

Rosyth
Methodist Church



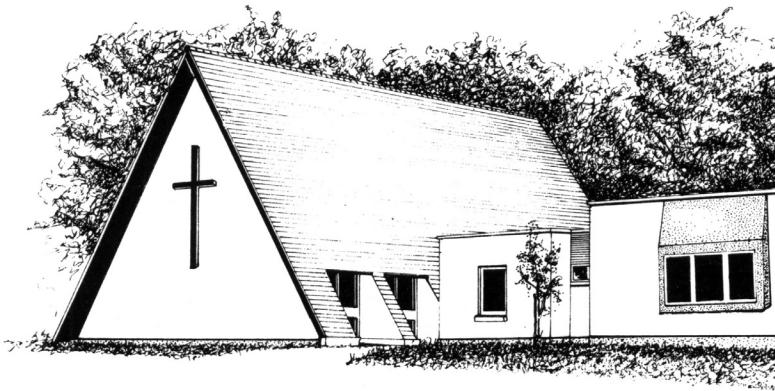
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



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October/November 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 Eddie Sykes

01383 512964

Priest-in-Charge (from 4 November):

Very Rev Kenny Rathband

01383 723654

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

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 taking time to remember



As I'm writing this, our traditional Harvest service is still fresh in my mind. We took time to remember God's goodness, thanking him for "our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life", as the General Thanksgiving puts it.



As part of this, we took time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves, the harvest produce given being destined for the Rosyth Foodbank. And we took time to remember our Lord's sacrifice, as we shared around his table.



At the rear of the church, there was a visual reminder of two friends, recently removed to their Lord's nearer presence, and the orders of service for the occasions when we took time to remember their lives and the contributions they had made to our church and community (see pages 11–13).

A guide to our symbols



working together



the wider world



building community



time to remember



As November 2018 sees the centenary of the end of the Great War, it's appropriate that many of our contributors have reflected this in the memories they have shared. Memories too are the stuff of Tim Tunley's article on healing. And all of these articles demonstrate that the past has a powerful effect on the present in both obvious and subtle ways, an effect that will continue into the future, "to the third and fourth generation". It's always worth taking time to remember.

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Eddie Sykes, our new minister

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

It's been our practice to use Contact to introduce new members of the LEP leadership team to a wider congregation, and this issue we're focussing on our new Methodist minister, Eddie Sykes. Eddie and his wife Susan moved into the Crossgates manse during August, and since 1 September Eddie has been the Superintendent Minister of the Edinburgh and Forth Valley Circuit, with pastoral oversight of the Methodist churches at Rosyth, Kirkcaldy and Granton. In his Circuit role, Eddie oversees the life of the Circuit, working through the authority of Circuit meeting and Methodist Conference, rather than exercising executive power.

Eddie was born in Gloucestershire, but grew up in the idyllic setting of a field study centre in the Shropshire village of Edgmond. The eldest of four children, Eddie was immersed in Methodist tradition, his father being a local preacher and mother a Sunday School superintendent. He trained as a secondary school teacher at King Alfred's College, now the University of Winchester, his subjects being Geography and PE.

Looking to work in a developing country, Eddie offered his services to VSO, but was told "we don't need geography teachers", so cooled his heels for two years in a school teaching appointment in Dudley before being accepted by the Methodist Missionary Society for service in Zambia as a teacher at Sefula Secondary School in the Western Province, overlooking the Buluzi floodplain of the Zambezi.

Eddie's time in Zambia gave him the opportunity to travel widely in Southern Africa – and to venture high as well, climbing Kilimanjaro – but, more significantly, Rev Ian Maxwell, the school chaplain nurtured a call to full-time ministry. So his return to the UK saw Eddie on a one-year Birmingham University Pastoral Studies course, followed by two years as a full-time lay pastoral worker in the Lichfield Circuit.



January sunshine and relaxation on Lake Galilee!

Far-flung places again beckoned, with a call from the Methodist Church in the Caribbean for Eddie to serve as a youth worker for a District that covered the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. As if the climate wasn't reward enough, it was here than he met his wife-to-be! Susan's family traces its time in the Bahamas back to European settlers in the early 1700s, and she was brought up in Nassau, and trained as a primary teacher in Florida.

So it was as a married man that Eddie returned at the end of his three-year posting to start a two-year course at Queens College, Birmingham in preparation for ministry. This was followed by an appointment in Morpeth, which included

Eddie's ordination in 1993. During this time, their family grew – Jonathan was born in 1990 in Birmingham; Thomas in 1992 in Morpeth – and Susan still found time to help with “mums and toddlers” ...



Susan with Jonathan (L) and Thomas (R)

Having a young family allows some folk to be adventurous in their life choices, and Eddie and Susan moved across the Atlantic to work for the Holston United Methodist Conference. [The Conference currently has 160,563 members in 877 congregations in east Tennessee, south-west Virginia, and north Georgia] The family had a base at St John UMC in Maryville East Tennessee and Eddie's work also included being part of the Conference mission board. Through this he led mission teams to work among the Appalachian poor and was a member of teams that served on the Navaho reservation, and in 1999 he was part of a peace-making mission to the Holy Land, where the team shared with those working for peace on all sides.

Having served for the maximum five years allowed by a US visa, the new Millennium saw Eddie ministering in Liverpool, where he was the Methodist partner in two Local Ecumenical Partnerships, one of which was with an Anglican church. This work was unfortunately cut short by the illness of Susan's father, which was the spur to Eddie returning to work in the Bahamas, this time as a minister.

Nassau was their home for nine years, thus allowing Jonathan and Thomas to complete their education without interruption, before Eddie and Susan returned to the UK. Once more Eddie was posted north of his Midland roots, moving in 2013 to Morecambe to the North Lancashire Circuit, where six ministers took care of 22 churches (Our Circuit has

five ministers serving 11 churches).

At various times over the following five years, Eddie was responsible for three or four churches, two of which were large, with high pastoral demands. Here a highlight was his involvement in 2017 in a District World Church team visiting the United Church in Papua New Guinea. The Lancashire District has partnerships with PNG and Sierra Leone.

Eddie and Susan's family have now flown the nest. Jonathan married Mollie in 2013 – the couple are living in Tennessee, USA, and in March they presented Eddie and Susan with their first grandchild, Owen. Thomas, after studying at Dalhousie University, is working in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He will be getting married to Meagan in October in Indianapolis. Thank goodness for Skype and Facetime!





Eddie and Susan with Owen

Realising that the opportunities and dynamics in the Circuit will be different from his posting in Morecambe, Eddie is now on a “voyage of discovery”, to find what God is already doing in Edinburgh and Forth, to encourage what is fruitful, to explore different ways of doing things, and, especially in the Rosyth LEP situation, to

suggest what we can do more effectively together. And not forgetting the possibility of deciding to do fewer things and to do them better!

Eddie sees part of the challenge common to all churches that Sunday is no longer a day that is different from the rest of the week, with work duties as well as other activities impinging on many potential members of our congregations. To meet this we need to find ways of making people part of a worshipping community without adding extra stress to their lives.

Eddie comes with no prescribed ideas, but he does come with a wide range of experience, which includes time in an American church environment in which ongoing Christian education for all ages played a key role in deepening discipleship, helping people to enjoy being a Christian and to discover joy and peace in a stressful world. He also comes with a passion for the world church and for peace and justice issues.

Photo Corner



Above: Mary Kidd presents flowers to Helen Jenkins

Left: Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet with husband, Graham, either side of their friends Gina and Andy, after Elizabeth’s ordination at Southwell Minster. As Elizabeth put it “The informal shot captures something of the mood and atmosphere of the day.”

Farewell and welcome – 1



An Au Revoir to Helen

Joint Communion on Sunday 26 August was a special occasion in more than one way. On the usual monthly pattern, it should have been Episcopalian-led but, due to a gap in priest availability, St Margaret's offered Rev Helen Jenkins the opportunity to preside, despite it having been Methodist-led (by Helen!) the previous month.

This made Helen's last day as Presbyter in charge of Rosyth Methodists a special 'fare well' for all; not only was the congregation the largest for some time (over 50), but out of the blue, the Rev Michael Paterson was there – and he was expected to be on teaching sabbatical! Quick adjustments were made so that he took part in the celebration of communion. The way the service was conducted was even more joined up than it had become under the experimental liturgy they had developed together, which both congregations had welcomed. And it concluded with another innovation, with Michael inviting all present to join together in a holding-of-hands circle of blessing for Helen – a very non-Methodist way of saying farewell, he said!

A farewell lunch followed, with gifts to Helen presented from both congregations (photo opposite). But of course it is not really farewell, more of an 'Au revoir', for Helen remains in the Forth Valley Circuit, as Presbyter for the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, and we trust that the Quarterly Plan will see her returning to lead worship at Rosyth from time to time. A heartfelt 'thank you' from us all for your ministry amongst us.

Howard Kirby

Arrangements for Bishop Ian's Consecration

It seems a long time since 2 June when the Electoral Synod voted to elect Canon Ian Paton as the next Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. The wait is nearly over and Canon Ian's consecration will take place on **Saturday 20 October** at **12noon** in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

Unfortunately, because there is not a huge seating capacity in St Ninian's, numbers are limited for this ticket-only event, with only two people – the Lay and Alternate Lay Representative – being invited as representatives of each congregation. Valerie Leslie and Erica Lock will attend from St Margaret's and we look forward to hearing about the splendid occasion – a full report will be in our next issue. This service will be live-streamed should you wish to follow it (<https://standrews.anglican.org/>).

However, Bishop-elect Ian has asked to have an Evensong on **Sunday 28 October** at **4.30pm** in the Cathedral as he is keen that as many people as can will come along to welcome and meet him. This is an open invitation to all members of congregations.

The Bishop's Secretary has asked for likely numbers of who will be coming as it would be helpful for arranging seating by Friday **19 October**, so please let Sandra know before then.

