitation – "Come, everything is ready". Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love.

It's good for us to learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them. In this way it is possible to experience the richness of the Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

In recent years there has been a joint meeting of delegates from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, to discuss and share ideas as well as enthusiasm for the following year's service. I am happy to be attending this year's gathering, on Saturday 15 September in the Friends' Meeting House in London, as the Methodist Representative.

I'm particularly looking forward to meeting, for the first time, Dr Elizabeth Burroughs, the Methodist Representative who is now also the Chairperson of the E W and N I Committee. We've been Facebook friends for years, so we'll have lots to talk about.

Please visit our website for news and information relevant to the Day of Prayer in Scotland – www.wdpscotland.org.uk.

Mary Kidd



Thursdays in Black – towards a world without rape and violence



A campaign supported by Jan Benvie

Gender-based violence is a universal and global issue that harms men, women and children in their homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies. We often feel helpless and hopeless in the face of so much pain and injustice. However, we can all be involved in a simple but powerful campaign to address gender violence.

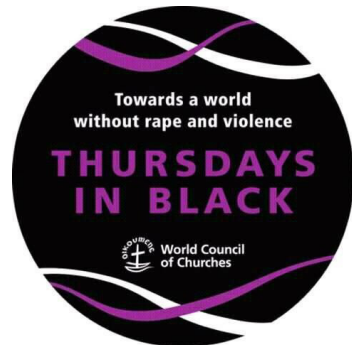
What is the “Thursdays in Black” Campaign? Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and the many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women’s resilience, agency and personal efforts to resist such violations.

The campaign was inspired by a number of groups and movements, including:

- The Mothers of the Disappeared in Buenos Aires, who on Thursdays protested in the Plaza de Mayo against the disappearance of their children during the violent dictatorship.
- The Women in Black in Israel and Palestine, who protest against war and violence.
- Women in Rwanda and Bosnia protesting against the use of rape as a weapon of war during the genocide.

In Scotland, we’ve only started promoting the campaign relatively recently, but for the last two years the SEC’s General Synod has invited those attending to wear black on the Thursday and the Church of Scotland has also done so at its General Assembly.

‘Thursdays in Black’ encourages everyone, men and women, to wear black every Thursday, as a symbol of strength and courage, representing our solidarity with the victims and survivors, and calling for a world without rape and violence. This can any black clothing or simply a campaign badge. Often black has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign Black is used as a colour of resistance and resilience.



‘Thursdays in Black’ focuses on ways that individuals can challenge attitudes that cause rape and violence, on a personal and public level. The campaign is not confined only to countries at war, but recognizes that gender-based violence is a tragic reality in every country, taking many forms. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

I wear black with a small badge. Sometimes people ask about it, sometimes they don’t – when they do it gives me the opportunity to talk about gender based violence.

I hope to collect a small supply of “Thursdays in Black” leaflets and badges from the General Synod Office and they will be available in the Crush Hall.

Diary for July/August 2018

Sunday 29 July

Pentecost 10	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Hilda Warwick
Monday 30 July	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Wednesday 1 Aug	7.00pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at Livingston	
Friday 3 Aug	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 5 August

Pentecost 11	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Church Anniversary Service	Rev Christopher Shreeve
		Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (Worship Leader)	

Note: No Sunday@Six

Monday 6 Aug	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 7 Aug	10.00am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meets in Room 5	
Friday 10 Aug	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 12 August

Pentecost 12	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Tim Tunley
	11.00am	Favourite hymns and readings	Mrs Mary Kidd
Monday 13 Aug	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Friday 17 Aug	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 19 August

Pentecost 13	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Dr Anne Pennington
Monday 20 Aug	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	

Diary for August/September 2018

Tuesday 21 Aug	10.00am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Room 5	
Wednesday 22 Aug	7.30pm	Welcoming service for Rev Eddie Sykes and Rev Mary Patterson at Livingston United Parish Church – All welcome	
Friday 24 Aug	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 26 August

Pentecost 14	10.30am	Messy Church (tbc)	
	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
	3.00pm	Strawberries and cake at Tranent with Cockenzie Methodist Church followed by	
	4.00pm	Open air service at Cockenzie Old Harbour to say 'bon voyage' to Rev Laurent Vernet who is leaving the Circuit (see page 11)	
Friday 31 Aug	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
Saturday 1 Sep	2.00pm	Benarty & Lochgelly Churches Together Family-friendly walk along a section of the Fife Pilgrim Way (see page 11)	

Sunday 2 September

Pentecost 15	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Miss Anne Baird
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six Impressions of GLEN18 in worship Fife Cluster Youth Group (read Andrew Wedge's article, which starts on page 21)	
Monday 3 Sep	7.30pm	Monthly Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 4 Sep	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 5 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Opening Session Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet	
Friday 7 Sep	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	

Diary for August/September 2018

Sunday 9 September

Pentecost 16	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Jim Mein
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes
Tuesday 11 Sep	10.10am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
Wednesday 12 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship:	
		Guest speaker Karen Dorrat from EATS (Edible and Tasty Spaces)	
Friday 14 Sep	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 16 September

Pentecost 17	9.30am	Lay Communion	Mr Alan Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Local arrangements Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (worship leader)
	4.30pm	Shared afternoon tea in the hall at St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly followed by	
	6.00pm	St Andrews West Area Council Annual Praise Service, (see pages 11 and 23)	
Wednesday 19 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship:	
		Guest speaker: Edward Idle – Climate Change	
Friday 21 Sep	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
	7.00pm	Concert by Ensemble with new programme of songs from shows at St Finnian's, Lochgelly (see page 11)	
Saturday 22 Sep	10.00am	Come and Sing with Bob Chilcott at St Cuthbert's Church,	
	to 4.00pm	Lothian Road, Edinburgh followed at	
	4.30pm	by a concert including Chilcott's choral suite	
	to 5.30pm	"Five Days that Changed the World" (see page 10)	

Sunday 23 September

Harvest	10.30am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
Tuesday 25 Sep	10.00am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	

Diary for September/October 2018

Wednesday 26 Sep	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship	
	7.00pm	Methodist Church Council meets in Room 4	
Friday 28 Sep	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
Sunday 30 September			
Michael & All Angels	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Edward Idle
Monday 1 Oct	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 2 Oct	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 3 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Derek Walker – GLEE	
Friday 5 Oct	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sabbatical news

Rev Michael will be taking a teaching sabbatical during August and September. Michael deserves a well-earned break as he has served us diligently and faithfully since February, so please respect Michael's time off and don't contact him about any pastoral matters **from Sunday 29 July**. He has kindly agreed to celebrate our eucharist on 5 and 19 August but will not be on 'official' duty after the services those Sundays.

Michael's interesting sabbatical includes:

- In August, Publication of a small book "Surviving childhood sexual abuse: caring for self and others" by Redemptorist Publications.
- Keynote speaker at the British and Irish Association of Practical Theology annual conference, University of Warwick.

Michael travels to Australia in early September for

- Workshop for Supervisors, Sydney
- Keynote speaker at the Australia and New Zealand clinical pastoral education conference Hobart, Tasmania
- Training in supervision, Hobart, Tasmania
- Workshop for the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania
- Visit to Emmaus ecumenical monastery, Tasmania

We wish Michael a safe and successful time and look forward to welcoming back with us on **Sunday 30 September**, when he will celebrate Michael and All Angels.



What's new?



After all this, Val Leslie really *will* need a holiday!

Don't let anyone tell you that Summer is a quiet period for the church, because it simply isn't true for St Margaret's and our ecumenical partners. True it is a time when a lot of people go on holiday, but at St Margaret's and RMC it can be a very busy time indeed.

As you will all be aware, many new and exciting times lie ahead. With the election of a new Bishop for the diocese and the news that we will soon have a new priest we are all praying that we will be up to the task of welcoming change with open arms.

The congregations of both St Margaret's and RMC have felt very blessed having Michael Paterson as priest during the period of interregnum and are overjoyed that Michael has told us he is going nowhere! I personally want to thank him for all he has done for us, and I know that the vestry and congregations feel the same.