In the meantime, as we prepare to welcome Canon Ian to lead our Diocese, we keep him and his family in our prayers.

Sandra Young



Farewell and welcome – 2

Institution of the Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Shortly after Bishop Ian takes up office, we will have a chance to meet him on **3 November** at the institution of Kenny as Rector of Holy Trinity and Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's.

The service, at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, starts at **11.00am** and includes communion. It will be followed by a light buffet in Viewfield Baptist Church Hall (opposite the side door to Holy Trinity).

Arrangements have still to be finalised, but Ministers from the Rosyth Fraternal and the Stewards and Council members will be among those to receive formal invitations. However, everyone in the St Margaret's and the Methodist congregations is welcome to attend. Bear in mind that, as Holy Trinity will be full, you are advised to get there earlier than the deadline of **10.45am** suggested in the formal invitation.

Our choir will not be taking part in the service, but St Margaret's will be represented during the giving of symbolic gifts by Gordon Pryde and Valerie Leslie.

Unfortunately, there is no special parking, so you will need to take your chance in surrounding car parks on a Saturday morning– quite a challenge! For those able to walk about half a mile, free parking without any time restriction is available in the Leys Road car park.

Kenny and Ruth will be moving to the Rectory towards the end of October and his first Sunday will be **4 November**. We continue to pray for them as they start to say their farewells to Kenny's rural parishes and prepare for a new life in West Fife.

Welcome service: “Wednesday@Six”

We are looking forward to the Very Rev Kenny Rathband being with us at 9.30am on 4 November, for his first Sunday. Vestry decided we would like to have a welcome service at Rosyth (in addition to the formal institution at Holy Trinity) and Kenny is very happy with this arrangement. As Rev Eddie Sykes has only recently taken up his appointment, we have also be welcoming him. The service, on **Wednesday 14 November at 6.00pm**, will be an ecumenical act of worship (not communion) with readings, hymns and reflection, led by the choir and involving lay people from both churches.

Please, do make an effort to attend and to meet Kenny and Eddie informally afterwards over refreshments. More details later, but please note the date now.

Ed: Kenny has asked that his title revert to Priest-in-Charge, which is what we used until about 2011 when asked by the Diocese to change to Rector!

Meanwhile, at the Parish Church ...

On 23 September Rev Brian Dobby led worship, and after the service the congregation on the Electoral Roll voted for him to be their next Minister. Brian and his wife Deborah will be coming to Rosyth from Shetland, and we wish them well in this period of transition.

Ed: Obviously Brian is an IT-person, having developed an Android app for Shetland Westside Parishes. What will he do for Rosyth?!

A Happy Union and a Full House!



On 27 July one of the last duties the Rev Michael performed before he headed off on his sabbatical down under was to preside at the wedding celebration of John and Karen McGuinness. The numerous guests from both families plus several members of the Episcopal Church made sure there was a full house. Music was provided by the church choir and organists and during the signing of the register Marc Tempelhoff performed a magnificent solo rendition of "Ave Maria". The fantastic weather really added to the occasion and helped ensure both families had a 'God-Given Day' to remember. John and Karen would like to thank everyone at St Margaret's for going that extra mile to make their special day truly unforgettable!

John McGuinness





Fellowship news – 1

Wednesday Fellowship

Our Wednesday Fellowship restarted at the beginning of September, and it seemed that everyone was glad to be back, judging by the fact that all the chairs were filled – 26 in all. Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet opened the session with an interesting service. We had one new member which was nice, and we look forward to seeing him again.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our meeting on 19 September due to the very windy and wet weather.

Our dear friend Nessie Corbett has settled down very well in Abbotsford Care Home, Headwell Avenue, Townhill, Dunfermline. It is a very nice new building and the staff are very attentive and show kindness to the residents. Nessie would be delighted to see any of her friends from the Fellowship although it might take her a wee while to remember you.

Thank you, Mary

Mary Dempster has decided to 'retire' from her Sunday church duties as a welcomer and communion steward, tasks which she has carried out diligently and willingly since the early 1990s. Sorry, you don't get a medal Mary, but we appreciate and thank you for your long service.

Congratulations

As we go to press, **Alan and Ruby Lucas** will be celebrating 60 years of married life. We learned about this at the Harvest Lunch, but too late to take photographs. Hopefully we'll be able to rectify this in our next issue. Meanwhile, many congratulations!

Annie Hughes

We were delighted when Annie and David Hughes worshipped with us in August on their way to Edinburgh Airport. Annie, who had her first placement with us in early 2016 when she started her training for the ordained ministry, is now full swing in her third and final year of study at the Scottish Episcopal Institute.

As she told Sandra the other day "It is a brilliant course and I am for the most part – stretched! And that is a good thing. If one is to be an ambassador for the Gospel, how could it be any other way? What an adventure!"

Annie's current placement is in St John's Episcopal Church, Perth, so we wish her well there and look forward to next summer when she is ordained. For now though, please do keep Annie in your prayers as she tries to balance study with all her family commitments.

Sophie

Look who plans to join our choir. Sophie is hoping to join the choir when Michael returns from Down Under.

W e l c o m e Sophie: it will be great to have a youngster singing with us!





Jim Oliver

In the last edition of Contact we were delighted to report the celebration of Jim Oliver's century. Sadly, Jim died on 10 September, less than two months after his birthday.

Sandra Young writes:

Jim had a most interesting life. He was born at the end of the First World War and brought up in Edinburgh. After he left school Jim worked in his father's joinery business. He joined the Royal Artillery (RA) at the start of World War II and rose through the ranks to be an instructor in gunnery. Jim married Jean near the end of the war and after leaving the RA he trained as a teacher of technical subjects and taught at Woodmill High School, Dunfermline. He retired aged 62, having reached the position of Deputy Headmaster there.

Jim's faith meant a great deal to him and he was very involved with the church, including as Vestry Secretary at St Peter's, Inverkeithing for many years. After St Margaret's moved to Rosyth Methodist Church, Jim and Jean became regular worshippers with us until Jim became unable to drive. But they retained their interest in St Margaret's and the congregation. After Jim and Jean moved into Valley Care Home, Cowdenbeath, Sandra, Pauline and Mary continued to visit him, Pauline having seen him very recently.

Our condolences go to daughter Caroline, and her three children.

Rev Dr Margaret Dineley, who conducted Jim's funeral, wrote:

I was privileged to know this amazing, courteous and kindly gentleman. Having been asked two and a half years ago to take



communion to him in Valley House Care Home, Cowdenbeath, which is in my patch as priest at St Finnian's, I was immediately struck by his deep faith. I always looked forward to my monthly visits to Jim, who never complained about his frailty, but had delightful and interesting tales to tell about his life and always had a wonderful twinkle in his eye. Two months after he was moved with the other residents to the new Home in Lumphinnans, he celebrated his 100th birthday, which he enjoyed wholeheartedly, and a month later still spoke about it with great humour and joy.

It was indeed with great sadness that his daughter phoned to tell me of his critical illness and I was only too pleased to be able to visit him on Saturday 8 September, two days before his death. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



Fellowship news – 3



Betty Terry

21 September 1925 – 27 August 2018

Betty was our friend and for very many years a very loyal member of St Margaret's Church here in Rosyth.

She wasn't a Scot, as she was born in Reading on Monday 21 September 1925, to Alfred and Maud Terry. But for most of her long life she lived in Scotland, having come here with her parents at the age of 8. Her dad was a Royal Marine, who after leaving the service, became an MoD policeman. Soon Betty was joined by the birth of her beloved younger sister Peggy, who pre-deceased her and is buried in Douglas Bank Cemetery.

We don't know much about Betty's early life, but we know she became a children's nurse. In 1942, at the age of 17, she joined

the Auxiliary Territorial Service which, at that time, was the women's branch of the British Army in World War 2. She drove an ambulance for two years and that, along with her previous experience as a children's nurse, must have sown the seeds of a career in nursing, as she started her nursing training in the Army towards the end of the war.

Betty was commissioned from the ranks in Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in 1955, rising to the rank of Major. She would have been promoted further had she not felt the need to retire from the service to look after her aging parents.

Fellowship news – 4



During her Army career – which spanned 26 years – Betty served in Egypt, Libya, Kenya, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. In 1954 she was awarded the British Empire Medal for her part in the Queen's Coronation in 1953.

Having had a taste for the Army, as a civilian Betty worked for the Army Recruiting Service in Edinburgh for a further eight years.

When she finally took retirement, with her younger sister Peggy she became involved in country dancing, flat green bowling, quilting for charity – and pleasure – and she took up computing.

She was a wonderful Godmother to three goddaughters, Caroline, Susan and Mhairi.

The church and her faith were very important to Betty. Since 1976, she was a member of St Margaret's Church of England congregation at HMS Cochrane, then a member of SS Andrew & George Scottish Episcopal Church in Rosyth before returning to the Naval Church that became the Episcopal Church you are in today when the Royal Navy withdrew from Rosyth Naval Base. Betty was always the epitome of fashion, brightening up her surroundings when she was at her beloved church.

Sadly her health soon confined her to her house in Dunfermline. There I was privileged to take her Home Communion every month for just over a year before she moved to Henderson House, in Dalgety Bay, where, right to the end, she continued to receive Home Communion, sometimes with her friend, fellow church member and resident, Eve Denning.



I could not end this eulogy without saying that Betty was eternally grateful for the love and care she received from her beloved Forbes family – John, whom she first knew in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and his wife Lesley, and daughters Clare and Mhairi. She felt privileged to be part of their family for over 50 years.

Betty will join her sister Peggy in the family plot at Douglas Bank, right next to the grave of her parents.

We will miss you Betty – rest in peace.

Betty's funeral was held at our church on Thursday 13 September, followed by interment at Douglas Bank Cemetery. Our friend the Rev Dr Margaret Dineley led both services, and the eulogy reprinted here was given by Alan Taylor.