During the month of June my husband and I had our son Paul, daughter-in-law Emma, and granddaughters Jessica and Charlotte visiting us from Auckland, New Zealand. It was a great opportunity to show Jessica the church she was baptised in and Paul and Emma felt very welcomed by both congregations. Jessica and Charlotte particularly loved Messy Church. The highlight for them was the little bottle with barley in it with the coin and the lamb hidden from sight. What a great way to get the parable of the lost coin and the lost sheep across to youngsters. They loved it and Jessica was able to tell her mummy and daddy the story using the little bottle to illustrate her point. Well done Jessica.

After Messy Church on 24 June, the annual church BBQ took place at Silver Sands, and for once it was a scorcher of a day. Well done David Salthouse for cooking all sorts of goodies on the BBQ. Paul, Emma,

Jessica and Charlotte loved the friendship and fellowship that everyone gave them and I felt truly blessed to have them with me on such a fantastic church celebration, and must thank all my friends in both congregations for making the occasion so memorable.



Jessica was also able to come with me to the Sunday@Six Café Church on 1 July, and what a great evening it was. Adrian put together a really fresh and unique way of looking at the "Seasons of Life" and of course the Crosswater Jazz band were sensational!

Everyone who came looked like they were having a great time, but, equally, it was a time to reflect and rejoice in all the good things that God gives us "from cradle to grave". By the time it came to "When the saints go marching in" I could almost believe that I was in New Orleans. You could say there was dancing in the aisle! (Ed: Actually between the tables, as the service took place in the Main Hall)

Long may Sunday@Six continue. I know it is hard work for so many people, especially those doing the organising and baking the cakes, but it is so worthwhile and such a big part of our outreach and mission. The numbers attending Sunday@Six continue to rise, which is very encouraging for those organising the events and gives us all hope that we continue embracing new, fresh ways of worshipping Christ Jesus.





Recharging the creative batteries ... and sometimes exhausting them!

Adrian Masson explains ... and extends an invitation

After a working life of managing, administering, organising and generally fixing things, one of the things to which I have turned to recharge my creative batteries in retirement is painting. I did some in my twenties when I exhibited with the Armed Forces Art Society and produced simple designs for the Naval Christian Fellowship. Now I work mainly in oils and watercolour, producing landscape paintings in a traditional 'realist' style.

This year I am taking part in Central Fife Open Studios which takes place on Saturday and **Sunday 1 and 2 September between 10.30am and 6.00pm**. So, if you are at a loose end on either of these days, I would love to welcome you to my studio in our house at 28 Lumsdaine Drive, Dalgety Bay. There will be an exhibition of paintings and scraperboard engravings, many of which will be for sale, as well as an opportunity to discuss how they are produced. If you are interested, there is more information at www.centralfifeopenstudios.org where



you will find me under the '2018 Artists', together with one or two images of my work that you can click on and enlarge to give you a taster!



On 15 July, Carol Latimer was ordained into the priesthood at St Serf's Burntisland. Sadly, I was not able to go to this, but wish Carol all God's blessings as she begins her ministry in the SEC.

At the time of writing (22 July) It was supposed to be a joint Holy communion service. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, Rev Helen Jenkins was not able to officiate at the service as she and her family were stuck in Italy! We had Morning Prayer instead, rolled up our sleeves and got on with the service. Thank you David Salthouse! and thanks for giving me a small part to play in the service. I think I make a good shop steward (not!).

To everyone who was at the service, well done! Everyone was a bit 'nervvy' before the service started, but after the first hymn we were fine. God was with us and, as Julian of Norwich intoned, "All will be well and all will be well and all manner of things will be well". I have adopted this statement as my own personal mantra and I find it works.

Finally, I want to wish Karen and John all my love and blessings for their wedding on 27 July. I am looking forward to singing in the choir on their happy day. Then the next day I will be putting on my walking shoes and taking part in the Pilgrimage from Craigtoun Park to St Andrews ... I hope I can go the distance!

MoT at Glenalmond

Andrew Wedge looks forward to recharging his faith



If our faith was like a car, how do we keep it on the road? We need to refuel it most weeks and perhaps that's attending church, a time to push us to keep working and spreading the love and word of God. Our daily reading or prayers would be like checking the gauges as we drive, we almost do this subconsciously now, but our training tells us when things are wrong. We also spend a short time looking round to ensure no tyres are flat and ensuring that we are safe. There comes a time however, when we need a bit more.

Every year our car needs an MoT, something to ensure everything is working, to ensure we are safe. It looks deeper into the structure, the moving parts, things we take for granted. How do we in the church MoT ourselves? Many will say that the liturgical year allows for this renewal but I could contend that. For me I need more, I need to recharge my faith. Many of us take a retreat or a pilgrimage as a time for reflection and I would argue this is our MoT. It's a time to look and feel if all is working, to ensure we are comfortable and connected in faith. We look deeper into ourselves, not to our moving joints but in the way we move through our faith.

What however do we take for granted? Attending Glenalmond as a delegate was not only my first MoT, but it put me firmly on the road of faith. From then on it rejuvenated and inspired me to drive my faith and to help take others down the same road. As time has gone on, however, the work I put in as a leader means the MoT isn't quite enough. I need a little more maintenance and a full service plan (pardon the pun) to get me to my next MoT.



Church for me over the past couple of years was not the daily inspection subconsciously done prior to getting into the car, sitting in a comfy seat and hurtling down the motorway at 70mph (and not anything over!). Church had become a winding single track road with pot holes, blind corners and not only oncoming traffic to be careful of, but animals with no road sense. I wanted to be on the road, whilst a tough journey, and I believed in where I was going. It was however exhausting, frustrating and hard work. The beauty and wilderness on either side was incredible, but can you really enjoy it whilst trying to keep you and your passengers alive? Can you enjoy endless glens, mountains, rivers or lochs when trying to keep your car on the road and avoid a collision?





Recently I drove up such roads, I filled the car with all my stuff and that of my girlfriend and grandparents who joined me on this journey. I purposely put my car on the roads with the best views, exploring parts of Scotland I had been through rarely if at all. These roads are the most difficult, twisting and bumpy, but are also poorly maintained. Why did I choose this path? Why didn't I go up the main motorways and cruise to my destination?

I find the roads less travelled give you more time to reflect, less traffic to sit behind and a sense of being away from everything. The views are incredible, and they make it worthwhile, but it's a hard road, exhausting even the most competent driver. Even with an automatic gearbox now taking some of the decision-making away, each blind bend or bump or pot hole needs to be judged, the car needs to be adjusted to suit and we must continue on. It is however completely worth it. Exhausted, I would arrive at our overnight accommodation and reflect on the day, whilst recharging – I knew I loved it, the views over the parts of Scotland I had never seen.



One such day I took a small single track road north from Inverness to a small drovers' inn. The Crask Inn has been there for hundreds of years, a place for travellers to stop, recharge, eat, drink and sleep. It was however gifted to the Scottish Episcopal Church a couple of years ago. Now it serves a deeper purpose. It still has a pub to serve drinks and food to those passing by. It still has brilliant rooms to rest, shower and recharge overnight. Unlike many others, it is also a church.



The couple who run the Inn (whose children attended Glen) left their lives in the city behind to move and run the B&B; they also serve food and drinks all day. There is not a service every day, but morning and evening prayer happens together with guests and staff alike. With no TV or wi-fi, and only the incredible views to enjoy, you have time to think and reflect. Very quickly you feel at home, not as a guest but as a friend. We spoke about church, theology, sport, the economy and even politics. When we prayed together, however, I felt connected with each of them so quickly – them and God.

It recharged me in a way I needed more than I knew. I attended two lovely services that morning, had lunch with a Rector friend, then found that sitting over dinner and a drink, praying with total strangers in an



Area Council



inn in the middle of nowhere, made me feel recharged and connected on a deeper level. It was my service, the deep maintenance I needed.

I will now drive again down the twisting roads to Glen. At the time of print we will be packing up and heading home. Hopefully I will have been the MoT for the delegates in the way I got when I was at the Crask Inn. Hopefully they will continue on the road I have taken, whilst turning off at different places and choosing other routes. Having young adults on the road beside us truly is an amazing thing. Sometimes the easy road is the best, and at other times the slower meandering roads are worth the extra effort. Hopefully, we will all end up in the same beautiful place embraced by God's Love.