Invitations and requests – 1

Rosyth Foodbank

A big thank you for the wonderful Harvest Festival donation. Once again the congregations have pulled out all the stops and given the volunteers an afternoon's work sorting, dating and stacking the goodies.

So often the regular donations fill a gap in our routine deliveries from the Dunfermline depot which can only send what is in stock there.

A lot of our clients don't find it easy to visit a Foodbank and are extremely grateful for the supplies they are given at difficult times in their lives. So please continue your generous and thoughtful donations in the knowledge that sadly there is need, but your care is gratefully acknowledged and received.

Erica Lock

Photography as Prayer

This exhibition is currently touring the diocese. All 50 photos of people and places taken by members of the diocese will be displayed in a number of host churches including Holy Trinity, Dunfermline on **Friday 26 October** from **2.00–3.30pm**. Event launch is at **2.00pm** and will include a reflection by photographer and lay reader, Ian Scott from St Margaret's Leven, and time to pray together, as well as an opportunity to view and respond to the images. Refreshments will follow. Twelve of the photographs will be selected for the Diocesan Calendar 2019. It would be good if we can support this event, so please visit the exhibition at Holy Trinity if you can.

Area Council meeting

The autumn meeting of the St Andrews West Area Council will be held here in Room 4 on **Wednesday 21 November** at **7.30pm**. The guest speaker is our own Jan Benvie, who will talk about the Franciscan Third Order. Those of us who heard Jan talk at the Wednesday Fellowship last year were moved by her huge commitment as a Tertiary, that is, a member of the Franciscan Third Order of the Society of St Francis (SSF), a religious order in the Anglican Communion.

As always, Area Council meetings, are open to all and anyone who would like to attend is most welcome to join us. Tea and coffee will be served beforehand.

St Margaret's AGM

St Margaret's Annual General Meeting will take place at **6.00pm** on **Wednesday 28 November** in Room 4 (the old Lounge). Tea will be served at 5.30pm and the short service of Compline will follow the meeting at about 7.00pm.

This is a change from our normal Sunday morning meeting, but Kenny has asked specifically that this year we hold the AGM during the week.

Please make a note of the date now and join us for this very important event, and share your views on matters affecting the running of our church. Vestry would appreciate your attendance, if possible.

Invitations and requests – 2



Growing the witness – can you help?

What should we be doing for our church to become more meaningful in the community? Our partnership is important to both congregations. Together we do more. But we need to face up to the longer term challenges. How do we do that? A small group of two has started considering such issues, calling itself a joint strategy group.

A short report to the Joint Meeting of Church Council and Vestry in May highlighted the strengths of the partnership, the need to enhance visibility in the wider community, to build on its successes and to bridge gaps in what we do or how we do it. And to be innovative. Opportunities for greater interaction with other users of the building were identified, as were some short-term needs that can be readily taken forward, given offers of help.

It was agreed that the strategy group should be augmented by one or two members from each congregation. Could you be one of these? Or would you prefer to be in a different small group, addressing a particular need? Or just volunteer your help – or interest in a small group – in any way that you can. ...

Phone Howard Kirby (01383 624779) or Val Leslie (01383 733269), or email strategy@rosythmethodist.org.uk

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

Matthew 13:44 (NIV)

Arunima Hospice Curry Night

At St Finnian's, Lochgelly at **7.00pm** on **Friday 5 October** there will be a Curry Night and talk by Ross, Fiona and Leeanne about their Calcutta visits.

This is a ticketed event, with no charge for tickets, but donations on the night in aid of the Arunima Hospice. Dorissia, who is kindly cooking some of her famous, delicious curries, still has a few tickets, if you act soon!

Hub Café

The Hub Café has opened again after a break for August which the staff must have been pleased about as it is a big commitment every week. A few changes have been made – the main one is that the café is now in the main building of Rosyth Parish Church, so it is nice and bright and comfortable.

The menu too has been changed to snack lunches – baked potatoes, toasties, soup, and a cake/tray bake to have with your tea/coffee. The staff make you welcome and are anxious to help you, so we wish the Hub success and well-filled tables.

Hub runs **12n–1.30pm** on **Wednesdays**.

Our statements of faith

You are invited to St Finnian's on **Tuesday mornings throughout October and November** to the study sessions on the Creeds that will follow the 11.00am Said Eucharist. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Margaret Dineley on 01592 358933.



Invitations and requests – 3

Relational Ministry Re-imagined Conference

Rev Stephanie Njeru of United Parish Church Livingston writes:

On **Saturday 6 October** we are delighted to be hosting a day conference on Relational Ministry for everyone involved in worship, work with children or young people, Parish Council – or anyone who just has an interest.

The speaker will be Professor Andrew Root from Luther Seminary, one of the most entertaining and thought-provoking writers and speakers on work with all ages. We'll explore how we relate to one another, and how the nature of our relationships is changing in a more secular world.

A day not to be missed, but spaces need to be booked online in advance – you can do this at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/relational-ministry. Make sure you select Livingston United as the venue! Lunch is provided.

Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) Lecture

The annual SEI Lecture will be held this year on **Thursday 11 October** at **5.30pm** in Parliament Hall, South Street, St Andrews. Professor Elaine Graham, Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology, University of Chester and Canon Theologian of Chester Cathedral, will deliver a paper entitled 'Liberating the Laity: a Theology for a Learning Church'.

The Lecture, sponsored by St Mary's College, the School of Divinity, University of St Andrews, is open to all free of charge and will be followed by a reception.

This is the third in the lecture series, the first two having been given by Professor Mike Highton of Durham University and Professor David Jasper of Glasgow University.

More about Harvest

Harvest Lunch

This was attended and enjoyed by nearly 40 people after the Harvest Service on 23 September. Although it was a 'bring and share' meal – as always a delicious feast with varied food and desserts – special thanks must go to Jean Hall and Gwyneth Kirby for all the hard work they put into organising the event and for the attractive layout of the Hall. Well done!

Harvest flowers

Mary Kidd was away on her travels, but Lesley Yellowlees and Val Leslie promised her they would fill the church with flowers, and they did just that. Grateful thanks to both.

But did you notice Val's wee arrangement near the communion table? And can you work out which children's song inspired it? Answer on p30!



Messy Church News



We decided to celebrate Harvest in a different way this year and went to visit Rosyth Centenary Orchard and Community Garden – just a few minutes walk away from Church. On a beautiful sunny morning we set off first to the orchard, down a little path which suddenly opens out into a large open area full of trees, many still bearing their fruit. We had a look at the bee hives and then examined one of the homes for solitary bees and were told how the queen bee makes her home there before laying her eggs ready for next season.



Just on the other side of the road is the Community Garden – again a lovely space tucked out of sight, full of lots of different vegetables and flowers. We were encouraged to do some harvesting for ourselves. We were able to pick apples, pull up turnips, hunt for beans and even



discover some corn on the cob – all of which we were able to take home with us. In one of the greenhouses we planted some pea seeds which we have to nurture on our window sills.



After the short walk home it was time for a snack (toast, honey and fruit of course !) while we had a story about Harvest before heading home. It was a really lovely way to celebrate!

Next month (**28 October**) we will have a more normal (but still exciting) Messy Church and we look forward to seeing lots of children there. So come on all you Mums, Dads, Grannies, Carers. Come along and see what we get up to. It's not too early a start – **10.30am** – and we finish at about 12.00.

Out of the mouths ...

We are all familiar with Messy Church. But there are other adjectives – Silent Church (no one talks to you – happily, not here!), Smelly Church (you can smell the dust and odour of old books), Draughty Church (wherever you sit there is a gale blowing down your neck), Touchy-Feely Church (a kiss and a hug at the Peace), and Noisy Church. However, young Eddie (Myra and Martin's grandson) had a different idea – when his Mummy explained, as they went into the church, that there was no Messy Church that Sunday, he immediately responded "Tidy Church"!



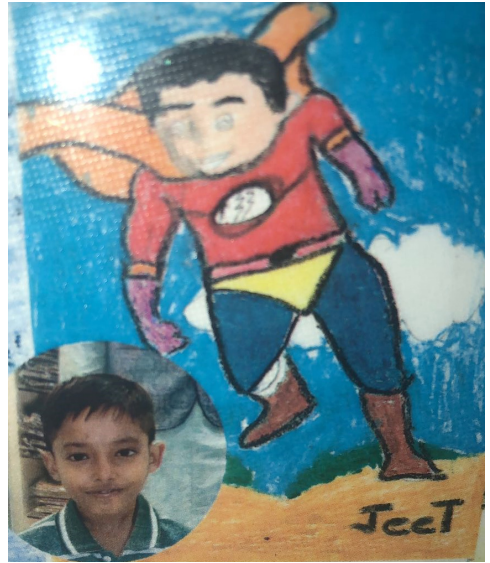
Arunima Hospice

Ross Stirling-Young gives us the latest update

It's been several months since I last provided you all with an update regarding the Arunima Hospice in Kolkata. Sadly, I begin this update with rather upsetting news on two counts. Firstly, on Thursday 6 September I received an email from Mr Suvabrota Das (Hospice Manager and close friend) informing me that one of the children had sadly passed away. During our visit to the hospice in April 2017, both my colleague Fiona and I met Jeet and remember him fondly. He loved to dance, sing and perform and it was obvious he was a happy child surrounded by his new adopted family.

Fiona and I were presented with a framed collage of drawings created by the children including their photos. As you will see within this article, Jeet's picture and drawing are included. Please join me in remembering Jeet in your next prayers. Knowing that Jeet is free of pain and suffering brings a sense of peacefulness. However, for the orphaned children who became his family they are now left with the shock and sadness of losing their brother. Let us pray for them also.