Where is that journey now for us? As our churches get to the same junction on the road, what turn will we take? With someone new behind the wheel, where will they be inclined to take us? Will their maintenance on our car be what we need to stay on God's road: no matter if we chose the easy and quick or the long and difficult road, will we end up together in God's Love? I pray that, like the Crask Inn, we will find our refuge to recharge, to look after the vehicle and be sure we are not too tired to drive ourselves. No matter the journey, with moments to look after ourselves and others, we will make it to the destination God intends for us.

The YF will be heading to Rosyth post Glen to talk about their journey and how God is with us 24/7 365 days a year. Do come to **Sunday@Six** on **2 September**.

After all the rushing around that Summer entails for me, it is nice to look forward to Area Council. This September the Area Council Annual Service will be held in St Finnians, Lochgelly, and will be a little different. It was unanimously decided that an afternoon tea and a chance to socialise would be a great idea, and I for one agree.

All are welcome to attend the service and you will be made most welcome, so please try to be there if you can on **16 September**. St Margaret's congregation has a first-class reputation as good attenders at Area Council, and I am sure that all those who do go to the meetings will agree that it is really worthwhile – more often than not we leave feeling regenerated with good ideas and real hope for the future!

Ed: see page 11

Also look out for the following Area Council meeting on **20 November**, which is being held at our church. It is hoped that we will have the opportunity to meet with the new Bishop who will have been installed by then.

I am looking forward to my holiday in October. After such a busy summer, both at work at home and in church (**Ed:** see pages 19/20!) I will certainly be needing the recharge!

Val Leslie



Find out where Sandra spent June on the next page ...



Feasts of music and flowers

Sandra Young tells us about some of her regular trips south



In 2001, I was given early retirement from a life-long career in the MOD to care for my mother, who sadly died before my finishing date. I had friends, Jane and Peter, whom I knew through church connections with my brother Ian, who lived in Chichester. Peter was on the staff at the Cathedral which entitled him to a house in the Close. I had always wanted to live in a Cathedral Close and was delighted when later that year Jane invited me to stay with them in their house overlooking the Cathedral. Thus began my love affair with Chichester! I visit there regularly and, although Peter is now retired and moved out of the Close, Jane and he still live 20 minutes walk from the Cathedral, and the view from their house has the Cathedral in the distance.

The Cathedral is the Mother Church for the Diocese of Chichester, covering East and West Sussex and is a living, working building which has been at the centre of life in Chichester for over 900 years. One of the delights of the building is a wonderful blend of ancient and modern with a unique collection of 20th-century paintings, sculpture and glass as well as some early objects and paintings from the 12th century. It is also a tourist attraction and, throughout the year welcomes visitors from all over the world.

The Cathedral's primary focus is on prayer and worship. The choir of twelve boy choristers and six laymen sing Mattins, Eucharist and Evensong on Sunday and Evensong throughout the week. Though small in numbers, the choir produces a beautiful sound which blends into the building. I find the services moving and spiritually rewarding, and I try to attend as many as I can when I visit Chichester. I always return home completely refreshed, with my batteries recharged.

Every two years at the end of May the Cathedral is transformed into a paradise of rich colour and sweet perfume for its biennial **Festival of Flowers**. Acclaimed as the 'gold standard' of flower festivals, this year 14,000 visitors experienced the Cathedral adored with a floral display of over 50,000 flowers.

The Festival's theme of 'This Earthly Paradise' celebrated plants from around the world, their uses and conservation, famous plant hunters, gardeners and gardens. 315 flower arrangers working as individuals or in groups had just three days to bring their prepared designs to reality with 80 stunning floral arrangements expressing this theme.



Africa and Arabia

The festival started 24 years ago, and this year's event set a new record profit of £181,221. This is a significant boost to the fund-raising efforts towards the urgent repair, restoration and re-covering of the Cathedral's roof project costing £5.8 million, of which £3.3M has so far been raised.



Parsley the Lion and his friends

For the last few festivals I have played a very small part in the proceedings – serving refreshments in the marquee, usually to weary visitors who have spent hours viewing all the flower arrangements or to the numerous stall holders who set up their stalls in the marquee.



A few years ago, when I was visiting, Jane “volunteered” me to serve refreshments (not my normal line of church work!) and I have helped out ever since. It is tiring – four-hour shifts standing all the time – but I find it good fun and very rewarding and it also allows me to give something back to the Cathedral I love. This year during the three days we made £1,823 clear (our best effort yet) towards the total, which at £1.20 for tea/coffee and a biscuit is a lot of people!

I also spent time in Salisbury attending the **Southern Cathedrals Festival**. This three-day festival is about sharing choral music, liturgy and worship, and takes place annually during the third week of July, alternating between Chichester, Winchester and Salisbury – this year’s host Cathedral.

During our recent stay there was a tense atmosphere in the town centre. We were very conscious of police and security people in evidence day and night as they continued their investigation into the novichok poisonings.

I usually walk through the gardens where the first victims were found – but I wasn’t tempted this time!

Shopkeepers are struggling, and wish the media would let them get on with their normal work!



Happily, inside the beautiful setting of Salisbury Cathedral things seemed normal. The programme of three choral concerts, concerts by young people, three late-night ‘Bach by Candlelight’ piano recitals, an organ recital and five services, reflected the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War and also the centenary of the death of Hubert Parry, an important figure in the revival of English church music.

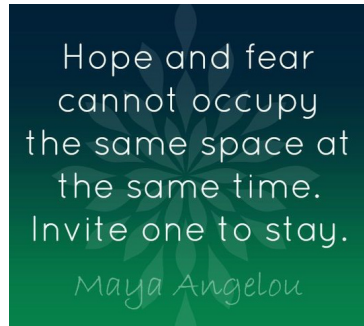
What a feast of evocative and reflective music and a refreshing and contemplative time away from the routine here.

Ed: More about Chichester on their website <https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/> and about the Festival at <https://www.southerncathedralsfestival.org.uk/>

“Choose hope, not fear”

An adapted version of the sermon Michael Paterson preached on 17 June 2019

Ed: The context of Michael’s sermon to the St Margaret’s congregation was the then imminent meetings that resulted in the appointment of the Very Rev Kenny Rathband as our rector, as reported on page *. Some of what Michael said was very specific to that process, so has been edited out, but his message applies more generally to our future together, and is presented here as food for thought ... something to recharge the batteries!



I wonder what would happen if I asked you to tell me a story. An old story. A story that takes you back to your childhood. That’s impacted on your life. What comes to mind?

Would it be one of the classics like Little Red Riding Hood? The Pied Piper? Goldilocks and the Three Bears? Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters? The Wind in the Willows? Watership Down? Would it be a complex story like the Lord of the Rings or, for our younger members, Harry Potter or Frozen?

I was brought up on Enid Blyton’s “Famous Five” and the “Secret Seven” but my childhood favourite was Chicken Licken. Anyone remember the story? Well let me remind you.

Once upon a time Chicken Licken was doing what chickens do, going about her business pecking away at grain around the farm when, suddenly, an acorn falls on her head – only she doesn’t realise it and thinks the sky is falling down and the world is coming to an end. She gets herself into a right tizz and starts running to tell the King because she is terrified and knows that only the King can keep the world safe.

And on the way to where she thinks the King lives she bumps into Henny Penny who wants to know why she is so flustered. Chicken Licken tells her traumatic story, gets Henny Penny all worked up and gets her to come along with her. After all there is safety in numbers!

And on and on it goes until Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky and Goosey Loosey meet Foxy Loxy who wants to know where they are all off to. “The sky is falling down and we are off to tell the King”. “What a good idea”, says Foxy Loxy, “but do you know where the king lives?”

“We are not sure but, Chicken Licken thinks its this way” they reply. “Well aren’t you lucky to have met me, because you are heading in the wrong direction. Come with me and I will show you”.

Foxy Loxy leads them to the entrance to a cave. “This is where the king lives. You wait outside. I’ll go in and tell him you need to see him urgently and when the King is ready I’ll give a signal for you to come in one at a time.” So Foxy Loxy went inside.

But, as you may have guessed from the grin on his face, it wasn’t the King’s cave at all. It was his own cave with a cauldron in the corner over an open fire. Foxy Loxy licked his lips. “What a fine lunch, I will make of them all” he thought to himself.

When the water in the cauldron was boiling he gave the signal for Chicken Licken to come in but nothing happened. He called and called again until he was hoarse and hungry and tired. But no-one came.