Secondly, West Bengal and the city of Kolkata have been hit with severe monsoon rains and thunderstorms since June, leaving many dead, homeless or damaging their homes and affecting their livelihoods. Unfortunately the hospice wasn't spared from the storms and over £4,000 worth of damage was caused to the construction of the new roof and existing buildings. Thankfully none of the children or staff were injured and the small room that they use as their high dependency/end-of-life care ward was saved from the damage.



Many of you may not know the true story behind why both Ray and I came to support the Arunima Hospice. I guess that story is probably for another day, or feel free to ask next time you see me! But needless to say, God led us to the plight of the children and to us they are our extended family in India. For this reason we feel compelled to continue the efforts to raise funds. This isn't simply about giving money to a charity from a Western society. We know that, and so do they. A loving Christian relationship has been built and continues to develop. We pray for them and they pray for us. And by 'us' I mean you, me, our churches and all involved in helping.

We've now sent £5,000 to pay for their new roof so that part is taken care of; the main issue we are now faced with is the cost of their structural damage.



To ensure the children's safety and comfort I gave my assurance to the contractor that the bill would be paid, albeit late. We are fortunate that the contractor has trusted in my word and already started the essential repairs.

In order to raise the necessary funds I've started to organise a series of "Curry Nights" starting on Friday 5 October at St Finnian's in Lochgelly. I'll be ably assisted by the talented Dorissia Forsyth who will provide her well-liked and tasty dishes on the night. Both I, Fiona and Leeanne Clark (who has also visited the hospice) will provide a short presentation about the hospice before eating and having the opportunity to win some wonderful raffle prizes. We've already given away all our tickets, so here's hoping it's a fun and successful night raising much-needed funds.

Lastly, if you can think of any way of helping to raise funds I would very much appreciate your help. Recovering from a bone marrow transplant is a long-term process and I'm not able to achieve as much as I would like to think possible. I'm grateful to all at St Margaret's who have taken the time to hear about the hospice, to support the children and most importantly to include them in your prayers.

In Christian love,

Ross

Ed: You can contact Ross Stirling-Young on Rossstirling81@hotmail.co.uk or 07947 321687

Included in the St Margaret's Annual Budget we make provision for Donations to Charity. Our normal practice is that from our income we tithe (10%) for the support of charitable purposes. Normally at the final Vestry meeting of the year in August the Vestry approve the donations for the financial year.

During this year we received a request from Leeanne Clark, a young member of St Finnian's in Lochgelly who was planning to join a small group of young people from across our Diocese who were visiting the Diocese of Kolkata. Leeanne sometimes attends our Sunday@Six services, and Vestry agreed we would make a contribution of £200 to Leeanne. This enabled Leanne to travel to Kolkata and have this wonderful experience.

At our August Vestry meeting we also agreed the following donations:

- Mary's Meals (Kerala Appeal) £300
- CHAS £300
- Traidcraft Exchange (see below) £300
- Rosyth Community Garden (EATS) £300
- Rosyth Foodbank £100

It is through the generosity of the congregation that we are able to donate to these very worthwhile causes. On behalf of the Vestry I should like to thank the congregation of St Margaret's for their regular giving which allows us to donate.

Traidcraft Exchange

Traidcraft Exchange is a charity and campaigning organisation that works with partners in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, running programmes to help the most vulnerable people have a stronger voice, and to make sure that trade is done in a way that respects and preserves the environment. [More at <https://www.traidcraft.org.uk/>]



September's Sunday@Six was led by our friend Andrew Wedge and Youth Fellowships of Holy Trinity and St Peter's, Kirkcaldy. They came along armed with 'high tech' gear and lovely prayers and talked eloquently about what Glen 18 meant to them.

The film of the young folk enjoying dance, games and their own brand of church was truly inspiring. It gives hope to us all!

Andrew and his crew had us all up on our feet doing the "squeezy peace". After a slight hiccup at the beginning we got it, and the peace was reported with a squeeze of the hand! How simple, yet how effective.

Andrew showed us a film that the young people were shown at Glen 18, and we were invited to talk about our thoughts after seeing the film, which was a series of stills of events which have had an impact on world events. The young people certainly made us think, and at the end of that film we were all talking to our neighbours.

Andrew and the young people of the YF also taught me a new song called "A hundred thousand reasons". I'd never heard it before, but I am keen to sing it again. It was fantastic!

The service ended with us singing a really joyful, and possibly my favourite, hymn which was requested by Dorissia. "We are marching" and boy did we march, dance, clap and generally behave like teenagers again. That is the joy of giving young people the opportunity to lead us more mature kids into a new way of praising God. I hope they come back soon. Thanks, Andrew – you and the YF were terrific!

Val Leslie

7 October's service sees new visitors to our church, a choir of doctors and consultants working across NHS Forth Valley, directed



by Philip Hacking, one of the Spiritual Care Team. The precentor for their **Choral Evensong for Harvest** will be our own Rev Dr Michael Paterson – who wears another of his hats as Consultant in Spiritual Care for NHS Education for Scotland (NES). As always, there will be a warm welcome to everyone, with refreshments after the service.

On **4 November**, our thoughts turn to the centenary of the end of World War One. **"Remembering the Great War"** will be led by Martin Tarr.



He'll be telling some of the stories of people who were affected by the conflict and its aftermath. If you have a story to tell, or a memory to share – as Jan and Myra have done in this issue – why not talk about it with Martin, so that our November service can have a community flavour.

In **December**, there will be no Sunday@Six on Advent Sunday, but we will be holding our traditional Carols by Candlelight on **Sunday 23 December**.

Diary for September/October 2018

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 10.00am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

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

7.30pm Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society opening concert 2018/19 Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy (see page 41)

Wednesday 3 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Guest speaker: Erica Lock – Rotary International

Friday 5 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Arunima Charity Curry Evening at St Finnian's, Lochgelly in aid of Arunima Hospice (see page 15)

Sunday 7 October

Pentecost 20 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Dr Michael Paterson

11.00am Morning Worship Mr Ian Paterson

6.00pm Sunday@Six Choral Evensong for the Harvest Season (see page 20)

Monday 8 Oct 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Wednesday 10 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Guest speaker: John Burrell – A trip to Vienna

Friday 12 Oct 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 14 October

Pentecost 21 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Dr Michael Paterson

11.00am Café Church Mrs Jane Peers

Monday 15 Oct 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 16 Oct 10.00am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Diary for October 2018

Wednesday 17 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Puppets for Jesus
Friday 19 Oct	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 20 Oct	12noon	Consecration Service for Revd Canon Ian Paton as Bishop of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane (see page 7)

Sunday 21 October

Pentecost 22	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes
Monday 22 Oct	6.30pm	Property Committee meeting	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Wednesday 24 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Speaker: Dennis Cook – Railways	
Friday 26 Oct	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking	
	2.00pm	Photography as Prayer, Diocesan Exhibition Launch event in Holy Trinity, Dunfermline followed by refreshments (see page 14)	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
	7.30pm	Concert by East Fife Male Voice Choir Rosyth Parish Church (see page 41)	

Sunday 28 October

Pentecost 23	10.30am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Joint Communion	Very Rev Jim Mein
		Traidcraft goods after the service plus Christmas cards to order (see page 24)	
	4.30pm	Diocesan Choral Evensong in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth to welcome and meet our new Bishop, Ian Paton	
Monday 29 Oct	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 30 Oct	10.00 am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meets in Room 5	
Wednesday 31 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Guest speaker: Willie Kershaw – Scottish Country Music	

Diary for November 2018

Friday 2 Nov	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 3 Nov	11.00am	Institution of the Very Rev Kenny Rathband as Rector of Holy Trinity and Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's, in Holy Trinity, Dunfermline (see page 8)
	1.00pm	RSCM Dunblane Singing Day. Rehearsal followed by service in Dunblane Cathedral (see page 41 for details)

Sunday 4 November

All Saints Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Dr Anne Pennington
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six: Remembering the Great War led by Martin Tarr (see page 20)	
Monday 5 Nov	7.00pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at CEMC	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 6 Nov	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 7 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Guest speaker from CHAS	
	7.00pm	Joint Council/Vestry meeting in Room 4	

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

Sunday 11 November

Remembrance	9.15am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	10.50am	Morning Worship including parade of uniformed organisations	Mrs Louise Gilchrist
Monday 12 Nov	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 13 Nov	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
Wednesday 14 Nov	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Miranda Lorraine – Fife Pilgrimage Way	
	6.00pm	"Wednesday@Six" – Welcome service for Dean Kenny including the Rev Eddie Sykes followed by light refreshments in the Hall	

Diary for November 2018

Friday 16 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 18 November

St Margaret 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
11.00am Morning Worship Rev Stephanie Njeru

Monday 19 Nov 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Wednesday 21 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Guest speaker: Barclay Moss – Street Pastors
7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting
in Room 4 at Rosyth Methodist Church
Speaker: Jan Benvie (see page 14)

Friday 23 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 24 Nov 7.30pm Scottish Chamber Choir concert
“To the Field of Stars”
Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh (see page 41)

Sunday 25 November

Christ the King 10.30am Messy Church
11.00am Joint Communion Rev Eddie Sykes
Traidcraft goods after the service

Monday 26 Nov 7.30pm Advent Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
(tbc)

Tuesday 27 Nov 10.15am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd’s house in Limekilns

Wednesday 28 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Guest speaker: Fraser Laird – Scams. Community Police
6.00pm AGM of St Margaret’s congregation
followed by Compline (see page 14)

Friday 30 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Diary for December 2018

Sunday 2 December

Advent 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	tbc

Note: No Sunday@Six

Monday 3 Dec 7.30pm Advent Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 4 Dec 7.00pm Christmas Nativity event , Rosyth Parish Church

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

Wednesday 5 Dec 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
A celebration of Christmas with Martin and Myra Tarr

Thursday 6 Dec 7.00pm "From Hurt to Hope", a service for people who find Christmas a difficult time

Friday 7 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 8 Dec 3.00pm Dunfermline Choral Union Christmas Concert
and 7.30pm at the Vine Church, Dunfermline

Put your Christmas greetings in Contact

As usual, our December/January issue will provide you with an opportunity to broadcast your greetings to readers, in exchange for a donation to a charity of your choice. Copy – just your name and a very few words to decorate our Christmas tree – must reach the Editor by **Sunday 25 November**.