Little did he know that, just as he had gone into the cave to prepare his cauldron, Bunny Funny had turned up at the scene, found out what was going on and collapsed in fits of laughter.

‘What a bunch of fools you are. This is not where the king lives. This is Foxy Loxy’s house and he is waiting in there ready to eat you for lunch. What a narrow escape you’ve had! You really shouldn’t believe everything that people tell you. You need to use your own minds, think for yourselves and not just follow the crowd.’

And just as he said this, a big nut fell from a tree and hit Chicken Licken on the head. But this time, his fear was gone, and everyone burst out laughing.

I love that story and the fact that I can still remember it after 50 plus years tells you just how much stories shape us and form us. What I took from that story as a five year old – or from my anxious mother who told it to me – was that

- the sky could fall down at any minute,
- that we were all doomed,
- and had to watch out since disaster could strike at any time,

whereas what I found when I revisited the story this week was that the real moral is not about being watchful and fearful, but about the need to sift what we hear and think for ourselves.

All of which just goes to show that the stories we have been told so often become our own stories. And the stories we tell

– like Chicken Licken – can so easily be passed on from one person or generation uncritically to another.

Like you I grew up accepting stories of what ‘normal’ looks like and what counts as ‘strange’. Stories that made being white, male and heterosexual the norm and being black, female and gay different. Stories that taught me to value some people as able and valid, and others as disabled and in-valids. Stories that divided the world into those with mental capacity and those with mental handicap.

Stories play a key role at a national level too. “O Flower of Scotland” is certainly a crowd rouser and sure to set the heart of many a Scot aflutter, but is our key national story really summed up in sending ‘Proud Edward’s army homeward *seven centuries ago* tae think again? Has nothing happened in Scotland that’s worth retelling since Bannockburn in 1314?

And what about here in Church? From today onwards, the long period called Ordinary time which takes us to Advent is filled with stories of

- The mustard seed
- The parable of the sower
- The calming of the storm
- The raising of Jairus
- The hem of the garment
- The walking on the water
- The feeding of the five thousand

Stories by which we live. Stories which have shaped us and formed us. And stories we call on today.

- Some of our stories empower us: (the storm will be calmed)
- They get us through hard times: (everyone will be fed, and with baskets left over)
- And tell us that things will all work out in the end.

And some of the stories (like my skewed and partial remembering of Chicken Licken) breed fear and anxiety among us.

- At the wedding feast only those suitably dressed will be admitted
- On the day of judgment you will find out if you are a sheep or a goat.

Stories *unite* us – “the Scots are friendly” – but they can also *divide* us – “if we let immigrants in they’ll take our jobs”.

One of my favourite theologians, Stanley Hauerwas, says:

‘We live in story-shaped communities’.

And how very, very true that is for us right here at St Margaret’s.

Over the eighteen months that I have been with you, I have heard some of the stories this community tells about itself

- your origins in the Naval Base
- your heyday in HMS Cochrane
- the crisis when the base was closing
- the fraught decisions of where you were going to go
- heart-searching questions of whether to stay together as a group or to disperse around neighbouring churches

I have heard countless stories of how you ended up here at Rosyth Methodist Church, and of the growth and investment you have made in moving beyond simply renting worship space to becoming an ecumenical partnership.

And woven through all of this I have heard stories about friendships and long associations, alongside stories of suspicions and hurts. Stories about people who have understood you and people who haven’t, people you really felt were there for you and those you felt were not.

...

Going back to the story with which I started, be assured folks that, like you, I want the next chapter in your shared story to have

- all the collaboration and cooperation,
- all the purposefulness and the clarity that something has to be done

that characterised the relationships between Chicken Licken, Penny Lenny, Ducky Lucky and Goosey Loosey.

And the last thing I want is for any person or church process to be cast in the role of Foxy Loxy, out to devour and destroy and eat us all up!

At the end of the day our faith as Christians is not based in a story with a predictable ending. If it were, then Jesus would still be dead not risen!

Rather, our faith is based in a story of continuous surprises and of totally unexpected and unprecedented new beginnings. Had HMS Cochrane not closed there would be no St Margaret’s and no ecumenical partnership worth fighting for.

So let’s pray this week, not for a return to the self-authored past (a ministry equivalent of how things were before our childhood stories went out of fashion) but rather let’s pray for a multi-authored sequel written in trust and collaboration between God, the new rector, each one of us who calls this place home, and those in the future who might just be attracted by a congregation open to a new future and not just a repeated past.

People in this issue

It's been a long sermon I know and I thank you for listening but let me accord the last word to Maya Angelou, someone who was told that

- because she was black
- because she was different
- because she refused to believe and accept everything she had been told

that she had no story and would never amount to much.

Thirty books later, the wisdom that could so easily have been silenced, that she offers us today as we await our new priest, is this:

“Hope and Fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Invite one to stay and one to go. And then, once you have done that, breathe and trust and live.”

Amen.

Hope and fear
cannot occupy
the same space at
the same time.
Invite one to stay.

Maya Angelou

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (page 5)



Bishop-elect Ian Paton (page 7)



Rector-elect Kenny Rathband (page 7)





Making Music



Four of our choir members took part in the **Royal School of Church Music Scotland Triennial Festival**, held at St Andrew's RC Cathedral, Dundee on the afternoon of Saturday 2 June. This report is based on the latest RSCM Scotland Newsletter and illustrated by a photo by David Sutherland.

Behind the rather plain front of the cathedral, built as a parish church in 1938, lay a splendid and ornate Victorian Gothic interior, lit by beautiful full-length stained-glass windows. The eye was drawn, as intended, to a high altar, literally high – rising up flights of steps to a classical neo-gothic chancel, built on top of what is now the hall.

Some 140 choristers added a riot of colour with robes of every hue and made a truly joyful noise. Rehearsal time was intense, under the experienced guidance of Matthew Beetschen of Dunfermline Abbey, but enjoyable and amusing, thanks to his light (but firm) command and his sense of humour. Matthew said afterwards "I thought the singing at the service was absolutely splendid, so thanks very much to everybody!"

The acoustic was very friendly, lifting the quiet passages and reverberating with the strong parts – it will have been a while since such a comprehensive range of wonderful sounds shook the pillars of this cathedral! Bishop Stephen Robson of the RC Diocese of Dunkeld (whose seat is in the cathedral) took RSCM's main task of praising God as the theme of his address, keeping his choral congregation enthralled and engaged.

All the music was sensitively and skilfully accompanied by Graeme Stevenson, organist of St Mary's Church Dundee on the cathedral's three-manual Allen Renaissance organ, speaking from the original West Gallery organ cases.

The (very varied) service was taken from the RSCM book "King of Glory, King of Peace" which we'll be using as a resource for choir contributions to our worship. The music was all wonderful, and we all enjoyed different bits. For RSCM's Alistair Warwick, the highlight was the singing of Psalm 145 in responsorial setting, with a male voice and female voice alternating as cantor, which seemed so right for the place that we were in and very well done.

It's such a shame that it will be three years until the next one – but that's the way it goes!

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
(Tues/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
cmmarykidd@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

From our Facebook page



Did you see this image on our Facebook page?



We linked it to a post on Michael Paterson's 3 June sermon, when he quoted the thirteenth-century Sufi writer, Hafiz:

“God and I have become
like two giant fat people living
in a tiny boat.
We keep bumping into
each other and laughing.”

He described this as a “brilliant image of what it means to live a sabbath life, in which Sunday flows into Monday and the sacred into the ordinary”.

The post was linked to the full sermon at <http://tinyurl.com/y9qnkjqo>.

Facebook “reaches the parts that other (methods of communication) don’t reach”, as the lager advert used to say, which is why we encourage you to like and follow the LEP page at <https://www.facebook.com/RosythMethodist/>.

Contact on-line

You'll find this edition, and many previous issues of Contact, on the archive pages of both the church websites – www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk; www.rosythmethodist.org.uk – 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 – we are pleased that we've received items from people who haven't previously submitted an article. Our next Contact will be published on 30 September, and its theme will be “**Time to Remember**”. Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 23 September**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.

And do remember that, if you think of something that fits the theme, and feel motivated to write something about it earlier, the editor@ mailbox is always monitored,