Send a real Christmas card

If you are a traditionalist who prefers to send a real card so that your friends can decorate their walls, why not send a charity card, whether by Royal Mail or Scout Post?

Myra, Sue and Martin will be bringing samples of a range of Christmas cards to the **Traidcraft** stall in the Crush Hall after the joint service on **Sunday 28 October**, for you to browse and order. Payment with order, or on collection. If you can't be there on the day, phone Myra on 01383 723989.





Glenalmond 2018

Megan Briers' post about the SEC Provincial youth camp



I had no idea what to expect before arriving at my first Glen. I knew nobody apart from vague knowledge of A Wedge? I had so many initial worries. Will anyone talk to me? What should I pack? Will this be any good? Who shares a nickname with a type of potato? Anyway, the countdown was soon up and I was standing unsure at the sign-in. Suddenly, I was given a massive hug by a girl I had never seen before in my life. I knew I would be okay here.

They say time flies when you are having fun, and way too soon it came to my last year as a delegate. I couldn't believe this was it after six years. The week flew past, as expected and was filled with reunions, tears, a lot of late nights and most importantly restoration and development of my faith. I have come across and got to know so many people throughout my Glen journey.

Glen is a truly magical place, the energy at the camp is intense and at no other point during the year is my faith as strong. I am not sure what it is that makes me feel the way I do at Glen, truly connected with my religion, or what isn't quite there when I return home. Whatever it is, a goal for the future is to bridge the gap.

Glen is intense, you live together in the way Christian communities of the past did. Eating, relaxing, working together and praying as one close community. We open up more, the boundaries in the pressure cooker of High School don't seem to exist. Everyone is valued for who they are no matter where they come from.

Glen is an amazing opportunity and I would advise anyone in secondary school with even a vague interest to give it a try. You will make genuine friends for life, as I head off to Uni I know there are leaders and past delegates across Scotland and wider afield to visit, to call on to go to for advice, help and more importantly friendship.

If you get to experience it, Glen could develop your religion and you'll have an amazing amazing amazing time in the process! My hope for the future of Glen is more people discover this gem of a camp and that adults within the church realise what a great opportunity this is for young congregation members who may otherwise feel isolated, which may lead to a disconnection in faith. I am forever grateful to the church for encouraging and supporting me to go, I never looked back.

Diocesan Pilgrimage – 1

Rev Nerys Brown, the diocesan mission enabler, writes:



The day of our first diocesan pilgrimage to St Andrews, 28 July, was a day to remember. It was a day of sunshine and showers, a day for prayer and song, conversation and laughter.

Those hardy souls who tramped the first five miles from the picturesque village of Ceres were rather damp when they arrived at Craigtoun Park. It was easy to distinguish between them and those who joined them for the second half of the journey.

The excitement grew as we caught a glimpse of the twin towers of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in the distance and the sun had dried clothes and hair by the time we arrived at Hallow Hill where even more pilgrims were waiting for us.

A long line of about 70 walkers threaded their way along the Lade Braes towards St Andrew's Church. There were Episcopalians from Leven, Lochgelly and Kinross, Dunfermline and Rosyth, Aberfoyle, Doune, Dunblane and Dollar, Stirling, Perth, Blairgowrie, Forfar, Cupar, Ladybank and

St Andrews. There were Catholics from Tayport and Dundee, Methodists and members of the Church of Scotland, two medievalists from Glasgow University and a couple who live near the Camino in France.

We arrived at our destination in bright sunshine and then made our way to All Saints for a welcome cup of tea and evensong.

Thank you, Alasdair Coles and Nick Cooke, for organising the pilgrimage, to the two churches at St Andrews for their hospitality and to all who led the reflections along the way and the final worship, including bishops Bruce and Bob. On the day, there was talk of another pilgrimage next year and some were even planning a trip to walk the Camino.

In the meantime, should any church group like to walk part of the Fife Pilgrim Way in the coming months, Alasdair would be happy to be your guide. He can be contacted at alasdaircoles@btinternet.com.



Diocesan Pilgrimage – 2

One of our intrepid travellers, Pam Pryde, adds her tale ...

Dorissia, Val and I joined the first Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Andrews on 28 July at Craigtoun Park. We arrived at the car park and quickly spotted fellow pilgrims. We had instructions to gather at the avenue of cypress trees at the North end of the park. No one knew exactly where to go, and “Which way is North?” became the memorable phrase of the day! We eventually found the gathering place and the damp pilgrims who had started the walk at Ceres. They had experienced heavy showers on their way but now the sun had emerged and the park was stunning.



We started the next four miles with a prayer and singing together:

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you

Out of the park, and we were on our way. There was good conversation and lots of joy as we meandered along the trail. Luckily there were leaders who kindly waited for the stragglers at crossroads where direction was required. We walked for some time along the side of the Kinness Burn in the woods. Dappled sunshine lit the water and

the plants and the fresh air was scented with the warm summer earth. An hour later we were joined by more pilgrims at Hallow Hill where again, we joined together in song and prayer. Below is the prayer used at Hallow Hill by Bishop Bruce Cameron.

Hanta Yo (Sioux for “clearing the way”)

God of surprises, you call us:
From the narrowness of our traditions
to new ways of being church
From the captivities of our culture
to creative witness for justice
From the smallness of our horizons
to the bigness of your vision

**Clear the way for us, your people,
that we might call others
to freedom and renewed faith**

Jesus, wounded healer you call us:
From preoccupation
with our own histories and hurts
to daily tasks of peace-making
From privilege and protocol
to partnership and pilgrimage
From isolation and insularity
to inclusive community

**Clear the way in us, your people
that we might call others
to wholeness and integrity**

Holy transforming spirit you call us
From fear to faithfulness
From clutter to clarity
From a desire to control to deeper trust
From the refusal to love
to a readiness to risk

**Clear the way in us your people,
that we might all know
the beauty and power
and danger of the Gospel**

Continued on Page 30

The hymn writer in the quiet coach

Dorissia Forsyth has an unexpected encounter



Since my elder daughter Nadine took up a teaching post in Aberdeen, I try to visit her at least twice a year. As the journey takes 2½ hours from Inverkeithing, I usually prefer to sit in the quiet coach and take a good book to read. However, one thing I do not like is travelling backwards, as I find it is difficult to read or even look out of the window. Perhaps one day we will all be seated facing the same direction as on an aeroplane.

Just before reaching Kirkcaldy, I sought to ask the conductor if I could change seat because I get sick travelling backwards. But the passenger seated across from me offered to swap, as she's fine travelling either way. A conversation ensued. She explained that she travels once a week to Aberdeen to visit her stepmother who lives in a sheltered care home. She usually travels before 11.00am and returns to Edinburgh by 9.00pm. To make use of her time, she writes music or composes hymns, to which I mentioned that I liked the hymns in Mission Praise and Common Ground, and that I sang in a small choir, but that we were very good in quality. She introduced herself as Alison M Robertson. Yes, she wrote three hymns found in Common Ground: No 46 (*Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen*), No 80 (*Love is the touch of intangible joy*) and No 140 (*Spirit of God, I long to live*).

I was so excited, though more connection was to come.

Alison is a daughter of the late Rev Jack Malloch, who was a Church of Scotland Minister in Glasgow, and later a missionary appointed as a College Principal in Akropong, Akuapem in the Gold Coast (as Ghana was then called). She enjoyed her early childhood there, where she experienced Sunday worship with a difference – full of expression and colours. I mentioned about

the Ashanti people and their colourful Kente colours attending church on a Sunday. King Prempeh of the Ashanti Tribe was exiled in my country Seychelles in 1896. The Malloch family knew people called Prempeh who might have been his descendants! Ghana was the first African Country to gain its independence from the British Empire in 1957.

Alison's mother had sadly died in Gold Coast in 1951, so Alison and her twin sister and younger brother went to live in Cunningham House, the Church of Scotland's Home for children of Missionaries in Edinburgh, benefiting from a good education in some of Edinburgh's best schools. Happily Jack married a lady from his first parish and they had a long and happy marriage and three children of their own. While in Cunningham House, Alison (aged 12) was appointed as pianist for the Sunday School at St Catherine's in Grange Church nearby, and on Sunday evenings in Cunningham House, when the Matron held family worship for all the children, Alison played (from the Church Hymnary) the favourite hymn of each child. Alison and her siblings were all musical and sang in choirs and quartets at school, at church and at home. Alison also accompanied a school choir on the piano and played the violin in the school orchestra.

Alison went on to study geography at University and took up employment in that field. As a mature adult, she began to compose words and music for Christian songs and hymns, and once her family had grown up she had the chance to go back to Edinburgh University to take a four-year honours degree in Music.

Continued on Page 30



Continued from Page 26

Over 70 pilgrims entered St Andrews to walk along the Lade Braes towards St Andrew's Church where there was a short service. From there it was on to the Cathedral of St Andrew, impressively set against a cloudless blue sky.



Our last call was at All Saints' Church for refreshments and Evensong. The pilgrimage was an opportunity to share a joyful experience with fellow travellers. There was conversation and laughter along the way but also quiet moments for reflection, where the spirit joined us on our journey. Our thanks go to Alasdair Coles and Nick Cook for organising the pilgrimage and we hope there will be more.

On the way home the three amigos followed another well-known Fife pilgrimage to Anstruther, for fish suppers!

Continued from Page 27

Six hymns in the Church Hymnary 4th Edition have words or music by Alison that reflect and engage with the real world and the richness of insights of Christian people across the world.

Alison is a member of St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, as well as a choir member. When she told me that their young Organist/Choirmaster puts them through their paces with much enthusiasm, it turned out that he taught my younger daughter and took the Chamber Choir when she attended Heriots.

Hymn writer, Ghana, Seychelles and Sabine: small world it is!

Ed: Alison was asked to verify/correct some of the details in the initial draft, which Alison did, and added:

"Considering that Dorissia recorded all this from memory after the event, I think she did remarkably well ...

"What Dorissia didn't say is just what a fabulous conversation we had. We did not draw breath for the best part of two hours, as we just 'clicked' in seconds and found we had so much in common. Dorissia is also a twin and so that was another connection."

Say it with flowers

The answer to our question is that nursery rhyme "Oats and beans and barley grow", which Val interpreted with oat cakes, barley and green beans:

"Do you or I or anyone know how oats and beans and barley grow?"

Singing the Faith 130 has a good answer, and we all enjoyed singing it as our final hymn at Harvest.

Area Council Service

Val Leslie enjoys a trip to St Finnian's



Before I start my ramblings on the Area Council service at St Finnian's, Lochgelly, can I just take a moment to thank Erica, Alan, Pam, Gordon and Dorissia for coming along with me to a really lovely social event and church service which took place on Sunday 16 September.

At the last Area Council meeting we decided that it would be a really good idea to hold a social get together before the service. Tea, coffee and cakes would be in abundance. Each church would bring along a contribution to the afternoon tea. Thank you Myra for baking delicious chocolate tiffin and also a big thank you to Erica for baking some smashing cheese scones. The spread was wonderful and the socialising was really good to. It gave everyone a chance to meet friends from the other churches in the area. I am pleased to announce that the smaller churches such as St Margaret's and St Finnian's were very well represented. Well done us!

The social event began at 4.30pm and the service began at 6.00pm. A great vote of thanks must go to the Rev Margaret Dineley and Ross Stirling-Young for arranging a lovely Taizé-style service. The church, which is a really beautiful building inside, was lit by candlelight and we were invited to each light a candle as we filed into church. Once seated we began by singing the lovely Taizé chant "The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust, in God I trust". The opening prayer thanked God for the time spent together, the spread at the table and the celebrations we share with friends and family. I will put a copy of the service sheet up on the notice board for others to share as I thought the prayers were really beautiful and quite memorable.

We sang "Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est" and afterwards listened to a reading celebrating Communion in Iona Abbey from Peter Millar's "An Iona prayer book". The third Taizé chant was "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart."

What makes a Taizé service so good are the silences, giving one the chance to really listen to God speak!

The second reading spoke of showing hospitality while you're suffering, stating that this lets your guests see your hope up close. More silence followed to allow this reading to sink into the soul.

During Intercessions, the chant "O Lord hear my prayer; come and listen to me" was sung between each prayer. Whilst the prayers were being said, each person was encouraged to write a prayer and post it into a basket placed by a wooden cross which was a candle stand. The simplicity of this act was very moving. After another silence we said the Lord's Prayer, and finished the service singing "Bless the Lord, my soul" and ending with a prayer based on a prayer in "Pray now". The Blessing was taken from "A Wee Worship Book" produced by Wild Goose: "May our God make us fertile in faith, love and goodness, and take us out with joy, and lead us on in peace, as signs of the fruitfulness of heaven. Amen."

I hope this report gives a 'flavour' of what the Area Council service gave to everyone who attended. Everyone present left the service having been filled with goodies at the table, and also had their souls nourished by a beautiful service and time praising God.



Christian healing: theory and practice

Personal thoughts on this sensitive topic from Rev Tim Tunley

On 12 August Tim Tunley shared with the St Margaret's congregation a shortened form of a sermon he had preached in July at Viewfield Baptist Church. We thought that it would be good to make the whole of his talk more widely available, especially at this time of Remembrance as we are praying "for the healing of the nations".

I have decided to talk about healing, Christian healing, this morning, and I am aware that there are many here who know far more about this than me and a few who know a little less. Also that this subject can cause division because of the very sensitive nature of what we are dealing with.

I am going to use stories from my own experience to earth the sermon so it does not become a long lecture. So the sermon is also part testimony.

I should say to start with that I spent a lot of my childhood in hospital, and survived a very nasty childhood cancer because of the skill of a group of surgeons. Also, like many people here, I have sat with someone who I loved with my very all and known that there was no hope. So none of this is said lightly, and I hope that none of this gives the impression of "It's as simple as that". In fact anyone who has ever been involved in the healing movement will tell you that, the more you're involved, the less you understand.

I am going to be talking about prayers for healing and the laying-on of hands. Theory and practice. [Many churches offer really great Christian listening and different access to all kinds of treatment and that is great, but it's outside the scope of this sermon]

Although this sermon represents a certain line of approach to healing, there are others who would disagree with me, and they too are brothers and sisters in Christ and their beliefs are well within Christian Orthodox belief. If you feel any straw men have been set up to be knocked down, please shout at me later.

This sermon has been nearly forty years in the making. It goes back to a Tuesday evening in a small house fellowship. One of the people present asked for anointing with oil since she was sick. So the leader left the room and came back with a bottle of Spry 'Crisp and Dry'. As you will have guessed, it was the 1970s. Now, of course, he would have come back with a bottle of Sainsbury's finest olive oil! The prayer was said and the anointing done. I had never seen this before. The leader then did two things that made me think even more. He said "How do you feel now?" and, when the answer came "No better", he did it again.

Hmm. Prayer for healing and anointing with oil (if that is your tradition) is not magic. It is not about whether it has worked or not. We do not twist God's arm the more we pray. The first, and perhaps hardest, thing to understand is this, that healing is part of the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Hence the reading about John this morning (Matthew 11:2-19). John was in prison, but he was still the forerunner the greatest of the prophets. The Kingdom of God is many ways is similar: it is now here, so close we can almost taste and see it; on the other hand, it is not yet. So it is 'now' *and* 'not yet'.

One day we will all be healed, because we will go to our heavenly Father who loves us and has a vision for us the way we were made to be. So, when healing takes place, it is part of the 'now'. When no sign of healing takes place, it is part of the 'not yet'. The 'one day', if you will. All prayer of any kind I would suggest is done in the Kingdom of



God in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Praying for healing is no different. If you will, it is an act of the Trinity in the name of the Kingdom.

Spirit and revelation

I thought now might be a good time to look at some of the objections to healing. There is within the church a view (and it was the one held by the church that I came to faith in) that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit ended with the apostles. This is a different view to mine, but it is respectable and within the bounds. The problem, I think, with this opinion is evidence. Let me tell you a true story which happened to me.

I was vicar of a country parish and we worked closely with the other churches in the area. One of the churches was a Congregational church that did not go in with the United Reformed Church as it did not consider it sound enough, so it stayed out and became independent. I knew their elder, Fred*, very well, and one day I went to see him with some paperwork. His wife answered the door and said "You will have to go upstairs, as Fred has put his back out and is in a lot of pain". So we met and, I suppose really without thinking, I said "I will lay hands on you for healing". So he mumbled and I laid hands on him, said the prayer and left.

The phone went the next morning and Fred's wife said "Fred wants to see you. He's not happy". When I got to their house, it was Fred who opened the door. He said "I am really upset – my back is so much better. This has really upset my world view. I think I would rather still be in bed." For those of us who get occasional back problems we know what that means. The words to Fred "You might have got better anyway" gave no comfort. His response was "It usually takes weeks".

One of the objections to healing is that it is unfair. As some people are healed and others are not, so it cannot be of God because God would not be so inconsistent. That is very much a philosophical point. As far as it goes that's OK. But philosophy is about what we say about ourselves and the human condition, whereas healing is a theological task. It is about God and about his Kingdom, and why some are healed and some not is not so simply explained. We just do not know.

Healing is not a matter of faith, I know in the story of the woman with bleeding (Matthew 9:20–22; Mark 5:25–34; Luke 8:43–48) she is told that her faith has made her whole. But it is still the power of Jesus that has done it. We could spend the rest of our lives debating that story and be no further forward. Healing, I would suggest, is not about faith, it is about *grace*.

Let me tell you about Bill. He was a hard-living man of the soil. Someone it was always fun to spend time with. He would do no-one any harm, but was not, as far as he or anyone else, knew a person of faith. Bill developed a terrible cancer of the kidneys and was told that chemotherapy would prolong his life a bit, but that he had only a one in 300,000 chance of getting better, and told to make his will.

Bill had the chemotherapy to please his wife, and I was sent for as he was in a bad way mentally. We talked, and the laying-on of hands was offered, and he said "Do what you like". So the hands were laid for healing and the prayer said. Bill went back to the hospital for a scan a week later, when it was discovered he had no signs of the disease. No-one could believe it (least of all me).

* Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality





Now he might have got better anyway – there was a small chance. But what I find more amazing is this. We had just started an Alpha course, and invited Bill. As he had had such a life-hanging experience one would have thought he would have a thousand questions. His answer to the invitation was “No – it’s OK, thanks.”

At the same time, Tom, my dear saintly churchwarden, was given the all-clear for his illness. Then a week later it had returned, and very quickly he was gone. There seemed, then as now, no logic; no reason why one not the other. Except perhaps that Bill was given another chance and Tom is with the God who loves him.

So healing is not about faith but grace. [I want to add at this point I am not a faith healer, nor do I claim to have any gift of healing. The only reason I lay hands on people for healing is out of a feeling of compulsion. I feel nothing, or at most very little, when it is done]

A gift of the Holy Spirit

Now I would like to talk about healing as a gift of the Holy Spirit. The other reading we might have chosen this morning is 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, where Paul talks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us that there are many different activities of the Spirit, but it is the same God at work within all of them. [This is absolutely consistent with the book of Acts. Whenever the Holy Spirit is active it is always to point to Jesus and his Father]

One of the questions that is always asked in the study of theology is “Does the Holy Spirit have a personality? The answer you will be pleased to hear is “Yes, no, perhaps, and probably”! However, what we can see from Acts, and hopefully in our own experience, is that the Holy Spirit always reveals the Father and the Son. This is also true of

healing. Anything that happens as a gift of the Spirit is not to glorify the person who has been involved but to point to God.

Let’s be careful out there!

I think we need to be careful of the *language* we use. There are Christian people out there who describe themselves as healers or faith healers, who claim results and offer results. The concern is, what happens when what is promised does not happen? However, and I would include myself in this, there are those of us who would describe ourselves as being part of the healing ministry of the church. That, I would suggest, is a much more comfortable place to be in.

We also need to be careful about the *impression* we give. We do not offer prayers and laying-on of hands as an alternative therapy. We are not in the same line as iridologists and naturopaths. We are not offering an alternative therapy. Never give the impression that, because one therapy has not worked, then the person should try church. Remember that, just as the laying-on of hands and prayer are not magic, neither are they therapeutic in their own right.

Make up your own mind on alternative therapies – this sermon is not here to rubbish them: you might want to make up your mind on a case-by-case, therapy-by-therapy basis. But remember, we are *not* alternative therapists.

There are two reasons for laying hands on people and praying for people. The first is that God may be glorified; the second is that we show concern for our brothers and sisters in the church. Always remember, it is down to God, not to us.

I was in a tent at a cycle rally a few weeks ago and my friend’s wife had a bad back. I said the prayer (after explanation) and put my hand on her shoulder. She said “I wish



I had faith so I could be cured". She was a bit shocked to be told "It has nothing to do with your faith".

On that subject, **never, ever, ever** tell anyone that they will feel better soon. That is asking them to have faith in your faith. Also, never tell anyone to stop taking the tablets now that they have been prayed for. It is easy to imply it, and all too easy to say it. When my back goes wrong, as it does from time to time, I go and see the chiropractor and have practical hands laid on me for healing. Never deter anyone from seeking medical advice.

Also, be very careful about any word you put in front of 'healing'. Many groups and religions offer healing. The only word we want to see in front of the word 'healing' is Christian. Those of us of a certain age will remember several healing movements in the church, and each had their own angle on the subject. We are interested in healing – the kind of healing God chooses for us, not the one we tell him we want.

Some of us remember the inner healing movement of the 70s and 80s. I've no desire to rubbish that at all, but a few of us at those meetings reported hearing again and again a testimony that went something like "I used to be conceited and now God has made me wonderful". It is right to be cautious about these things; it is wrong to be cynical.

What about the practice of healing?

Well, first of all, "always in confidence, never in private". We do not offer the laying-on of hands in private, for all of the safeguarding issues we have been dealing with rightly for the last few years. Laying-on of hands needs to take place within the structure of your safeguarding policy: it is as simple as that.

Secondly, "every day within and without the church". In the Episcopal church, where folk come to the communion rail, it is straightforward. Personally, if I know someone wants the laying-on of hands it takes place after they receive the bread. A simple prayer, a few words, and we move on. We offer the laying-on of hands to people of great faith and those who have none.

Also – and this is both my next thought and my last point, and I hope a point of inspiration – when we lay hands on folk for healing in church it is done within the community of faith and may meet with joy or scepticism or any number of things; when we offer to pray for sick friends who do not go to church we are in another ball game altogether.

I know it's easier for those of us who are known all the time as Christians (basically clergy), as expectations come into play. However, one thing to bear in mind is that many of the people we all deal with day by day have a belief in some kind of higher power. They may not name it God, or have any kind of faith that is recognisable, and often they do not believe that any higher power is interested in them. But when we pray for another person, when we offer to lay hands on people for healing (with safeguarding issues met), we are putting them further in the way of the Father we follow, his Son who we know, and the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

Amen.

Ed: Tim will be happy to talk to anyone who is upset by anything he says – see him after his next visit to St Margaret's.



Lisnabreeny American Military Cemetery

Alan Taylor remembers ...



When I was a child, I remember American GIs on the local train, barrage balloons over Belfast, an old Army store we kids could rummage in. Later we moved to Belfast, to the foot of the Castlereagh Hills where we would ramble after church on Sunday evenings or with the Boys Brigade, identifying all the trees and wild flowers. But up in the hills, where they levelled off, was a place of some mystery. It was clearly a cemetery of some sort, which I later learned was a military cemetery for American soldiers and airmen stationed in Northern Ireland during the war.

At its height, 300,000 US personnel were stationed in Ulster, and invariably there were accidents. Initially, casualties were buried in local cemeteries, but it soon became apparent that a dedicated cemetery was needed, to which early interments would be transferred. This was set up at Lisnabreeny, on the top of the Castlereagh Hills. Nothing fancy or elaborate, just a resting place for those who died in accidents, of illness or in aircraft crashes. None died in hostilities, as there were none, other than in the Belfast air raids which occurred before America entered the war.

The cemetery operated between 1943 and 1948. In total, 148 American servicemen were buried there.

Some 20 years later, as is American military custom, the majority of the bodies were repatriated to the States. Where families did not want repatriation, the bodies were transferred to the large US Military Cemetery at Madingley, Cambridge.

But that is not the end of the story. Several decades later, in 2013, Castlereagh District Council (now merged with Lisburn City Council) decided that it was appropriate to commemorate the cemetery. It did this by incorporating the original walled entrance gates – still standing – into a small plot of land, surrounded by a hedge, on which there is a modern memorial, with all the names of the dead upon it, and a flagstaff on which the Stars and Stripes can be flown on special occasions.

I was reminded of this story when listening to a BBC documentary commemorating the centenary of the sinking of two US troopships off Islay in 1918, when the dead from both ships were interred on Islay prior to repatriation. We know about the enormous war cemeteries throughout the world – we don't often hear about the smaller, yet equally poignant cemeteries in places like Islay and Lisnabreeny. They all served.

Remembrance

Jan Benvie thinks of Salerno



I was always very fond of my maternal grandfather. He was what some might describe as dour – not bad-tempered, just not given to shows of emotion; never exuberant, but never grumpy either. You knew what to expect from Pa and I always felt comfortable around him.

Except ... when the war, or my uncle Bert (his son who was killed in the war), were mentioned, his eyes would fill with tears and he'd either quickly look away or leave the room. As a young child I always wondered what terrible thing it was that evoked such an emotional response in my Pa. It became even more strangely mysterious when my mum's response to my questions was always, "You'll understand when you're older."

At school we learned about the Second World War and, as I grew older, I did understand a little more. Pa died, life went on, but I still wondered about 'Uncle Bert'. I encouraged my mum to tell me about him. He was 11 years older than her, but they were very close.

Mum was only 12 when Bert was killed in Salerno, Italy in 1943. In the months following his death, letters from him would pop through the letterbox, and it was her job to get to the door before her mother saw them. The family's way of coping was simply not to mention Bert's death – it was never spoken about. All these years later, it was clear to me that my mum still grieved, her wound was still raw.

I wondered if visiting Bert's grave would help heal the wound. Mum wasn't sure, but we started to make enquiries. Through the Scots Guards (Bert's regiment) Mum got in touch with a man who had been with Bert on the day he was killed. She never managed to meet him, but they corresponded for a short time, and that meant a lot to her.

Then Mum and I went on a British Legion pilgrimage to the Salerno war cemetery where Bert is buried. Her parents had never been able to afford to visit their son's grave, so my mum was the only family member who knew Bert ever to visit his grave.

War cemeteries are hauntingly beautiful, sad places, and it was a deeply emotional trip, especially for Mum, but also deeply healing. When she came home she looked through boxes of old family photos and brought out photos of her brother – I have a lovely framed one that she wanted me to have when she died. She fondly shared stories of her childhood memories of her 'big brother'. It sounds strange but through that act of remembrance, the war grave pilgrimage, she found him again.

Mum made a number of pilgrimages after that, I went twice with her. Many of the others on the pilgrimages were veterans visiting the graves of those they had known and lost. Most of them, like my mum, had been left with emotional wounds; however, the acts of remembrance on these trips were a healing balm.

My Mum died five years ago, but my daughter and I promised her we would continue to visit Bert's grave. Three years ago we went and laid a poppy cross in mum's name,



and my young grandchildren came too.

Each year on Remembrance Sunday my mind goes to Salerno, to the uncle I never knew, but who I remember and I recall the words on his gravestone: *It is sad to pen a memorial for one we loved too dear.*



Two Welsh memorials

Myra Tarr tell two family stories from World War One

On this centenary of the end of WW1 I would like to share two stories, one from each side of my family. They concern a great uncle on my father's side, and an uncle on my mother's side.

My father often started a reminiscence with the words "In West Wales before the First World War ...", and of course we used to laugh at this, as did my own children, as it all seemed very distant. But we enjoyed hearing about the happy holidays he spent on his grandfather's small farm, where there was of course no gas or electricity and no tractors. Most of what they ate they either reared or grew. Only tea and sugar was bought from the shop. We heard of the heavy horses which pulled the plough and of the hard work at harvest time. It all sounded quite idyllic.



We only began to realise as we grew up that 1914 marked the end of an era, not least because every family was affected in some way by the four-year conflict. My father's grandparents had three daughters, the eldest of whom was my grandmother, so John Jones and his wife Elizabeth adopted two boys with a view to them helping on the farm. David Aeron Jenkins (his birth surname) joined the family aged 2 and worked on the farm when he was old enough. When war came he joined up and, though we have no details of his service, we only know that at the age of 29 in 1917 he was killed in Palestine and his remains are there. His name however is on the gravestone along with his brother, his two unmarried sisters and his brother. We can only imagine how my great-grandparents felt.

Another tragedy happened, not concerned with war, but only nine days after the Armistice. Walter, the other adopted son, had an epileptic fit and died on falling into the open fire at the age of 22. No wonder

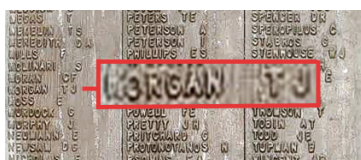
life seemed so carefree pre-1914. After the war John and Elizabeth soon moved into the nearby town of Lampeter and kept a grocer's shop. Both lived to a ripe old age!

The story of my uncle Tom is poignant, but more positive. My mother was the youngest of a large family in the busy port of Barry, south Wales. In the 1911 census there were seven children in the house, the oldest son having emigrated to Australia. Thomas John Morgan was 16 and was a butcher's apprentice. In 1914 he went into the Merchant Navy as a carpenter. Before he left home on his last voyage he promised his wee sister (my mother) aged 10 that when he came home he would buy her a piano. My Mum really wanted a piano and there was little money to spare for such luxuries! Sadly, on 7 September 1918 Uncle Tom's ship was attacked by an enemy submarine and he drowned. A devastating blow for my grandparents, losing the oldest of their sons, his older brother having emigrated.



A place of wholeness

However, my grandfather managed to buy a piano and my mum learned to play it. When she married it had to move to Somerset, London, Oxford, Cheltenham and Maidenhead, before it was pensioned off in 1955, by which time my sister and I had been learning on it for three years. [To me a house is not a house without a piano – I bought my piano *before* I had a fridge or a washing machine, and long before we had a television!]



Polwarth Parish Church, Edinburgh, enjoys a unique city location adjacent to the Union Canal that runs from Edinburgh to Falkirk and is the only working church on the Canal. The church has created a garden – the Polwarth Canal Garden – now three years old, to promote Polwarth as a place of wholeness and well-being for veterans of the armed forces and others, and working with partners has recently seen the establishment of a mooring.



Such a positive legacy. I have always had a soft spot for my Uncle Tom and it is moving to see his name is on a memorial to merchant seamen in his home town of Barry.

Ed: We often forget that there are many occupations where working in the war presented a real danger, and the Merchant Service was one. It's perhaps surprising that it was only in 1996 that a memorial to the merchant seamen of Barry who died during the World Wars was erected.

It is shortlisted for the 2018 Church Times Green Health Awards to be announced at Lambeth Palace on 2 October during Green Health Live, a conference for professionals and those interested in the healing environment.

So if you are in the vicinity of Polwarth (EH11 1LU), why not take a few minutes out to visit this garden? Or visit their blog at <https://tinyurl.com/ygcxst7f>.



Salisbury Cathedral Doves

Sandra Young looks upwards ...

Just over two months after the nerve agent attack in Salisbury and with the clean-up operation underway, the Cathedral hosted a major art installation from May to July. Originally part of the Cathedral's New Dawn themed events marking the centenary of the end of World War One, *Les Colombes* was a timely reminder that the appeal for peace and hope remains as powerful today as it was in 1918.

Les Colombes, by artist Michael Pendry, featured a flock of around 2,500 white origami doves that 'flew' the length of the Cathedral nave. The display had previously been exhibited in Munich, Jerusalem, London, San Francisco and Berlin. At each location, Michael Pendry has encouraged community groups and individuals to write a message, fold their own doves, which he then includes in future installations.

So the community was challenged, and this exhibition brought with it the message that they could create their own white doves that would fly as their own symbol of hope, humanity and new beginnings. The city's community groups were also encouraged to contribute their own thoughts and fold their own doves to display in their shops, schools and buildings.

When I stayed in Salisbury in July for the Southern Cathedrals Festival, as most of the events took place in the Cathedral, I spent a lot of time in this magnificent medieval building. Each time I went in I was moved and awestruck by these doves suspended from the high roof. The installation was probably best viewed and most impressive from the very back of the Cathedral, as you could see the whole display, but I preferred wandering underneath the doves, where from certain angles you could see their reflection in the huge water filled font in the



middle of the nave, or against a backdrop of the stained glass windows, When darkness fell, they seemed to change to a pink colour. Then, as I sat listening to the magnificent music I had come to hear, I was able to meditate and reflect on the idea of a world more harmonious than the present. Such a beautiful and evocative display, I was fortunate to experience.

The final words though goes to the artist who said: "Although the doves are folded by different people, in their unity they stand for a fundamental human right - the right to peace and freedom. The time has come to declare ourselves and to stand up for this! May the flock of doves grow, from place to place, from country to country, and across all borders. Peace, freedom, and sustainability in a world of change and disturbance are the key themes of my installations."



Making Music



“Fact and Fiction” is the title of and theme for **Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society**, Fife’s Community Orchestra’s 2018/2019 busy season. All of the music for the year has its roots on stage, screen, radio, theatre and in the written word, with the Orchestra’s theme music for the year Leroy Anderson’s well-known version of The Typewriter.

On **Tuesday 2 October** the orchestra will present the first concert of this season at **7.30pm** in its permanent home of Kirkcaldy’s Old Kirk. The concert will feature a tribute to the memory of all those involved in and affected by World War I. Tunes from the Trenches was first performed by KOS in 2014. Also in the programme is George Butterworth’s evocative Banks of Green Willow, the first movement of Borodin’s second symphony; John Gourlay’s Now fades the glimmering landscape and the three dance scenes from Smetana’s The Bartered Bride. The KOS Ensemble will play four film themes. Tickets for the concert are available from Adrian Masson, or come along on the night and pay at the door. £8 adults, £4 children.

East Fife Male Voice Choir will give a concert in Rosyth Parish Church on **Friday 26 October** at **7.30pm**.

The choir, formed in 1957, has about 50 voices and sings in four-part harmony, with members coming from all parts of Fife. They specialise in giving concerts of around two hours duration to audiences at home and abroad. The choir has undertaken tours to Germany, Italy and has visited venues in England and Wales.

This promises to be an enjoyable evening and is likely to be very popular. Tickets, £8 including refreshments, available from Dorothy Hood (07974 893399) or Mary Dempster (01383 721252).

The annual RSCM Dunblane Singing Day in Dunblane Cathedral on **Saturday 3 November** will be conducted by Adrian Lucas, RSCM’s Head of Choral Studies. Registration is from 1.00pm, and we start rehearsing at **1.30pm**, followed by a cuppa, with a service at 4.00pm, so we’re away by 5.30pm. All it costs is a donation to RSCM Scotland.

This is a Come and Sing event suitable for all singers, and gives you a chance to sing with more than a couple of voices to a part! Music is provided on the day, so RSCM like to know in advance how many to expect – talk to Myra Tarr by **Sunday 28 October**.

Scottish Chamber Choir’s concert in Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh, at **7.30pm** on **Saturday 24 November** features 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.”

The first part of the concert combines Bach’s Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor with choral music of Arvo Pärt in a new and unique combination. These works each explore spirituality and simplicity in their own timeless way.

Tickets are £12/£6 from ticketsource, or at the door. A concert not to be missed – get enthused by talking to Martin Tarr!

Aggies Rosyth Christmas Carol service. It is early planning days, but there will be a community carol concert sponsored by Aggie’s Rosyth and featuring the Military Wives’ Choir in the church on Wednesday **12 December** (time to be advised). We are delighted that our church has been chosen to host the event.

Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1 Family headcount

1. I have 10 or more sisters
2. I have fewer than 10 sisters
3. I have at least 1 sister

If only one of these statements is true, how many sisters do I have?

2 Coded words

100S549
A31001F
4E621T0
28Y2167

What is the well-known expression?

3 Birthday blues

A man was born in 46BC and died on his 100th birthday,

What year would that be?

4 Interrupted by ladies

Two men were drinking in a public house when two women walked in, The first man says: "I have to go now; my wife and daughter have just walked in." The second man also says: "I too have to go as my wife and daughter have just walked in."

Is that possible?

5 Continue the sequence

Here is a teaser!

What letter comes next **A.A.A.A._**

Answers to June/July puzzles

1 Sanity test

A sane person would pull the plug out.

2 Will and Testament

They should open the gold box.

3 Weather forecast

Yes! because in 72 hours it would be night again.

4 Different room

He had just used a lift.

5 Who owns the fish?

The German owns the fish.
The full list of who's who is shown in the table below.

Let Dave know if you need extra clarification!

	Colour	Nationality	Beverage	Smoke	Pet
1	Yellow	Norwegian	Water	Dunhill	Cats
2	Blue	Danish	Tea	Blends	Horse
3	Red	British	Milk	Pall Mall	Birds
4	Green	GERMAN	Coffee	Prince	FISH
5	White	Swedish	Beer	Bluemasters	Dogs

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
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
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Guides (Thu 1800-2030)
Linda Wallace 07455 213809
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Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk

From our website

A means to an end



Our fundamental purpose is to love one another. Our mission is to love the world. It is not to get more members. If more people join us because they see the value of what we are doing, if they see that what we believe actually bears fruit, if our faith is reflected in our works, then that is great – and with more members we will be able to do more. But our mission is not to build up the Church, it is to serve the world.

I know many are fearful that the Church as an institution is dying; numbers are declining, especially amongst the young. It is not everywhere as bad as we sometimes think – there are green shoots in places – but we would be blind not to realise that the Churches face enormous difficulties. But if the Church is to die, it must be because it has given itself for God's world, not because it had been so concerned with its own survival that the world has found it irrelevant.

This post appeared on our websites during September as our Thought for the Month. To discover the reason for our choice of post title, you'll need to read the whole of Jim Mein's sermon, which is linked at <https://tinyurl.com/y8a63ebn>.

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 2 December, and its theme will be **"Christ is come today!"** Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 25 November**, 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@](mailto:editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk) mailbox is always monitored,